

Additional notes by the Secretary-General of ISOH:

With regard to point 5: the IOC subsidy to ISOH, it can be noted that ISOH President Bill MALLON has already received a letter from IOC President ROGGE honoring this request.

With regard to point 8: Dr. Karl LENNARTZ has been appointed by the IOC President to the IOC *Commission for Culture and Olympic Education*, by his letter from October 11, 2002.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“The Mellander Trophy”

by Ture Widlund

In *Journal of Olympic History* No 2-2002 there is an interesting article about the Mellander Trophy by Karin WIKBERG. In the article it is stated that the Greek *Organizing Committee* is referring to the rules of the Challenge Trophy “set up with the acceptance of the IOC” and published in the March 1906 issue of *Revue Olympique*.

What were the rules published in this issue? I looked it up and all I could find was a small notice of 5 lines on page 47 under the heading “PARTIE OFFICIELLE. BULLETIN DU COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIQUE”.

Le Prix-challenge offert par le Comité International Olympique pour les Jeux d'Athènes, est une pièce d'art ancienne de très grandes dimensions, ayant fait partie de la célèbre collection Sagan. Ce prix a été présenté par une déléation du Comité International à S. E. le Ministre de Grèce à Paris, qui en fera remise au Comité d'Athènes.

Notice: Collection Sagan, not Sagon as in the article in no 2-2002.

There is no photo of the Challenge Trophy in the March 1906 issue of *Revue Olympique* (as stated in the article). There is, however, a photo in the April 1906 issue on page 59 in connection with an article that has nothing to do with the Challenge Trophy.

So, there was no article about the Challenge Prize and no rules for it in the March 1906 issue of *Revue Olympique*, just a small notice saying that a Challenge Prize had been presented by an IOC delegation to the Greek Minister in Paris to be forwarded to the Athens Committee. The event of the Challenge Prize is not mentioned and there is nothing in the notice that is linking it to Ancient Pentathlon.

How come that this Trophy was contested for in

Ancient Pentathlon? Viktor Balck is giving us a clue in *Olympiska Spelen i Athen 1906 Redogörelse för Sveriges deltagande (The Olympic Games in Athens 1906 Report of the participation of Sweden)*. He says:

Mellander's prize in pentathlon was an antique urn of art historical value presented by the International Committee to the Crown Prince to be awarded by him in the event he considered most important. In addition Mellander got an antique bronze sword, an imitation, from the (Athens) Olympic Committee.

There is no mention in BALCK's report that the prize Mellander received was a Challenge Prize, although he, as an IOC member, must have had access to *Revue Olympique* and that it must have been his duty, as an IOC member, to read the “PARTIE OFFICIELLE”. May be he was not aware it was a Challenge Prize. May be the notice in the March 1906 issue was too insignificant to attract his attention or may be he had just forgotten it when he was writing the report.

It should be noted that the Challenge Prize was not the only extra prize Mellander received for his victory in Ancient Pentathlon. He also got an antique bronze sword, as mentioned by Viktor Balck. An other question is whether he brought this bronze sword home from Athens, because in the Swedish sports paper *Nordiskt Idrottslif* July 18, 1906, there is a notice:

Another prize from Athens. As a recognition of the Swedish victor in pentathlon, Hj. Mellander, the Greek Committee has sent an as valuable as beautiful extra prize to be forwarded to him, viz. a shorter bronze sword with a golden handle, a copy of an ancient Greek weapon.

This must most probably be the same bronze sword as mentioned by Viktor BALCK. Or did he get 2 bronze swords for his victory in Ancient

Pentathlon? One in Athens and one sent to him a couple of months later? That is hardly likely.

Does anyone know the answer to the question, or can find it out, as to why Hjalmar MELLANDER did not bring the antique bronze sword when he left Athens after the 1906 Olympic Games?

In *The 1912 Olympic Games* by Bill MALLON and Ture WIDLUND Ancient Pentathlon is included among the 1912 Challenge Trophies. That is not correct. It is obvious from "The Mellander Trophy"-article that this challenge trophy was for the Greek

Karl Lennartz received a letter by Manfred Bergman, dated 15.08.2002

Dear Karl,

Seventy-four years have passed since the great Ferenc (Franz) Mezö obtained the Olympic gold medal for his epic work "History of the Olympic Games". Many history books have been published since, and the ISOH has been founded. Bill Mallon, Karl Lennartz, David Wallechinsky, Volker Kluge, Wolf Lyberg and Erich Kamper, amongst others, have studied, restudied and written on Olympic history.

