
INFORMATION LETTER

OF

**THE INTERNATIONAL
PIERRE DE COUBERTIN
COMMITTEE**



1/2006

CONTENTS

<i>Hermann Andrecs</i> Preliminary Remark	1
<i>Norbert Müller</i> Message from the IPCC President	2
<i>Ines Nikolaus</i> 5 th Youth Forum of Pierre de Coubertin Schools in Radstadt (Austria) 2005 ...	4
<i>Jean-Loup Chappelet</i> Information from the IPCC Secretary General	9
„Osaka Prize“ for the International Pierre de Coubertin Committee	10
IOC Awarded Dr. Erwin Niedermann/Austria the Pierre de Coubertin Medal ...	12
Bronze Plaque for the Coubertin-Gymnasium in Berlin	13
<i>Hermann Andrecs</i> 5 th EOC Technical Seminar	15
<i>Ines Nikolaus</i> Introduction of the Pierre de Coubertin Prize (School Award A-Level) in Thuringa (Germany)	17
<i>Jean-Loup Chappelet</i> The IOC in Lausanne for Ninety Years	19
<i>Norbert Müller</i> Paris 1906 - Coubertin Invite the Artists	21
<i>Julia Gerling</i> The Idea of Peace as Coubertin's Vision for the Modern Olympic Movement: Development and Pedagogic Consequences	31
<i>Don Antony</i> Letter from London 2005	39
<i>Helen Brownlee</i> Letter from Australia	41



PRELIMINARY REMARK

The yearly Information Letter of CIPC is a mirror of the activities in this body.

It informs not only our members about events, projects and plans, we also present our committee to similar institutions in the world of sports and olympic education.

The Information Letter is as well intended to be a platform for the National PdCCs to present their work in an international forum.

Unfortunately very few member organizations take the opportunity to inform about their activities beyond the borders and it might appear that we are lacking a broader impact of our ideas in many regions. We therefore repeat our steady request to hand on to our secretary general all informations and reports that might be of interest to all the members of CIPC.

As the Information Letter 2005 was exclusively dedicated to the report of the 5th International Youth Forum at Radstadt some of the contributions of this issue date back to the end of 2004.

A broader part is made up by the investigation of Ines Nikolaus on the impact of the 5th Youth Forum. As it is the first scientific analysis of a Forum (and the work of other Forums) the results of it could be a basis for the organization of further Forums in their biennial intervals. Other contributions in this issue deal with texts of the president and board members and with ceremonies for special awards.

Responsible for this issue: Hermann Andrees
Layout: Eva Zacek



MESSAGE FROM THE IPCC PRESIDENT

Dear CIPC members,

in May 2005 we met at the Lycée Polyvalent Pierre de Coubertin in Bolbec/Normandy for our general assembly. It was a good and harmonious meeting in which a surprisingly high number of members from 11 countries took part in. Our honorary president Geoffroy de Navacelle de Coubertin welcomed us after the assembly at Chateau Mirville, just 3 km from Bolbec. The present to our members, the movie "Coubertin yesterday and today" has been praised throughout the world. The movie – produced in English, French, and German versions – has been also distributed, in cooperation with the Union International du Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM), to all Olympic family members

In June 2005 the IOC Session decided in a secret vote to retain Modern Pentathlon as an Olympic sport. We are very grateful to the IOC members for this decision, because Coubertin's heritage had to be preserved as was the one to invent this sport.

The work of the CIPC has concentrated in 2005 on the 5th International Coubertin Youth Forum in Radstadt/Austria. Thomas Sithole, the IOC Director for Culture and Olympic Education has come as an honorary guest just for this occasion from Lausanne. We have sent all of you a special issue, prepared by our CIPC council member Dr. Hermann Andrecs (Austria), in late December 2005 about this very successful forum. The 6th Forum will be in 2007 in Tabor (Czech Republic).

In November 2005, the first Coubertin school received the „Member of the World Wide Pierre de Coubertin School Network“ plaque in Berlin. You will find an article concerning this ceremony in this issue.

While the cooperation with the approximately 20 Pierre de Coubertin schools in all continents has made an enormous progress, we lack information about the work of many national Pierre de Coubertin committees. We thank the committees of

Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, Germany, France, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia for their reports. We are pleased to welcome the new national Coubertin Committee of Mauritius, thanks to the personal efforts made by Jacques de Navacelle de Coubertin who is living there.

At the Olympic Winter Games, the CIPC received the OSAKA Award of the World Olympians Association. We are very proud to have received this award. You will find the laudatio in this issue.

A CIPC special printing „Coubertin – Winter Sports and the Olympic Winter Games“ has been presented to the IOC President, the news media, and the public in Turin.

The Coubertin poster exhibition of the Erfurt High School has been the center of attention during the meeting of the Italian Olympic Academy in Pinerollo close to Turin which took place in January and had been open to school classes during the Winter Games at the school center Don Bosco.

The general assembly 2006 will take place in Cologne. It will be connected with the international symposium „Coubertin: Olympism and the Arts“ celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Olympic Congress at the Comédie Francaise in Paris in May 1906 which introduced arts competitions as a part of the Olympic Games. We hope for a large participation, especially as we will be guests of the German Sport and Olympic Museum.

I am looking forward to see you in Cologne.



Dr. Norbert Müller
President of the CIPC

5TH YOUTH FORUM OF PIERRE DE COUBERTIN SCHOOLS IN RADSTADT (AUSTRIA) 2005

Participants Point of View

1. Introduction - Subject of Investigation

One of the new objectives of our work, introduced at the General Assembly of CIPC in April 2002, is to teach young people Coubertin's humanist ideas and to encourage them to practise his ideals. This initiative has become a major part of our work, primarily reflected in the Youth Forums.

After the 5th Forum of this kind, we can now look back at the successful tradition of Olympic education and international understanding initiated and supported by our Committee.

As you realise, our International Network is constantly growing and has now reached three continents.

In Radstadt a new record was set: 15 delegations from 13 countries participated in the Forum.

In order to find out more about the needs of our schools and to be able to give support anywhere necessary to strengthen the Network, CIPC for the first time started a questionnaire about Olympic education in the schools of the Network, especially those questions connected with our Youth Forums.

2. Method

In order to get a representative statement, all 95 students (46 boys and 49 girls) as well as all heads of schools and accompanying teachers representing their schools in Radstadt were asked to answer the questionnaire in the morning of their last day in Radstadt after having completed an exciting week of international meetings, excursions to discover the Austrian Alps, sport and cultural events.

3. Results of research

In the following section, selected aspects of the pupils' questionnaire and the teachers' evaluation sheet of the Youth Forum are presented and discussed.

One aim of this questionnaire was to find out why young people decide to take part in the Youth Forum that they heard about from participants of previous meetings, reports of their teachers or read about in articles in the Internet or the pupils' magazine.

THESIS 1: MOST PUPILS DECIDE TO TAKE PART IN THE YOUTH FORUM TO GET TO KNOW YOUNG PEOPLE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

99% of the pupils considered the possibility of getting to know young people from other countries as the main reason for their participation in the Youth Forum. Also important was their desire to learn more about other countries and their cultures, as stated by 82% of the participants. Another reason for their decision was the wish to experience something new and exciting (94%). Fortunately, 85% of the participants also wanted to learn more about Pierre de Coubertin and Olympic history. More than half of all participants also saw their participation in the Coubertin Award and the competition for the Coubertin medal as an important reason of their decision.

This result might be considered a first success of our continuous work in the Network for more than nine years now and reflects the pupils' interest in Coubertin's life and work, the man whose name represents the philosophy of our schools.

Furthermore, about two thirds of the pupils named their wish to travel and learn about Austria and the possibility of practising sports with young people from many countries as important for their decision.

THESIS 2: YOUNG PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE WILLING TO UNDERTAKE COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THEIR REGION.

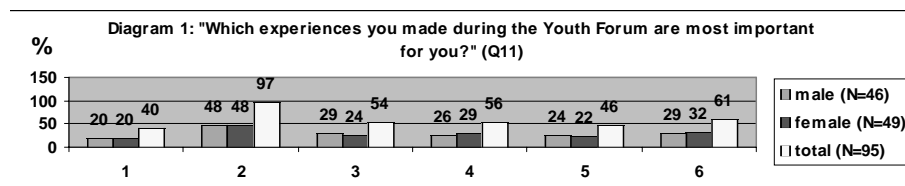
Due to a lack of possibilities and time during the one week of the Youth Forum, one category of the Coubertin Award, the community service, had already to be completed at home. As in the previous CIPC Youth Forums the large variety of community service undertaken by the pupils was quite impressive:

57% of the participants supported people of their community, who needed help (e.g. elderly and ill people, handicapped persons, children and especially orphans), almost half of the pupils (49%) worked as coaches for younger children in sports associations or helped organising sports events. 14% were committed to fundraising in various charity campaigns (e.g. UNICEF, Anti-Aids Campaign, campaigns against cancer etc.), 4% actively supported projects for the protection of the environment (e.g. reforestation, cleaning of the local beaches, parks etc.) and 2% were members of the students' self-governments (class spokesmen, school spokesmen etc.).

As the certificates about social service signed by the Heads of schools proved, most of the pupils have been engaged in community service for a long period, a large majority of them even for several years. So their activities were not one-time services to contribute to the Coubertin Award, but they are an expression of the young people's willingness to give help to those in the community who need our help.

