

III. Modern Olympic Games

III-1 Attias, Elaine. "A Show of Culture," *California History*, 63, No. 1 (Winter 1984) 77-79.

The 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games included an invitational arts competition for sport-related works from writers, architects, musicians, and artists. Five hundred individuals from 31 nations entered the competition while 600 additional works were also displayed. Winning artists and athletes were awarded identical medals. Three firsts, four seconds, and seven honorable mentions were awarded to Americans while Germans gained two thirds and two honorable mentions and Swedes won one first and three honorable mentions. Eventually 384,000 viewed the exhibit. While no longer

required by Olympic Charter, Los Angeles planned 20 art exhibitions and performances by 70 companies for the 1984 Olympic Arts Festival. No notes; 4 photographs.

—Lynne Emery

III-2 Becht, June Wuest. "America's Premier Olympics," *The Olympian*, 10, No. 8 (March 1984), 12-13, 19.

In 1904, the first Olympic Games held outside of Europe were staged in St. Louis as part of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Olympiad III was highlighted by the construction of elaborate sports facilities and domination by American athletes. Of the American competitors, four were triple gold medalists-Ray Ewry, Archie Hahn, Harry Hillman, and James Lightbody. The feats of these and other outstanding American Olympians of the 1904 Games are described in some detail, as well as the recent demolition of a once premier stadium. No notes; 2 illustrations.

—Jerry J. Wright

III-3 Ditzel, Paul. "Olympics Telecommunications," *California History*, 63, No. 1 (Winter 1984), 95-100.

The 1932 Olympic Games possessed the most advanced communications network available at the time. Olympic headquarters had several teletype machines as well as 2 switchboards, each with 80 lines and 8 unlisted Olympic executive lines. The Olympic village contained a switchboard with 39 lines plus 210 phones. Copper wire connected the Coliseum with the other eight venues. During the Games, more than 500,000 calls were handled with ease. By contrast, technological advances, specifically fiber-optic cables, allowed 550,000 calls to be transmitted simultaneously via a cable the diameter of a pencil during the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games. Television signals were also sent through fiber-optic networks making it possible for half of the world's population to view the 23rd Olympiad. No notes; 6 photographs; 2 drawings.

—Lynne Emery

III-4 Kaye, Jeffrey. "Return Engagement," *California History*, 63, No. 1 (Winter 1984), 101-107

Shortly after the 1932 Olympics, the Southern California Committee for the Olympic Games was organized in an attempt to again bring the Games to Los Angeles. Passed over for the 1976 and 1980 Olympics, the city's promise of a profitable, privately-funded Olympics resulted in provisional acceptance in 1978. The Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee sought a limited number of corporate sponsors, utilized existing facilities, and predicted that \$948 million would aid local economy. While neither prohibition nor officially-sanctioned segregation will be part of Los Angeles' second Olympics, discrimination still exists. Nevertheless, the city's business leaders stress that the Games will help the image of Southern California. No notes; 6 photographs; 1 graph.

—Lynne Emery

III-5 Erickson, Steve. "Where Fancies Flicker," *California History*, 63, No. 1 (Winter 1984), 66-70.

Parallels existed between Hollywood films and the Olympians of 1932. Both created their own reality, their own magic; and it was not surprising that several star athletes turned to films following the Games. Sonja Henie and Johnny Weissmuller became

box-office stars as did the winner of the 400-meter freestyle event, Buster Crabbe. Signed to a Warner Brothers contract following her 100-meter backstroke victory, Eleanor Holm refused to appear in swimming films because she wanted to remain an amateur for the 1936 Olympics. Dismissed from the team in 1936 by Avery Brundage, Holm also lost her contract, although she appeared in a Tarzan film with 1936 decathlon winner Glen Morris. Ralph Faulkner, 1928 and 1932 Olympic fencer, probably had the longest career in the motion picture industry due to his coaching Hollywood stars in fencing and appearances as a stand-in from 1932 to the present. Based on primary sources and secondary works; no notes; 4 photographs.

—Lynne Emery

III-6 Papas, N. K. "The Promulgation of the Olympic Ideas of Pierre De Coubertin, Carl Diem and John Keteas in the United States of America," *Journal of Physical Education*, 76, No. 2 (1978), 29-33.

Aimed at preventing problems in the Olympic arena, de Coubertin's dream of a "Center of Olympic Studies" came to fruition in 1961 with the foundation of the International Olympic Academy in Athens. Efforts to pursue this model in the United States led to the establishment of The First National Mobile Olympic Academy in the U.S.A. at the University of Illinois-Chicago Circle in 1977. Viewed as a "Guardian of the Olympic Spirit," its objective to inculcate Olympic principles and ideals was broached through a five-day program of lectures and films. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 10 notes.

—Ralph C. Wilcox

III-7 Wiggins, David K. "The 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin: The Response of America's Black Press," *Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport*, 54, No. 3 (September 1983), 278-292.

This article examined the coverage of the 1936 Olympics by the black press in America. It asked two questions. First, what was the position of the black press relative to the proposed boycott of the Games? Second, what effect did the success of the black athletes have on the black community? The majority of the black press encouraged participation in the Games. The success of black athletes heightened racial pride and made whites more aware of the discrimination faced by minorities. While it was naive to expect immediate change, the results offered hope that permanent changes were on the horizon. Based on secondary works and newspapers; 77 notes; 7 photographs.

—John Neville