Olympic collectors need these publications. Their obligation is to link the object of their collection to Olympic history. For that reason catalogues of stamps, coins and memorabilia mention the following basic data:

1. The dates of the Games (opening and closing)
2. The participating countries
3. The number of participants
4. The medal table
5. The number of events

The Olympic Collectors' Commission (now "Commission for Philately, Numismatics and Memorabilia") has had the "privilege" of communicating these data to collectors and catalogue publishers. The data were communicated by the Olympic Museum Research Centre or taken from the Official Reports or from the Olympic Directory.

I am far from being a "professional" Olympic historian. I am only a collector (since 1936) and an amateur historian. As an adult I participated as a reporter in the St Moritz Games and since have read Olympic history, but I am far from being in the same league as the distinguished historians mentioned above. Still, I shall endeavour in the following papers to report the results of my considerations.

Olympic Games to be held 1906, 1910, 1914 &c, of which only the 1906 Games were celebrated. The donor is said to be the Crown Prince of Greece. That is, technically speaking, not correct although there is some truth in it as it was he who selected the event for the Challenge Prize, the event he deemed to be the most important one in 1906, Ancient Pentathlon. The actual donor, however, was the *International Olympic Committee*, that is, most probably Pierre de COUBERTIN himself.

Answer to Manfred Bergman, 31.08.2002

Dear Manfred,

thank you very much for your thoughts on the problems concerning dating of Olympic Games. I read the text with great interest and thank you for having composed something fundamental concerning this issue. In a way you could have put down the motto: history cannot be changed, it has to be investigated.

By and large I agree to your evaluations, although I would like to comment on the different points you made. In advance, though, some fundamental comments:

The history of the Olympic Games has now existed for over one hundred years. During this period many things have changed and developed. When using overviews and statistics it cannot just be pretended that everything was regulated from the beginning the way it is now. In one hundred years time, if the Olympic Games still exist by then, the rules and circumstances will be totally different altogether, will have developed. If everything always stayed the same historiography would make little sense – in fact it would be boring, even dispensable. To reveal the causes of why and how things have changed and developed is what makes historiography interesting, even exciting.

When writing short resumes of facts it has to be kept in mind carefully who is going to be the addressee. The specifications in the Directory have to be shorter – shortage of space – and therefore more generalised than in a museum-guide. In the museum-guide it is important, that all the specifications can be understood by everyone. In a script for collectors though, it is important to write more detailed and well-founded. Here a fourth block should be added, where the sporthistorians, but the really critical "professionals", could help the IOC deal with the matter in a scientifically funded way. The research

This first paper will summarise the data on the opening and closing dates of the Olympic Summer Games.

Let us define first the criteria for the opening and closing of the Games.

- (I) The opening date of the Games is the date of the opening ceremony or the first competition, whichever is first.
- (II) If there is no opening ceremony, then the first competition is the opening date.
- (III) An opening ceremony (from 1908 onwards) is a ceremony during which the Head of State of the host country proclaims the Games open. This is in the presence of the athletes from all the participating nations.
- (IV) Before the ceremonial of the opening ceremony was established (1908), the OCOG could decide whether a ceremony it organised constituted an opening ceremony.
- (V) The first competition is one that is an Olympic event, in the presence of judges. It can be a sports event or an art contest (1912-1948)¹.
- (VI) An Olympic event is one that was defined as such by the OCOG of the Games, at that time, and which appears as such in the report produced by the OCOG², or for which an Olympic medal was awarded.
- (VII) The closing date of the Games is the date of the closing ceremony or the last competition, whichever is last.
- (VIII) If there is no closing ceremony, then the last competition is the closing date.
- (IX) A closing ceremony is a ceremony during which the IOC President (or his representative) proclaims the Games closed. This is in the presence of the athletes from all the participating nations.
- (X) The last competition is one that is an Olympic event, in the presence of judges. It can be a sports event or an art contest (1912-1948).
- (XI) An Olympic event is one that was defined as such by the OCOG of the Games, at that time, and which appears as such in the report produced by the OCOG.

I shall apply the above criteria. If these are contested by Olympic historians, a majority of them should determine others, if a consensus cannot be reached. A decision by a majority approved by the IOC EB should then be accepted by all.

group of sport historians, which met recently, should be summoned to a meeting again and discuss the matter.

