



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Historical Archives
Olympic Studies Centre

Olympic Congresses

Fonds list

Overview of the content of the archives concerning the organisation, running and decisions of the Congresses between 1894 and 1981

18 April 2011



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1st Congress Paris 1894

Reference: CH CIO-AH CGR-01PAR
Dates: 1894-1994
Level of description: Fonds
Extent and medium: 0.3 l.m. Text documents.

Name of creator

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Administrative / Biographical history

Dates and place of the Congress

The 1st Congress was held from 16 to 24 June 1894 in the large amphitheatre of the Sorbonne in Paris.

Organiser and Chairman

Pierre de Coubertin was appointed Commissioner General of the Congress. The Congress was chaired by Baron de Courcel, a former French senator.

Participants

To ensure the success of this first Congress, Pierre de Coubertin counted on the participation of various sports organisations and the presence of foreign dignitaries. Numerous invitations were sent to national and international associations, federations and clubs. However, foreign participation was limited, because of the costs of travelling to the French capital.

The *Association vélocipédique internationale* was the only international body represented at the Congress. Of the 78 delegates present, the great majority were French. In all, almost 2,000 people took part in the Congress.

Context

The 1st Congress was an initiative on the part of the *Union française de Sports athlétiques*. Pierre de Coubertin, who was the Secretary General, thus saw his dream of re-establishing the Olympic Games take shape.

Theme and programme of Congress

Initially entitled *Study and propagation of the principles of amateurism and the renewal of the Olympic Games*, the Congress opened with the title: *Congress for the Re-establishment of the Olympic Games*. This first Congress studied two subjects, each discussed by a commission. The first, chaired by M. Gondinet, President of the Racing-Club de France, looked at the question of amateurism and the desire to harmonise the rules of the various sports organisations. The second considered the re-establishment of the Olympic Games. It was chaired by Demetrius Vikelas, who would become the first President of the IOC later that year.

Decisions, results and scope

The question of amateurism was divided into seven points for discussion. Establishing a definition of amateurism gave rise to numerous interventions and disagreements, but finally the definition approved corresponded to the national and international sports bodies. This was a first step towards an international dimension for the sports movement. Other rules were also fixed at meetings, particularly concerning remuneration for amateurs, rewards and sanctions to be imposed.

The question of re-establishing the Olympic Games was addressed under three points. The conclusions of the discussions were unanimously adopted at the final meeting on 23 June 1894. They concerned in particular announcing the re-establishment of the Games, their educational and moral value and the fundamental principles governing the competitions: amateurism, national representation, accredited sports, periodicity of the Olympiads and the creation of an International Committee for the

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Olympic Games responsible for organising the Games. The city of Athens was finally chosen to host the first Olympic Games in 1896, against the wishes of Pierre de Coubertin, who wanted to see the first Games held in Paris in 1900. Paris was however already chosen to host the second edition of the Games.

For the first time, the different sports bodies reached an international consensus on the regulations, particularly with regard to amateurism.

Anecdotes and festivities

Pierre de Coubertin also took care of the festivities linked to the meetings of the Congress: a cycling championship, receptions at the City Hall or with the Minister of the Interior, lunch on the banks of the Marne, and evening celebrations rounded off by a firework display.

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer

The fonds was received by the IOC Historical Archives in 1993, following the construction of the new Olympic Museum in Ouchy.

Scope and content

The fonds essentially records the organisation and holding of the 1st Congress in Paris in 1894, the decisions adopted and the festivities linked to the event.

It gives more details about Pierre de Coubertin's strong involvement in the holding of the Congress and his organisational difficulties through the correspondence he received, and on the impact of this event on the general public, thanks to the numerous articles in the French-speaking press, especially the sports press. The minutes of the two commissions reveal the first steps taken by the Olympic Movement.

The fonds also contains the Congress programme and regulations, the wishes expressed by the commission on amateurism, the reports by the commissions, the first issues of the *Bulletin du Comité International des Jeux Olympiques*, menus, invitations, a registration form and annotated visiting cards. It also contains transcriptions of minutes, reports and a number of letters.

Lastly, it contains a souvenir brochure created for the Centennial Congress in Paris in 1994 (12 copies).

Accruals

No

System of arrangement

The files are classified by subject, by document type or by activities in alphabetical order. The documents in the files are classified chronologically, from latest to earliest.

Conditions governing access

The documents are freely accessible, subject to the IOC's access rules.

Language / scripts of material

The documents are mainly in French. Other documents are in English and German.

Related units of description

Internal sources

- President Pierre de Coubertin : A-P02
- IOC Members : B-ID05

External sources

- Archives de Paris
- Archives départementales de Paris
- Archives communales de Paris



Publication note

International Olympic Committee; under the management of Raymond Gafner – 1894 - 1994 *The International Olympic Committee - One Hundred Years The Idea - The Presidents - The Achievements*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, vol. 1, 1994-1997, pp. 49-57.

International Olympic Committee. "Special Congress" in *Olympic Review*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, 1973.

Bulgarian Olympic Committee. *Règlements des Congrès olympiques qui ont eu lieu de 1894 à 1930*. Sofia, Bulgarian Olympic Committee, 1970.

Müller, Norbert. *Cent ans de Congrès Olympiques 1894-1994 : histoire, objectifs, réalisations*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, 1994, pp. 34-47.

Müller, Norbert. *Von Paris bis Baden-Baden: die Olympischen Kongresse 1894-1981*. Niedernhausen/Taunus, Schors, 1983.

Notes

The content of this fonds, including the Olympic identifications, is the property of the IOC.

Rules or conventions

Description complies with ISAD(G).

Date(s) of descriptions

9 January 2008



2nd Congress Le Havre 1897

Reference: CH CIO-AH CGR-02HAV
Dates: 1896-1897
Level of description: Fonds
Extent and medium: 0.03 l.m. Text documents

Name of creator

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Administrative / Biographical history

Dates and place of the Congress

The 2nd Congress was held from 23 July to 1 August 1897 at Le Havre City Hall. Most of the working meetings were held between 26 and 31 July.

Organiser and Chairman

The Congress was organised by the International Committee for the Olympic Games, in particular its President, Pierre de Coubertin, who spent his own money to ensure that the event was held successfully. The Congress also received the patronage of the French President, Félix Faure.

Participants

Despite Coubertin's efforts, international participation was limited. The limited time for organising the Congress and the scope of the discussions both restricted the presence of speakers from other countries. Only four IOC members took part: Jiri Guth-Jarkovsky (Bohemia), Willibald Gebhard (Germany), Victor Balck (Sweden) and Ferenc Kemeny (Hungary).

Context

After the success of the 1st Olympic Games in Athens in 1896, Pierre de Coubertin felt that the International Committee should not be inactive until the following Games in Paris four years later. Indeed, the IOC President did not lose sight of his primary objective, namely to demonstrate the pedagogical role of sport in educating the world's youth.

Furthermore, Greece was claiming the right to be the exclusive host of the Olympic Games, which Pierre de Coubertin felt to be inadmissible. The Greek government, in the person of Vikelas, then proposed to hold intermediate games between the Olympic Games. Vikelas called for a new Congress to be held to ratify this decision. Pierre de Coubertin responded favourably to this request, but on two conditions: that the decisions taken during the first Congress be maintained, and that the discussions be expanded to include more general, technical and educational matters. As Pierre de Coubertin saw it, the Olympic Games had to be part of a broader reform of physical education in modern societies.

Pierre de Coubertin chose the French city of Le Havre to host the second Congress, the city where he himself had given a series of talks on popular education a few months before.

Theme and programme of the Congress

The 2nd Congress addressed *Questions of hygiene, pedagogy, history, etc. as they relate to physical exercise*. Two commissions were created to study these themes, one devoted to pedagogy and hygiene, the other to sport and the activities of the International Olympic Committee.

Decisions, results and scope

The sporting aspect was addressed in four points, focusing particularly on cash prizes; the organisation of the Games; the creation of a Universal Olympic Union and its Bulletin; and physical exercises in the 19th century. There was very little discussion, and only one, purely formal, resolution was adopted: there should be a Congress once or twice a year to ensure the application of the decisions adopted. This was the first reference to the idea of regular Sessions.



The second aspect, concerning hygiene and pedagogy, formed the heart of the Congress (eight points scheduled). Many professionals were present, including educationalists, hygienists and doctors. Certain interventions were memorable: Doctor Tissié, representing the French Minister for Public Instruction, a believer in the methods of Swedish gymnastics, compared these with the French method. With his speech on *The Moral Influence of Athletic Sports*, Father Didon insisted on sport as the foundation of the education and moral improvement of young people. Pierre de Coubertin subsequently referred frequently to these comments.

