
INFORMATION LETTER

OF

THE INTERNATIONAL PIERRE DE COUBERTIN COMMITTEE



1/2001

President report

While it is time for us to write this report, we are receiving a very sad piece of news regarding our friend and colleague, Prof. Pierre-Yves Boulongne who just passed away. No need to remind you of the significance and the scope of his very valuable personal contribution to the spreading of Pierre de Coubertin's ideology, of which he was a remarkable specialist throughout his life at the highest level of university research works. His knowledge of this subject was constantly being reflected in his books, articles, lectures and contributions on the occasion of many conventions. From a different point of view and as a lover of sports, he also put into practice a direct sports education, hence the fact that last August the University of Dakar named the Gymnasium of the National Institute of Sports and Physical Education after him. He had been the head of this Gymnasium from 1976 till 1982. Moreover in March 2000, President Samaranch had complied with my request regarding the translation into English of his last book published in French and entitled "*Pierre de Coubertin, humanisme et pédagogie*". Such a heavy loss plunges the entire International Pierre de Coubertin Committee into mourning.

Despite the death of our colleague, the Pierre de Coubertin Committee has been able to strengthen itself through various missions and according to a constant and progressive development, carrying out activities such as a new edition and reprinting with the financial support of the International Olympic Committee of all information leaflets entitled "*Pierre de Coubertin, l'humaniste olympique*" (in French, English, Spanish and Portuguese), as well as the setting up of a new Iconographic Exhibition dedicated to Pierre de Coubertin, on canvas, which makes its moving and display easier.

It is also worth noting the great success achieved by the campaign led in Madrid by the Spanish Pierre de Coubertin Committee with a wide distribution of information, leaflets and posters on Pierre de Coubertin in all schools of the capital city.

The recommendation set out on June 14th, 2000 in Huelva (Spain) within the framework of the VIIIth Congress of the Ibero-american Association of Olympic Academies was also decisive. This recommendation suggested to all associated countries (twenty-six participating countries) to set up a Pierre de Coubertin Committee in each one of them. The response to such a recommendation was the immediate creation of two National Pierre de Coubertin Committees, one in Ecuador under the presidency of Mr. Danilo Carrera, who also happens to be the President of the National Olympic Committee, and the other one in El Salvador under the presidency of Mr. Bernardo Lopez, Treasurer of the Olympic Committee and President of the Olympic Academy of his country. Three Pierre de Coubertin Committees are also about to be set up in Mexico, Colombia and Peru.

During the International Olympic Committee Session held in Sydney, our colleague Norbert Müller presented the English version of the book on excerpts of the "*Textes Choisis*", which he supervised and which represents a fantastic tool in the English

language. As regards the Iconographic Exhibition on Pierre de Coubertin, it was presented in the Accreditation Center of the Olympic Village built in Sydney. At the same time, a wide selection of information documents both in French and English was distributed in various sports and cultural centers.

To conclude, and among other activities, we may underline the extraordinary artistic exhibition dedicated to the figure of Pierre de Coubertin and organized by the very dynamic Dominican Pierre de Coubertin Committee. This exhibition gathered thirty artists, who exhibited forty-three oil paintings representing Pierre de Coubertin. This exhibition was presented at the Musée de l'Homme in Santo Domingo. The main sports authorities, as well as political and cultural figures of the city were attending the opening ceremony.

This past year has thus been filled with noteworthy events and many fruitful activities.

Conrado Durántez
IPCC President



Castle de Coubertin headquarters of the Foundation de Coubertin

Tribute to prof. Yves-Pierre Boulongne

The IPCC is in mourning for Prof. Yves-Pierre Boulongne, its Vice-President since 1989 and who passed away in St. Marguerite s/m on January 25th, 2001.

Prof. Norbert Müller represented the IPCC on the occasion of the ceremony held to pay tribute to Yves-Pierre Boulongne in the Church of St. Marguerite s/m on January 31st, 2001. Mr. Geoffroy de Navacelle de Coubertin, our Honorary President represented the French Pierre de Coubertin Committee. Both of them delivered funeral orations and laid wreaths where Yves-Pierre Boulongne was born in 1921 in Normandy. He became a sports fan at a very early age later was both an athlete and a soccer player showered with praise at the national level. He became the French university champion in both the 100 m. (10.8) and 200 meters sprint races and in the long jump (7.21).

Before the outbreak of war he had started studying physical education and teaching training in order to become a teacher. The war was then declared and brought all the horrors and the terrible experiences that he had to go through.

During the '50, he worked as a high school teacher and became involved in the field of sports studies, being interested in sports for disabled people as well as the olympic ideals.

Prof. Boulongne was also able to use his talent as a writer, which gave him the strength to survive the concentration camps. He wrote a great number of scientific lectures as well as prose and poems about humanitarian topics and thoughts about a better understanding of modern sports.

To him the most important thing, taking into account his many experiences, was to always keep in mind Man in the context of individual freedom and in his integrity "*body, mind and spirit*".

The United Nations Charter, proclaimed in 1948 became his leitmotiv. In his essays and in his educational career he met of course with another Frenchman of whom he had heard as a child: Pierre de Coubertin.

Boulongne understood at a very early stage that the educational values which made up olympism were as many chances to build a better and more peaceful world. And he knew how to use them.

In 1957, he left for Tunisia where he worked for ten years as a sports education adviser and then spent two years in the Ivory Coast. In those two countries he created sports academies in order to insure the training of physical education teachers who were scarce in those days.

Once he came back to France, he was appointed Director of the National Institute for People's Education in Marly-le-Roy. At that time, the idea of sport-life did not exist.

He became its instigator by developing and showing models to make sport a part of the country's cultural heritage in its people's education.

During that period, very productive on a scientific level, Prof. Boulongne wrote his doctoral dissertation at the University of Caen. Its title was: "*The life and educational work of Pierre de Coubertin*". That was the first book written in French on Coubertin after the war. In 1976 it was published in Canada by Lemeac in Ottawa.

The most important thing to him and which he always kept in the forefront was the idea of sports as an educational tool, without forgetting its aim: human brotherhood.

From 1969 till 1976 he broadened his activities by fighting racial prejudices, which he saw coming. He thus became the instigator of a national association against racial prejudices, which he personally created.

In 1976 he left Marly-le-Roy and then became a honorary professor at the University of Paris XII (Créteil) in 1980. He was then 55 years old and was one of the pioneers who had made it possible for sports education research works to be recognized at an academic level in French universities.

Since 1976, Boulongne was a life member of the International Olympic Academy and an associate member of the Fine Arts Academy in Rouen since 1980. The '80 were a period in which, from a literary point of view, he reconciled with his past while looking ahead.

From 1991 till 1995, Prof. Boulongne worked as one of the authors of the history of the olympic movement in three volumes that was published on the occasion of the IOC centenary in 1994.

His research work, both educational and historical, rely on a humanist basis. He gave a multicultural dimension to Olympism and that is what gave it its true value. He always considered sports historical events in their social and contemporary contexts. Sports history is not an absolute aim. One must always consider its effects and its application. And that is what he used to teach his students. That is also where things come full circle. The experiences that Boulongne gathered throughout his life all come without any prejudices to multicultural observations and consequences.

