

*Avery Brundage Collection.* University Archives, 19 Main Library, 1408 West Gregory Drive, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL 61801. Maynard J. Brichford, University Archivist (217) 333-0798.

No serious student of the modern Olympic movement would even consider ignoring the role played by Avery Brundage in shaping that movement. Brundage, whose involvement in the Olympics spanned fully sixty years, from 1912, when he was a participant, to 1972, when he retired as president of the International Olympic Committee (I.O.C.) at the age of eighty-five, almost literally bestrode the Olympics like the proverbial giant colossus. In addition, he was an engineering graduate of the University of Illinois, a self-made millionaire in the construction business, a noted collector of oriental art, and an individual who, perhaps recognizing his place in history, never threw anything away.

This last attribute resulted in the Avery Brundage Collection, donated by Brundage in 1974 and now housed at his alma mater. Brundage's papers, which consist of 331 boxes and 48 oversize scrapbooks, cover the period from 1908 to 1975, and stand as a vital source in understanding the evolution of the Olympic movement, particularly between 1936 and 1972, and Brundage's influence in it. Fortunately for researchers, a published guide to the collection, *Avery Brundage Collection 1908-1975* (1977) compiled by Maynard J. Brichford, archivist at the University of Illinois, makes the task of finding material in these papers much easier. Brichford has also published an article discussing Brundage and, "Avery Brundage—the man and the Collection," in Müller, Norbert and Jochim K. Ruhl, eds., *Official Report Olympic Scientific Congress, Sport History* (1985), 245-251, which suggests areas of potential research within the collection and briefly analyzes its subject content. In addition, microfilm copies of the collection (not including the scrapbooks) are available in Germany, Australia, Canada, California State University at Long Beach and at the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles. The collection also included Brundage's Olympic games library, numbering 1580 volumes; these were accessioned and transferred to the Applied Life Sciences library at the university.

The 337 boxes of correspondence files and other loose papers cover not only Brundage's Olympic involvement but also his ties with the Amateur Athletic Union, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, a wide range of individual correspondents outside the I.O.C., regional competitions such as the Pan

American Games, and various sports federations. The boxes also contain copies of articles and speeches by and about Brundage, clippings, photographs, Olympic memorabilia, and a variety of periodicals, bulletins, and newsletters. That said, however, it seems clear that the most important parts of the collection are the twenty-three boxes of correspondence and other papers related to Brundage's thirty-six year tenure on the I.O.C., and the scrapbooks, which document his travel and associations and contain a large quantity of photographs and clippings. Allen Guttman, in *The Games Must Go On* (1984) makes frequent reference to materials in these boxes and scrapbooks, and archivist Brichford, confirms that contention.

According to Brichford, the collection, as it relates to Brundage's involvement in amateur athletics, appears to be quite complete. There are no obvious "holes," and the archives staff knows of nothing that was held back. It should be noted, however, that these papers do not contain much of relevance to Brundage's oriental art collection, his private business interests, or his personal life.

The collection is open to researchers without restriction. The university archives will provide, at cost, photocopies of specific documents, or microfilm copies of parts of the collection to scholars for whom a trip to Urbana would be impracticable. Other collections at the University of Illinois related to the Brundage papers include the Olympic Collection, containing published material from the post-Brundage era and the papers of two Illinois Olympians, John R. Case and Harold Osborn.

The extent of the collection and the importance of the subject should ensure that this collection will for many years be of great value in sport history research. In addition to Allen Guttman's biography of Brundage, books and articles by scholars such as Arnd Kruger and Richard Espy have made use of the Brundage papers and demonstrate their significance. Much more is there for the digging.

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