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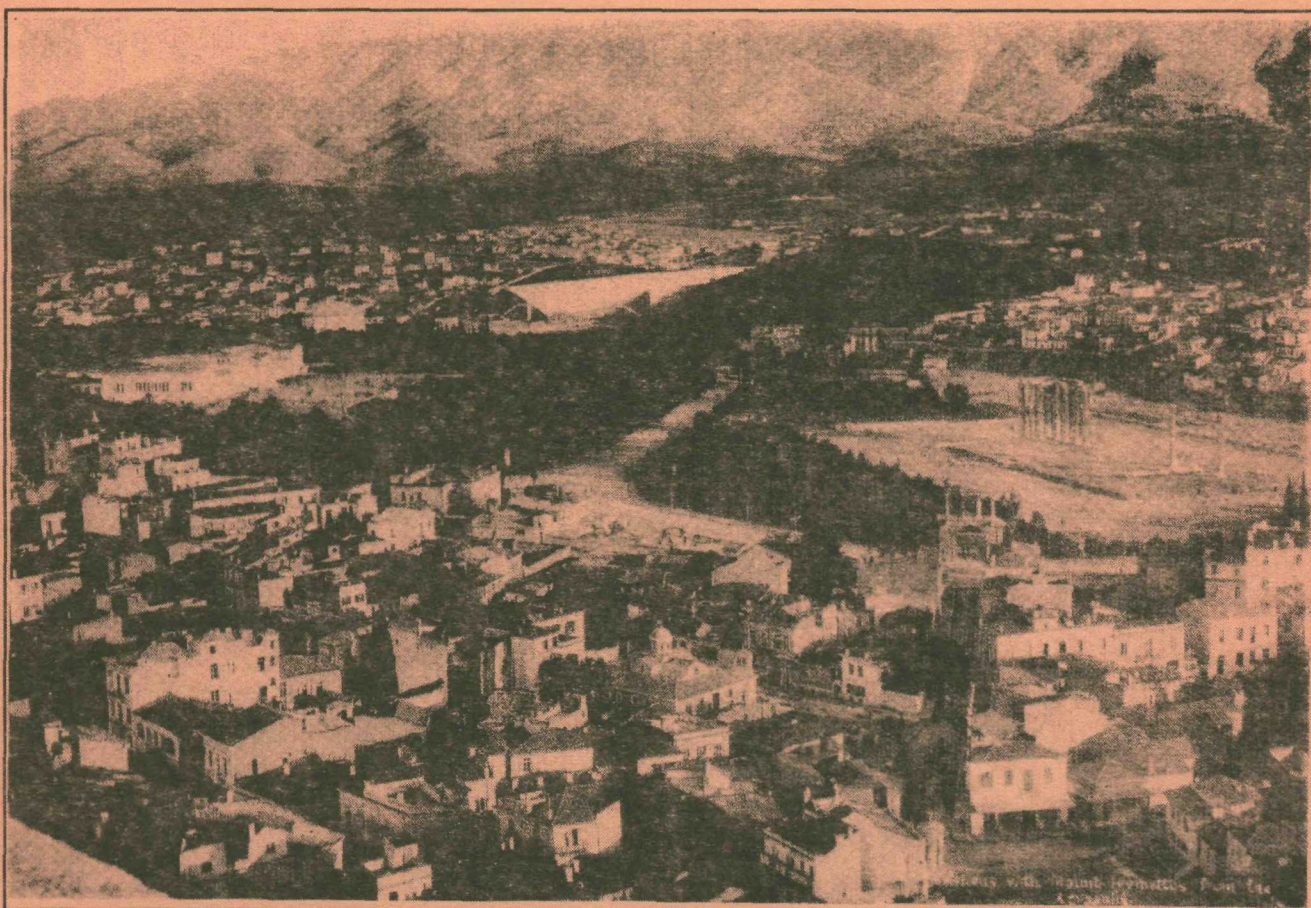
JOURNAL OF SPORTS PHILATELY

VOLUME 34

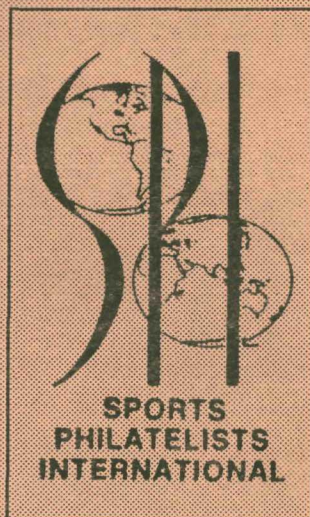
MARCH-APRIL 1996

NUMBER 4

The Games of the First Olympiad: A Centennial Tribute



Athens at the time of 1896 Olympic Games. A view of the Zappeion Palace (center left), Olympic Stadium (top center), and Temple of Zeus Olympus (center right).



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President's Message

by Mark Maestroni

On April 6, 1996, the Olympic Games celebrates its centennial. To those of us in the Olympic and sports philately community, it sometimes seems inconceivable that the Games have been around so long. Why, not more than a decade ago, many of us in the U.S. were getting set for two weeks of revelry in Los Angeles. Time seems to pass so quickly!

In honor of that first modern Olympic Games a century ago, the journal staff has produced this retrospective. We hope you enjoy reading it!

I would like to thank all those who remembered to send in their SPI Questionnaires distributed with the last issue of *JSP*. Roughly 60 of you (14% of the membership) responded — hey, that's better than the recent Louisiana Caucus in which only 5% of registered voters cast ballots! I'll briefly summarize the results for you.

It appears the membership is quite satisfied with the journal. Members "always" or "sometimes" read most of the regular features. While the "New Stamp Issues" and "New Sports Cancells" columns received the most "never read" votes, we will continue to publish this information since it is useful to so many. As suggested by a few readers, we will try to identify as many of the sports portrayed on the newly issued stamps as possible. Sometimes, though, the sources for new stamp issues do not note this information. Let me mention that Dennis Dengel will be taking over this column from Brian Bjorgo in the very near future, so he may have some new or more complete sources. Other suggestions may be sent directly to Dennis (his address appears on the title page).

To the question "what types of articles would you like more of," the answers were evenly split between more Olympics and more articles on specific sports. Some respondents had some other

ideas for articles which we will be following up on. These included fakes and forgeries, older postal history, and dealer auction results. A number of you — thank heavens! — have volunteered to write some articles. Expect someone from *JSP* to start pestering you about this in the near future. Remember, we've got it in writing.

On the subject of the Olympic Games in Atlanta this summer, there doesn't appear to be sufficient interest in having a formal meeting of SPI. In lieu of this, I would like to suggest a daily rendezvous time — how about high noon at Olympilex — when members can informally get together for a chat, lunch, or whatever. With everyone running in different directions at all times of day, this may be the only workable option.

A large number of members do have plans to attend Pacific 97 in San Francisco. SPI will look into the possibility of doing something more formal at that venue.

One member suggested the possibility of offering World Wide Web access to the SPI Auction and an e-mail directory of members. The former idea may be a bit sophisticated for us, although I do know that our Auction Manager, Glenn Estus, has e-mail capability. Nevertheless, we will look into this. For the rest of you "cybernavts" out there, if you would like to be included in an e-mail directory, send your addresses to me.

We had some requests for us to print certain directories of information. I would like to direct your attention to the SPI Membership Handbook which you all should have received in January of last year. This contains a great deal of useful information, including addresses of organizing committees for upcoming Games, national Olympic Committees and sports federations. The next directory will appear in January 1997.

SPI's World Wide Web Site: <http://www.infopost.com/philately/index.html>

“Athens”

A Pindaric ode by Sir George Stuart Robertson, Q.C.,
commemorating the Games of the First Modern Olympiad.
First performed in the original Aeolic Greek by Sir George,
at the closing ceremonies of the 1896 Games at the request of
HM King George I of Greece.*

Up, my song!

An alien crowd, we come
To this Athenian home —
Yet not like Persian plunderers of old,
But in frank love and generous friendship
bold!

I too, who sing hereof,
I too, in strenuous sport, with sons of Hellas strove.
‘All Hail!’ we cry, ‘All hail!’
Fair mother of the Arts! O violet-crowned,
Home of Athena! Glory’s sacred ground!
Onward, in love of thee, we spread our eager
sail!

Up, comrades! let your voices raise
the flower of song, the blossom of her praise —
And, as we fleet across a halcyon sea,
May the god gently waft our song to thee!
Love-smitten for the Maid, the loveliest birth
That Heaven e’er gave to earth,
We come, her grace to gain —
Ploughing with pinnace fair the bright auspicious
main!

O mother Athens! ever from old time
The homeless wanderer found a home with thee —
Bear witness Agamemnon’s son, thy guest,
Whom awful Furies drove o’er land and sea
In stern requital of his glorious crime,
Till Athens gave him rest!
Now unto us, O Land of fame divine,
Stretch forth thy hand in welcome! from afar
Let glory of the strife that is not war
Commend us to thy shrine!

Lo, from the wide world manifold we come —
From England’s hearths and homes draw hither
some,
Children of sires who, in the day gone by,
Warred for thy liberty,
Warred by the poet’s side,
The Muses’ child, who in Aetolia died!
And other some from gallant France draw nigh,
Lords of the peaceful strife, with thee to vie;
And some from German forests, strong and
bold,
Or where Hungarian cornlands wave their gold!
And some thro’ Western ocean cleave their way —
And fleet of foot are they!

Once, long ago — when Peleus to his side
Drew Thetis as a bride —
Came gods and heroes to the palace-hall,
For that high festival.
To-day, O happy Hellas, see him stand,
Thy king, the nursing father of thy land,
Brother of one right dear to England’s heart and
mine!
See from the North draw nigh
A star of Muscovy!
See how, once more, from hills afar,
Not now with arms and war,
An Alexander comes, of royal line —
Quitting his land for thine!

Athens, all hail! Hail, O rejoicing throng!
And from our lips receive the tributary song.”

Translated into English by E.D.A. Morshead

* George Stuart Robertson was an athlete on the British Olympic Team at the 1896 Games at Athens. He placed sixth in the discus.



The Olympic Games of 1896.

By Their Founder, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, Now President of
The International Committee.

with pictures by A. Castaigne.

The Olympic games which recently took place at Athens were modern in character, not alone because of their programs, which substituted bicycle for chariot races, and fencing for the brutalities of pugilism, but because in their origin and regulations they were international and universal, and consequently adapted to the conditions in which athletics have developed at the present day. The ancient games had an exclusively Hellenic character; they were always held in the same place, and Greek blood was a necessary condition of admission to them. It is true that strangers were in time tolerated; but their presence at Olympia was rather a tribute paid to the superiority of Greek civilization than a right exercised in the name of racial equality. With the modern games it is quite otherwise. Their creation is the work of "barbarians." It is due to the delegates of the athletic associations of all countries assembled in congress at Paris in 1894. It was there agreed that every country should celebrate the Olympic games in turn. The first place belonged by right to Greece; it was accorded by unanimous vote; and in order to emphasize the permanence of the institution, its wide bearings, and its essentially cosmopolitan character, an international committee was appointed, the members of which were to represent the various nations, European and American, with whom athletics are held in honor. The presidency of this committee falls to the country in which the next games are to be held. A Greek, M. Bikelas, has presided for the last two years. A Frenchman now presides, and will continue to do so until 1900, since

the next games are to take place at Paris during the Exposition. Where will those of 1904 take place? Perhaps at New York, perhaps at Berlin, or at Stockholm. The question is soon to be decided.

It was in virtue of these resolutions passed during the Paris Congress that the recent festivals were organized. Their successful issue is largely owing to the active and energetic co-operation of the Greek crown prince Constantine. When they realized all that was expected of them, the Athenians lost courage. They felt that the city's resources were not equal to the demands that would be made upon them; nor would the government (M. Tricoupis being then prime minister) consent to increase facilities. M. Tricoupis did not believe in the success of the games. He argued that the Athenians knew nothing about athletics; that they had neither the adequate grounds for the contests, nor athletes of their own to bring into line; and that, moreover, the financial situation of Greece forbade her inviting the world to an event preparations for which would entail such large expenditures. There was reason in these objections; but on the one hand, the prime minister greatly exaggerated the importance of the expenditures, and on the other, it was not necessary that the government should bear the burden of them directly. Modern Athens, which recalls in so many ways the Athens of ancient days, has inherited from her the privilege of being beautified and enriched by her children. The public treasury was not always very well filled in those times any more than in the present, but wealthy citizens who had made fortunes at

a distance liked to crown their commercial career by some act of liberality to the mother-country. They endowed the land with superb edifices of general utility—theaters, gymnasia, temples. The modern city is likewise full of monuments which she owes to such generosity. It was easy to obtain from private individuals what the state could not give. The Olympic games had burned with so bright a luster in the past of the Greeks that they could not but have their revival at heart. And furthermore, the moral benefits would compensate largely for all pecuniary sacrifice.

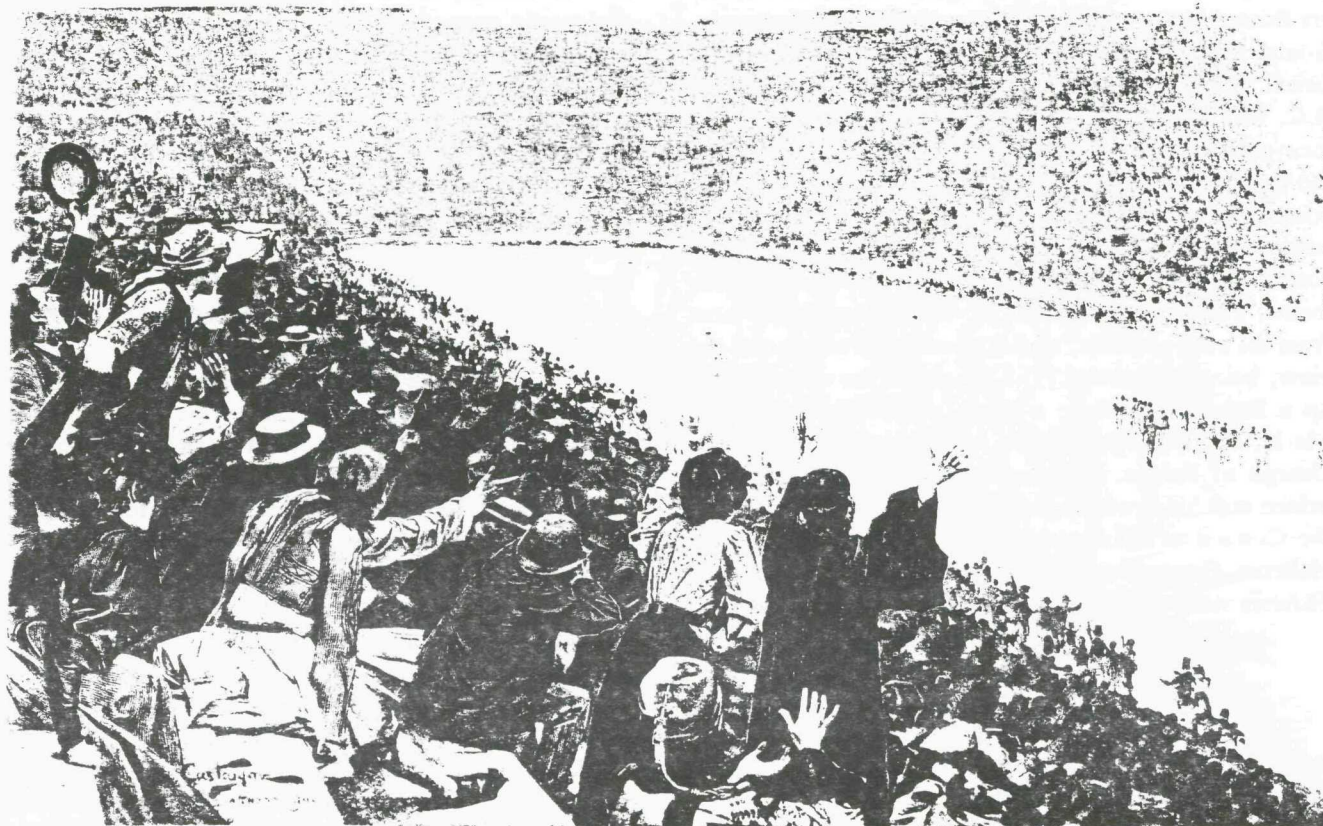
This the crown prince apprehended at once, and it decided him to lend his authority to the organizing of the first Olympic games. He appointed a commission, with headquarters in his own palace; made M. Philemon, ex-mayor of Athens and a man of much zeal and enthusiasm, secretary-general; and appealed to the nation to subscribe the necessary funds. Subscriptions began to come in from Greece, but particularly from London, Marseilles, and Constantinople, where there are wealthy and influential Greek colonies. The chief gift came from Alexandria. It was this gift which made it possible to restore the Stadion to its condition in the time of Atticus Herodes. The intention had been from the first to hold the contests in this justly celebrated spot. No one, however, had dreamed that it might be possible to restore to their former splendor the marble seats which, it is said, could accommodate forty thousand persons. The great inclosure would have been utilized, and provisional wooden seats placed on the grassy slopes which surround it. Thanks to the generosity of M. Averoff, Greece is now the richer by a monument unique of its kind.