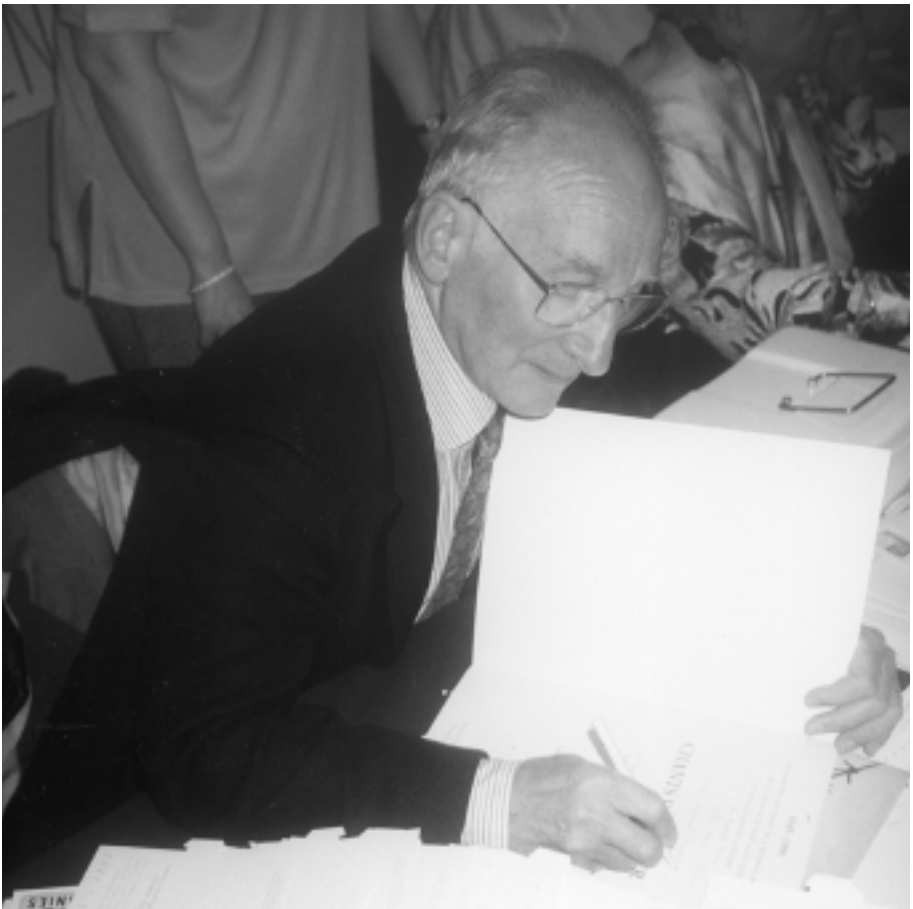
Prof. Boulongne, always self-critical, has made the olympic research richer by giving it its own orientation. At age 75, he had the merit of accepting to come and spend a few months at the University of Mainz as an associate professor. He gave lectures not only on olympism but also within the framework of the School of romanic languages and literature as well as the School of philosophy and education. In January 2000, the School of sports sciences of this same university granted him his highest academic distinction, the title of Honorary Doctor.

Moreover in 1997, he acted as co-chairman of the IPCC Congress held in Le Havre "*Coubertin and Olympism. Questions for the future*" and did it very successfully.

In 1999, when a book was published under the title of “*Humanism and Education. Ten Lessons on Olympism*”, it was a way for Yves-Pierre Boulongne to draw a conclusion from his own olympic thoughts. We shall cherish this most precious goodbye gift.

His ideas, his thoughts will remain for ever an integral part of the research on Coubertin. His colleagues and friends, members of the International Pierre de Coubertin are very grateful to him. We offer our deepest sympathy to his wife, Clairette, and to his family.

D^r Prof. Norbert Müller
Vice-president of the IPCC



Yves-Pierre Boulongne

IPCC Activities relating to Pierre de Coubertin in Sydney 2000:

- 1) The Pierre de Coubertin Square in the heart of the Olympic Village was considered the main square in the village. Such square was the place where all teams were officially welcomed and where social and cultural events took place.
- 2) Distribution of about one hundred IPCC booklets on Pierre de Coubertin at both the Village Information Center and Press Center.
- 3) Jacques de Navacelle de Coubertin paid an official visit to the Olympic Village (cf. article in the Village newspaper).
- 4) Official presentation on Sept. 12, 2000, during the IOC Session, of the English edition of the extracts of Pierre de Coubertin's writings.



Dr Norbert Müller IPCC vice president offered a copy of the English edition of the extracts of the Pierre de Coubertin writings to the British rower Gillian Lindsay of the Henley Regatta Club.

During a ceremony held on Sept. 23rd, the vice-president Norbert Müller offered one copy of this publication to a British rower who represented the olympic athletes of the Village. On that same day, she had won a silver medal and was also celebrating her birthday.

- 5) Press conference on Sept. 13th, 2000 (4:00 - 5:00 p.m.) held at the main Press Center about the new edition (Norbert Müller, Jacques de Navacelle de Coubertin, Katia Mascagni-Stivachtis/IOC).
- 6) Showing of a 9-minute film on Pierre de Coubertin (cutting from the 1994 olympic Centennial), put at the disposal of the Olympic Village movie theater by IPCC.
- 7) Exhibition entitled "Pierre de Coubertin in photography" by Conrado Durantez, displayed on long stretches of fabric in the accreditation center of the Olympic Village.
- 8) International Youth Camp: 400 young people from 188 countries (16 - 18 years old).
 - Jacques de Navacelle de Coubertin gives a lecture on Pierre de Coubertin (illustrated with slides) on Sept. 14th, 2000.
 - Dr. Holger Preuss introduces, in the presence of Norbert Müller, the IPCC Pierre de Coubertin Contest and explains the four parts that make it up.
 - Group discussions on Pierre de Coubertin and Olympism, on Sept. 14th.
 - Sept. 18th: social service, beach cleaning action.
 - Sept. 19th: artistic event (art workshop).
 - Sept. 23rd: PdC Contest, 8 sports events.
 - Sept. 25th: written test on PdC and Olympism (in groups)
 - Sept. 26th: presentation of the results to Ms. A. DeFrantz, IOC Vice-President. She gives the medals awarded at the end of the PdC contest to one boy and one girl from each continent, in the presence of Norbert Müller, Jean-Loup Chappelet and Dr. Holger Preuss, who were there on behalf of IPCC and Kevin Farrel, President of the Australian Pierre de Coubertin Committee.
 - On the same evening, handing out of 380 medals to the other participants on the occasion of the closing ceremony.
- 9) Opening Ceremony of the Games:
 - Each visitor receives in his/her box a sticker that says: "Olympism is not a system: it is a state of mind".
 - The IOC President mentions PdC in his opening lecture.
- 10) Several quotations from PdC are contained in the programme of the cultural Olympiad.

The Committee International Pierre de Coubertin at the International Youth Camp at the Sydney Olympics 2000.

The Olympic youth camp was created in 1912 during the Stockholm Games as a scout camp and since 1960, has been regularly organised on occasion of the Olympic Games. In accordance with the Olympic Charter, it should contribute to the building of a peaceful and better world, educating youth through sport without any form of discrimination and in the Olympic spirit which demands mutual understanding, the spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair-play.

The aims of the Sydney youth camp were:

- the promotion of cultural interchange and the encouragement of international competition,
- sharing the spirit of Olympism
- developing the reflection and respect for other cultures among youth,
- promoting knowledge and reflection on the history, geography and culture of the city of Sydney and of Australia.



Jacques de Navacelle de Coubertin visit the Olympic Village.

104 volunteers were needed to transmit these values to the 382 young people with ages ranging from 16 to 18, representing 187 National Olympic Committees.

The camp was set up at St. Joseph's School in the higher area of Sydney. This magnificent building is situated in a 38 acre park, with a 50-meter swimming pool, a computer room, music room, theatre, tennis courts and various playing fields.

In the activity programme, 8 workshops were put at the disposition of the young people: art, choral, orchestra, computers, theatre, dance, environment. In 1999, the ICPC had decided, together with the organisers of the camp, that the Pierre de Coubertin competition should form an official part of the programme so that the young people should become interested in the pedagogical values of Coubertin.

