
GOKSOYR, MATTI, GERD VON DER LIPPE, and KRISTEN MO, eds. *Winter Games, Warm Traditions*. Oslo: Norwegian Society of Sports History-International Society for the History of Physical Education and Sport, 1997. Pp. 320.

International sports studies congresses are increasingly common in this era, and the papers delivered at these congresses are more and more frequently collected and published. Whether publication is boon or bane greatly depends on the willingness of the editors to make some difficult decisions. Should the desire to be inclusive override the realization that a contribution is poorly written and in nearly incomprehensible English, French, or German? If one judges by contents, the editors of the papers delivered in Lillehammer on the occasion of the 1994 Winter Olympics steered a middle course. Some of the 28 collected contributions are excellent, some are mediocre, and some are included as acts of mercy (on behalf of the writer, not the reader). They are all brief and some are positively cryptic.

The collection begins with Olav Bo's twelve-page essay, "Skiing through History," but the contribution might better have been titled "How We Norwegians Invented Skiing." The Norwegian focus continues in two quite informative essays by Matti Goksoyr, who emphasizes winter sports as a central element of "a Norwegian national identity," and by Jens Ljunggren, who traces the history of the Nordic Games from 1901 to 1926. The Swedish side of these controversial encounters is covered 250 pages later by Jan Lindroth. Since *Winter Games, Warm Traditions* also has brief essays on Fridtjof Nansen (by Horst Ueberhorst and Lutz Eichenberger), on Trondheim as the birthplace of competitive skiing (by Kristen MO), and on Norwegian slopes as a venue for Danish tourists (by Jorn Hansen), the hosts of the Lillehammer congress should be gratified that they have had their moment in the (winter) sun.

One of the best essays in the collection is written by John B. Allen, who manages to discuss the worldwide diffusion of skiing up to 1940 in just 15 pages. Unfortunately, no one seems to have been brave enough to attempt a similar *tour deforce* for the last 50 years. There is, however, an excellent essay by Arnd Krüger on winter sports at the Olympic Games. That contribution is followed, although not directly, by Roland Rensen's question-and-answer essay: Why did the host city include winter sports in the 1920 summer games? Because Antwerp had a splendid Palais de Glace constructed in 1910 as a rollerskating rink. The Olympics come into focus again in two essays on Garmisch-Partenkirchen by Gerd von

der Lippe and Gigiola Gori, in Wolf Krämer-Mandeu's account of Latin American participation (which has not yet been rewarded with an Olympic medal), and in Synthia S. Slowikowski's postmodernist pages on the appropriation of Greek symbolism at the winter games.

There are brief essays on winter sports in Iceland, Estonia, Poland, Russia, Italy, and Canada, but French and American skiers and skaters are given short shrift. Presumably, no one went to Lillehammer in support of Chamonix or Squaw Valley. A pair of Chinese scholars attempt to cover some 2,000 years of sports on ice and snow in seven pages. Michael A. Salter's excellent paper, "Iroquoian Snow-Snake," goes to the other extreme. I, for one, appreciate the sharp focus and the precise details of Salter's essay.

Women's history is well served by Else Tranbaek's note on female skaters in Copenhagen and by Gertrud Pfister's somewhat longer account of German women who skied "gracefully and elegantly downhill" from 1890 to 1914. There are, in addition, occasional mentions of *Wintersportlerinnen* in other contributions.

There are good things in this collection, but I read through the entire volume with a subliminal sense of dissatisfaction. If I were the czar of sports history, I would say to the participants at the closing ceremony, "Well done! May I suggest that you quadruple the length of your paper and send it to the *Journal of Sport History*."

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