

I thus leave Murray Sperber's latest book with considerable ambivalence. There is no doubt that his indictment of the transgressions of major college sports is right on the mark. But his casual conflation of alcohol, faculty research, grade inflation, large lecture classes, and heavy use of teaching assistants with the malfeasance of athletic programs does not ring true. At best "beer and circus" is an underwhelming argument, at worst a title and concept seriously misleading. The reasons we have a mess on our hands with the enterprise of major college sports go much deeper than pizza and beer. The causes rest far beyond the concern of faculty about their professional growth and development. Perhaps in his next book Professor Sperber will pursue other potential transgressors: the leadership of the sprawling and powerful bureaucracy that the NCAA has become; state legislatures and their education and appropriation committees that are pivotal intersections of public university and community; boards of trustees and booster organizations (which at times think and act virtually as one and the same); the priorities of the athletic department as they intersect with the educational mission of the university; and the enormous commercial stake in big-time college sports of the print media and radio and television networks.

Although his central thesis remains an unproven assumption, this is nonetheless an important book that deserves a wide reading audience. Hopefully Professor Sperber will not abandon his crusade on behalf of athletic and academic reform.

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SWADDLING, JUDITH. *The Ancient Olympic Games* (2d ed.). Austin: University of Texas Press, 1999. Pp. 112. Illustrated. Further reading, index. \$16.95 pb.

The second edition of this readable volume still lacks a preface to explain that it was written by Swaddling, Assistant Keeper in the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities at the British Museum, as a handbook for the British public to accompany a 1980 exhibition on the Ancient Olympics at the British Museum. Instead, a supportive letter from Buckingham Palace from Princess Anne is offered as a foreword, although a curious one in a work now copublished in Texas. The book has been expanded from 80 to 112 pages, and while the majority of the original text is retained, there are minor revisions, changes in paragraphing, and short additions—especially modern comparisons and sometimes mildly condescending comments about ancient Greek athletes' performances—at many places in the original sections. Chapters on the site (25 pages) and the events (34 pages) still comprise over half the text; other chapters range from 3 to 9 pages. The main expansions include: 5 pages on medical and dietary issues, 6 on the modern revival of the Olympics, 5 on politics and scandals, a new Index (3 pages) and Illustration Credits, and new illustrations.

Like the original, this edition has nine chapters, but with some shifting and additions. The first two chapters, "The Olympic Games: Where and Why?" and "The Site", are retained. The original chapters 3, "The Games...and 5, "Rules" (largely about females and the Heraia), are combined and awkwardly retitled as "Records and Regulations" (meaning

“records” as “established evidence,” not in modern usage). The former chapter 4, “The Programme,” redesignated chapter 5, sticks with Drees’s arrangement for the festival, which is now challenged by Hugh Lee and others (e.g., on the timing of the boys’ events and pentathlon, and rejecting a separate crowning ceremony at the end). The original chapter 6, “Events,” is retained, and chapters 7 and 8 have been combined into a new chapter 7, “Prize-Giving and Celebrations.”

Three new or expanded chapters reflect recent interests. Chapter 4, “Preparation and Training,” includes parts of old chapter 3 on the preparation of athletes and the build up to the festival. A lively and welcome new section on “Medical Care” uses Hippocrates, Galen, and Philostratus to discuss training, diet, health issues, and sexual activity. Finally, a popular work counters the spread of a persistent modern myth that ancient Olympians used performance-enhancing drugs. As Swaddling writes, “no evidence exists” (49). Chapter 8, “Politics, Scandal and Propaganda,” now openly discusses topics barely mentioned in 1980: ancient rewards and sponsorship, corruption, and political use of victories. Chapter 9, “Death and Rebirth,” includes the former chapter 9 on the end of the games. On the revival of the games, it recognizes the Cotswold Games, Dr. William Brooke’s Shropshire Games, and the Zappas Olympics, but it still ignores Vikelas and lionizes Coubertin. “Further Reading” has been expanded and updated somewhat, as with various exhibition catalogs, but significant works (e.g., those by Decker, Morgan, Poliakoff, and Golden) are missing. Young’s important 1998 work on the revival of the Olympics is conspicuously absent.

A major and dramatic improvement throughout is in the number and quality of the illustrations. Instead of 80 black and white illustrations, now 50 of the almost 100 are in color. Many original figures have been rearranged, redrawn, or enlarged to make the work much more effective visually. Appropriately, one also now finds more photos of the actual site rather than the model of Olympia, as well as more illustrations of artifacts from beyond the British Museum, such as those from the National Archaeological Museum at Athens and the Museum of Olympia.

This edition is more balanced, especially in chapter 8, but it still romanticizes the ancient games for bringing unity and peace, and it is not up to date archaeologically on the origins or the later years of the games. Nevertheless, this economical, accessible, and now expanded and very well-illustrated paperback provides a good introduction for general readers.

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