

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

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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.

The appearance of the *Canadian Journal of History of Sport and Physical Education*, in 1970, edited by Alan Metcalfe, also provided a new dimension; as did the establishment of a History of Sport and Physical Activity Committee within The Canadian Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. Another crucial landmark has been the publication of *Canada's Sporting Heroes*, in 1974, since one of the authors, Syd Wise, is recognized as a major Canadian historian. His example and vigorous endorsement of sport as a legitimate and useful concern for an historical understanding of Canadian society, therefore, is both important and timely.

Reviewers of Canadian historiography have claimed that it reached maturity during the 1920's, after progress through various "schools", i.e. Britannic (or "Blood-is-thicker-than-water"), Political Nationhood, Environmentalists, Laurentian, Metropolitanism, etc. As indicated, sport was not a part of the analyses formed during this process. This contrasts with the experience in the United States where, as Melvin Adelman has pointed out, historians began to incorporate sport into their works during the first quarter of the twentieth century. A notable example was the attempt made by Frederic Paxson, in 1917, to adopt Frederick Jackson Turner's famous frontier-thesis to explain "the rise of sport". In subsequent years, other models and theses were also used in endeavors to explain more thoroughly the American sporting experience.

There has been considerable debate concerning the possible application of a frontier thesis to Canadian history [see, in particular: M.S. Cross (ed.) *The Frontier Thesis and the Canadas: The Debate on the Impact of the Canadian Environment* (Toronto, 1970)] but again, sport has not been a feature of this debate. It is strongly suggested here that there is a need to put sport history now into the context of the general history of Canada, by its application to the major theses produced by Canadian historians. As some American historians have demonstrated, sport can often be used as a significant cultural test towards sustaining or rejecting certain social theories. For example, the Continentalists who emphasized the natural geographical barriers to the presumptuous creation of a Canada based on an East-West orientation—the Rocky Mountains extending from Alaska to Colorado; the Great Lakes; the Appalachians in the East—obviously presented a strong environmental argument. Had they also examined the sporting contacts which flowed naturally (across the international border) from north to south and vice-versa, their persuasions could have been even stronger. *Sport could easily have provided significant grist for the Continentalist' mill, as well as for devotees of other "schools", had they not been quite so busy grinding what they considered to be richer corn.* One could also envisage the position of Montreal, as a sports-incubator in Canadian history, being tested by the Laurentian thesis, or within the concept of Metropolitanism.

Other directions in which more research could be undertaken include: the pre-1700 time-period (Samuel Eliot Morrison has described a football game between Eskimos and English explorers, in 1586, as "the first recorded international match"); the history of sport in Quebec [see the 316-page *Bibliographie Québécoise Sur L'Activité Physique, 1850-1973* (Pelican, 1974), by Donald Guay]; women in the history of Canadian sport; detailed biographies of Canadian sports figures; and a comprehensive history of Canadian physical education. These are only a few examples from a fertile area of enormous possibilities.

The future of sport in Canada promises to be more than interesting, with the direct endorsement and involvement of the Federal Government, the emergence of rival professional North American Leagues with teams in Canadian cities, the prospect of more international ice-hockey series, and especially the advent of the Olympic Games at Montreal in 1976, and the Commonwealth Games at Edmonton in 1978. It is hoped that more Canadian historians of the future—from whatever department, Faculty, or source—will be involved in the commitment to give the sporting past of the Dominion a more prominent and valid place in the continuing story of Canada. In this way the momentum of the present may be maintained and justified.