



Book Reviews

Guttman Receives IOC President's Award

Allen Guttman of Amherst University is a recipient of the first International Olympic Committee President's Award for Sports Studies. The terms of the award indicate that it honors contributions that 'have had a significant and broad impact in the field and are of a high quality. They should have furthered both knowledge and practice, whilst having been of an inclusive nature and/or widely applicable.'

Prof. Guttman's Olympic curiosity was piqued at a soccer game in Berlin's Olympic Stadium when he saw first hand the difference between American and European sports. That led to his first book, *From Ritual to Record: The Nature of Modern Sports*, published in 1978. He has been involved in seven other books about sports history and is involved in the forthcoming 3-volume "International Encyclopedia of Women and Sports" (edited with Karen Christensen and Gertrud Pfister).

The books that attracted the attention of the jurors for the IOC award, according to Professor Guttman, are probably *The Games Must Go On* (1984), a biography of Avery Brundage; *Women's Sports* (1991); and *The Olympics* (1992).

Prof. Guttman writes about the fact that University of Illinois Press will soon bring out an updated version of *The Olympics* that will include the Salt Lake City scandal and the Sydney Games: 'It is my fond hope that my faithful reading of the *Journal of Olympic History* has enabled me to eliminate the factual errors that crept into the first edition.'

Dutch TV Covers ISOH Meeting

Dutch commercial television station, SBS6, in Sydney to produce several Olympic programs, was interviewing Tony Bijkerk when it learned about the ISOH quadrennial meeting that was to be held 26 September. According to Tony, the station asked if it could cover the meeting. With President Ian Buchanan giving the station permission, the station's crew showed up.

"Well, they were there and in five minutes gave an impression of the ISOH, its variety in members and the spread of the specific interests of the members:" Tony reports.

Three members were interviewed: Bill Mallon, Tony, as secretary-general, and Dutch member Ruud Paauw, who, according to Tony, gave a 'very apt verbal impression' which the *Journal's* editorial team encounters when wishing to serve such a variety of interests. Mr. Paauw concluded his interview, saying that "almost everyone one of the ISOH members has been bitten by the Olympic history bug and that most, like himself, will remain contaminated until rigor mortis sets in!"

WHO'S WHO OF UK & GB INTERNATIONAL ATHLETES 1896-1939, by Ian Buchanan. Illustrated paperback, produced by National Union of Track Statisticians; 168 pages; available from Rob Whittingham, Umbra Software Ltd, Unit 1, Bredbury Business Park, Bredbury Park Way, Bredbury, SK6 2SN, England. Cost: MO in UK; £13 rest of Europe; £15 outside Europe. Reviewed by Peter Lovesey.

Ian Buchanan, well known to the ISOH as its co-founder and former President, has long been identified with the records of United Kingdom athletics. As far back as 1957, he collaborated with Norris and Ross McWhirter on the British Athletic Record Book, and each of his publications since has added new dimensions and refinements. In 1961, the Encyclopaedia of British Athletic Records listed the results of international matches between 1921 and 1960 and included a first-ever list of the athletes honoured in these matches and at the major championships, including the Olympics from 1908. His *British Olympians: A hundred years of gold medallists* [1991] took the process further by providing detailed biographies, not merely of winners in athletics, but all other sports.

His latest book, then, is the culmination of almost half a century of research, a *Who's Who* of every male athlete who wore a British vest between the first Olympics and the outbreak of the second world war: 484 names. Each entry lists the individual's date and place of birth and death, his international performances and personal bests. But the eye is drawn first to the biographical information gathered from school and college archives, club histories, press reports, obituaries and personal contacts. It is engaging and inspiring reading, rich with stories that give life to the statistics. Browsing through the pages, one can read of the one-armed dentist (the mind boggles), Bobby Bridge, who set world records for walking; and the one-eyed high jumper, John Pendlebury, who was also a spy with a most original use for his glass eye. Another walker, George Lamer, liked training in the nude, preferably in the ram. The milkman, Leslie Pearce, delivered two early morning rounds before travelling to the 1933 AAA Championships and setting a personal best 880 yds. And Hyla Stallard ran in the 1924 1500m final with a stress fracture of the foot, and still finished third behind Nurmi. Great men, like Philip Noel-Baker, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, and Noel Chavasse, awarded the Victoria Cross and bar, are listed beside humble carriage-cleaners and caretakers. Of course, many were members of the armed services in both wars, and it is salutary to note how often the letters KIA

(killed in action) precede their entries.

It is impossible to give sufficient credit to a book so assiduously researched. It will be of abiding interest, not just to British followers of the sport, but everyone interested in international athletics. Presumably somebody is already giving thought to extending the work to the end of the twentieth century. Such an undertaking ought to be less formidable, but such is the standard set by Ian Buchanan that he is not just a hard act to follow, but a well-nigh impossible one.

