The rebels of 1894 and a visionary activist

Vollcer Kluge

ABSTRACT. The article is dedicated to Pierre de Coubertin, the French public figure and initiator of the Olympic Games revival. He initiated free movement of athletes, embodied the idea of peace and made a proposal to restore the Olympic Games.

Coubertin couldn’t remember when he thought of reviving the Olympics, but ancient Olympia had always been "a place of nostalgia" for him. However, the path to his goal realization was not easy, the sensational idea of the revival of the Olympic Games did not always find feedback, and almost no one could understand the consequences and separate the idea of Coubertin from ancient views of the Olympic Games. The obvious difficulties and the loss of support failed to stop the visionary aristocrat, but prompted organization of large-scale events, including the Congress of 1894, which first considered the possibility of reviving the Olympic Games and the conditions for their restoration. "The project referred to in the last paragraph will rather be a pleasant expression of the international harmony to which we do not aspire, but simply envision. Restoration of the Olympic Games on the basis and in the conditions that meet the needs of modern life will gather representatives of the peoples of the world every four years, and one can think that this peaceful and polite rivalry will represent the best form of internationalism.” More than once, Coubertin had to defend his idea in serious discussions, but ultimately it was agreed that the international games should be held every four years and include only amateur athletes with the exception of fencing.

What made the Games a reality was the work of a prominent person. Pierre de Coubertin was a true seer. Low height, he was big on business.

Keywords: Pierre de Coubertin, Olympic Games, revival, 1894.

П'єр де Кубертен – далекоглядний активіст

АНОТАЦІЯ. Стаття присвячена французькому громадському діячу, ініціатору відродження Олімпійських ігор – П'єру де Кубертену. Він поклав початок вільному пересуванню спортсменів, втілив ідею миру і вніс пропозицію відродження Олімпійських ігор. Кубертен не міг згадати, коли йому прийшло на думку про відродження Олімпійських ігор, але стародавня Олімпія завжди була для нього «місцем ностальгії». Проте шляхи до реалізації його мети були не прості, сенсаційна ідея відродження Олімпійських ігор не завжди знаходила відгук, майже ніхто не зміг зрозуміти наслідки і відокремити ідею Кубертена від античних поглядів на Олімпійські ігри. Очевидні труднощі та втрата підтримки не зупинили далекоглядного аристократа, а спонукали до проведення широкомасштабних заходів, серед яких був Конгрес 1894 р., де вперше розглядалося питання можливості відродження Олімпійських ігор і умов їх відродження. «Проект, про який йдеться в останньому параграфі, стане швидше приємним виразом міжнародної гармонії, до якої ми поки не прагнемо, а просто передбачаємо. Відтворення Олімпійських ігор на основі і в умовах, що відповідають потребам сучасного життя, будуть збірати кожні чотири роки представників народів світу і можна думати, що це мирне, чисте суперництво буде являти собою кращу форму інтернаціоналізму». Ще не раз приходилось Кубертену відстороняти свою ідею у серйозних дискусіях, проте було досягнуто згоди про те, що міжнародні Ігри повинні проводитися кожні чотири роки, тільки за участю спортсменів аматорського статусу за винятком фехтування. Те, що Ігри стали реальністю, було справою видатної людини. П’єр де Кубертен – справжній провидець. Невисокий на зріст, він був великом у справах.

Ключові слова: П'єр де Кубертен, Олімпійські ігри, відродження, 1894.
On 23rd June 2019, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) celebrated the 125th anniversary of its foundation, which was announced on the eighth day of an international congress at the University of Paris - the Sorbonne. Originally called the Comité International des Jeux Olympiques, its purpose was to run the Olympic Games, whose rebirth was decided after a ‘solar eclipse’ of more than 1500 years.

The official address of the committee was an office at Rue de Saint-Honoré 229 in Paris, which the Union des Sociétés Françaises de Sports Athlétiques (USFSA) had rented. In reality, the ‘IOC headquarters’ was in the parental home of Pierre de Coubertin at 20 rue Oudinot. Its founding father also paid the remaining expenses out of his own pocket, which was to ensure the existence of the committee for a longtime.

It all began with a young aristocrat who was just about to do his A-levels and was passionately interested in contemporary history. In his first autobiography, Coubertin admitted he was more affected by the constant failures of his native country than his contemporaries. He saw this in the fact that France had already experienced three monarchies, two empires and three republics in the course of the 19th century. The sheer number of different portraits adorning the coins of his country was symbolic of wounded national pride.

Coubertin renounced a career as a military officer, favoured by his parents, and began to study law and political science, which led to an encounter with the English education system. For the 20-year-old, it was an important moment when he came across the novel Tom Brown’s School Days. In it, Thomas Hughes tells the story of a boy at Rugby School who meets the reformist educator Thomas Arnold. The headmaster of Rugby School from 1828 to 1841, Arnold sought to educate his students including sports and community games for ‘Christian gentlemen’. "I was confronted with something absolutely new and I was very much interested in it," wrote Coubertin in his autobiography. He saw this in the fact that France had already experienced three monarchies, two empires and three republics in the course of the 19th century. The sheer number of different portraits adorning the coins of his country was symbolic of wounded national pride.

Pierre de Coubertin, at the age of 30, as he prepared for the Founding Congress of the Olympics

Photo: IOC Archives/OSC

П’єр де Кубертен, у віці 30 років, під час підготовки до Установчого Конгресу Олімпіади

Фото: Архів МОК / ЦОІ
completely new and unexpected, athletic education", Coubertin wrote.6

The book accompanied him on his first major journey to England in 1883 and on other occasions that he crossed the English Channel. He published the result of his studies in 1888 in his work L'Education en Angleterre.7 Financially independent, Coubertin pursued the ambitious goal of fundamentally changing the French educational system and removing national barriers against all odds. As a model he had in mind the Anglo-Saxon public schools, where students organised their sports activities on an extracurricular basis and on their own initiative.

Coubertin was initially involved in founding student sports clubs and later as USFSA Secretary General. Another important step came in 1888 when he succeeded in the establishment of a committee with the rather cumbersome name ‘Comité pour la propagation des exercices physiques dans l'éducation’. As president, he enlisted the former Minister of Education Jules Simon. Coubertin wrote:

program of the USFSA Five-Year Ceremony, which was celebrated on 25th November 1892 with a conference at the Sorbonne. For the first time, Coubertin voiced the idea of restoring the Olympic Games.

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Sorbonne

University of Paris

Photo: IOC Archives/OSC

Programma п’ятдесятич ISFSA: церемонія, яка була відзначена 25 листопада 1892 р. конференцією в Сорбонні. Вперше Кубертен озвучив ідею відновлення Олімпійських Ігор.

Фото: Архів МОК / ЦОІ

Книга супроводжувала Кубертена в його першій великій подорожі Англією у 1883 р. та тоді, коли він перетинає Ла-Манш. Він опублікував результати своїх досліджень у 1888 р. у роботі «Освіта в Англії» (L’Education en Angleterre).7 Фінансово незалежний, Кубертен амбітно прагнув до корінно змінити французьку систему освіти й усунути національні бар’єри незважаючи ні на що. Як зразок, він мав на увазі англо-саксонські державні школи, в яких учні організовували свої спортивні заняття на позакласній основі і за власною ініціативою.

Кубертен спочатку брав участь у створенні студентських спортивних клубів, а потім як генеральний секретар Союзу французьких спортивних товариств (USFSA). Інший важливий крок був зроблений у 1888 р., коли йому вдалося створити комітет з досить громіздкою назвою ‘Комітет з пропаганди фізичних вправ в освіті’ (Comité pour la propagation des exercices physiques dans l'éducation) [8]. Як президент він залучив до роботи в комітеті колишнього міністра освіти Жюля Симона.

