

Book Reviews

DIE OLYMPISCHEN SPIELE 1908 IN LONDON, by Karl Lennartz, in cooperation with Ian Buchanan, Volker Kluge, Bill Mallon and Walter Teutenberg. Published by AGON Sport Verlag, Kassel, Germany, 1999. 317 pages, in German, illustrated. ISBN: 3-89609-112-3. Price: DM 88,--. Reviewed by Ruud Paauw.

After writing so thoroughly on the Olympic Games of 1896, 1900 and 1906, Dr. Karl Lennartz has continued his research of the early period of the Olympic Movement with a remarkable book on the 1908 London Games. This work consists of two parts:

1. The history of all Olympic events and sessions from 1904 to 1908, with a strong emphasis on the German part of this history, and
2. A full report on the Games of 1908 with details regarding the Franco-British Exposition, a view of the Olympic sportsgrounds, short descriptions of all competitions, the complete results and short biographies of all gold medal winners.

Many photographs are included in the text. The most interesting part of this work is, in my opinion, the history of the Olympic Movement between 1904 and 1908. Rome was De Coubertin's choice for the 1908 Olympic Games, although Berlin was in fact a far better candidate. But Pierre de Coubertin, in Lennartz's eyes a rather difficult man in those days, never was at ease with the Germans. He therefore was quite happy when Rome had to give back the organization of the 1908 Games, to enable him to hand them to London. Already in his youth, De Coubertin had been very fond of the British. Lennartz gives an admirable and comprehensive account of the Olympic events, sessions, congresses and intrigues between 1904 and 1908. The only criticism one can have is that it is mainly a story of the German part in this episode.

The second part of the book, the competitions in London, gives a wealth of information. Very interesting is what Dr. Lennartz has to say about the distance of the marathon in 1908. On the other hand, I was a little bit disappointed about the report on the notorious 400 metres run in the Shepherd's Bush Stadium in

London. Lennartz only gives a general account of the race and a German point of view, but I missed what the Americans had to say about the disqualification of Carpenter.

Nevertheless, *Die Olympischen Spiele 1908 in London* is an excellent book, by an excellent and scrupulous author. It is a pity for English speaking people, that the book is only available in the German language.

OLYMPISCHE WINTERSPIELE - DIE CHRONIK: Chamonix 1924 - Nagano 1998 by Volker Kluge. Published in 1999 by SVB Sportverlag Berlin GmbH, Charlottenstraße 13, 10969 Berlin, Germany. 960 pages, in German. ISBN 3-328-00831-4. Price: DM 128,--; or ÖSch. 934,--; or Swiss Francs 114,--; exclusive mailing costs. Reviewed by Tony Bijkerk.

This is the third edition of this very extensive work by one of Germany's foremost Olympic statisticians and historians. Like his other magnificent volumes on the Summer Olympic Games, from which two volumes (out of four in total) have already been published, this new edition on the Olympic Winter Games covers the whole period from 1924 up to and including Nagano 1998. Kluge begins with a description of the historical decision of the IOC about 'the difficult birth' of the Winter Games (die schwierige Geburt). He gives the results of the various 'wintersport'-events at the 1908 and 1920 Olympic Games and then starts the description of each Olympic Winter Games with the historical situation of the period. As in his other books, he is very precise in details about the organization, and all paraphernalia published, or issued with each wintergames. This book specializes in details: not only each series/heat, each quarter-, semi-final and final is mentioned; but Kluge also gives, in the form of foot-notes, many additional information; like short biographies of persons, related to these wintergames.

At the end of the volume, in the last few pages, Kluge publishes the main Olympic Winter Games-statistics, like the total medal-count per country, and

who won the most Olympic medals. That last list is headed, of course, by the Norwegian 'star' Bjørn Dæhlie with his eight gold and four silver Olympic medals.

This is an indispensable book for any Olympic statistician or historian. But, to be able to read the texts, one is supposed to be fluent in the German language!