THESIS 3: TO TAKE PART IN AN INTERNATIONAL CIPC YOUTH FORUM IS A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE FOR EACH PARTICIPANT ? WORTH TO PASS TO OTHERS.

The majority of the interviewees considered the 5th Youth Forum a great and unique personal experience, some even called it a "lifetime experience" or stated that the Forum was "too short". Diagram 1 shows the most impressive experiences for the delegates.



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 expansion of knowledge about Coubertin and the Olympic Movement | 4 feeling of success about understanding in a foreign language |
| 2 friendship with young people from other countries | 5 self-confident presentation in front of a large audience |
| 3 learning about customs and traditions of other countries | 6 team spirit in your own delegation |

After one week of exciting events in a multicultural community the majority of the pupils expressed the wish to pass their experiences to classmates, relatives and friends in their home towns, to tell others about their wonderful feeling of international friendship they could experience.

This could indeed be a great resource in making the work of our international network popular, to keep in touch with the new friends and in this way to help strengthen and improve the work of our network.

Furthermore, this would be an excellent help in the preparation of the next generation of participants for the 6th Youth Forum next year.

Therefore, all schools with great responsibility should support the participants and accompanying teachers of their schools to put this task into practice and in some cases to motivate them to do it in the near future.

THESIS 4: THE ORGANISATION AND REALISATION OF THE 5TH YOUTH FORUM IN RADSTADT WAS A SUCCESS.

In the last part of the questionnaire the participants and teachers were asked to evaluate the organisation as well as different aspects and events of the 5th Youth Forum. The goal was to find out more about interests and needs of the young generation and which kinds of support CIPC can give to the schools in preparation for the next Youth Forum.

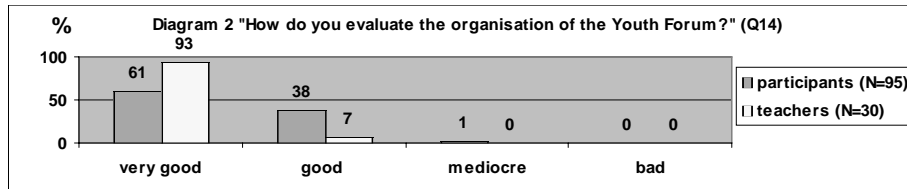


Diagram 2 shows that nearly two thirds (61%) of all questioned pupils evaluated the organisation as very good, 38% as good and only one boy considered it mediocre. 28 teachers (93%), some of them having already participated in one or several Youth Forums and so having a comparison to previous ones, evaluated the preparation as very good, 2 teachers (7%) as good.

The majority of the participants truly appreciated the engagement and support of the host school. Perhaps, this is the way we should go in the future for the organisation of Youth Forums.

When asked about the positive aspects of the Youth Forum, the answers varied. The eight positive things of the Youth Forum most frequently stated by the participants were:

- the excursions
- the sports competitions
- meeting youth from other countries
- the organisation/timing
- the meals
- the arts performance
- the friendly atmosphere
- the discussion groups

At this point, it should be mentioned that some participants and accompanying teachers suggested more time for team sports or even international tournaments in team sports for future Forums. These activities offer excellent opportunities to mix the groups from the very beginning and support the realisation of Coubertin's ideals like Fair Play, mutual respect and friendship of the nations.

Another expression for a successful organisation of the 5th Youth Forum are the results to question 17 "Would you suggest pupils from your school to participate in the next Youth Forum?".

93 participants (98%) answered yes, one boy (1%) no ("I do not know other pupils' abilities"), one boy (1%) did not answer.

The most frequently given reasons for these answers were: because of the possibility to meet youth from other nations (45%), It was the greatest experience of my life (37%), to learn more about Coubertin and Olympism (20%), because it was fun/interesting (15%), It was a lifetime experience (9%), to exchange experiences with representatives of other cultures (9%), It was a great language experience (7%).

4. Summary and conclusion

The questionnaire for the pupils and teachers, who participated in the 5th CIPC Youth Forum of Coubertin Schools in Radstadt (Austria) in 2005, has provided some interesting aspects concerning their expectations, their preparation and experiences:

The main reason for the pupils' decision to take part in the Youth Forum was to get to know young people from other countries, to learn about their culture and to exchange experiences. Furthermore, their decision was determined by the wish to extend the knowledge about Pierre de Coubertin and Olympic history, as well as to successfully take part in the Coubertin Award and to gain the Coubertin medal. Finally, they expected to experience something new and exciting (see thesis 1).

The assumption that young people are willing to do volunteer work for the benefit of their community is confirmed by the pupils' answers (see thesis 2). A large variety of community service was named, among them many long-term activities which reflect a high level of responsibility and personal engagement among the youth.

Most of the expectations listed at the beginning of the questionnaire were fulfilled. Almost all youth confirmed that their participation in the Radstadt Forum was a unique experience, which will be beneficial to others (see thesis 3). Being multipliers at their home schools, indeed, will offer an excellent opportunity to spread the philosophy of our Network and make the preparation of future Forums easier.

All in all, the organisation and realisation of the 5th Youth Forum can be considered a success which was confirmed by the pupils' and teachers' answers (see thesis 4). The long-term preparation for nearly two years, including a good co-operation between CIPC and the schools, has paid off. In particular, the support from the host school was overwhelming.

The continuation of questionnaires like the one that was presented within this paper (original questionnaire see appendix) will help to intensify our work and strengthen our Network.

Ines Nikolaus

INFORMATION FROM THE IPCC SECRETARY GENERAL

In 2005 the IPCC General Meeting took place in the city of Bolbec in Normandy, France. The location was the Pierre de Coubertin High School where the headmaster, Mr. Michel Collet, welcomed us. We were 25 participants from 11 countries. In the afternoon we visited the Château de Mirville, the summer residence of Coubertin in his youth. The visit was guided by Mr. Geoffroy de Navacelle de Coubertin and one of his sons, Antoine. On the previous day the IPCC Bureau had taken place in the dining room of Mirville.

In September 2005, the exhibition on Coubertin and his works prepared by Ines Nikolaus and her students was presented in the Olympic Capital City. The occasion was the Comptoir Suisse, an annual fair which is held in Lausanne each Autumn. Many athletes gathered around a Coubertin bust lent by the Olympic Museum. A picture was taken with three well known Swiss ski champions: Erika Hess, Pirmin Zurbriggen and Sylviane Berthod. Several local newspapers presented the exhibition and drew many visitors.

An Executive Bureau took place in Berlin on 16th November 2006 before the ceremony during which the first plaque of the Network of Coubertin Schools was awarded to the Pierre de Coubertin Gymnasium in the German capital (see separate report). The Executive Bureau settled all the accounts of the IPCC Youth Forum in Radstadt and prepared the programme of activities for 2006.

Jean-Loup Chappelet



Coubertin Exhibition in September 2005 in Lausanne with three Swiss ski champions: Erika Hess, Pirmin Zurbriggen, and Sylviane Berthod (left to right). Photo: Christian Bonzon.

„OSAKA-PRIZE“ FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PIERRE DE COUBERTIN COMMITTEE

The International Pierre de Coubertin Committee, established in 1975, has individual members in 58 countries and, from Australia to Romania to Senegal, there are 30 national Pierre de Coubertin Committees actively working.

The purpose of the Committee is to study, and to make known and understood, the work of Pierre de Coubertin and to assure its dissemination throughout the world. The Committee is committed to the search for solutions to today's problems and to promoting and encouraging the study of Pierre de Coubertin's humanism that was an essential part of his philosophy. His teaching had moral, cultural and educational aspects that contributed to the principles from which the Olympic Ideals emerged. The Committee is bound to honour and recognize athletes, universities, organizations and others whose achievements and activities best serve the ideals of Pierre de Coubertin, and to collaborate with national and international bodies that have undertaken the task of furthering the Olympic Ideals and Spirit and honouring the heritage of Pierre de Coubertin.



Members of CIPC entouring the president with the Osaka Throphy (Nadja Ruth, Pr. J.-L-Chappelet, Dr. J. Kamuti, Ines Nikolaus, Pr. Müller. K. Bohnstedt and M. Buchwalder)



CIPC-President Norbert Müller by his thanks adress to the representative of the City of Osaka and WOA-President Pál Schmitt, member of the IOC

A most important aspect of the IPCC's work is the foundation of a worldwide network of Coubertin High Schools of which there are currently 50 in 17 countries with plans for many more in the offing. To further the goal of promoting Coubertin's educational ideals, the IPCC organises every two years the „International Coubertin Youth Forums“ in which 150 students from 15 schools in different countries come together to compete in sports and arts events, and a written essay contest on Olympism for the Pierre de Coubertin Award.

The World Olympians Association has decided to honour the International Pierre de Coubertin Committee with the Osaka Award. In making this Award, the World Olympians Association wishes to draw attention to the valuable activities of the IPCC and to encourage them to continue their important work.

IOC AWARDED DR. ERWIN NIEDERMANN/AUSTRIA THE PIERRE DE COUBERTIN MEDAL

On proposal of CIPC the Council of Olympic Order at the IOC meeting in November 2004 awarded the longterm president of the Austrian Olympic Academy this high distinction for the outstanding services to the Olympic Movement.

