

Avery's Network: A Study of Avery Brundage's Personal Relations in the Modern Olympic Movement, 1928-72

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In the forty-four years from his assumption of the presidency of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States in 1928 to his resignation as President of the International Olympic Committee in 1972, Avery Brundage played a dominant role in American amateur sports organizations and the international sports scene. Inspired by the Olympic ideal of amateur competition, he became an influential spokesperson. Alternately hailed and vilified in the press as a defender of amateurism or a doctrinaire hypocrite, he was a consistent champion of idealism in an era when commercialism and professionalism played an ever-increasing role in athletic competition. Brundage's success over the years was in part attributable to his devotion to the amateur ideal and in part due to his skills in personal relationships. This paper discussed Brundage's relationships with Gustavus T. Kirby, Daniel J. Feris, Frederick W. Rubien, Asa S. Bushnell, Jeremiah T. Mahoney, William M. Garland, J. Sigfried Edstrom, David Cecil, Karl von Holt and Guilio Onesti.