

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