Dr. Niedermann, professor emeritus of the University of Salzburg, was the first director of the division of sports science after its foundation in 1965. Much of his energy and enthusiasm he dedicated to the setup of the new institution. His main field of work was sport pedagogy and sport history, but he has also been fascinated by philosophical issues of sport and Olympism.

Already in 1968 he tried to install an Austrian Olympic Society, however this idea was not favoured by the NOC. After the foundation of the AOA in 1982 he became the first president and worked in this function until 1994, when he was elected honorary president. Among the many merits of his Olympic endeavour his effort for better cooperation with the NOAs of the neighbouring countries especially in times with the „iron curtain“ must be mentioned. One of the results of this engagement is the Austrian-Hungarian publication „Die Olympische Bewegung in Osterreich und Ungarn von den Anfängen bis 1918“. Unfortunately Dr. Niedermann died on April 9th 2005 a few days after his 94th birthday.



The grandsons of Dr. Erwin Niedermann accepting the Pierre de Coubertin Medal by NOC President Dr. Leo Wallner and CIPC member Dr. Hermann Andrcs; photo: GEPA pictures, Graz/Austria

BRONZE PLAQUE FOR THE COUBERTIN-GYMNASIUM IN BERLIN

On November 16, 2005, for the first time a bronze plaque with the inscription „Membre du Réseau International des Ecoles Pierre de Coubertin“ has been unveiled at the Pierre de Coubertin-Gymnasium in Berlin. It has been designed by the well-known German sculptor Karlheinz Oswald who had also designed the Coubertin portrait at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne. All the 800 students of the sports high school were present at the ceremony. The principal of the school welcomed many honorary guests: IOC member Walther Tröger, representing the NOC for Germany, and the members of the CIPC: Prof. Norbert Müller, Jean Durry, Prof. J.-L.Chappelet, Me Michel Renaud, Ines Nikolaus, and Dr. Hermann Andreacs.

The International Coubertin Committee had convened its board meeting in Berlin to enable its five members from France and Switzerland to be present in addition to its two German members. The German Pierre de Coubertin Committee was represented by its Vice President Ines Nikolaus.

CIPC President Prof. Norbert Müller said: „I have the pleasure and honor to announce to you that the International Pierre de Coubertin Committee has granted your school the status ‘Permanent Member of the world-wide network of Pierre de Coubertin schools’. It is a pleasure for me that your elite school belongs to the 20



Headmaster Olav Wandelt by his welcome speech in front of the Coubertin High School Berlin

Pierre de Coubertin schools in the world and it is the first to receive this honor. Your students have – instructed by committed teachers – participated in all international Pierre de Coubertin Youth Forums since 1997. Your former principal, Mr. Claus Kretschmer, had contacted the CIPC as early as 1992 and has been the driving force in establishing the world-wide network of Coubertin schools.

The delegation of students of the Coubertin-Gymnasium Berlin has participated in and contributed to the success of the 5th International Coubertin Youth Forum in Radstadt/Austria with a convincing performance as well in content as in music and sports. All students received the Coubertin Award. It is a pleasure for the CIPC to honor the Coubertin-Gymnasium Berlin as the first school world-wide with this newly created plaque. “Müller’s words were received with cheers from the students. After the speeches had been delivered, the plaque was unveiled together by the students’ representative and IOC member Walther Tröger at the entrance of the school. A sports gala at the indoor sports facilities of the school and a round table discussion on the problems of modern high performance sports followed. The award ceremony for the most successful athletes of the school in national and international championships was part of the gala. Altogether, 70 students in basketball, handball, volleyball, swimming, springboard diving, acrobatics, badminton, table tennis, ice dancing, and ice skating were honored. The Coubertin-Gymnasium in Berlin is the leading sports high school in Germany. With four other schools, it is allowed to call itself „elite school for sports“.



Walther Tröger, member of the IOC for Germany, unveiled the new Official School Plaque „Membre du reseau mondial des Ecoles Pierre de Coubertin“

5TH EOC TECHNICAL SEMINAR

**„Both sides of the medals – win to win models in sports“,
Warsaw, 10 –12th December 2004**

It was encouraging for the representative of CIPC that this seminar was organized in the recently opened six floor building of the Polish Olympic Committee called Olympic Educational Centre pointing out by this that olympic education was an important issue of the institution. 64 delegates of 34 European OCs, as well as observers of Australia and USA and 50 participants of sports federations of the organizing country formed the conference with the Honorary President Juan Antonio Samaranch as interested representative of IOC.

Chairperson of the seminar Gunilla Lindberg, IOC-Vizepresident, pointed out in her opening address the main goals of the seminars (the yearly get together since 1999): „Exchange of information and cooperation between the NOCs. We can learn from each other, no matter if we are a big or a small NOC and no matter from which corner of the world we come from.

With the games coming back to Greece the win to win situation for the Olympic Movement, Olympic Culture, olympic values and olympic history was fantastic. The Olympic ideals were brought forward with a very strong message and was also received in a very welcoming way all around the world.“The discussion would be directed to the Olympic Ideals, to win to win models, experiences of success and failure, as well as to managing sports careers and targeting athletes for the coming games.

A larger part of the seminar was dedicated to the evaluation of the Olympic Games 2004 by selected NOCs (Australia, Cyprus, Germany, Great Britain, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Slovenia and Sweden) covering large or smaller, more or less successful NOCs that showed a great variety in further planning up to the year 2014. To my opinion the most impressive endeavours were offered by Australia, Germany and Sweden.

Highly successful athletes like Michael Gross in swimming or Robert Korzeniovsky in athletics (4 times gold in the 50 km Walk) spoke about their experiences in managing sports careers and targeting athletes for Olympic Games, and they were assisted by coaches Lars Nielsen (athletics), Ad Roskam (swimming) and sport directors like Werner Augsburger/CH and Eddie deSmedt/B.

A very impressive contribution in this regard was Peep Vain’s lecture „Learning to Achieve“.

The expert from Estonia dealt with a topic of ever increasing interest as physical and medical procedures of performance have reached a limit, the psychological field, however, still offers new perspectives.

There were two contributions in this seminar not focussing technical aspects and items like management, coaching, media and sponsoring but dedicated to the Olympic Ideals today. The one offered on the first day by Tomas G. Sitholo, IOC-Director of International Relations, in which he stressed the fact, that Olympic Games are not an immediate event but more a longer lasting process with great impact on all our lives. And he demonstrated it by the example of some African countries where the Olympic movement and the Olympic solidarity opened new chances for the youth, created heroes and helped to national identity. It also developed the selfconfidence and the rights of women in these countries.

And the last day of the seminar again was focussed on „Olympic Ideals today“. It seems that the organizers had found, a topic referring to Olympic principles, to the origin of the Olympic Movement and to the meaning of Olympism would well fit for a group of „technicians“ who made the majority of the participants. In his introduction Dr. Hermann Andrecs as representative of CIPC stated that the Olympic principles should not be only a part of the Olympic Charta but a steady guideline for all engaged in olympic institutions.

And the olympic messages like the persuit of excellence, amateurism (as dedication to an idea, to community), the development of a well rounded personality recognizing body, mind and character as part of life long learning and well being (the importance of education), fair play, mutual respect and solidarity as a basis for better understanding among individuals and nations, these qualities should be a goal for all sports practising people.

The NOCs should not only care for top athletes but should understand themselves as a great potential in the sport education of youth (and adults) at any level. The olympic messages in terms of today could be a useful orientation for life.

And finally referring to the European Year of Education through Sport and the ten new member states in the European Union Dr. Andrecs found it a great chance and challenge for the EOCs. The EU is so far based mainly on economic relations with very tender ties in cultural, historical and democratic roots. Europe is craving for more common background and common identy. It would be a good issue for the EOCs to be more engaged for integration, for soldarity, for joy of life, for health and environment by sport, for sport has a universal language, has to offer living examples, and cooperation is one of its main characteristics.

The Polish Olympic Committee with the team of helpers were an excellent host, they not only helped with all practical arrangements and did everything to make the participants feel well, they also showed their pride in their olympic achievements which are remarkable in many ways.

Dr. Hermann Andrecs

INTRODUCTION OF THE PIERRE DE COUBERTIN PRIZE (SCHOOL AWARD A-LEVEL) IN THURINGIA (GERMANY)

On July 6th 2005 50 A-Level candidates (among them 25 girls) were donated the Pierre de Coubertin Prize. After Rhineland-Palatinate and Hesse, Thuringia is the third German region where this wonderful award for physical education was introduced.

Only one student from each Thuringian school could be honoured with the award named after the French sports pedagogue and founder of the Modern Olympic Games.

In the spirit of Coubertin the respective pupils had shown excellent achievements in physical education, had demonstrated their engagement in extracurricular sport and had actively taken over various positions in their school community (i.e. advisers, tutors, class spokesmen, musicians, or participants in artistic activities or international exchange programs).

The young award-winners were donated a certificate and a medal showing Coubertin's portrait on the one side and his educational motto „voir loin, parler franc, agir ferme“ (see afar, speak frankly, act firmly) on the other side.



Proud of their medals and remembering this great ceremony the first award-winners will surely never forget this day.

The ceremony took place in a friendly ambience of the Thuringian Sports School in Bad Blankenburg at about 50 km from Erfurt.

