

# BOOK REVIEWS

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## NEDERLANDSE DEELNEMERS AAN DE TWEEDE OLYMPISCHE SPELEN

*By Anthony Th. Bijkerk; 95 pages, published by De Vrieseborch, Tuinwijklaan 29, 2012 RE Haarlem, Netherlands. ISBN 90-6076-478-1. Price Nfl. 27.50. Reviewed by Ruud Paauw.*

With the publication of 'Nederlandse Deelnemers aan de Tweede Olympische Spelen' (Dutch competitors at the second Olympic Games) ISOH-secretary-general Tony Bijkerk finished a tremendous research job he started forty years ago. Bijkerk discovered in 1960 from foreign sources that Dutch sportsmen took part in the 1900 Paris Games which even the Netherlands Olympic Committee (founded in 1912) did not know.

Then he began his long 'journey' through a kind of desert to find out who they were and what they had done. It is remarkable what Bijkerk has recovered. Especially the report of the rowing events is full particulars. And at last we have now excellent portraits of the first Dutch Olympic champions Brandt and Klein, winners of the two with (the unknown) cox. Of all the Dutch rowers there are short biographies - that alone must be a work of years. But there are also all kind of details (and photographs) on Dutch competitors in track and field, archery, fencing, shooting, sailing and swimming. Probably no nation has so thoroughly researched its participation in the second Olympic Games as Bijkerk has done for the Netherlands. Full praise for him but I have one word of criticism. The book is in Dutch and that does not make it open for a larger public which it deserves. After all we do not know that much in detail about the competition in Paris. An English summary in the book of some of the most interesting chapters would have been welcome. It is true that parts of Bijkerk's work were already published in the Journal, but nevertheless.....