

The Olympic Games and the foundation of the FINA - a critical inventory of the historical sources

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The FINA was founded on the occasion of the Olympic Games 1908 at London. This fact obviously expresses that both events must have been closely connected with one another. But who have been the promoters for establishing the federation, and which intentions did they follow up? Sport history research has not yet dealt with this subject. Historical contributions to the establishment and development of the FINA have exclusively been written by representatives of the federation, such as Harald E. Fem. (1938), George W. Hearn, (1938), R. Max Ritter, (1948). Ladislav Hauptmann, (1958), and Harold Henning, (1958, 1983), and laymen officers in leading charges. Where did they take their knowledge, and what sources could they scoop?

This paper, investigating the history of the International Swimming Federation, traces the activities of these amateur-historians. It presents a critical inventory of the historical sources concerning FINA's foundation, and introduces various archives holding important FINA-related documents.