Professor Norbert Müller, Vice-president of the IPCC and Doctor Holger Preuss, director of the Pierre de Coubertin Schools Forum from 1997 to 1999, who were in charge, on the site, of enthusiastically developing the programme and with the collaboration of the assistants from the camp.

Among other activities, three days were dedicated to the different tests for the Coubertin card:

- knowledge of Olympism, in particular its renovator, Pierre de Coubertin, with a short written exam (the first part of the card), this part was introduced on the first day of the camp by Jacques de Navacelle de Coubertin (son of our Honorary President, Geoffrey de Navacelle de Coubertin) representing the family, Dr. Holger Preuss and members of the IPCC.
- An art workshop with the presentation of paintings (artistic section);
- Environmental workshop on the ocean shore (social service section);
- Mini-Olympics, practical sports section, made up of eight events ranging from relay races to training in Australian Rules Football.

The vice-president of the I.O.C., Mme Anita de Franz, awarded 10 young people, a boy and a girl from each continent, with the new IPCC medal "performance Pierre de Coubertin": these were presented during the closing ceremony of the camp in the presence of the president of the Australian Committee Pierre de Coubertin, Kevin Farrel and our vice president, Norbert Müller.

The other 300 participants who had successfully played their part in the competition for the Pierre de Coubertin card received their diplomas and medals on the same day during the last night in the camp.

This medal was created by the German artist, Karl Heinz Oswald, the creator of the bust of Coubertin in the congress in Le Havre.

In conclusion, the IPCC can feel proud that the Pierre de Coubertin competition was an important and enriching part of the youth camp of the Sydney Games.

Thanks to the SOCOG, the camp director, Mr. Alistair Cameron and his team, and also thanks go to Holger Preuss and Kevin Farrel.

*Signed: DR. Professor Norbert Müller,
Vice-president of the IPCC*



Mrs Anita de Frantz award 10 young people, a girl and a boy of each continent, with the new IPCC medal "Performance Pierre de Coubertin"

A rather objective view of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony

by Teresa Müller, Volunteer in the Olympic Youth Camp

While regarding the pictures I took of the Opening Ceremony, I long to go back to the "Land down Under".

Looking back, for myself the Opening Ceremony is similar to a short version of what I experienced in my weeks in Australia, a summary of my journey and my time as volunteer for the Olympic Youth Camp. All the different aspects, the things I learned are typical for Australia, were part of the Celebration on September, 15th.

There was the presentation of nature with extraordinary flowers, bright colours giving an impression of Australia's beauty of nature. And, in fact, this is what I will try to keep in my memories: all the amazing sceneries, the outstanding nature of Australia. As a volunteer I got to see the Blue Mountains National Park, I got to see the Daintree Rainforest close to Cairns, Queensland, a wildlife park and many other things.

The "Deep Sea Dreaming" giving an idea of the under water world surrounding the Australian Continent reminds me of the excursion to the Great Barrier Reef – probably the most impressive moment during my visit. It is not worth writing about it, as one cannot understand its magnificence by reading about it!

Becoming a new principal of the Olympic Games the environment played an important role in the Sydney 2000 Olympic Youth Camp as well as in the Opening Ceremony. This theme had my utmost attention, resulting from my interest in the environment and it's problems.

The "Awakening" showed two main things to me: at first, the Aborigines are part of the Australian History, the second is, they seem to be more or less accepted by the people, at least they are respected. I am still thinking about whether the Aboriginal Theme was just put into the program because of the attention of the world and the media, but this is just speculation.

The only Australian I missed was the kangaroo as a significant symbol of Australia.

I liked the artistic translation of these themes, which means I was pleased to experience the Opening Ceremony life.

The Parade of the Athletes in my opinion was a bit to undignified in comparison to the rest of the celebration. And I would never have thought that it would take so long. Nevertheless it made me realize the greatness of the games, the coming together of so many nations, friends and enemies. Especially when Korea came in as one nation I was very touched as I had just been to South Korea two weeks before.

I did not only like the program the lightening of the Olympic Flame by Kathy Freeman but also the audience. It was an outstanding audience, very active and very fair. We were not supposed to turn on our torches during the first songs, but not watching the guides who were meant to "control" the audience, they crowd just started switching on their torches. Everybody seemed to have fun and in my opinion this is part of the Australian mentality, which I got to know very well and I have to admit that this mentality is the main factor for the success of the Opening Ceremony and I believe for the success of the Sydney 2000 Games.

Maybe the little girl, Nikki Webster, can be seen as an example of a great character, standing for the many great characters I met in Australia.

All in all the Opening Ceremony was a wonderful Australian experience for me, bringing together the memories of my Australian days.

Theresa Müller



Bust of Pierre de Coubertin by K. Oswald

Once again...

The Olympic Games have just finished their exclusive occupation of the audiovisual media, only to be quickly substituted by other world events, "exceptional", show-business being as relentless as one would expect.

Once again, Olympism has been forgotten by the media.

The feats of the athletes, the sporting confrontation, the medal table, has once again been centre stage. Just as they are in any world championship.. although one would like to believe with rather more solemnity and affectation.

But not one journalist has explained that the Games are no more than the principal ingredient of a pedagogical philosophy, and that they were originally set up by the pioneers and by Pierre de Coubertin with the sole aim of urging the citizens of every country to make rational use of sports.

Not one journalist remembered that sport is no more than the mainstay of Olympism and that an education offers more intellectual lucidity, more mutual respect, than a desensitising with respect to general culture in the arts, literature and science should be linked to sport within a "harmonious whole", in respect for individual and social ethic. Nothing. Are we disappointed by this? Hardly. Do we feel defeated? No.

It is the responsibility of all those who believe that Olympism could be the opportunity for humanity in the XXIst century to change public opinion, and demand that the I.O.C. provides more knowledge of the philosophy defined in the Charter, in way that it becomes impossible for the Merchants in the Temple to conceal forever the crusade launched by Coubertin and his friends in 1894.

We know what we have to do. To say again and again, with the risk of being killjoys, that Olympism is a culture and that the Games are no more than a statement of this.

Olympism in the third millennium will be placed at the service of education or it will be dragged along by the violence and the corruption of the states.

Prof. Yves Pierre Boulogne
Vice-President of the IPCC

Pierre de Coubertin and his private image the man, his family, his times

Essay printed in the Olympic Magazine, August / September 1995

By G. De Navacelle de Coubertin

The outstanding first volume of the story of "A Century of the International Olympic Committee" recalls Pierre de Coubertin's struggle for the establishment of the modern Olympic spirit and the rebirth of its four-yearly manifestation, the Olympic Games. The writings of Coubertin and especially his "A Campaign of Twenty-one Years" and his "Olympic Memories" again describe the episodes. For several decades, researchers have enriched the collection of original documents, the most important having already been published by the International Olympic Committee in 1985, under the title "Selected Texts of Pierre de Coubertin".

Many academics in the world follow the depth of Coubertanian thinking. The centenary and the congress which celebrate them are no more than a pretext to remember the man known as the most famous unknown.

The press and television give him coverage but he is often presented with total ignorance.

On the other hand, an edition of the International Olympic Committee refers to this in great detail.

For this reason, one must applaud the appearance of this first volume in which we find the Pierre de Coubertin, who "is farseeing, speaks frankly, acts with firmness", all this stems from the pen of Yves Pierre Boulogne, a fervent admirer of this great pedagogue and humanist. We give thanks for his monumental work without forgetting his colleagues who have contributed to this volume.

Which allows me to make a modest contribution, a few brushstrokes, to the portrait of Pierre de Coubertin in order to present to those who are interested in his image, if possible, a more "truthful" one.