Two years ago the Stadion resembled a deep gash, made by some fabled giant, in the side of the hill which rises abruptly by the Ilissus, and opposite Lycabettus and the Acropolis, in a retired, picturesque quarter of Athens. All that was visible of it then were the two high earth embankments which faced each other on opposite sides of the long, narrow race-course. They met at the end in an imposing hemicycle. Grass grew between the cobblestones. For centuries the spectators of ancient days had sat on the ground on these embankments. Then, one day, an army of workmen, taking possession of the Stadion, had covered it with stone and marble. This is the work that has now been repeated. The first covering served as a quarry during the Turkish domination; not a trace of it was left. With its innumerable rows of seats, and the flights of steps which divide it into sections and lead to the upper tiers, the Stadion no longer has the look of being cut out of the hill. It is the hill which seems to have been placed there by the hand of man to support this enormous pile of masonry. One detail only is modern. One does not notice it at first. The dusty track is now a cinder-path, prepared according to the latest rules of modern athletics by an expert

brought over from London for the purpose. In the center a sort of esplanade has been erected for the gymnastic exhibitions. At the end, on each side of the turning, antiquity is represented by two large boundary-stones, forming two human figures, and excavated while the foundations were being dug. These were the only finds; they add but little to archaeological data. Work on the Stadion is far from completed, eighteen months having been quite insufficient for the undertaking. Where marble could not be placed, painted wood was hastily made to do duty. That clever architect M. Metaxas cherishes the hope, however, of seeing all the antique decorations restored—statues, columns, bronze quadrigae, and, at the entrance, majestic propylaea.

When this shall be done, Athens will in truth possess the temple of athletic sports. Yet it is doubtful whether such a sanctuary be the one best suited to the worship of human vigor and beauty in these modern days. The Anglo-Saxons, to whom we owe the revival of athletics, frame their contests delightfully in grass and verdure. Nothing could differ more from the Athenian Stadion than Travers Island, the summer home of the New York Athletic Club, where the championship games are decided. In this green inclosure, where nature is left to have her way, the spectators sit under the trees on the sloping declivities, a few feet away from the Sound, which murmurs against the rocks. One finds something of the same idea at Paris, and at San Francisco, under those Californian skies which so recall the skies of Greece, at the foot of those mountains which have the pure outlines and the iridescent reflections of Hymettus. If the ancient amphitheater was more grandiose and more solemn, the modern picture is more intimate and pleasing. The music floating under the trees makes a softer accompaniment to the exercises; the spectators move about at friendly ease, whereas the ancients, packed together in rigid lines on their marble benches, sat broiling in the sun or chilled in the shade.

The Stadion is not the only enduring token that will remain to Athens of her inauguration of the new Olympiads; she has also a velodrome and a shooting-stand. The former is in the plain of the modern Phalerum, along the railway which connects Athens with the Piraeus. It is copied after the model of that at Copenhagen, where the crown prince of Greece and his brothers had an opportunity of appreciating its advantages during a visit to the King of Denmark, their grandfather. The bicyclists, it is true, have complained that the track is not long enough, and that the turnings are too abrupt; but when were bicyclists ever content? The tennis-courts are in the center of the velodrome. The shooting-stand makes a goodly appearance, with its manor-like medieval crenelations. The contestants are comfortably situated under monumental arches. Then there are large pavilions for the rowers, built of wood, but prettily decorated, with boat-houses and dressing rooms.



ARRIVAL OF THE WINNER OF THE MARATHON RACE

WHILE the Hellenic Committee thus labored over the scenic requirements, the international committee and the national committees were occupied in recruiting competitors. The matter was not as easy as one might think. Not only had indifference and distrust to be overcome, but the revival of the Olympic games had aroused a certain hostility. Although the Paris Congress had been careful to decree that every form of physical exercise practised in the world should have its place on the program, the gymnasts took offense. They considered that they had not been given sufficient prominence. The greater part of the gymnastic associations of Germany, France, and Belgium are animated by a rigorously exclusive spirit; they are not inclined to tolerate the presence of those forms of athletics which they themselves do not practice; what they disdainfully designated as "English sports" have become especially odious to them. These associations were not satisfied with declining the invitation sent them to repair to Athens. The Belgian federation wrote to the other federations, suggesting a concerted stand against the work of the Paris Congress. These incidents confirmed the opinions of the pessimists who had been foretelling of the failure of the fêtes, or their probable postpone-

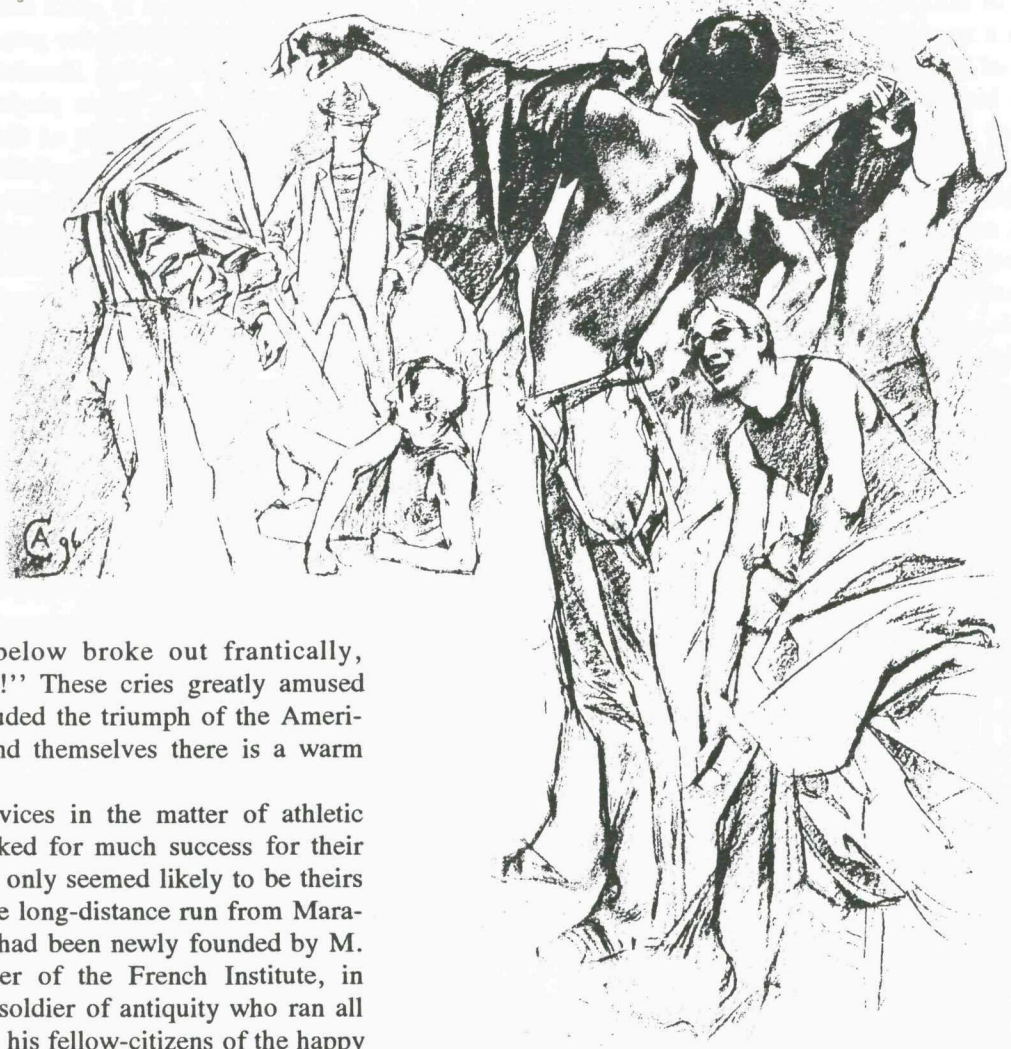
ment. Athens is far away, the journey is expensive, and the Easter vacations are short. The contestants were not willing to undertake the voyage unless they could be sure that the occasion would be worth the effort. The different associations were not willing to send representatives unless they could be informed of the amount of interest which the contests would create. An unfortunate occurrence took place almost at the last moment. The German press, commenting on an article which had appeared in a Paris newspaper, declared that it was an exclusively Franco-Greek affair; that attempts were being made to shut out other nations; and furthermore, that the German associations had been intentionally kept aloof from the Paris Congress of 1894. The assertion was acknowledged to be incorrect, and was powerless to check the efforts of the German committee under Dr. Gebhardt. M. Kémény in Hungary, Major Black in Sweden, General de Boutonski in Russia, Professor W.M. Sloane in the United States, Lord Ampthill in England, Dr. Jiri Guth in Bohemia, were, meantime, doing their best to awaken interest in the event, and to reassure the doubting. They did not always succeed. Many people took a sarcastic view, and the newspapers indulged in much pleasantry on the subject of the Olympic games.

EASTER MONDAY, April 6, the streets of Athens wore a look of extraordinary animation. All the public buildings were draped in bunting; multicolored streamers floated in the wind; green wreaths decked the house-fronts. Everywhere were the two letters "O.A.", the Greek initials of the Olympic games, and the two dates, B.C. 776, A.D. 1896, indicating their ancient past and their present renaissance. At two o'clock in the afternoon the crowd began to throng the Stadion and to take possession of the seats. It was a joyous and motley concourse. The skirts and braided jackets of the *palikars* contrasted with the somber and ugly European habiliments. The women used large paper fans to shield them from the sun, parasols, which would have obstructed the view, being prohibited. The king and the queen drove up a little before three o'clock, followed by Princess Marie, their daughter, and her fiancé, Grand Duke George of Russia. They were received by the crown prince and his brothers, by M. Delyannis, president of the Council of Ministers, and by the members of the Hellenic Committee and the international committee. Flowers were presented to the queen and princess, and



CLIMBING THE SMOOTH ROPE

the cortège made its way into the hemicycle to the strains of the Greek national hymn and the cheers of the crowd. Within, the court ladies and functionaries, the diplomatic corps, and the deputies awaited the sovereigns, for whom two marble arm-chairs were in readiness. The crown prince, taking his stand in the arena, facing the king, then made a short speech, in which he touched upon the origin of the enterprise, and the obstacles surmounted in bringing it to fruition. Addressing the king, he asked him to proclaim the opening of the Olympic games, and the king, rising, declared them opened. It was a thrilling moment. Fifteen hundred and two years before, the Emperor Theodosius had suppressed the Olympic games, thinking, no doubt, that in abolishing this hated survival of paganism he was furthering the cause of progress; and here was a Christian monarch, amid the applause of an assemblage composed almost exclusively of Christians, announcing the formal annulment of the imperial decree; while a few feet away stood the archbishop of Athens, and Père Didon, the celebrated Dominican preacher, who, in his Easter sermon in the Catholic cathedral the day before, had paid an eloquent tribute to pagan Greece. When the king had resumed his seat, the Olympic ode, written for the occasion by the Greek composer Samara, was sung by a chorus of one hundred and fifty voices. Once before, music had been associated with the revival of the Olympic games. The first session of the Paris Congress had been held June 16, 1894, in the great amphitheater of the Sorbonne, decorated by Puvis de Chavannes; and after the address of the president of the Congress, Baron de Coubertin, the large audience had listened to that fragment of the music of antiquity, the hymn to Apollo, discovered in the ruins of Delphi. But this time the connection between art and athletics was more direct. The games began with the sounding of the last chords of the Olympic ode. That first day established the success of the games beyond a doubt. The ensuing days confirmed the fact in spite of the bad weather. The royal family was assiduous in its attendance. In the shooting-contest the queen fired the first shot with a flower-wreathed rifle. The fencing-matches were held in the marble rotunda of the Exposition Palace, given by the Messrs. Zappas, and known as the Zappeion. Then the crowd made its way back to the Stadion for the foot-races, weight-putting, discuss-throwing, high and long jumps, pole-vaulting, and gymnastic exhibitions. A Princeton student, Robert Garrett, scored highest in throwing the discus. His victory was unexpected. He had asked me the day before if I did not think that it would be ridiculous should he enter for an event for which he had trained so little! The stars and stripes seemed destined to carry off all the laurels. When they ran up the "victor's mast," the sailors of the *San Francisco*, who stood in a group at the top of the Stadion, waved their caps, and the members of the Boston



Athletic Association below broke out frantically, "B.A.A.! rah! rah! rah!" These cries greatly amused the Greeks. They applauded the triumph of the Americans, between whom and themselves there is a warm feeling of good-will.

The Greeks are novices in the matter of athletic sports, and had not looked for much success for their own country. One event only seemed likely to be theirs from its very nature—the long-distance run from Marathon, a prize for which had been newly founded by M. Michel Bréal, a member of the French Institute, in commemoration of that soldier of antiquity who ran all the way to Athens to tell his fellow-citizens of the happy issue of the battle. The distance from Marathon to Athens is 42 kilometers. The road is rough and stony. The Greeks had trained for this run for a year past. Even in the remote districts of Thessaly young peasants prepared to enter as contestants. In three cases it is said that the enthusiasm and the inexperience of these young fellows cost them their lives, so exaggerated were their preparatory efforts. As the great day approached, women offered up prayers and votive tapers in the churches, that the victor might be a Greek!

The wish was fulfilled. A young peasant named Louës, from the village of Marousi, was the winner in two hours and fifty-five minutes. He reached the goal fresh and in fine form. He was followed by two other Greeks. The excellent Australian sprinter Flack, and the Frenchman Lermusiaux, who had been in the lead the first 35 kilometers, had fallen out by the way. When Louës came into the Stadion, the crowd, which numbered sixty thousand persons, rose to its feet like one man, swayed by extraordinary excitement. The King of

MAKING READY

Servia, who was present, will probably not forget the sight he saw that day. A flight of white pigeons was let loose, women waved fans and handkerchiefs, and some of the spectators who were nearest to Louës left their seats, and tried to reach him and carry him in triumph. He would have been suffocated if the crown prince and Prince George had not bodily led him away. A lady who stood next to me unfastened her watch, a gold one set with pearls, and sent it to him; an innkeeper presented him with an order good for three hundred and sixty-five free meals; and a wealthy citizen had to be dissuaded from signing a check for ten thousand francs to his credit. Louës himself, however, when he was told of this generous offer, refused it. The sense of honor, which is very strong in the Greek peasant, thus saved the non-professional spirit from a very great danger.

Needless to say that the various contests were held under amateur regulations. An exception was made for the fencing-matches, since in several countries professors of military fencing hold the rank of officers. For them a special contest was arranged. To all other branches of the athletic sports only amateurs were admitted. It is impossible to conceive the Olympic games with money prizes. But these rules, which seem simple enough, are a good deal complicated in their practical application by the fact that definitions of what constitutes an amateur differ from one country to another, sometimes even from one club to another. Several definitions are current in England; the Italians and the Dutch admit one which appears too rigid at one point, too loose at another. How [to] conciliate these divergent or contradictory utterances?

The Paris Congress made an attempt in that direction, but its decisions are not accepted everywhere as law, nor is its definition of amateurship everywhere adopted as the best. The rules and regulations, properly so called, are not any more uniform. This and that are forbidden in one country, authorized in another. All that one can do, until there shall be an Olympic code formulated in accordance with the ideas and the usages of the majority of athletes, is to choose among the codes now existing. It was decided, therefore, that the foot-races should be under the rules of the Union Française des Sports Athlétiques; jumping, putting the shot, etc., under those of the Amateur Athletic Association of England; the bicycle-races under those of the International Cyclists' Association, etc. This had appeared to us the best way out of the difficulty; but we should have had many disputes if the judges (to whom had been given the Greek name of ephors) had not been headed by Prince George, who acted as final referee. His presence gave weight and authority to the decisions of the ephors, among whom there were, naturally, representatives of different countries. The prince took his duties seriously, and fulfilled them conscientiously. He was always on the track, personally supervising every detail, an easily recognizable figure, owing to his height and athletic build. It will be remembered that Prince George, while traveling in Japan with his cousin, the czarevitch (now Emperor Nicholas II), felled with his fist the ruffian who had tried to assassinate the latter.