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The Paris Exposition Universelle of 1889 which was organised on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution offered a first opportunity to publicise this committee. Coubertin was assigned to organise a congress about physical exercise, which took place on 15th June at the School of Civil Engineering and which he incorporated in the school’s sports competitions. Simon delivered a brilliant speech, while Coubertin gave an overview of his Anglo-Saxon studies. He had meanwhile continued this with a questionnaire campaign for the dissemination of the ‘Arnold System’ at British and American colleges and universities.

In addition to publicity, the congress brought him a multitude of new acquaintances that broadened his network. He met Captain Viktor Balck, chief instructor of military gymnastics and fencing at the Stockholm Central Institute of Gymnastics, who brought a team to demonstrate Swedish gymnastics on the eve of the congress. A defining event was an encounter with the ‘Peace Friends’, into whose circle he was introduced by Simon. They met immediately after the sports discussion, chaired by Frédéric Passy, who had founded the Peace League in 1867. Coubertin attended, and he also

The beginning of 1894 programme sent for the International Athletic Congress of Paris - the name in those days. Half of the Vice-Presidents who had been announced did not attend. The congress, due to end on 24th June with a boating party, was overshadowed by the assassination of the President of France, Sadi Carnot.
wrote a short report in which he described boxing as a “peace maker”.

In recognition of the organisation of the Sports Congress, the French Minister of Public Instruction sent Coubertin to the United States and Canada to study education systems at colleges and universities. From New York, he first went to New England in the autumn of 1889, where he presented his ideas about French physical education at the Boston Conference on Physical Training at the end of November.

Among his partners was Professor William M. Sloane, who had been President of the Athletic Committee of Princeton University since 1885 and whom he met in 1888 in Paris in the house of the philosopher and historian Hippolyte Taine. Sloane, whose specialty was French history, enabled Coubertin to gain access to American universities. They became lifelong friends.

Coubertin travelled from the north to the south, and from there he went on to the east coast. He was impressed by what he saw. There were exemplary sports facilities, which enabled the students to continue to train in their chosen sports in all seasons. He visited the hygienic facilities and admired the club sport scene with its multitude of competitions between the universities. He was surprised to find that women were also involved. Compared to his experiences in England, Coubertin generally found the American system more effective. He saw lower membership fees as one reason for this.

In his view, the Anglo-Saxon world at that time possessed a wealth of power that was greater than one generally wanted to admit. He saw its main source in the Arnold reforms, which enabled young people to leave school well prepared to apply the lessons they had learned to their future lives.

When Coubertin returned from America at the end of December 1889, he had hope “that we are not taking the wrong path in following the direction that the study of English educational institutions has opened for us”, as he wrote to the minister in the report. “Therefore let us pursue our reform, strengthened by the example of England and America. Let us attempt to implement the programme summed up in these words: sports and freedom.”

But before Coubertin wanted to popularise something that did not yet exist, he found it more important to internationalise sport. In his experience, there were only three driving forces in France at that time: first, necessity; second, fashion; and third, foreign competition. Since he considered the first two to be short-lived, only foreign competition remained. “There was the future. It was necessary to establish contacts between our young French athletics and those in other countries who were ahead of us on the path of physical training. However, these contacts had to take place regularly and be vested with a certain prestige. Didn’t all
of these preconditions ultimately result in a revival of the Olympics?" 

When Coubertin wrote that, he could not remember when, in his mind, he had for the first time associated this need with the revival of the Olympic Games. But ancient Olympia had always been a "city of longing" for him. The 'Olympian Games' devised by Dr. William Penny Brookes in Much Wenlock, which Coubertin visited in 1890, and the German excavations from 1875 to 1881 also served as inspiration. "Germany had brought to light what remained of Olympia, why should not France succeed in rebuilding its splendors?" he wondered. 

On 25th November 1892, Coubertin saw the hour had come to play a role in sport at an international level. The opportunity presented itself on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the USFSA, which was celebrated with a conference at the Sorbonne. After lectures on physical education in antiquity and the Middle Ages, Coubertin focused on the modern world. For him it was not utopic to believe in progressive re-education in the case of war. He claimed: "It is dear that the telegraph, railways, the telephone and passionate research in science, congresses and exhibitions have done more for peace than any treaty or diplomatic convention." He ended his lecture with the words:

Coubertin made preparations for the congress in his Parisian home at 20 rue Oudinot, where the studio used by his father, a well-known painter, was also located.
Let us export rowers, runners and fencers; there is the free trade of the future, and on the day when it is introduced within the wails of old Europe the cause of peace will have received a new and mighty stay.

This is enough to encourage your servant to dream now about the second part of this programme; he hopes that you will help him as you helped him hitherto, and that with you will be able to continue and complete, on a basis suited to the conditions of modern life, this grandiose and salutary task, the restoration of the Olympic Games.19

NEITHER AMERICA NOR LONDON COULD DISCOURAGE COUBERTIN

What Coubertin had thought was sensational news, was in reality met with no response. The auditorium applauded, but no one was able to grasp the implications and separate Coubertin's idea from the forms of antiquity. When leaving the hall, some asked what he meant by the 'revival' of the Olympic Games. They understood the term only symbolically. You could perhaps imagine such a project as a play, but not in sporting reality. Others joked and inquired whether women would be allowed and whether general nakedness would be compulsory.20

The next spring came without Coubertin's proposal reaching the public. Since nothing happened, he resorted to a trick. He recalled that Adolphe de Pallisaux, who published the journal Les Sport Athlétiques, had some time before proposed the convening of an international congress to discuss the amateur rules, but that the idea had been shelved. Together they dug up the paper again, and this time - on 1st August 1893 - the USFSA Presidium agreed to host a congress under the motto 'Congrès international de Paris pour l'étude et la propagation des principes d'amateurisme'.21 The time was set for June 1894.

To prepare, three plenipotentiaries were appointed: Charles Herbert, the Secretary of the Amateur Athletic Association (AAA) for Great Britain and its colonies, and Sloane for America. France and continental Europe were to be handled by Coubertin, who was again sent to 'New World' on behalf of his government in September 1893 - this time as a member of a team of educators at the World's Fair in Chicago. Unfortunately, it was too late to be able to participate in the International Congress of Education, which took place at the end of July and at which he was listed as a speaker.22

After visiting the Columbian Exposition, Coubertin crossed the United States for the second time. In particular he wanted to advertise his plans at the universities. From Chicago he went via Denver to California. He went on to Texas, Louisiana, Washington DC and back to New York, in order to take a three-week break with Sloane in Princeton.23

One of Pierre de Coubertin's business cards, which he signed, as was his custom with the abbreviation 'Pdc'

Collection de Navacelle, Collection Rudiger Fritz

Hi AMERICA, HI LONDON
NE MOGLI ZBENTZHITI KUBERTENA

Те, що Кубертен вважав сенсаційними новинами, насправді не зустріло відгуку. Глядацька зала аплодувала, але ніхто не зміг зрозуміти наслідки і відокремити ідею Кубертена від подій давнини. Виходячи із зали, дехто запитував, що він мав на увазі під «відродженням» Олімпійських ігор. Вони розуміли цей термін тільки символічно. Можливо, вони могли б уявити собі таку гру у вигляді проєкту, але не в спортивній реальності. Інші жартували і питали, чи будуть допущені жінки і чи буде обов'язковою загальна нагота [20].

Наступна весна пройшла без пропозицій Кубертена, які б стали надбанням громадськості. Оскільки нічого не сталося, він вдався до хитрощів. Він наводив, що Адольф де Палліса, який видавав журнал «Атлетичний спорт» (Les Sport Athlétiques), деякий час потому пропонував скликати міжнародний конгрес для обговорення аматорських правил, але ідея була відкладена. Разом вони знову повернулися до цієї ідеї, і на цей раз – 1 серпня 1893 р. – Президія USFSA погодила провести конгрес під гаслом «Паризький міжнародний конгрес з вивчення і поширення принципів аматоризму» [21]. Датою проведення було обрано червень 1894 р.