Now let me comment on the points you made:

“A. In 1896 14 NOCs participated in the games”.
ONLY 3 OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES HAD AN NOC AT THIS TIME.”

Today’s NOCs tend to date their own foundation as close as possible to the olympic foundation congress. Five NOCs (FRA, GER, GRE, HUN and USA) state they had already existed before the Olympic Games 1896. Basically they were all only ad hoc organisations, which enabled some athletes to travel to Athens. Really permanent olympic establishments only arose far later. On this subject I have done some research concerning Germany: A committee existed from December 1895 until the games started in 1896 and a committee existed from 1899 until 1901. Only from 1903 onwards a – as noted explicitly in the record - - “permanent” committee was established. It is safe to say, that this was also the case with the other countries mentioned above. In fact during quite some time Coubertin and the IOC discussed whether or not to establish NOCs at all. Actually Coubertin was against establishing National Olympic Organisations at first, but with the organisation of the Games 1906 in Athens it was necessary to establish NOCs, which were exclusively responsible for sending the athletes to the Olympic Games. Thus no representatives of NOCs took part in the 1896 Olympics, but rather short-term organisations established for this purpose only, as well as athletes sent by Universities and Clubs. Some athletes also travelled to Athens on their own initiative, others worked in the city or were there by coincidence. Incidentally also the number 14 has to be marked with a questionmark.

“B. In 1900 Bohemia won a silver medal and “Czechoslovakia a bronze medal”.
CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS NOT AN OLYMPIC COUNTRY UNTIL 1920.”

Bohemia took part in the games of 1900, 1904, 1906, 1908 and 1912. In 1900 the discus thrower František Janda-Suk came second and the tennis-player Hedwig Rosenbaum reached the semi-finals in the singles and mixed competitions. A match for 3rd and 4th place did not take place.

¹ The winners of the art contests are recorded as Olympic winners. Therefore art contests are official Olympic events.

² This will be discussed in detail in another paper. Here it ought to be stressed that no historian has the right to apply present-day criteria in order to decide what was an Olympic event in the past.

1.1. The Games of the I Olympiad, Athens 1896.

The Olympic Movement Directory (2002):
6.-154.1896.

All historians and collectors agree. Nevertheless, it would seem appropriate to add that these dates are according to the Gregorian calendar. The Greek, Julian calendar was different: 25.3. - 3.4.1896. This would, on the one hand, respect the fact that the Games took place in Greece and, on the other hand, would not confuse researchers and collectors when they find documents from this period with the Greek dates. If this is not explained, those documents might be considered as not having been made during the Games which is, of course, not true. It is especially important to philatelists as stamps with the Gregorian dates are not from the Games period and unscrupulous dealers are trying to sell these as "Stamps cancelled during the Olympic Games".

1.2. The Games of the II Olympiad, Paris 1900.

These Games are the most difficult ones in terms of determining the events, but easy for determining the dates.

The Olympic Movement Directory (2002):
14.5.-28.10.1900

All historians accept these dates. They are based on the beginning and ending of the (accepted) events, as no opening or closing ceremony took place.

1.3. The Games of the III Olympiad, St. Louis 1904.

Determining the opening date of these Games is one of the most difficult challenges.

The Olympic Movement Directory (2002):
1.7.-23.11. 1904

Bill Mallon: idem

Volker Kluge: idem

Karl Lennartz: 14.5.1904 MALLON, Bill / WIDLUND, Ture, The 1912 Olympic Games, p. 25.

There was no real opening ceremony, only some kind of an official start for the first heat of the 100 yards of the "Olympic Interscholastic Meet".

Two elements ought to be considered when trying to agree or disagree with these dates:

- (1) Was there an opening ceremony? This being before 1908, the criteria defined above for Games before 1908 are applicable.

Bill Mallon (on page 11 of his excellent book, the best ever written on these Games) writes: "There was something **approximating** a modern Opening Ceremony at the 1904 Olympic Games, but it took place on 14 May

Whether or not to employ a "bronze-medal" here, will be discussed eternally. In the mixed competition she played together with the British player Archibald Warden. This indicates another problem: Does the prize have to be divided, half a bronze-medal? The fact that "mixed" teams were allowed to take part in the Olympic Games also shows, that at that time it was not essentially important that only countries took part in the games.