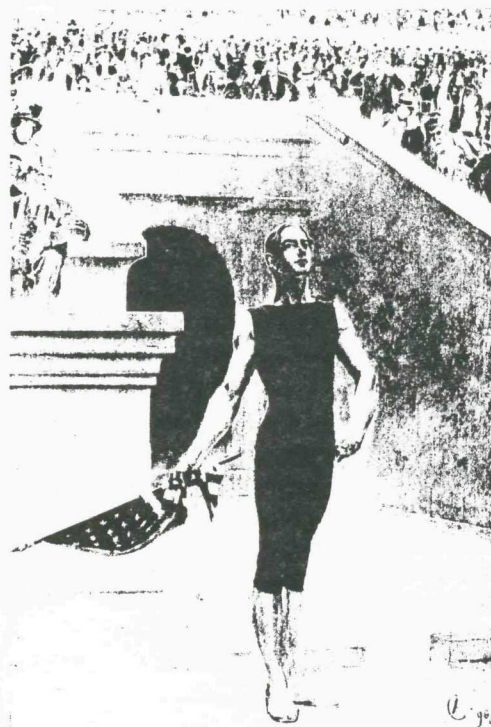
During the weight-lifting in the Stadion, Prince George lifted with ease an enormous dumb-bell, and tossed it out of the way. The audience broke into applause, as if it would have liked to make him the victor in the event.

Every night while the games were in progress the streets of Athens were illuminated. There were torch-light processions, bands played the different national hymns, and the students of the university got up ovations under the windows of the foreign athletic crews, and harangued them in the noble tongue of Demosthenes. Perhaps this tongue was somewhat abused. That Americans might not be compelled to understand French, nor Hungarians forced to speak German, the daily programs of the games, and even invitations to luncheon, were written in Greek. On receipt of these

cards, covered with mysterious formulae, where even the date was not clear (the Greek calendar is twelve days behind ours), every man carried them to his hotel porter for elucidation.

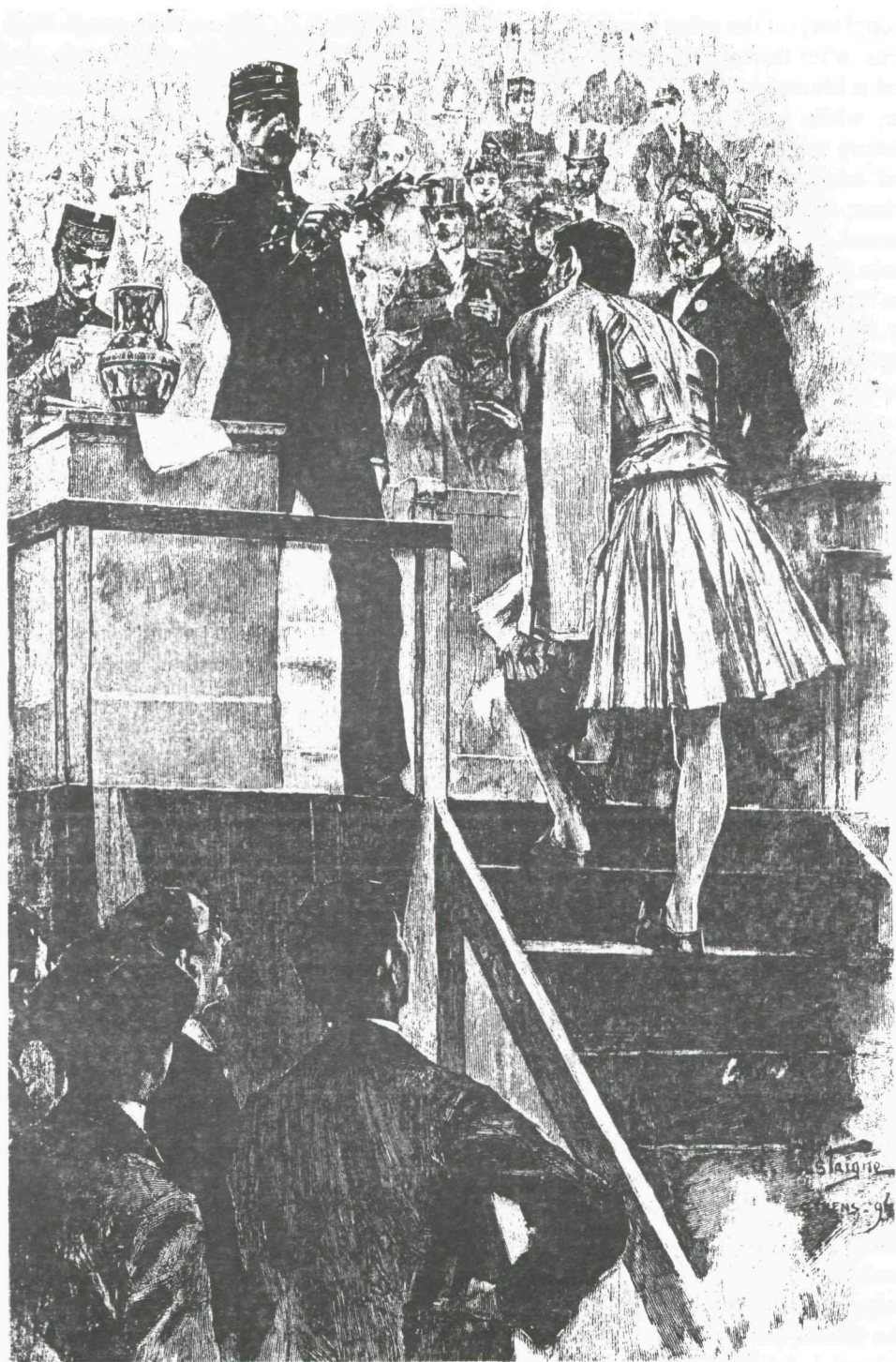
Many banquets were given. The mayor of Athens gave one at Cephissisa, a little shaded village at the foot of Pentelicus. M. Bikelas, the retiring president of the international committee, gave another at Phalerum. The king himself entertained all the competitors, and the members of the committees, three hundred guests in all, at luncheon in the ball-room of the palace. The outside of this edifice, which was built by King Otho, is heavy and graceless; but the center of the interior is occupied by a suite of large rooms with very high ceilings, opening one into another through colonnades. The decorations are simple and imposing.

The tables were set in the largest of these rooms. At the table of honor sat the king, the princes, and the ministers, and here also were the members of the committees. The competitors were seated at other tables according to their nationality. The king, at dessert, thanked and congratulated his guests, first in French, afterward in Greek. The Americans cried "Hurrah!", the Germans "Hoch!", the Hungarians "Eljen!", the Greeks "Zito!", the French "Vive le Roi!" After the repast the king and his sons chatted long and amicably with the athletes. It was a really charming scene, the republican simplicity of which was a matter of wonderment particularly to the Austrians and the Russians, little used as they are to the spectacle of monarchy thus meeting democracy on an equal footing.



ONE OF OUR BOYS

Then there were nocturnal festivities on the Acropolis, where the Parthenon was illuminated with colored lights, and at the Piraeus, where the vessels were hung with Japanese lanterns. Unluckily, the weather changed, and the sea was so high on the day appointed for the boat-races, which were to have taken place in the roadstead of Phalerum, that the project was abandoned. The distribution of prizes was likewise postponed for twenty-four hours. It came off with much solemnity, on the morning of April 15, in the Stadion. The sun shone again, and sparkled on the officers' uniforms. When the roll of the victors was called, it became evident, after all, that the international character of the institution was well guarded by the results of the contests. America had won nine prizes for athletic sports alone (flat races for 100 and 400 meters; 110-meter hurdle-race; high jump; broad jump; pole-vault; hop, step, and jump; putting the shot; throwing the discus), and two prizes for shooting (revolver, 25 and 30 meters); but France had the prizes for foil-fencing and for four bicycle-races; England scored highest in the one-handed weight-lifting contest, and in single lawn-tennis; Greece won the run from Marathon, two gymnastic contests (rings, climbing the smooth rope), three prizes for shooting (carbine, 200 and 300 meters; pistol, 25 meters), a prize for fencing with sabers, and a bicycle-race; Germany won in wrestling, in gymnastics (parallel bars, fixed bar, horse-leaping), and in double lawn-tennis; Australia, the 800-meter and 1500-meter foot-races on the flat; Hungary, swimming-matches of 100 and 1200 meters; Austria, the 500-meter swimming-



THE KING PRESENTING THE REWARDS

match and the 12-hour bicycle-race; Switzerland, a gymnastic prize; Denmark, the two-handed weight-lifting contest.

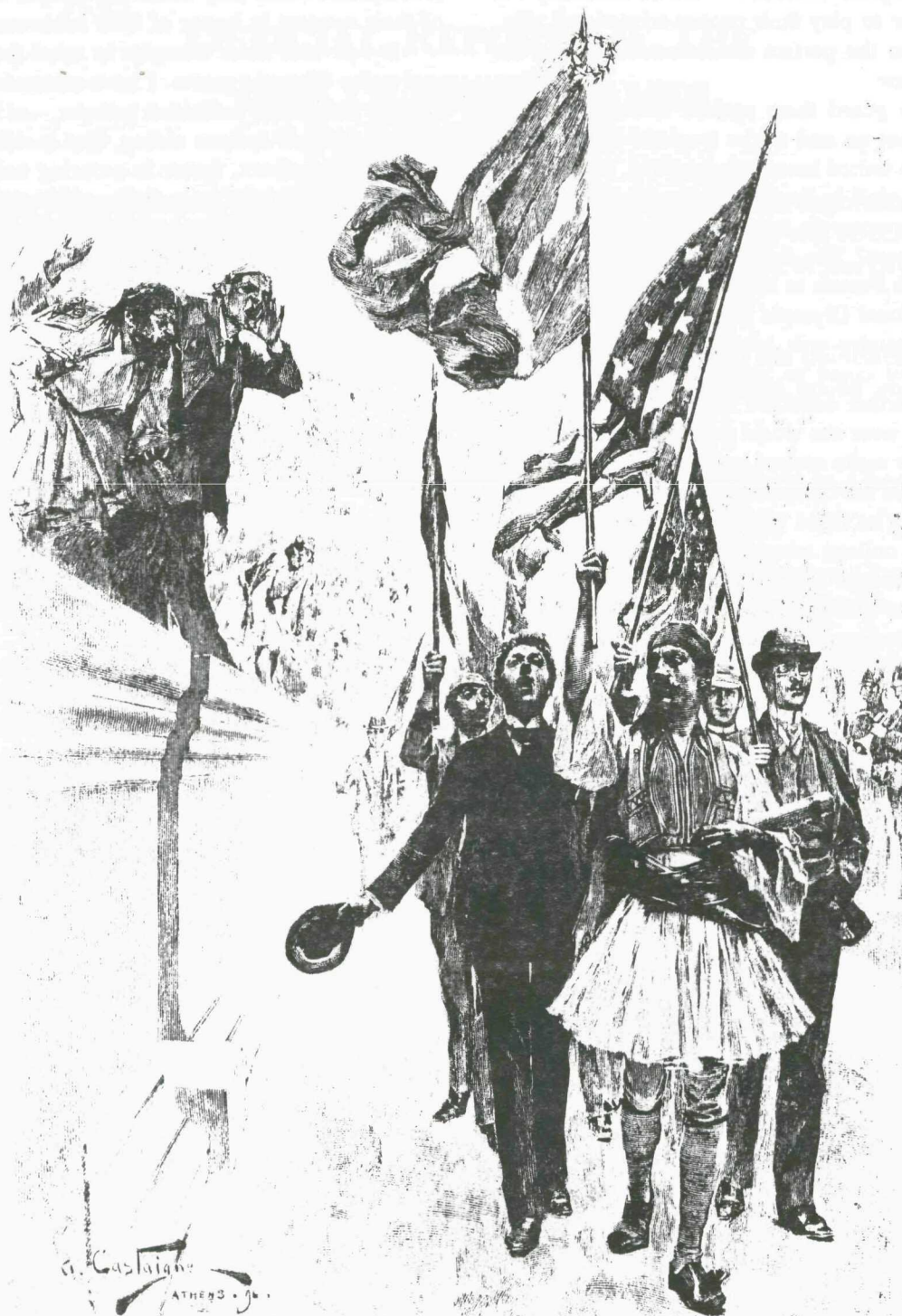
The prizes were an olive-branch from the very spot, at Olympia, where stood the ancient Altis, a diploma drawn by a Greek artist, and a silver medal chiseled by the celebrated French engraver Chaplain. On one side of the medal is the Acropolis, with the Parthenon and the

Propylaea; on the other a colossal head of the Olympian Zeus, after the type created by Phidias. The head of the god is blurred, as if by distance and the lapse of centuries, while in the foreground, in clear relief, is the Victory which Zeus holds in his hand. It is a striking and original conception. After the distribution of the prizes, the athletes formed for the traditional procession around the Stadion. Louës, the victor of Marathon, came first, bearing the Greek flag; then the Americans, the Hungarians, the French, the Germans. The ceremony, moreover, was made more memorable by a charming incident. One of the contestants, Mr. Robertson, an Oxford student, recited an ode which he had composed, in ancient Greek and in the Pindaric mode, in honor of the games. Music had opened them, and Poetry was present at their close; and thus was the bond once more renewed which in the past united the Muses with feats of physical strength, the mind with the well-trained body. The king announced that the first Olympiad was at an end, and left the Stadion, the band playing the Greek national hymn, and the crowd cheering. A few days later Athens was emptied of its guests. Torn wreaths littered the public squares; the banners which had floated merrily in the streets disappeared; the sun and the wind held sole possession of the marble sidewalks of Stadion street.

It is interesting to ask oneself what are likely to be the results of the Olympic games of 1896, as regards both Greece and the rest of the world. In the case of Greece, the games will be found to have had a double effect, one athletic, the other political. It is a well-known fact that the Greeks had lost completely, during their centuries of oppression, the taste for physical sports. There were good walkers among the mountaineers, and good swimmers in the scattered villages along the coast. It was a matter of pride with the young *palikar* to wrestle and to dance well, but that was because bravery and a gallant bearing were admired by those about him. Greek dances are far from athletic, and the wrestling matches of peasants have none of the characteristics of true sports. The men of the towns had come to know no diversion beyond reading the newspapers, and violently discussing politics about the tables of the cafes. The Greek race, however, is free from the natural indolence of the Oriental, and it was manifest that the athletic habit would, if the opportunity offered, easily take root again among its men. Indeed, several gymnastic associations had been formed in recent years at Athens and Patras, and a rowing-club at Piraeus, and the public was showing a growing interest in their feats. It was therefore a favorable moment to speak the words "Olympic games." No sooner had it been made clear that Athens was to aid in the revival of the Olympiads than a perfect fever of muscular activity broke out all over the kingdom. And this was nothing to what followed the games. I have seen, in little villages far from

the capital, small boys, scarcely out of long clothes, throwing big stones, or jumping improvised hurdles, and two urchins never met in the streets of Athens without running races. Nothing could exceed the enthusiasm with which the victors in the contests were received, on their return to their native towns, by their fellow citizens. They were met by the mayor and municipal authorities, and cheered by a crowd bearing branches of wild olive and laurel. In ancient times the victor entered the city through a breach made expressly in its walls. The Greek cities are no longer walled in, but one may say that athletics have made a breach in the heart of the nation. When one realizes the influence that the practice of physical exercises may have on the future of a country, and on the force of a whole race, one is tempted to wonder whether Greece is not likely to date a new era from the year 1896. It would be curious indeed if athletics were to become one of the factors in the Eastern question! Who can tell whether, by bringing a notable increase of vigor to the inhabitants of the country, it may not hasten the solution of this thorny problem? These are hypotheses, and circumstances make light of such calculations at long range. But a local and immediate consequence of the games may already be found in the internal politics of Greece. I have spoken of the active part taken by the crown prince and his brothers, Prince George and Prince Nicholas, in the labors of the organizing committee. It was the first time that the heir apparent had an opportunity of thus coming into contact with his future subjects. They knew him to be patriotic and high-minded, but they did not know his other admirable and solid qualities. Prince Constantine inherits his fine blue eyes and fair coloring from his Danish ancestors, and his frank, open manner, his self-poise, and his mental lucidity come from the same source; but Greece has given him enthusiasm and ardor, and this happy combination of prudence and high spirit makes him especially adapted to govern the Hellenes. The authority, mingled with perfect liberality, with which he managed the committee, his exactitude in detail, and more particularly his quiet perseverance when those about him were inclined to hesitate and to lose courage, make it clear that his reign will be one of fruitful labor, which can only strengthen and enrich his country. The Greek people have now a better idea of the worth of their future sovereign: they have seen him at work, and have gained respect for and confidence in him.

So much for Greece. On the world at large the Olympic games have, of course, exerted no influence as yet; but I am profoundly convinced that they will do so. May I be permitted to say that this was my reason for founding them? Modern athletics need to be unified and purified. Those who have followed the renaissance of physical sports in this century know that discord reigns supreme from one end of them to the other. Every country has its own rules; it is not possible even to



THE PARADE OF THE WINNERS

come to an agreement as to who is an amateur, and who is not. All over the world there is one perpetual dispute, which is further fed by innumerable weekly, and even daily, newspapers. In this deplorable state of things professionalism tends to grow apace. Men give up their

whole existence to one particular sport, grow rich by practising it, and thus deprive it of all nobility, and destroy the just equilibrium of man by making the muscles preponderate over the mind. It is my belief that no education, particularly in democratic times, can

be good and complete without the aid of athletics; but athletics, in order to play their proper educational rôle, must be based on the perfect disinterestedness and the sentiment of honor.