Для підготовки були призначени три повноважних представників: Чарльз Герберт, секретар аматорської атлетичної асоціації (AAA) для Великої Британії та її колоній, і Слоен – для Америки. Францією і континентальною Європою повинен був займатися Кубертен, який знову відправився в «Новий світ» від імені уряду у вересні 1893 р., на цей раз як штаб-квартира викладачів на всесвітній виставці в Чикаго. На жаль, було вже надто пізно брати участь в Міжнародному конгресі з освіти, який відбувся у наприкінці липня і на якому він мав бути доповідачем [22].
On Thanksgiving Day, the two attended the annual football match between Princeton and Yale Universities at Manhattan Field, where the Princeton 'Tigers' celebrated their first win in ten years against their rivals with a score of 6-0.

Although Coubertin did not see much value in the harsh American national sport, it was an unforgettable experience for him to sit among 25,000 excited spectators and some 20,000 fans on the neighbouring Dead Head Hill.

Previously, on 27th November-1893, Sloane had invited Coubertin to lunch at the New York University Club and met a series of "most influential" people, to win them over to participate in the Paris Congress. But this contact confirmed what he had already felt during the tour: American sport, in which the universities were in conflict with the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), was not immediately won over. Therefore, Coubertin was content that they did not actually oppose him. His only ally remained Sloane, whose Olympic enthusiasm he knew how to increase.

He expected less support from Herbert. According to Coubertin, Herbert had only collected contacts in these years. The Englishman was interested in the technical part of the programme, where as he considered the Olympic Games themselves as neither "viable nor useful".

Coubertin found even less understanding in Herbert's homeland. On 7th February, 1894 he attended a private dinner with "about six personalities" in the London Sports Club. President Sir John Astley, a prominent Conservative Member of Parliament and sports enthusiast, had invited guests to attend.

Pісля відвідування Колумбійської виставки Кубертен перетнув Сполучені Штати вдруге. Зокрема, він хотів про- рекламувати свої плани в університетах. З Чикаго він від- правився через Денвер до Каліфорнії. Потім – до Техасу, Луїзіанії, Вашингтону округ Колумбія і назад до Нью-Йорку, щоб зробити тритижневу перерву для зустрічі зі Слоеном у Принстоні [23].

У День Подяки вони побували на Манхеттен Філд на що- річному футбольному матчі між університетами Принстона і Єля, де Принстонські «Тигри» відсвяткували свою першу перемогу над суперниками з рахунком 6:0.

Хоча Кубертен не бачив особливої цінності в суворому американському національному спорті, він отримав неза- бутні враження від перебування серед 25 тис. збуджених глядачів і ще близько 20 тис. фанатів на сусідньому пагорбі Дед Хед [24].

Раніше, 27 листопада 1893 р., Слоен запросив Кубертена на ланч у клубі Нью-Йоркського університету, щоб зустрітися з рядом «найвпливовіших» людей [25] з метою їх залучення до участі у Парижькому конгресі. Але цей контакт підтверджив те, що він уже відчув під час турне: американський спорт, в якому університети знаходилися в конфлікті з Аматорським атлетичним союзом (AAU), не був відразу ж завойований. Тому Кубертен був задоволений тим, що вони хоча б не чи- нили йому опору. Його єдиним союзником залишався Слоен, чий олімпійський ентузіазм він умів посилати.

Ще меншої підтримки він очікував від Герберта. За сло- вами Кубертена, всі ці роки Герберт тільки збирав контак- ти [26]. Англієць цікавився технічною частиною програми, вважаючи самі Олімпійські ігри «ні життєздатними, ні ко- рисними» [27]. Кубертен знайшов ще менше розуміння на батьківщині Герберта. 7 лютого 1894 р. він був присутній на
Coubertin had received setbacks in both America and in London but this did not detract from his optimism. As soon as he returned home, on 15th January 1894, he sent a circular letter inviting people to the congress. The attached Princeton programme contained eight questions, of which the first seven concerned the amateur rules. The eighth question was:  

VIII. On the possibility of restoring the Olympic Games. – Linder what circumstances could they be restored?  

In his letter Coubertin emphasised that in the case of the amateur rules, he considered reforms necessary to be discussed. As for point eight, he did not hurry. For he was still looking towards the turn of the century, which France wanted to celebrate in Paris with another World Expo. For this, Coubertin and the gym teacher Georges Strehly had already submitted a project for an Olympic Pavilion to the General Commissioner Alfred Picard. But that did not figure in his circular. Rather, he wrote:  

The project referred to in the last paragraph would be the pleasing sanctions of international harmony that we are, as yet, in no way seeking to achieve, merely to prepare for. The reestablishment of the Olympic Games, on a basis and in the conditions in keeping with the needs of modern life, would be bring together, every four years, representatives of the nations of the world, and one is permitted to think that these peaceful, courteous contests constitute the best form of internationalism.  

As spring approached, the first difficulties became apparent: no trace of enthusiasm, and hardly anyone who offered support. Since only a few international sports federations existed at the time, Coubertin had to turn to clubs whose addresses had to be painstakingly obtained. Added to this were the problems with the Union des Sociétés de Gymnastique, whose former president Joseph Sansbeuf gave him early notice that the French Gymnastics Federation would withdraw if the German were to appear in Paris.  

Since Coubertin did not want to organise the congress without their participation, he visited the German military attaché in Paris, Maximilian von Schwartzkoppen, who had no idea however about the sports scene. In addition, Coubertin turned 21-years-old student Walther Bensemann, who had recently founded the Strasbourg Football Club. Bensemann advised him to contact the editor of the Berlin journal Sport und Spiel, John Bloch.  

In fact, Bloch provided Coubertin with a variety of addresses, but this did not bring in a single participant. Even the late release of the programme produced no result. Bloch did not publish it until 2nd June 1894, possibly because he did not want to compete with the International Sporting Association (ISA). This had recently been founded in London and had also adopted sports private evening for a «likely event of per son» at the London sports club on the promise of its president the Duke of Edinburgh, the leader of the parliament from both parties and one of the sports enthusiasm.  

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promotion as its goal. Bloch had become Vice-President. On the other hand, he offered Coubertin recognition of his journal as an "official German organ".36

Thus, Germany, which had a gymnastics association with half a million members, was not represented in

In the face of Coubertin’s utopian vision, and as the Auvergne had become a new example of how to promote health and physical activity, several delegates opposed the idea of a world tournament in Paris. They argued that such an event would not benefit France, and that the French gymnastics association should not be associated with it. The delegates who spoke against the idea included Dr. William Torrey Harris, a prominent American gymnast and educator, who was a strong supporter of physical education in the United States. He argued that the implementation of physical education in schools was more important than hosting an international tournament. He also expressed concern about the potential for political exploitation of the event, as it went against the principles of the Olympic movement.

Another delegate who spoke against the idea was Sir Arthur Balfour, a member of the British Parliament and a supporter of physical education. He argued that the Olympic Games should not be seen as a means to promote nationalism, but rather as a means to promote international understanding and cooperation. He also expressed concern about the potential for the Olympic Games to become a tool for political manipulation, as they were being used to advance various national interests.

Other delegates who spoke against the idea included Dr. John Astley, a member of the British Parliament and a supporter of physical education. He argued that the Olympic Games should be based on principles of fairness and equality, and that the inclusion of too many countries would dilute the spirit of the event. He also expressed concern about the potential for the Olympic Games to become a tool for political exploitation, as they were being used to promote various national interests.

Despite the opposition, the idea of a world tournament in Paris was eventually approved by the delegates. However, it was clear that the Olympic movement was facing significant challenges in the years to come. The issue of nationalism and political manipulation would continue to be a major concern, and the Olympic Games would face significant challenges in the years to come.
Coubertin had divided the invitations into two categories. First, sports federations and clubs were asked to nominate delegates. In the second category, he gathered Honorary Members, whom he did not necessarily expect to attend but hoped their names would add prestige for the congress. Coubertin managed the latter with the support of USFSA President Vicomte de Janzeand his friend Jules Jusserand.

