

## BOOK REVIEWS

DIE OLYMPISCHEN SPIELE 776 - 1896/THE OLYMPIC GAMES, reprint of the "Official Report" (in the German/English edition) from 1896. With a special volume with commentaries (in German, by many well-known Olympic historians) under the edition of Prof. Karl Lennartz. An exclusive issue to commemorate the Olympic centennial. The two volumes contain 400 pages. Published by AGON Sportverlag, Frankfurter Strasse 92 A, 34121 Kassel, Germany. 1996. Parallel text of the "Official Report" in German and English. The volume: "Erläuterungen zum Neudruck des Offiziellen Berichtes", only in the German

language. Price for the cassette with both books: DM 198,00. ISBN 3-928562-91-6. Reviewed by Tony Bijkerk.

This set of books is a must for every collector of Olympic books and not only because it contains the combined German/English text of the Official Report from the Games of the 1st Olympiad in Athens 1896, but especially for the accompanying second volume, which (unfortunately) can only be read by those who understand German. The second volume is dedicated by editor/author Karl Lennartz to the late Erich Kamper, Honorary President of the ISOH, and one of the co-authors of this second volume. In the Games of the First Olympiad from Athens 1896, athletes from 12 countries took part. The publisher succeeded in getting Olympic historians from almost all of these countries, to write the stories/biographies of those early participants from their own respective countries and so one can read the biographies from the Austrian participants, written by Erich Kamper. His contribution to this book was his very last published editorial work before his death.

Other well-known co-authors (and ISOH members) are Ian Jobling from Australia, Ian Buchanan from Great Britain, Giuseppe Odello from Italy, Wolf Lyberg from Sweden and Bill Mallon from the USA. The German contributions are most from Lennartz himself, Volker Kluge, who wrote an interesting piece about the Jewish participants in these Games, Heiner Gillmeister, who wrote about his favorite sport, tennis, and Walter Teutenberg. Ture Widlund from Sweden, Walter Borgers, and many other Olympic historians also took part in helping to write the complete history of the 1896 Olympic Games.

In the second volume the authors remind us of the many versions and reproductions of this first "Official Report". Further, I found the chapter with the elucidations from Lennartz on the first volume very instructive.

The pre-Olympics from before 1896 are reviewed in various chapters, dealing with the Greek pre-Olympics, the British pre-Olympics, the French pre-Olympics and, of course, the German role in the archeological recovery of the remains of ancient Olympia. In this respect, I missed the Swedish Ramlösa Olympic Games, which are most aptly described in the article by Alexander Driega, in this *Journal*. The pre-Olympics chapters all lead up to the chapter about Pierre de Coubertin, which is followed by a chapter about the first and founding meeting of the IOC in 1894.

The important role of the first IOC President Vikelas has been researched by Albert Krayer and has been written down in a very interesting chapter.

Mirjam Gasse wrote the next chapter about the IOC Session in Athens, 1896. This is followed by a chapter on the biographies from all seven attending IOC members.

Dietrich Quanz from the German "Sporthochschule" in Cologne wrote about the possible relations between the

founding of the IOC and the peace movement of that time. Andreas Höfer wrote about the "Hellas-Plan," the ideas to have the Olympic Games permanently situated in Greece.

Volker Kluge wrote two chapters: one about the awards from Athens 1896, the medals and diploma; and another about Olympic philately. A chapter is dedicated to the sport venues from Athens 1896. The chapter about the athletes from the participating countries is written by several authors, from which I already mentioned a few.

Lennartz wrote the chapter about the German participation in Athens 1896 and the preliminaries thereto. ISOH member Ture Widlund coordinated the chapter with the results of the first Olympics, while a special chapter, written by Lennartz, has been dedicated to the Athens' marathon.

From an historical point of view, the chapter in which the authors tried to mention all participating athletes in the Olympic Games in Athens, is very valuable, because once and for all, the dispute about "who was there" can be built around this chapter and the following one, containing some special biographies. One of those, about Waldstein, has already been published in our previous issue of the *Journal*, but in a more elaborate form.

Special mention should be made about the many very interesting photographs that have been added throughout the book. Many of these photographs have never been published before. The handwritten text written by Pierre de Coubertin himself, from the notes of the first IOC session in 1896 have, up till now, been reserved for review by only a few historians.

This second volume ends, of course, with a bibliography; but the last pages have been dedicated to the authors, with picture and all! They deserved no less!