If we are to guard them against these threatening evils, we must put an end to the quarrels of amateurs, that they may be united among themselves, and willing to measure their skill in frequent international encounters. But what country is to impose its rules and its habits on the others? The Swedes will not yield to the Germans, nor the French to the English. Nothing better than the international Olympic games could therefore be devised. Each country will take its turn in organizing them. When they come to meet every four years in these contests, further ennobled by the memories of the past, athletes all over the world will learn to know one another better, to make mutual concessions, and to seek no other reward in the competition than the honor of the victory. One may be filled with desire to see the colors of one's club or college triumph in a national meeting, but how much stronger is the feeling when the colors of one's country are at stake! I am well assured that the victors in the Stadion at Athens wished for no other

recompense when they heard the people cheer the flag of their country in honor of their achievement.

It was with these thoughts in mind that I sought to revive the Olympic games. I have succeeded after many efforts. Should the institution prosper,—as I am persuaded, all civilized nations aiding, that it will,—it may be a potent, if indirect, factor in securing universal peace. Wars break out because nations misunderstand each other. We shall not have peace until the prejudices which now separate the different races shall have been outlived. To attain this end, what better means than to bring the youth of all countries periodically together for amicable trials of muscular strength and agility? The Olympic games, with the ancients, controlled athletics and promoted peace. It is not visionary to look to them for similar benefactions in the future. □

Pierre de Coubertin

[The preceding article, with pictures by A. Castaigne, is reprinted from *The Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine*, Vol. LIII, New Series, Vol. XXXI, November 1896 to April 1897, pp. 39-53.]



ON THE WAY TO THE STADION

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE 1896 OLYMPIC GAMES

The XXVth Olympic Games, which will take place in Atlanta in 1996, marks an important milestone in the history of the Olympic Games, for in April 1996, the modern Olympic Games will be celebrating their 100th anniversary. After the Games in Athens in 1896, the first Official Report of the Olympic Games appeared.

In honor of this occasion, the AGON Sportverlag (Sports Publishing House) has published a reprint of the "Official Report" of 1896. The reprint comprises two lavishly illustrated bound volumes in the original size and in representative covers:

Volume I: Reprint of the "Official Report" of the First Olympic Games in Athens in 1896 (German/English version).

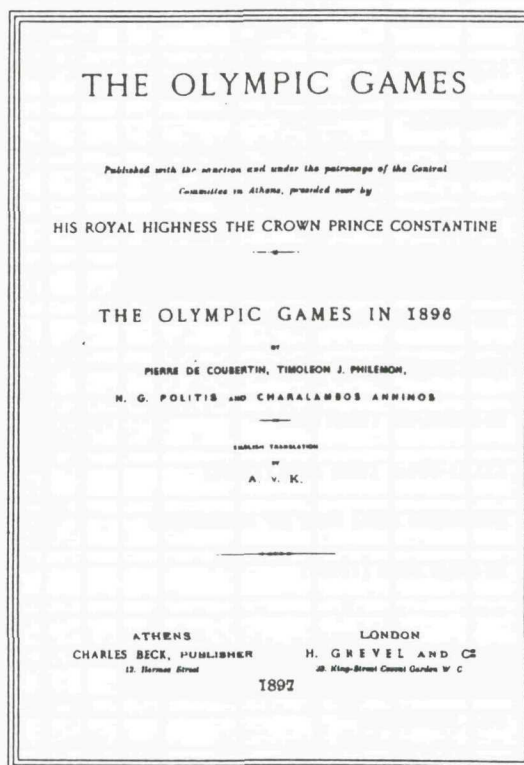
Volume 2: Commentary volume with contributions from many well-known Olympic historians, reporting on the current state of research on the First Olympic Games.

The contents of the commentary volume, developed by well-known sports historians such as Dr. Karl Lennartz, Erich Kamper, Ian Buchanan, Bill Mallon, and Athanassios Tarassouleas, include:

- The Olympic Games before 1896 in Greece, France, and Great Britain
- A portrait of Baron Pierre de Coubertin and his role in the 1896 Olympic Games
- Organization questions of the 1896 Olympics, countries participating, athletes, etc.
- Individual events and results, biographies of individual Olympic winners

This reprint of the First "Official Report" of 1896 is in German and English, and comes with the commentary volume, together totaling 400 pages. Sports Philatelists International has arranged with the publishers to offer SPI members a special rate of DM 120 / US \$95 until April 30, 1996 (thereafter, the price is DM 198 / US \$150). Mailing charges are DM 12 / US \$9 to European countries. For non-European countries, please request the price.

To order your copy at this special rate, you must state that you are a member of SPI. Please send orders to: AGON GmbH, Frankfurter Str. 92 A, D-34121 Kassel, Germany. Faxed orders may be sent directly to: 0049-561/9 27 98 40. Payment accepted in cash (DM or US\$), Eurocheque, or by credit card (Visa, Euro, American Express). Remember to include your full credit card number and expiration date. Mailing charges will automatically be added to credit card orders.



1896 Olympic Games Schedule of Events

H = Elimination Heats • = Regular Competition/Finals

Greek Calendar Western Calendar	25.3 6.4	26.3 7.4	27.3 8.4	28.3 9.4	29.3 10.4	30.3 11.4	31.3 12.4	1.4 13.4	2.4 14.4	3.4 15.4
OPENING CEREMONY	•									
ATHLETICS (TRACK & FIELD)										
100 meters ¹	H				•					
Triple Jump	•									
800 meters	H			•						
Discus Throw	•									
400 meters	H	•								
110-meter Hurdles		H			•					
Long Jump		•								
Shot Put		•								
1,500 meters		•								
High Jump					•					
Pole Vault					•					
Marathon (40 kilometers)					•					
CYCLING										
100-kilometer Track Race			•							
2,000-meter Sprint (Track)						•				
10-kilometer Track Race						•				
333.33-meter Time Trial (Track)						•				
Individual Road Race (87 kilometers)							•			
12-Hour Race (Track)								•		
FENCING										
Foil, Individual		•								
Masters Foil		•								
Sabre, Individual				•						
GYMNASTICS										
Parallel Bars, Team				•						
Horizontal Bar, Team				•						

Greek Calendar Western Calendar	25.3 6.4	26.3 7.4	27.3 8.4	28.3 9.4	29.3 10.4	30.3 11.4	31.3 12.4	1.4 13.4	2.4 14.4	3.4 15.4
Vault, Individual				•						
Pommel Horse, Individual				•						
Rings, Individual				•						
Horizontal Bar, Individual				•						
Parallel Bars, Individual					•					
Rope Climbing					•					
SHOOTING										
Free Rifle (200 meters)			•	•						
Military Revolver (25 meters)					•					
Free Pistol (30 meters)						•				
Rapid-Fire Pistol (25 meters) ²						•				
Free Rifle, 3 Positions (300 meters) ³						•	•			
SWIMMING										
100-meter Freestyle						•				
100-meter Freestyle (Sailors)						•				
500-meter Freestyle						•				
1,200-meter Freestyle						•				
TENNIS										
Singles			•	•		•				
Doubles			•	•		•				
WEIGHTLIFTING										
Heavyweight, Two-Hand Lift		•								
Heavyweight, One-Hand Lift		•								
WRESTLING										
Heavyweight (Greco-Roman)					•	•				
AWARDS & CLOSING CEREMONIES									(4)	•

Primary Source: Official Report of the Olympic Games of 1896.

¹ Events within each sport organized chronologically. All events for men only. Event nomenclature as per David Wallechinsky's "Complete Book of the Olympics," 1984.

² Wallechinsky incorrectly lists the competition as having been contested on 10.4.96.

³ Wallechinsky records this event as completed on 11.4. Official Report notes that event was begun on 11.4 and concluded on 11.5.

⁴ Awards & Closing Ceremonies postponed from 14.4 to 15.4 because of bad weather.



Figure 1. The first modern Olympic Games were awarded to Athens at the International Athletic Congress held at the Sorbonne in Paris in June 1894.

Ancient and Modern Culture Meet At the 1896 Olympics

by Mark Maestroni

The crowd in Athens' Great Theater is hushed. On stage, Oedipus' daughter, Antigone, is condemned to death (she is eventually walled up in a cave by her uncle, King Creon. Her crime: she buried her dead brother, Polynices, following his attack on his own city during the war of Seven Against Thebes.

On this seventh day of the inaugural international Olympic Games (April 11, 1896 by the western or Gregorian calendar which is used hereafter), Sophocles' 5th century B.C. tragedy, *Antigone*, is performed in the original Greek. The traditional thirteen-member chorus, however, sings rather than speaks its part thanks to music by the modern Greek composer, Sakelaridis. The melding of ancient and modern, a theme repeated throughout these Games, is deemed such a success that the play is performed once more in Athens and again in the seaside port of Piraeus during the period of the Games of the First Modern Olympiad.

Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games, was no doubt pleased that the Greek organizing committee included a modest program of non-athletic events. He always believed that both pursuits complimented each other. This article discusses the cultural and artistic elements of the 1896 Olympic Games, dividing them into three broad categories.

First, the most lasting artistic contributions are the venues. At these Games, they included not only the ancient (the renovated Panathenaic Stadium), but also the modern (Zappeion Hall).

Second, we have the ceremonies. As an inaugural event, the Athens Olympics helped to define the various traditions that have since become integral parts of our modern extravaganzas.

Lastly, the ten days of the 1896 Olympics provided a variety of evening festivities planned for the enjoyment of the Olympic athletes, visitors and citizens.

Setting The Olympic Stage

For an Olympic host city, the sporting venues are typically the most important elements planned by the organizing committee. They not only reflect the culture of the host city/country, but also, because of their great expense, become lasting legacies of the Games. At Athens, they were very nearly the undoing of the Games themselves.

In order to more clearly understand the struggles in getting the first modern Olympic Games off the ground, let us briefly examine some of the events during Athens' two-year planning period.

We begin at the International Athletic Congress held in Paris from June 16 to 24, 1894 (*Figure 1*). Out of this meeting of 79 sporting delegates from twelve countries was born the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Demetrios Vikelas (*Figure 2*), the delegate from Greece, headed the commission on Olympism during the congress. He became the first president of the new organization.

Initially, the commission wanted to introduce the renovated Games in 1900. There was great concern, especially on Coubertin's part, that in the intervening six years the impetus propelling the Olympic movement might be lost. Could the Games, perhaps, be held in 1896?

Swedish IOC member, Captain Viktor Balck, had already offered Stockholm as a site for the first Games. But then (and it is not clear whether Coubertin or Vikelas first came up with the idea), Athens was proposed — and unanimously accepted. The first modern Olympic Games would be held in 1896 in the country of their birth.

Now, as can be imagined, the problems began. In 1894, Greece was far from a prosperous nation. Its economy in dire straits, the government bordered on bankruptcy. There were also numerous political problems both domestically and in foreign affairs.

The constitutional monarchy in Greece headed by King George I (*Figure 3*) was greatly supportive of the Olympic idea. In fact, as we shall see, the entire royal family were important players in the unfolding drama. Like a classic Greek tragedy, the Olympic story also had an antagonist: the Greek prime minister, Charilaos Tricoupis (*Figure 4*). His opposition to the selection of Athens as the host city was primarily due to the desperate economic conditions in the country.

On October 5, 1894, IOC President Vikelas wrote to Coubertin, relaying Tricoupis' position. The Baron immediately set out for Athens, arriving in early November 1894.

The thrust and parry between the major players — Coubertin, Vikelas, King George, Tricoupis, and Crown Prince Constantine of Greece — makes fascinating reading. The Olympic ball once again began to roll.



The Major Greek Players



Figure 2-5. Demetrios Vikelas (upper left), the first President of the IOC (1894-1896) was an early proponent for revival of the Games. He had the support of King George I of Greece (upper right), but not that of the prime minister, Charilaos Tricoupis (lower left). King George's son, Crown Prince Constantine (lower right), helped smooth the way, eventually serving as president of the Olympic organizing committee.

The solution to the financial dilemma, though fairly straightforward, was far from simple: the Games would be privately funded without a drachma coming from the Greek treasury.

With a promise of "benevolent neutrality" from Tricoupis, Coubertin wasted no time in setting up the Greek organizing committee under the presidency of Constantine (*Figure 5*). Their first meeting, which is considered the founding of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, took place at the Zappeion Hall on November 12, 1894 (*Figure 6*).

The Olympic Venues

The most important order of business was to secure the financing for the Games, especially for the venues. As Olympic philatelists know, a set of commemorative postage stamps was authorized by the Greek Parliament, with proceeds going toward financing of the Games. Crown Prince Constantine lent his good offices to the fund raising effort by appealing, with successful results, to Greek citizens at home and abroad for donations.

Figure 6. The Hellenic Olympic Committee was founded November 12, 1894 during the first meeting of the Athens organizing committee at the Zappeion Hall. The stamp showing D. Vikelas bears a cancel for the centenary of the founding of the HOC.



Timoleon Philemon, the secretary general of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, helped seal the future success of the Games, by locating a most generous benefactor among the Greek expatriate community in Alexandria, Egypt.

George Averoff (Figure 7), a wealthy Greek businessman, agreed to foot the entire bill for the renovation of the great stadium of Herodes Atticus which would become the centerpiece of the 1896 Olympics. Eventually, the bill for the reconstruction came to nearly 1 million drachma (at that time equal to about \$111,000 U.S.,² a handsome sum in the last decade of the 19th century).

The stadium, located by the river Ilissus and flanked by the nearby Lykatbettus and Pentilicus hills, had a long and prestigious history. Built by Lycurgus around

330 B.C., it was little more than a level area for competition with sloped sides for spectator seating. Eventually, stone blocks marking the start and finish lines, and a rainwater drainage system were added. But what the stadium lacked in appearances was more than made up for by the importance of the competitions it hosted. For nearly 500 years, the Panathenaic games were held in its confines.

Around 143 B.C., another benefactor, Tiberius Claudius Herodes Atticus (ca. A.D. 101-177), an extremely wealthy Roman born near Athens, constructed a magnificent stadium on the spot of the old athletic grounds.

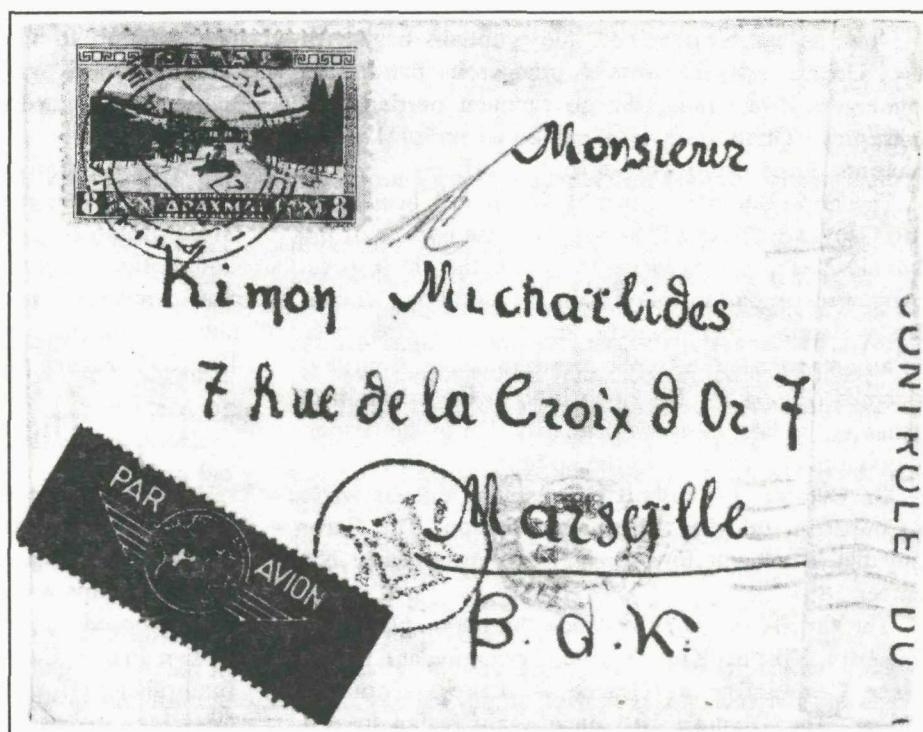
Faced entirely in Pentelic marble, the structure seated between 45,000 and 70,000 spectators (Figure 8). At approximately 40 meters, the stadium was relatively narrow in order to conform to the topography. The overall length of the structure was roughly 200 meters, ending in a semicircle called the sphendone. The athletes used changing rooms and baths beneath the stands, accessed by long tunnels. This was the peak of the Roman Empire, and the decorative details around the stadium were outstanding examples of the classic Roman arts.

