

IV. Modern Olympic Games

IV-1

Spears, Betty. "Baron de Coubertin: A Touch of Genius," *The Olympian*, 6 (March 1980), 12-16.

Coubertin's intuition and imagination account in a large measure for the successful blending of ancient and contemporary beliefs, events, symbols, and rituals in the modern Olympics. In his scheme to revive the "great quadrennial festival of sport," the Baron borrowed the time frame, the notion of supreme competitions among individual athletes, the model of governance, and the quasi-religious atmosphere from the ancient Olympics. Contemporary ingredients included modern events, and international aura, and Coubertin's passion for amateurism and peace. In capturing "the quintessence of a great quadrennial worldwide athletic festival," Baron de Coubertin displayed a "touch of genius." No notes.

—Nancy L. Struna

IV-2

Howell, Maxwell R. and Howell, Reet A. "The History of the Olympic Games," *Canadian Journal of Applied Sport Sciences*, 3, No. 1 (March 1978), 17-26.

"The modern Olympic Games, instituted in 1896 in Athens, can be thought of as a modern social movement. It was one that began modestly and faltered; one that was almost extinguished, only to be stabilized, then subjected to political stresses and harassment. Again its future became uncertain due to rising costs and economic concerns and changing social conditions." Article provides a brief examination of the modern Olympics with emphasis on changes in the conduct of the Olympics as a reflection of social changes during the twentieth century. Based on secondary works; 51 references.

—Peter Donnelly

IV-3

Howell, Maxwell R. "Olympic Movement Restored: The 1908 Games," *Proceedings—International Congress on Physical Activity Sciences*, 8 (July 1976), 317-25.

The modern Olympic Games began in 1896. Although only thirteen nations sent athletes, it was a success. The 1900 and 1904 Games were held in conjunction with world fairs, and because of their, at times, farcical nature, the Olympic movement was in jeopardy. This study briefly reviewed the games of those three Olympiads and then examined in detail the 1908 Games held in

London. The 1908 Olympic Games were significant to the modern Olympic movement because they stabilized the program and re-established the ideals of Pierre de Coubertin.

—John R. Kennedy

IV-4

Beck, Peter J. "Politics and the Olympics: The Lesson of 1924," *History Today*, 30 (July 1980), 7-9.

Several incidents involving the 1924 Paris Olympic Games demonstrated a relationship between sport and politics. Neither Germany nor Russia were invited to take part in the 1924 Olympics because of hostilities lingering from World War I. Throughout the games, American contestants received virulent hostility from the French, and this was particularly evident in the free fight that ensued during the rugby match between France and the United States. American athletes were identified with a government that had criticized French occupation of the Ruhr and one that had refused to support France in the event of a future German invasion. The Ruhr affair also explained the hostility the French had toward British athletes. Based on newspapers and secondary works; 5 photographs; 6 notes.

—Alar Lipping

IV-5

Davenport, Joanna. "The Women's Movement into the Olympic Games," *Journal of Physical Education and Recreation*, 49, No. 3 (March 1978), 58-60.

American female Olympians have had to overcome several obstacles (e.g., prejudice, apathy, protests) in their long struggle to gain acceptance into the Summer Olympic Games. Although women have participated in the modern games since 1900, their involvement prior to World War II was limited and clouded by controversy. Even Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern games, did not relish the notion of women participating in the games. His opposition lasted for over forty years. In the United States, opposition to female participation in the games came from various groups including the American Olympic Committee and the National Group for Girls and Women's Sports. In fact, the latter group vigorously attempted to get track and field events for women omitted from the 1932 Los Angeles Games. By the 1960s, it was clear that female Olympians had won their battle for acceptance. Based on primary sources and secondary works. 17 notes.

—Robert W. Case

IV-6

Leigh, Mary H. "The Enigma of Avery Brundage and Women Athletes," *Arena Review*, 4 (May 1980), 11-21.

