



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE MODERN OLYMPIC MOVEMENT, edited by John E. Findling and Kimberly D. Pelle; published by Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06881, USA; 602 pages; ISBN 0-313-32278-3 (hardback;

US\$75.00), 0-275-97659-9 (paperback; US\$29.95); reviewed by Anthony Th. Bijkerk and Stephan Wassong.

Like its earlier issue the: *Historical Dictionary of the Modern Olympic Movement* (Greenwood Press, 1996), the two editors John E. FINDLING and Kimberly D. PELLE have again chosen for the same grouping, that is that they decided to follow the Olympic Movement from its birth in ancient Olympia, through the renovation as a Modern Movement in 1896, up to today. Like the previous issue, they have again chosen for multiple authors, each responsible for (at least) one chapter.

The various authors this time obviously received more elbow-room to tell their stories and this makes the book much more complete and valuable. Most of the chapters have been completely rewritten.

To name a few of the authors: Bob BARNEY wrote the chapter on the Ancient Games; Joachim RÜHL, a specialist on the subject, wrote about the various efforts to organise Olympic Games in the nineteenth century, before Pierre de COUBERTIN made his move. Karl LENNARTZ and Stephan WASSONG wrote about the 1896 Olympics; André DREVON about the Games in Paris 1900; Bill MALLON about the International Olympic Games of 1906; Roland RENSON about Antwerp 1920; Ian JOBLING about Melbourne 1956; Floris van der MERWE on Rome 1960; Bruce KIDD on Montréal 1976; James RIORDAN about Moscow 1980; Wayne WILSON about Los Angeles 1984; Ron PALENSKI about Seoul 1988; Miquel de MORAGAS about Barcelona 1992; Richard CASHMAN about Sydney 2000; and Christine SELL on Athens 2004. Paula WELCH wrote about the Olympic Winter Games in Chamonix 1924 and Harold "Rusty" WILSON on the Winter Games of 1980 in Lake Placid. All of

them were ISOH-members who contributed to this valuable historical volume.

As stated the book is divided in chapters, each concentrating on one Olympic Games, starting with the Ancient Olympics, followed by the Summer Olympic Games (from Athens 1896 up to Beijing 2008), followed by the Winter Olympics (from Chamonix 1924 up to Vancouver 2010).

In Appendix A, various authors have written biographies of all the Presidents of the International Olympic Committee, most of the biographies are completely renewed and far more extensive compared to the first edition.

Appendix B gives the latest information on the United States Olympic Committee, a very readable and concise chapter, discussing the great internal problems of the most wealthy national Olympic Committee of the Olympic Movement.

In Appendix C the subject of the Olympic Games and Television is discussed by Stephen R. WENN, one of the authors of the book *Selling The Five Rings*.

Appendix D gives information on "Olympic Feature Films" and finally in Appendix E, author Richard Cox writes about the latest information on the subject: "Internet Sources on Olympism and the Olympic Games", a very enlightening chapter!

Of course, the editors close down with an extensive General Bibliography, which we found rather difficult to read. Personally, we prefer the usual list of books with authors and publishers in alphabetical sequence, but the two editors now chose to do it in a different way. They mention the various Published Bibliographical Guides; Archives with Significant Olympic Holdings [valuable information], Books and Articles, divided in: General Histories, Reference Books, The Olympics and Political Issues, Country-Specific Olympic Histories, Olympic Biographies, Sport-Specific Histories, Olympic Miscellanea, Documentary Films, and finally Journals and Organizations. The last chapter is dedicated to a short biography of each of the many authors who contributed to this valuable book.

We are quite certain that this book will find its way into many Olympic libraries all over the world. It is an absolute 'must' for anyone interested in the history of the Olympic movement!