Coubertin and the IOC consciously differentiated between nation and state. This allowed Bohemia and Finland to take part in the games, although they were no states according to international law, but belonged to Austria-Hungary resp. Russia. Coubertin spoke of "olympic geography". Austria, Russia, Germany, as well as other countries protested against this. In 1912 Bohemia and Finland were integrated into the teams of Austria and Russia. At the Olympic Congress in 1914 Coubertin suffered a big defeat, as a large majority voted in favour of not letting Bohemia and Finland take part as independent teams, but to integrate them into the teams of their respective countries. Then the 1st World War changed the map of Europe.

"C. Spain won no medal in 1900!. SPAIN WON SEVERAL MEDALS IN 1900." – At the Olympic Games 1900 in Paris no representatives of Spanish sport organisations took part. Spanish athletes did take part.

A team, sent by a Spanish Olympic organisation did not exist, but 12 Spanish athletes took part, among other things in Polo in mixed teams (GBR, USA, ESP).

"D. The number of events in 1900 is incorrect."

I guess it will always remain a problem to determine the exact number of the "olympic competitions" that took place in 1900. To make things easier one could just as well say that the Olympic Games of 1900 never took place. But if the sports events of the world exposition are defined as being competitions of the Olympic Games, it has to be clarified if all sports events accomplished by organisations involved in the world exposition count into this. This would include national-, professional-, handicap- as well as juniors-competitions. The different authors of books concerning the Olympic Games Mallon, Kluge, Lennartz – to only mention a few – come to different conclusions. This case for instance is the typical case where sports historians, who are professionals in this field, agree on a definition, i.e.: The competitions of the world exposition are to be classified as olympic, if they accord to the

1904, at the Olympic Interscholastic Meet. At about 2.50 p.m., President Francis arrived... Accompanied by the United States Secretary of State John Milton Hay. They led a double line of silk-hatted officials and commissioners and proceeded to their boxes in the grandstand. After they were seated, the band struck up 'The Star Spangled Banner.' Francis, Hay and Sullivan then walked to down to the starting line. Sullivan called the athletes to the line for the first heat of the 100 yards, and the 'Olympic Games' were opened when Francis fired the starting pistol at 3.00 p.m."

Was the "pistol shot" on 14 May 1904 an official opening or not? The term "approximating" reminds me of the term "a little bit pregnant". One is either pregnant or not and Bill recognised this. Therefore³ he defines it as an "Official Opening".

If this were the case, then the Games started on this day, whether or not the events following this "pistol shot" were "Olympic".

(2) If this interpretation is contested, a second element to consider is whether or not the Interscholastic Meet was "Olympic".

Bill Mallon⁴, applying modern criteria (just as for 1900), argues that it was not. Nevertheless, he is careful by saying that it should not be considered part of the official programme for 1904, but allows readers and historians to make their own judgement.

However, before reaching this "non definite" decision, let us consider some other arguments (they will be developed in detail in a subsequent paper and in particular the criteria used by Bill Mallon⁵):

a. In the official report, all the events are defined as "Olympic". To my knowledge, there was never an IOC decision to not consider them as "Olympic". The report was accepted. Nevertheless, when reading the Sullivan report carefully, all competitions were "under the Olympic banner" (as requested by the IOC and not a Sullivan decision) and thus not always real Olympic events". I fully concur with Bill that one ought to determine what was "really Olympic" at that time.

b. To determine what was really "Olympic" one

criteria defined in 1894. The competitions are accessible internationally; only amateurs are allowed to compete; the motto being "citius, altius, fortius". Then national, pro and handicap competitions cannot be counted in. It is essential though, that this definition is pointed out in a footnote.

"E. The 1904 Games started on 1 July " THEY STARTED ON 14 OR 21 MAY."

I personally tend to equate the beginning and the end of the Olympic Games 1900 and 1904 with the dates of the respective world expositions. It should then be: "the first resp. the last competition took place on Concerning the Games in St. Louis, the historians would have to explain, that the track & field competitions were called "Olympic Games" and that the different competitions were partially open to international athletes and sometimes only to national athletes.

"F. The 1912 Games closed on 27 July". There was no closing ceremony and the games finished on July 22nd."

The facts of the 1912 Games in Stockholm are very complicated. The first sports-competition was May 5th, the poster shows the dates June 29th – July 22nd, the opening ceremony was celebrated July 6th, the closing ceremony July 15th. After this there were several other competitions, the last of which was July 22nd; a ceremony July 27nd is also to be included.

