

The main body of the dictionary, as in the first edition, is an alphabeticized series of entries occupying about 280 pages (as opposed to 180 pages in the first edition). These entries include one for each country that has been recognized by the International Olympic Committee, with information about its years of participation in the Games, medals won, and the like. There are also entries for various Olympic-related agencies and committees, including international sport federations, IOC committees, and each of the sports that is currently (or has ever been) part of the Games program. In addition, there are many biographical sketches of Olympic champions-not every medal winner, but those who have won more medals in their event than anyone else, or whose Olympic career has been truly exceptional. There are entries on less well known aspects of Olympism, such as the origins of the Olympic Hymn, the Olympic Creed, and even something called the Olympic Collectors Commission. Finally, these are a number of subject entries that students will find very useful on such things as doping, the Olympic bribery scandal, gender verification, and television, among others.

For the second edition, the authors have dropped five entries (or combined them with others) and added more than 120 others, many of which relate to Olympic games and developments since the first edition was published in 1995.

Often, a second edition is little more than a reprinting of the first edition, dressed up with a new introduction, but reflecting little other additional work on the part of the author or authors. Happily, this is not the case with the Historical Dictionary of the Olympic Movement. Buchanan and Mallon have clearly put forth a good deal of time and effort to make their dictionary even better than the fine work their first edition was. Libraries and individuals who bought the first edition will want to upgrade their collections by purchasing this edition.

OLYMPIC HAPPENINGS II – Cultural Events During the First Modern Olympic Games in 1896, written and published by Thanassis Tarassouleas, 10, Stadiou Street, ATHENS 10564, GREECE; printed by Alexandros Marsoukis S.A. in Athens; 91 pages, in

Greek and English. Reviewed by Tony Bijkerk.

ISOH Member Athanassis Tarassouleas is continuing a series which he started a couple of years ago and in which he informs his readers of recent discoveries which he made during his studies of the minutes of the meeting of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, which organised the Games of the First Olympiad, Athens 1896. Mr. Tarassouleas is the happy owner of a complete set of these minutes in which he found much very important historical information.

In the newly published book [summer 2002], he gives a report of the many cultural events which took place before and during the first Olympic Games in Athens in 1896. Music has always played an important role in Greece and it is shown in the chapter which he dedicated to Musical Events, of which there were many! Of particular interest I found the fact that most of the philharmonic societies must have had a military nature, as they all wore military uniforms. No less than 30 philharmonic orchestras were invited to come to Athens, but only 18 agreed to come and most received a stipend from the Organizing Committee for their efforts. The author describes when and where most of these orchestras played and what kind of music they used for the performances. Of course, special attention has been given to the performance of the Olympic Hymn, composed by Spyros Samaras of Corfu, with lyrics by the Greek national poet Costis Palamas. Many of our members will remember from the descriptions in early reports on the Athens Games that the performance of this hymn had to be repeated in the Olympic Stadium because of its high success with the spectators, who begged for the repeat!

In other chapters Mr. Tarassouleas writes about the theaters and the programmes they brought, about the performers [actors and actresses]; the decorations with which the city of Athens [and other Greek cities] presented themselves, most of it concerned lighting of the cities and decoration with flags. Other chapters discuss publications, stamps, poetry, architecture, painting [design of the diploma and medals]; sculpture; lectures, torchlight procession and finally the receptions and

excursions for the foreign visitors. The book is enhanced by many contemporary photographs and drawings.

OLYMPIC HAPPENINGS III – Medical Care During the First Modern Olympic Games of 1896, written and published by Thanassis Tarassouleas, 10, Stadiou Street, ATHENS 10564, GREECE; printed by Alexandros Marsoukis S.A. in Athens; 47 pages, in Greek and English. Reviewed by Tony Bijkerk.

This sequel to the previous mentioned book on the Cultural events, is of a completely different nature. The author describes the efforts made by the Organizing Committee to take care of the medical care for athletes and officials during these first Olympics, and he starts the description with a detailed account of the available medical institutes in the Athens of 1896. He rightly points out that in those days, medical care was not well advanced, and with an epidemic of cholera at the time brewing in Egypt, the authorities had to be very careful indeed.

Of particular interest I found the description of the treatment of the various athletes that participated in the marathon.

To quote a few lines:

“Following the finish of Spiros Louis, doctors led him to the dressing room of the stadium, they put him on

a bed and tried to massage his body and legs and to give him strengthening medicines. He conceded to take off, after protesting, his black ribbon from around his waist, his white shoes and red leggings. His pulse was 112 per minute, he had a red face full of sweat beads but he wasn't trembling and he wasn't out of breath and did not feel any pain. He got

up asked for a little wine and after a while asked the doctors to leave so that he can go and celebrate his triumph with his fellow villagers in Maroussi.

Mr. Tarassouleas concludes his book with an appeal to the International Olympic Committee and the international athletic family to give special emphasis and attention to the current problems [especially doping], because, so he says, if the Olympic Games keep on moving at today's pace they will completely lose their initial aims and ideas..

Another important scrap of news which I found in this little treasure, is that in 1897 the majestic mansion of the Melas family, which was the base of the Hellenic [Organizing] Olympic Committee, caught fire. The fire lasted for three days and completely destroyed all the records and documents that concerned the organizing of the Olympic Games of 1896. This is the main reason why today so little material can be found about these, the Games of the First Olympiad of Modern Times, Athens 1896.

Both books by Mr. Tarassouleas are important additions to early Olympic history and although they have been printed in a rather small amount [1000 copies each], I hope many of our readers will be able to find a way of getting a copy.

Note to all members of ISOH: The author offered to sell copies of his two books to the members of the International Society of Olympic Historians for a price of US\$ 25.00 each, which per book is including mailing costs. You can reach Mr. Tarassouleas at the address mentioned above.