Some resolutions were adopted unanimously, such as the definition of physical education as the *harmonious combination of gymnastics and sport*; the responsibility of school headmasters; the freedom given to students to develop sports associations; giving greater prominence to students' results in physical education lessons; the introduction of compulsory teaching of hygiene, physical education and sport; and the possibility of hydrotherapy.

Others gave rise to discussions, such as monitoring the physical development of students, or establishing a teaching programme for sports teachers in France. The resolution on payment for such teachers was rejected.

However, the scope of the Congress was not international, but limited to France. With a majority of French speakers, the national character of the discussions was criticised. Such criticism extended to the content of the debates, which was held to be too far removed from the main mission of the International Olympic Committee. The Swedish member, Balck, felt that the Committee should not be addressing such issues, while, conversely, Pierre de Coubertin thought that this opening-up to wider-ranging discussions was beneficial for the IOC.

Anecdotes and festivities

The programme of festivities was particularly carefully planned: excursions, a torchlit gymnastic celebration, a cruise on the Seine, receptions and a bonfire on the cliffs of Cap de la Hève. In order to pay for the programme, Pierre de Coubertin had to use part of his own money.

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer

The fonds was received by the IOC Historical Archives in 1993, following the construction of the new Olympic Museum in Ouchy.

Scope and content

The fonds records the organisation and holding of the 2nd Congress in Le Havre in 1897, the decisions adopted and the festivities linked to the event.

It gives details of Pierre de Coubertin's strong involvement in this Congress as the organiser, through his correspondence, and as a speaker, thanks to his opening speech, which sets out his pedagogical conception of sport and in particular the vital importance of physical education. The extracts of the minutes and resolutions show differing points of view (particularly French and British) on the concept of sports teaching in schools.

The fonds also contains the programme and regulations of the Congress, the IOC circular announcing the Congress, the invitation to the opening ceremony of the Congress, roll calls, a transcript of Pierre de Coubertin's opening address, the speech by Father Didon on *The Moral Influence of Athletic Sports* on 29 July 1897 and three local press articles reporting on the meetings.

Accruals

No

System of arrangement

The files are classified by subject, by document type or by activities in alphabetical order. The documents in the files are classified chronologically, from latest to earliest.

Conditions governing access

The documents are freely accessible, subject to the IOC's access rules.

Language / scripts of material

Last update: April 11



The documents are mainly in French. Some letters are in English.

Related units of description

Internal sources

- President Pierre de Coubertin : A-P02
- IOC Members : B-ID05

External sources

- Archives départementales de Seine-maritime
- Archives de la Ville du Havre

Publication note

International Olympic Committee; under the management of Raymond Gafner – 1894 - 1994 The International Olympic Committee - *One Hundred Years The Idea - The Presidents - The Achievements*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, vol. 1, 1994-1997, pp. 88-92.

International Olympic Committee. "Special Congress" in *Olympic Review*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, 1973.

Bulgarian Olympic Committee. *Règlements des congrès olympiques qui ont eu lieu de 1894 à 1930*. Sofia, Bulgarian Olympic Committee, 1970.

Müller, Norbert. *Cent ans de Congrès Olympiques 1894-1994 : histoire, objectifs, réalisations*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, 1994, pp. 48-65.

Müller, Norbert. *Von Paris bis Baden-Baden: die Olympischen Kongresse 1894-1981*. Niedernhausen/Taunus, Schors, 1983.

Notes

The content of this fonds, including the Olympic identifications, is the property of the IOC.

Rules or conventions

Description complies with ISAD(G).

Date(s) of descriptions

15 January 2008



3rd Congress Brussels 1905

Reference: CH CIO-AH CGR-03BRU
Dates: 1901-1905
Level of description: Fonds
Extent and medium: 0.05 l.m. Text documents

Name of creator

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Administrative / Biographical history

Dates and place of the Congress

The 3rd Congress was held from 9 to 14 June 1905 at the Palais des Académies in Brussels.

Organiser and chairman

Count Baillet-Latour was appointed Chairman of the Congress Reception Committee. IOC President Pierre de Coubertin chaired the Congress, under the patronage of Leopold II, King of the Belgians.

Participants¹

Unlike at the two previous Congresses, there was strong international participation. Representatives of 21 countries travelled to Brussels, along with 15 IOC members and three NOCs. Schools and universities also took part in the Congress. Some people or institutions that could not attend the discussions sent communications or notes on topics linked to sport and physical education.

Context

Initially planned with a view to harmonising the various regulations in force for the different sports and competitions (following the conclusions of the 4th IOC Session in Paris in 1901), Pierre de Coubertin was forced to change the theme of the 3rd Congress in view of the lack of enthusiasm among the International Federations. He used the opportunity to orientate the Congress towards a subject close to his heart, sports pedagogy (the practice of sport and physical education in schools and universities and the different sectors of society).

Theme and programme of the Congress

The theme of the 3rd Congress was *Sport and Physical Education*. Three commissions were created: commission I looked at pedagogy, commission II at sports interests and commission III at special issues linked to physical education. The importance and density of the subjects made it necessary to create sub-commissions to discuss all the topics.

Decisions, results and scope

The first commission, chaired by Dutch IOC member Baron de Tuyll, looked at physical exercise in primary and secondary schools, in universities and for women. The latter point was not addressed, however. At the end of the Congress, this commission presented 15 resolutions, including the need to make all pupils do at least 30 minutes of physical exercise each day, incorporating games into the school programme, adopting exercises to match the physiological development of young people and freedom for students to form sports associations.

The commission focusing on sports interests, chaired by Italian IOC member Count Brunetta d'Usseaux, looked at physical exercise in rural areas, urban centres and between nations. A total of 34 resolutions were presented. These included the obligation to provide a stadium and gymnasium in each parish, the training of teachers in rural areas, the development of winter sports, especially skiing, and better organisation of the sports federations and associations.

¹ The figures are taken from The International Olympic Committee - *One Hundred Years*, p. 96.



The third commission, devoted to special issues, chaired by German IOC member Lieutenant-General Count von der Asseburg, proposed 14 resolutions, some of them ground-breaking, such as the introduction of physiotherapy courses in medical schools or the creation of gymnasiums in penal establishments. For its part, football was deemed to be the sport with the greatest educational value and the strongest unifying force.

All the resolutions were adopted at the last session of the Congress on 14 June. Only the one on international physical exercise was approved on the first day of the Congress, as everyone agreed on the need to hold international sports meetings and harmonise competition rules.

The Congress saw strong international participation and involvement by representatives of different areas of society: teachers, doctors, journalists and writers took part in the discussions. The presence of delegates from the USA in particular added a whole new dimension to the Congress. However, on the subject of amateurism or the creation of sports associations, there were few concrete proposals. The results of the Congress nonetheless corresponded to Coubertin's ideal regarding the social and educational role of the Olympic Movement in society.

Anecdotes and festivities

Unlike the Congresses in 1894 and 1897, there was less emphasis on festivities. The Congress did however see the awarding of the first Olympic Diplomas, to reward individuals for the use made of their athletic qualities. The recipients included US President Theodore Roosevelt, aviator Santos-Dumont and polar explorer Fridtjof Nansen.

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer

The fonds was received by the IOC Historical Archives in 1993, following the construction of the new Olympic Museum in Ouchy.

Scope and content

The fonds records the organisation and holding of the 3rd Congress in Brussels in 1905 and the decisions adopted.

It gives details of Pierre de Coubertin's strong involvement in this Congress as the organiser, through his correspondence with the Congress participants and guests, and of contemporary thinking on sport and physical education in the early 20th century, particularly thanks to the interventions (speeches and discussions) of the participants, the Congress report and the reproduction of a plan for a modern gymnasium.

The fonds also contains the programme and regulations for the Congress, an unused invitation, roll calls, the wishes of the third commission and annotated visiting cards.

Accruals

No

System of arrangement

The files are classified by subject, by document type or by activities in alphabetical order. The documents in the files are classified chronologically, from latest to earliest.

Conditions governing access

The documents are freely accessible, subject to the IOC's access rules.

Language / scripts of material

The documents are mainly in French. Some letters are in English.

Related units of description

Internal sources

- President Pierre de Coubertin : A-P02
- IOC Members : B-ID05



External sources

- Archives de la ville de Bruxelles

Publication note

International Olympic Committee; under the management of Raymond Gafner – 1894 - 1994 *The International Olympic Committee - One Hundred Years The Idea - The Presidents - The Achievements*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, vol. 1, 1994-1997, pp. 92-95.

International Olympic Committee. "Special Congress" in *Olympic Review*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, 1973.

Bulgarian Olympic Committee. *Règlements des Congrès olympiques qui ont eu lieu de 1894 à 1930*. Sofia, Bulgarian Olympic Committee, 1970.

Müller, Norbert. *Cent ans de Congrès Olympiques 1894-1994 : histoire, objectifs, réalisations*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, 1994, pp. 66-79.