The CIPC President, Prof. Dr. Norbert Müller, the President of the Regional Sports Association, Peter Gösel, and Dr. Speerschneider, representative of the Thuringian Ministry of Education, addressed their speeches to the young award-winners.

Honouring Coubertin's achievements pupils of the Coubertin Gymnasium Erfurt gave an impressive Power Point Presentation on Pierre de Coubertin's life and work as a humanist.

Due to his idea of the symbiosis of sport and the arts the ceremony was accompanied by brilliant sports presentations by young acrobats, dancers, clowns and modern music.

After this successful event in the Thuringian Sports School the Board Members of the German Pierre de Coubertin Committee started a campaign to popularise the idea of the Pierre de Coubertin Prize in other German regions. First contacts have already been made with Coubertin friends in Austria, Slovakia, Estonia and Czech Republic, too, showing a pleasing resonance.

Ines Nikolaus

THE IOC IN LAUSANNE FOR NINETY YEARS

Ninety years ago almost to the day, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) established its headquarters in Lausanne. It was on 10 April 1915, in fact, during the First World War, that Coubertin took it upon himself to move the IOC – of which he was the President – to the capital of the Canton of Vaud. A brief ceremony took place on that date, following a sitting of the Municipality during which the Syndic, Mr Maillefer, took note of the establishment of the IOC's headquarters in his town. The Chairman of the Canton's State Council was excused from the meeting, while the President of the Confederation sent a short telegram to wish the IOC welcome.

As we can see, the welcome was far from being an effusive one. The IOC was a little-known entity without a clearly defined legal status (it only took on that of an association in 1974!) and whose headquarters had previously been at Coubertin's home in Paris. Sheltering the IOC in a neutral country, beyond the grasp of the Germans – who were in theory to organise the Olympic Games in Berlin in 1916 – was frequently cited as the official explanation for the move. In fact, however, Coubertin had a hidden motive. He wished to turn Lausanne into a „modern Olympia“, i.e. the permanent headquarters of the Olympic Games, which at the time were finding it hard to find and keep their host cities. To this end, he had already organised an architecture competition in 1911, whose first prize „Olympia on the right bank of Lake Geneva“, permitted E. Monod and A. Laverrière of Lausanne to win a gold medal the following year at the art competitions organised at the Stockholm Games. Their vast project was never to see the light of day, but the venues planned for Vidy and Dorigny are today the sites of outstanding public sports facilities.

Coubertin also had another idea in mind: that of creating an Olympic Institute in Lausanne that would be independent of the IOC and aimed at making sport accessible to all, within a pedagogical and cultural framework. From 1917 to 1919, the institute operated from the premises of the Casino de Montbenon, loaned by the City of Lausanne. It combined the practice of sport and theoretical lectures. Coubertin saw it as a tool for what today would be called a municipal sports policy, and an inspiration for other cities to recreate a gymnasium from the antique period. He also believed that he would find work at the university there once his period in office as the IOC President was over. Today, a distant successor of Coubertin's concept is the AISTS (International Academy of Sports Science and Technology), founded in 2000 by the universities and graduate schools of the Lake Geneva region (UNIL, UNIGE, EPFL, IDHEAP), the City of Lausanne, the Canton of Vaud, and the IOC. The academy notably accepts around thirty participants per year from all over the world for its Master in Sports Administration and Technology programme which permits the gra-

duates, on returning to their respective countries, to raise awareness of the „Olympic Capital“.

In fact, however, Lausanne and its region became a modern Olympia in another way. Since the 1980s, and with President Samaranch as its driving force, around twenty International and European Sports Federations have settled in the Canton of Vaud and in Lausanne in particular. The Olympic Museum always planned by Coubertin, the Court of Arbitration for Sport, the European Office of the World Anti-Doping Agency and other organisations linked to international sport complete this galaxy of Olympism.



The authorities are in favour of establishing these headquarters. We are witnessing a veritable public economic and tourism development policy based on hosting such entities and sports events. Today, policies of this kind have been put in place in many towns, regions or even countries, and in particular regarding the hosting of major events.

A scientific conference, to be organised by IDHEAP in June 2006 within the framework of a European project, will analyse this emerging phenomenon.

Some ninety years after Coubertin's decisive initiative, all that now remains for the French-speaking region of Switzerland is to reconsider the possibility of organising the Olympic (Winter) Games.

Prof. Jean-Loup Chappelet
IDHEAP (Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration)

PARIS 1906 – COUBERTIN INVITE THE ARTISTS

(by Norbert Müller)

Fourth Olympic Congress (Advisory Conference) Paris, Comédie Française and Touring Club, May 23-25, 1906

Subject: Incorporation of the Fine Arts in the Olympic Games and in Everyday Life

Participants: approx. 60 persons, among them 30 artists and 5 IOC members only few foreigners (approx. 10) Patron: Jules Clarétie, Director of the Comédie Française and M. Dujardin-Beaumetz, French Secretary of State for the Fine Arts

Chair: Baron Pierre de Coubertin

Commissions: Several for the various genres of art

Head of Organising Committee: Baron Pierre de Coubertin

1 Arts and Olympism

In 1906, Coubertin drew the Olympic movement's attention to the relationship between the Olympic Games and the arts. From the beginning, this was one of his basic aspects of his Olympic idea.

At the start of the Olympic movement, Coubertin did not stress this aspect explicitly because „*the first necessity was to revive them and the second to shape them.*“¹

The Congresses of Le Havre and Brussels connected the Olympic movement to science, and the integration of art was to come. According to Coubertin's view, Olympic Games should comprise elements which led them beyond international championships and demonstrated their spiritual content, thus coming closer to the ancient ideal. In 1904, he explained:

„*Now the moment has come when we enter a new phase and intend to reestablish the original beauty of Olympic Games. In the high times of Olympia...the fine arts were combined harmoniously with the Olympic Games to create their glory. This is to become reality once again.*“²

Originally, Coubertin had hoped that the regulation of the IOC Charter „to make the Olympic Games increasingly perfect, more and *more worthy*“³ would create that combination on its own. A special programme of arts for the Games planned in Rome in 1908 was impeded by the fact that they were moved unexpectedly to London. Therefore, Coubertin took the initiative.

¹ See COUBERTIN, P. de: Une Olympie moderne. In: RO (1910), no. 1, p. 10. Quoted in: COUBERTIN: Idea, p. 29.

² COUBERTIN, P. de: Donner sans retenir. In: Le Figaro, June 16, 1904, p. 1, translated.

³ REGLEMENTS. „But-2) De rendre cette celebration de plus en plus parfaite...“ Even the first IOC Rules contained this mission (IOC Archives), translated.



PARIS, 10, Boulevard Flandrin

Avril 1906.

Monsieur

J'ai l'honneur de vous prier, au nom du Comité International Olympique, de bien vouloir prendre part à la Conférence consultative qui se réunira à la Comédie-Française (Foyer du public), les Mercredi 23, Jeudi 24 et Vendredi 25 Mai 1906, sous la présidence d'honneur de M. DUJARDIN-BEAUMETZ, Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat des Beaux-Arts et de M. Jules CLARETIE, Administrateur de la Comédie-Française, à l'effet d'étudier **dans quelle mesure et sous quelle forme les Arts et les Lettres pourraient participer à la célébration des Olympiades modernes et, en général, s'associer à la pratique des Sports pour en bénéficier et les ennoblir.**

Vous trouverez ci-joint le programme de cette Conférence à laquelle nous serons particulièrement heureux de vous voir apporter le précieux concours, de votre compétence et de votre autorité.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur, l'expression de nos sentiments les plus distingués.

Le Président du Comité International Olympique,

M. _____

T. S. V. P.

2 Inviting the Artists

In a circular letter sent to the IOC members and dated April 2, 1906, Coubertin informed them about convening an *advisory conference*. He called upon them to name artists and writers in their respective countries who could be invited to the conference. In the letter, the theme for discussion was phrased as „*to come and study to what extent and in what way art and literature could be included in the celebration of the modern Olympiads*.“⁴

As second issue, the conference was to discuss possible ways for co-operation between arts and sport in the limited framework of local sports meetings. Art was to help „*weaken the specialised and technical character of sport*“⁵ as well as to shape the „*quadrennial festival of the human springtide*, „⁶ as Coubertin repeatedly called the Olympic Games. Every form of youthful expression, including art, was to be considered.

„*Sport can bring joy only in a festive dress*,“¹ Coubertin wrote at the end of a treatise on the *Ruskinianism of sport*. Very early, Coubertin adopted the main ideas of Ruskinian aestheticism, referred to them in his writings, and put them into practice in the way he performed festivities.⁸ The intended combination of art and sport should surpass the aesthetic embodiment of an athlete in competition, and should embellish the course of sports events so that both competitors and spectators could experience a perfect harmony (referred to as „*eurhythmics*“⁹ by Coubertin).

⁴ Lettre Circulaire aux membres du CIO. Paris, April 2, 1906 (IOC Archives). Quoted in: COUBERTIN: *Memoirs*, p. 50.

⁵ COUBERTIN: *Campagne*, p. 193., translated.

⁶ COUBERTIN, P. de: *Les assises philosophiques de l'Olympisme moderne*. Quoted in: COUBERTIN: *Idea*, p. 132.