GREAT INDIAN OLYMPIANS, by Gulu Ezekiel & K. Arumugan. Published by Thendril Thambi Publication 143/322, D.D.A. Flats, Madangir, New Delhi, India. 103 pages, illustrated. ISBN 81-67610-03-4. Price: US\$40 (including registered airmail postage). Reviewed by Ian Buchanan

ISOH member, Gulu Ezekiel has joined with hockey expert K. Arumugan to produce a most attractive book containing biographies of Indian Olympic legends. The fourteen profiles in the book are made of six each for hockey players and track and field athletes and one each for the sports of tennis and wrestling and each entry is entertainingly written with a host of background information.

The book also contains a fascinating insight into the fabric of Indian society where governmental influence far outweighed qualities of leadership in appointing the captain of the Olympic hockey team. It was also interesting to learn that no less than nine of the 1928 Olympic hockey team were Anglo-Indians: in 1932 there were three and eight in 1936.

The story of how that superb 400 metres runner, Milkha Singh, saw his parents and other relatives massacred in front of his eyes before he was able to flee the bloodshed of Partition by clinging to the under-carriage on a Delhi-bound train is just one of the many fascinating anecdotes that reveal much about life in the subcontinent.

At US\$40 this slim volume is perhaps a trifle overpriced but I personally find works of this nature of far more historical value than the mere recital of endless statistics.

(Note: the book can be ordered by cheque, favouring the publishers (name and address mentioned above).

SYDNEY 2000 - Unser Olympiabuch. By Kristin Otto and Heinz Florian Oertel, with many other authors, including Volker Kluge (Editor) and Wolf Lyberg. Published by Das Neue Berlin Verlagsgesellschaft mbH, Rosa-Luxemburg-Strasse 39, 10178 Berlin, Germany. ISBN 3-360-00930-4. 239 pages, in German. The price for the individual volume is DM 88.00. If purchased as part of the series of four volumes the cost is DM 68.00. (Both figures exclusive of mailing costs.) Reviewed by Tony Bijkerk.

Published on October 6th, just five days after the Closing Ceremony of the Sydney Olympic Games, this

book is a fitting tribute to the fantastic efforts the authors have performed in writing up the history of these Olympics.

With the veteran journalist Volker Kluge working behind the scenes and himself writing quite a few of the stories inside the book, the result is indeed as can be expected: fabulous.

Nothing wrong also with the writing of the two mentioned authors, Kristin Otto, six-times goldmedal winner in swimming at the Seoul Olympic Games in 1988 and Heinz Florian Oertel, who attended 17 Olympic Games as a radio- and television reporter since Helsinki 1952, but my attention first went to the article our own ISOH doyen Wolf Lyberg wrote for this book. His description of the IOC crisis (1998/1999) under the title: Das IOC ist das Opfer seines Erfolgs [The IOC is victim to its own successes], is both profound and knowledgeable.

There are many other readable chapters, starting with athletics and ending with softball. In between, one can find very readable accounts of, for instance, Cathy Freeman's personal history (written by Kluge), about Australia itself, about the Institute of Sports in Canberra (a replica of the DDR formula according to the authors, who all came from East Germany originally), about the torch relay, about the Melbourne Olympics in 1956 and of course about the two main authors themselves: Otto and Oertel.

Kluge also wrote two other interesting chapters; one about the official clothing, which was worn by the German teams in their long Olympic history and the second about Olympic philately.

An unexpected chapter in this book concerned ISOH member Bud Greenspan, the producer of all the official Olympic films since Los Angeles 1984. Greenspan's work is profusely praised and rightly so.

At the end of the book the publishers have included the statistics about the Sydney Olympic Games, as originally started by Kluge in his already famous series: OLYMPISCHE SOMMERSPIELE - Die Chronik, including an overview of all Olympic medal winners (but also the places 4-8) in all sports.

All in all, the publishers have done a great job in a very short time!

OLYMPISCHE SOMMERSPIELE - Die Chronik III, Mexico-Stadt 1968 - Los Angeles 1984. By Volker Kluge. Published by Sportverlag Berlin. ISBN 3-328-00741-S. 1128 pages, in German. Reviewed by Wolf Lyberg.

Another "brick" dropped down in my postbox a few weeks ago.

Of course, the 'busy bee' of sports literature was due for a long time with his magnificent crusade through the Olympic Games, its giants and heroes, its victims - and happiness and sadness mixed as in our lives.

Kluge never stops to amaze his readers. No, he certainly is not an author you devour from the first page to

the last.

