

REPORTS

1st Symposium of the German Pierre de Coubertin Committee

The symposium took place in Leipzig, Germany from 4 – 7th September. The topic of the symposium "International Influences on the Re-Establishment of the Olympic Games" was well chosen by the academic organisers of the symposium who were Prof. Norbert MÜLLER, Prof. Dr. SCHANTZ and Dr. Stephan WASSONG. The congress which was funded by the bid committee Leipzig and the *Union Internationale De Pentathlon Moderne* was attended by scholars and students of the *University of Mainz*, the *German Sport University Cologne*, the *University of Straßbourg*, the *University of Münster* and the *University of Trier* as well by researchers on COUBERTIN from London, Madrid, Paris and Orléans.

The lectures as well as the discussions stimulated research aspects which are important for the national and international academic discussion about COUBERTIN and Olympism. It became obvious how COUBERTIN utilised educational and political impulses which he observed in France, England, Germany, Greece and in the USA to develop a modern concept of (physical) education that finally

became the basis for his Olympic thoughts. By this one could stress that COUBERTIN turned away slowly from the class of nobility in order to become a progressive – minded reformer. In addition to this the participants agreed on the point that an interpretation of COUBERTIN and his work could be fruitful if the personal network is examined that COUBERTIN established in his life. But it was stressed that these investigations should go beyond a mere name dropping. It is necessary to critically reflect on the fact how the thoughts of international sport leaders, educators, politicians and artists have influenced COUBERTIN'S thoughts. By this approach useful information could be gathered on the re-establishment of the Olympic Games and on the educational, social, philosophical and ethical dimensions of Olympism. The symposium was attended by numerous ISOH-members among them were Don ANTHONY, Walter BORGERS, Karl LENNARTZ, Norbert MÜLLER, Dietrich QUANZ, Stephan WASSONG and Karel WENDL.

The following lectures were held at this symposium:



Norbert MÜLLER: "Coubertin and Saxony";
Bernd WIRKUS: "Coubertin's Eclecticism and Internationalism";
Karl LENNARTZ: "The Bavarian Influence on the Olympian in Athens";
Wolfgang DECKER/Barbara RIEGER: "The Pre-Olympic Scene in modern Greece";
Walter BORGERS: "Coubertin and the World Faires";
Otto SCHANTZ: "French Influences on the Re-Establishment and Celebration of the Olympic Games: The French Festival Culture";

Patrick CLASTRES: "Coubertin and the Ecole Libres des Sciences Politiques";
Stephan WASSONG: "Coubertin's Studies in and about the USA";
Don ANTHONY: "Coubertin and Britain";
Jean DURRY: "Coubertin and his Friends";
Daniel POYAN: "Coubertin as an Author".

The lectures as well as the results of the discussions will be published in a conference report by Stephan WASSONG and Otto SCHANTZ.

Stephan Wassong