The origins of the family of Pierre de Coubertin are understood to be Italian. A family "de Fredy" lived in Rome, and later a Felice de Fredy who owned lands in Viterbe, discovered, in 1506, a group of sculptures which says "du lacon" which he presented to Pope Jules II. However, at the same time, the Chamberlain to the King of France, Luis XI, is a Pierre Fredy. He was ennobled in 1477 and settled in the west of the Isle de France, not far from Paris.

In 1577, a descendent, Jean Fredy acquired the dominion and fief Coubertin, also situated on the Isle de France and from here the family took the name of Fredy de Coubertin. In 1629, King Luis XIII of France confirmed the nobility.

The mother of Pierre de Coubertin, Marie-Marcelle Gigaut de Crisenoy, granddaughter of the Marquis of Mirville is from Normandy and descends from the companions of the first Duke of Normandy, the Viking Rollon.

The ancestors of Marie-Marcelle were, without doubt, close to William the Conqueror.

While it is doubtful that the fiefdom of Mirville was given to one of her descendants on his return from the Battle of Hastings (1066), it is probable that Sir Adam Mirville built the Motte de Mirville around 1105, this is known to archaeologists as "Chateau cl Mott" or stately fortress.

On occasion of her wedding, Marie-Marcelle contributed Mirville which had been rebuilt in the 16th century. She was a very cultured woman who opened Pierre de Coubertin's eyes to Latin and Greek. She was an attentive mother, a dutiful wife and a very devote woman. She directed her husband's artistic inspiration to religious subjects.

Pierre de Coubertin's father, Charles Fredy, Baron of Coubertin, whose real name, which he never used, was Louis was in fact an artist, a painter, a pupil in the studio of Maestro Picot. From his stays in Italy and numerous journeys he brought a beautiful collection of drawings, watercolours and oil paintings. He was an outstanding painter, in fact, some of his paintings can be found in the Vatican Museum in Rome, with special mention for the painting of the dignitaries taking part in the Pontificate procession. He was decorated with the Order of the Légion d'Honneur. The artistic temperament of Charles and the independent spirit of the Coubertins led him to respect the rules of society which existed at the time, but from a certain distance. His *savoir vivre*, a true reflection of his social standing, made him less exigent.

At times, Charles abandoned his easel to become a "Member of the Club", the only benefit of which was that he could oversee the balanced development of his children's education. In 1870, during the war between France and Prussia, he trained the men of the Mirville estate in the use of arms, thus demonstrating his patriotism.

Apart from the parents, the Coubertin family consisted of three brothers and a sister. Pierre, the youngest, was very close to his sister. As the only daughter, she was brought up in very masculine surroundings. A fine horsewoman, she was very influenced by her circumstances. She was very independent, she studied science at the Sorbonne, something unusual among young ladies of society at that time.

As a young man, Pierre frequented the "places to be" in Paris, but he soon tired of this life and cruelly passed judgement on the fashionable society and the dandies seen there. He would have felt insulted to be confused with this kind of person.

He obtained a diploma in science and arts after turning down the opportunity of attending the military school at Saint-Cyr, which he had been preparing for, and, bowing to his parents wishes, he enrolled in the Faculty of Law. He was pleasantly surprised to obtain his diploma almost without attending the classes which he found so boring.

It was the concession he made to his father, who accepted the fact that he took sides with the Republicans in spite of his family being traditionally monarchist which was an important option in French society during the 19th century. He renounced the overtures made to him to follow a political career in Normandy and enrolled in the School of Political Science in Paris, where he marvelled at and sympathised with great spirit he encountered.

Too often, Pierre de Coubertin was treated as a misogynist, which was far from appropriate if one adheres to the strict sense of the word: "hostile manifestation towards women", in his case it was the opposite, he was sensitive to femininity family memories testify to this. It is true that he opposed the participation of women in the Olympic Games, considering that women should not partake in a spectacle in which the violent exercise might harm their enchantment. This conformed to the social customs of the time and to the ancient tradition which forbade women access to "L'Altis". It is the perfect exception to the rule for this rebel, marked by the independence of spirit which characterised the Coubertins. In fact, it is known that he strongly advocated the practise of sport by women, including team sports.

In 1895, he married a young woman from Alsace, whose father, a French diplomat, great art-lover and collector, was called Gustave Rothan. Marie Rothan was a woman with a difficult character which would cause problems for Pierre until the end of his days. She would, however, provide him unending support in the fulfilment of his work. In those times, mixed marriages in the religious sense were not easily accepted. The wedding between Pierre, a Catholic, and Marie, a Protestant, was celebrated in family in both Catholic and Protestant churches. This demonstrates the open-mindedness and spirit of the Coubertins in comparison with their contemporaries. This spirit goes against that known as the "bourgeois spirit" and the Coubertins can not be referred to as "high-class bourgeoisie", as sometimes they were.

Socially the Coubertins fall into the middle aristocratic class which has provided their country with civil servants, magistrates, clergymen and great businessmen. The notion of duty for the good of the public, a sense of gratitude and a broad outlook is what has differentiated the aristocracy from the bourgeoisie, a greater sensitivity to the advantages and self-obtained power.

These nuances within the French structure, forged throughout history, may be difficult for some people to grasp, especially foreigners. The uses and customs to which they are linked are difficult to imagine in present times, although they do explain and highlight the specific nature of much of the behaviour of the Coubertins.

Pierre de Coubertin invested all his fortune in his work which led to the very difficult financial situation he found himself in at the end of his life. Just as many of his compatriots, he lost a great deal on Russian loans, his management of his holdings cannot be described as bad, it conforms to what, many would call the "cultural tradition". The tradition of the Coubertins in this area is precisely that of good management of their fortune.

The moments of sadness and the lack of motivation at the end of his life are common knowledge. He suffered for his family and was ruined by his generosity. This is clear in his correspondence of the time. But he never became despondent. His faith did not desert him and he resisted stoically. In his farsightedness, he realised that "the masses follow him, but he has been forgotten, they honour others with his work and he begins again, with more fire, more ambition, with only the pain of the terrible injustice". Some years before his death, he wrote to the president of the Societe des Nations that in the autumn of his life, he had "not lost his love of youth nor his faith in their future".

Some people, when they quote the phrase "Religio athletae" believe that Pierre de Coubertin had leanings toward a kind of paganism. This should be interpreted in the realm of morality and mutual respect made possible thanks to the gathering of the youth of the world through Olympism: religion is "the veneration of special values". With a solid religious background acquired from the Jesuits, Pierre never lost his faith in God. Several of his annotations bear witness to this: "Zealous in his pure and free obedience to his own God, he asserts that God is against all blind, intransigent religious absolutism. Here we can discern the stamp of his strongly independent spirit. This spirit probably placed many obstacles in his way in the university world in which he had no desire to follow the rules or belong to this crowd.

In summary, Pierre can be attributed with a rare quality: that of humility His intimate writings bear witness to this. This is quite the opposite of pride. It is more about the depth of his convictions, about his awareness of his capabilities and his need for perfection.

To give the complete picture about his and his family's character, one should remember that this surprising man, talented in various fields and particularly the artistic, explains his insistence and desire to associate art and culture with Olympism and its manifestations. His artistic talent, inherited from his father, is evident in many drawings. It was he who conceived the IOC emblem, the position of the rings was arranged with the help of his young nephew by marriage, Gaetan de Navacelle, who was also a painter and the author of the portrait in oil of Pierre de Coubertin, which, was presented to the French Olympic Committee in 1955. Likewise, the appearance of the harps in the musical programme in the Sorbonne in 1894 shows Pierre de Coubertin's taste for music, one of his nieces played this instrument, and he was also an excellent pianist.