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OLYMPIA-ALMANACH; Geschichten, Zahlen, Bilder/100 Jahre Olympische Spiele. By Rupert Kaiser. Published by AGON Sport-Verlag, D-34121 Kassel, Germany, in 1996. ISBN 3-928562-95-9. In German. Price: DM 39,80. Reviewed by Dr. Karl Lennartz.

On the occasion of the centenary of the Olympic Games quite a few books on the history of the Olympic Games have been published-good and bad ones.

The one reviewed here belongs to the somewhat better ones. On 639 pages the author presents a sort of statistics of the Olympic Movement, supplemented by epigrammatic descriptions and a few anecdotes. He starts his report on the individual Olympic Games with a synopsis, concentrates on two to three prominent stars and afterward deals with the events themselves, listing all the medal winners.

The book as such is very informative for those interested in the Olympics and it enriches the list of publications on offer. Some critical remarks are not intended to belittle

the author's merits. Similar to those of his colleagues who are no genuine historians, Rupert Kaiser makes the mistake of regarding history from a today's perspective. He does not always understand that different rules and conceptions are by no means "peculiarities" and that many changes have developed from special necessities. Furthermore, it must be mentioned that he hardly uses any real well-known synopses at hand. This is clearly seen in the chapters on the early Olympic Games. Thus he is of the opinion that the IOC in the 1900 Olympics in Paris "directly did away with car racing, boat racing and fishing". However, the IOC has never dealt with such things. He reiterates the story of the cheap prizes in kind and does not know that partly precious works of art and even money were awarded. He sticks to the idea that there was a "mini-tournament" 1900 in Paris and asserts that the Belgian players renounced a meeting with the English. The proclamation and the list of results clearly shows that five meetings of a French select team against five different foreign teams had been played, of which only two took place. He makes a similar mistake when describing the sailing events, in which he contracts the two races of the individual classes—contrary to the announcement and the results—to one regatta.

The enumeration of so many superlatives is somewhat irritating. Of all the Olympic Games and of all the events, he mentions the youngest and the oldest medal winners. What is the sense of such lists? Despite my critical remarks, I am of the opinion that this book is a good buy for every Olympic statistician.

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**THEIR DAYS IN THE SUN.** Women of the 1932 Olympics. By Doris H. Pieroth. Published by University of Washington Press, Seattle & London. ISBN number 0-295-97553-9. 186 pages. Price: US\$ 16,95 plus postage. Reviewed by Ian Buchanan.

Although the subtitle implies international coverage, this book does, in fact, deal only with the American women who took part in the 1932 Games. However, the author has done a superb job of researching the lives of the 17 track and field athletes, 17 swimmers and divers and 3 fencers who made up the US women's team (including alternates) in Los Angeles. Doris Pieroth has interviewed the families, relatives or friends of virtually everyone mentioned in the book and her diligence has paid handsome dividends as she tells what happened to all the competitors in their post-Olympic years. Quotes from such writers as Damon Runyon and Paul Gallico set the scene of America in the early 1930's quite admirably and add considerably to the fascination of the book.

While performances at the Games are well documented in other sources, this book provides some fascinating details

of the US Olympic Trials which, in the track and field events, doubled as the AAU Championships. To take but one example—the strange goings on in the 100 metres and the even stranger selection of the 400-meter relay team. In the heats of the 100 metres Ethel Harrington mistook the finishing line and pulled up after 80 metres but was still given a chance of making the Olympic team by being permitted to start in the final. However, she was not an official starter in the AAU final which was run concurrently. Harrington duly breasted the tape first and is recorded as having won the Olympic Trials but is not listed as the AAU champion. Strangely, Harrington was not chosen for the relay team and neither was Ethel Wilde who finished third in the final and who, with a clocking of 12.4 in her heat, recorded the fastest time of the whole competition. Two other finalists in the individual 100 metres who failed to make the relay team were the black athletes Louise Stokes and Tidy Pickett. The author, correctly I feel, does not make too much of the possibility of Stokes and Pickett being left out of the relay squad on racial grounds. After all, based on performances at the Olympic Trials, the white athletes, Harrington and Wilde, had staked better claims and they also failed to make the relay team. Apparently, the results of the individual 100 metres at the official Trials counted for little and the relay team was selected after a series of separate trials between the eight entrants whose names appeared on the official program. The four fastest were chosen and as Stokes and Pickett were not among them it was not until 1936, when Pickett competed in the 80-meter hurdles, that the first black woman appeared on a US Olympic team.

I have dwelt at some length on this particular incident as it provides an excellent example of the depth of material to be found in this volume. Personally, I found the detailed life stories of the athletes to be the most attractive feature of the book. After a plethora of publications which consist mainly of pretentious theorizing on the role of women in sport, it was a pleasure to come across this work.