⁷ COUBERTIN, P. de: *Decoration, Pyrotechnic, Harmonies, Corteges. Essais de Ruskinianisme sportif*. Paris 1911, p. 22, translated. The Englishman John Ruskin (1819—1900), for whom the outer beauty simply reflected the inner-a thought of the ancient world-, was Coubertin's great model. Ruskin intended to embellish modern civilisation, e.g. by huge gardens, and Coubertin transferred his idea to sport.

⁸ Coubertin was a master in arranging festive events. All Olympic meetings had festive moments which Coubertin had planned meticulously. Examples were the 1889 Congress, the celebration of the 5th anniversary of the USFSA in 1892, the Founding Congress 1894, and many more.

⁹ Coubertin saw that much remained to be done because eurhythmics was forgotten about. The majority of people were not able to combine different types of enjoying arts. See COUBERTIN, P. de: *Discours d'ouverture de la Conférence consultative*. In: *Anthologie*. Aix-en-Provence 1933, p. 166, translated.

3 Formal Framework and the Opening

As befitted the subject, the opening and closing meetings took place in the foyer of the Comédie Française. Jules Clarétie, the director of the theatre, had assumed patronage. More than half of the approx. 60 guests were artists from various genres. Among them were famous French writers, sculptors, architects, and painters plus a number of actors from the Comédie Française. Representatives of state institutions, like the director of the National Museums of France, and chairmen of sports associations were present. A list of participants published in the *Revue Olympique* in the edition of June 1906¹⁰ stated the place of origin of only one foreign participant, who came from New York. This leads us to assume that the majority of participants were French. A considerable number of art representatives at home and abroad declared their support of the conference in written form. Among them were very famous writers, like Maurice Barres and Romain Rolland. Coubertin's correspondence preserved in the IOC Archives reveals that, on reading his circular letter of April 2, 1906, many IOC members (e.g. from Italy, England, Sweden, Norway, and Bohemia) sent names of writers and artists. The existence of numerous letters of refusal (e.g. from famous writers like the Swedish Literature Nobel Prize winner Selma Lagerlof) indicate that Coubertin sent an invitation to all persons suggested. It may be assumed that an invitation at the end of April was of too short notice for the artists who did not show any interest in the Conference and who were deterred by the immense costs of travel.¹¹ Beside Coubertin and the three French members; the IOC was represented only by the Englishman Courcy-Laffan.

In his opening speech, Coubertin explained the necessity of combining both sport and art. He asked the artists present to make a contribution in the quest for new ways.¹² The Paris newspaper *Le Figaro* especially emphasised the reply by Maurice Pottecher, the founder of the first French people's theatre in Boussang. He promised to earnestly promote Coubertin's plans and saw in them an excellent opportunity to bring art to the people.¹³

10 See LES SEANCES de la Conference consultative. In: RO (1906), no. 6, pp. 83-84. Since the June edition of the *Revue Olympique* dealt exclusively with the Conference in Paris, and no other report was published, it is regarded as the Official Report of the fourth Olympic Congress [=Congress Report 1906].

11 See the following letters of the IOC Archives: 04046LR000054, 100406LR-192051, 120406LR000023, 170406LR000025, 010506MM000055, 040506LR000054, 170406LR000025, 010506MM000055, 040506LR000054, 60506LR000057, 070506LR000058, 070506LR000059, 080506LR000060, 110506000061.

12 See COUBERTIN, P. de: Un „Grand Mariage“. In: Congress Report 1906, p. 83.

13 See BOURDON, G.: Les Jeux Olympiques de l'avenir. In: *Le Figaro*, May 24, 1906, p. 2.

The well-known architect, F. Jourdain, underlined the special role architecture played for the „*renewal of such passionate work*“¹⁴ as the Olympic Games, and he declared his full commitment.

The chairman of the French writers' association, Emile Blémont, equally promised to support Coubertin's plans.¹⁵

4 Procedure of the Meetings

The different genres of art listed in the programme, namely architecture, theatre, dance, decoration, literature, music, painting, and sculpting, were discussed in several commissions. The meetings took place after the opening ceremony and on the two following mornings. Due to lack of space they were held in the rooms of the nearby Touring Club. The number of commissions can be determined from the minutes: a commission for architecture, music, and decoration, and a commission for sculpting and painting. It is stated that the discussions were enriched by lectures on the various subjects.

The contribution of the Swiss René Morax received special attention. He created huge people's festivals in which the interrelation of nature and the masses played a particular role. Other contributions, the contents of which are not reported, were made by the composer Max d'Oloné, the painter and sculptor Pierre Roche, the architect Joseph Dupont, the former director of the National Theatre of Prague, Subret, and by the French intellectual Georges Dubois.

The commissions discussed all the topics listed on the programme and approved of recommendations. The resolutions published in the June edition of the *Revue Olympique*¹⁶ indicate that the Conference did not pass resolutions in the proper meaning of the word. The subjects of discussion and the participation of the artists in the debates did not justify formal votes. The resolutions published in the following are taken from Coubertin's compilation he completed for the closing meeting on the afternoon of May 25. Thus, the wording and content of the resolutions reflect Coubertin's style, and many details reflect his knowledge and attitude. However, it cannot be insinuated that Coubertin falsified the content of the discussions since the compilation was presented to the participants at the closing meeting.

¹⁴ Ibid., translated.

¹⁵ See *ibid.*

¹⁶ See LES DECISIONS PRISES. In: Congress Report 1906, pp. 87-93. Partly published in COUBERTIN: Campagne, pp. 194-198. See also PROCES-VERBAL des Séances des Commissions en Touring Club au 23, 24 et 25 mai 1906 (IOC Archives).

Programme de la Conférence

- ARCHITECTURE.** — Les conditions et les caractéristiques du gymnase moderne. — Architecture des cercles de plein air et des cercles urbains, des piscines, stands, manèges, clubs nautiques, salles d'armes — Palais des sports et parcs des sports. — Motifs architecturaux. — Utilisation du fer apparent et de la céramique — Dépenses et devis
- ART DRAMATIQUE.** — Représentations en plein air. — Principes essentiels. — Essais récents. — Les sports sur la scène.
- CHORÉGRAPHIE.** — Cortèges, défilés, mouvements groupés et coordonnés — Danses.
- DÉCORATION.** — Tribunes et enceintes. — Mâts, écussons, guirlandes, draperies, faisceaux. — Fêtes de nuit : les sports aux flambeaux.
- LETTRES.** — Possibilité d'établir des concours littéraires olympiques; conditions de ces concours. -- L'émotion sportive, source d'inspiration pour l'homme de lettres.
- MUSIQUE.** — Orchestres et chœurs de plein air. — Répertoire — Rythmes et alternances. — Fanfares. — Conditions d'un concours musical olympique.
- PEINTURE.** — Silhouettes individuelles et aspects d'ensemble. — Possibilité et conditions d'un concours de peinture olympique. — Aide apportée à l'artiste par la photographie instantanée.
- SCULPTURE.** — Attitudes et gestes athlétiques dans leurs rapports avec l'art. — Interprétation de l'effort. — Objets donnés en prix : statuettes et médailles.

Ordre des Séances

- Le Mercredi 23 Mai, à 9 h. du matin et à 2 h. après-midi : Séances générales.
Le Jeudi 24 Mai : Séances de commissions.
Le Vendredi 25 Mai, à 9 h. du matin : Séances de commissions.
" à 2 h. après-midi : Séance générale.

Programme of the Advisory Conference 1906 (IOC Archives)

5 Results of the Advisory Conference

The most essential decision of the Conference referred to the introduction of five competitions of the fine arts in the genres of architecture, sculpting, painting, literature, and music at future Olympic Games. The competitions should be set on an equal footing with sports competitions and should be inspired by the spirit of sport. An international jury was to be responsible for the prize awards, and awarded works were to be exhibited or performed during the Olympic Games.

The largest part of the recommendations of the Conference referred to possible ways of co-operation between the arts and sport:

- As to *architecture* it was stated that stadia and sports halls could fulfill their purpose only as an entity. Modern sports halls should be based on the concept of the ancient gymnasium, and the stadium should be located in the direct vicinity. A decentralisation of sports facilities would foster a specialisation which was contradictory to the idea of sport. The plan of an *urban gymnasium* presented by G. Rives at the Congress of Brussels in a simplified form could be the basis.

A group of architects pursued the draft of a model for a *rural gymnasium*. The Conference was convinced that the ancient stadium could no longer have any exemplary character for modern sports facilities. Architectural details or the cost aspect were exempted from discussion.¹⁷

- As to *theatre*, playwrights should allow sport to inspire them. M. Pottecher declared that this was to be expected from his theatre. Sports clubs in turn could engage in amateur dramatics.

- As to *dance*, it was demanded that it returned to a more athletic way of expression.
- As to the *decoration* of sports events, the clothing the participants wear in parades should reflect their individual disciplines.¹⁸

An incentive for the formal course of victory ceremonies, as Coubertin repeatedly presented it, is produced here without any comment. It was only by Coubertin's efforts that it was adopted in the final recommendations: „*For victory ceremonies, the ceremony of the Middle Ages would suit best. The champion bends his knee in front of the lady who presents the prize.*“¹⁹

- *Literature* could deal with topics of sport. It was recommended that authors should experience sport themselves to write authentically about it.