"G. JORES does not mention the SARRE as a participating nation in 1952. SARRE PARTICIPATED WITH 45 ATHLETES."

There is no doubt that the Sarre had its own NOC, acknowledged by the IOC, which sent 45 athletes to the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki. The NOC was closed in 1957, because of a decision to integrate the existing team into the German one for the Games in Cortina resp. Melbourne. Two substantial books, dealing with the history of the Sarre NOC, have been published.

"(I) The opening date of the Games is the date of the opening ceremony or the first competition, Which ever is first."

Is not "begin of the Games" better?

"(II) If there is no opening ceremony, then the first competition is the opening date."

³ MALLON, Games, p. 1.

⁴ MALLON, Games, p. 14-16.

⁵ Here I just would like to mention one contradiction: if "international participation" is one criterion, then why does Bill accept some of the rowing events?

⁶ *Spalding's Official Athletic Almanac* for 1905, Special Olympic Number Containing the *Official Report of the Olympic Games of 1904*, p. 159.

- must use means other than applying present-day criteria or Coubertin's philosophy. What is true today was not true for 1904. It is not up to us to decide for the organisers what ought to have been "Olympic" or not. Sullivan's decision to define all contests as "Olympic" was not "inane" but a request by the IOC.
- c. I am convinced that Sullivan and his organising committee made a distinction between what was a real Olympic contest and what was just a contest "under the Olympic banner". They prepared badges for the officials and medals for the winners for each contest. Examining the latter would give us the solution as to what ought to be considered "really Olympic". We are lucky to be able to obtain evidence for the above. Lately, two Olympic collectors (members of FIMO) have stumbled on badges and medals from the 1904 Games and they published a book on these priceless artefacts. For events not considered (by the OC) as "Olympic", badges and medals were made without mentioning the term "OLYMPIC GAMES"; on the other hand for real "Olympic" events the badges and medals featured the words "OLYMPIC GAMES"
- d. No medal was found relative to the Interscholastic Meet of 14 May. Badges yes, but badges for this event had no "Olympic" mention (Fig. 1). We may conclude that the event was not really "Olympic". The first medals with an "Olympic" mention were for the "1904 Olympic Handicap Games" which took place on 21 May 1904 (Fig. 2). One can clearly see that the medal was defined as an "Olympic [Handicap] Games" medal. Do we have the right to overrule that decision and claim that handicap events were not Olympic? Certainly not, otherwise we should also do so for the winners of the 1908 motorboat race (mechanised sports are not "Olympic" according to present-day criteria).

In conclusion, it is my contention that the Games started either on 14 May or on 21 May – if the opening ceremony is contested. The last Olympic event – association football – ended the Games on 23 November. (American football, which ended on 26 November, was a demonstration event).

There has always been an opening ceremony. In 1900 and 1904 it was the opening ceremony of the world exposition.

"(III) An opening ceremony (from 1908 onwards) is a ceremony during which the Head of State of the host country proclaims the Games open. This in the presence of the athletes from all the participating nations."

Also in 1896, 1900, 1904 and 1906 the Games were proclaimed open by the Head of State or his deputy.

"(IV) Before the ceremonial of the opening ceremony was established (1908) the OCOG could decide whether a ceremony it organised constituted an opening ceremony."

See (III)

"(V) The first competition is one that is an olympic event, in the presence of judges. It can be a sports event or an art contest (1912-1948)."

Concerning the art contests we should be careful in associating them with the judges. Were judges involved in 1912? Concerning the later art contests; should not rather the dates/facts of the respective exhibitions be mentioned? Are we sure in either case, when judges decided?

"(VI) An Olympic event is one that was defined as such by the OCOG of the Games, at that time, and which appears as such in the report produced by the OCOG, or for which an Olympic medal was awarded."

Have medals and a report always existed?

"(VII) The closing date of the Games is the date of the closing ceremony or the last competition, which ever is last."

I agree!

"(VIII) If there is no closing ceremony, then the last competition is the closing date."

When was there no closing ceremony?

"(IX) A closing ceremony is a ceremony during which the IOC President (or his representative) proclaims the Games closed. This in the presence of the athletes from all the participating nations."

This definition can only be valid from 1932 onwards.

"(X) The last competition is one that is an Olympic event, in the presence of judges. It can be a sports event or an art contest (1912 – 1948)."