His strength is perhaps not especially in the results of those Games - after all, we have known these for decades. He has managed to compress not only those, but above all a series of facts that are impossible to beat and which tease your imagination to the utmost.

Few people have so brilliantly managed to summarize the political situation in the world like Kluge has done before he starts on the description of each Games. The situation in the world during the Olympiad is all them in a nutshell for each Olympics. He then describes the background, and tells interesting stories about the sometimes difficult job of organizing Olympic Games - and those who really did it.

For me, the most important part is above all the section with the smaller, and sometimes bigger notations, which conclude each chapter. Each notation is indicated by a small figure, next to the name, the line, or the result, which it concerns. Just imagine that only for the Games of the XXIII Olympiad, in Los Angeles in 1984, Kluge entered 644 notations, each one a masterpiece of facts and/or interesting information.

Not only he presents facts on the athletes, the federations, the NOC's, and IOC-decisions, but also some specifically on a personality, his lifestory, or even a decision by an International Federation - or the IOC - at the same time giving a background as to why and how it happened.

There are many devoted collectors of facts - inevitable personalities which never seem to tire or get "fed up".

I was honoured that I once saw David Wallechinsky's incredible collection in Los Angeles, and I also threw an "admiring eye" at Volker Kluge's material and therefore I better understand the fascination they have for details - to the eternal happiness of thousands - and above all - to Olympic history.

Well done, Volker - congratulations! We are now waiting for the moment that, within a short time - God willing - we will hear again the "bump" of another "brick" in our postbox.

Pierre de Coubertin (1836 - 1937) - *Olympism. Selected Writings*. editing director Müller Norbert; published by the International Olympic Committee, Lausanne 2000. ISBN: 92-91490660, 862 pages. Reviewed by Stephan Wassong, German Sports University Cologne.

Immediately before the XXVII Olympic Games in Sydney the IOC published the book "Pierre de Coubertin - *Olympism Selected Writings*", which was edited by the sport historian and Olympia researcher from Mainz, Prof. Dr. Norbert Müller. On the basis of a thorough selection of the multitudinous writings Coubertin's, this work claims to introduce guidelines of his education campaign and to link it to the genesis and development of central facets of Olympism. For the connoisseurs of Coubertin's research literature these efforts seem little innovative at first sight since Müller has already accomplished this challenge with his three volume French Coubertin edition "*Textes Choisis*" (1986). The newly presented Coubertin edition yet is by far

not merely a dexterous selection of texts of the voluminous French edition. Decisive for this work is that on approximately 700 pages, primary sources of Coubertin are presented in English language. These sources were either translated professionally from French into English or were translated into English by Coubertin himself. The French as well as the English Coubertin edition are a unique compilation of Pierre de Coubertin's texts, which can otherwise only be consulted in fragments at libraries with difficulties. The documents are either archived in private libraries or scattered in different countries. For the English-spoken world Pierre de Coubertin's "*Olympism Selected Writings*" offers an access to Coubertin's pedagogical and Olympic ideas, which have been so far only available in English in 64 essays edited by the Carl Diem Institute in the volume "*The Olympic Idea*" (1967).

The first of two parts contains documents, which aid the recipient in understanding Coubertin's general views on the educational importance of a sport-orientated education. On the one hand these texts make perceptible that Coubertin saw athleticism as an appropriate means for the education of the youth on their way to becoming responsible citizens, which are aware of their rights, duties and commitments. These passages make Coubertin's belief of a transfer of the sport acquired social- and moral educational competences to the political, society-orientated everyday actions, clear. Hereby his belief in the strength of a sport-orientated education is strongly emphasized, which he makes a basis of his national reform endeavours. To avoid a picture being drawn of Coubertin as a narrow-minded national reformer, on the other hand documents are published which show his early sensitiveness towards the upcoming internationalisation towards the end of the 19th century. From the presented texts it can be deduced that Coubertin only considered a stately education as modern and worthy of legitimacy, if it demonstrated open-mindedness towards a contemporary internationalisation. It is unfortunate that although Müller translates Coubertin's text "*L'éducation de la Paix*" (1889), which can be considered as a very early source of Coubertin's interest in contemporary internationalisation and in which he among other things discusses the peace political flavours of the World Fair 1889 in Paris, he refrains from adopting Coubertin's questionnaire in the document collection, which he had developed and disseminated for the worldwide role of schoolsport. Precisely by this survey Coubertin's sport educational campaign, which he organised at his congress within the framework of the World Fair 1889 dealing with questions of physical education, received a distinct international complexion. Particularly worth mentioning in part 1 is Müller's approach, pointing out Coubertin's experiences in the USA, in order not to define his studying time in England as the only source of inspiration for the shaping of his sport-orientated education campaign. By the translation of long passages of the work "*Universités transatlantiques*" (1890) key ideas of Coubertin's modern education campaign become transparent. Also the pointing out by different documents of

