

# ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / REFLECTIONS / NOTES TO CONTRIBUTORS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Announcing the 3rd International Symposium for Olympic Research

In accord with its mission to plan, organize and execute an international symposium for Olympic research at some time during each Olympic year and, following the successful First and Second such symposia in 1992 and 1994, respectively, the Centre for Olympic Studies is pleased to announce its Third Symposium, scheduled from Thursday evening, October 3rd to Saturday evening, October 5th, 1996. Once again, the Symposium will be held on the campus of the University of Western Ontario and will focus on socio-cultural themes, that is, the historical, sociological, philosophical and anthropological dimensions of the Modern Olympic Movement. The Symposium will be composed of limited presentations by internationally renowned sports scholars, as well as a select group of research papers submitted for presentation. Preliminary symposium information, including research paper submission procedures, may be obtained by letter, FAX or telephone requests made to the Centre for Olympic Studies. Further information will be published in Volume IV-1995 of *Olympika*, scheduled to appear in the late Autumn of 1995.

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### Critical Reflections on Olympic Ideology Second International Symposium for Olympic Research

On October 6, 7, and 8, 1994 the Centre for Olympic Studies held its Second International Symposium for Olympic Research. Some 40 scholars from 12 countries attended the affair; 18 papers were presented, including two keynote addresses by James Riordan of England and Stephen Miller of the United States (by way of Nemea, Greece). The symposium papers (with the exception of the two keynote addresses) were presented at the Windermere Manor on the campus of the University of Western Ontario. The symposium's opening ceremonies, featuring music, dance and Professor Riordan's keynote address, were held in UWO's Talbot Theatre. The symposium reception was presented in the Centre for Olympic Studies. The theme of the symposium was: Critical Reflections on Olympic Ideology. Featured on the following page is the Table of Contents of the Symposium's 175 page *Proceedings*. Copies of the *Proceedings* may be ordered direct from the Centre for Olympic Studies, Thames Hall, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada, N6A 3K7 (FAX (519) 661-3707). The price of the *Proceedings* is:

- \$25 (CND) if mailed to a Canadian destination.
- \$30 (US) if mailed to a U.S. or Mexican destination.
- \$35 (US) if mailed to any other destination in the world.

# CRITICAL REFLECTIONS ON OLYMPIC IDEOLOGY

## SECOND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR OLYMPIC RESEARCH

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## 1994/1995 Guest Lectures in the Centre for Olympic Studies

As part of its scholarly mission, the Centre for Olympic Studies presents two invited guest lectures each academic year. The invited lecturers and their addresses for the Autumn of 1994 and the Winter of 1995 are.

Friday, October 7, 1994: The Ion Ioannides Memorial Lecture  
 Dr. Stephen Miller, University of California-Berkeley  
 "Nemea and the Hysplex: Reconstructing our Ancient Athletic Heritage"

Friday, February 10, 1995: The Crocker Memorial Lecture  
 Dr. Vladimir Platonov, Ukrainian State University of Physical  
 Education & Sport  
 "Olympic Sports in the Ukraine and the Former U.S.S.R.: Myth  
 and Reality"

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## Official Olympic Lecturer

In the summer of 1993, John A. Lucas of Pennsylvania State University was named "Official Olympic Lecturer" by International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch. Under the terms of his appointment, Professor Lucas will provide lectures on Olympic themes, past and present, to any university, high school, elementary school, civic or philanthropic group. Professor Lucas' travel expenses are met by the IOC. His local accommodation and subsistence costs must be assumed by the host institution/group. During the past year, Professor Lucas has lectured to thousands of students and adults in America, from California to Massachusetts, from Michigan to Florida. Professor Lucas' calendar of engagements is filled for 1995, but his schedule for 1996 is at this time completely open. Any institution or organization wishing to have Dr. Lucas lecture should write or telephone him at:

101 White Bldg., Penn. State University  
 University Park, Pennsylvania, 16802  
 Telephone: (814) 865-2417 or (814) 238-3623  
 FAX: (814) 863-7360

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## Olympic Network

On the opening day of its 2nd International Symposium for Olympic Research held at the University of Western Ontario in London, Canada, 6-8 October 1994, the Centre for Olympic Studies convened a meeting of delegates attending the

symposium who had interest in or affiliation with Centres or Institutes for Olympic Studies in various places in the world. This meeting followed similar initiatives held originally in Seoul in 1991 and in Berlin in 1993. Eight delegates attended the meeting in London. Following a report from each on activities in their particular cities/universities/countries, some questions were posed:

1. Are the missions of Olympic Study Centres/Institutes and Olympic Academies similar?
2. Should the so-called Network become more informal in its structure (is there a structure?) and in relationships between individual organizations?

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

From time to time, the editors of *Olympika* invite selected sports scholars to serve as guest reviewers for articles submitted to the journal. At this point, the editors wish to acknowledge the contributions to Volume III of Professor Joe Arbena, Clemson University, USA.

The editors wish to recognize the untiring efforts of Scott Martyn, Douglas Brown and Gordon MacDonald in preparing *Olympika's* contents for publication. Such efforts include proof-reading text, scanning graphic material, transfer of individual article diskettes into Ventura format for final publication, and duties related to preparing the journal for mailing to its subscribers.

