

BUCHANAN, IAN AND BILL MALLON. *Historical Dictionary of the Olympic Movement*, 2nd ed. Historical Dictionaries of Religions, Philosophies, and Movements, No. 39. Lanham, Md.: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2001. Pp. xcvi+367. Appendices, bibliography. \$55.00 cb.

Ian Buchanan and Bill Mallon are well known for their contributions to the study of the Olympic games and the Olympic Movement. They are intimately associated with the founding and administration of the International Society of Olympic Historians and have brought their knowledge and contacts to the production of this, the second edition of their useful reference work. This publication contains a remarkable amount of information about both the ancient and modern Olympics, and there is no comparable reference for its size. The modern games dominate, but there is enough brief information about the ancient games to answer many questions that might arise.

The book opens with a "Chronology of the Olympic Movement," containing short references to each games celebration, meetings of I.O.C. Congresses, election of presidents, and other important dates in the history of the movement. The "Chronology of the Olympic Games and Olympic Winter Games" consists of a brief but interesting commentary on each of the games, from 1896 to 2000. The highlights of each celebration are described as well as events leading up to the games. Thus we learn of the wrath of the föhn, the warm wind that wreaked havoc with the 1928 Winter Games in St. Moritz, and of the amazing rearrangement of countries that was presented at the 1992 Barcelona Games, following the breakup of Eastern European Communist nations.

In the "Introduction to the Olympic Movement," the reader is provided with a useful overview of the structure, philosophy, goals, related organizations, and problems of this important international movement. This section has been expanded significantly from the first edition and offers excellent commentary on the issues of: commercialism, amateurism, gigantism, drug use, and environmental concerns. The greater part of the book (282 pages) is devoted to the "Dictionary" proper and includes alphabetical references to member countries, important individuals, outstanding athletes, and other organizations and games recognized by the I.O.C. Sports associated with the Olympics are included: full-medal, demonstration, and those recognized by the I.O.C. but not part of the program. Each entry consists of a brief summary of the status and history of the sport or discipline in the Olympics, rather than a description of the activity itself. Some sports are given additional expanded entries with respect to their status in a member country: the field hockey teams of India, the ice hockey teams of Canada and the U.S.S.R.

There are some puzzling omissions, however. The absence of an entry for synchronized swimming is curious, because the other aquatic disciplines (swimming, diving, water polo) are discussed separately; in the same manner, the sport of snowboarding has been overlooked. Also, while the decathlon receives an entry, the heptathlon does not; nor is the pentathlon mentioned as an event of the early modern Games (1912 to 1924),

although most other discontinued events are described. The entries devoted to athletes have been selected according to standards set by the authors and do not include every outstanding athlete. Most of the 230 entries are from Europe or the U.S.A., with only 8 percent from eight other countries. A more rigorous search for outstanding achievements throughout the history of the games would produce a longer list and perhaps a third edition will benefit from this.

One admirable feature of the *Dictionary* is the inclusion of several important entries about controversial issues in the modern games. These add substance and commentary that could be very useful for discussions in educational situations and include: Boycotts and Politics, Doping, Gender Verification, Olympic Bribery Scandal, Television, and Women at the Olympics. In addition, some entries provide insight into the problems that have beset the I.O.C. as it strives to remain apolitical: Chinese Taipei, Germany, the two Koreas, and South Africa. Other broad topics included in the *Dictionary* are: Ancient Games (Olympic and others), Art Contests, Attempts at Revival, and the Nordic Games.

Eighteen appendices provide useful information. The most informative are those for the summer and winter games: site, dates, nations, and numbers of athletes; one can interpret the impact of Euro-centricity, international relations, economic and geographical considerations, and the status of women athletes from these lists. Other appendices identify the presidents and members of the I.O.C., recipients of I.O.C. awards, torch bearers, speakers of the oaths, heads of state opening the games, most medals won by individuals, positive results of drug tests, and attempts at revival prior to 1896.

Because it is a dictionary, this publication is not formatted in the manner typical of a reference book. The "Introduction to the Olympic Movement" is provided with a few footnotes (twelve), but for all other sources, the reader must refer to the Bibliography. This latter section is organized according to Official Reports and works on specific Olympic games and topics, as well as histories of the participation of different nations, general histories of the modern and ancient Olympic games, and biographies. The Bibliography is comprehensive, but it is difficult to determine the source for any given section of the text.

Because of the brief but very insightful commentaries interspersed throughout the book, this *Dictionary* is remarkably comprehensive, particularly as regards the modern Games, and the authors are to be commended for the breadth of their material. This is an extremely useful one-volume reference; it could serve as a textbook for an undergraduate course in the Olympics and should certainly be included in the reference library of any teacher or researcher of the modern Olympic games.

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