Müller, Norbert. *Von Paris bis Baden-Baden: die Olympischen Kongresse 1894-1981*. Niedernhausen/Taunus, Schors, 1983.

Notes

The content of this fonds, including the Olympic identifications, is the property of the IOC.

Rules or conventions

Description complies with ISAD(G).

Date(s) of descriptions

16 January 2008



4th Congress Paris 1906

Reference: CH CIO-AH CGR-04PAR
Dates: 1906
Level of description: Fonds
Extent and medium: 0.03 l.m. Text documents

Name of creator

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Administrative / Biographical history

Dates and place of Congress

The 4th Congress took place from 23 to 26 May 1906 at the Comédie-Française in Paris. The working sessions were concentrated between 23 and 25 May. Only the opening and closing sessions were held at the Comédie-Française, as the lack of room meant that the working sessions had to be held at the Touring-Club de France.

Organiser and Chairman

The IOC President, Pierre de Coubertin, was both organiser and Chairman of the 4th Congress, under the patronage of the Director of the Comédie-Française, Jules Clarétie, and the Under-Secretary of State for the Arts, Etienne Dujardin-Beaumetz, an artist.

Participants

Because of the intermediate Games in Athens (taking place at the same time), the number of participants at this Congress was small: around 60 delegates comprising mainly literary figures, painters, sculptors, architects and the Director of the French national museums. Only five IOC members were there².

Context

The Congress was organised on the personal initiative of Pierre de Coubertin. For the IOC President, it was vital that the fine arts be incorporated into the Olympic Movement. On 2 April 1906, he invited the IOC members to a consultative conference with a view to determining how and in what form art and literature could be included in the Olympic Games, and in all sports events generally. He asked the IOC members to give him the names of artists whom he could invite.

The Congress was also an opportunity for Pierre de Coubertin not to go to the intermediate Games in Athens, of which he disapproved.

Theme and programme of the Congress

The 4th Congress, convened in the form of a consultative conference on *Art, Literature and Sport*, was intended to establish the link between the Olympic Games, sport in general, art and literature. Two commissions were created: one on architecture, music and choreography, the other on sculpture and painting.

Decisions, results and scope

The two commissions studied each artistic area on the programme. The main decision was to introduce an art competition comprising five artistic and literary disciplines: architecture, sculpture,

² In his work *Cent ans de Congrès olympiques 1894-1994*, Norbert Müller states: *Apart from Coubertin and his three French members, the IOC was represented only by the Englishman Courcy-Laffan*, p. 85.

However, the roll calls identify the following members: Pierre de Coubertin (France), Hébrard de Villeneuve (France), Courcy-Laffan (England) and Brunetta d'Usseaux (Italy). The French member Callot was cited only in the June 1906 edition of the *Olympic Review* as a member of the Conference Board (p. 83). As a result, of the five IOC members present, there were three French members, one English member and one Italian member.

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literature, music and painting. These contests should have as much importance as the sports competitions, and be held in a similar way, with an international jury and a prize award ceremony for the winners.

The other resolutions concerned in a more general way the interaction between the arts and sport in daily life: studies of the architecture of the stadium and gymnasium, a more sporting technique for dancing, the ceremonial aspects of the prize-giving, literature based on sporting themes, exhibitions of works in gymnasiums and music in the service of sport, such as an Olympic anthem.

This conference, which Pierre de Coubertin transformed into a Congress, was extremely useful to the IOC President, as in future, the discussions at Congresses offered him a basis on which to include arts projects within the IOC framework. The Congress also allowed him to include arts contests in the programme of the 1912 Games in Stockholm, even if it proved difficult to implement these.

Anecdotes and festivities

The closing event was in-keeping with the content of the discussions: an artistic event with almost 2,000 people present: awarding of the Olympic Diplomas and Olympic Cup (recently introduced by Pierre de Coubertin), plays, choirs, a fencing demonstration and speeches. The purpose of this ceremony was to symbolise the alliance of the three pillars of Olympism: sport, science and the fine arts.

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer

The fonds was received by the IOC Historical Archives in 1993, following the construction of the new Olympic Museum in Ouchy.

Scope and content

The fonds records the organisation and holding of the 4th Congress in Paris in 1906, the decisions adopted and the Olympic festival which closed the Congress.

It gives details of Pierre de Coubertin's strong involvement in the organisation of the event, through his correspondence with the Congress participants and guests, and of the great interest shown in sports matters by the arts world in the early 20th century (including Romain Rolland³), thanks to the various letters of support for the initiative sent to Pierre de Coubertin. The few financial documents show the costs and other expenditure needed to hold such a Congress.

The fonds also contains the minutes of the sessions, their transcriptions, roll calls, the official Congress invitation, the June 1906 issue of the *Olympic Review* giving a detailed report on the sessions, decisions and activities of the Congress, and an invitation and programme of the Olympic festival on 26 May 1906.

Accruals

No

System of arrangement

The files are classified by subject, by document type or by activities in alphabetical order. The documents in the files are classified chronologically, from latest to earliest.

Conditions governing access

The documents are freely accessible, subject to the IOC's access rules.

Language / scripts of material

The documents are mainly in French. Some letters are in English.

Related units of description

Internal sources

- President Pierre de Coubertin : A-P02

³ French writer (1866-1944), Nobel Prize for Literature in 1915 for his work *Jean-Christophe*.



- IOC Members : B-ID05

External sources

- Archives de Paris
- Archives départementales de Paris
- Archives communales de Paris
- Archives de la Comédie Française

Publication note

International Olympic Committee; under the management of Raymond Gafner – 1894 - 1994 *The International Olympic Committee - One Hundred Years The Idea - The Presidents - The Achievements*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, vol. 1, 1994-1997, pp. 96-101.

International Olympic Committee. "Special Congress" in *Olympic Review*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, 1973.

Bulgarian Olympic Committee. *Règlements des Congrès olympiques qui ont eu lieu de 1894 à 1930*. Sofia, Bulgarian Olympic Committee, 1970.

Müller, Norbert. *Cent ans de Congrès Olympiques 1894-1994 : histoire, objectifs, réalisations*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, 1994, pp. 80-93.

Müller, Norbert. *Von Paris bis Baden-Baden: die Olympischen Kongresse 1894-1981*. Niedernhausen/Taunus, Schors, 1983.

Notes

The content of this fonds, including the Olympic identifications, is the property of the IOC.

Rules or conventions

Description complies with ISAD(G).

Date(s) of descriptions

18 January 2008



5th Congress Lausanne 1913

Reference: CH CIO-AH CGR-05LAU
Dates: 1910-1913
Level of description: Fonds
Extent and medium: 0.10 l.m. Text documents

Name of creator

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Administrative / Biographical history

Dates and place of the Congress

The 5th Congress was held from 8 to 11 May 1913 in the Senate Hall of Lausanne University. However, it was opened in the Aula.

Organisers

Placed under the patronage of the Federal Council of the Swiss Confederation, the Congress was organised chiefly by people from the cantonal and municipal administration.

Participants

Unlike at the previous Congresses, participation was open to all, which encouraged many scientists, particularly doctors and professors of medicine, to take part in the discussions, as this Congress gave them the chance to present their research work. Many dignitaries from the city and country also attended.

The large majority of the participants were Swiss or French.

Context

After the 1912 Games in Stockholm, new questions were being asked, particularly about the risks for athletes of over-performing and over-training. Being aware of the problem, Pierre de Coubertin took the initiative of convening another Congress and getting the medical world involved to talk about the psychological and physiological aspects of physical exercise.

The IOC President chose the city of Lausanne to hold the Congress, immediately after the annual IOC Session, which took place on 6 and 7 May 1913. Despite being at the Session, few of the members attended the Congress. Only Brunetta d'Usseaux and Godefroy de Blonay were there with Coubertin.

Theme and programme of the Congress

The theme of the 5th Congress was *Sports Psychology and Physiology*. This topic had already been addressed at the 1897 Congress in Le Havre. Three working sessions were held on sports activity: one on its origins, the second on continuity and modalities, and the third on results.

Decisions, results and scope

Essentially composed of speeches, this Congress left little room for discussion. As a result, no resolutions were adopted after the working meetings. Despite the uneven quality of the speeches, some were noteworthy.

In the first session, devoted to the origins of sport, the written contribution sent by US President Theodore Roosevelt expounded on the moral values of sport. A Lausanne doctor, Larguier des Bancels, and Dutchman Hubert van Blijenburgh spoke on the sporting instinct already present in childhood.

The second session, on continuity and modalities, allowed several speakers to demonstrate the educational values of the sports they practised. Louis Dedet talked about the social role of the sports team.

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The final session was notable for the contribution from Gabriel Letainturier-Fradin, who summarised the heart of the Congress discussions in his address entitled: *Surely sports activity contains the seed of a practical philosophy of life?*

Even if the Congress did not lead to any official decisions and the majority of the speakers lacked, in Pierre de Coubertin's words, "practical experience", it may be regarded as having played a pioneering role in the theory of sports psychology.