The small insights outlined here, will, in the name of intellectual integrity and history, doubtlessly serve to form a portrait of Pierre de Coubertin and his family. Needless to say, these will appear to have little importance alongside the imposing work which retraces the story of the conception, birth and growth of the International Olympic Committee and Olympism.

This is the story of an architect "bâtisseur", one who is "farseeing, speaks frankly, acts with firmness". From this story, one can discover the breath of the ideal which this great humanist presented.

Signed: G. de Navacelle de Coubertin

Free trade in sports teaching

On November 25th 1892, at the Sorbonne, Pierre de Coubertin made his famous declaration regarding the revival of the Olympic Games. He said: “Let us export our oarsmen, our runners, our fencers into other lands. That is the true free of the future; and the day it is introduced into Europe the cause of Peace will have received a new and strong ally”.

He started with “future” thinking; he came back to it at the end of his career claiming that his Bureau International Pedagogy Sportive was a “weather vane trying to identify future trends”. Perhaps there was something special in his genes? After all his mother’s ancestors were from a Viking family, Rollo, the 1st Duke of Normandy. Strutt* describes the contribution of the Norsemen to European sport. He writes of King Tryggesson who could “walk round the oars of a boat whilst the crew were still rowing”; and of the hero Kolsen’s “nine accomplishments”. These were to know chess and archery, to row and ski, to have the skills of the smith, to write poetry and sing to the harp, to love reading, and to be able to make the runic letters. The runes, an ancient germanic script, were often used for divination – hence the genetic possibilities! A tenth injunction for these all-rounders was to “Make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land”.

Of course the free trade he had in mind was mainly the movement of athletes from country to country. However there was already a history of exchanges by teachers and coaches. It was permanent and expansive, not only a four-yearly bonanza. Coubertin also saw himself as a “comparative pedagogue”.

Coubertin’s own travels in pursuit of knowledge in sport and physical education are wellknown. He set a pattern. Many others followed. Gymnastics was developed in Russia by an Italian; Otto Szymiczek came from Hungary to coach Greece, stayed in Athens and went on to be Dean of the International Olympic Academy. A Spanish businessman in Birmingham, England, “invented” lawn tennis together with a British friend. In the 1900 Olympic Games a french boy coxed the British rowing team. In 1896 an Irishman (representing Britain) and a German won the mens doubles at tennis. Two Swedish ladies were invited to teach Ling’s gymnastics for the London Schools Board in the 1880’s; one stayed a lifetime and created the first fulltime College of Physical Education in Britain; and it was for women only! The energiser for their invitation was a Hungarian doctor living in London. In the 1950’s it was another Hungarian who transformed PE into “movement education” in British schools. In between Imre Kiralfy had managed the 1908 London Olympic Games.

Poland had welcomed several thousand Scottish – catholic refugees in the 1800’s. One of them had a son, Henrik Jordan, of Cracow who introduced “recreational parks” into Poland. In reverse Julius Wisniewski came to England and rowed for Britain in the 1912 Games. His son Jack Beresford – Wisniewski took part in five Olympic Games in the same sport and won either a gold or silver every time. Harold Abrahams, gold medalist in 100 metres 1928 had an Arab coach Sam Mussabini. George Hackenschmit

(wrestler – “The Russian Lion”) emigrated from Estonia to England and later wrote philosophy. The Finn, Suomela, took gymnastics to Estonia. Graduates from the Royal Gymnastics Central Institute in Stockholm taught across the world. One reason I suppose why the Director of the Institute in 1894 became a member of Coubertin’s 1st IOC.

The German “Turners” were also to be found across the globe. In the USA their societies used the slogan “mens sana in corpore sano”. In London, the Director of the German Gymnastic Society, E. Ravenstein was the son of August Ravenstein, a pupil in F.L. Jahn’s famous “class”. Ravenstein, with John Hulley of Liverpool, and Brookes of Wenlock, formed the triumvirate which ran the National Olympian Association. Starting in 1865 it was “open to the world”. At the foundation meeting the French teacher of fencing, Andree Durbec was in attendance. Hulley’s teacher at school was one Louis Huguenin, an itinerant teacher of physical education who stayed 25 years in Liverpool. Brookes studied in France and Italy; it was on a journey to Paris that he was first moved to develop mass physical training and found the Wenlock Olympian Society (1850). Liverpool’s first Gymnasium was furnished with the best apparatus – from Paris. The Director developed his ideas after “visiting the leading gymnasia in Europe” (Hulley). I wonder if today’s managers of Arsenal (Wenger) and Liverpool (Houllier) Football Clubs, are aware of this British/French long connection.

Football has a proud record in free trade. Argentinians helped Tottenham (even during the Malvinas – Falkland conflict). Cuba and Ecuador signed a regular exchange of coaches protocol in recent years. Chinese table tennis teachers are ubiquitous; so are Korean volleyballers. The USA, in 1889, the same year in which Coubertin convened his Paris international congress on p.e., brought together the various competing “traditions” in gymnastics and sport – the Czech Sokolovnas, the German turners, the Swedish Ling-gymnasts, and the Anglo Saxon games players. They decided to take the best from all of them and this eclectic conclusion accounts for the open-minded, and successful, US pattern of pe and sport, I suggest.

The British took soccer everywhere. British educators in colonial times honoured sport in education. Copies of the elite multisport, multicultural. Clubs like Hurlingham were created in such places as Cairo and Rio.

A remarkable act took place in 1948. Germany was not invited to these Games because – officially – there was no NOC in that country. The same with Japan. However the British gymnastic team, mostly all Army Physical Training soldiers, discovered that there was a prisoner – of – war, Helmut Banz** – who was an esteemed international gymnast. He, miraculously, gained his freedom – coached the British squad and – I am told – marched with them round the stadium in the Opening Parade at Wembley. This would have pleased Coubertin; the spirit he had in mind.

We come back to Pierre in 1984. Calling people to his second Sorbonne gathering he said “Imperfect humanity is always trying to turn the Olympic athlete into a paid gladiator; the two are incompatible and we must choose”. We thus have to make discreet

and sensitive judgements when Bulgarians represent Qatar, Russians represent Israel and Australia, Canadians represent Britain, and so on. This goes beyond healthy free trade I think.

Well, enough is enough. I have collected examples of this free trade in sports pedagogy over many years; I have even practised it in my own career. I would like to correspond with IPCC members, and others, who have traced the import/export equation in their own countries. Together we could produce a nice IPCC Book. How about it colleagues?

* *Joseph Strutt “The sports and pastimes of the peoples of England” 1801. In this “text and engravings” publication the author shows the impact of Greek, Saxon, Roman, Norman, Norse, Scottish, and other games on sport in England. He also records the “Cotswold Olimpicks” which started in 1612; ran until 1852; and was revived in 1953.*

** *Banz later taught for many more years at the Deutsche Sporthochschule in Köln.*

*Don Anthony
November 2000*



Mr Deschâtres, Mr Laurent Badoux winner of the contest on the Olympic games organised by Daniel and Denise Deschâtres.

“Children Draw Their World”

Sport as a means of expression. An Expedition for the Third Millennium

Created in 1997, the Association called “**Premiers de Cordée Organisation**” is a gathering of individual strengths heading in one particular direction, education through sports. Neighbourhood activities organizers, psychologists, events organizers, journalists, sports teachers... All of them sports fans. A dynamic structure in the service of personal and collective blossoming, which relies on sport as a humanist and universal vector that will carry the values peculiar to its beliefs :

- Sport is a source of balance necessary to the blossoming of one’s personality
- Sport does not come down to a show given by members of an elite, it is not an aim in itself, but a means of expression.

In short, sport is a way to discover oneself and open up to others...

Thus within the framework of its “Humasport” project, this French association wishes to link physical effort with a cause that is close to its heart : children.