- In contrast to literature, music could support sport by the singing of choirs. The IOC was to encourage sports federations in this respect.

¹⁷ See ARCHITECTURE. In: Congress Report 1906, pp. 87-88.

¹⁸ See PROCES-VERBAL de la Séance de la Commission du 24 mai 1906, pp. 1-2 (IOC Archives).

This proposal was put into practice during the closing ceremony of the Olympic Games 1908 when athletes of different sports entered the stadium in their sports clothing and with their equipment.

¹⁹ CHOREOGRAPHIE. In: Congress Report 1906, p. 89, translated. 2i)

Related to this, it was stated that „*singing was as important for training the technique of breathing as it was for the majority of sports.*“²⁰ This statement was a sign of the desperate efforts made by the Conference participants to prove a link between sport and arts. The suggestion that sports clubs and choirs should support each other in their festivities was much more sensible.

It was suggested that composers created odes and cantatas dedicated to sport. The Olympic anthem composed by the Greek Samara was a fine example. This recommendation again reflected Coubertin's personal opinion: The participants of the Conference could not possibly have known the anthem which was played on the occasion of the Olympic Games in Athens.

- As to *painting* and *sculpting*, it was recommended that artists created motifs in the modern sports halls wherein other opportunities should be given for artists to exhibit their works.²¹

6 An Artistic-Ceremonial Closing

It was unimaginable that the Conference would take place without an artistic highlight. There was a ceremony in the auditorium of the Sorbonne with approx. 2,000 guests on May 26. Such events were warmly welcomed by the citizens of Paris, and a Saturday afternoon was especially suited for the event. Olympic diplomas and the Olympic cup donated by Coubertin were awarded, and a number of actors of the Comédie Française recited. Choir singing, a demonstration of a classic sword fight, and a scientific lecture were also part of the programme. The event meant to combine sport, science, and the fine arts to demonstrate unequivocally the three pillars of Olympism.²²

7 Evaluation of the Conference

Coubertin himself ranked the *Advisory Conference* among the Olympic Congresses. This was justified by the level of debates taking place and by the quality of the participants. The idea and the realisation of the meeting was Coubertin's achievement and he chose the term *Advisory Conference* on purpose. He wanted to ensure the support of intellectual circles.

After all, without such understanding, how could the IOC have possibly called an *Olympic Congress for Arts* without ridiculing itself in public, and thus making the participation of renowned artists impossible?

²⁰ MUSIQUE, *ibid.*, p. 91, translated.

²¹ See PEINTURE et sculpture, *ibid.*, p. 92.

²² See LE FESTIVAL de la Sorbonne. In: Congress Report 1906, pp. 93-96.

The Conference can be accused of being one-sided due to the lack of foreign participants. Coubertin traced this deficiency to the fact that he had relied too much on the co-operation of his IOC colleagues in their countries. Obviously, the invitations he had sent had not reached the right people.

On many previous occasions, including the Founding Congress at the Sorbonne in 1894, Coubertin had attached great importance to artistic decoration. At the Conference of Paris, famous artists benevolently acknowledged his efforts, which must seem largely naive today, and they developed his ideas in the discussions. The Conference fulfilled its main purpose by initiating competitions in arts, which were part of the Olympic Games from 1912 to 1948.²³ The presence of artists gave the IOC the function it had longed for, and which was Coubertin's underlying intention in calling this Conference. The *pentathlon of fine arts* (Coubertin) was to perfect the athletic competitions in the same way the Greeks had achieved in the ancient Games. Did Coubertin not know that the classic Olympic Games did not include arts competitions?²⁴

There was another aspect of the Conference: It provided Coubertin with an excuse for being absent during the Olympic Intermediate Games which he rejected and which had taken place a few weeks earlier in Athens. The majority of the IOC members were present in Athens, but not in Paris, since they considered the Conference less important. We can understand from the following statement how important the Conference was to Coubertin: „*The 26th of May will assume an outstanding place among the important dates of history; it will be ranked immediately after the 23rd of June 1894.*“²⁵

²³ Rules for the arts competitions at the Olympic Games were drawn up for the 1908 Games, but were too late. They were used as the basis for the first competitions in Stockholm four years later. Sir Edward Poynter, President of the Royal Academy, was a prime mover in the elaboration of the 1908 Rules (note provided by Don Anthony).

²⁴ See LA FETE sportive des artistes. In: L'Auto, May 27, 1906, no. 2048, p. 1. In contrast to other Panhellenic games the arts competitions of the Olympic Games were restricted to trumpet players and heralds. Coubertin so frequently described the arts competitions as being inspired by the ancient Olympic Games that this question seems justified.

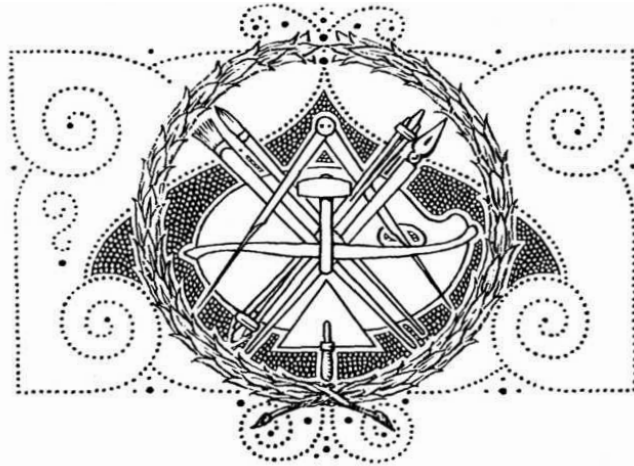
²⁵ COUBERTIN, P. de: Deuxième étape. In: RO (1906), no. 5, pp. 68-69, translated.

8 Effects

The first definite result of the Conference of Paris was an architectural competition advertised by the IOC in 1910. The task was to build a model of a modern Olympiad. In May 1911, the competition was supervised by the College of Architecture in Paris, and was concluded by the public award of the prize to two architects from Lausanne.²⁷

The first inclusion of arts competitions in the Olympic Games of Stockholm in 1912 turned out to be extremely difficult. The various Swedish artists' associations did not support the Organising Committee of Stockholm. In the end, it was left to the IOC and hence to Coubertin to advertise the events and determine the winners.²⁸

The Germans G. Hohrod and M. Eschbach were awarded the gold medal in literature for their Ode to Sport. It was discovered later that the names were pseudonyms and Coubertin himself was the author.²⁹



Emblem of the art competitions in the Report of Stockholm 1912

²⁶ See PROGRAMME du concours international d'architecture. In: RO (1910), no. 1, pp. 3-*

²⁷ See RAPPORT sur le concours d'Architecture. In: RO (1911), no. 8, pp. 116-120. Monod and Laverrière, two architects from Lausanne, won the competition. Later, Monod was elected president of the Organising Committee of the Olympic Congress 1921 in Lausanne.

²⁸ See CONCOURS d'Art. In: The fifth Olympiad. The official Report of the Olympic Games of Stockholm 1912. Ed. by the Swedish Olympic Committee. Stockholm 1913, pp. 806-811. See also REGLEMENTS des concours littéraires et artistiques de 1912. In: RO (1911), no. 9, pp. 131-132.

²⁹ The author of this book discovered that the pseudonyms Hohrod and Eschbach were the names of two neighboring villages of the native village of Coubertin's wife, Luttenbach near Colmar.

THE IDEA OF PEACE AS COUBERTIN'S VISION FOR THE MODERN OLYMPIC MOVEMENT: DEVELOPMENT AND PEDAGOGIC CONSEQUENCES

Julia Gerling (GER), IOA-Postgraduate 2003, CIPC-Junior Member

1. The Origin of the Idea of Peace in the Modern Olympic Movement

The Olympic Games took place in ancient Greece 293 times from 776 B.C. up to 393 A.C., i.e. over a period of almost 12 centuries, in contrast to modern times without interruption.

The term „peace“ was not used in ancient Greece with the Panhellenic Games, but the Greek word Ekecheiria (εκεχειρία), which etymologically means „truce“. Marc GOLDEN in his brand new Lexicon “Sport in the Ancient World from A to Z” gives the following explication:

„Truce (Greek ekecheiria, hieromenia, spondai). A period before and after Greek festivals during which the territory of the host city was inviolate and competitors, spectators and others had safe passage to and from it. The beginning of the truce was proclaimed by emissaries (spondophoroi, theoroi) to the major centres of the Greek world. The period of the truce varied. For the Olympics, it grew from one to two months on either side of the festival; for the Pythian games, it extended for a full year. In these cases and others, violations occurred. A writer on tactics even recommends attack during a festival and the Altis at Olympia was the site of a pitched battle during the festival in 364. It was sufficiently well known by the mid-fifth century to be used to schedule sacrifices on far-off Selinus Sicily.”¹

The ancient Greeks would use the word „eirene“ describing the modern term „peace“.

In 1795 the great German philosopher Immanuel Kant published his treatise “On Eternal Peace” („Zum Ewigen Frieden“). His conception of peace embraced philosophical, historical, legal and political aspects.

In the 19th century the idea of worldwide peace became part and parcel of general humanistic thinking. There were first attempts to put these ideas organisationally into practice.

