

ual and two relay track and field events. But it is as Bud Greenspan said, still “a subjective choice.”

In his views, it is not only the story of the famous” gold-medal winner that is worth telling, but maybe even more the story of the one who lost and how he or she lost. These stories give the book its strength and special character.

One last comment, and unfortunately a small correction: the flag shown on the page with the Danish Lis Hartel belongs to the Netherlands. The Danish flag is red with a white standing cross. A small detail which is nothing compared to the written histories in this otherwise great book.

BOOK REVIEWS:

“100 Greatest Moments in Olympic History” by Bud Greenspan. 240 pages, in English. Published by General Publishing Group, Inc., 2701 Ocean Park Blvd. Ste. 140, Los Angeles, CA 90405/USA. Beautifully illustrated. ISBN 1-881649-66-0. Price US\$40 or Canada\$55. To be obtained from the publisher (for large quantities) or local bookstores. Individual books in the USA only can be obtained by calling 888-CALLPG. Reviewed by Tony Bijkerk.

Bud Greenspan, ISOH member and recipient of the Olympic Order, said it himself in his introduction to this magnificent book: “Selecting any list of greatest moments in Olympic Sport is at best subjective!” Therefore, don’t shoot at the writer, if he left out some “great moments” that you as reader would have preferred. Many of the stories that Greenspan chose are well known among us Olympic historians. But in spite of that, it is very good reading and a fantastic tribute to the many known (and some unknown) Olympic heroes pictured in this book.

ACOG President Billy Payne, who wrote a foreword for the book, tells us that Greenspan’s vision is unlike that of anyone else on this earth because in his famous Olympic films he unfailingly captures the human drama of sports, and in this book he tries to continue that vision.

With stories like the ones about Lis Hartel, Dave Moorcroft and “The Last Man in the Marathon,” he not only corroborates (t)his unique vision, but shows himself “the greatest talent in uncovering those little known stories of individual heroics.”

Of course, as an inhabitant of the Netherlands, I disagree with the Associated Press’s valuation at the end of page 102: “that Babe Didrikson was the greatest woman athlete of the first-half century.” That distinction, without any doubt, belongs to Fanny Blankers-Koen, who not only spanned an athletic career of almost two decades, but in that period won her four of seven gold medals and also broke world records no less than 12 times in seven individ-

‘Fabulous 100 Years of the IOC: Facts, Figures and Much, Much More’ by Wolf S. Lyberg. 410 pages in English. Illustrated. Published by the IOC. To be obtained from the Olympic Museum in Lausanne at a cost of approximately Sw, Frcs.25,-. The Olympic Museum should be contacted for further details of the exact costs, including postage. Reviewed by Ian Buchanan.

Friends of Wolf Lyberg, a member of the ISOH Executive Committee, have known for some time that he has been working on this book and they have been looking forward to its publication. They will not be disappointed. Lyberg is unrivaled as a historian of IOC matters and in the introduction he writes that he is probably the only man to have read some 20,000 pages of all the minutes and annexes of the IOC Sessions and Executive Boards meetings. I think we can safely assume that the word “probably” is superfluous.

As a journalist and historian, he has attended 26 Summer and Winter Games since 1936 and in this invaluable and entertaining work, he blends his writing and research skills to great effect. The scope of the book is so wide-ranging that it is not possible to do full justice to its merits in this brief review, but it is a veritable treasure-trove of information on the IOC.

The number of Sessions attended by each of the 414 members of the IOC up to 1995 are, to the best of my knowledge, listed for the first time. But the author supplements the factual table with some entertaining anecdotes about the members and the workings of the IOC. Brazilian member, Arnaldo Guinle, failed to attend a single one of the 36 IOC Sessions held during his mandate (1923-1949), but when he retired he was made an honorary member and received a letter from Avery Brundage thanking him for his services to the Olympic Movement! It is also interesting to note that not one of the first five members from New Zealand attended a single IOC Session.