See (V)

"(XI) An Olympic event is one that was defined as such by the OCOG of the Games (s.o.), at that time, and which appears as such in the

1.4. The Games of the IV Olympiad, London 1908.

The Olympic Movement Directory (2002):
42.4.-31.10.1908
The Official Report and all authors agree on these dates.

1.5. The Games of the V Olympiad, Stockholm 1912.

The Olympic Movement Directory (2002):
5.5.-27.7.1912
Bill Mallon: idem
Volker Kluge: idem
The Official report: 5.5.-22.7.1912
Erich Kamper: 5.5.-22.7.1912
David Wallechinsky: idem

1.5.1. The opening date has been determined by the beginning of the covered-courts Tennis tournament: 5 June 1912. We all agree that the beginning of the Games can be before the Opening Ceremony (6 July). Everybody seems to be in agreement, so why do I dare to say “wait a minute”?

I raise my finger because if we admit that the starting date is the start of the first competition, then the date could be 1 March, when all entries for the Concours d’Art were supposed to be in the hands of the Jury (page 808 of the official report). The art competition was part of the official programme and the winners were considered Olympic champions just like the sport champions.

Nothing is said in the official report about whether the Jury started its deliberations on 1 March, but it is a strong possibility. Now, I do not suggest at this moment modifying the “accepted” date, but wish to underscore that the possibility exists and that some research is being done right now in Sweden.

1.5.2. When it comes to the end of the Games, I totally disagree with the date given by the Olympic Directory and fully concur with the Official Report, Wallechinsky and Kamper. The report does not mention any official closing ceremony while it certainly mentions the opening ceremony.

Bill Mallon and Tilburne⁷ claim that a closing ceremony took place on 27 July in the Hasselbaken restaurant.

Permit me to analyse this claim:

- (1) This dinner was given by the Royal Swedish Yacht Club in honour of the yachtsmen taking part in the Olympic and International regattas (the latter were not part of the Olympic programme). Has one ever seen or attended a closing ceremony given by a federation and

report produced by the OCOG.”

See (VI)

“1.1. The Games of the I Olympiad, Athens 1896.”

In the directory, the guide and in hints for collectors and for the historians a reference (footnote) should be made regarding the Julianic Calendar, which was used in Greece until 1923.

“1.2. The Games of the II Olympiad, Paris 1900.”

The opening and closing by the French president should also be seen as the opening and closing of the Olympic Games, as they were part of the exposition-program. A footnote stating: “Not a sports oriented opening/closing ceremony” should be added.

“1.3. The Games of the III Olympiad, St. Louis 1904.”

From my point of view an opening ceremony of the world exposition took place at the Louisiana Monument on the Plaza in St. Louis on 30.4.1904. A sports oriented opening was celebrated on 14.5. in the Washington Stadium at the beginning of the “Interscholastic meet for State of Missouri”. It is now a question of interpretation, if these “local” school-competitions are olympic, just because Sullivan mentioned them in his report for the 1904 Olympic Games. In my judgement they are not olympic, because they were not announced internationally and only a certain agegroup took part. I think the first “olympic” sports competition was the “Turner’s international and individual team contest” on July 1st. This also goes for the handicap competitions. But we have to point out, that these competitions were also called “olympic” by the organising committee. But in general I agree with you.

See also my comments on “D”.

To bring forward the argument that a decision by the IOC was missing is not valid. The IOC only started to get involved in dealing with questions concerning the Olympic program from the 1907 Den Haag session onwards. Until then the IOC only played a minor role. I over-interpret a little and perhaps criticise too sharply when I say that Coubertin was pretty indifferent about “other” sports and competitions conducted during the Olympic Games he did not like – 1900 and 1904 -. Later on, as a more or less stable program got established, the IOC did not really deal with past happenings very seriously.

The Games ended on November 23rd with the last football match (soccer). American football was not

⁷ MALLON, Bill / WIDLUND, Ture, The 1912 Olympic Games, p. 25.

not the OC? Has one ever seen a closing ceremony with the attendance of one group of athletes only? Never in the history of the modern Olympic Games!!