Anecdotes and festivities

Numerous festivities accompanied the working sessions: a reception at the Casino de Montbenon, a Venetian festival at Ouchy and a reception at the château de Chillon. The last day of the Congress was the occasion for an international football tournament between Swiss, French and German teams.

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer

The fonds was received by the IOC Historical Archives in 1993, following the construction of the new Olympic Museum in Ouchy.

Scope and content

The fonds records the organisation and holding of the 5th Congress in Lausanne in 1913, the speeches by the participants and the festivities linked to the event.

It gives details of Pierre de Coubertin's strong involvement in the Congress as an organiser, through his correspondence, and as a speaker, through his speech, and on the impact of the event on the general public, thanks to press articles, especially in the local press. The few financial documents show the costs and other expenditure needed to host such a Congress.

The fonds also contains the programme and regulations of the Congress, the final report, the list of participants and guests, the speech by G. Letainturier-Fradin entitled: *Surely sports activity contains the seed of a practical philosophy of life?*, a Congress member's card, a copy of the July 1913 issue of the *Olympic Review* describing the days of the Congress and the programme of festivities and their menus.

Accruals

No

System of arrangement

The files are classified by subject, by document type or by activities in alphabetical order. The documents in the files are classified chronologically, from latest to earliest.

Conditions governing access

The documents are freely accessible, subject to the IOC's access rules.

Language / scripts of material

The documents are mainly in French. Some documents are in English and German.

Related units of description

Internal sources

- President Pierre de Coubertin : A-P02
- IOC Members : B-ID05

External sources

- Archives fédérales suisses
- Archives de la ville de Lausanne

Publication note

Berrut, Frank, under the direction of François Jequier. *Le Congrès olympique de Lausanne 1913 : enjeux et savoir-faire de Pierre de Coubertin*. Degree dissertation. Lausanne, 1999.

Last update: April 11



International Olympic Committee; under the management of Raymond Gafner – 1894 - 1994 The International Olympic Committee - *One Hundred Years The Idea - The Presidents - The Achievements*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, vol. 1, 1994-1997, pp. 108-110.

International Olympic Committee. "Special Congress" in *Olympic Review*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, 1973.

Bulgarian Olympic Committee. *Règlements des Congrès olympiques qui ont eu lieu de 1894 à 1930*. Sofia, Bulgarian Olympic Committee, 1970.

Müller, Norbert. *Cent ans de Congrès Olympiques 1894-1994 : histoire, objectifs, réalisations*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, 1994, pp.94-107.

Müller, Norbert. *Von Paris bis Baden-Baden: die Olympischen Kongresse 1894-1981*. Niedernhausen/Taunus, Schors, 1983.

Notes

The content of this fonds, including the Olympic identifications, is the property of the IOC.

Rules or conventions

Description complies with ISAD(G).

Date(s) of descriptions

22 January 2008



6th Congress Paris 1914

Reference: CH CIO-AH CGR-06PAR
Dates: 1911-1919
Level of description: Fonds
Extent and medium: 0.14 l.m. Text documents.

Name of creator

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Administrative / Biographical history

Dates and place of the Congress

The 6th Congress was held from 15 to 23 June 1914 at the Palais de la Sorbonne in Paris. On 17 June, a formal ceremony was held to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the re-establishment of the Olympic Games, in the large amphitheatre. For the first time, the Olympic symbol was unveiled, five interlinked rings, probably designed by Pierre de Coubertin.

Organiser and Chairman

Pierre de Coubertin was Chairman of both the Organising Committee and the Congress. The Congress was held under the patronage of the French President, Raymond Poincaré.

Participants

The Congress was attended essentially by delegates from the Olympic Movement: IOC members and delegates from the International Federations (IFs) and National Olympic Committees (NOCs)⁴. In all, 29 of the 32 NOCs sent delegates⁵. Countries with no recognised NOC were nonetheless allowed to be represented on a consultative basis.

Context

Decided in 1911 in Budapest, the 6th Congress was an opportunity to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Olympic Movement in the place of its birth, the Palais de la Sorbonne in Paris. The IOC also decided, in the presence of the IFs and NOCs, to work on producing a uniform programme for the Olympic Games and defining the competences of each stakeholder (IOC, IFs and NOCs).

These questions had already been raised by the sports federations at the 1905 Congress in Brussels, but Pierre de Coubertin had brushed them aside, preferring to look at the educational aspects of sport and physical education.

Unlike at previous Congresses, the 6th Congress focused on the organisation of the Games, and not the educational and philosophical considerations of sports activity.

Theme and programme of the Congress

The theme of the 6th Congress, the *Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Re-establishment of the Olympic Games and Congress of the National Olympic Committees*, was the harmonisation of the

⁴ The 1914 Congress Regulations list the 32 “*recognised National Olympic Committees*” invited to the 6th Congress. But for some countries, the NOC creation date was after 1914: Spain (1924), Bulgaria (1923, recognition in 1924), Chile (1934), Mexico (1923), Peru (1924, recognition in 1936) and the Republic of Serbia (1919, recognition in 1920).

⁵ The figures are taken from *The International Olympic Committee - One Hundred Years*, p. 114. However, in the roll call, seven “NOCs” did not sign: Chile, Egypt, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, Turkey and Monaco. Consultation of the correspondence with these “NOCs” reveals that only Monaco said that it had not sent any delegates. Egypt and Portugal intended to go. There is no mention of the Congress in the correspondence with Chile and Peru. The documents held at the IOC do not begin until 1932 for the Mexican NOC and 1926 for the Turkish NOC.



Olympic programme and the conditions for participation. Numerous commissions were created, one for each Olympic sport.

Decisions, results and scope

The agenda included the following points specific to the organisation of the Games: eligibility and participation conditions, entry formalities, programme and unified rules of the competitions, composition and authority of the jury and rankings by nation.

The key decisions of the Congress included fixing the Olympic programme by defining the obligatory sports (athletic sports, gymnastic sports, weights, cycling, defence sports, shooting, equestrian sports, nautical sports modern pentathlon and games) and optional sports (rugby, field and ice hockey, archery, polo, golf, figure skating and skiing). Weightlifting, initially left out, was finally restored to the programme.

The question of amateurism, and the eligibility of athletes, was referred back to the IFs.

For their part, the NOCs were now responsible for entering athletes for the competitions. The allocation of responsibility for judging between the Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and the IFs was also established.

The age limit proposal was rejected, as was women's participation in sports other than swimming, tennis and skating. Classification by nation was abolished.

The last day of the Congress coincided with the attack in Sarajevo and the death of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, which triggered the First World War. The Olympic Movement's activities were suspended, and the Congress resolutions were not published until 1919.

For this reason, some of the decisions taken, such as the non-participation of countries with no status under international law (Bohemia and Finland), were not noted in the 1919 report, as the geographical situation had undergone some major changes after the war.

This Congress was a key moment in the history of the Olympic Movement. It defined the competences of each party (IOC, NOCs and IFs) and established a unified programme and set of rules, in mutual agreement with all the Olympic Movement stakeholders.

Even if certain controversial issues were not fully settled (women's participation, reduction in the programme), the Congress was important as it established the "model" for future congresses. Subsequently, two kinds of congress would be organised: technical congresses, linked to the organisation of the Games, and educational congresses, linked to more scientific considerations.

Anecdotes and festivities

Numerous social events were organised, in particular with the French President, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Mayor of Paris. The ceremony to mark the 20th anniversary of the IOC was particularly lavish.

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer

The fonds was received by the IOC Historical Archives in 1993, following the construction of the new Olympic Museum in Ouchy.

Scope and content

The fonds records the organisation and holding of the 6th Congress in Paris in 1914, the decisions adopted and the festivities linked to the event.

It gives details about the recreational activities of high society on the eve of the First World War thanks to the programmes of festivities, including the Fêtes de Paris, invitation cards and menus. The minutes, decisions and report bear witness to the animated discussions on the subject of the Olympic programme.

The fonds also contains the programme and regulations for the Congress, the daily programmes, the list of participants and guests, circulars, correspondence on preparations for the Congress, a

Last update: April 11



Congress member's card, financial documents relating to the holding of the Congress, press articles on the days of the Congress, documents on the Congress Study Commission and visiting cards.

Accruals

No

System of arrangement

The files are classified by subject, by document type or by activities in alphabetical order. The documents in the files are classified chronologically, from latest to earliest.

Conditions governing access

The documents are freely accessible, subject to the IOC's access rules.

Language / scripts of material

The documents are mainly in French. Some documents are in English, German and Spanish.

