

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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*The Editor received a letter dated April 6, 2002 from David Bressler:*

Dear Editor,

I've just come into possession of what I believe is a rare letter, especially after reading the article in the Journal of Olympic History, Volume 9, number 2. Spring 2001, titled: In Search of the Artists of 1912 and the "Letter to the Editor" from Ian Buchanan about Walter Winans, which was published in the Journal of Olympic History, Volume 10, number 2, May 2002.

How many Olympic historians know who the only competitor is to have ever won an Olympic Medal in both sport and artistic competitions in the same Olympic Games? This letter is from Walter Winans, who competed for the United States in the 1908 and 1912 Olympics, winning a gold in the Running Deer shooting event in 1908 and a silver in 1912 for the same event. In addition, in 1912 he won a gold for Sculpture in the artistic section of the Olympic Games.

His letter was written June 19, 1912 and was addressed to A.W. Coaten Esq, Dean. Tooting Bec Gardens, Streatham S.W. and runs as follows:

"Dear Sir,

In answer to your letter of June 16th.

I have been selected by the United States Olympic Games Committee to shoot for the U.S. at the Olympic Games at Stockholm so I shall be too busy practising revolver, rifle, & duelling pistol to be able to do much Horse Showing in England this year.

I have promised to take one of my Russian troikas to the Paris Horse Show; it will consist of the American trotter Captain Fullerton, record 2 minutes 20 seconds to the mile, in the shafts, & the thoroughbreds Tantalus & Facination as gallopers, it is a chesnut team, the harness is special Russian harness much prettier & more elaborate than I showed at Olympia last year.

Also I have thirty two trotters in training in Vienna for the Races there this year, two of these horses are entered in the trotting Derby (value £ 2000.).

I have a little three year old who can do a thirty mile an hour speed for a short distance.

As to suggestions for English shows. I have not found any improvement the last year in the rings of shows, (except at Olympia & richmond) most of the rings are unfit to drive a valuable horse & I intend not to show at any Shows where the ring is rough.

I think there ought to be classes for other than



Hackneys so as to give other breeds a chance in harness, also for undocked carriage horses. All hunters at Shows should be made to jump. It is ridiculous giving prizes at Shows for hunters (?) that can't jump.

Yours,  
Walter Winans  
Surrenden Park  
Pluckly Kent England"

Regards,  
David Bressler, Tel-Aviv, Israel.

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*The editor received a letter dated June 24, 2002 from Colm Murphy.*

Dear editor,

I am undertaking research into the history of Irish throwers [athletics] and the throwing events in Ireland. I will be grateful for any assistance that members can offer. In addition I am keen to find out as much information in particular the backgrounds [parents, where born, etc.] of the following athletes: Ralph Rose, Simon Gillis, Josiah McCracken, John Guiney, Thomas Hare, James McEachern, Fred Totell, Frank Connor and Archie McDiarmid.

There are many references to Rose, Gillis, McCracken, Guiney, Hare and McEachern being Irish Whales, so there appears to be some correlation between these throwers and Ireland!

Many thanks,

Colm Murphy.

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*The editor received a letter dated June 29, 2002 from Peter Lovesey.*

Dear Editor,

An Athletics Compendium: an annotated guide to the UK literature of track and field, (British Library, 2001) was given a rather mixed review in your last issue by Ian Buchanan. I would not normally question the opinion of a reviewer of one of my books (I

was one of the three compilers), let alone that of a respected colleague and friend. However, Ian's leading objection, that "the outstanding and historically valuable ATFS manuals are not mentioned", is in error. The first item in the statistics and records international section of the book (page 200) lists the World Sports International Athletics Annuals, 1953-84 and states "This was in fact the third annual to be produced by the ATFS, the 1951 and 1952 editions having been published in Lugano, Switzerland. These first statistical publications of the ATFS (founded in Bruxelles on 26 August 1950) were the standard bearers for a procession of titles. It should not be forgotten that Maurice Loesch had produced an International Athletic Annual as early as 1922, and that lists of best performers were made by H.C.Powell in 1879, but the 1951 publication established unprecedented standards of research, listing, for instance, the world's top thirty men for each event for 1950, followed by the top fifty Europeans, and the thirty best European performances. In subsequent years these lists have grown considerably with no loss of accuracy." As it happens, the 1951 and 1952 annuals were outside our brief, having been published in Switzerland, but we rated them of sufficient importance to mention them in the text. In further entries in the same section the various subsequent editions of the ATFS Annuals are listed.

One might reasonably argue that we did not give sufficient credit or attention to the prodigious work that went into, and continues to go into, the ATFS annuals, but to suggest, as Ian does, that we excluded them entirely whilst finding space for books such as Ballet Exercises for Athletes is a misapprehension. I count it as an achievement of this bibliography that it is comprehensive in its approach and includes the ATFS annuals as well as Ballet Exercises for Athletes and some 2,480 other titles.

Peter Lovesey