Over the centuries, numerous foreign armies invaded and pillaged Greece. The Panathenaic Stadium was not spared, its magnificence reduced to a pile of rubble.

Between 1869 and 1878, King George I financed the clearing of the stadium which had become overgrown with weeds. Modest excavations were carried out under his aegis, unearthing pieces of sculpture including two



Figures 7 & 8. George Averoff (above), a wealthy Greek merchant, funded the entire cost of restoring the Olympic (Panathenaic) Stadium, shown at right. Censored airmail cover to Mar- seilles, 27.10.39. Franked with an additional 7 drachma on reverse.



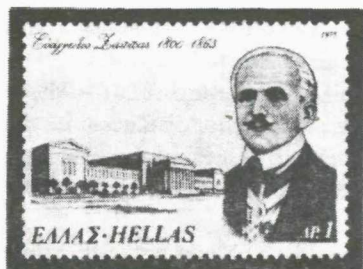


Figure 9. The Zappeion Hall, site of the 1896 Olympic fencing competition, and its founder, E. Zappas.

impressive sculptures of the god, Hermes. During the restoration, these were erected as turn markers on the track at the sphendone end of the stadium.

George Stuart Robertson, a member of the 1896 British Olympic team, recalls an amusing story about these sculptures. During the Games, a wreath of leaves discreetly covering the most prominent features of the *Hermae* "had the unfortunate habit of slipping and forming a frame for what they were supposed to conceal."³

Reconstruction of the stadium for the Games began almost as soon as Averoff's generous offer arrived. This was February 1895. For the next thirteen months, crews worked around the clock. The floor of the stadium was first widened to accommodate the necessary turns of modern day races. This meant pushing back the stands behind a retaining wall. The seating areas, as called for by the architect Anastas Metaxes, were to be entirely reconstructed with marble facing just as originally built by Herodes Atticus. Alas, by March of 1896, only half the stands at the closed end of the stadium had been completed; barely four rows were finished on the two straight sides.⁴ Temporary wooden benches were erected to complete the stadium for the Games. The permanent marble seating was completed following the conclusion of the Games.

None of this inconvenience seemed to bother the crowds who enjoyed not only the track and field events, but witnessed the wrestling, gymnastics, and weightlifting competitions conducted on the infield.

The second of the two major venues for the 1896 Olympics was the Zappeion Hall set in a park nearby the stadium (Figure 9). Originally constructed in the 1850s, the Zappeion was a large neo-classic structure that served as an exhibition hall.

Named for the famous, and wealthy, Athenian family, Zappas, the hall became an early focus of the previously mentioned tug-of-war between the pro- and anti-Olympic factions. The board of directors of the Zappas estate, prominent Athenians in their own right, were approached early in the planning process by Coubertin. He expected them to take up the Olympic banner with great exuberance. Instead, they were cold to the idea, no doubt influenced by the prime minister's negative opinion of the Olympic idea.⁵ It eventually took considerable effort on both Coubertin's and Prince Constantine's parts to sway the Zappeion directors to

join the effort, albeit grudgingly.

The Zappeion facility had been maintained in good condition since its construction, thanks to money supplied by the Zappas estate. However, some adjustments were necessary to prepare it for the Olympic fencing competitions. A raised dais was added for the fencing *piste* in the central rotunda of the hall. Stands for the spectators were erected in a circle around the competition floor.

The fencing contests began on day two of the Games (April 7). In attendance were members of the royal family, who arrived with much fanfare at 10:00 a.m.⁶ Two foil events were held that day, with a sabre event held on day four (April 9).

Because of Averoff's generous funding of the stadium renovations, the organizing committee was free to use funds earmarked for that purpose for other Olympic venue construction. The largest of these new facilities was an oval cycling track, or velodrome, built at New Phaleron (between Athens and Piraeus). The track, which was quite steeply banked, was 333-1/3 meters in circumference.

While the venues for athletics and fencing posed primarily financial problems for the organizing committee, the design for the velodrome was completely beyond their capability. Coubertin, upon his return to Paris in late 1894, delved into the task of finding suitable plans. Eventually, he was able to forward copies of the drawings used to construct the velodrome of Arcachon. Unbeknownst to him, Prince Constantine had secured plans for a velodrome he once saw in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The cycling events (four track races and one road race) began on day three (April 8). The King, accompanied by King Alexander of Serbia (Figure 10) and other members of the Greek royal family, were on hand for the official opening. Following a two-day hiatus, the competition resumed on day six (April 11), running through day eight (April 13).

A rifle range was built at Kallithea, near Athens, for the five shooting events on the Olympic schedule. This facility saw the most unusual dedication ceremony of any of the Olympic venues (Figure 11).



Figures 10 & 11. King Alexander of Serbia (above), and Queen Olga of Greece (right) participated in the Olympic festivities.

Figure 12. The 1896 Olympic swimming events were held in the cold waters of the Bay of Zea at Piraeus.



The official report gives the following account of the inauguration on day three (April 8):

*"At 10½ [10:30 a.m.] Her Majesty the Queen [Olga] arrives with Princess Maria, and her fiancé the Grand Duke George. In the Hall the inaugural religious rites are performed and after this the Queen pulls the trigger of a rifle placed in a small opening. The inauguration has been completed and the Royal Family departs."*⁷

This brief report emphasizes the importance of the royal family's patronage to the success of the first Olympics.

The two final venues needed to complete the Olympic construction program were for tennis and the swimming events.

The Temple of Zeus Olympus (Olympieion) in Athens was perhaps the most dramatic setting for any Olympic sport. In the shadow of its fifteen remaining Corinthian columns, a large tent was erected to protect the tennis players and spectators.⁸

The temple had originally been built on the site of an earlier Doric temple from the 6th century B.C. Antiochus Epiphanes of Syria had made a gift of the temple to Athens. Designed by the Roman architect, Cossutius, building began in about 174 B.C. Following a number of interruptions, it was finally completed and dedicated by Hadrian in A.D. 132.⁹

The Olympic tennis competition was conducted over a three-day period beginning on day three of the Games. Both singles and doubles tennis were contested, with a variety of amateur players.

Until now, I have refrained from mentioning specific athletes. However the tennis competitions saw a couple of odd occurrences that would be unheard of today. One player, John Boland, was actually an Irish tourist there to watch the Games. Instead, he was "conscripted" into the tennis competition, winning both the singles and doubles events. In the latter event, he partnered with a player from another country, Fritz Traun, a German.

The swimming events, four in all, were conducted in the Bay of Zea at Piraeus (Figure 12), much to the chagrin of the cold competitors. This was the first and

only time that an Olympic swimming competition was held in the open water of an ocean or sea.

No permanent facilities were required for these contests. Barges, moored at specific distances in the bay, accommodated the starters, judges, and swimmers. At the sound of the gun, the athletes dived in the water and swam for shore.

Once more, I mention a specific athlete — this time with a cultural Olympic connection. Alfred Hajos of Hungary was victorious in both the 100-meter and 1,200-meter swimming events (see also Figure 18). In his professional life as an architect of some significance, he won a silver medal at the 1924 Paris Olympics for his designs of a stadium and natatorium.¹⁰

Now that the venues for the first Modern Olympics are complete, let us take a look at the ceremonies.

The Olympic Ceremonies

During the planning stage for the 1896 Olympics, the organizing committee was confronted with numerous hurdles, as we have seen. Financing, rules governing the competition, and preparation of teams from overseas were all elements for which the committee had to often bend to existing circumstances. There was, however, one distinct advantage to being the first Olympic Games of the modern era: there was no precedent for the format of the ceremonies. In effect, they established some of the traditions we have come to expect at today's Games.

Coubertin, in delineating plans for the renovation of the Olympics, paid careful attention to developing an overall "feel" to the Games. He understood that a certain amount of pomp and ceremony were requisite elements — grand theater, if you will. The opening and closing ceremonies fulfilled this need.

On Easter Sunday, April 5 (the day before the Olympic Opening Ceremony) the organizing committee held a special program at the Olympic Stadium in honor of George Averoff. While Averoff had been invited to the ceremony by a personal emissary sent from the organizing committee in Athens, he demurred. The gratitude of the committee and Athenians in general was no less effusive.

With a cold early spring rain falling, a large crowd gathered for the unveiling of a statue of Averoff. Sculpted from Pentelic marble by G. Vrontos, it was erected to the right of the main entrance into the stadium.

At about 11:00 a.m., Crown Prince Constantine, president of the organizing committee, arrived along with his brothers, Princes George and Nicholas. Surrounded by Olympic and government officials and athletes, Mr. Timoleon Philemon (General Secretary) recited a poetic tribute praising Averoff. This was followed by a special musical composition written for the occasion.

Finally, the Crown Prince, with the other Princes, arrayed themselves in front of the statue in preparation for the unveiling. The Crown Prince's words bear repeating, for they truly seem to represent the importance of, and high regard for, Averoff's contribution to the reestablishment of the Olympic Games:

"It is due to the well known act of generosity of the great patriot George Averoff that the renovation of the Panathenian stadium is due, a work which gives a national character to the revived Olympic Games.

George Averoff is worthy of national gratitude for all that he has done for his country, and being sure that I am complying with the national wish I decided that this statue should be established by moneys coming from a collection from all Greeks.

I wish that the great patriot may live long, to the good of his country and I consider myself happy that as an act of honour I unveil the statue."¹¹

The following day, April 6, 1896, was also, not coincidentally, the Greek national day by the Julian calendar (March 25). The official opening ceremony was not to begin until 3:30 p.m., yet Athens was buzzing with activity from early that morning.

By noon, the masses were moving up to the stadium. Those with tickets (the capacity of the stadium is estimated to have been about 70,000) were seated. Special areas of the sphendone were reserved for the royal family, parliament, diplomatic corps, and the press.

At 3:15 p.m., the royal family entered the stadium and made its way down the center of the arena to their marble "thrones" in the sphendone. Led by King George I and Queen Olga, the retinue included Princess Mary and her fiancé, Grand Duke George Mihailovich of Russia, Princess Sophia, and of course the Crown Prince Constantine and his brothers, Princes George and Nicholas.

The opening ceremony of the first modern Games established two rituals that have carried through to today. As president of the organizing committee, Crown Prince Constantine opened with a short speech ending with a request that the King open the Games:

"With these hopes, I pray, Oh King, that you graciously agree to declare the opening of the first International Olympic Games."

This practice has since been transformed, with the president of the organizing committee introducing the president of the IOC, who in turn invites the head of state to open the Games. On the other hand, the text of the King's opening statement is remarkably similar to that used today (of course, without the second and third sentences):

"I declare the opening of the first International Olympic Games in Athens. Long live the Nation! Long live the Greek People!"

Following the official opening of the Games, the bands and choirs assembled on the stadium's infield to inaugurate a very special tradition: the singing of the Olympic Hymn created especially for the Games. Spyridon Samaras, who composed the music, conducted the orchestras. The words, by noted Greek poet Costis Palamas (Figure 13), charmed the audience as much then as they do today:

*"Ancient immortal spirit, unsullied father of that which is beautiful, great and true,
Descend, make thyself known and shine hero
on this earth and below these skies
witness of Thy Glory.*

*Illuminate the endeavor of the noble contests
in the running race, the wrestling and the throwing.
Place a wreath of evergreen branch,
creating the body as of iron and worthy.*

*Vales mountains and oceans shine with Thee
Like unto a great temple of white and porphyry.
To which all peoples hasten to this temple
to worship Thee, Oh ancient immortal Spirit."*¹²

Thus ended the first modern Olympic Opening Ceremony. Unlike today where the ceremonies are so complex that they last for some four hours, in 1896 the athletic contest actually began immediately. Five events were contested on that first day.



Figures 13 & 14. Two important compositions were created for, and performed at, the 1896 Games. The Olympic Hymn, composed by Spyridon Samaras, with lyrics by Costis Palamas (left) continues to be used at each Olympic Opening Ceremony. An original ode in the style of Pindar (right) was written and performed by George Robertson at the Closing Ceremony.



Figures 15 & 16. As at the ancient Olympics, branches cut from the sacred wild olive tree at Ancient Olympia (left) were presented to the winners of each 1896 event. A laurel branch (right) was awarded to those athletes who placed second.

During the course of the Games, victors were decided in 43 events. Rather than bestowing the awards at the conclusion of each event as we do today, the organizing committee decided to reserve this honor for the closing ceremony.

The winners were acknowledged at the end of their respective competitions by the raising of their nation's flag over the stadium. Uniformed Greek sailors stationed

at a flagpole near the entrance to the stadium were commissioned with this task.

Occasionally, this led to some confusion and embarrassment. The previously mentioned tennis victor, John Boland, complained rather vociferously that a British flag was raised instead of an Irish one, for his victories. The committee "apologized and agreed to have an Irish flag prepared."¹³

In another instance, the flag bearer, in his haste, raised the wrong flag. At the conclusion of the shot put competition on day two (April 7), the Greek flag was raised prematurely for the crowd's favorite, Gouskos. This turned out to be wishful thinking, for the actual victor was the American, Robert Garrett. Much to the dismay of the sailor, and the disappointment of the audience, the Greek flag was quickly replaced with the Stars and Stripes.¹⁴

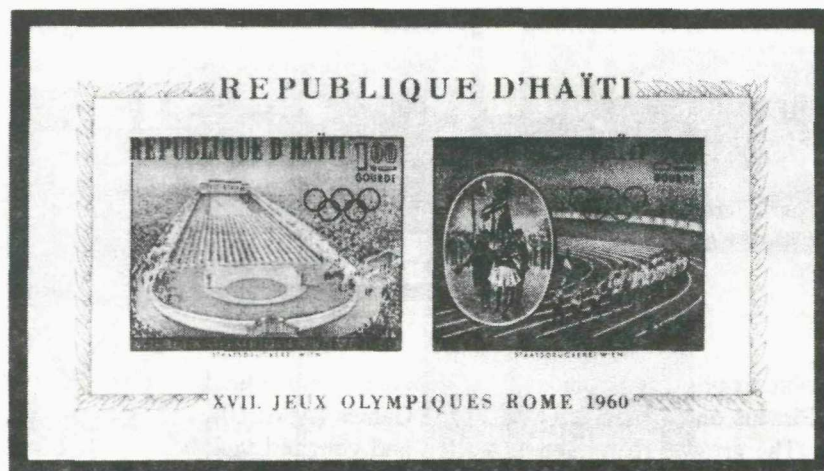
The schedule of competitions concluded on day eight (April 13) of the Games (see schedule on pages 14 and 15 of this issue) with the final cycling event. That same day, the yachting and rowing contests at Phaleron Bay were cancelled because of bad weather. The rain and winds only worsened the following day, forcing the cancellation of the awards and closing ceremonies.



Figure 17. The 1896 Olympic medal (in silver and bronze) was designed by French artist Jules Chaplain and reproduced classic Greek motifs. Alfred Hajos, winner of two 1896 Olympic swimming medals is shown on the preprinted postal stationery card indicium.



Figures 18 & 19. The awards and closing ceremonies ended with a flight of pigeons released over the stadium (above), and the parade of victorious athletes around the track (right).



At last, on day 10 (April 15), the Games concluded. The royal family entered the packed stadium at about 10:30. The first order of business was to be the presentation of the awards to the first and second place winners. However, an event unplanned by the organizing committee, but approved by King George I, delayed the proceedings.

George S. Robertson, the British athlete who had placed sixth in the discus, had written an ode in Aeolic Greek entitled "Athens." Patterned after the classic Pindaric odes commissioned by ancient Olympic victors, Robertson's ode praised the city's embrace of the modern day athletes who had come from near and far to peacefully compete in the Games (Figure 14).

Robertson had applied to the organizing committee for permission to read his ode in its original Greek. His request was turned down along with numerous others from Greek poets. The King, hearing of the committee's decision, privately agreed to allow Robertson to deliver his composition.

With the stadium silent, anticipating the awards ceremony to begin, the King, instead, signalled Robertson to step forward and recite his paean to the Games (see page 2 for the complete text). According to Robertson, "He [the King] was so pleased with his victory over the committee that he gave me both the olive branch and the laurel branch and a present as well."¹⁵

We now come to the awards ceremony. Coubertin had paid great attention to the type of awards to be given the victors. First place winners received an olive branch from the sacred olive tree on the Altis at Ancient Olympia (Figure 15) along with a silver medal (gold being deemed too vulgar) and a diploma. A branch from a laurel tree (Figure 16), a bronze medal, and a diploma went to the athletes who placed second. No third place awards were presented at these first Games.

The medals, commissioned by Coubertin, were designed by noted French sculptor, Jules Chaplain. One side reproduced the Parthenon and Propylaea on the

Acropolis. The other side showed Phidias' colossal head of the Olympian Zeus (Figure 17).

