

# BIBLIOGRAPHY OF COUBERTIN'S WRITINGS

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## PREFACE

This bibliography, devoted to the writings of Pierre de Coubertin, is the result of twenty-five years extensive research. Its authors estimate that it covers about 95 percent of Coubertin's writings, or some 15,000 printed pages, reprints excluded.<sup>1</sup>

The first major bibliography of the works of Coubertin was published in Lausanne on the occasion of his seventieth birthday in 1933, under the direction of a group of Coubertin's friends, with the support of certain National Olympic Committees.<sup>2</sup>

A more complete and improved edition was published in 1966 by the Carl Diem Institute of Cologne, in the form of a supplement to a collection of essays and speeches by Coubertin.<sup>3</sup>

A short time later, a bibliography published by the IOC followed, which was quite similar to those referred to above.<sup>4</sup>

In 1971, Bernard Gillet (Paris) wrote and edited a bibliography which surpassed all others that existed. It proved to be of great practical value, thanks to the inclusion of references to the works of Coubertin preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris.<sup>5</sup> Everyone who has done research on the writings of Coubertin has used it as an indis-pensable basis for their research.<sup>6</sup>

The bibliography presented here was compiled starting in 1981, based on the work of Bernard Gillet as revised and updated in 1971 by the Carl Diem Institute. The

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<sup>1</sup> The following bibliography is based on: N. Muller, O.Schantz: *Bibliographie Pierre de Coubertin*. Lausanne, International Pierre de Coubertin Committee, 1991. Former assumptions that Coubertin's printed works amount to over 60,000 printed pages – as stated in the bibliography of 1933 (et. note 2) – are hereby refuted.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. *Repertoire des Ecrits, Discours et Conférences de Pierre de Coubertin*, published on the occasion of his 70th birthday in homage by the Olympic Committees of Egypt, Greece. Latvia, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland and the International Bureau for Sports Education. Aix-en-Provence, P. Roubaud, 1933. (14 pages). The bibliography is divided into five chapters as follows:

- *Technique et Pédagogie Sportive* (pp.3-7),
- *Pédagogie Générale et Réforme de l'Enseignement* (pp.7-8),
- *Etudes Historiques* (pp.8-10),
- *Politique et Sociologie* (pp.10-12) and
- *Variétés* (pp.12-13).

This bibliography appeared in connection with the Anthology, published on the occasion of his 70th birthday, edited by A. Raymond and others, with a preface by Maurice Pottecher. Aix-en-Provence, P. Roubaud, 1933.

<sup>3</sup> Carl Diem Institute (ed.): "Bibliography of the Works of Baron Pierre de Coubertin." In: *Pierre de Coubertin. The Olympic Idea. Discourses and Essays*. Schorndorf, Hofmann, 1967, pp.137-144. Off-print, Schorndorf, Hofmann, 1967, (8 pages).

This bibliography consists of a total of 226 titles and is based particularly on the bibliography cited in note 2 and a second in the work of A. Senay, R. Hervet: *Monsieur de Coubertin*. Paris, S.E.S., 1956, pp.177-189.

<sup>4</sup> IOC (ed.): *Bibliography of the Works of Baron Pierre de Coubertin*. Lausanne, IOC, 1968. This bibliography consists of 278 titles.

<sup>5</sup> B. Gillet: *Bibliographie des Oeuvres de Pierre de Coubertin*. Special brochure, Paris 1971. This bibliography consists of a total of 625 titles.

<sup>6</sup> Ottawa, Lemeac, 1975, pp.397-430.

revised version contains twice the number of listed titles compared to the Gillet bibliography. This expansion results from a systematic examination of periodicals found in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, as well as those in Berne and Brussels, and the Bibliothèque Cantonale et Universitaire in Lausanne. All the entries figuring in the existing bibliographies were minutely examined, because often some precise detail was missing, such as a page number, the year or the place of publication, or even the indication of the missing numbers in a series of brochures or reviews, etc.

This patient work has resulted in significant corrections to about two-thirds of the references. Moreover, in the course of this research, hitherto unknown publications of Coubertin were discovered. Additionally, this bibliography was enhanced by the introduction of references to sports reviews published in Switzerland and Belgium.

One cannot pretend, however, that the work is perfect, even though it does add what was lacking in the preceding bibliographies. Earlier bibliographies were unable to take advantage of resources in Switzerland, inasmuch as the library and archives of the IOC were hardly accessible for a long time.

As we have said, this bibliography takes into account about 95 percent of the published writings of Coubertin. It is probable that other original texts, published in foreign languages particularly in England, Spain, and the United States, could be added to the bibliography.

Posthumous publications have been omitted, but the collection put together by the Carl Diem Institute with the approval of the IOC in 1966 entitled *The Olympic Idea* has been referenced, next to the French original version. It exists in several translations (Danish, English, German, Russian and Spanish) and contains a number of Coubertin's previously unpublished circulars and lectures<sup>7</sup> Also the 1986 IOC edition of Coubertin's writings in French was used as additional reference.

Finally, this bibliography mentions neither letters nor manuscripts, which would be out of place in this type of work. Hence the national libraries must at least make them available to the specialized public.