¹ London & New York, Routledge, 2004, p.169. See also the important explication of ekecheiria by ROUGEMONT, G.: La hiéroménie des Pythia et les " trêves sacrées " d'Eleusis, de Delphes et d'Olympie. In: BCH 97(1937)75-106.

As the real beginning of the modern peace movement must be considered Bertha von Suttner's (1843-1914) novel „Die Waffen nieder“ (Down with Weapons) published in 1889 and translated into many different languages.

Peace organizations were founded in many countries in Europe, a strong organization in Great Britain and the USA, with people of all walks of life being active members.

2. Pierre de Coubertin's Concept of Peace

As a young man, in 1892, COUBERTIN had had the idea of renewing the ancient Olympic Games, which duly took place in Athens in 1896. Whereas his educational aspirations had additionally been confined to France, the success of these first Olympic Games marked, for COUBERTIN, the internationalization of his educational visions, where his main priority at first was the idea of *peace among nations*.

„Wars break out because nations misunderstand each other. We shall no 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? „²

(Coubertin)

The quotation above shows his notion of peace. In these ambitions he was influenced by his paternal friend Jules SIMON. SIMON had been a co-founder of the Interparliamentary Union, established in Paris in 1888, and the International Peace Bureau, founded in 1892.³

80% of the honorary members of the IOC founding Congress 1894 in Paris were members of national peace movements. Five of those won later Nobel Peace Prizes.⁴ Coubertin was convinced that peace education could only be effective if theoretical learning was accompanied by personal experience. Olympic sport was the very means to achieve this aim. Sport in the sense should become an instrument to reform economy and politics and thus society as a whole: „[...] the Olympic Games will be a potent, if indirect factor in securing universal peace“.⁵

² COUBERTIN, P. de: The Olympic games of 1896. In: The century Illustrated Monthly Magazine, Vol.LIII, New Series, Vol.XXXI, November 1896 to April 1897, p.53. Reprinted in: Müller, N. (ed.): Pierre de Coubertin. Olympism. Lausanne, IOC, 2000, p.360.

³ Ibidem, pp. 170-178.

⁴ Cf. Quanz, D.: Civic Pacifism and Sports-Based Internationalism. Framework for the Founding of the IOC. In: Olympika. Int. Journal of Olympic Studies, 2(1993), pp.1-23.

⁵ IBIDEM

Pierre de Coubertin was primarily a pedagogue and his foremost aim was to reform education. In 1925 he was one of the founders of the World Pedagogical Union (Union Pédagogique Universelle/ U.P.U.) compiled a „Charter of Educational Reform“ and in 1926 he founded an „International Center of Sports Education“ (Bureau International de Pédagogie sportive/B.I.P.S.). His great achievement was to combine and interweave sports, education, and the idea of world-wide peace. Influenced by his experiences during several visits to England, especially by the study of Thomas Arnold's (1795-1842) conception of education, Pierre de Coubertin demanded ethical and moral values together with physical training – sports being the basis and initiating source. Coubertin's programme of modern sports education did not originate in ancient Greece but in the system of English public schools. The idea of universal peace was predominant in his thoughts on the beginning, a misunderstanding of the ancient notion of peace by Coubertin. The modern Olympic Games conceived by Coubertin were built on the three pillars: elite sports, ethics and peace.

Evaluating and looking back on the Games of 1896 Coubertin writes in more realistic tones:

„One may be filled with a desire to see the colours of one's club or college triumph in a national meeting, but how much stronger is the feeling when the [...] colours of one's own country are at stake ...! It was with these thoughts in mind that I sought to revive the Olympic games. I have succeeded after many efforts ... [I hope] it may be a potent, if indirect, factor in securing international peace.“⁶

Coubertin's „Ode to Sport“ underlines the identification of sport and peace in literary form:

„O Sport, You are **Peace!**
 You forge happy bonds between the peoples
 by drawing them together in reverence for strength
 which is controlled, organised and self disciplined.
 Trough you the young of the entire world
 learn to respect one another,
 and thus the diversity of national traits becomes a source
 of generous and **peaceful** emulation!“⁷

⁶ Coubertin. Selected Writings, ibidem, p.360.

⁷ Quoted from Müller, N. (ed.): Pierre de Coubertin.Olympism.Selected Writings. Lausanne, IOC, 2000, p.360. The French version is: "O Sport, tu es la Paix. Tu établis des rapports heureux entre les peuples en les rapprochant dans le culte de la force contrôlée. organisée et maîtresse d'elle-même. Par toi la jeunesse universelle apprend à se respecter et ainsi la diversité des qualités nationales devient la source d'une généreuse et pacifique émulation. ", quoted from COUBERTIN, P. DE: ‚Ode au Sport‘. In: CDI (ed.): L'idée olympique. Cologne 1966, p. 39.

In his early writings, he refers to international sporting encounters as „*the free trade of the future*“⁸ seeing the participating athletes as „ambassadors of peace“⁹ even though by his own admission he still had to take care, at the time of the founding of the IOC in 1894, not to say too much about this, not wanting - as he says in a document that has come down to us - to ask too much of sportsmen or to frighten the pacifists. With his ideas of peace, however, COUBERTIN associated an ethical mission which, then as now, was central to the Olympic Movement and - if it were to succeed - had to lead to political education. On the threshold of the 20th century, COUBERTIN tried to bring about enlightened internationalism by cultivating a non-chauvinistic nationalism.¹⁰

3. The Notion of Peace in the Olympic Charter

Society, world-political relations and ethical norms etc. have changed gradually or radically since Coubertin, but the Olympic Charter of today still comprises as an essential part Coubertin's philosophy. He has described his imaginations concerning the relationships between sport, Olympism, and peace in the Olympic Charter. From the nine Fundamental Principles the following two are especially relevant:

Art. 3. „The goal of Olympism is to place everywhere sport at the service of the harmonious development of man, with a view to encouraging the establishment of a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity. To this effect, the Olympic Movement engages, alone or in cooperation with other organizations and within the limits of its means, in action to promote peace.“¹¹

Art. 6. „The goal of the Olympic Movement is to contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport practised without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play.“¹²

⁸ COUBERTIN: Physical Exercises in the Modern World. Lecture Given at the Sorbonne (November 1892). In: Müller, N. (Ed.): Olympism. Selected Writings of Pierre de Coubertin. Lausanne, IOC, 2000, p.297.

⁹ COUBERTIN : L'athlétisme. Son rôle et son histoire. In : La Revue Athlétique 2 (1891), 204.

¹⁰ cf. QUANZ, D.R. : Formkraft der IOC-Gründung : Die zeitgenössische Friedensbewegung. In: Schaller,H.J./Pache,D. (Eds.): Sport als Lebenschance und Bildungsreform. Schorndorf 1995, pp.165-173.

¹¹ INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE: Olympic Charter. 2003, P. 9.

¹² Ibidem

The Olympic rings combining the five continents are also a symbol of peace and international understanding; the colours symbolizing the colours of all national flag are indirect representing the world wide nations.

4. The Cooperation between the IOC and the UN

In the 20th century the Olympic Ideal of peace was repeatedly violated (e.g. by the two World-Wars, Munich 1972). But the continuity of the ideal was maintained and enforced, especially after the presidency of Avery Brundage.

The IOC and the UN became congenial partners:

Kofi Annan, General Secretary of the United Nations in 2000:

„Olympic Ideals are also United Nations ideals: tolerance, equality, fair play and, most of all, peace together, the Olympics and the United Nations can be a winning team. But the contest will not be won easily. War, intolerance and deprivation continue to stalk the earth. We must fight back. Just as athletes strive for world records, so must we strive for world peace.“¹³

The ancient concept of Olympism was revived. The UN declared 1994 as the „International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal“. General Secretary Boutros Boutros-Ghali emphasized the close connection between the Olympic ethos and the fundamental principles of the UN.

On January 1994 President Samaranch proclaimed an „Olympic Truce“: All wars the world over should be interrupted 7 days before and after the Winter Games in Lillehammer.

In 1994 Samaranch travelled to Sarajevo during the Olympic Truce, to express his solidarity with the host town of the 1984 Olympic Winter Games. In 1995 the resolution of Olympic Peace was renewed during the Olympic Summer Games in Atlanta, as well as in 1999 for Sydney, but very restricted in November 2001 concerning the time of the Salt Lake City Winter Games.

In 1995 it was for the first time in the history of the Olympic Movement that the IOC President spoke before the General Assembly of the UN.

5. Peace Education

The field of peace education varies from studying the causes of human violence to studying the causes of war. The study of human violence involves the human psyche

¹³ Extract of Kofi Annan's message on the Games in Sydney, 15th September until 1st October 2000, cf. website: http://olympic.org/uk/organisation/missions/truce/initiative_uk.asp (16.07.2002)

and aspects of aggression, while the study of war focuses on the behaviour of armies and nation-states. In between these two poles lies a vast academic domain that included the study of conditions of survival, problems of communication, international relations, legal theory and environmental awareness.

Whether working to achieve immediate or long-range objectives, peace education has ten main goals formulated by I. Harris:

1. To appreciate the richness of the concept of peace
2. to address fear
3. to provide information about defence systems
4. to understand war behaviour
5. to develop intercultural understanding
6. to provide a future orientation
7. to teach peace as a process
8. to promote a concept of peace accompanied by social justice
9. to stimulate a respect for life and
10. to end violence. ¹⁴

The famous English author H.G. Wells (1866-1946)¹⁵ stated the urgency of peace education in his famous statement, that human beings are embarked upon „a race between education and catastrophe“.