The athletes were grouped at the sphendone end of the stadium. One by one, the winners advanced, climbed the few steps to the royal dais, bowed, and received their award from the King. Second place winners followed. When Spiridon Louis, winner of the Marathon stepped forward, the audience erupted with increased applause. At the same time, pairs of pigeons with small blue and white ribbons (the colors of the Greek flag) tied to their feet, were released — a tradition not dissimilar to the current practice of releasing doves during the opening ceremony (Figure 18)!

Following the presentation of awards and special gifts, the assembly of athletes paraded around the stadium track to the accompaniment of music from the bands (Figure 19).

King George I concluded the joyous ceremony with a closing proclamation, since then repeated at the end of every succeeding Games:

"I declare the First International Olympic Games terminated."

Olympic Cultural Events

Not all activity during the Games at Athens was centered around the athletic contests. The organizing committee had seen to it that various evening events were provided for the enjoyment of all.

In addition to the performances of *Antigone* mentioned at the opening of this article, there were a number of outdoor festivities, weather permitting.

Originally, the program devised by the organizing committee had included a competition in music. Apparently much to their relief, no foreign orchestras or bands arrived, and so the competition was cancelled.¹⁶

Greece was blessed with so many musical groups of various sizes, that there was never a lack of music. A



Figures 20 & 21. The Athens-Piraeus steam locomotive (far left) carried revelers to Piraeus for the Venetian Festival on April 10. One of the cultural performances that evening was a selection of songs from the opera "Lohengrin" by Wagner.

notable example took place at the Venetian Festival held in Piraeus on the fifth evening of the Games (April 10).

The crowds from Athens puffed and chugged their way down to Piraeus aboard the small steam locomotive train that ran regularly between the two cities (Figure 20). Even the royal family and their guests made the trip down to the seaside town.

Piraeus was decked out in bunting, with colorful Japanese lanterns swinging in the light ocean air. Music was everywhere, and included a philharmonic performance of music from Wagner's "Lohengrin" (Figure 21).

The festivities ended around midnight with a spectacular fireworks display.

On many nights during the Games, the Parthenon was illuminated with lights and torches (Figure 22).

What celebration would be complete without parades! Athens held many during the Games with the largest taking place on the evening of day seven (April 12). Beginning on Athens Avenue around 9:00 p.m., a massive group of some 10,000 citizens preceded by various elements of the military, marched through the city carrying beacons and pinewood torches. The assembly wound its way through the city, passing by the palace where the royal family greeted them. The parade reached its terminus at the University (Figure 23), having been joined by crowds of enthusiastic students.

These Games of the First Modern Olympiad, a Games that successfully combined the ancient Olympics of the past with modern sport, were nearing their conclusion. Then again, this was only the beginning of a grand tradition! □

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Figures 22 & 23. Most evenings, the Parthenon (right) was illuminated, much to the delight of the Olympic visitors. One of the final evening activities during the Games was a vast parade through the streets of Athens. The terminus of the parade was in front of the University (far right).



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The United States Olympic Team at the Games of the First Olympiad

by Mark Maestroni

America's first Olympic team was a modest one as compared with today's. Thirteen young men traveled to Athens to compete in the first modern Olympic Games.

Over the intervening century, much of the history behind the formation of the team and their trip to, and participation in, the 1896 Games has been forgotten or the facts distorted. This article is an attempt to gather into one place, and hopefully clarify, some of the team's history using both primary and *reliable* secondary sources.

Team Selection

Upon his return from the first meeting of the International Olympic Committee at Paris in June 1894, Princeton University Professor William Milligan Sloane set to work promoting the Athens Olympics.

The United States was far ahead of most other countries in organized athletics. Sports were fast becoming a mania at U.S. universities, especially in the Ivy League. Students and alumni were joining athletic clubs that were springing up across the U.S.

Sloane had a number of contacts throughout academia, an advantage that Coubertin was counting on to promote the Olympic ideal in America. Not surprisingly, though, there seemed little interest in funding a team to compete in what many considered a boondoggle.

In November of 1894, the official schedule of competitions was released by the Olympic organizing committee in Athens (*Figure 1*). By that time, Sloane had made little progress outside of Princeton. At home, however, he was eventually able to arouse interest.

On March 16, 1896, it was announced that the Princeton University Track Athletic Association would send three juniors and a freshman, all "stars" in their specialties, to the Olympic Games.¹ The participants and the events they would enter at Athens:

Robert Garrett (Captain of the Princeton University Track Team), Class of 1897: high jump, long jump, discus throw, shot put. A native of Baltimore, Garrett was in his third year on the Princeton track team. His shot put personal best had improved to 40 feet. In the broad and high jumps, he had achieved distances of 21'-9" and 5'-8" respectively. Garrett helped finance the team's trip to Athens as there was no assistance from any other source. Garrett's mother, Mrs. T. Harrison



Figure 1. Olympic program released by the organizing committee on 24 November 1894. Note the dates of the Games by both the western and Greek calendars at top.

Garrett, accompanied the athletes on their trip. She was chaperoning a small group of young ladies to the Games.

Francis Adonijah Lane, Class of 1897: 100 meters. Lane, of Franklin, Ohio, was an excellent sprinter clocking a flat 10 seconds in the 100-yard dash (91.4 meters). Not unlike today's Carl Lewis, Lane's "start is somewhat slow, but once under way he moves along with a rapid stride ... overcoming any advantage an opponent has gained ... by the time 75 yards have been covered."²

Albert Clinton Tyler, Class of 1897: pole vault. In addition to participating on Princeton's track team, Tyler, from Glendale, Ohio, was a right tackle on the university's varsity football team. A pole vault specialist, he held the 1895 Ohio State record at 10'. His personal best in the event was 10'-10".

Colfelt (first name not known), Class of 1899: 400 meters. As a freshman at Princeton, his best time in the ¼-mile (440 yards) was 50 seconds flat — not far off the world record of 48.5 seconds. The day following the announcement of Princeton's participation in the Games, the *New York Times* reported that Colfelt's parents were "opposed to his taking so distant a trip."³ On March 20, Colfelt was dropped from the Olympic team roster due to continued objections from his parents.⁴ Captain Garrett immediately replaced Colfelt with:

Herbert Brotherson Jamison, Class of 1897: 400 meters. Jamison's strength was in the shorter 220-yard sprint. At the longer ¼-mile distance, this Peoria, Illinois athlete had achieved a time of 53.2 seconds.

Professor Sloane's so-called American Olympic Committee, which he formed after returning from Paris, included the presidents of Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Columbia and the University of Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, none of these schools chose to send athletes to the Games.

Information on the Olympics did reach the Boston Athletic Association (BAA). A five-member team from the BAA was selected to accompany the Princeton athletes to Athens:

Thomas Edmund Burke: 100 meters, 400 meters. Burke's personal record in the slightly shorter 100-yard dash was 10.2 seconds. He was also the 1895 Amateur Athletic Union champion in the 440-yard run, making him the only U.S. champion to compete at the 1896 Olympics.⁵

Charles Arthur Blake: 1,500 meters, Marathon. Blake excelled in the mile (1,609 meters), setting a record of 4 minutes, 39.8 seconds at the 1894 indoor championship of the New England Amateur Athletic Union. His personal best in the mile, 4:32.4, was in an 1895 meet at New Haven, Connecticut.

Ellery Harding Clark: high jump, long jump. A student at Harvard, and native of West Roxbury, Massachusetts, Clark was given permission by the university to accompany the Boston Athletic Association team.⁶ In addition to the jumping events, he also specialized in the shot put, hammer and hurdles. At the 1895 Maritime Provinces Championships, he won both the high jump and long jump with distances of 5'-10 5/8" and 21'-6" respectively.

Thomas Pelham Curtis: 100 meters, 110-meter hurdles. A graduate of Harvard from Boston, Curtis had not won any championships before the 1896 Games, and therefore was somewhat of an unknown going into the Games.

William Welles Hoyt: 110-meter hurdles, pole vault. Hoyt, of Glastonbury, Connecticut, was a Harvard student at the time of the Games. His previous success in the pole vault was limited to a second place showing at the 1895 Intercollegiate Athletic Association of America championships.

James Brendan Connolly: high jump, long jump, triple jump. Connolly, a member of the Suffolk Athletic Club, was a student at Harvard. Having been advised that he might not be readmitted following his return from Athens (due to his low academic standing), he decided to quit Harvard.

In addition to the above-mentioned ten athletes, three non-track & field competitors traveled to Athens:

Gardner Boyd Williams: 100-meter, 1,500-meter swimming events.

John Bryant Paine: military pistol. John Paine, also a member of the BAA and a crack shot, decided to go to Athens. He traveled separately from the rest of the team, stopping in Paris to pick up his brother, Sumner.⁷

Sumner Paine: military pistol, free pistol. Like his brother a lieutenant in the U.S. Army, Sumner accompanied his brother to Athens carrying with him an arsenal of his best pistols and 3,500 rounds of ammunition for the competition (between the two of them, they used only 96 rounds).⁸

Off To Athens

The Princeton contingent departed for New York on Friday, March 20 where they stayed overnight at the Murray Hill Hotel.

Saturday morning, March 21, the Princeton team, having been joined by the six Boston members of the U.S. Olympic Team, boarded the steamship *Fulda* of the North German Lloyd Lines.⁹ (It is not clear whether Gardner Williams, who was paying his own way to the Olympics, travelled with the rest of the U.S. team to Athens.)

The journey to Athens took 15 days. The *Fulda* departed at 10:00 a.m. sailing to Naples via Gibraltar. At that rocky outpost of the British Empire, the team disembarked for a half-day before continuing on to Naples, Italy. Arriving at Naples (probably on April 1), the athletes spent two days before taking a train across the boot of Italy to the Adriatic port of Brindisi. On April 4, a ferry carried the team members to Patras, Greece, a 24-hour trip. From there, it was a 10-hour train trip to Athens, where they finally arrived at 9:00 p.m. on April 5. The next day, the Olympic Games began.

One of the most often-repeated stories of the American team's trip centers on its surprisingly late arrival at Athens. As the story goes, the date on the Olympic announcement, April 6, was misinterpreted as being by the Julian (Greek) calendar which was 12 days behind the Gregorian (western) calendar. By this reasoning, the Games actually didn't begin until April 18 (by the western calendar). If the team arrived on April 5, they would have a nearly a week and a half to recover and train.

For a number of reasons, I find this argument to be unsupported by the facts.

First is the "Olympic Programme" shown in Figure 1. The date of this announcement is November 1894 (see arrow). The dates of the Games are clearly noted at the top: "5-15 April 1896 — (24 March-3 April, Greek style)." There could not have been any confusion as to which dates were by the western calendar. As a member of the IOC, William Sloane would have certainly received this announcement.

Second are reports in the media. The *New York Times*, in an article dated March 16, 1896, clearly states: "They [the team] will arrive at Athens the day before the great athletic carnival opens, which is advertised for April 6."¹⁰ Another article in the same newspaper with a dateline of March 17 reads, in part: "It [the team] is expected to reach Athens on April 5."¹¹

It seems highly unlikely that everyone, including the media, knew that the team would arrive the day before the Olympic Games began — but not the team! Further, the correct dates should have been known long before the team was ever assembled.

The question, therefore, is why did the team leave so late? There are two possible answers. First, as noted above, the Princeton team wasn't announced until March 16, just three weeks before the beginning of the Games. Further, the final team roster was in place only three to four days before sailing.

The second reason for the late sailing date was most likely a financial one. Without direct support from either the government or educational institutions, sufficient funding for the trip was very likely not satisfied until the very last moment. This may have also been a contributing factor to the late formation of the team.

At The Olympic Games

The story of the sporting competition at the 1896 Games has been told so many times that I won't repeat it here.

Instead, it is interesting to compare some of the American team's performances at the 1896 Games with those of today. The accompanying table summarizes the track & field contingent's placings. Also shown are the world records current at the time of the Athens Olympics along with the winning results at the 1992 Games

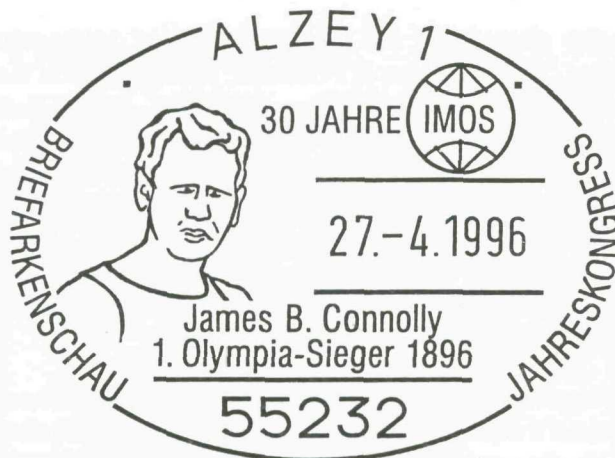


Figure 2. James Connolly, the first Olympic victor of the modern era, will be commemorated on this IMOS cancel on April 27, 1996.

in Barcelona. For strictly quantitative purposes, the final column shows the percentage improvement in first place scores between 1896 and 1992.

For the American team, the triple jump started the team's roll toward domination of the athletic events. This was the first final of the Games. It was won by James Connolly, making him the first victor of the modern Olympics (Figure 2). James later recounted that the other competitors were utilizing a hop-hop-jump technique (which was acceptable at the 1896 competition), rather than the hop-step-jump familiar to him. By changing his style, Connolly was able to soar past the competition, beating the second place winner by a meter. Still, he missed the world record by over 1.50 meters.

The races on the flat were all sub-World Record. George Stuart Robertson, a member of the British team at the Games, later reflected on the reason for the relatively mediocre performances:

"... the track was not very satisfactory, loose on the surface and too hard underneath, and its awkward shape, with extremely sharp corners at each end, caused a loss of several seconds in any race over 223 yards, its total length."¹²



Figure 3. The start of the 100-meter race at the 1896 Olympics. The race was won by American Thomas Burke. Francis Lane finished fourth.

1896 & 1992 Olympic Games: Comparison of Athletics Events Results

compiled by Mark Maestroni

#=Estimate *=New Olympic Record

ATHLETICS EVENTS	U.S.A. ATHLETES	1896 OLYMPICS: FINALS RESULTS	1896 OLYMPICS: GOLD MEDAL	WORLD RECORD AS OF 1896	1992 OLYMPICS: GOLD MEDAL	CHANGE IN % ²
100 meters	Burke	12.0 sec. (1st) ¹	12.0 sec.	10.8 sec.	9.96 sec.	+17.0%
	Curtis	Did Not Start	"	"	"	
	Lane	#12.6 sec. (4th)	"	"	"	
400 meters	Burke	54.2 sec. (1st)	54.2 sec.	48.5 sec. (440yd)	43.50 sec.*	+19.7%
	Jamison	Unknown (2nd)	"	"	"	
800 meters	No U.S.A. Entry		2:11.0	1:53.4 (880 yd)	1:43.66	+20.9%
1,500 meters	Blake	#4:34.0 (2nd)	4:33.2	4:12.8 (1 mile)	3:40.12	+19.4%
Marathon (40 km.)	Blake	Did Not Finish	2:58:50	New Event	2:13:23	
110-meter Hurdles	Curtis	17.6 sec. (1st)	17.6 sec.	15.4 sec. (120yd)	13.12 sec.	+25.5%
	Hoyt	Did Not Start	"	"	"	
High Jump	Clark	5'-11¼" (1st) 1.81 meters	5'-11¼" 1.81 meters	6'-5 5/8" 1.97 meters	7'-8" 2.34 meters	+29.3%
	Connolly	5'-5" (2nd) 1.65 meters	"	"	"	
	Garrett	5'-5" (2nd) 1.65 meters	"	"	"	
Long Jump	Clark	20'-10" (1st) 6.35 meters	20'-10" 6.35 meters	23'-8" 7.21 meters	28'-5½" 8.67 meters	+36.5%
	Connolly	20'-0½" (3rd) 6.11 meters	"	"	"	
	Garrett	20'-3¼" (2nd) 6.18 meters	"	"	"	
Pole Vault	Hoyt	10'-10" (1st) 3.30 meters	10'-10" 3.30 meters	11'-5 3/8" 3.49 meters	19'-0¼" 5.80 meters	+75.8%
	Tyler	10'-8" (2nd) 3.25 meters	"	"	"	
Triple Jump	Connolly	44'-11¼" (1st) 13.71 meters	44'-11¼" 13.71 meters	50'-0½" 15.25 meters	59'-7½" 18.17 meters	+32.5%
Discus Throw	Garrett	95'-7¾" (1st) 29.15 meters	95'-7¾" 29.15 meters	New Event	213'-7¾" 65.12 meters	+123.4%
Shot Put	Garrett	36'-9¾" (1st) 11.22 meters	36'-9¾" 11.22 meters	47'-0" 14.32 meters	71'-2¼" 21.70 meters	+93.4%

Sources: Official Report of the Olympic Games of 1896; New York Times, April-May 1896; David Wallechinsky's "Complete Book of the Olympics," 1984; official results of the Olympic Games of 1992.