In the era of Internet and increasing media coverage, we often know nothing about others, their environment, their ideas or their desires. That is why these young people with different backgrounds have decided to ask future adults what is their vision of this third millennium. After all, who better than children could tell us what this coming century will be like? How they see it, how they wish it were, how they judge this world which is their inheritance... And what they would like to leave to their own children! Since drawing is a universal language, since it can most faithfully translate children’s thoughts and is their main means of expression, Premiers de Cordée Organisation chose drawing as the vector for hope. Thus, throughout the year 2001, a team will travel in order to visit the various cultural areas of the world, travelling through 55 countries and over 20.000 km. Effort, closeness and discovery will be the motto of this travelling team, which believes that its action will entails debates and further thought... In the meantime, let’s be thrilled about the many supports, partners and active collaborations that will enable this team to publicize its action, which is both a great human adventure and a meaningful event heavy with new ideas for the future.

Better than a dream and more than a mere expedition, this trip round the world through drawings, which combines a liking for effort and citizen project, is meant to be the key element of a collective victory over poverty, hatred and intolerance. Join them!

You may find up-to-date information about this expedition on www.enfants-monde.com

Contact person: M. Alexandre Planquette - Premiers de Cordée Organisation,
4 rue Victor 91350 Grigny, France or premiersdecordee@hotmail.com
Phone number: 06 61 60 13 95

INFORMATIONS

AUSTRIA

Olympic Games are special occasions also for projects in olympic education.

The great enthusiasm of young people for outstanding performances offers a chance to involve them in questions of olympic issues such as participation, amateurism, fair play, achievement and solidarity.

The Austrian Olympic Academy in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education therefor has edited a brochure on the Sidney 2000 Games designed for pupils up to grade 8 dealing with issues like "the olympic flame", "from Athens to Sidney", "olympic principles", "mascots" as well as questions and problems of "Down under" from a historical, geographical and sociological point of view.

Of course there is also a patriotic part in the material showing outstanding Austrian athletes in former Games as this is a well paying starting point for discussions in the field of Olympism.

Along with the informations the teachers and pupils can find a set of "tasks" to be applied in various subjects such as crafts, drawing, language, maths, history and geography and especially in the field of physical education.

In cooperation with the Organizing Committee of Sidney an adapted CD-ROM for Austrian schools was produced and handed on to schools free of charge for more detailed information on program, sites, new sports, history and social environment of the Games 2000.

Another contribution to olympic education in our country is the publication "Sport in unserer Zeit. Texte zum Verständnis der Olympischen Idee" as reading material especially for pupils of schools with emphasis on sports. In the year 2000 issue no. 12 was distributed (Niedermann: Antike und moderne Olympische Spiele. Ein historischkritischer Vergleich).

Instead of the traditional three-days meeting of the Austrian Olympic Academy held each year four one-day seminars were organized this year in four different communities in order to reach a broader audience for olympic intentions.

Hermann Andrecs

CAMEROON

Activites of the national committee Pierre de Coubertin for Cameroon

1) Second international gathering of children in Morocco
The National Committee Pierre de Coubertin for Cameroon, the CNPC-C, was invited to take part in the second international gathering of children in Rabat, Morocco, organised by the international movement of friends of the reunions ARC EN CIEL, (MIJAEC). For reasons beyond our control and in spite of serious preparation, the CNPC-C was unable to take part.

2) For a sporting ethic
The CNPC-C for a sporting ethic met on the first of December 2000 in Obala, in order to examine and propose a Fair-play Charter and its application. The aim of this commission is to endow the sports movement in Cameroon with an authentic instrument for promoting ethics in sport.

3) The executive committee
The executive committee met on Friday, December 8th 2000 in room 105 at the Ministry of Tourism in order to adopt the report and documents proposed by the commission of the CNPC-C for an ethic in sport.

The report on the preparation of the 'Coupe de lait' was also presented by the head of the project. This report calls for the attention of many sponsors and educational institutions.

Mr. Dang, the Executive Director, has made a general to the secretary general of the CNPC-C and the various commissions.

The President of the CNPC-C, Evele Malik Tour, went on to name the presidents and members of these commissions.

4) Echos from the Coubertin pavillions
The next session of the travelling Lyceum, Pierre de Coubertin, is set for the month of February 2001 as well as the festival of the youth of Cameroon. This session, which it is hoped will be international, will deal with the theme "raising international goodwill for a culture of peace". The Leclerc de Yaoundé Lyceum will host this international session.

5) The relaunching of the 4th University Games in Ngaoundéré 2001
During the month of April 2001, the 4th National University Games will be held in Ngaoundéré in the northern region of Cameroon. The CNPC-C has prepared a plan to promote ethics as well as a seminary aimed at the heads of mission on the Olympic ideal and university sport.

Signed: Dang, Executive Director of the CNPC-C

CROATIA

During a General Assembly Josip Cvetkovic, an IPCC member, put forward the project of a return to ancient sports in order to save them from oblivion. Such an idea appears to be original and that is why we wish to mention the main guide lines of this project, which of course is only binding on its author. All remarks made by our members will be most welcome and we will convey them to Josip Cvetkovic.

One hundred years after the beginning of the modern olympic era, it is necessary to revitalize ancient sports in order to save them from oblivion. It is our duty towards passed generations, as well as both present and future ones.

In order to have such sports officially recognized, we ought to:

1. Draw up a revitalization project regarding ancient sports within the modern olympic system, coordinate its realization and organize meetings for specialists.
2. Collect information, with the help of members of Pierre de Coubertin Committees throughout the world – information kept in written documents or passed on through oral tradition – describe the sports equipment required, restore the rules and organize championships.
3. Young people in general and Pierre de Coubertin schools students in particular could be informed about such sports and then bring such knowledge on ancient sports back to their respective countries.

*Project author
Josip Cvetkovic*

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Santo Domingo

In April 2000, we gathered in Mr. Enrique A. Ripley Marin's house a group of admirers of the illustrious Baron Pierre de Coubertin and appointed a provisional executive board, which was later officially appointed in order to look after the interests of the Dominican Pierre de Coubertin Committee.

The next step consisted in preparing, discussing and approving the statutes, which will serve as a framework for our Committee, as well as its charter (sent to your Committee).

Mr. Conrado Durantez was invited to a dinner on which occasion our executive board took the oath. The executive board is made up of the following members:

Roque Napoleon Munoz	Honorary President
Enrique A. Ripley Marin	President
Tabaré Carron	1 st Vice-president
Rafael Castillo	2 nd Vice-president
Rafael Duquela Morales	Secretary
Francisca Rossello	Deputy Secretary
Bienvenido Solano	Treasurer
Danilo Been Ricardo	Member in charge of the press department

Fermin Lorenzo Martinez
Neftali Santana Mendez
Prof. Geo Ripley
Dr. José Rodríguez Conde

Member in charge of the legal affairs department
Member in charge of external affairs
Member in charge of sports affairs

The projects planned for this coming year include the creation in Moca (Province of Espaillat) of a sub-committee, identical to the one in Santiago de los Caballeros, second city in the country.

Prof. Rafael Duquela Morales
Secretary General, Dominican Pierre de Coubertin Committee



Mr. G. Ripley from Santo Domingo presents Conrado Durantez with a gift during the painting exhibition that he organized.

FRENCH

In this year marked by the Olympic Games of the XXVIIth Olympiad held in Sydney, the French Pierre de Coubertin Committee paid special attention to the organization of this event in praise of sports and the world's youth, and did so in particular because of all kinds of excesses noticed during the Games of the previous Olympiad.