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**OLYMPIC TORCH RELAYS.** By Walter Borgers. This book has been published under the patronage of the IOC and was edited by the Carl and Liselott Diem-Archives, Olympic Research Institute of the German Sport University in Cologne. Published by AGON Sportverlag, D-34121 Kassel, Germany in 1996. 200 pages. ISBN 3-928562-29-0. In English. DM 70,00. Reviewed by Tony Bijkerk.

Walter Borgers takes us to the very beginning of the Olympic Torch Relay, about which some very mistaken views were ventilated in the summer of the past Centennial Olympic year. Dr. Karl Lennartz wrote his scathing article "The Genesis of Legends" about this subject in the Spring

issue of the Journal.

Although many articles, pamphlets and even books have been written about the subject, this is the first time that a comprehensive research has been done and then by a man who studied all the relevant documents from the archives that had been compiled by the "inventor" of the Olympic Torch Relay himself, Dr. Carl Diem.

In the first chapter, "From Myth to Torch Relay," Borgers looks back upon the ancient history of the use of torch relays and the exact history as how and when the idea of the Olympic Flame and the Olympic Torch Relay was conceived. It is well known, that the Olympic Flame burned for the first time in the modern Olympic Games on the tower of the Olympic Stadium in Amsterdam 1928. In spite of diligent research in the Dutch archives, it has been impossible to find any reference to the question of who invented the idea for the Olympic fire on top of the Amsterdam tower. But the idea and planning for the first Olympic Torch Relay can without any doubt be allocated to Dr. Diem, Secretary-General of the Olympic Organizing Committee for the Games of the XIth Olympiad in Berlin 1936. Borgers book, of course, elaborates on this (for those days) new German initiative and tells the story in detailed descriptions, with many interesting photographs. He concludes with a short summary of all Olympic Torch Relays since 1936, mentioning the various uses of the Olympic Fire in other fields, like numismatics and philately.

The greater part of the book is dedicated to exact descriptions of every detail that could be mentioned about each Olympic Torch Relay, starting with 1936 Berlin. Each chapter gives the exact route of the relay, the length, special stages, other means of transport, the distance per runner, the number of runners, who were the first and the last runner, prominent runners, the escort of the flame, and even the special symbolic acts performed during the run. Every conceivable detail is mentioned. How the runners dressed, torch descriptions, type of fuel and who produced the torch, up to the memorabilia produced on each Torch Relay.

It was a wise decision not to mingle the Torch Relays of the Summer and Winter Games. They are not comparable, as the Winter Olympic Games Torch Relay started much later, in 1952, and then not in Olympia, but in Morgedal, Norway. This story is told in detail.

For each Torch Relay, the complete history is written down and enlightened with photographs from the lighting of the Torch, important moments during the relays and even from the torches themselves. This book is an indispensable source for those Olympic historians, who want to know everything about the Olympic Torches.

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OLYMPISCHE SPIELE ATLANTA 1996 (OLYMPIC GAMES ATLANTA 1996). Edited in cooperation with the Sven

Simon Agency and the Sportinformation Dienst (SID). Published by Copress-Verlag, Munich, in 1996. In German. 192 pages and 330 pictures in full colors. ISBN Nr. 3-76-79-0500-0. Price: DM. 39,80; Austr. Sch. 291 or Sw.Frcs 37. Reviewed by Rupert Kaiser.

Among the German books published about the Olympic Games in Atlanta, the gold medal must be given once again to Copress-Verlag in Munich. In cooperation with the Sven Simon Agency and the Sportinformationsdienst (SID) the best German book on Atlanta was published and should be obtained by everybody.

All contests in Atlanta are reviewed in detail and described in words by journalists of high caliber. Further, there are brilliant pictures made by the Sven Simon Agency. Also, the reader will find a lot of background information and extensive statistics, with the first eight finishers in each contest, intermediate results, split times and many others things. The results of all German, Austrian and Swiss athletes are included, but unfortunately the names of the members who won Olympic medals in the team events are not given, but the same can be said about almost all the other books on the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

In a supplement the medal winners from 1896 to 1992 are mentioned and a complete list with the names of the Olympic Teams for Atlanta from Germany, Austria and Switzerland concludes this book.

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OLYMPIABOKEN 1996 (The Olympic Book 1996). Editor: Ulf Pettersson. Published by Strömbergs/Brunnhages Förlag AB, Box 65, S-162 11 Vällingby, Sweden. ISBN 0567-4573; 0347-2774. 1996. 432 pages in Swedish. Price: EU-counties: Sw.Crowns 987; other countries: Sw.Crowns 790. Reviewed by Tony Bijkerk.