¹ Distances were measured in meters, then converted to feet-inches rounded to nearest ¼ inch.

² Percent (%) improvement in first place results between 1896 and 1992 Olympics.



Figure 4. The winner of the 1896 race from Marathon to Athens, Spiridon Louis of Greece, enters the stadium.

The winner of the 100-meter race (Figure 3), Thomas Burke, was capable of running the 100-yard dash in 10.2 seconds (roughly equivalent to 11.2 seconds for the longer 100 meters). Taking into account the track conditions, Burke might very well have been able to approach the then-World Record of 10.8 seconds. Even with all the modern advances of today — rubberized tracks, scientifically-designed shoes, and constantly evolving training methods — just two seconds have been shaved from the Olympic gold mark in the past century!

The longest race, the Marathon, was run over a distance of 40,000 meters in 1896. This was lengthened to the current standard of 42,195 meters in 1908, so it is difficult to compare standards. Without a doubt, it remains the most gruelling of all Olympic races.

The American entry, Charles Blake, dropped out after 14 miles. Having never before run a distance such as this, it isn't surprising. The competitors continued to thin out until barely half were left to cross the finish

line in the stadium. Spiridon Louis, a Greek, broke the tape more than seven minutes ahead of the next competitor (Figure 4).

The throwing and jumping events all went to the American squad, much to the disappointment of the Greek fans who at least considered the shot put and discus "theirs."

The discus throw was undoubtedly the oddest of the two new events. As the story goes, Robert Garrett trained with a grossly oversized version that he had constructed based on ancient Greek vase depictions. As he discovered upon arriving in Athens, the "modern" version was far more wieldy.

The accepted method of throwing the discus seemed to have been derived from observing the stance of the famous statue, Myron's *Discobulus* (Figure 5). Garrett's winning distance doesn't even compare with today's scores of well over 213 feet. The improvement of over 123% between 1896 and 1992 is the most significant of any track & field event.

In summary, the American track & field team won nine of the eleven events they entered (there was no American contestant in the 800 meters). To these were added five second places (Connolly and Garrett tied for second place in the high jump) and one third place victory. The remaining three American medals were won in shooting. Sumner Paine took first in the free pistol competition, and second in the military pistol. His brother, John, placed first in the military pistol.



Figure 5. Myron's *Discobulus* inspired the technique for throwing the discus at the 1896 Olympic Games.

The Long Trek Home

Following the conclusion of the Games, the athletes left almost immediately. The Princeton squad sailed for New York aboard the North German Lloyd steamship *Spree*. Upon their arrival on May 1, they were

*"met at the dock by a committee of students, who had been appointed to escort the victorious men to Princeton. They were given a hearty greeting as they stepped down the gangplank. Capt. Garrett said all had had a glorious time and had returned in fine condition."*¹³

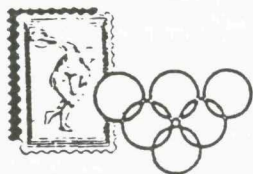
The Boston Athletic Association squad took a more leisurely route home. From Athens, they rode the train back to Patras and then the ferry to Brindisi, Italy. From there, they continued by rail to Naples, Rome, Paris, and London. The Bostonians then sailed from Southampton aboard the North German Lloyd steamship *Lahn*.¹⁴

As occurred upon the arrival of the Princeton team, the BAA athletes (Clark, Hoyt, Curtis, Burke, and Blake) and Gardner Williams were given a hearty welcome as they disembarked on May 6.

Connolly probably summed up the feelings of the team best: *"There will never be another set of Olympic Games to equal those first ones in Athens."*¹⁵ □

Endnotes

1. *New York Times*, March 17, 1896, p. 6.
2. *Ibid*, March 22, 1896, p. 12.
3. *Ibid*, March 18, 1896, p. 7.
4. *Ibid*, March 20, 1896, p. 6.
5. Mallon, Bill & Buchanan, Ian. *Quest For Gold, The Encyclopedia of American Olympians*. New York: Leisure Press, 1984, p. 279.
6. *New York Times*, March 22, 1896, p. 12.
7. Mallon, p. 209.
8. *Ibid*, p. 210.
9. *New York Times*, March 20, 1896, p. 6. According to the "Shipping News" listing in the *New York Times*, the most reliable source of the period, the sailing date was March 21. The route of the *Fulda* was Gibraltar, Naples, Genoa; there was no first stop in Bremen, Germany as some sources suggest.
10. *Ibid*, March 17, 1896, p. 6.
11. *Ibid*, March 18, 1896, p. 7.
12. Robertson, Sir George Stuart. "A Test For Tradition," *Olympic Odyssey*. Croydon (England): Modern Athlete Publications Limited, 1956, p. 7.
13. *New York Times*, May 2, 1896, p. 6.
14. *Ibid*, May 7, 1896, p. 3.
15. John, Frederick. "First Olympic Winner: Hardly An American Hero." *Valley News*, July 18, 1976.



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Reviews of Periodicals

by D. Crockett & M. Maestroni

Phila-Sport, Issue #16

This final 1995 issue of the quarterly publication of the Italian Sports and Olympics Philatelists society advises members that the organization's annual dues will increase to 40,000 lire (about \$25 U.S.) in 1996, primarily to help sustain, and hopefully improve, the publication's level of quality. The organization is also seeking sponsor-members to provide financial support above the regular dues level. The society has promised to use the new meter stamp promoting Rome as a candidate for hosting the Olympics of the year 2004 on correspondence to members (illustrated below).



Special meter promoting Rome's 2004 Olympic bid.

Several articles in this issue deal with exhibits and exhibiting. At Livorno in October, Bruno Cataldi Tassoni's soccer exhibit, "Coppa Rimet, Festival del Calcio," won the 1995 prize for best Olympics/sports exhibit. In all, there were six golds and nine large vermeils awarded to the competitors. Cataldi Tassoni garnered two of the large vermeils as well for his exhibits on baseball and the pentathlon.

Another article discusses a meeting on thematic exhibiting held last fall at Riccione, with Giancarlo Morolli as the principal speaker. Finally, Cataldi Tassoni has a detailed and well illustrated article on the importance of originality of presentation in a thematic exhibit. He says that the exhibit plan and the philatelic importance and rarity of the material shown account for nearly 95 of the 100 possible points that an exhibit may receive. These points are more or less fixed, assuming a good plan and quality material. According to the author it is in the remaining few points that the exhibitor must separate himself from the other competitors, and it is through originality in presentation that this may be achieved.

An article on Olympic memorabilia discusses the Olympic torch and illustrates several of those used in previous Olympiads. Another article deals with the problems caused by an excessive number of modern meter stamps, thus cheapening their value as desirable exhibit items. Finally, there is the second and concluding part of an article on boxing in the Olympics.

A few sports items from recent European auctions are discussed. One is a cover of 1877 sent from Dublin to London. It was offered in an Interphila auction in Hannover with a minimum bid of DM 4,600 (about \$3,200 U.S.), but did not sell. It later sold at a Swiss auction for SF \$5,200 (roughly \$4,500 U.S.). - D.C.

Tee Time

This issue of the journal of the International Philatelic Golf Society is identified as Volume 2, Issue 2, December 1995. It is the first issue published by its new editor, David Brooker, who has done a fine job with his desktop publishing software. The printer is our own, John La Porta.

Reproductions of new U.S. golf cancels as well as those from the British Open Championships at St. Andrews are included in this issue. An illustrated discussion about new golf stamps and postal stationery around the world is provided. There is also an article on the World Amateur Team Championships held last fall in France, accompanied by depictions of the cancels and meters used for the event. Another article discusses the Canadian golf stamps to be issued during 1996. Finally, there is a checklist of golf stamps issued worldwide through October 17, 1995. There are not very many of them, compared with a number of other sports. The earliest appear to be Scott 592 and 593A issued in 1953 by Japan.

An auction of golf-related philatelic material is included with this issue. The previous auction closed August 15, 1995. Most items in that auction sold, but very few at prices above \$20, indicating that these auctions are a welcome source for the less expensive material, but not useful for obtaining scarcer material.

Beginning in 1996 dues for the Golf Society are \$12.00 a year. Contact Kevin Hadlock, 447 Skyline Drive, Orange, CT 06477 for information. - D.C.

SPI Rapid Notification Service

Do you collect new U.S. sport and Olympic commemorative postmarks? If so, then you need to take advantage of SPI's Rapid Notification Service. To enroll, send a SASE to William E. Fraleigh, RD #3, Box 176, Red Hook, NY 12571, U.S.A.

Olimpismo

Issue #3, 1995, of the Spanish-language journal of the Spanish Union of Olympic Philately (UEFOS) opens with reviews of three philatelic gatherings that took place in 1995. Olympiafila '95 at Budapest (June 11-18) was an exhibition of Olympic and sports philately which coincided with the 104th Session of the International Olympic Committee. In October, Olympic enthusiasts met at Lausanne for the 2nd World Fair of Olympic Collectors. Finally, the Expo-Futbol '95 national philatelic exposition is discussed along with a brief history of the Teresa Herrera Trophy for soccer.

Major articles in this issue include a nicely illustrated overview of "One Hundred Years of Volleyball" by José Manuel Tortolero. Luciano Louro Piñeiro examines a number of philatelic "Baseball Curiosities." He shows, among many items, covers with baseball fancy cancels of 1867 from Waterbury, Connecticut.

Some additional pieces covered: "The [Soccer] Goal" by Joan Miquel Llompart; "The IV and V Lithuanian World Games: Their Philatelic Impact" by Joan F. Molina Bellido; and "Chess in Philately" by Remigio Ferré Soler.

There is no subscription information for this very nice publication. The UEFOS address is: Apartado de Correos 21041, E-08080 Barcelona, Spain. - M.M.

Citius, Altius, Fortius

Published quarterly by the International Society of Olympic Historians, this journal focuses on a wide variety of Olympic topics. While not a philatelic publication, *Citius, Altius, Fortius* provides scholarly research articles that are an excellent tool in developing any collection or exhibit.

The lead story in the Winter 1996 issue (Vol. 4, No. 1) discusses "Pierre de Coubertin and the Czech Lands." The article examines the relationship between Coubertin and the various proponents of the Olympic Ideal in Czechoslovakia, especially Jiri Guth-Jarkovsky.

Additional articles look at "Paddy Ryan," an Irish-born Olympic champion in the hammer throw at the turn of the century; and "Sport and Art — Art and Sport."

This issue also provides an index of Volumes 1-3 of the journal (1992-1995).

Reviews of books and worldwide news about the Olympic Games conclude this number. The new membership directory for ISOH was also provided, detailing the interests and accomplishments of its many members around the world.

For more information on this journal, which is published in English, please address your inquiries to Dr. Bill Mallon, 303 Sutherland Court, Durham, NC 27712, U.S.A. - M.M.

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1996 Atlanta Olympic Games

by Norman F. Jacobs, Jr.

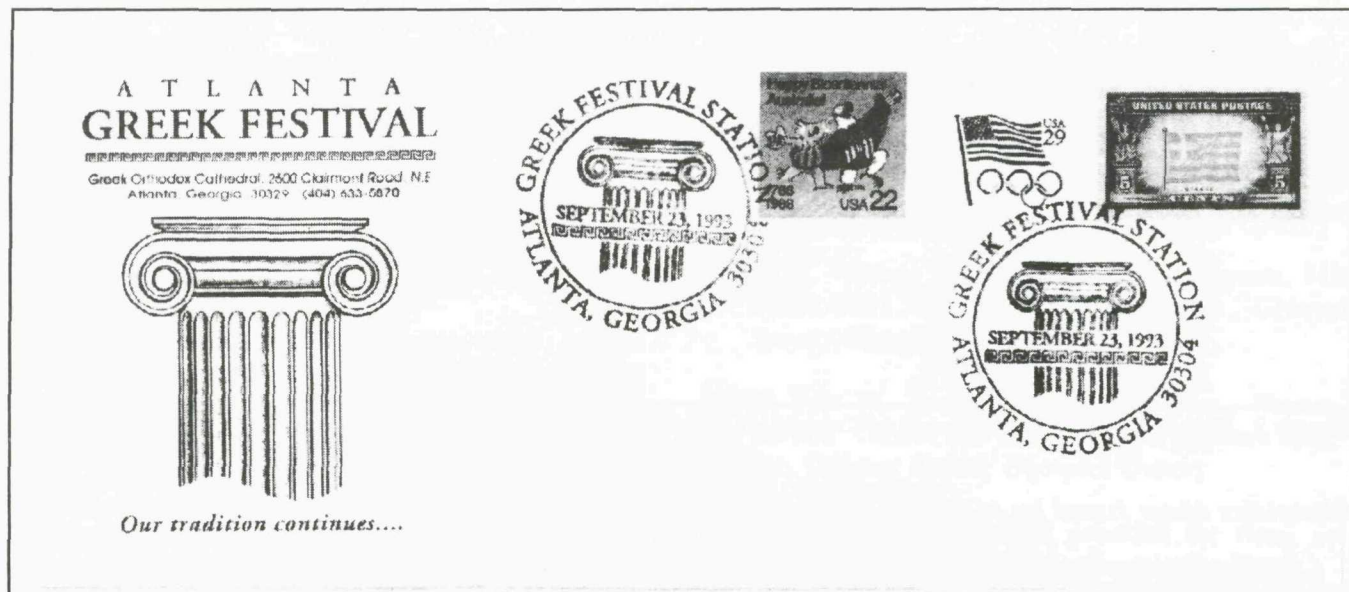


Figure 1. Atlanta's Greek-American community, sponsor of the Greek Festival, will unveil a sculpture in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park commemorating the Ancient and Modern Olympic Games.

Tribute From Atlanta's Greek Community Honors Athens and Atlanta

Soon after Atlanta was awarded the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games, members of the Greek-American community in Atlanta decided to create an Olympic homage that would connect and honor the Ancient Games, the rebirth of the Modern Games in Greece, and the Centennial Games to be held in Atlanta. Members of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) founded the AHEPA Centennial Foundation to raise \$775,000 for this project. The foundation board includes SPI member Victor Polizos, an Atlanta pediatrician who has also developed a fascinating slide program based on his travels to Olympia.

In the spring of 1996 their dream will achieve reality with the dedication of the sculpture "Tribute" in the Centennial Olympic Park. The sculptor, Peter Calaboyias, is an art professor in Pittsburgh and a native of Greece, whose work is represented in museums both in the U.S. and Europe. The fan-shaped sculpture will be 24 feet in width, 16 feet tall, and will depict three figures 9 feet high. The first figure symbolizes the ancient Olympics. The second represents the first cen-

tury of the Modern Games, beginning with their revival in Athens in 1896. The third figure takes the Olympic concept into the second century of the Modern Games, beginning with the 1996 Atlanta Centennial Games. The runners depicted are a male nude, a male in knee pants, and a female. The bronze fan rests on a representation of the arch of Olympia, through which athletes of the ancient Games entered the Olympic Stadium. To quote the AHEPA brochure, "The arch and figures rest on a massive stone foundation cut from the mountains surrounding Olympia ... representing the Hellenic foundations on which the future of the Olympic Games will forever stand."

Although no philatelic commemoration of this beautiful gift has been announced, the cover shown in Figure 1 provides an indirect link, as it shows the Overrun Countries stamp for Greece next to the Flag over Olympic Rings, tied by a commemorative cancel honoring the 1993 Greek Festival in Atlanta. My thanks to Victor Polizos for this cover, and for his efforts to link Athens and Atlanta artistically and philatelically.