Coubertin's personal relationship to US President Th. Roosevelt is rather unusual for the current "Coubertin research" and may not merely be understood as a simple gesture of politeness of Müller towards the broad group of American addressees. Rather, it is the aim to state the fact that Roosevelt was an optimal idol for the stressing of health-, moral- and social-educational vigour of athleticism. With regard to the printing of documents dealing with the educational tour Coubertin's to the USA, it has to be mentioned that the Coubertin bibliography lists further article titles, illustrating Coubertin's interest in the New World. As an example one may mention the essay "Lettre d' Amérique" which Coubertin published in the magazine 'Les Sports Athlétiques' in 1893. This work is suitable for underlining Coubertin's studies on the US American Higher Education Sport. In this vein it becomes clear that the US University Princeton became more and more of a model for his advertising campaign with which he wanted to confirm the introduction of athleticism in education. Generally speaking it can be said that Coubertin's tours to the USA are not sufficiently covered in the "Coubertin research". As a matter of fact, the Müller and Schantz Coubertin bibliography among others make sources available, whose evaluation allow the statement, that Coubertin brought back impulses from his USA trips, which are of importance regarding the understanding of Coubertin's nationally and internationally orientated education ideas.

A multitude of the selected primary sources in part II elucidates that the basic idea of modern olympism is a genuine pedagogical one, whose realisation and correct conversion Coubertin strove passionately for throughout his life and thus also after his voluntary resignation of the IOC in 1925. Decisive selection criterion for the documents printed in part II (Olympic Dimensions) is Coubertin's concern to demonstrate thoughts and opinions on historical (point 4), philosophical/pedagogical (point 5) and structural (point 6) facets of olympism. In particular the information on 'Philosophical and Educational Dimensions of Olympism' profit from the statements found in part I on Coubertin's early sport-orientated educational campaign. It can be deduced that Coubertin's ideas on national and peace-educating potential related to Olympism is not the result of a flash of inspiration or of a spontaneous impulse, but a result of fundamental reflections, which he developed long before his appearance at the Sorbonne in 1892. Undoubtedly Müller has succeeded in choosing the right texts for the mentioned three "Dimensions of Olympism", which cannot have been an easy task since according to estimations of Müller and Schantz, Coubertin's works amount to approximately 15 000 printed book pages of medium format. Yet one may miss the translation of Coubertin's speech of 1891 'L' Athletisme. Son Role Et Son Histoire". Although Coubertin does not mention the word Olympic in this speech, it nevertheless can by right be regarded as the actual founding text of the modern Olympic Games, since Coubertin says the same in his speech at the congress 1892 at the Sorbonne, before he concludedly suggests the reintroduction of the Olympic

Games. In the English "Coubertin edition" merely the speech at the Sorbonne is translated in which Coubertin, for the first time, informs the public of his intention of reintroducing the Olympic Games.

In order to simplify the vast amount of information of the texts for the recipient, Müller supplies historic background information for each new subtopic. Additionally the contents of the texts are simplified in a way that the reader is introduced to the expected hypotheses Coubertin's before the individual texts or documents with a joint focal point. By way of the printing and the dexterous positioning of circulars, emblems, short letters to, respectively from Coubertin and by photos with original motives, Müller succeeds in not only loosening up the extensive reading material but also in activating the imagination with regard to contemporary conditions and circumstances. The last part of the book contains the revision of the "Bibliographie des oeuvres de Pierre de Coubertin" whose first edition was published by Müller and Schantz in 1991. This bibliography vividly demonstrates the vastness of Coubertin's written works and compensates for the carried out text selection, which is beyond criticism. References to the translation of other documents, whose title is merely printed in the bibliography, would apart from the here presented exceptions be an exclamation of another preference rating. The redundancy of content in Coubertin's texts is namely so large, that the essays on a specific theme often differ only in terms of choice of words and composition variants of content statements.

Overall it can be said that the selection of documents on a basis of Coubertin's early education campaign has managed to give the reader a comprehensive insight into the forming and development of Coubertin's olympic ideas. The intention to make central texts of Coubertin accessible and understandable for the Anglo-American world by the publication of the English Coubertin edition, provokes a concluding commentary based upon one fundamental idea Coubertin's. Coubertin was of the opinion, that in order to create a basis for the dissemination of international historical knowledge, renowned works on social- and contemporary history of a country should be translated into several languages. Coubertin's writings are also crucial documents for international sport pedagogy and sport history. Due to the efforts of Müller these documents are now not only available in French, but also in the "world language" English. This facilitates an exchange of ideas and approaches in the Coubertin- and Olympic research at an international level.