Related units of descriptionInternal sources

- President Pierre de Coubertin : A-P02
- IOC Members : B-ID05

External sources

- Archives de Paris
- Archives départementales de Paris
- Archives communales de Paris

Publication note

International Olympic Committee. "The 20th anniversary of the Olympic Games" in *Olympic Memoirs by Pierre de Coubertin*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, 1997, pp. 154-163.

International Olympic Committee. "Programme des fêtes de Paris", in *Olympic Review*, February 1914, pp. 19-24.

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International Olympic Committee. "Instructions aux congressistes", in *Olympic Review*, June 1914, pp. 95-96.

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Bulgarian Olympic Committee. *Règlements des Congrès olympiques qui ont eu lieu de 1894 à 1930*. Sofia, Bulgarian Olympic Committee, 1970.

Müller, Norbert. *Cent ans de Congrès Olympiques 1894-1994 : histoire, objectifs, réalisations*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, 1994, pp. 108-119.



Müller, Norbert. *Von Paris bis Baden-Baden: die Olympischen Kongresse 1894-1981*. Niedernhausen/Taunus, Schors, 1983.

Notes

The content of this fonds, including the Olympic identifications, is the property of the IOC.

Rules or conventions

Description complies with ISAD(G).

Date(s) of descriptions

25 January 2008



7th Congress Lausanne 1921

Reference: CH CIO-AH CGR-07LAU
Dates: 1919-1924
Level of description: Fonds
Extent and medium: 0.06 l.m. Text documents.

Name of creator

International Olympic Committee (CIO)

Administrative / Biographical history

Dates and place of the Congress

The Congress and conferences in 1921 were held from 25 May to 12 June 1921 at the Casino de Montbenon in Lausanne. The 7th Congress itself was held from 2 to 7 June.

Chairman

Placed under the patronage of the Federal Council of the Swiss Confederation, the Congress was chaired by Sigfrid Edström, President of the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) and future IOC President. Representatives of the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and International Federations (IFs) attended.

Participants⁶

Delegates from 23 countries, 24 IOC members, 15 (out of 19) IFs and 22 NOCs took part in the Congress. Germany and its allies were not invited.

Context

After the armistice, the future of the Olympic Movement was uncertain. The Games in Antwerp in 1920 enabled the IOC to resume its activities. At the 18th Session in Lausanne in 1919 (the first post-war Session), the IOC proposed to hold a new Olympic Congress to review and add to the resolutions adopted in Paris in 1914.

Moreover, after the Games in Antwerp, the national and International Federations called for their role and authority to be reassessed, as well as their links with the IOC. This Congress was also an opportunity to address their demands.

Numerous conferences were organised ahead of the Congress: an IFs' Congress and three IOC consultative conferences on mountaineering, winter sports and equestrian sports. The aim of these conferences was to propose to the Congress participants an Olympic programme for each of these disciplines.

Theme and programme of the Congress

The theme of the 7th Congress was: modification of the programme of Olympic sports and conditions of participation. Three commissions were created. The first looked at amateurism, chaired by G.T. Kirby (USOC); the second addressed the organisation of the Olympic Games, chaired by Frantz Reichel (France); and the third looked at the Olympic gymnastics programme, under the chairmanship of A.J. Cupérus (Gymnastics, Antwerp).

Decisions, results and scope

It had not been possible to reduce the Olympic programme as the IOC wanted, because the IFs were asserting their independence and insisted on fixing their programme of competitions themselves. No

⁶ The figures are taken from *The International Olympic Committee - One Hundred Years*, p. 164 and *Cent ans de Congrès olympiques*, p. 121.



decision was taken against their will. In the end, all the optional sports were dropped. Field hockey, archery and golf were thus removed from the programme.

The General Rules drafted in 1914 on the organisation and running of the Olympic Games were reviewed and adopted in a 23-point version. These covered issues such as entries, the composition of juries and authority in the event of disputes.

The Congress was still reluctant about creating the Olympic Winter Games. It did, however, authorise the holding of winter sports competitions in the country hosting the next Olympic Games, under IOC patronage. As a result, France organised an Olympic Week in Chamonix in 1924. These competitions would subsequently become the first Olympic Winter Games.

In gymnastics, an “octathlon” was created, with compulsory and free sections, and individual and team rankings.

Lastly, the rules on amateurism drawn up in 1914 received the following addition: the national federations had to guarantee the amateur status of their athletes, and the NOCs concerned would countersign this statement.

This Congress demonstrated the growing influence of the International Federations, which were becoming major players in the Olympic Movement. As a result, when they called for Olympic Congresses to be held more regularly with a view to taking decisions on the programme and regulations after each Olympic Games, the IOC agreed, despite the reluctance of Pierre de Coubertin. The IAAF President, Sigfrid Edström, became an IOC member in 1921 and thus acted as a bridge between the two Olympic actors.

Technical questions seemed to receive more attention in the discussions than educational considerations. Pierre de Coubertin had serious reservations about the results of this Congress.

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer

The fonds was received by the IOC Historical Archives in 1993, following the construction of the new Olympic Museum in Ouchy.

Scope and content

The fonds records the organisation and holding of the 7th Congress and consultative conferences in Lausanne in 1921, as well as the decisions adopted.

It gives details about the impact of the Congress decisions on the Olympic Movement stakeholders (IFs and NOCs) through the minutes of the consultative conferences and the Congress, the reports which followed the Congress and the Official Bulletin of the IFs' Permanent Office, which listed the decisions adopted.

The fonds also contains the programme and regulations of the Congress and the consultative conferences, letters to the minister announcing the holding of the consultative conferences, circulars and correspondence with Pierre de Coubertin.

Accruals

No

System of arrangement

The files are classified by subject, by document type or by activities in alphabetical order. The documents in the files are classified chronologically, from latest to earliest.

Conditions governing access

The documents are freely accessible, subject to the IOC's access rules.

Language / scripts of material

The documents are mainly in French. Some documents are in English.



Related units of description

Internal sources

- President Pierre de Coubertin : A-P02
- IOC Members : B-ID05

External sources

- Archives fédérales suisses
- Archives de la ville de Lausanne

Publication note

International Olympic Committee; under the management of Raymond Gafner – 1894 - 1994 *The International Olympic Committee - One Hundred Years The Idea - The Presidents - The Achievements*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, vol. 1, 1994-1997, pp. 157-163.

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Müller, Norbert. *Von Paris bis Baden-Baden: die Olympischen Kongresse 1894-1981*. Niedernhausen/Taunus, Schors, 1983.

Notes

The content of this fonds, including the Olympic identifications, is the property of the IOC.

Rules or conventions

Description complies with ISAD(G).

Date(s) of descriptions

28 January 2008



8th Congress Prague

Reference: CH CIO-AH CGR-08PRA
Dates: 1924-1980
Level of description: Fonds
Extent and medium: 0.16 l.m. Text documents.

Name of creator

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Administrative / Biographical history

Dates and place of the Congress

The 8th Congress was in fact a double Congress, one “technical” and the other “pedagogical”. The Congresses were held from 29 May to 5 June 1925. The opening session was held at Prague City Hall. The Congress working sessions, which ended on 4 June, were held in various locations around Prague.

Organiser and chairmen

The Commissioner General of the Congresses was the Czechoslovakian IOC member and great friend of Pierre de Coubertin, Jiri Guth-Jarkovsky. Under the patronage of the President of Czechoslovakia, Tomas Masaryk, the Technical Congress was chaired by the future IOC President, Sigfrid Edström, and the Pedagogical Congress by Karel Weigner, a professor of medicine.

Participants

The Technical Congress attracted 94 delegates, including 27 IOC members and participants from 24 National Olympic Committees⁷ (NOCs) and 17 International Federations (IFs).

The Pedagogical Congress was attended by 62 delegates, 17 of whom also took part in the Technical Congress.

For the first time since the end of the First World War, German delegates were present again in the Olympic world.

Context

The IOC accepted the city of Prague’s invitation to hold its 24th Session and next Congress there. Pierre de Coubertin wished to discuss points initially planned for the 1921 Congress under the theme of *popular sport* but finally supplanted by the discussion of more technical and organisational issues linked to the Olympic Games. To satisfy the wishes of the President, the decision was taken to hold two Congresses.

These were preceded by a meeting of the Executive Committee and the 24th Session. Both of these were essentially to prepare the discussions and propose the decisions to be voted on at the Technical Congress. At the Session, Pierre de Coubertin handed over the presidency to Henri Baillet-Latour, elected with 17 votes.

Themes and programme of the Congress

The Technical Congress was intended to review the resolutions adopted at the Congresses in Paris in 1914 and Lausanne in 1921 concerning the programme and regulations of the Olympic Games. The Pedagogical Congress, entitled the First International Olympic Pedagogical Congress, looked at issues relating to pedagogy and sports education.

⁷ The minutes of the Technical Congress state that 24 “NOCs” were represented. But for Paraguay, the creation date of the was after 1925, (1970).



