



Olympic Games: those in Athens in 1896.

Thanassis TARASSOULEAS in this new and last historical book on the 1896 Olympic Games gives full information on the local, national and international press, specifically the newspapers and periodicals, which described the Athens Games and published comments, reports and even poetry.

Because photography was still in its infancy, many of the publications used sketches, some of them quite satirical too.

The author not only mentions all of the then known newspapers and periodicals, but also the owners and journalists behind them. Among those

#### OLYMPIC HAPPENINGS IV

**The Press 1896, written and published by Thanassis Taras-souleas, 10, Stadiou Street, Athens 10564, GREECE; printed by S. Bouboukas Graphic Arts, 167 pages in Greek and English; price: in Europe 35.-; for all other countries: US\$40.-, including postal expenses. Reviewed by Anthony Th. Bijkerk.**

As can be seen in the title, this is the fourth book in a series about the earliest history of the Modern

with the largest circulation were *Akropolis*, *To Astia*, *Embros*, *Estia*, *Ephimeris*, *Kairoi*, *Palingenesia*, *Proia*, *O Romios*, *Spharia* and *Skrip*. To each of these, TARASSOULEAS pays attention by describing the birth of the paper, who was the owner, and also who was the most important journalist then working for him. This information is enhanced by showing in photographs how the paper itself, but also its owner looked like. As only a few outsiders can read the original text in Greek, the translation in English gives us a fair impression on what the papers wrote about, as the author gives short quotations from almost every mentioned paper. Personally I especially liked the quotations about the 1896 marathon, as they once again reminded me of the article David YOUNG and I wrote some years ago in the *Journal of Olympic History* 7(Winter 1999)<sup>1</sup> about "That Memorable First Marathon".

Each newspaper then had a different background and a different readingship. Almost all of the newspapers and periodicals were favorable to the Athens Games. Sure, there was a satirical one too, while another mostly used poetry and a third had two full pages with sketches.

We must pay our compliments to ISOH Member TARASSOULEAS for publishing this book with a completely new view on the First Olympic Games of the Modern Era.

At the end of the book, some international newspapers and periodicals that published results

and in general commented on the 1896 Olympics are mentioned, but short. To name these: *Harper's Weekly* and *The Century, Illustrated Monthly Magazine* (New York, USA); and *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Evening Standard*; *The Times*, *The Illustrated London News*; (London, England); and the French *Le Petit Parisien*, *l'Intransigeant*, *Le Gaulois* and finally *Le Petit Journal*.

The book can be ordered direct from G. Tarassouleas & Co., 10 Stadiou Street, ATHENS 10564, GREECE.