The 50 personalities were included can be divided into six groups. The first comprised members of the high nobility. The King of Belgium, the Prince of Wales, the Crown Prince of Sweden and Norway, the Crown Prince of Greece and the Russian Grand Duke Vladimir were all ready to offer their honorary patronage.

A second group consisted of government representatives from Austria, Hungary, the USA and France. The third group included politicians and diplomats such as the President of the City Council of Paris, the ambassadors of Britain and Austria-Hungary, and personalities such as Lord Balfour who later became British Prime Minister.

### INTERNATIONAL CELEBRITIES IN A GLAMOROUS SETTING

Coubertin reserved seats for the guests of honor from the fields of science, literature, art, sport and government. These included politicians and diplomats such as the President of the City Council of Paris, the ambassadors of Britain and Austria-Hungary, and personalities such as Lord Balfour who later became British Prime Minister.

### President of the Congress
Baron Alphonse Chodron de Courcel (1839–1919), Senator, Ambassador

### Delegate
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2. **UNION VÉLOCIPÉDIQUE DE FRANCE**
3. **RACING CLUB DE FRANCE**
4. **SOCIÉTÉ DE SPORT DE L’ÎLE DE PUTEAUX Le Port, chauffeur**
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Fernand Hecq (1831–1897), President of the French Rugby Union
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A. Mangeot, Secretary, multiple French rugby champion

24. UNION SPORTIVE DES ETUDIANTS DE CAEN
François Etienne 'Franz' Reichel

25. ASSOCIATION VÉLOCIPÉDIQUE FRANÇAISE
Adolphe Eugène Ziane (1864–1934), President, IOC member

26. ATHLETIC AND RUNNING CLUB, BRUSSELS
Adolphe Eugène Ziane (1864–1934), President, IOC member

27. ACADEMIE DES ARMES
Adolphe Rouelle, fencing Master, Olympian 1900

28. ANCIENNE SÉCURITÉ DE SERVICE
Arthur J. Reed

29. YORK ATHLETIC CLUB
William Millinan Sloane (1850–1929), professor at the Princeton University, IOC Member 1904–1912

30. LAUREE EPEE!
Jean-Léon Legrand (1873–1953), former President, lawyer, writer, Olympic 1900 fencing

31. STADE BORDELAIS
A. Mangeot, Secretary, multiple French rugby champion

32. UNION SPORTIVE DES ETUDIANTS DE CAEN
François Etienne 'Franz' Reichel

33. FÉDÉRATION BELGIQUE DES SOCIÉTÉS DE COURSES À PIED, BRUXELLES
Maurice Reiles (1862–1903), President, Charles-De-Dekeer

34. ASSOCIATION VÉLOCIPÉDIQUE INTERNATIONALE (A.V.I.)
James-Stuart Sloan, President, IOC Member 1900–1904

35. WENLOCK OLYMPIAN SOCIETY
Adolphe Rouelle, Fencing Master, Olympian 1900

36. ACADEMIE DES ARMES
Adolphe Rouelle, Fencing Master, Olympian 1900

37. SOCIÉTÉ D’ENCOURAGEMENT AU SPORT NAUTIQUE
Charles Fennick, USFSA member, Olympian 1900 motorboating
F. Boudin

38. UNION ATHLETIQUE DU 1er ARRONDISSEMENT
Léon Guillebon

39. SOCIÉTÉ D’ENCOURAGEMENT AU SPORT NAUTIQUE
Charles Fennick, USFSA member, Olympian 1900 motorboating
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Charles Fennick, USFSA member, Olympian 1900 motorboating
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42. NATIONAL SKATING ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN, CAMBRIDGE
A. Mangeot, multiple French rugby champion

43. SCOTTISH AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, EDINBURGH
A. Mangeot, multiple French rugby champion

44. NEW ZEALAND AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, CHRISTCHURCH
A. Mangeot, multiple French rugby champion

45. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, OAKLAND
A. Mangeot, multiple French rugby champion

46. VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION, MELBOURNE
A. Mangeot, multiple French rugby champion

47. AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, NIAGARA FALLS
A. Mangeot, multiple French rugby champion

48. ITALIAN NATIONAL AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
A. Mangeot, multiple French rugby champion

49. LONDON ROWING CLUB
A. Mangeot, multiple French rugby champion
Astrong fourth group stood for the close integration of the Olympic project with the peace movement, whose common credo was international understanding. In addition to Passy and Simon, were Hodgson Pratt of the USA, Ferenc Kemény of Hungary, Elie Ducommun of Switzerland, Henri-Martin La Fontaine of Belgium, Frédrik Bajer of Denmark, and Richard Feldhaus of Germany. Four of them were later awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

The fact that pledges were not based solely on courtesy is reflected in Bajer's response. Since he was also an animal rights activist, he protested against the shooting of live pigeons mentioned in the programme. He suggested using flying discs and machines instead. How far-sighted!

Baron von Suttner should not be forgotten. He was a proven pacifist, who had set up an Austrian branch of the German Association for Defence Against Antisemitism in 1891. His wife Bertha von Suttner had written a most important work of anti-war literature, a novel entitled Die Waffen nieder! It is not likely that it would have occurred to Coubertin to offer her an honour.
The stone fragments of the Hymn to Apollo were found on the south outer wall of the Athenian Treasury in 1893 by the French archaeologist Théophile Homolle. The hymn was played on the occasion of the opening of the Olympic Congress.

Kemény, a headmaster from Eger, can also be classified in a fifth group along with Balckand the Russian General Butovsky, Argentinian professor José Benjamin Zubiaur and Czech teacher Jiff Guth. Coubertin had met all five before in Paris. He had been corresponding with Kemény, a student friend, since the mid-1880s. He had Butovsky and Guth named USFSA Honorary Members.

One of the most interesting personalities of this circle was undoubtedly Charles Waldstein, who came from a Jewish family in New York and had received his doctorate in Heidelberg, Germany. Director of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens from 1889 to 1893, he regularly dined with the Greek princes. When he was visited by the royal family in the spring of 1894 during the excavations he was leading in Argos, he convinced the Duke of Sparta to accept the honorary membership of the congress. This was done at the request of Coubertin who sometime later received an official confirmation from the court marshal.

Finally, there were the sports leaders who represented the largest group in terms of numbers. Halfwere French; Coubertin knew them from their work together in the USFSA. He had convinced Sir John Astley in London. As for the 84-year-old Dr. Brookes, he sent regrets that he was too old to travel to Paris. He wanted to leave the decision whether to support Coubertin to the Wenlock Olympian Society. Since he was sure that these would agree, he recommended Coubertin a “prompt and energetic action during the period of enthusiasm. You will not regretactiing upon my advice.” Furthermore he wrote:

In one, however, you will, I feel assured, have their cordial concurrence, viz. the establishment of an international Olympic Association and the arrangement that such gatherings shall be held in rotation in or near the capitals of all nations joining in the movement. This has long been a cherished idea of mine so far as making Greece the centre, but the plan of your congress, embracing as it does all nations, is a really superb one, and deserving of the liberal support of all nations.

**FOREIGN COUNTRIES WERE REPRESENTED BY ONLY A MINORITY**

The Wenlock Olympian Society was admittedly on the list, but in fact it was missing at the congress. Of the
49 associations and clubs listed, only 37 were actually present. The number of delegates was 78, though Coubertin insisted there were 79. Of these, 58 came from France, more than two-thirds of the entire gathering.46

The foreign delegations were limited to 20 delegates from eight countries. The United Kingdom (including Ireland) had four representatives. Herbert represented both the London and the Victorian AAA. Sloane, a member of the New York Athletic Club, stood for the USA. Three Belgian clubs sent representatives. In addition there were the gymnastics federations of Greece, Italy, Sweden as well as the Gymnastic Association of St. Petersburg. Great interest was shown by the University of Oviedo, which sent two professors. They belonged to a group of intellectuals called the ‘Grupo de Oviedo’ which had embarked on the moral and scientific renewal of Spain.

