

# A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY ON GERMAN PAPERS ABOUT OLYMPIC HISTORY OF THE YEAR 2001



by *Stephan Wassong*

In order to plan a research project seriously it is important to know what has already been published about the topic. Language problems are often the reason for not using all references available about the respective topic. Each year books and articles which deal with various topics of Olympic history are published in German. Whereas it could happen that by chance the scientific community of Olympic researchers is informed about a book because its content is summarized or reviewed in English, articles published in German are almost not noticed. Of course this is regrettable because most of these articles are full of good research data on Olympic history.

In this review I aim at briefly summarizing some articles about our common field of research. All these articles are in German which were published in 2001. It is reasonable to publish such a bibliographical essay every year in one issue of the *Journal of Olympic History*. May be one can launch the project that researchers of different countries do the same with the Olympic literature published in the language of their country because it is not only the German articles which are almost not noticed. By this international bibliographical essay we will annually get a good overview about what has been published about Olympic history.

**DECKER, Wolfgang:** "Sport – eine Bezeichnung für die griechische Kultur?" in: **Deutsches Olympisches Institut (ed.) / GÜDENPFENNIG, Sven; KRICKOW, Dieter (Red.): Deutsches Olympisches Institut Jahrbuch 2000. Berlin 2001, pp.83 - 93**

In his article Prof. DECKER examines how deeply athleticism was rooted in Greek culture. Of course he does not illustrate this without referring to the ancient cultural festivals in Delphi, Nemea, Corinth and above all in Olympia. According to DECKER the close bond between art and sport in ancient Greece indicates that sport was an integral part of Greek culture. DECKER explains that in Olympia it was a privilege for winners in

athletic competitions to erect lifesize bronze statues of themselves in the sacred area of Olympia. Referring to PAUSANIAS who visited Olympia in the second century AD and who described the statues which impressed him most DECKER mentions that the statues were built by popular artists like Phythagoras, Myron, Pheidias and Polyklet. Apart from this way to glorify victorious athletes DECKER argues that the existence of the record in ancient athleticism is another indicator for the meaning of sport in Greek culture. By the example of several athletes who had won competitions in Olympia, at other panhellenic festivals or at local athletic gatherings it is shown how records were documented. Finally DECKER turns to the panhellenic festivals themselves. The religious, organizational and ecological penetration of Greek society by the festivals in Olympia, Delphi, Nemea and Corinth stresses DECKER's statement that sport was deeply anchored in ancient Greek culture.

**LENNARTZ, Karl:** "Die Geschichte der Olympischen Ringe", in: **DEUTSCHES OLYMPISCHES INSTITUT (ed.) / GÜDENPFENNIG, Sven; KRICKOW, Dieter (Red.): Deutsches Olympisches Institut. Jahrbuch 2001. Berlin 2001, pp.103 – 133.**

In this study the history of an Olympic symbol is described which enjoys high popularity – the Olympic rings. After having informed the reader about the origins of the Olympic rings, about COUBERTIN's merits in developing 'This Great Symbol' and about the time in which the rings established themselves as a symbol of the Olympic movement LENNARTZ describes the 'career' of the rings. Critically LENNARTZ mentions the inflationary use of the rings which has decorated medals, stamps, tickets, diplomas, clothes and flags. Detailed information are given on the Olympic flag. By well investigated historical and topical facts about the Olympic flag LENNARTZ presents new research results on the Olympic flag and at the same time destroys speculations which surrounded the flag with the five rings. It is also the use of rare

illustrations which make the article worthwhile reading. In conclusion one can say that it was a good idea to translate this article into English and to publish it in the commemorative issue of this magazine.

**LENNARTZ, Karl: Vom DOA zum NOK für Deutschland. Wandel oder Kontinuität?,"** in: KRÜGER, Michael (ed.): *Transformation des deutschen Sports seit 1939. Schriften der Deutschen Vereinigung für Sportwissenschaft* Bd. 122, Hamburg 2001, pp. 109 – 133.

In this article LENNARTZ examines the duties and personnel structure of the German Olympic Committee under different political systems in Germany. He focuses on the time between 1927 and 1947. LENNARTZ points out that concerning the duty of the *German Olympic Committee* to organize a team for the Olympic Games nothing has changed since 1927 or even since the foundation of the first Committee in 1895. What has changed was the attitude towards central aspects of the Olympic Idea. Whereas in the Weimar Republic and of course in the Third Reich the Olympic idea was used and misused to emphasize national tendencies representatives of the *German Olympic Committee* gave prior consideration to the international element of the Olympic Idea after 1947. Concerning the personnel structure of the *German Olympic Committee* LENNARTZ argues that Carl DIEM and the Duke of MECKLENBURG epitomize continuity in the German Olympic Movement. In each period examined in his article DIEM and MECKLENBURG were among the members of the *German Olympic Committee*.