- (2) This dinner was in fact a banquet intended for yachtsmen only. It is mentioned in the "festivities" programme in the Official Report and not as a ceremony. Moreover, the exact date of this banquet was 26 July and not 27 July.
- (3) Mallon and Tilburne also argue that it was a closing ceremony since Coubertin attended (as a French guest and not as IOC President) and "gave the final speech, closing the Games...". It is true that Coubertin, on behalf of the foreign guests⁸ mentioned in his speech that in a few moments the celebration of the games would come to an end. It is true that in the name of the IOC he proposed a toast to the next Olympiad. BUT NOWHERE IN HIS SPEECH DID HE PRONOUNCE THE FAMOUS WORDS WHICH OFFICIALLY CLOSE THE GAMES in the name of the IOC⁹. So, the speech cannot be accepted as an official "closing ceremony speech".
- (4) I am sure that the Swedish Olympic and Organising Committees, so precise and meticulous in their Official Report, would have mentioned this occasion and would have defined it as a closing ceremony had this really been the case.

In conclusion, this banquet was not a "closing ceremony" it was just a banquet. Taking Coubertin's speech as a closing ceremony speech is stretching the truth quite a bit. The claim is doubly wrong: on the date and on its contents or intention. It is my contention that the Games of the V Olympiad ended on 22 July and not later.

1.6. The Games of the VI Olympiad, Berlin 1916.

The Olympic Movement Directory mentions only that the Games were not celebrated, but gives no dates. Theoretically this is correct, but not fair or complete. Many preparations and qualifying contests took place for these Games, in Germany and in other countries. To assist the historian and the collector, it would be appropriate to mention the dates, since we know them.

The preliminary reports: (1) Winter events: 4.-6.2.1916 (it is not clear whether these dates also included the Nordic skiing events). (2) Summer events: 28.5.10.7. 1916.

1.7. The Games of the VII Olympiad, Antwerp 1920.

announced internationally. The world exposition was closed on December 1st.

A text concerning the 1904 Games could go as follows:

"The Games of the III. Olympiade were part of the World exposition, which lasted from April 30th until December 1st 1904 in St. Louis. A sports oriented opening ceremony took place on May 14th. Olympic competitions – for all amateurs and announced internationally, took place within the timeframe of July 1st and November 23rd. The organiser also called other competitions olympic."

"1.4. The Games of the IV Olympiad, London 1908."

April 27th until October 31st 1908.

The Franco-British Exposition lasted from May 14th until October 31st 1908.

"1.5. The Games of the V Olympiad, Stockholm 1912."

The dates/facts of the art competitions should be handled with care. Who were the Judges? Was anything exhibited? From my point of view a simple indication is enough here.

The argument with the final phrase "in the name of the IOC" cannot be used here. This "formula" started to get used concerning the Games after World War I:

"Start of the sports competitions: June 5th, According to the official poster the Games lasted: June 29th – July 22nd, Opening ceremony: July 6th, closing ceremony and awarding of the medals: July 15th, last sports competition: July 22nd, award ceremony of this competition: July 26th, Works of art to be handed in for the art competition: March 1st."

"1.6. The Games of the VI Olympiad, Berlin 1916."

I do not understand why all official publications of the IOC "conceal" the target dates of these Games. They were predetermined during the Olympic congress 1914 in Paris. The Games would have lasted from February 4th until August 21st 1916:

From 4th until 6th of February: Icehockey, figure skating, speed skating in Berlin, in February Skiing in the Black Forest, May 28th – June 4th "week of games", July 1st – 10th "week of stadium", July 1st opening ceremony, August 12th – 21st closing week, award ceremonies at the end of every week, dates for the art competitions not yet decided on.

"1.7. The Games of the VII Olympiad, Antwerp 1920."

The Games of the VII. Olympiad took place within the Fetes d'Anvers (Feesten van Antwerpen). This

The Olympic Movement Directory (2002):
20.4.-12.9.1920

The Official Report: idem

David Wallechinsky: idem

Volker Kluge: 23.4.-12.9.1920

Erich Kamper: played both sides: in his Lexikon der Olympischen Winterspiele: he gives as the starting date 20 April (page 25) but then in his detailed tables gives the preliminary round of ice-hockey starting on 23 April (page 214 - 3 matches), but in his "Lexikon der 14000 Olympioniken" he gives the first day as 23 April (page XXXIII).

1.7.1. All information about the ice-hockey tournament is identical: it started on 23 April, and I have found nothing to substantiate the date of the 20 April. It ought to be changed in the Olympic Movement Directory.