The remaining 13 associations and clubs served as a device for Coubertin to give the impression of the largest possible international participation. To be listed as a ‘delegate’, a letter of consent sufficed. Some representatives seemed to have waited until the last minute. At the Dutch Football and Athletics Association the additional remark ran: “not sure that we can participate”. Coubertin also hoped in vain for the presence of Baron Frederik W. van Tuyll van Serooskerken, to whom he had offered honorary membership. The chamberlain of Queen Wilhelmina wrote that he would drop by after his holiday in Biarritz.47 He did not specify when this would be.

Cancellations such as those by the Paris rowers, who did not want to be forced into foreign competition rules, are the exception in the archived documents.48 Presumably there was no response at all to many invitations. Sometimes however Coubertin received a hostile reception, as in the case of the Belgian Gymnastics Federation.

President Nicolaas Cuperus explained their absence because they were engaged with preparations for the XXI Federal Gymnastics Festival in Antwerp and added: “On the other hand, the federation was always aware that gymnastics and sport are two opposites, that we have always considered as incompatible with their principles”.49

Cupérus was so offended by the answer that he took revenge with a hateful propaganda campaign. This had some effect on the Germans, who were absent anyway, perhaps also with the Swiss gymnasts, who pointed out their federalism.50

The Greeks, for whom the revival of the Olympic Games was “a matterfull of interest”, remained unimpressed as they saw their Panhellenic Gymnastic Club built on the “foundation of ancient athletics” as President Ioannis Phokianos emphasised.51

Since Phokianos was unavailable as he was inaugurating a gymnasium, he had asked one of the “most
competent members” to represent Greece: Demetrios Vikelas.

The writer and poet lived in Paris (due to his wife being unwell) and was admittedly interested in education. He also belonged to the club’s board of directors, but he was actually a stranger to sports issues.

ONLY AMATEURS AND TRUE CHAMPIONS SHOULD PARTICIPATE

To gain more publicity, Coubertin focused his energy on the grand opening on 16th June 1894. The Vice-Rector Octave Greard took care of the ambience by providing the large amphitheatre of the Sorbonne, at whose gable end a huge mural by Puvis de Chavannes had been resplendent since 1889.22

Coubertin’s hope to persuade the President of the House of Representatives Jean Casimir-Perier to make the opening speech, remained unfulfilled. The politician, who was also Foreign Minister, was fighting for his political survival.


Письменник і поет жив у Парижі (через стан здоров’я дружини) і, за загальним визнанням, цікавився питаннями освіти. Він також входив до Ради директорів клубу, але насправді він не був обізнаний в спортивних питаннях.

БРАТИ УЧАСТЬ ПОВИННІ ЛИШЕ ЛЮБИТЕЛІ І СПРАВЖНІ ЧЕМПІОНИ

Щоб домогтися більшої популярності, Кубертен зосередив всю свою енергію на урочистому відкритті конгресу 16 червня 1894 р. Проректор Октав Греар подобав про обставину, надавши великий амфітеатр Сорбонни, де з 1889 р.
Then Coubertin turned to the well-known diplomat Alphonse de Courcel, who was somewhat bemused. He asked Jusserand what kind of speech he could give, since he did not consider himself as a sports person.

But then de Courcel managed a dignified speech, which ended in the call to win over contemporaries of the twentieth century for peaceful competitions between the nations. In mutual respect he saw the «first basis for the maintenance of peace between peoples».

Some 2000 listeners, among them many students and schoolchildren, also heard a performance of the Hymn to Apollo, which had recently been discovered in the Treasury of Athens at Delphi.

Two days later, the delegates were brought back to the present. However, their ranks had already significantly dwindled. The remaining 42 had the choice between two commissions. In the first, presided over by the President of the Racing Club de France, Michel Gondinet, the amateur problem was discussed. The treasurer of the Victorian Rowing Association, Walter B. House, had already provided a good basis for discussion with a five-page letter.

The second commission, which initially attracted only 17 delegates, was concerned with the possibility of reintroducing of the Olympic Games. In addition Coubertin wanted to clarify two more points, which he had added to the programme in May. They concerned questions of organisation, participants and types of sport, as well as the nomination of an international committee as a governing body.

Vikelas, whom Coubertin had commissioned with the presidency of this commission, first read out a memorandum written by Phokianos on the ancient Games, in which the pentathlon was praised as a Greek ideal. The Swedes also attached importance to this event.

Coubertin, who shuttled back and forth between commissions, pointed out that sports such as rowing, which

The final banquet was held on the evening of 23rd June 1894 at the Winter Garden of the Jardin d’Acclimatation amusement park

Photo: IOC Archives/OSC, Volker Kluge Archive

Увечері 23 червня 1894 р. в Зимовому саду парку розваг Jardin d’Acclimatation (Акліматизаційний сад) відбувся заключний банкет

Фото: архів МОК / ЦОІ, архів Фолкера Клюге

находився величезний мурал Пюви де Шаванна у всій свої заздожності [52].

Надія Кубертена переконано президента Палати представників Жана Казимира-Пер’є виступили зі вступною промовою залішилася нездійсненою. Політик, який також був міністром закордонних справ, боровся за своє політичне виживання.

Тоді Кубертен звернувся до відомого дипломата Альфонса де Курселя, який був трохи збентежений. Той попросив в Йоссера поради, з якою промовою йому слід виступити, оскільки не вважав себе людиною зі світу спорту [53].

Слід зазначити, що де Курселя вдалося виступити з підною промовою, яка закінчилася закликом перемагати сучасників двадцятого століття в мирних змаганнях між народами. У взаємній повазі він бачив «головну основу для підтримання мирів між народами» [54]. Близько 2 тис. слухачів, серед яких було багато студентів і школярів, також почуті виконання Гімну Аполону, текст якого був недавно виявлений в скарбниці Афін у Дельфах [55], створило настрій античності.

Через два дні делегатів повернули в сьогодення. Однак їхні ряди вже значно скоротилися. Решта, 42 делегати, повинні були зробити вибір між двома комісіями. У першій, під головуванням президента Гоночного Клубу де Франс Мішеля Гондінєта, обговорювалася проблема аматорства. Скарбник Вікторійської асоціації веслування Уолтер Б. Хаус, вже дав глибоке обговорення для обговорення в листі з п’яти сторонник [56].

Друга комісія, яка спочатку привернула тільки 17 делегатів, цікавилася можливістю відновлення Олімпійських ігор. Крім того, Кубертен хотів уточнити ще два моменти, які він додав до програми в травні. Вони стосувалися питань організації, учасників і видів спорту, а також призначення міжнародного комітету як керівного органу.

Вікелас, якому Кубертен доручив головувати в цій комісії, спочатку зазначав, що він вже відчут і працює над проблемою, яка стосується джерел інформації про Олімпійські ігри. Він також зазначав, що він задуманий відповідати на запити з поважаних співробітників МОК.

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the Greeks did not know, had also started up. Apparently it took some time for the delegates to realise that he was concerned with modern sports. He just wanted to put forward a proposal. The ‘manager’ could not prevail with his ideas. For example, the delegates did not consider Paris, which Coubertin had planned for the Olympic premiere, as favourite, but London.

Some said that the proposed six-year period before the first Games would be too long. In response Coubertin brought Athens into the discussion at the next session. But there were also objections to that, because Greece, already in financial trouble, was also considered to be too far from the centre of Europe. London remained as an option, as Coubertin had proposed as a compromise to wait until the arrival of Herbert, who for some unknown reason did not participate in the deliberations.

There was agreement, however, that the international Games should take place every four years, and, with the exception of fencing, only amateurs should take part. No nation should be represented by athletes of another. Countries were recommended to run trial competitions and to name only true champions.

