

# Sport History in Comparative Perspective

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In the recent past, just as in the Roman circuses, two different factions manifested themselves on the international sport history arena. On the one hand, ICOSH, the International Committee for History of Sport and Physical Education, was founded in Prague in 1967. On the other hand, HISPA, the International Association for the History of Physical Education and Sport, was created in Zurich in 1973. The cities of Prague and Zurich have symbolized to some extent the different background and political orientation of the two international organisations. These specific traditions have hindered a close collaboration in the past.

During the 13th International HISPA Congress in Olympia 1989, both HISPA and ICOSH decided to dissolve their associations and to found a new world-wide academic society: the International Society for the History of physical Education and Sport (ISHPES). The First International ISHPES Congress 'Sport and Contest' was organized in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria from 31 May to 6 June 1991. During 1992 the First International ISHPES Seminar will take place in Turku (Finland) from 8 to 13 June. Furthermore ISHPES has been engaged in the organisation of a sport history session during the International Olympic Congress of ICSSPE in Malaga (Spain) from 15 to 19 July. The 2nd International ISHPES Congress has been scheduled 30 June to 5 July 1993 in Berlin.

The history of physical education and sport is concerned about the possession, the production and distribution of a specific body of knowledge: knowledge about play, games, sports, dances, physical education and all other aspects of physical culture in which 'Homo Movens' has engaged in within specific sociocultural contexts throughout time. In this special comment some ideas and reflections are put forward about the meaning-or the sense and nonsense-of international sport history congresses in the distribution process of this specific kind of knowledge.