

Roland Naul, ed., *Turnen und Sport: The Cross Cultural Exchange*. Waxmann, Münster and New York, 1991. pp. 166.

Turnen und Sport is the first volume in a series which 'focuses on relationships of German and American national and social developments in physical culture and sport'. The book is divided into two sections, the first dealing with a review of *Turnen in North* and Latin America, and Germany. Bob Barney clearly summarises what has been written to date (1991) on the Turner movement in the United States, and mentions the wealth of research still to be undertaken in this area. Wolf Krämer-Mandau provides a largely descriptive account of the development of gymnastics and *Turnen* in Latin America and Arnd Krüger discusses the influence of American sport on the development of sport and physical education programs in Germany. In the second section which deals with individual studies, Jan Beran *discusses the rise* of *Turnen* in Iowa, Rainer Grossbroehmer details the evolution of the systems of training for gymnastics teachers in North America. Roland Naul shifts the pace and describes the travels of Fred E Leonard, an early American physical educator and sometime sports historian. And finally, Dietrich Quanz reveals the impact of North American sport on the Olympic Movement in both Germany and Austria-Hungary, during the first twenty years of the modern Olympics.

The rapid Americanisation of 'imported' sport and exercises is certainly interesting and demands considerable attention. Unfortunately only a small mention is made of the process of Americanisation of *Turnvereine*. As Beran states, the activities of the *Turnvereine* were initially directly imported from Germany, however, between 1855 and 1900 there was a marked increase in local games such as baseball. Several chapters *discussed the* social role of *Turnvereine* in promoting and preserving 'German culture'. When *Turnvereine* were established in the United States, however, a 'national' German culture did not exist (some would argue that it still does not exist), and the cultures brought to the States were largely regional. It is difficult to argue that 'German

culture' was promoted without taking into account the regional differences or even hostilities which may also have been imported. In the Australian context, many German immigrants originally came from the Rhineland, however, they celebrated Bavarian customs such as *Oktoberfest*, completed with *Lederhosen* and the blue and white checked flag. The 'culture' they have preserved has been based upon their own (mis)conception of what it means to be German. One is left wondering whether the same scenario occurred in the United States. This is an important issue not addressed in the book.

Overall, this volume provides a useful chronology of the establishment of *Turnvereine* and the adoption of German gymnastics into various physical education programs, however, more analysis is necessary in order to accurately contextualise the development of *Turnen* in American society.

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