According to O. Grupe and the author the following pedagogic educational concepts can be described from Coubertin's ideas:

1. the self-awareness through sports
2. the harmony of physical and spiritual training
3. the idea of human perfection with the help of physical achievement
4. sports deliberately based upon ethics as the leading principle
5. respect for and tolerance of competitors
6. understanding brought about by sport practice
7. the idea of peace and international and interracial understanding
8. the promotion of emancipatory developments in and through sports.

Within the peace education field, human rights education is normally viewed as a subject of peace education. Yet the Declaration adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna 1993 views human rights education as an all-embracing concept. Article II.d of the Declaration runs as follows:

¹⁴ cf. HARRIS, I.: The goals of peace education. 1988, n.p.

¹⁵ quoted from: HARRIS, I.: The goals of peace education. 1988, n.p.

„Human Rights Education should include peace, democracy, development and social justice, as set forth in international and regional human rights instruments in order to achieve common understanding and awareness with a view to strengthening universal commitment to human rights...The proclamation of a United Nations decade for human rights education in order to promote, encourage and focus these educational activities should be considered.“¹⁶

This way of defining human rights education causes it to overlap with peace education.

6. Peace Education as Learning Principle in School Education

All idealistic objectives and goodwill proclamations are useless if they are not effectively put into practice. Gandhi's quotation shows the way by emphasizing the necessity of starting peace education with the young ones. Ethical principles should be acquired, based upon and tested in everyday life and therefore in different social contexts. For man as a social being educational objective is the realization of the notion of peace.

As to school education the following principles will help to promote peace:

1. practice of personal courage,
 2. respect of the dignity of others,
 3. acknowledgement of religious values,
 4. responsible use of freedom,
 5. fight against prejudices,
 6. fairness,
 7. tolerance and
 8. intercultural understanding.
- Children must learn to solve quarrels without violence.

¹⁶ cf. Brock-Utne, B.: Peace education. 2000, p. 134.

7. Conclusion

It is precisely the relationship between nationalism and international peace - a one-sided one hitherto, because invariably regarded as a contradiction in terms - that forms the challenging peace ethos and fascination of Olympism. From the beginning, COUBERTIN's sights were set upon an interplay between nations united by enthusiasm for peace and an internationalism that would set a ceremonial seal on their peaceful ambitions.

COUBERTIN's plans thus extended from the outset beyond the organizing of Olympic Games every four years. He wanted mankind in the 20th century to experience sport in the harmonious interplay of physical and intellectual skills, so that - set in an artistic, aesthetic frame - it would make an important contribution **to human happiness.**¹⁷

17 Concerning this paper see also GERLING, J.: Der Friedensgedanke in der modernen Olympischen Bewegung: Ursprung, Entwicklung und pädagogische Folgerungen. Staatsexamensarbeit. Mainz, Fachbereich Sport, 2002. (unpublished)

LETTER FROM LONDON 2005

For me Athens became „Celebration by replication“. I followed the road of the ode. Ode number 1 was written for the Wenlock Olympian Games in 1860. It was set to music and performed in London the following year. In the audience was the Greek Ambassador in London - Gennadius. He discovered the Wenlock Olympian Society (est 1850) and its founder Dr. William Penny Brookes. Communications by letter followed and the exchange of gifts between Wenlock and Athens. Brookes worked tirelessly to revive the Olympic Games - but always in Athens. On meeting Coubertin in 1890 he was persuaded that Pierre's plan to rotate the Games from city to city was a better idea. Brookes wanted so much to see the 1896 Games in Athens - even to be for Coubertin „an able lieutenant“. Unfortunately he died four months before these 1st Games of the modern era. To honour his work and his wish I, as a Life Member of the Wenlock Olympian Society since 1998, visited Athens the week before the 2004 Games took place. As an Olympian myself (hammer 1956) I was able to attend the opening of the World Olympians Association on August 8th. I registered my attendance in this and my Wenlock capacity ; I think Brookes would have been pleased. The second ode of significance was written by George Robertson of Oxford University. He was an Oxford University professor of classics and a hammer thrower too. In Athens 1896 there was no hammer event so he threw the discus. He was also permitted to present his Pindaric Ode in ancient greek and for this act he was granted his laurels! In 2004 I worked hard to replicate this act. A current professor at Oxford, Armand d'Anjour, agreed to my proposal that another ode should be created for gifting to Athens. It was done - at the final dinner of the IOC - by Mary Glen - Haig Hon. Member of the IOC.

I am sure that Coubertin would have been pleased. After all he, using the pseudonym Hohrod, gained a gold medal in the 1912 arts competitions in the Stockholm Games -**Ode to Sport**

Running in his 1st Olympic Games in Stockholm was Philip Baker. On marriage he was to become Noel-Baker and was to write that these Games lit an Olympic fire in his heart which burnt strongly all his life. He was to gain a silver medal in the 1500m in the Games of 1924 ; to become Nobel Laureate for Peace in 1959; and to become the greatest apostle of Coubertin in the anglo- saxon speaking world for 80 years. His wife's family bought a house near Athens in 1833 and they are still living there. I visited his son and grandchildren at the house in Prokopi to pay my respects to this great man and sat in the study where he composed many of his greatest thoughts.

Coincidentally I was in Baden - Baden in December 2004 - where Philip made a memorable speech at the Olympic Congress of 1981 - in that city. I was there to help with the voice-overs for Norbert Muller's new cd on Coubertin. I thought again about

Philip's appeal in 1981, for the IOC to bring sport for all to the whole world - especially the developing world. If they did this, he said, he would nominate the IOC for the Nobel Peace Prize. His own Nobel prize was for his work for disarmament I am sure he would have been active today urging the rich countries to stop wasting vast expenditure on war, when humanity demands great assistance to the poorest countries - a fact which Tsumani currently reinforces.

I turn again to Wenlock. The school in his name is one of our Coubertin Schools and will be in Radstadt this autumn for the biannual Forum for such schools. I hope they will bring with them one of the oak saplings which are now being reared from the oak which Coubertin planted during his visit in 1890! After years of illness the oak tree gave birth to acorns this year and they are being nursed by the school's science department.

Some cynics would claim that those of us who celebrate history are „looking back“. No - we are looking down at the roots - and nourishing them!

Don Anthony, CIPC Life Member
London January 2005

LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA

Thank you for your kind words on our participation in the Youth Forum. I think we were all in agreement with the comment of one of our students who declared „Radstadt was perfect-awesome!“

You certainly presented a wonderful Forum for our young people who expressed a wish that the program should be extended to two weeks! Not sure how us of the older generation would cope with that, but it certainly is a ringing endorsement of the organisation, the venue and the warm hospitality offered by Austria and the CIPC. In comparison with the previous 2 Forums I have attended, the Radstadt experience has set a new benchmark which will provide a challenge for all future organisers.

The success of the Forum can be attributed to many factors:

- The well-balanced program
- The dedication of the Organising Committee and the flexibility shown in adapting as circumstances changed throughout the week.
- The warm welcome by the host school at Radstadt and the involvement of their students throughout the week.
- The venue -ideal in every way; from the great food, comfortable accommodation, accessible sport fields and gymnasium, to the congeniality of Brigit who ensured everyone felt „at home“.
- The proximity of the village - not too close, but possible for all to access if required
- The support of the Radstadt community

Comments made by our students reflect how much they enjoyed the experience. „I had the time of my life! This is an experience I will never forget. I have made so many new friends for life.“ „The Czech Republic was fantastic, but I think an extended stay in Austria would have been worthwhile.“ „Thank you! The whole experience was wonderful. I experienced so many different and exciting cultures that it is amazing! It expanded my knowledge about the world, the cultures and the people. A longer Forum would be sensational. We bonded really closely with everyone by like the third day, so a two week Forum would be wonderful! I loved it, I loved it, I loved it. Austria is such a beautiful, perfect, amazing place!!!“

Thank you also for the opportunity to be hosted by the Tabor Gymnasium. Magda organised a wonderful program for us and the school went out of their way to give us a good time. It was a special privilege to actually stay in a private home and experience the reality of life in the Czech Republic. In addition, we enjoyed some wonder-

ful, historic towns, great scenery and of course, the beautiful city of Prague.
Recommendations

- The Arts Performance does not need to be „judged“ - but should just be enjoyed!
We seem to always encounter difficulties with a judging process. In this case, the judges obscured the view for the audience and their scores reflected personal bias.
- The Arts Performance should be an Olympic related theme, not necessarily reflecting the Forum theme. As you appreciate it is difficult for Australia to organise this aspect, and we have tried to reflect the Forum theme, where a broader theme would offer more opportunities (as is done by a number of schools).
- Our students felt that some team-sport activities would be beneficial to the „bonding“ process. This did happen informally to good effect!
- The discussion group workshops were more effective when greater guidance was provided with additional questions for each topic.

I trust that this brief comment expresses our gratitude for the wonderful experience of Radstadt and the involvement with the CIPC.

Helen Brownlee
President Olympic Committee NSW
Member Executiv Board of Australian NOC

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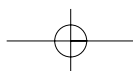
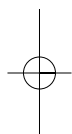
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