Highly appreciated by lovers of precise details and figures, *Olympiaboken* was first published in 1948 and is the official report of the Swedish Olympic Committee since 1964. Richly illustrated, the 1996 edition of this beautiful souvenir book consists of:

\* An interview with IOC President H.E. Juan Antonio Samaranch, by Wolf Lyberg member of the Executive Committee of the ISOH and former Secretary-General of the Swedish Olympic Committee; now IOC consultant on Olympic history and statistics. (A translated version appears in this issue of the *Journal*.)

\* Summaries of the Atlanta Games by Carl-Gustav Anderberg, Executive President of the Swedish Olympic Committee, and Sune Sylvén, columnist in the Stockholm daily morning paper *Svenska Dagbladet*.

\* Atlanta diary, by Ulf Pettersson, the editor of *Olympiaboken*.

\* Mixed impressions from Atlanta, by Anders Janson, sports journalist.

\* Ten profiles from Atlanta, by Lars Sandlin, columnist in the Stockholm daily evening paper *Aftonbladet*.

\* Biographies and photos of all Swedish Olympic participants in 1996.

\* Report on NOC activities 1994-1996, by Gunilla Lindberg, (IOC member and) Secretary-General of the Swedish Olympic Committee.

\* Special all-time statistics from 1896-1996, by Ove Karlsson, journalist and ISOH member.

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SCIENCE IN THE SERVICE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT. By Dr. Steve Bailey. Published by John Wiley & Sons, Chichester. 1996. ISBN number: 0-471-96924-9. 342 pages, illustrated. Price £60.00. Reviewed by Julie Anderson from the De Montfort University, Leicester, UK

Most history written about an institution and paid for by it becomes a celebration of that self same institution. Science in the Service of Physical Education and Sport, the history of the International Council of Sports Science and Physical Education, it would seem, could have a tendency to fall into that category. However, Dr. Bailey has produced a well-written book that is informative and interesting.

Dr. Bailey tracks the 40 years of the Council from its inception at the Melbourne World Congress on Physical Education in 1956 to its current position. In order to prevent the book from becoming merely an example of celebratory institutional history, the author places the Council in terms of its relationship within a world context. The shift in alliance from UNESCO to the increasingly influential and economically powerful IOC illustrates the complicated relationships between Councils. The need to be associated with an institution such as the Olympics and its related influence is a strong theme. An example of this necessity for alliance can be seen in the book's explanation of the efforts of the Council to establish a stronger connection with the Games and the IOC by hosting an Olympic Scientific Congress during the Olympic year. Possibly the Cold War preoccupation of their most influential supporter is a reason for Dr. Bailey's comment in the conclusion that the Council's abstraction with East-West issues caused others to be marginalized, such as the role of women and the problem of doping in sport.

The book is well-researched with an impressive bibliography and Dr. Bailey obviously had all the Council's material at his disposal which is a grist to the mill of anyone studying history.

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Dear Wray,

I am sure that the Members Forum will become a very popular feature of the *Journal* and I found Karl Lennartz' initial submission regarding IOC members of particular interest. The reason is that Wolf Lyberg and myself are researching a Biographical Dictionary of IOC Members and as we are seeking the place and exact date of birth and death, we are faced with an even more formidable task than that confronted Karl Lennartz who is, apparently, limiting his research to the year of birth and death.

However, we are faced with similar problems and we certainly share Karl's experience that, with a few notable exceptions, ISOH members are a better source of material than the NOCs. After writing countless letters, Wolf Lyberg and I feel that we must now be approaching the limit of information available through ISOH and the NOC's and we have now begun a search of genealogical (non-sporting) reference sources which is beginning to pay dividends. Of the queries raised by Karl, we can, for example, advise that the British "Who Was Who" gives the date of birth of James Taylor (Australia) as 1 December 1871 and a Gotha of European nobility reveals that Count Georges de Ribeaupierre (Russia) was born on 15 August 1854.

In addition to seeking new material, it is, of course, necessary to check facts that have been accepted all too readily in the past. Numerous errors have been uncovered, the most common of which is the statement that Manuel Quintana, Jr. (IOC 1907-1910) was the President of the Argentine. The Argentinean President of that name died in office in 1906 and it was probably his son who was appointed an IOC member the following year.

There is much to do and while we do not anticipate complete success Wolf and myself remain confident that we will be able to trace most of the elusive information. This being so, we hope to publish our Biographical Dictionary next year.

Ian Buchanan.

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