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### REFLECTIONS ON THE CENTENNIAL OLYMPIC CONGRESS, PARIS, 1994

It was gigantic! It was festive!! It was celebratory!!! It was expensive!!!! It was programmed!!!! From 29 August to 3rd September, the City of Paris, the International Olympic Committee, and the French National Olympic Committee joined energies and resources to stage the XIIth Olympic Congress, known in this commemorative year of 1994 as the Centennial Olympic Congress. The tri-partite hosts were gracious, accommodating and, we are sure, exhausted by the immensity of their task. It isn't easy to convene and care for over 5,000 people from every corner of the globe. Receptions, galas, concerts, celebratory activities, pomp and pageantry of almost every description accompanied the affair, costing, in the final analysis, some 16 million dollars.

Those things said, what was it all about? Did the Congress have any meaning? Did it have substance? Answers to those questions depend on the personal expectations or agendas of each person who journeyed to Paris for the affair. Engulfed among the invitees of the vast assembly of delegates from National Olympic Committees, International Sports Federations, Olympic Games Organizing

Committees, athletes, coaches, judges, technical officials, media folks, IOC members (active and honorary), and observers representing national and international governmental and non-governmental organizations, was a small group of scholars whose research interests focus on Olympic matters from a socio-cultural point of view. The following, by way of qualification, is a consensus reflection of the Congress by a sub-group of those scholars who were present in Lausanne in April 1994 to help in planning the themes for the XIIth Olympic Congress, who were also in attendance at the Paris Centennial proceedings, and further, who participated in the 2nd International Symposium for Olympic Research in London, Ontario on October 6-8, 1994.

To begin, Olympic congresses are not what they were in the days of Pierre de Coubertin (about whom there was continual reference in Paris). Olympic Congresses are no longer gatherings where decisions are made; indeed, they have generally been "airing sessions" since Coubertin ceased presiding over the International Olympic Committee in 1925. The Paris Congress was just that--an "airing session," where a plethora of observations and comments were enunciated day after day in intervals, for the most part, of five minute "mini speeches." There is, of course, much about which the Modern Olympic Movement can rightfully be proud--its independent financial status, its contributions to world peace and humanitarian efforts, its concern for the environment, women, the underprivileged, its conscious efforts to promote global culture. To begin with, then, Paris proved to be a self "pat on the back" exercise. Beyond that, however, the Paris Congress attempted to focus attention and some dialogue on problems confronting the Movement, of which the most appropriate discussion centred on problems inherent in high performance sport and sport in developing countries. There were other discussion themes, to be sure, but these, for the most part, prompted sugar-coated statements of doubtful consequence. After all was said and done, and as the delegates departed Paris, they were presented with a "Final Document" summarizing the Congress recommendations and conclusions (was it compiled before the Congress even began?).

What was the scholarly community's expectation of the Congress? Clearly, we went to Paris expecting that there would be debate on issues. Despite the fact that the "Final Document" referred to "debates" that produced the final recommendations and conclusions pertinent to the Congress themes explored, there were no debates. What did occur was a scenario in which a considerable number of individuals presented carefully pre-prepared, orchestrated statements screened in advance for delivery from the speaking rostrum. In large measure, they were expressions which differed little from each other. Occasionally, statements took on the form of personal agendas. The atmosphere of redundancy and strictly controlled input rapidly became evident to all. The result was that while "reasonable" numbers attended the plenary sessions, the ensuing sub-sessions were sparsely attended (more often than not, by less than 100 souls). Where were the others? In the lounges? Enjoying Paris? Could the Congress format have been different in order to encourage extemporaneous discourse and interchange of ideas? The Congress organizers felt not.

Irrespective of these criticisms, some things were impressive. Mr. Samaranch was indefatigable. He moved from session to session, from formal gathering to informal gathering, from celebration to gala, day after day, a figure determined to be

the model Congress participant. Sadly, the greater lot of his Congress confreres could not keep pace. Equally impressive, too, were the IOC Headquarters staff. On the lower floor of the massive CNIT convention centre, the site of the Congress Sessions, a complete IOC Headquarters was established, catering to the needs and interests of delegates and carrying on business as usual as they do every day back home in Lausanne.

But, in the end, the Congress was little more than a great gathering of the Olympic clan in the shadow of a most magnificent edifice, the Arch of La Defense. Here, old friendships were renewed and new ones made, a bountiful harvest of Olympic resources put on display, "games" contested and, inevitably, family elders sat around council fires and chatted while children scurried to and fro at play.

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## NOTES TO CONTRIBUTORS

**O***lympika* is the official journal of the Centre for Olympic Studies. It is an internationally-refereed, scholarly journal incorporating sociocultural studies predominately related to *historical, philosophical, sociological* and *anthropological* dimensions of the Modern Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement.

In general, papers and notes of any of the following categories will be considered for publication in *Olympika*:

1. Articles and research studies containing discrete treatment of topics which are pertinent to the socio-cultural study of the Olympic Games and the greater Modern Olympic Movement;
2. Scholarly discussions, synthesis statements, and critical notes which address concepts and issues previously discussed in *Olympika*;
3. Critical reviews of pertinent current and recent works and published literature on Olympic themes;
4. Reports, notes, and other information concerning meetings, conferences, research centres, scholarly programs, etc., related to the socio-cultural study of the Modern Olympic Games.