Thus it is with great pleasure, joining President SAMARANCH, that we were able to note the perfect organization of these Games, which were a model in every way in particular thanks to the public (mostly composed of Australians) which showed great respect towards all competitors - a behaviour that reminded us of the extraordinary public that attended the 1994 Winter Games held in Lillehammer (Norway) - supported and helped by a smiling and efficient crowd of volunteers who insisted on giving, for the reputation of their city and nation, the best possible welcome and looking after each and everyone's well-being, ranging from athletes and competitors to mere tourists attending the Games.

Whether people like it or not, the spirit of Olympism that Pierre de Coubertin created and taught is thus not dead and neither are the Olympic Games.

During this year our Committee worked relentlessly. We carried on with activities that had already been launched, aiming mainly at young people. Busts of Pierre de Coubertin were placed in several schools bearing the name of the great teacher he was, for instance in Bolbec, Normandy, a small town close to the property owned by the Coubertin family in Mirville. We organized this cultural event on the occasion of the olympic day organized under the aegis of CNOSF. Other similar events are planned but require to establish many contacts and take many steps, which of course often slow down the process.

We also fairly successfully organized breakfast debates. On such occasions we had Mr. G. VIGARELLO, Director of studies at the School of superior studies in social sciences, who gave a lecture in front of a very attentive audience. His lecture dealt with the "perennial myth of pure sports". We also welcomed Mr. J. LACOUTURE, well-known journalist, writer and historian, who came to talk about his own vision of sports, a different sport, far away from financial turmoil, medical "abuses" and supporters' excesses.

We go on publishing our newsletter called "La gazette Coubertienne", internal liaison bulletin eagerly expected by all the members of our Committee.

Regarding young schoolchildren we just published a strip cartoon which explains the damages and dangers of doping. This book supported by the Ministry of Youth and Sports is very successful. It is being distributed among regional organizations which deal with the training of young people. Last but not least we undertook the restoration of the commemorative plaque appearing on the house where Pierre de Coubertin was born and which urgently needed some restoration work.

Thus the French Pierre de Coubertin Committee, faithful to our Baron's memory, keeps working in order to maintain a Coubertin spirit defending pure and loyal sport, federating bodies and souls.

Unfortunately we have just lost our dear friend Yves-Pierre BOULONGNE, Vice-President of our Committee, great French Resistance fighter, prisoner of war,

great figure of sports and education circles, university professor, learned writer, specialized in Pierre de Coubertin and the IOC, recipient of the Olympic Order and many other titles or decorations both in France and abroad.

His death leaves a great emptiness within our Committee and in the world of Olympism of which he was a passionate and unfailing champion.

Jean-Claude LIERMANN

ITALY

Firstly, we would like to thank the General Secretary, Ada Wild, for the considerable amount of work and the close collaboration with our committee.

The Italian committee has worked with the aim of promoting Olympism and in particular the promotion of:

The Pierre de Coubertin Lyceum;

Participation and production of T-shirts for the relay of the Olympic torch of Sydney 2000;

Organisation of the Olympic day in schools;

Creation of Pierre de Coubertin sub-committees at regional level.

The official opening of the sports Lyceum is scheduled for September 2001 and the city of Genes has presented its bid to organise the next Pierre de Coubertin forum. The following members have been chosen for the board of directors.

President:	Prof. Igor Lanzoni
Vice-president:	Alex Trpkof
General Secretary:	Favio Rinzivillo
Treasurer:	Mr. Federico Gallo
Councillor for international relations:	Mme Dimitra Lykogianni
Councillor for school educational projects:	Dr. Gueye Ousseinou
Councillor for sporting events:	Dr. Arturo Biscaldi
Councillor for investigation and documentation:	Mr. Stefano Attolico
Councillor for the media and technology:	Laura Arcoleo
Councillor for event organisation:	Dr. Veronica Checura

The following Honorary members were elected during the General Meeting:

Dr. Riccardo Grozio

Dr. Claudio Bertiere

Danilo Bonamigo

Enrico Rusca

The Italian committee was present during the Olympic Torch Relay of Sydney 2000, and through its participation, has contributed with the sports museum of Genes in the

creation of various sports accessories for the "Torchbearers IOAPA Sydney 2000 at Olympia, Greece, on May 10th.

The School Olympic Day, organised by our committee, took place this year with the collaboration of the Museum of Sport of Genes and the Don Miliani School.

The participation was important, almost 1850 participants, thanks to the publicity campaign by the media in relation to the Sydney Olympic Games and the work of various institutions in raising awareness of the Olympic movement.

For 2001-2002, our committee plans to create Pierre de Coubertin subcommittees at regional or provincial level, which should lead to closer contact between young people from different cities, sports clubs, universities and all the cultural organisations which deal with the sports of Olympism. The committees responsible for this programme are:

Committees Pierre de Coubertin: a) Bari b) Firenze c) Verona

Signed: Dr. Igor Lanzoni

President of the Italian Committee Pierre de Coubertin

Director of the Centre for Olympic Studies

SENEGAL

Senegalese Pierre de Coubertin Committee

Fitting into the dynamic current of this olympic year, the Senegalese Pierre de Coubertin Committee organized two major events.

EVENT Nb. 1: One-day reflection session about "Pierre de Coubertin's Ideal in the face of the stakes of the Olympic Movement", held on May 15th, 2000, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Sports of Senegal.

In the course of this one-day meeting, two important papers were read by the Secretary General of the Olympic Committee and by a Professor from the National Institute of Sports.

This event gathered two hundred (200) people from the sports movement and school system in one of the local hotels.

EVENT Nb. 2: "Dakar Mini Olympic Games" organized on July 26th, 2000, at the Demba DIOP Stadium, with the participation of two hundred and fifty (250) boys and girls, 10 to 15 years old.

As a prelude to the Olympic Games organized in Sydney, it was necessary to inform young people about Pierre de Coubertin and the Olympic Games. This information

work was achieved through the organization of physical activities combined with an information and awareness campaign on olympic symbols.

As regards the year 2001, we consider intervening in particular within the school system and universities.

Alain Claude Monteiro
Secretary General

SPANISH

On March 26th 2000, Mr. Conrado Durántez as President of the Spanish Olympic Academy, gave the closing address to the National Congress of Sport For All which was hold in La Coruña. The subject was *Pierre de Coubertin's concept of sport for all*.

The Spanish Pierre de Coubertin Committee, aware of the importance and the possibilities offered by the Sydney Olympic Games, carried out a wide-ranging campaign at school level, diffusing knowledge on the person and legacy of Pierre de Coubertin. As a result of this project, the publication of a leaflet entitled *Pierre de Coubertin el humanista olimpico* (Pierre de Coubertin, the Olympic Humanist) was put under way. It contained the fundamental basics of the Coubertinian ideology and was sent to all the primary and middle schools in Madrid. These same schools were also sent a special poster, printed to coincide with the Sydney Games, which showed the most important historical events in the evolution of the Olympic movement as well as highlighting the most memorable quotations of Pierre de Coubertin.

In addition to this, a drawing competition on the subject of Coubertin was organised at school level as was another in narrative and literature on the person and the work of the famous humanist.

The jury awarded the prizes to the winners and also to Mr. José Maria Escudero, Head of the Santa Maria de los Rosales School in Madrid, which won the final prize. The prizes were presented on May 19th 2000 by the President of the Spanish Pierre de Coubertin Committee, Mr. Conrado Durántez, at the headquarters of the Spanish Olympic Committee.

From July 8th to 14th, the VIII Congress of the Association of Iberoamerican Olympic Academies was held in the city of Huelva and was attended by representatives of the 26 member countries. In one of the speeches, the subject of the importance of the creation of National Pierre de Coubertin Committees in each country was raised, recommending the constitution of these bodies for a more precise education on Coubertinian philosophy. As a result of this recommendation, the Pierre de Coubertin Committee of Ecuador has already been created and pending immediate constitution are those of Mexico and Colombia.