The varied tables included, lists all members of the Executive Committee, dates and venues of all the regional

Games, number of athletes who took part in each Olympic celebration and many similar useful compilations. The role of the IOC during the two World Wars, the problems of China, South Africa and the two Germanys are covered in detail and there are sections on such subjects as Women at the Games, the Challenge Cups and the Art Competitions. In this latter section, the author reaches the conclusion that there was no panel of judges at the 1912 Games and that de Coubertin was the sole arbiter. In that capacity, de Coubertin saw fit to award himself first prize in the Literature category, a decision he presumably wished to hide by entering under a pseudonym.

In the list of IOC members, I was interested to see yet another version of the membership numbers allocated to individuals. For some IOC members I have now seen at least three different membership numbers, all from apparently authoritative sources, and if any ISOH member has information on precisely how these numbers were allocated by the IOC, Wolf Lyberg, myself and, no doubt, other ISOH members would be interested in such information. The illustrations are not well-known and match the text in interest. Of particular appeal are the photographs of the medals, inscribed in Latin, which were distributed by missionaries to tribes throughout Africa before the first African Games and the opening ceremony of the II Mediterranean Games in Barcelona in 1955. For these Games, the IOC refused to sanction the use of the Olympic Flame, but the organizers came up with the brilliant idea of having a relay of runners to carry water from the Mediterranean to the stadium where the last runner poured his contribution of sea water into a large bowl to activate a fountain. Although the quality of the photograph is not up to the standard of others, the picture of IOC member Angelo Bolanski jumping over some animal cages in Alexandria was well worth including for its rarity value. Bolanski was a talented athlete, but his claim that around the turn of the century he produced a long-jump mark of 7.23m, which was only marginally short of the world record, seems distinctly dubious.

Present and future Olympic scholars will be indebted to Wolf Lyberg, and I can, reservedly, recommend this book.

“De Olympiske-Biografi af Danske OL-deltagere, 1896-1996.” Published by Danmarks Idræts-Forbund/Danmarks Olympiske Komite. Brøndby Stadion 20, 2605 Bøndy, Denmark. Edited by Preben Kristensen. ISBN 87-9316-11-8. In Danish. 631 pages and many photographs, Reviewed by Tony Bijkerk.

A fantastic publication! The envy of all other countries! That deserves this fabulous historical volume in which the complete Danish Olympic Sports

World, combined in the Idræts-Forbund and the Olympic Committee salutes every single one of their participants in the Olympic Games, starting in 1896 and up to the present 1996. It is in my opinion the most complete book on the Olympic history of one country (Denmark), published in the world yet.

It is unique that the authors (and there were 30 and real amateurs, too. In fact, almost each sport had its own representative), succeeded in writing a short (or longer) biography from every Danish Olympic participant. Sure, the authors may have missed a couple, but the fact is that the life story of each and every Danish Olympic participant has been researched and that makes this volume unique. Further, each participant's photograph has been added, too, if that photograph could be found.

Denmark was represented in almost all Olympic Summer Games. It only stayed home in 1904 (St. Louis). But Denmark started its first participation in the Olympic Winter Games only after World War II.

Starting in Athens, 1896, the book gives full details of the Danish representatives, going all the way to Atlanta, 1996. In most of the biographies, only the call-name, the years of birth and death, have been given. This quite obvious “neglect” has been made up at the end of the book by an alphabetical roster in which the complete personal data from all Danish Olympic athletes has been entered-giving full names, full data about birth and death and the year(s) of Olympic participation. Even such information as who was the Danish flag-bearer at the various Olympic Games is shown in this roster. Only 11 Danish Olympic participants out of approximately 1,700 could not be traced and remain unknown.

The biographies are, of course, in Danish, and that makes them accessible for Scandinavians only, as Swedes and Norwegians will have few problems in reading Danish. I was fortunate enough that through my study of the Norwegian language I was able to get the gist of most of the important texts. It gives the book an extra value to be able to read the real life stories of such great sportsmen and sportswomen as Paul Elvström, Ragnild Hveger, Lis Hartel, Greta Andersen, Kernen Harup and many others. Of course, these names are nostalgic memory for many of us.