This bibliography is divided into several parts which permit a better understanding and facilitate its use:

- a) book publications,
- b) brochures,

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<sup>7</sup> French version edited by Carl Diem Institute at the Deutschen Sporthochschule Köln (ed.): Pierre de Coubertin. *L'idée Olympique. Discours et Essais*. Schorndorf, Hofmann, 1966. Short title of the French version in the following bibliography: *L'idée Olympique*. English version edited by the Carl Diem Institute (ed.): Pierre de Coubertin. *The Olympic Idea. Discourses and Essays*. Schorndorf, Hofmann, 1967. Short title of the English version: *The Olympic Idea. Discourses and Essays*. German version edited by the Carl Diem Institute (ed.): Pierre de Coubertin. *Der Olympische Gedanke. Reden und Aufsätze*. Schorndorf, Hofmann, 1966. Short title of the German version: *Der Olympische Gedanke*. Spanish version edited by Delegacion Nacional de Educacion Rstica y Deportes (ed.): Pierre de Coubertin. *Ideario Olimpico. Discursos y Ensayos*. Madrid, INEF, 1973. Short title of the Spanish version: *Pierre de Coubertin. Ideario Olimpico*. Danish version edited and introduced by C. Blije, S. Riiskoer. *Idroetsforsk, Frederiksberg, DET IIIe*, 1996. The Danish version is not referenced in the following bibliography.

c) leaflets, posters, etc.      d) articles.

The Coubertin bibliography lists all reprints found of a single contribution in chronological order, enabling the reader to find the original text and place of publication in case of later changes of text or title.

Frequently the publications bear no mention of the date or place where they were produced. Where we have been able to procure this information, it is indicated in parenthesis. The spelling (usage of upper and lower case letters) of each title corresponds to the original. Titles originally printed in capitals only, however, have been changed to standard usage.

An asterisk (\*) marks those writings which are not signed by Coubertin but which, after close study, can be considered as coming from him. This is the case especially of the reviews or annals that he published, such as *La Revue du Pays de Caux*, *La Revue pour les Français*, *La Revue Olympique*, *Le Bulletin du Bureau International de Pédagogie Sportive*, and others. In fact, a study of the content as well as the style made it possible to attribute authorship to Coubertin, even if the publications did not bear his signature. Sometimes the discovery of a reprint of a doubtful text has helped to establish its authenticity.

In the preface of the bibliography of 1933 (cf. note 2), Coubertin himself admits that he often did not sign his articles on purpose, in order to give his ideal a wider reception. However, computer analysis of text structure and vocabulary will probably enable us to decide these matters with some authority.

The experience gained from this sort of work has led the authors to believe that, beyond the publications, translations, and 500 reprints already discovered, numerous translations and additional copies must exist.

We wish to thank the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, which with goodwill over many years has encouraged our undertaking and has, by way of exception, placed at our disposal all the "out-of-use" documents which are being microfilmed. We would also like to thank the Musée National du Sport in Paris, the Bibliothèques Nationales in Berne and Brussels, as well as the University libraries of Bordeaux, Frankfurt, Graz, Lyons, Mainz, Mannheim, Strasbourg, Treves and Vienna.

We would also like to express our thanks to the British Museum, the Library of Congress in Washington, the Preussischer Kulturbesitz National Library in Berlin, the Deutsche Sporthochschule Library in Cologne, the Institut National du Sport et d'Education Physique in Paris, the Public Library of New York, the municipal libraries of Auxerre and Mainz, and the library of the International Olympic Academy at Olympia.

We wish to thank our colleagues of the Carl and Liselott Diem Archives, and those of the Olympic Museum in Lausanne.

Mr. Geoffrey de Navacelle de Coubertin, great-nephew of Pierre de Coubertin, and our colleagues of the Pierre de Coubertin International Committee, especially the late Pr. Y.-P. Boulongne, have been of great assistance.

Above all, we express our gratitude to the IOC, who gave to the authors of this bibliography the basic elements for undertaking this immense work, in the context of the 1986 publication of the *Textes choisis de Pierre de Coubertin*<sup>8</sup>, and the English edition "Coubertin-Selected Writings on Olympism" in 2000.

Mainz, April 2008

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<sup>8</sup> IOC/N.Müller (eds): Pierre de Coubertin. *Textes choisis*. [Selected writings of Pierre de Coubertin]. Coordinating editor and director of research: Norbert Muller. 3 volumes and an illustrated booklet. XXXV11j2, 252 pages. Volume I: Revelation. General introduction and presentation by Georges Rioux, with a foreword by the President of the IOC, Juan Antonio Samaranch. Volume II: Olympism. Introduction and presentation by Norbert Muller. Volume III: Sport practice. Introduction and presentation by Norbert Muller and Otto Schantz. This volume contains a bibliography of the works of Pierre de Coubertin, compiled by Norbert Muller in collaboration with Otto Schantz. The boxed set also contains: Pierre de Coubertin - Sa vie par l'image An illustrated booklet on the life and work of Pierre de Coubertin by Geoffrey de Navacelle. 96 pages of texts, photographs and illustrations. This edition is accessible in the world's major libraries. It contains about one-third of the texts of Pierre de Coubertin available to researchers. Citation of this edition in the following bibliography: "Coubertin: *Textes choisis*, vol. (1, 2 or 3)" or "*Textes choisis*, vol. (1, 2 or 3)".