On December 19th 2000, the Spanish Pierre de Coubertin Committee held its first annual meeting. All existing members were called to attend and new members: journalists and ex Olympic athletes, were admitted. Among the items on the agenda was the creation of a travelling exhibition for schools. The teachers, Olimpia and Adela Oriol, will be in charge of planning this. A project for the making of a video about Pierre de Coubertin, also aimed at schools, is being studied by the member, Ignacio Colsa, who is a specialist in audiovisuals. Approval was also granted for the preparation of a large number of T-shirts with the image of Coubertin which will be distributed to schools.

The fundamental point of the Session was to study the organisation, together with the Ministry of Culture, of National Schools Championships which would bear the name of Pierre de Coubertin, and at the same time to make an official application to the Minister of Culture in order that some of the newly created schools be named after Pierre de Coubertin.

The associate, Angel Maria Villar, President of the Spanish Football Association and Vice-President of F.I.F.A. and a dedicated enthusiast of the Coubertinian ideology, gave his wholehearted support and offered all the federative means at his disposition to the setting up of school competitions on Pierre de Coubertin in the cities which will be venues for international football matches with the winning finalist being awarded special tickets to these matches, national team strips, footballs, etc.

On October 26th 2000, the headquarters of the Spanish Pierre de Coubertin Committee received one of the three copies of the Travelling Iconographic Exposition on the person and work of Pierre de Coubertin, made on June 14th 1994 by the Spanish Olympic Academy to commemorate the XXV Anniversary of its foundation.

YUGOSLAVIA

Since the creation of the National Committee Pierre de Coubertin in Yugoslavia, you have been regularly kept informed of the activities carried out during this time as well as news on our committees projected future activities, whose objectives are to continue the expansion of the ideals and the work of Pierre de Coubertin, and in addition the teaching of the basic principals of Olympism in our territory.

The work of the Yugoslavian committee has increased into new fields during the current year and this has led to a continued series of activities. We would mention some of them which, in the view of the members of our executive committee, have represented a step forward.

During the completed period, the Yugoslavian committee Pierre de Coubertin gave particular attention repairing and acquiring technical material for its office within the Yugoslavian Olympic Committee.

The necessary computer equipment has been installed: ISND, internet connection, fax and other things.

A full time post of secretary has been created, this has been filled by Miss Ana Radan, a young graduate English teacher. This has enabled great improvements in the equipping and the organisation of the programme set up by the Yugoslavian Committee Pierre de Coubertin.

The Committee Pierre de Coubertin, which operates from the headquarters of the Yugoslavian Olympic Committee, has taken the initiative to implant the teaching of Pierre de Coubertin in the educational system, with important results. A teaching plan in the form of an informal chat has been started in the sports academy. "The Olympic Culture", which comprises of a course of 30 hours during the first semester, includes training on the work of the founder of modern Olympism as well as the history of the Olympic Movement. The work plan of this great scholastic institution includes a thesis at the end of study of this subject.

The members of our committee are currently working on the formation of a team of highly-qualified teachers and pedagogues who will impart the ideals of Olympism in the programme in secondary schools and also in the educational programme in infant and primary schools.

Olympism is a positive way of life which should be developed and proposed to youth.

As we have already mentioned, a complete teaching programme is in the preparation for the secondary stage of the schools system. This will deal with the history of the Olympic Movement, the complete work of Pierre de Coubertin, as well as the philosophical themes of Olympism.

This programme will be completed and presented, at the end of 1999, in the Ministry of Education of the Serbian Republic, who will decide on its inclusion in the existing educational system.

The promotion of Olympism, its ideals and the work of Pierre de Coubertin, is the main objective of our committee. This is also carried out by means of collecting the written works; books, diverse publications and illustrations.

The members of the committee are also working on setting up a library and are busy gathering archive material.

Considering that Olympism has deep roots and tradition in Yugoslavia, we have insisted and continue to do so, on the publication of works by national authors, which deal with the beginnings and development of Olympism and the participation of Yugoslavian athletes in the Olympic Games as well as the translation of works in the field by foreign authors.

In order to increase our collaboration with other national committees in the world, another no less important part of our work, and to interchange information and documentation, the Yugoslavian Committee Pierre de Coubertin will soon be available via Internet, where it will have its own site. Detailed information on this will be circulated in due course.

Together and through different mediums, the Yugoslavian Olympic Committee, whose collaboration has been a success at all levels, and the Pierre de Coubertin Committee have kept the Yugoslav public aware of its activities and the results obtained. This fact is of utmost importance to the future work of our committee.

Taking into account the importance of the activity underway, we clearly believe in the introduction of Pierre de Coubertin teaching in the educational system in our country, thus, we would take the liberty of asking the members of the national committees Pierre de Coubertin for their help through their knowledge and experience in the sector. We therefore await important help from the ICPC museum to create library material as an aid to the educational system and to enable us to provide young talent with the possibility of investigating this sector.

A large number of the aforementioned activities have been carried out while our country has gone through a period of crisis; political and economical isolation which almost extended to the sports sector.

In spite of everything, the basic principles of Olympism have overcome these difficulties, thanks to the support of the International Olympic Committee, to President Juan Antonio Samaranch and international sports federations. In this way, our athletes have been able to continue taking part in different competitions and in almost all sports.

Mr. Prederag Manojlovic, President of the Yugoslavian National Committee, Pierre de Coubertin



SECRETARY GENERAL NOTES

IPCC is happy to congratulate among its members those who have been appointed or given an award or title.

Appointment:

Conrado Durantez, President of the Court in Madrid of which he is a magistrate.

Awards and Titles:

Conrado Durantez was given the "Olympic Trophy of the Century" by the Bolivian Olympic Committee.

Norbert Müller was raised to the rank of Chevalier of the Legion of Honour.

Prof. Yves-Pierre Boulongne received from the Association of sports authors the Pierre de Coubertin Award.

The University of Dakar named a room of the Gymnasium of the National Institute of Sports after Yves-Pierre Boulongne.

Gérard Dupuis was awarded the rank of Chevalier of the National Order of Merit.

Laurent Badoux was the winner of the contest organized on the Olympic Games by Daniel and Denise Deschâtres.

Norbert Müller and Geoffroy de Navacelle de Coubertin are the authors of the excerpts of the Selected Texts by Pierre de Coubertin, published in English and presented in Sydney.

We supported the 2nd Sports Games of Amou, organized from July 10th till 31st by APAS (Joint Association of Social Action for the Building Industry and Civil Engineering) with the collaboration of the City of Amou. These sports games are meant to help children discover what a team game is, as well as have them share intense moments with their friends and take up challenges or show them video projections relating to the Olympic Games in order to make them aware of the values of Olympism and Pierre de Coubertin's ideals.

We also supported the various exhibitions set up by the "Journey into the heart of Olympism" Association. Such exhibitions have been very successful in all cities where they were shown because they enable visitors to follow the various steps of the Olympic Games and become familiar with the work achieved by Pierre de Coubertin in favour of sports in general.

We will be organizing the 3rd Youth Forum in Lausanne, from September 22nd till 29th, 2001. We are counting on the participation of 10 to 12 countries.

Ada Wild

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Coubertin et l'Olympisme, Questions pour l'avenir, Havre 1897-1997

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APPEAL

The reader will note the unequal importance of the above news and above all the absence of news coming from many countries where we are present and where there are certainly interesting events. It is for this reason that we launch an urgent appeal to all members that they furnish for the edition of this «Information Letter» these items worth bringing to the attention of our readers when they pertain to an action or an event related to Pierre de Coubertin and to his work.

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