1.7.2. The last day of the Games is correct.

1.8. The Games of the VIII Olympiad, Paris 1924.

All sources agree on the dates: 4.5.-28.7.1924

1.9. The Games of the IX Olympiad, Amsterdam 1928.

The Games started with the football tournament on 17.5 1928 and ended with the Closing Ceremony on 12.8.1928. All sources agree on these dates.

1.10. The Games of the XI Olympiad, Los Angeles 1932.

All sources agree on the dates: 30.7.-14.8.1932

1.11. The Games of the XI Olympiad, Berlin 1936

The Olympic Directory (2002): 1.-16.8.1936

All sources agree on this date. I beg to differ. While the Opening Ceremony, in fact, took place on 1 August, the **art competitions** started earlier; **the jury for musical compositions started judging on 3 June, which in my opinion marks the start of the Games.** Karl Lennartz believes that, since the public could not attend, these ought not to be considered as real competitions; Karl believes that if the art competitions were to be considered, then the first day ought to be the opening of the German Art exhibition – on 15 July. Karl has a point, and I accept his opinion.

There seems to be no problem with the closing date.

The official dates ought to be: 15.7.-16.8.1936.

1.12. The Games of the XII Olympiad, Helsinki 1940

The Games of the XII Olympiad were awarded to

celebration was supposed to take place from April 15th until October 15th. It had to be cancelled shortly before the end, because the organisers had run out of money. That is why no report was printed on these Olympic Games.

The artists had to hand in their works of art until latest March 1st 1920. The Icehockey-tournament started on April 23rd. The opening ceremony took place on the 14th, the closing ceremony and award ceremony on the 30th of August. The last competition was conducted on September 12th.

"1.8. The Games of the VIII Olympiad, Paris 1924."

First sports competition May 4th, opening ceremony July 5th, last sports competition and closing ceremony July 27th.

Until when did the works of art have to be handed in?

"1.9. The Games of the IX Olympiad, Amsterdam 1928."

First sports competition May 17th, opening ceremony July 28th, last sports competition and closing ceremony August 12th.

Until when did the works of art have to be handed in?

"1.10. The Games of the X Olympiad, Los Angeles 1932."

July 30th until August 14th, art exhibition July 30th – August 31st.

Until when did the works of art have to be handed in?

"1.11. The Games of the XI Olympiad, Berlin 1936."

August 1st – 16th, art exhibition July 17th – August 16th.

"1.12. The Games of the XII Olympiad, Tokyo resp. Helsinki 1940."

See comments on 1916

Scheduled:

Tokyo: September 21st until October 6th, art exhibition September 5th – October 6th.

Helsinki: July 20th until August 4th 1940, dates for the art competition not yet decided on.

"1.13. The Games of the XIII Olympiad, London 1944."

There was no OC formed.

Until this day the Games do not always start at the opening day. In Sydney 2000 some soccer matches took place beforehand. This should be mentioned.

Why did you not refer to the Olympic Games in

⁸ MALLON, Bill / WIDLUND, Ture, The 1912 Olympic Games, p. 798.

⁹ See 1908 (first time).

Helsinki in 1938, after Tokyo withdrew from their organisation.

The Olympic Movement Directory merely mentions them, but no dates are given. I am convinced, just as for 1916, that the planned dates ought to be mentioned, since they are important for the scholar and the collector.

20.7.-4.8.1940

1.13. The Games of the XIII Olympiad, London 1944

The Games were awarded to London in 1939, at the Session that took place in London. By the time WW2 broke out in September 1939, no OC had yet been established, so no plans were made and no dates can be given.

There seems to be no confusion about the opening and closing dates thereafter.

Manfred

Athens 1906 in your paper. It is surprising to see, that they are not mentioned in almost all official IOC-publications. It should be suggested to the staff of the IOC, that they proclaim these Games "non-existent". Coubertin, the IOC, the OC in Athens, all NOCs, all competitors and all sporthistorians have seen and today still see this event as Olympic Games. As a matter of fact this Event saved the Olympic Movement from dying after the problems in 1900 and 1904, because it is here, where London decided to organise the Games in 1908. It is again valid here: history cannot be changed. Also not by the IOC.

I still do not understand, why the IOC does not let professional historians see through their official publications. It is common practice with other similar organisations and a good way to avoid problems. My colleagues and I have pointed this out for many years now and offered our cooperation. We often received the impression of being a nuisance to the IOC.

So far my comments! I think it would be good to fax Madame Zweifel a copy. I hope this is alright with you.

Karl



Medals/Badges St. Louis 1904