Power, Politics, and the Olympic Games: A History of the Power Brokers, Events, and Controversies that Shaped the Games. by Alfred E. Senn. Champaign, IL, USA: Human Kinetics, P.O. Box 5076, Champaign, IL, USA 61825-5076, 1-800-747-4457, humank@hkusa.com. 315 pages in English. ISBN 0-88011-958-6. Cost: US\$21.95. \$Canadian \$32.95. Reviewed by Bill Mallon, MD

Alfred Erich Senn has produced yet another book on the history of the politics surrounding the Olympic Games, following in the footsteps of the works by Christopher Hill, David Espy, John Lucas, and Allen Guttmann. The book will be an important addition to the libraries of most ISOH Members, although there is some unevenness in it. And unfortunately, the book came out in very early 1999, right at the dawn of the recent Olympic scandal. The scandal is not addressed at all, nor could it have been, as Senn certainly had to have finished the book sometime in mid-1998.

The book consists of 19 chapters, separated into three sections - 1) The Formative Years, 2) The Brundage Era, and 3) "Opening" the Games. The three sections could as well have been entitled The Coubertin Era, The Brundage Era, and The Samaranch Era, reflecting the three dominant Olympic presidencies of the Olympic Movement.

Senn is a professor of East European history at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin, and I must confess I had not heard of him as an Olympic historian previously. He is Lithuanian by birth. His background in Eastern European history, and especially the Soviet Union, allows him to deal expertly with the Soviet Union, the Moscow boycott, and the break-up of Communism in Eastern Europe, and its ramifications for the Olympic Movement. These problems are dealt with beautifully in the last two sections of the book.

The book is nicely produced by Human Kinetics, a sports publishing company in the United States,

which now employs the well-known sports historian Steven Pope. In addition to their standard text, throughout the book are interspersed "sidebars" of interesting facts and tables. These include a current listing of the International Olympic Committee Executive Board at 1998, a listing of the International Olympic Committee Presidents, a table of the American television payments for Olympic broadcast rights, a table entitled "The Work of the Executive Board," and many similar tables. I found these to be quite helpful in following the text in many places.

In addition, the sidebars often are reproductions of archival material that Senn has used in his research. We can find here the exact text of an International Olympic Committee circular letter from 3 June 1959 dealing with the Chinese situation, notes from Pravda concerning the Soviet 1984 boycott, and notes from American President Ronald Reagan in a Department of State Bulletin, replying to the Soviet boycott. Senn has researched his material well, making extensive use of the Brundage Archives at the University of Illinois. His background also contributed to his having access to numerous Soviet sources - and it is also apparent he can read all of those as well!

Why did I think the book to be slightly uneven? Probably because Senn's strengths as a researcher overpowers his knowledge in other areas. The sections of the book devoted to Coubertin and especially the Berlin Olympics seem understated and not given as much emphasis. Certainly these are well-done but not with the same detail that we receive in later years, especially in things concerning the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and the Korean and Chinese situations. And even in this era, Senn's discussion of the South African problem seems to be less well developed. Certainly there is more available on this topic. Although Senn includes a detailed bibliography, I note that he did not use Kéba Mbaye's book *The International Olympic Committee and South Africa*.

I think Senn's book was very well done and is an important contribution to the Olympic literature on the politics of the Games. But as stated, readers will likely find the last half of the book more valuable. The early sections will not take the place of work done by David Young on the founding problems of the Games, nor by Allen Guttmann or Richard Mandell on the Berlin Olympics. But for a post-World War II evaluation of the politics of the Olympic Games, I highly rec-

commend Senn's work.

THE FLAME - The Official Newsletter of the World Olympians Association.

The Editor received a copy of the first issue of the newly published THE FLAME, the Official Newsletter of the WOA. We welcome the publication of this newsletter and congratulate WOA President Peter Montgomery (also an ISOH member) and Editor Steve Harris (yes, he is our Associate Editor too) with their fine work.

The Editor also received a copy of a very interesting leaflet on **Joshua Kearney Millner, written by Mr. John Botos, 37 Foxfield Grove, Raheny, Dublin 5, Ireland.** Joshua Kearney Millner was the oldest Olympic champion in an individual event and he won the free rifle at 1,000 yards at the 1908 Olympic Games in London. It seems that Mr. Botos is preparing a biography of Joshua Kearney Millner and in the leaflet, he already gives the most important data on Millner's life!