Six commissions were created for the Technical Congress: Commission 1 (Lewald, IOC member in Germany): amateurism and the oath; Commission 2 (de Courcy-Laffan, IOC member in England): sports education; Commission 3 (Scharoo, IOC member in the Netherlands): reduction of the Games programme, rankings and football; Commission 4 (Count Bonacossa, IOC member in Italy): jury, appeals jury members' travel costs and powers of the NOCs; Commission 5 (Hulbert, American NOC member): International Lawn Tennis proposal, technical modification of the rules, forthcoming Olympic Games and transport and accommodation; Commission 6 (Count de Clary, IOC member in France): Winter Games.

Decisions, results and scope

Pedagogical Congress

The items on the agenda of the Pedagogical Congress reflect Pierre de Coubertin's constant concerns, which were apparently behind the programme. He was also one of the most active participants in the discussions. Nine points were examined, some with more interest than others, particularly the excessive number of exhibitions. With regard to sports education, both Congresses wanted to study the question. It was finally decided that the Technical Congress delegates should produce a report to be submitted for the approval of their colleagues at the Pedagogical Congress. This report was approved unanimously.

Nine resolutions were adopted, including:

- the wish to re-focus the competitions on the original purpose of sport, i.e. physical and moral education and the rational development of the body, in the face of commercial considerations,
- guaranteed medical supervision for adolescents,
- a compulsory medical check as a condition for participation by women,
- involvement by universities in physical education (introduction of compulsory sports lessons, creation of chairs in physical education theory),
- the recommendation of daily physical exercise, a democratisation of sports activities and a restriction on children's participation.

Technical Congress

Of the 14 points on the agenda of the Technical Congress, amateurism gave rise to the most discussion. On this subject, the IFs retained their right to decide on the status of an amateur. However, minimum eligibility conditions were added (resolution 1).

The following points were also discussed: rankings, responsibility of juries, reducing the length of the Games, reducing the programme and the autonomy of the Winter Games.

On this last point, winter sports competitions distinct from the Games of the Olympiad were authorised. The IOC therefore granted the Winter Sports Week in Chamonix in 1924 the title of First Olympic Winter Games (resolution 12, f, 2).

Particular attention was paid to the Technical Congress. The care the IOC devoted to preparing the sessions of this Congress during the Executive Committee meeting and Session shows that it was still concerned about standing up to the IFs. The public and the main delegates were more interested in the questions linked to the running of the Olympic Games. As a result, the IOC Official Bulletin did not even publish the conclusions of the Pedagogical Congress.

While Karel Wigner seemed satisfied with the importance of the conclusions of the Pedagogical Congress, Pierre de Coubertin was not. For Coubertin, this Congress was not in line with the 1913 Congress in Lausanne. On the eve of his retirement, one thing was certain: the Olympic Congresses no longer corresponded to his own pedagogical values.

However, Pierre de Coubertin's work did not end with his presidency. After the Congress, he founded the Universal Pedagogical Union, which proposed a general concept of education. He also set up the International Bureau of Sports Pedagogy (BIPS), which enabled him to continue his educational work for several more years.

Anecdotes and festivities



The Congress Organising Committee Chairman, Jiri Guth-Jarkowsky, wanted to organise a memorable Congress for the retirement of his loyal friend, Pierre de Coubertin. Many festivities (dinners, receptions with the Mayor of Prague, the Minister for France and the President of the Republic, banquets and promenades) and sports events were organised alongside the working meetings.

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer

The fonds was received by the IOC Historical Archives in 1993, following the construction of the new Olympic Museum in Ouchy.

Scope and content

The fonds gives details of the organisation and holding of the 8th Congress (Technical Congress and Pedagogical Congress) in Prague in 1925, the decisions adopted and the festivities linked to the event.

It gives specific information on the growing role of the IFs within the Olympic Movement through their wishes expressed concerning the nomination of a delegate as an IOC member; the contribution from Paul Rousseau, representative of the International Federations at the Prague Congress, on the Technical Congress at the International Cycling Union Congress; the report on the meeting of the Federal Council for the IF of educational gymnastics; and the responses of the French sports federations regarding amateurism. It also gives details of the entertainment for high society in Prague in the 1920s thanks to the invitation cards, programme of festivities and menu.

The fonds also contains the programme of the Pedagogical Congress, the regulations and timetable for the Congresses, the minutes of the Congresses and the preparatory conference, the decisions taken, the result of the vote on amateurism, the list of delegates, circulars, correspondence, comments and reports, press articles on the working meetings and a philatelic publication.

Accruals

No

System of arrangement

The files are classified by subject, by document type or by activities in alphabetical order. The documents in the files are classified chronologically, from latest to earliest.

Conditions governing access

The documents are freely accessible, subject to the IOC's access rules.

Language / scripts of material

The documents are mainly in French. Some documents are in Czech, English and German.

Related units of description

Internal sources

- President Pierre de Coubertin : A-P02
- President Henri de Baillet-Latour : A-P03
- IOC Members : B-ID05

External sources

- National Archives of the Czech Republic
- Prague Regional Public Archives

Publication note

International Olympic Committee; under the management of Raymond Gafner – 1894 - 1994 The International Olympic Committee - *One Hundred Years The Idea - The Presidents - The Achievements*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, vol. 1, 1994-1997, pp. 181-189.

International Olympic Committee. "Special Congress" in *Olympic Review*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, 1973.

Last update: April 11



Bulgarian Olympic Committee. *Règlements des Congrès olympiques qui ont eu lieu de 1894 à 1930*. Sofia, Bulgarian Olympic Committee, 1970.

Kirby, Gustavus T. *Some remarks upon the Olympic and Pedagogic Congresses Prague Czecho-Slovakia, 1925*. 1925?

Müller, Norbert. *Cent ans de Congrès Olympiques 1894-1994 : histoire, objectifs, réalisations*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, 1994, pp. 120-129.

Müller, Norbert. *Von Paris bis Baden-Baden: die Olympischen Kongresse 1894-1981*. Niedernhausen/Taunus, Schors, 1983.

Notes

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Rules or conventions

Description complies with ISAD(G).

Date(s) of descriptions

30 January 2008



9th Congress Berlin 1930

Reference: CH CIO-AH CGR-09BER
Dates: 1929-1931
Level of description: Fonds
Extent and medium: 0.25 l.m. Text documents.

Name of creator

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Administrative / Biographical history

Dates and place of the Congress

The 9th Congress was held from 25 to 30 May 1930 at the Herrenhaus in Berlin. The opening session was held in the Aula of Berlin University.

Organiser and Chairman

The Congress, organised by the German Olympic Committee President, Theodor Lewald, was chaired by the IOC President, Count de Baillet-Latour.

Participants⁸

123 participants: 29 IOC members, 53 delegates from 29 National Olympic Committees (NOCs)⁹ and 41 from 19 International Federations (IFs) took part in the Berlin Congress.

Context

The Congress was convened as a result of a dispute over interpreting the definition of amateurism. Ahead of the 1928 Games in Amsterdam, the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) looked at the question of salaries and financial compensation (paid leave) for amateur players. At the 27th IOC Session in Amsterdam in 1928, it was decided to review this interpretation issue in the framework of a Congress.

In addition, the IFs' wish at the Prague Congress to have one of their delegates appointed as an IOC member had come to nothing. Once again, the aim of the Congress was to specify the role and powers of the IFs within the Olympic Movement.

At the Session which preceded the Congress (29th Session, Berlin, 1930), a Permanent Council of Olympic IF Delegates was created. This Council was tasked with working with the IOC Executive Committee to address questions linked to the sports and games governed by an IF in the Olympic competitions.

Themes and programme of the Congress

The 9th Congress, which had no official title, looked at issues linked to amateurism, the Olympic programme and sports facilities.

Three commissions were created: Theodor Lewald (IOC member in Germany) chaired the commission responsible for studying amateurism; Sigfrid Edström (member in Sweden and future IOC President) chaired the Olympic programme commission; and R.J. Kentish (IOC member in Great Britain) chaired the commission on the construction of sports facilities.

Decisions, results and scope

⁸ N. Müller claims "31 IOC members" and "57 NOC delegates" in his *Cent ans de Congrès Olympiques*, p. 155.

⁹ The roll call in the Congress minutes states 29 "NOCs" represented. But for two countries, the NOC creation date was after 1930: Bolivia (creation 1932, recognition 1936) and Brazil (1935).



On the subject of amateurism, the commission members confirmed the decision of the Prague Congress to ban compensation for athletes' loss of earnings. No decision was taken, however, on the subject of paid leave.

The resolutions by the commission on the programme concerned a reduction in the length of the Games (to two weeks), sports (first appearance of handball and basketball) and a limit on the number of participants in the individual competitions.

Lastly, the commission on sports facilities recalled the need for such facilities, open to the greatest number of people, in urban areas.