On the sporting programme it was accepted without dispute that athletics should represent the crowning glory of the Games with the pentathlon. The inclusion of water sports – swimming, rowing, sailing – was just as natural as the martial arts (fencing, boxing, wrestling), equestrian sports, cycling and gymnastics as well as sports matches (football, tennis, jeu de paume, etc.). The climbers were promised a prize for the “most interesting ascent”.

At the request of the Swedes, skating was also added to the list without having discussed the necessary conditions for it. However, their application to advertise competitions for boys was rejected – a proposal that Vikelas had previously suggested with reference to antiquity. Unlike in the past, modern Games should be reserved exclusively for adult men. The participation of women was not up for debate.

There was a concern that organisers should ask governments for official support. However, Florigmond Parmentier, Secretary-General of the French Shooting Association, recalled that in 1886 his country’s ambassador donated a Sévres vase for a Wimbledon competition and in 1890 the government had subsidised the participation of a team at the Italian shooting festival with 10,000 francs.

It remained as an open question, whether the first Games should be celebrated in London or Athens. Whether it was discussed again (with or without Herbert) is unknown. The Bulletin du Comité International des Jeux men-
tions only one speech by Vikelas, in which he pleaded for Athens and for which he received the support of Coubertin, Sloane, Gondinet and the Comité de Villers.

The telegram from King George to the Greek ambassador in Paris, Konstantinos Kriezis, in which he gave his thanks for the decision of Baron de Coubertin proves that the die was cast two days before the end of the congress.64

The congress ended on 23rd June. In the morning they met again in full session to receive the final reports, which turned out to be satisfactory. Thus, the amateur commission had managed to formulate from a variety of opposing opinions, a seven-point definition that authorised only amateur athletes to participate in the Games. Betting and cash prizes were considered incompatible with amateurism.

In principle, these rules were later adopted by the emerging international sports federations. According to that an amateur was considered to be one:

... who has never participated in open competitions, who has never taken part in a competition in return for money or prize money of whatever origin, in particular if it were entrance fees, who has never challenged professional athletes and who has never been a sport teacher or a coach for money will be considered an amateur.55

With the exception of equestrian sports, shooting and sailing, which cost a lot of money, prizes should only have the character of souvenirs'. Sloane's request for a restriction on value was rejected. There was also a clear rejection of the strict Amateur Rowing Association regulations which excluded those who earned their ving as boatmen from participation in British racing. Not even the Anglo-Saxons defended this rule, which was described as the «challenge of democracy».

The entire work had also been done by the Commission for Olympic Games, whose recommendations were unanimously accepted. Membership of the International Committee, however, remained unanswered. Although Coubertin had the composition long since in mind, he probably did not want to exaggerate it with democracy and

Znow (з Гербертом або без нього), невідомо. У бюлетні Міжнародного комітету Ігор згадується тільки одна про- мова Вікеласа, в якій він висував за Афіни, і яка отри- мала підтримку Куберна, Слоена, Гондинета і графа де Віллера.

Телеграма від короля Георга послу Греції в Парижі Konstantinos Kriezis, в якій він дав «рішення баро- на де Куберна», доводить, що жереб був кинутий за два дні до закінчення конгресу [64].

Конгрес завершився 23 червня. Вони збирали- ся ще раз, щоб отримати остаточні звіти, які вони вважа- ли задовільними. Таким чином, комісії з аматорства вда- лося зіставити безліч думок і сформулювати визначення з семи пунктів, згідно з якими можуть бути допущені для участі в Іграх лише спортсмени-аматори. Ставки і грошо- ві призи вважалися несумісними з аматорством.

В принципі, ці правила були пізніше прийняті міжна- родними спортивними федераціями, що розвиваються. Згідно з цим, аматором вважався той, хто:

... ніколи не брав участі у відкритих змаганнях, хто ніколи не брав участі в змаганнях в обмін на гро- ші або призів гроші будь-якого походження, особливо якщо це були вступні внески, хто ніколи не кидав ви- клик професійним спортсменам, і хто ніколи не був учителем зі спорту або тренером за гроші, буде вва- жатися любителем [65].

За винятком кінного спорту, стрільби та вітрильно- го спорту, які коштують великих грошей, призи повинні мати тільки характер «сувенірів». Пропозицію Слоена на обмеження вартості було відхилено. Була також явища відмова від суворих правил Аматорської асоціації веслування, яка відлучила від участі в британських гонках тих, хто заробляв собі на життя як човняр. Навіть англосакси не захищали це правило, яке було названо «викли- ком демократії».

Велика робота була також проведена Комі- сією з Олімпійських ігор, рекомендації якої були одноголосно прийняті. Однак членство в Між- народному комітеті за- лишилося без відповіді. Хоча Кубернен давно мав на увазі його склад, він, ймовірно, не хотів «пере-

Визначення аматорського правила міститься у звіті аматорської комісії, яку очолював президент Гоночного клубу Парижа Мічель Гондин. Протокол був написаний делегатом Національної спілки велосипедистів Лондона Р. Тоддом.
instead left himself room for manoeuvre. Forty years later he wrote:

I was allowed a free hand in the choice of members of the IOC. Those proposed were elected without any amendment...\[66\].

However, the committee was constituted only a few days later in Vikelas’s apartment on u rue de Babylone in the presence of Sloane and Ernest Callot. The latter had provided Coubertin as treasurer with a largely empty cash box. Reluctantly, Vikelas agreed to take over the presidency until the end of 1896, while Coubertin wished to settle for the office of General Secretary, from which he expected to exert greater influence.

After Athens, he wanted to lead the committee for an Olympiad. In his opinion, the president should always come from the host country of the next Games, so that after him Sloane would have his turn, since in his mind Coubertin had already awarded the Games of 1904 to the United States.\[67\]

The remaining nine members were missing in Paris, but their names should have been familiar to the delegates, since they were on the list of Honorary Members, with the exception of Lord Ampthill, who had been recommended to Coubertin by the London Rowing Club\[68\]. They only learned, however, about their nomination by letter. In the IOC Archives, however, only the thank-you letters from Butovsky and Cuff can be found. Count Lucchesi-Palli, who had represented the Italian Gymnastics Federation at the congress probably did not realise that he had also become a member of the committee. Three weeks later, the Duke d’Andria announced his intention to take over the membership of his friend – giving the count the record for the shortest tenure ever.\[69\] Coubertin accepted this as well as the proposal of the President of the Ligue Velocipède Beige, Raoul Claes, subsequently accepting Comte Maxime de Bousies as a representative of his country.\[70\]

The Olympic Founding Congress ended on the evening of 23rd June 1894 with a banquet in the Palmarium of the Jardin d’Acclimatation. Coubertin gave a speech in which he targeted some the conservatives who would have baulked
at the meeting in the venerable Sorbonne. In a sharp-tongued speech he said:

*Those of the old school are moved to see us taking our seats in the Sorbonne; they felt that we were rebels and that we would end by throwing down the edifice of their out-dated philosophy. This is true. Gentlemen, we are rebels and that is why the press, which has always supported well-meaning revolutions, has understood and helped us, for which, in passing, I thank them most sincerely.*

Academician Michel Breal, who proposed a toast to the speaker (and gave birth to the idea for the marathon race in September), even saw on 23 June 1894 the ‘Olympic Day’, the starting point for the ‘United States of Europe’.

How wrong he would be: a few hours after the rebirth of the Olympic Games, French President Sadi Carnot was murdered in Lyon by an Italian anarchist. On the final day, the congress had sent him a message of greeting.

It was not the last shadow to fall on the Olympics. Their unique development, however, was unavoidable, despite all the gloomy prophecies that have predicted its downfall for 125 years. That the Games became reality was the work of one man. Pierre de Coubertin - a true visionary. Small in stature, he was big on action.