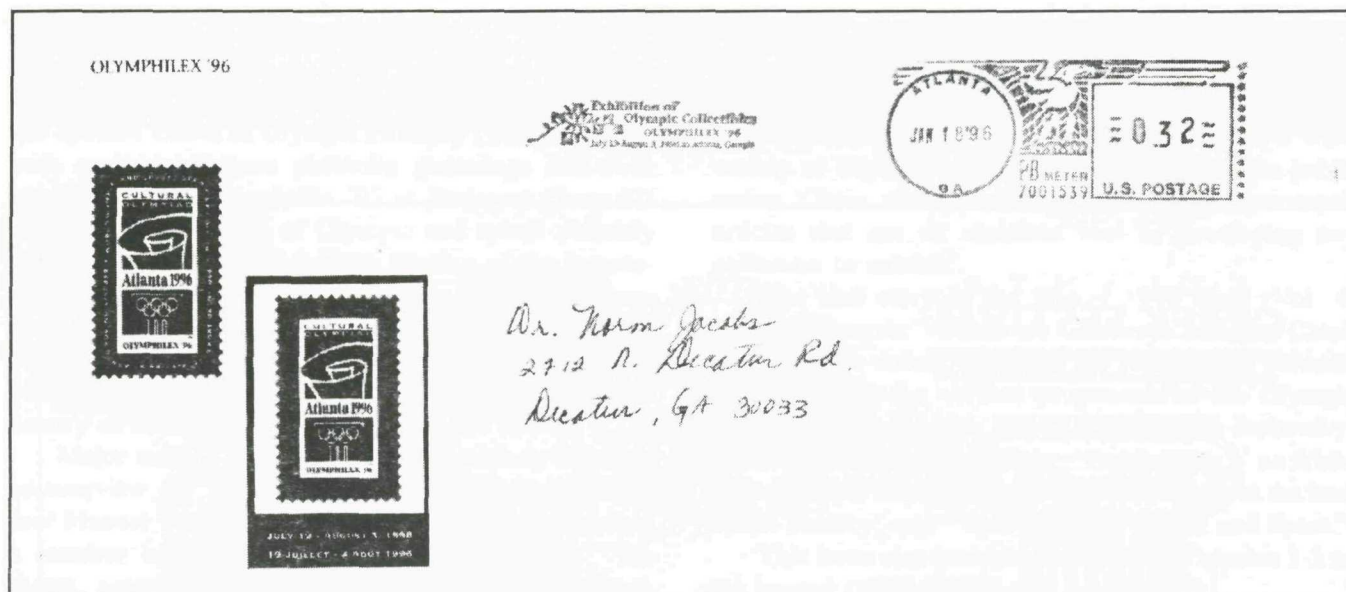


Figure 2. First day of use of the fourth of five red ACOG meters, this one commemorating Olympihlex '96.

Olympihlex Meter Issued by ACOG

On January 18, 1996, ACOG officially put into service the fourth in its series of five meters which are being used routinely on all outgoing ACOG metered mail. As in previous designs, the meter shows the quilt of leaves theme, but this meter focuses on Olympihlex. This meter will be used until mid-April. It will also be available for use at the Olympihlex exhibition during the Games (Figure 2).

Another Plain Envelope from ACOG

Those of you who have purchased tickets to Olympic events will recognize the cover shown in Figure 3,

which ACOG sent out in January. The postage paid indicium showing first class postage paid by ACOG and the return address are the only identifying clues. Inside was information regarding available sessions for telephone orders, an order form for transportation passes, and a Wellness Guide from Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Does anyone have copies of similar mailings from the Los Angeles, Seoul, or Barcelona Games?

Olympic Postcards Available

The postcards for set 3 are available to be sent out. If you wish a set, please send remittance to me (see page 25 of the May-June 1995 issue of *JSP* for details). SPI will receive a portion of the proceeds.

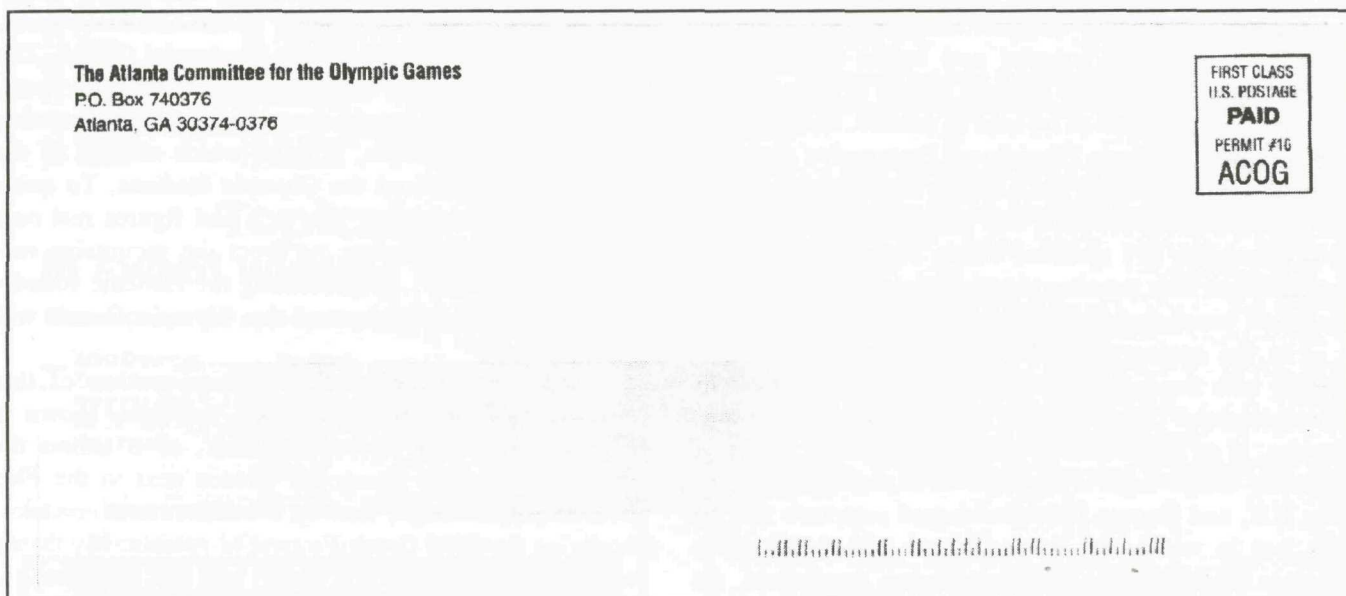


Figure 3. ACOG mailed information to ticket holders in this rather unimpressive ACOG postage paid envelope.

News of Our Members

by Dorothy Crockett & Margaret Jones

New Members

2040R Primo Scandolaro, Via Concordia 25/4, I-20050 Mezzago, Milano, Italy. He is a research worker. *Cycling* (Maestrono/www)

2041R Steve Malone, 1617 North 190th Street, Shoreline, WA 98133. Steve is an associate planner. *Cycling* (Jones)

2042R Alain Theriault, 970 Laudance, #205, Sainte-Foy, Quebec, Canada G1X 4W7. He is a civil servant. *General Sports; Olympics* (Maestrono)

2043R Michael S. Freed, 418 Jackson Street, Pennsylvania, PA 18073. Mr. Freed is an accountant and sports tour operator. *Soccer* (Jones)

2044R Donald R. Meltzer, 341 Old Lancaster Road, Sudbury, MA 01776. Donald is a consultant. *General sports; Olympics* (Jones)

2045R John E. Davison, 41 Partch Place, Edison, NJ 08817-3009. John works as a consultant. *Soccer; Summer Olympics* (Jones)

2046R Bernard M. Kass, P.O. Box 1297, Great Neck, NY 11023. Bernard is retired. *Tennis* (Jones)

2047H Denis Hamel, P.O. Box 92559, 152 Carlton Street Post Office, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5A 4N9. APS Affiliates Coordinator. (Maestrono)

2048R Charles H. Leck, 15 Copeland Road, Maple Plain, MN 55359. Charles is a writer. *General Sports; Olympics* (Jones)

2049R Sverrer H. Lundh, Roahagan 1 C, Apt. #104, N-0754 Oslo, Norway. *Olympics* (Jones)

2050R (Mrs.) E. Virginia Napolitano, 224 Winding Way, Morrisville, PA 19067. *Olympics* (Jones)

2051R Jerry Satlow, 297 Valley Stream Lane, Wayne, PA 19087. *Tennis* (Jones)

2052R Mike Sullivan, Box 1370, Spokane, WA 99210. *Olympics* (Maestrono/www)

2053R Ron Sobel, P.O. Box 4099, West Hills, CA 91308. *General Sports; Olympics* (Jones)

2054R Peter S. Walters, P.O. Box 5996, Irvine, CA 92716. Peter is retired and a part-time dealer. *Olympics: Summer '32, '84, '92* (Jones)

2055R Victor V. Piskounov, 136 East 67th Street, New York, NY 10021. Mr. Piskounov is a diplomat. *Olympics: USA, Russia, Baltic States, CIS* (Jones)

2056R E. William Anderson, Box 291, Wayzata, MN 55391-0291. Bill is a retired teacher. *General Sports; Olympics* (Jones)

2057R Paul M. Burega, 16 Aldgate Cres., Nepean, Ontario, Canada K2J 2G4. Paul is a software designer. *General Sports; Olympics* (Jones)

Reinstated: (Full information provided for those not listed in the 1995-1997 SPI Membership Handbook.)

0506R Ellsworth A. Henninger, 2743 South Jackson St., Denver, CO 80210. Ellsworth is a retired steel employee. *General Sports; Olympics* (Jones)

0563R C. Mitchell Draper Jr, 44 Blueberry Cove, Tarmouth, ME 04096. *General Sports; Olympics* (Jones)

1186R James D. Beans, 6283 Chaucer View Circle, Alexandria VA, 22304. James is retired from the U.S. Marine Corps. *Olympics* (Jones)

1866R Ronald R. Daughtry, 83 Meadow Walk, Ewell, Surrey, England KT19 0BB. *Soccer* (Epstein)

1895R Robert G. Hilken, 80 SW 88, Portland, OR 97225. Robert is a stock broker. *Golf* (Jones)

Resigned: Rainer Martens (0940R)

New Addresses:

Bertrand Grosjean, 6 allée du Bois du Château, F-33 290 Parempuyre, France.

Peter Street, 3901 71st St. West, Bradenton, FL 34209.
John E. Sutcliffe, 4104 Brighten Avenue, Springdale, AR 72762.

Total Membership, December 31, 1995 = 429*

* Through reconciliation of the membership roster, 45 names have been dropped due to duplication, etc.

Exhibit Awards

National Shows

Omaha Stamp Show, held in September in Omaha. Tracy Zavri's exhibit "Olympic Stamps" won the following awards: youth grand, a silver ATA youth award, Junior Philatelists of America award, H.E. Harris medal, AAPE American youth stamp exhibit championship, Boys Town youth exhibit award and novice award.

CHICAGOPEX '95 - held in November in Rosemont, IL, sponsored by the Chicago Philatelic Society. Tracy Zavri won a youth silver bronze for "Olympic Stamps."

NAYSEE '95, the 6th annual North American Youth Stamp Exhibiting Championship, held in connection with CHICAGOPEX. It was a "by invitation only" show; eleven exhibits qualified by winning the award for best youth exhibit at a national show during the preceding

year. Joyce Adams won the American Philatelic Congress Award for "The Olympic Games — Swifter, Higher, Stronger." Nicholas Palmer received the Fran Jennings memorial award for "Olympic Sports." Robert H. Lesky received the Jennings Award for "Batter Up."

ARIPEX '96, held in Mesa AZ in January, sponsored by the Arizona Federation of Stamp Clubs. Conrad Klinkner received a silver award as well as the ATA silver for "Games of the Xth Olympiad." There were also the following youth awards: a silver to Robert Leske, age 13, for "Batter Up!"; a silver bronze to Jonathan Triplett, age 9, for "Olympics"; and a silver bronze to Joshua Flannigan, age 13, for "Egyptian Sports."

Local/Regional Shows

HOUPEX '95, held in Houston. A vermeil, as well as the AAPE award of honor, was awarded to Alice Johnson for "Figure Skating."

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New Stamp Issues

by Brian Bjorgo

The following list of sports stamps has been reported in *Linn's*, *Stamps*, and *Scott's Monthly Journal* between July and September 1995. If any errors or omissions are noted, please contact the editor of this column.

Mali: 1994, World Cup Soccer. Overprints of first, second, and third place teams on the 1994 World Cup Soccer stamps (200, 240, 260, 1000f) and 2000f s/s.

27 March 1995, Atlanta 1996 OG. 25f, 50f, 100f, 150f, 200f, 225f, 230f, 240f, 550f, 700f.

Moldova: 10 December 1994, Europe Soccer Championship. 10b, 40b, 2.40l: soccer scenes; s/s of three stamps (1.10, 2.20, 2.40 lei): emblem, soccer ball, player, stadium and flags of seven participating countries in border.

Monaco: 8 April 1995, Track and Field Grand Prix. 7.00f.

Netherlands: 6 June 1995, Sail Amsterdam Tall Ships Race. 80c.

New Zealand: May 1995, America's Cup Victory. 45c, winner "Black Magic".

21 June 1995, Health. Two triangular stamps: 45c, boy on skateboard; 80c, girl on bicycle.

1 July 1995, Stampex/Health. S/s of two Health stamps with border depicting cricket and racketball players.

26 July 1995, Rugby League Centenary. 45c, \$1, \$1.50, \$1.80, one \$1.80 s/s: competition, teams, trophy, memorabilia and playing area in park. A booklet of ten copies of the 45c stamp was issued.

Nicaragua: 25 March 1995, Korea Baseball Championship. 8 m/s of nine 3.60c stamps: players and emblems. #2087-94, a-i (for each number).

Nigeria: 3 March 1995, Under 21 Junior World Cup. 1n, 1.50n, 5n, 10n.

Pitcairn Island: DOI unknown, Oeno Island Holiday. 20c, 90c: boating and volleyball.

Poland: 17 June 1994, World Cup Soccer. 6000z, earth as soccer ball.

St. Pierre & Miquelon: 13 February 1995, Triathlon. 5.10f, swimming, bicycling and running.

St. Thomas & Prince Is.: 1995 (stamps are dated 1993), Atlanta 1996 OG. Eight 800d, four 2000d, 3000d s/s: sports.

Senegal: 17 June 1994, World Cup Soccer. 45f, 175f, 215f, 665f: players, flags and ball. #1104-7.

Slovakia: 29 March 1995, Ice Hockey World Cup. 5sk, hockey players equipment. #209.

Solomon Islands: 17 February 1995, Tourism. 95c, diver. #791.

South Africa: 24 May 1995, Rugby World Cup. 2 non-denominated stamps, 1.15r stamp: ball and silhouetted players. Booklets containing varying quantities of these stamps were also issued.

Spain: 2 June 1995, Silver Olympic Games Medal Winners. Block of fourteen 30p stamps.

Sweden: 3 August 1995, World Athletic Championships. 7.50k.

Tanzania: 1994, Olympic Gold Medalists. 350/-, 500/-, 1000/- s/s: athletes.

June 1995, Atlanta 1996 OG/Olympic Games Gold Medalists. 2 m/s of 9 se-tenant 200/- stamps, two 1000/- s/s: athletes in various sports.

Tonga: 20 June 1995, Rugby World Cup. 2 s/s's (one with four 80s stamps, one with four 2p stamps): Tonga's team.

Turkmenistan: 30 December 1994, IOC Centenary. 11.25m, Olympic rings; 20m s/s.

Uganda: May 1995, Atlanta 1996 Pre-Olympics. 50/-, 350/-, 450/-, 500/-, 900/-, 1000/-, two 2500/- s/s: Olympic winners.

United States: 20 May 1995, Recreational Sports. 5 se-tenant 32c stamps: sports. #2961-5.

Uruguay: 16 May 1994, FISA 94 Stamp Show/World Cup Soccer Champions. S/s of 4 se-tenant 1.25p stamps: past championship teams.

Vietnam: 20 April 1994, World Cup Soccer. 400d, 600d, 1000d, 2000d, 3000d, 11000d, 10000d s/s: players in action.

15 June 1994, IOC Centenary. 4000d, 6000d: emblems, symbols and Pierre de Coubertin.

Wallis & Futuna: 1 August 1995, 10th South Pacific Games. 70f.

Western Samoa: 25 May 1995, Rugby World Cup. 70s, 90s, \$1, \$4: players in action and stadium.

Yugoslavia: 20 April 1995, Radnicki Sports Club of Belgrade 75th Anniversary. 0.60d.

The staff of *JSP* would like to thank our "New Stamp Issues" columnist, Brian Bjorgo for his diligence and hard work in getting this column out every two months. In the near future, Brian will retire, turning over his column to SPI member, Dennis Dengel. Adieu, Brian, and welcome, Dennis!

Commemorative Sports Cancels

by Mark C. Maestrone

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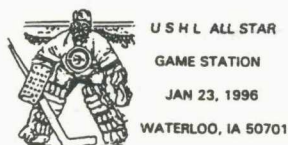


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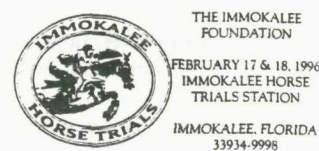
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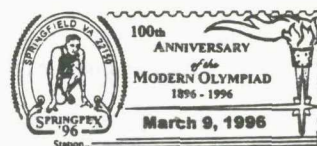
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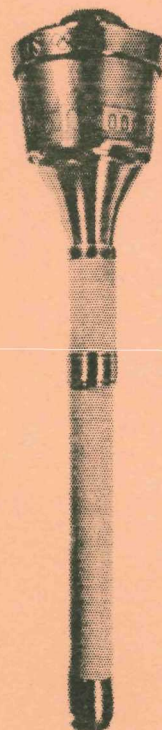
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