



# EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR THE HISTORY OF SPORT

Sixth Congress for the History of Sport in Europe  
Göttingen, Germany 26.- 30. September 2001

By Stephan Wassong

This year the 6<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the European Committee for Sport Science (CESH) was hosted by the Department of Sport Science of the University of Göttingen and by the Lower Saxony Institute for Sport History, Hoya, e.V. (NISH). After international congresses in Rome (1996), Katowice (1997), Copenhagen (1998), Florence (1999), Madrid (2000) it was the first time that a congress of this society took place in Germany.

In the book of abstracts 64 papers were listed to make scientific contributions to the main theme of the congress: *Transitions in Sport: Continuity and Change*. The choice of this topic aimed at challenging traditional patterns of interpretation in the field of sport history dealing first and foremost with continuity and only implicitly with changes. The expectation of the CESH Congress in Göttingen was to challenge this traditional reflection on the history of sport. The congress topic seemed ideal for 131 participants coming from 26 countries. Concerning the field of the ancient and modern Olympic Movement lectures were held on "Origin and Transition of the Olympic Movement in the Modern Era in Spain", "Die Verwendung der antiken Ekecheiria durch die Begründer und Organisatoren der modernen Olympischen Spiele", "The Saga of Ekecheiria – Fact or Fiction", "About the Dialectic of Traditional and Legal Ruling of the IOC against the Background of Commercialisation" and on "Coubertin's US-American Studies and their Relevance for the Interpretation of his Early Educational Campaign". Apart from these presentations the transition and continuity of various aspects of the ancient and modern Olympic Games was picked out as side topic in different lectures.

Almost all presentations can be found in the conference Proceedings which will be available in September 2002. Another official publication of CESH is its "Annual". The second volume of which has just been published. This annual welcomes articles about any period and any topic in the broad field of sport history. Particularly for young scholars the CESH Annual is a good opportunity to offer their research results to an international community of sport historians. In order to support the next generation of sport historians CESH continued the tradition of presenting two Junior Scholar Awards for scholars not older than 35 years at the congress in Göttingen.

The next congress of CESH will take place in Besancon, France (26. – 29. Sept. 2002). For this congress a special Olympic

session is already announced. The first announcement for the congress has already been presented at Göttingen. For more information contact: [christian.vivier@univ-fcomte.fr](mailto:christian.vivier@univ-fcomte.fr), [jean-francois.loudcher@univ-fcomte.fr](mailto:jean-francois.loudcher@univ-fcomte.fr) or [Laurence.Pauther@univ-fcomte.fr](mailto:Laurence.Pauther@univ-fcomte.fr). It is not only the special Olympic session to be held in Lausanne that should entice Olympic researchers to follow the activities of CESH, but also the plans of staging the 8<sup>th</sup> International CESH Congress at the IOA in Olympia in September 2003.