*It was only 100 years later that a memorial plaque for the revival of the Olympic Games was inaugurated at the Sorbonne.*

Представників старої школи зачепило те, як ми займаємо свої місця в Сорбонні; вони бачили в нас заколотників і що ми закінчимо тим, що зламаємо фундамент їх застарілої філософії. І це правда. Панове, ми заколотники, і саме тому преса, яка завжди підтримувала добрі революції, зрозуміла нас і допомогла нам, за що, між іншим, я їм щиро дякую [71].

Академік Мішель Бреаль, який запропонував тост за оратора (і породив ідею проведення марафонської гонки у вересні), назвав 23 червня 1894 р. «Олімпійським днем» і побачив у ньому відправну точку для «Сполучених Штатів Європи».

Наскільки він помилявся: через кілька годин після прийняття рішення про відродження Олімпійських ігор президент Франції Сади Карно було вбито в Ліоні італійським анархістом. В останній день Конгресу президента Франції було надіслано вітальне повідомлення.

Це була не остання подія, що затмірила Олімпійські ігри. Їх унікальний розвиток, однак, був неминучим, не зважаючи на всі похмуру пророцтва, які передбачали їх падіння протягом 125 років. Те, що Ігри стали реальністю, було справою однієї людини. Пер де Кубертен – далеко-гледний активіст. Невисокий на зріст, він був великим у справах.

*Почесні члени і делегати отримали пам'ятні дипломи та медалі.*

Фото: архів МОК / ЦОІ

Лише через 100 років у Сорбонні було відкрито меморіальну дошку з нагоди 100-річчя відродження Олімпійських ігор

Фото: архів МОК / ЦОІ
The 13 Members of the First International Olympic Committee
13 членів Першого Міжнародного олімпійського комітету

First vignette of the IOC, which probably served to close the letters. However, it was not produced until after 1900, when Coubertin introduced the name ‘Comité International Olympique’ (CIO).

Перша віньєтка мала слугувати для завершення листів. Втім її не було випущено до 1900 р., коли Кубертен представив назву «Міжнародний олімпійський комітет» (МОК).

By agreement with Count Ferdinando Lucchesi-Palli, Riccardo Carafa, Duke of Andria, took over his IOC membership in July 1891. In September that year, Coubertin accepted as 14th member the Belgian Count Maxime de Bousies. He remained so until 1901. The Duke of Andria retired in 1898.

За згодою з графом Фердинандо Луччі-Паллі, Рікардо Карафа, герцог Андрийський, став членом МОК у липні 1891 р. У вересні того ж року Кубертен прийняв як 14-го члена бельгійського графа Максима де Буї. Він залишився таким до 1901 р. Герцог Андрийський вийшов у відставку у 1898 р.
LE BULLETIN sera triestriel jusqu’à nouvel ordre, et il recevra les communications officielles du Comité International et tiendra ses leçons ou conférences de ce sujet dans tous les pays où l’Union des Sociétés françaises de Sports athlétiques est déclarée. Il en sera de même pour les communications qui pourront être adressées au Secrétariat général du Comité, 229, Rue Saint-Honoré, Paris. Il n’est pas possible, comme on l’a aimé de le faire, de publier dans le présent bulletin des communications de la même nature que celles qui ont été publiées dans le précédent numéro. Les communications qui pourront être adressées à la Commission, 229, Rue Saint-Honoré, Paris, seront publiées dans le bulletin suivant. Il n’y a pas d’abonnement proprement dit. Tout communiqué interne à la Société n’est pas destiné à être publié dans le bulletin suivant. Il n’y a pas d’abonnement proprement dit. Tout communiqué interne à la Société n’est pas destiné à être publié dans le bulletin suivant.

ATHÈNES, 1896

En exprimant le vœu que les Jeux Olympiques internationaux soient célébrés à Athènes en 1896, le Comité athlétique a fait savoir qu’il était le désir de tous les participants à la Conférence de voir les Jeux Olympiques internationaux célébrés en Athènes. Il a été déclaré que le Comité athlétique avait pour but de faire en sorte que les Jeux Olympiques internationaux soient célébrés en Athènes. Il a été déclaré que le Comité athlétique avait pour but de faire en sorte que les Jeux Olympiques internationaux soient célébrés en Athènes.
The first IOC office was in the home of Coubertin’s parents at 20 rue Oudinot in Paris (at the top). There was no telephone or typewriter. After the IOC headquarters had been relocated to Lausanne in 1915, the city provided the Casino de Montbenon until 1922 (above left).

The Villa Mon Repos was then used until 1968 (above). Left: the IOC moved to the Château de Vidy in 1969, which was expanded in 1986 with the addition of a modern annex. Below: The new Olympic House will be inaugurated on 23rd June 2019. It will enable all 500 employees to be accommodated under one roof. The house was designed by the Danish architecture firm 3XN.

Photos: IOC Archives/OSC, Collection de Navacelle
Since the fourteenth century, the common designation for one part of the University of Paris has been attributed to Robert de Sorbon (1201-1271). In 1268, the chaplain of King Louis IX opened a college for students of theology.

According to Coubertin in his closing speech.

Founded on 18th January 1887, the Union of French Sports Associations (USFSA) represented the first umbrella organisation of French sport. It was the result of a merger of the Union des Sociétés Françaises de Courses à pied (French Running Societies) and the Racing Club de Paris. The Bulletin du Comité International des Jeux appeared at the address Rue Saint-Honoré 229 in July 1894 for the first time, which, however, only had three sequels: no. 2: October 1894, no. 3: January 1895, no. 4 April 1895. After a break of more than five years, the Revue Olympique followed, also published by Coubertin, which in its first edition (January 1901, pp. 5-11) gave an overview of the history of the Comité International Olympique — the new name.

One Campagne de vingt-et-un ans (1887-1908) [A Twenty-One Year Campaign (1887-1908)], Librairie de l’Éducation physique, Paris 1909, p. 4.


Campagne, p. 5


Committee for the Propagation of Physical Exercise in Education.

The International and Permanent League of Peace was dissolved after the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71, but reorganised one year later under the name Société française des amis de la paix. Out of it came in 1889 the Société française pour l’arbitérage entre nations.


Allgemeine Sport-Zeitung, Vienna, No. 30, 4th May 1913, p. 545. During a lecture on 28th April 1913 in Vienna, Sloan, who was a visiting professor at the University of Berlin, reported on his first encounter with Coubertini „abut 50 years ago“. The American received his doctorate from the University of Leipzig and spoke fluent German.

See map with 22 stations that Coubertin visited, in: Müller, Norbert (Ed.), Pierre de Coubertin, Olympism, Selected Writings, IOC, Lausanne 2000, p. 80.

Campagne, p. 6-7

Conclusions, in: Pierre de Coubertin, Universités Transatlantiques [Transatlantic Universities], Hachette, Paris 1890, pp. 361-379

Campagne, p. 89

Ibid.

The writers Georges Bourdon and the literary historian and diplomat Jean Jules Jusserrand spoke about antiquity and the Middle Ages. The five-day programme of celebrations included an excursion, the inauguration of the clubhouse of Stade Français as well as sports competitions.


Ibid.

Pierre de Coubertin, Olympic Memoirs, IOC, Lausanne 1997, p. 16

Paris International Congress for the Study and Propagation of the Principles of Amateurism


Coubertin published his travelogue, Souvenir d’Amérique et de Grèce [Memories of America and Greece], in 1897 with Hachette.

New York Herald, 1st December 1893; Harper’s Weekly, 9th December 1893. The hill, later known as Coogan’s Bluff was blocked off by a clever entrepreneur, who pocketed 50 cents per person for each seat.

Among those present was the Columbia student Gustavus T. Kirby (1874-1956), who was elected chairman of the college athletes (ICA) in 1895. From 1911 to 1912 Kirby was AU President and from 1912 to 1924, President of the American Olympic Committee.

From a letter dated 10th January 1894, which is in the IOC Archives, it appears that Herbert had sent “some dozen invitations” to Leonard A. Cuff, Secretary of the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association.