Between 1928 and 1953 Avery Brundage altered his public stance on women's athletic participation, particularly that in the Olympics. During the earliest years of that period Brundage recognized that "times have changed" and that "the girls were going to compete anyway." Thus, as president of the Amateur Athletic Union, he accepted women's athletic participation, at least as long as women avoided extreme competition and devices. In subsequent years, however, his public and private messages about women's competition sometimes conflicted. Nonetheless, he had begun to question women's competition. Although precise causes remain largely problematic, the fact remains that Brundage did favor eliminating women from Olympic competition by 1953. Based on letters, interviews, and newspaper sources.

—Nancy L. Struna

IV-7

Guttmann, Allen. "The Games Must Go On (On the origins of Avery Brundage's life-credo)," *Stadion*, 5, No. 2 (1979) 253-62.

Avery Brundage's fervor concerning the Olympics developed into his personal religion. From a broken home in Detroit, Brundage found sport a quick way to recognized achievement. He participated in track and field, where one stands or falls on his own ability. These were the traits of a driving, self-made man, which Brundage displayed in the construction business. The events of Brundage's formative years, particularly at the University of Illinois and in his early business years, helped to mold his ironclad moral values which he applied to the Olympic Games. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 25 notes.

—John R. Schleppei

IV-8

Johnson, William Oscar. "Avery Brundage: The Man Behind the Mask," *Sports Illustrated*, 53, No. 6 (August 4, 1980), 48-63.

Avery Brundage's public image closely resembled that of a latter day knight, but his private behavior was much more human. Besides his avid fitness program and oriental art collection, Brundage, it appears, also collected women. His most sensational catch was Lillian Dresden with whom he fathered two sons. At age eighty-one he had a international harem which included women from seven different countries. Then, at age eighty-five he married the thirty-six-year-old Mariann Reuss. Apparently, women were the second most important thing in Brundage's life. Based upon secondary works; no notes.

—Maxine Grace Hunter

IV-9

Vernacchia, Ralph A. "Problems of Modern Olympism," *Journal of Physical Education and Recreation*, 49, No. 3 (March 1978), 70-72.

The 17th session of the International Olympic Academy (IOA) in 1977 brought together individuals from around the world to study and address the theme, "*Problems of Modern Olympism*." The five major problems plaguing modern Olympism were identified: (1) site selection and the associated economic burdens placed on the host city; (2) political intrusions that continues to hamper the modern games; (3) the liberalization of Olympic amateur eligibility rules; (4) dehumanization of Olympic athletic performances through the excessive use of science and medicine; and (5) getting women athletes and administrators more involved in the games. Possible remedies to the problems were also discussed. Based upon secondary works; 4 notes.

—Robert W. Case

IV-10

Baley, James A. "Suggestions for Removing Politics from the Olympic Games," *Journal of Physical Education and Recreation*, 49, No. 3 (March 1978), 73.

Political intrusions continue to plague the modern Olympic Games. World-wide media coverage makes the Olympic Games an attractive target for groups wishing to exploit the Games for political reasons. The author identified political incidents which occurred during the Mexico City, Munich, and Montreal Games as evidence for his claims. He also offered some bizarre suggestions for removing politics from the Olympics. He did this in order to place the situation in proper perspective and force the reader to consider realistic solutions to the problems of political intrusions. The Games are far too important to discontinue, for the Olympic ideals of brotherhood and world peace must be preserved. No notes.

—Robert W. Case

IV-11

Cheffers, John. "The Foolishness of Boycott and Exclusion in the Olympic Movement," *Journal of Physical Education and Recreation*, 50, No. 2 (February 1979), 44-45.

Boycotts and exclusions continue to be a nemesis for the modern Olympic movement. A review of Olympic boycotts and exclusions which have occurred since 1920 clearly shows that they have been relatively ineffective and in some cases counterproductive. Boycotts and exclusions are contrary to the Olympic Charter and the underlying ideals for which the Olympic movement stands. If the Olympic Games continue to be used as political tools, then, it is

very likely that their demise will be forthcoming. Based on secondary works;
2 notes.

—Robert W. Case