**LENNARTZ, Karl: "Aussie, Aussie, Aussie – Oi,Oi,Oi".** *Impressionen von den Olympischen Spielen in Sydney*", in: KRÜGER, Michael (ed.): *Olympische Spiele. Bilanz und Perspektiven im 21. Jahrhundert*, Münster 2001, pp. 220 –236.

Well, this article is not explicitly concerned with a topic in Olympic history. Karl LENNARTZ was asked to describe his impressions which he brought back from his visit to the Olympic Games in Sydney. It is no coincident that LENNARTZ was asked to write this article. As an expert in Olympic history

LENNARTZ can well assess the cultural, economical, technical, political and sporting development of the Olympic Movement. Concerning the XXVII Olympic Games LENNARTZ reports on the continuity and changes he observed at the Scientific Olympic Congresses, the conference of the Olympic stamp collectors, the cultural Olympiad, the opening and closing ceremony. He also writes about the role of the press, the IOC, the spectators, the problem of doping and the sporting program. As the director of the *Carl and Liselott Diem-Archive* of the *German Sport University Cologne* he describes his impressions on the Olympic torch relay.

**SCHANTZ, Otto: "Sport und Leibesübungen als Erziehungsmittel bei Pierre de Coubertin",** in: *Stadion. Internationale Zeitschrift für Geschichte des Sports* 27(2001), pp.111-123.

The article presents the significance and functions of sport and physical education in the educational work of COUBERTIN. SCHANTZ characterizes COUBERTIN as a progressive minded reformer whose ideas on modern physical education can be identified with three periods:

1. a period of comparative education (1883 – 1894)
2. a period of developing own educational conceptions (1894 – 1918)
3. a period of national instruction (1918 – 1937)

SCHANTZ examines these three periods to indicate COUBERTIN'S multilayered theories on modern physical education which cannot only be confined to his educational endeavours to revive the modern Olympic Games.

**WASSONG, Stephan: Die Einschätzung de US-amerikanischen Funktionsgymnastik durch Pierre de Coubertin",** in: *Forschung– Innovation–Technik. Das Wissenschafts-magazin der Deutschen Sporthochschule Köln* 6(2001)2, pp.29 – 33.

In this article it is examined what COUBERTIN experienced when he was invited as the representative of the French Minister of Education to attend the Conference on Physical Training held in

Boston in November 1889. It is stressed that COUBERTIN favored the educational value of athleticism which he estimated higher than the one of the American, Swedish and German systems of gymnastics. WASSONG explains that Coubertin's rejection of gymnastics was not arbitrary. During his first study trip in the USA Coubertin came into contact with representatives of the American and Swedish systems of gymnastics. They introduced him to various exercises. What Coubertin observed

in the gyms of US-American universities and schools convinced him of his opinion that gymnastic exercises are good enough for compensating deficits in physical weakness, posture and physical strength. By reading WASSONG's article it becomes evident that during his study trips in the USA Coubertin had come into contact with important representatives of US-American physical education at that time.

## REPORTS

### THIRD SCIENTIFIC UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE OF THE GERMAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE IN OLYMPIA

From 15th to 21st September the third Scientific university conference of the German Olympic Committee took place at the *International Olympic Academy*. What is this for a conference? The German National Committee invites the Sport Departments of German universities for this conference every two years. Of each department eight students and one or two professors can take part. The conference follows always a specific topic. The topic of this year was "Historical, current and future dimensions of olympic development". In total 80 students and 12 professors took part. The *German Olympic Committee* funded the days in Olympia. The participants only had to pay for the flight and for the accommodation in Athens. The programme of the conference also involved pre- and after tour of three days to ancient

places. The participants visited above all the ancient places where the ancient games took place – Corinth, Nemea and Delphi. In Olympia guided tours were held by Christian WACKER who recently finished his Ph.D. thesis on the ancient gymnasium. In the course of the conference each professor held a lecture on the topic of the conference. The eight students of each participating university attended a course at their home university before they went to Olympia. In Olympia they presented what they have done in this course. The next conference will take place in two years. As a participant I had the impression that the students learned much on the Olympic Movement. It would be desirable if other National Olympic Committees will also offer courses of that kind.

by Karl Lennartz

### 7TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR SPORT HISTORY (CESH), BESANCON, FRANCE, 26.-29. SEPTEMBER 2002

This year the 7th International Congress of the European Committee for Sport History (CESH) was hosted by the Department of Sport Science of the Franche-Comté University in Besançon. After international congresses in Rome (1996), Katowice (1997), Copenhagen (1998), Florence (1999), Madrid (2000) and Göttingen (2001) it was the first time in France for this society's congress.. It was attended by almost 150 participants who

came not only from Europe but also from the USA, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. It was a good idea to open the congress to students in order to give them a chance of gaining first experiences as lecturers or participants at an international congress. The meeting in Besançon was attended by students from Germany, France, and Spain. In the book of abstracts 92 papers were listed with scientific contributions to the main theme