Campagne, pp. 92-93

Memoirs, p. 18; Programme préparatoire, January 1894, Olympic Studies Centre, Lausanne (OSC)


Circular letter, January 1894, OSC

Until then, only three International Sports Federations had been constituted: gymnastics in 1881, rowing and skating in 1882. No. 34 on the delegate list was the Association Vélocipédique Internationale, a French association with British management.

A native of Alsace, Joseph Sansbonf (1848-1938), who had been captured by Germans in 1870 after the Battle of Sedan, was President of the League of Patriots, and dreamed of the liberation of Alsace-Lorraine.

Schwertfeger, Bernhard (Ed.), Military attaché of Schwartzkop- pen. The truth about Dreyfus, Verlag für Kulturpolitik (Publishing House for Cultural Politics), Berlin 1930. Shortly after the congress Schwartzkopfen played a dubious role, as the Jewish-French officer Alfred Dreyfus was accused of espionage for Germany and banished to Devil’s Island. Schwartzkopfen was later quoted as stating that Dreyfus had been wrongfully convicted.

Bensemann (1873-1934) linked his answer to the question of whether Coubertin could finance his team’s trip to a football tournament in Paris. The trip then took place in 1899 - presumably without Coubertin’s donation — when Bensemann played with a „national team“ against the German, consisting of nine British and two French. The match, which was lost 0-7, went down in German football history as the „first official international match“. 1895/96 Bensemann belonged to the German participation committee for the Games in Athens, where he wanted to compete with a football team. But this took care of itself, because no tournament came about. Bensemann, who came from a Jewish banking family, founded the sports journal kicker in 1920, which he directed until his emigration to Switzerland in 1933.

Spiel und Sport, Vol. 4, No. 22, 2nd June 1899, pp. 530-531. The merchant John (Jacob) Bloch (1851/1852-1925), who grew up in England, acquired in 1891, the Deutsche Ballspiel-Zeitung (Ball Game Newspaper), which he continued under the title Spiel und Sport (Game and Sport) until 1901.

Letter from Bloch to Coubertin, 1st June 1894, OSC. Coubertin allowed this in a letter from 12 June 1899, whereupon Bloch published a detailed article on 5th September, 1894, in which he did not spare criticism of the German sports federations and associations. See: Spiel und Sport, No. 36, pp. 943-949.

Letter from von Reiffenstein to Coubertin, 10th March 1894, OSC. In London in 1891 two families lived by the name of von Reiffenstein, who were supposedly wine merchants. Whether Wilhelm Edward or Christian E. von Reiffenstein was Coubertin’s friend is as unclear as the apparently questionable title of nobility.


The Nobel Peace Prize went to Passy (1901), Ducommun (1902), Bajer (1908) and La Fontaine (1913). Pratt and the popular pacifist itinerant speaker Feldhaus were nominated.

Letter from Bajer to Coubertin, 8th May 1894, OSC.

The novel, published in 1889, was translated into 15 languages. The English version appeared in 1892 under the title Lay Down Your Arms, the French version in 1899 entitled Bas les armes!

Kemeny (1860-1944), who was entrusted with the organisation of the World Peace Congress of 1896 in Budapest, recommended to Coubertin some Hungarian personalities who should be offered honorary membership. He also made sure that the programme of the congress was published on 1 April 1894 in the magazine Hercules. Letter from Kemeny to Coubertin, 9th April 1894, OSC.

Letter from Waldstein to Coubertin, 15th April 1894, OSC.

Letter from the court marshal of the Prince Royal to Coubertin, 9/21 May 1894, OSC. Waldstein (1856-1927), also known to Greek Prime Minister Trikoupis, played an important role as moderator after deciding to host the 1896 Games in Athens.
He was a member of the Committee for Athletics and Gymnastics, served as a judge and participated as an active participant in shooting. From 1879 to 1880, his correspondents also included Karl Marx, who signed his letters to Waldstein with the nickname ‘Der Mohr’.

45 Letter from Brookes to Coubertin, 22nd May 1894, OSC
46 Bulletin, No. 1, July 1894, p. 2. If one compares the list of delegates with the programme distributed at the congress, deviations are noticed. At the Société de Sport de l’Île de Puteaux, Jusserand appears instead of Borel (the Embassy Secretary, however, wrote the minutes of the Commission for the Olympic Games). At Stade Français the name L.H. Sandford is used instead of the rugby referee Borie. The second representative of the British Amateur Athletic Association, Norman Jones, is not mentioned at all in the programme, as well as the fencer Willy Sulzbacher, who had registered as the third representative of the club La Jeune Épée (8th June 1894, OSC). Coubertin operated with the number 79.
47 Letter from van Tuyl to Coubertin, 12th March 1894, OSC. Although van Tuyl (1851-1924) had agreed, he did not appear on the list of Honorary Members. In 1898 he was brought by Coubertin to the IOC.
48 Letter from Fédération des Sociétés Nautiques Parisiennes to Coubertin, 14th June 1894, OSC
49 Letter from Cupérus to Coubertin, 15th May 1894, OSC
50 Letter from Dr. Erwin Zschokke to Coubertin, 17th May 1894, OSC. The veterinarian Zschokke (1855-1929) was the Central Council President of the Swiss Federal Gymnastics Association since 1882.
51 Letter from Phokianosto Coubertin, 4/16th March 1894, OSC
52 Letter from Gréard to Coubertin, 31st March 1894. The painting shows an allegory entitled ‘Le Bois Sacré’. In the middle on a marble block sits the figure of the Sorbonne - a tribute to the living and the glorious dead. On the left and right figures symbolise the different sciences.
53 Letter from de Courcel to Jusserand, 29th March 1894, OSC. Quotation: “It’s been quite sometime since I said: coestus artemque repono.”
54 Bulletin, No. 2, October 1894, pp. 2-3
55 The stone carved fragments discovered by the French archaeologist Théophile Homolle in 1893 were transcribed by Théodore Reinach and set to music by Gabriel Fauré.
56 Letter from House to Coubertin, 16th April 1894, OSC
58 Letter from Balck to Coubertin, 7th March 1894, OSC. The pentathlon was in May 1894 on the programme of the Swedish Federal Gymnastics Festival in Gothenburg. National Championships were held from 1898.
60 Memoirs, p. 22
61 Minutes, Commission for Olympic Games, 19th June, p. 3, 9, OSC. The minutes from the first day of the meeting (18th June) are not available. In Campagne, p. 98, Coubertin writes that he would have made the proposal together with Vikelas. However, the letter from Vikelas (19th June 1894) to Coubertin states: “Unfortunately, I did not see you after our meeting. I wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed your proposal to start in Athens. My only regret is that it was not possible for me to support him better.”
62 Herbert is mentioned the first time in the minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Commission on Amateurism. Minutes, 21st June 1894, OSC.
63 Ibid., 21st June, p. 28.
64 Bulletin, No. 1, July 1894, p. 4. The telegram sent to the royal summer residence Tatoi bears the date of 9/21 June 1894. Cf. Georgiadis, pp. 74-75
67 Minutes, 4th IOC Session, 22nd May 1901, p. 20. Since Sloane renounced his right after the Paris Games, Coubertin agreed to officiate for another five years. In 1906, he did not attend the Second International Olympic Games in Athens in anger at them taking place. During the Games the other IOC Members offered the Greek Crown Prince the presidency, but Coubertin took no notice of this decision. Although the IOC had pretty much made a fool of itself, this snub was accepted. Thereupon Coubertin voted himself in without opposition in 1907 – this time forio years. Despite interruptions because of the First World War he held the office for 24 years, until he took his leave in 1925.
68 Letter from Eugène Monteuuis to Coubertin, 30th April 1894, OSC.
69 Letter from Duke d’Andria to Coubertin, 15th July 1894, OSC.
70 Letter from Claïes to Coubertin, 29 August 1894, OSC.
71 Bulletin, No. 1, July 1894, p. 3.