The 32 co-workers who in concerted effort, together produced this volume deserve the highest praise for their painstaking research. The results are to be recognized by all Olympic historians!

“DIE OLYMPISCHEN SPIELE: Athleten, Rekorde, Hintergründe aus 100 Jahren.” (The Olympic Games - Athletes, Records, Backgrounds of 100 years). Edited by: Bernd Jordan and Alexander Lenz. Published in Rowohlt-

Taschenbuchverlag, Reinbeck near Hamburg, Germany, 1996. In German. 379 pages and more than 300 pictures. Price: DM 34,90 or ÖSch. 258. ISBN 3-499-19448-1. (rororo-Sachbuch: 9448). Reviewed by Rupert Kaiser.

Rowohlt-Taschenbuchverlag, the well-known publisher, in Reinbeck joined the caravan of German books about the history of the Olympic Games by publishing the above mentioned book. Bernd Jordan and Alexander Lenz are the editors and, together with Joachim Schweer, the co-authors of this book. Insiders will recognize this team, as they also published the book: "The Hundred Top Athletes of the Century" (Rororo-Handbuch: 6453), in which they delivered a recommendable work with the edition of the biographies of the most famous athletes.

In the same style, Jordan and Lenz wanted to publish a cheap book about the Olympics. I must say, they were successful in realization of this aim. On the first view it is an attractive book as well, clear, with a good conception, and with a lot of pictures. In the 39 chapters (22 about the "Summer" Olympic Games and 17 about the "Winter" Olympics) the representation is not restricted to the sport-events, but represents also the backgrounds and trends of Olympic Games and Olympic Movement. Each chapter is shared into five sections: "Sports and Politics", "Specials and Newnesses", "Stars and Results", "The German Athletes" and "City and Stadiums". Short articles dominate the easy readable book.

With this conception the book could be an important supplement to the existing literature about the Olympics; a standard book for the smaller purse. But I cannot recommend it with a clear conscience.

Of course there are a lot of facts in this short survey about the 100 Olympic years. This would be a necessity, especially for the reader who wants to get a first information. In my opinion, the "pre-work" for this book was too superficial. There are a lot of errors and mistakes in the texts. They could have been avoided by better research. There are also some omissions as well. The authors "banished" some important events, like the story of the seven-to-ten-year-old boy who became the youngest Olympic gold-medal winner of all time who rowed in 1900 Paris Games [Editor: See Page 26] and the "delicious" story of the marathon "winner" of 1904, Fred Lorz, who was driven by car for part of the track.

Of course, all the authors of books about the Olympic history have the pain of selection, but in my opinion these stories (for instance) bring many "aahs" and "oohs" by the readership and can awaken the interest for further occupation with Olympic history.

Another thing I cannot accept: Not only since the edition of books about the Intercalated Games in Athens 1906 (especially "Die Olympischen Spiele 1906 in Athen", by Karl

Lennartz and Walter Teutenberg; Kassel 1992) the Games of 1906 must be estimated as guilty Olympics. I think it could not satisfy to "devote" the events of Athens 1906 with 16 lines of text, as the authors have done. The influence of these Games to the Olympic Movement (which was near destruction in the first years of this century), was much higher.

In the preface of their book, the authors say: "that they do not want to present a mountain of results and statistics". I accept the intention, but a "hill" of statistics would be good for the book-for the reader and for the authors as well; they had found some mistakes in their texts themselves. And the book would have been a little "rounder"....

"OLYMPIC POLITICS. Athens to Atlanta 1896 1996". By Christopher R. Hill. Published by Manchester University Press, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9NR, U.K. ISBN number: 0 7190 4451 0. 256 pages. The price for the paperback edition is 12,99 and for the hardback edition something like 40.00. Reviewed by Ian Buchanan.

In this revised edition of a work first published in 1992 Christopher Hill brings the reader up to date with the Olympic scene. New chapters have been added on "South Africa and the Olympic Games,," "Atlanta 1996" and "The Olympics and the third millennium."

