

The Ancient Olympic Games: A Reconstruction of the Program

by

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(Seward C. Staley Address)

The archeological evidence of the sites at ancient Olympia was described. Authors describing the ancient Games normally take a simplistic approach, whereas there were many discontinuities associated with the Games, such as: 1. At the first recorded Games (776 BC) there was one event only—the Stade. 2. The laurel wreath was not utilized until 756 BC, 20 years after the Games had begun—until then an apple was given the victor. 3. It was not until 724 BC, or 42 years, before a second event, the Diaulos, was added to the program. 4. It was not until 720 BC, or 56 years, before competitors ran naked. 5. It was not until 708 BC, or 68 years, before the Pentathlon and Wrestling were introduced to the Olympic program. 6. It was not until 688 BC, or 88 years, before boxing was introduced. This time period is longer than the modern Olympic Games have been held. 7. It was not until 680 BC, or 96 years, before chariot racing was introduced into the Olympic program. 8. It was not until 648 BC, or 128 years, before the pankration and horse racing were introduced. 9. It was not until 632 BC, or 144 years, before boys' events were introduced into the Olympic program. 10. It was not until 520 BC, or 256 years, or three times as long as the modern Games have been in operation, before the race in armour or the hoplite race was introduced into the Olympic program. 11. It was not until 472 BC, or 304 years, before reforms were introduced to fix the duration of the Olympic Festival, five days, and the actual sequence of events. This 18-event program, that many consider the standard program, did not occur until the 77th Olympiad according to Drees. (or the 78th Olympiad in 468 BC, if Gardiner is correct). 12. It was not until 396 BC, or 380 years, before the competitions for heralds and trumpeters were introduced into the Olympic program. 13. Two races, *apene* and *calpe*, were discontinued after the duration and sequence of the Olympic Festival were standardized, and 6 events (408 BC, 396 BC, 268 BC, 256 BC, and 200 BC), chariot racing with two horse teams, competitions for heralds and trumpeters, chariot racing for colts with teams of four, chariot racing for colts with two horse teams, a race for colts and a pankration for boys were added to the Olympic program.

The standard program, difficult to reconstruct, with guesswork and common sense added to the available literary evidence, would appear to be as follows:

First Day

The Inauguration of the Festival	
The Oath Taking Ceremony	Morning
The Contests for Heralds and Trumpeters	
Contests for Boys	Afternoon

Second Day

Equestrian Events	Morning
Pentathlon	
(Discus, Jumping, Javelin, Running, Wrestling)	Afternoon
Obsequies for Pelops	Nightfall

Third Day

Main Sacrifice to Zeus Morning
Foot Races
(Dolichos, Stade-race, Diaulos) Afternoon
Ritual Banquet? Evening?

Fourth Day

Heavy Events
(Wrestling, Boxing, Pankration)

Hoplite Race

Fifth Day

Prize Giving Ceremony
A Service of Thanksgiving?
A Banquet?

The various events were described in the paper, as well as with slides, as they were introduced to the Ancient program, to further exemplify the changing nature and development of the Olympic program.

Canadian Historians and Sport History

by
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(Maxwell Howell Address)

Canadian historians have been mostly concerned with such matters as political development, religious history, Federal-Provincial relationships, and large scale economic enterprises. With a few exceptions—such as M. Chapin, E. Guillet and A.R.M. Lower—even social historians in Canada have virtually ignored sport, probably for usual reasons to do with academic snobbery. Perhaps this is because the political history of Canada has been so peculiar, so unique, and so precarious and fragile in various and enduring ways, that it has practically dominated all other forms of historical enquiry. Certainly much of what is labelled as “social history” in Canada contains strong economic and political overtones, as many writers have testified, and seems to place less emphasis on sport than is the case in the social histories of other countries. In recent years, this tradition of neglect has been rectified to a certain extent; and the historical significance of sport in Canadian society is now being examined in beneficial ways which offer opportunities for meaningful future studies and continued growth.

The initial progress was made mainly by sociologists, and by sport historians from Faculties of Physical Education in Canada. A major impetus was provided, of course, by the person whose name describes this Address, Maxwell Howell, at the University of Alberta, where more than fifty M.A. and Ph.D. theses have been produced in the history of sport area. The publication of Howell and Howell, *Sports and Games in Canadian Life: 1700 to the Present*, in 1969, was another significant contribution.