Once again, the Congress was the scene of animated debate between the IFs and the IOC. But in future, such issues would be discussed in the framework of meetings between the Permanent Council of Olympic IF Delegates and the IOC Executive Committee. The issue of paid leave would be solved at their first meeting on 11 October 1930.

As well as the technical questions linked to preparations for the 1932 Games in Los Angeles, the Congress, faithful to the ideas of Pierre de Coubertin, looked at more general issues linked to the impact of sport in society.

Anecdotes and festivities

The 9th Congress was the first that Pierre de Coubertin did not attend.

The festivities linked to the Congress were carefully prepared, not least because Berlin was seeking to become the host of the Games in 1936, with an exhibition, receptions organised by the city of Berlin or the President of the Reich, plus sports and gymnastics demonstrations.

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer

The fonds was received by the IOC Historical Archives in 1993, following the construction of the new Olympic Museum in Ouchy.

Scope and content

The fonds gives details of the organisation and holding of the 9th Olympic Congress in Berlin in 1930, the decisions adopted and the festivities linked to the event.

It provides specific information on the running and decision-making process of a Congress in the 1930s by means of unused invitations to the Congress, the Congress programme, the opening session programme, the list of members and participants, signed roll calls, the minutes of the Congress and the commissions, agendas, the decisions taken, voting results, reports and notes, the speeches given at the Congress, and the votes on and appointment of delegates.

The fonds also contains circulars, correspondence on the preparations, documents on accommodation, a menu and invitations, as well as press articles and a publication by the city of Berlin.

Accruals

No

System of arrangement

The files are classified by subject, by document type or by activities in alphabetical order. The documents in the files are classified chronologically, from latest to earliest.

Conditions governing access

The documents are freely accessible, subject to the IOC's access rules.

Language / scripts of material

The documents are in French, German and English. Other documents are in Spanish and Italian.

Related units of description



Internal sources

- President Pierre de Coubertin : A-P02
- President Henri de Baillet-Latour : A-P03
- IOC Members : B-ID05

External sources

- German Federal Archives
- Berlin city archives
- Olympic Studies Centre: Carl und Liselott Diem – Archiv

Publication note

International Olympic Committee; under the management of Raymond Gafner – 1894 - 1994 *The International Olympic Committee - One Hundred Years The Idea - The Presidents - The Achievements*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, vol. 1, 1994-1997, p. 250-252.

International Olympic Committee. "Special Congress" in *Olympic Review*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, 1973.

Bulgarian Olympic Committee. *Règlements des Congrès olympiques qui ont eu lieu de 1894 à 1930*. Sofia, Bulgarian Olympic Committee, 1970.

Müller, Norbert. *Cent ans de Congrès Olympiques 1894-1994 : histoire, objectifs, réalisations*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, 1994, pp. 155-162.

Müller, Norbert. *Von Paris bis Baden-Baden: die Olympischen Kongresse 1894-1981*. Niedernhausen/Taunus, Schors, 1983.

Notes

The content of this fonds, including the Olympic identifications, is the property of the IOC.

Rules or conventions

Description complies with ISAD(G).

Date(s) of descriptions

1st February 2008



10th Congress Varna 1973

Reference: CH CIO-AH CGR-10VAR
Dates: 1969-1976
Level of description: Fonds
Extent and medium: 0.94 l.m. Text documents.

Name of creator

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Administrative / Biographical history

Dates and place of the Congress

The 10th Congress was held from 30 September to 4 October 1973 at the Sports Palace in Varna.

Organisers and Chairman

The preparations for the Congress, which was chaired by newly-elected IOC President Lord Killanin, were entrusted to a tripartite commission composed of three IOC members, three National Olympic Committee (NOC) delegates and three International Federation (IF) delegates. The Bulgarian NOC President, Vladimir Stoytchev, was also a member of this commission.

Participants

The Congress was attended by 60 IOC members, 176 NOC delegates and 67 IF delegates¹⁰. Observers, without the right to speak, and athletes were also invited to attend the sessions.

Context

There was a gap of 43 years between the 9th and 10th Congresses. After the Second World War, nobody felt the need for a new Congress, as the resolutions from the Berlin Congress satisfied the majority of the Olympic stakeholders. Furthermore, the growing number of NOCs and IFs made it difficult to organise intensive collective discussions. The IOC felt that regular meetings between the Permanent Council of Olympic IF Delegates and the Executive Committee were sufficient for the smooth running of the Olympic Movement.

In spite of this, pressure from the NOCs and IFs to hold a new Congress became ever stronger, and IOC President Avery Brundage proposed convening a Congress during the 68th IOC Session in Mexico City, in 1968. Indeed, the NOCs and IFs were complaining about the lack of exchanges and dominance of the IOC in the decisions taken during the meetings between the Permanent Council and the EB. The decision was therefore taken to hold the 10th Congress in 1971 in Sofia, Bulgaria. This was finally postponed to 1973 and moved to the coastal city of Varna (IOC Executive Board meeting, 3-4 October 1970).

The Congress was also an opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee.

Michael Killanin was chosen to chair the tripartite commission responsible for preparing the 10th Congress, but it was as IOC President that he chaired the discussions.

Themes and programme of the Congress

The theme of the 10th Congress was *the Olympic Movement and its future*. This was divided into three topics of discussion: Redefinition of the Olympic Movement and its future, Relations between the IOC, International Federations and National Olympic Committees and Plans for future Olympic Games.

No commissions were created. Each topic was covered during a one-day session.

¹⁰ N. Müller's figures are "179 NOC delegates" and "68 IF delegates" in *Cent ans de Congrès Olympiques*, p. 175.



Decisions, results and scope

Unlike the previous Congresses, the Varna Congress offered no room for open discussion or voting. It was essentially composed of speeches and official declarations. The Congress thus lost any decision-making function.

For each topic, a representative of each group (IOC, IFs and NOCs) gave a main speech.

In his opening speech, Killanin referred to the main subjects of the Congress, namely increasing collaboration with the IFs and NOCs, addressing the gigantism of the Games, adapting the Olympic programme, the fight against doping, and promoting women's rights in sport.

The first day was devoted to a *redefinition of the Olympic Movement*. Most of the delegates sought to state their own position vis-à-vis the Olympic Movement. Only the French and Israeli delegates, Claude Collard and Haim Wein, fulfilled the objectives of this topic by questioning the functioning of the Movement.

The second day was focused on relations between the IOC, IFs and NOCs. The speeches highlighted the problems of international sports, and were followed by proposals in many cases.

The third topic was *Plans for future Olympic Games*. Greater powers for the IFs in determining the Olympic programme and the choice of host cities, the role of the NOCs, the value of artistic development, amateurism, the risks of gigantism for the Games, and the simplification of the official ceremonies were all subjects discussed on this final day.

During the preparations for the Congress, it had been decided not to vote on resolutions after the working sessions. However, two final declarations were presented at the closing ceremony.

The first was approved by all the delegates. The points included the creation of a permanent tripartite commission, collaboration between the IOC, IFs and NOCs on the preparation of future Congresses, the growing participation of women, creating closer links with the athletes, and protection of the Olympic emblems by the NOCs.

The second, announced by Killanin, was an appeal to the athletes to continue promoting the human and social values advocated by the Olympic Movement.

Two main criticisms were raised: the lack of interaction between the participants and the superficial nature of the discussions. Indeed, with the limited speaking time allowed and the broad diversity of the speeches, it was difficult to tackle the issues in any depth.

This Congress was an opportunity for the IFs and NOCs to demonstrate and reinforce their position within the Olympic Movement. While the IFs offered constructive arguments, the NOCs still lacked a common approach. This was seen in the fact that some delegates, who were also IOC members, tended towards the position of the Congress, while others based themselves on the political instructions of their governments.

Ultimately, neither side called into question or called for a thorough rethink of the IOC's operating structure.

After this Congress, some major developments got under way: women could now hold positions of responsibility within the sports world, and the IFs and NOCs could contribute to the appointments within IOC commissions and the preparation of future Congresses.

At the 75th IOC Session in Vienna in 1974, a new definition of amateurism was discussed with all the IFs and finally approved by the IOC. This definition was based largely on the recommendations made by the IFs at the Congress in Varna. The new rule allowed for financial and material assistance, but still condemned personal profit.

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer



The fonds was received by the IOC Historical Archives in 1993, following the construction of the new Olympic Museum in Ouchy.

Scope and content

The fonds gives details of the organisation and holding of the 10th Olympic Congress in Varna in 1973, as well as the festivities linked to the event.

It provides specific information on the evolution in the impact of the Congress (and the Olympic Movement) in society thanks to the opening of the sessions to the media: list of accredited journalists, preliminary questionnaires for accreditation and correspondence with the press.