Of the additions I found his new third chapter on the future of the Games to be the most thought provoking. Since the very beginning the IOC has been faced with problems of varying degrees of magnitude. Such matters as the site of the first Modern Games in 1896, the Nazi Olympics of 1936 and the two-China question are but a few examples of the controversial issues which have faced the IOC and more recently the question of amateurism was the biggest single problem facing the Olympic Movement. As Hill points out, the IOC solved this particular difficulty in 1981 by formally abandoning its commitment to amateurism and passing the responsibility regarding eligibility to the International Federations.

With this matter disposed of the IOC now faces a far bigger problem. The question of "Gigantism" cannot simply be passed to the Federations and, despite regular statements to the contrary, the IOC gives the impression of being reluctant to face up to the ever-increasing size of the Games. A little cosmetic pruning to the program takes place here and there but at the same time new sports such as beach volleyball, softball and women's football were added to the schedule for the 1996 Atlanta Games.

The author is an astute observer of the Olympic scene and recognizes the increasing power of the International Federations who, quite understandably, put up strong resis-

tance to any proposal designed to curtail their Olympic involvement. An enlarged Olympic program brings not only more competitors to the Games but the number of attendant officials also grows in proportion and this results in delegations of unmanageable and quite unnecessary size from certain countries.

Publicly the IOC say that sports will added, deleted or curtailed according to their international popularity but Hill asks if the IOC is really in control of such matters? Evidently not. It is the television companies that make the decisions. Lugeing must be the most minor of minority sports and there are probably no more than 100 competitive lugeists in the whole world, yet it remains on the Olympic program. Why? Because it looks good on TV. There are many other sports that fail by a wide margin to meet the IOC's stated criteria of universality and until the matter is addressed with honesty and resolution the issue of "Gigantism" will remain a problem of growing magnitude. The solution is straightforward, either reduce the number of sports or limit the number of competitors and team officials. Among the wide range of issues covered in this stimulating book, Hill cites the lost ideals of Olympism. While these ideals have long since been sacrificed, the Olympic Games remain the world's major sporting festival but a multi-sport world championship would perhaps better describe the occasion. The Games have moved so far away from Baron de Coubertin's original concepts that they can only claim to be "Olympic" by virtue of their heritage. These problems are not insurmountable but it is hardly likely that the IOC will take heed of the thoughts of a single author however logically he presents his case.

Christopher Hill takes an intelligent and dispassionate view of the current Olympic scene and one must hope that some of the problems he highlights will have been resolved by the time a third edition of his book is published. Of course, it is equally likely that some of these problems will have increased in magnitude and distanced future Games even further from Coubertin's original high-minded ideals.

By special request coming from several eminent ISOH members, Prof. Dr. Roland Renson has been successful in his efforts to have his book "De Herboren Spelen/Les Jeux Ressuscités," which appeared in 1995 in both the Dutch and French language, to be published in English, making it available to many new readers.

The book "The Games Reborn, about the 1920 Olympic Games from Antwerp", was reviewed in the ISOH Journal Volume 4, Number 1. Winter 1996 (published in January 1996). Prof. Renson has been able to update the book and added some new photographs, too. The printing is of a very good quality, better even than the original Dutch and French editions. The price for the book is: Belgian Francs

750 by crossed Eurocheque for European members and Belgian Francs 850 by bank order or check for members outside Europe (overseas). It should be ascertained from the supplier if this price includes the mailing costs, because for all addresses outside Europe the costs for airmailing are very high. The book can be ordered from: Sportmuseum Vlaanderen (Flemish Sportmuseum)

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BACK ISSUES

Back issues of the *Journal of Olympic History*, previously *Citius, Altius, Fortius*, are available. However, because our stock is low, issues have to be reprinted. The cost per issue is \$9.00 (US). The following issues are no longer available. Vol. 1, No. 1 (Summer 1992); Vol. 1, No. 3 (Summer 1993).