It also shows the change in strategy regarding the organisation of the Congress in view of the evolution of the Olympic Movement and the increase in the number of delegates: documents on the tripartite commission, minutes concerning the preparations for the Congress, stage plans, list of members and participants (NOCs, IFs and others) and signed roll calls, plus correspondence on preparations and transport.

The fonds also contains the programme of the Congress, the opening ceremony programme, agendas, the draft official report of the Congress, drafts of speeches and the bound work containing the Congress speeches, the report on Monique Berlioux's visit to Varna, letters of thanks, musical scores and lyrics, a copy of the Congress medal and emblem, invitation and visiting cards, as well as press articles, publications, guides and brochures.

Accruals

No

System of arrangement

The files are classified by subject, by document type or by activities in alphabetical order. The documents in the files are classified chronologically, from latest to earliest.

Conditions governing access

The documents are freely accessible, subject to the IOC's access rules.

Language / scripts of material

The documents are mainly in French and English. Other documents are in Cyrillic, German, Spanish and Polish.

Related units of description

Internal sources

- President Lord Michael Killanin : A-P06
- IOC Members : B-ID05

External sources

- Archives State Agency - Bulgaria
- Territorial direction Varna

Publication note

International Olympic Committee. "Special Congress" in *Olympic Review*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, 1973.

Lékaraska, Nadejda. *Les Xe et XIe Congrès olympiques: études comparatives et essais*. Sofia, Sofia Presse, 1986.

Müller, Norbert. *Cent ans de Congrès Olympiques 1894-1994: histoire, objectifs, réalisations*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, 1994, pp. 175-189.

Müller, Norbert. *Von Paris bis Baden-Baden: die Olympischen Kongresse 1894-1981*. Niedernhausen/Taunus, Schors, 1983.

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Notes

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Rules or conventions

Description complies with ISAD(G).

Date(s) of descriptions

7 February 2008



11th Congress Baden-Baden 1981

Reference: CH CIO-AH CGR-11BAD
Dates: 1973-1987
Level of description: Fonds
Extent and medium: 2.35 l.m. Text documents.

Name of creator

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Administrative history / Biographical history

Dates and place of the Congress

The 11th Congress was held from 23 to 28 September 1981 at the Kurhaus in Baden-Baden.

Organisers and Chairman

Willi Daume, an IOC member in Germany, was Chairman of the Organising Committee for the Congress, which was chaired by the IOC President, Juan Antonio Samaranch, assisted by the members of the tripartite commission.

Participants

The Congress hosted 85 IOC members, 310 delegates from 142¹¹ National Olympic Committees (NOCs)¹² and 67 delegates from 26 International Federations (IFs). Numerous observers were invited, particularly athletes, representatives of non-Olympic or non-IOC-recognised organisations, guests of honour and numerous journalists.

Thirty Olympic athletes and 10 coaches were invited, six of them with the right to speak, unlike in Varna, where they had had only observer status.

Context

At the 1973 Congress in Varna, it had been decided to hold an Olympic Congress every eight years. In recognition of the work of IOC member Willi Daume, who had chaired the Organising Committee for the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, the German NOC was tasked with organising the 11th Congress. The town of Baden-Baden, well-known to the IOC as it had hosted the 60th Session in 1963, was chosen.

Expectations of the Baden-Baden Congress were higher than those for Varna, as the Olympic Movement was facing worrying new trends, such as doping or the politicisation of the Games, a problem illustrated by the boycott of the Games in Moscow in 1980.

Themes and programme of the Congress

The 11th Congress addressed three main themes: *the Future of the Olympic Games*, *International Cooperation* and *the Future Olympic Movement*, under the heading "United by and for sport".

No commissions were created. Each theme was covered during a one-day session.

Decisions, results and scope

The discussions were organised around the keynote addresses of the IOC, IF and NOC representatives, plus five-minute interventions and declarations. No resolutions could be taken. Like in Varna, a final declaration was drafted, and submitted to the 84th IOC Session which was held after the Congress. In spite of Willi Daume's requests, there was not free discussion.

¹¹ N. Müller states "143 NOCs" in his *Cent ans de Congrès Olympiques*, p. 191.

¹² Only the recognition of the NOC of the British Virgin Islands came after 1981 (creation 1980, recognition in 1982).



In their opening speeches, Willi Daume and Juan Antonio Samaranch placed their hopes in the success of this Congress as the basis for development within the Olympic Movement.

The first day was devoted to *the Future of the Olympic Games*. The suggestions put forward included emphasising performance rather than the number of athletes; greater solidarity from “rich” countries to help participation by developing countries; combating doping; revising the eligibility rule, which was still in the hands of the IFs; paying greater attention to the athletes’ opinions; limiting the length of the opening and closing ceremonies; including the NOCs and IFs in the selection of host cities; imposing a minimum age limit; and encouraging women to hold international functions.

The second day looked at *International Cooperation*. The main proposals concerned ensuring equal opportunities, difficulties with the administrative independence of NOCs, making the IOC more democratic, collaboration between the IOC and the United Nations (UN) and UNESCO, the creation of a charter for cooperation with the IFs and the role of the International Olympic Academy (IOA).

The third and final day looked at *the Future Olympic Movement*. Even though some participants spoke about issues relevant to their own countries and disciplines, the speech by IOC member Alexandru Siperco summarised the different aspects of the Movement, namely the IOC’s apolitical stance, the impossibility of finding a homogeneous definition for the Olympic idea, the need to provide moral support to the athletes, protecting sports ethics, improving the work of the NOCs, revising the Olympic Charter, developing the IOA and collaboration with schools and universities.

The final resolution combined the most striking suggestions of the three days of work, such as on amateurism, international cooperation, the fight against doping and discrimination, the place of women in administration and the media.

Despite the initial criticism, the Congress was a success, and attracted public attention. In addition to the televised opening of the Congress, the participation of Olympic champions was another high point of the Congress.

Lastly, the attention paid to media representatives in Baden-Baden confirmed the essential role and contribution of television within the Olympic Movement.

Anecdotes and festivities

Thanks to the work of the Congress Organising Committee and the arrangements made by the town of Baden-Baden, the organisation was greatly appreciated. There were many and varied outside activities (exhibition, concerts, etc.).

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer

The fonds was received by the IOC Historical Archives in 1993, following the construction of the new Olympic Museum in Ouchy.

Scope and content

The fonds gives details of the organisation and holding of the 11th Olympic Congress in Baden-Baden in 1981, the accreditation and participation of the members, representatives and journalists, and of the festivities linked to the event.

The range of documents linked to the organisation of the Congress – extracts of minutes concerning preparations for the Congress, minutes, reports, regulations, themes and declaration by the tripartite commission, working documents for meetings of the Congress Study Commission, drafts of speeches, correspondence concerning preparations, the programme, protocol, speeches, finance, interpreting, photography, plans of the Congress hall and other plans – and the related activities – list of participants’ itineraries, Kuoni travel agency file, hotel reservation forms, invitation cards, menu, diplomas, programme of visits, leisure activities and excursions, information files, brochures and leaflets on the town, activities and accommodation – illustrate the evolution in the IOC administration in the 1980s.

The fonds gives more details about the evolution in the impact of the Congress (and the Olympic Movement) on society, thanks to the opening of its sessions to the media: correspondence with the

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NOCs, IFs, members, press, athletes, coaches and other observers concerning accreditation and participation, blank or completed questionnaires and forms, list of accredited members and journalists, and signed roll call.

The fonds also contains the daily programme of the Congress and the draft programme, the official Congress proceedings, regulations and instructions, reports, including one on the visit by Monique Berlioux, the Congress bulletins and letters of thanks, circulars, telexes, the booklet *Idée Olympia* (invitation to artists to be involved in the Olympic Movement), the organisation chart and objectives of the Congress, the schedule of publications, Olympic Order awards, Rule 26 of the Olympic Charter, as well as press articles and files with reports on the working days of the Congress.

Accruals

No

System of arrangement

The files are classified by subject, by document type or by activities in alphabetical order. The documents in the files are classified chronologically, from latest to earliest.

Conditions governing access

The documents are freely accessible, subject to the IOC's access rules.

Language / scripts of material

The documents are mainly in French, English and German. Other documents are in Spanish, Italian and Cyrillic.

Related units of descriptionInternal sources

- President Juan Antonio Samaranch : A-P07
- IOC Members : B-ID05

External sources

- German national archives
- Baden-Württemberg state archives
- Baden-Baden city archives
- Generallandesarchiv Karlsruhe
- Olympic Studies Centre: Carl und Liselott Diem – Archiv.

Publication note

Lékarska, Nadejda. *Les Xe et XIe Congrès olympiques: études comparatives et essais*. Sofia, Sofia Presse, 1986.

Müller, Norbert. *Cent ans de Congrès Olympiques 1894-1994 : histoire, objectifs, réalisations*. Lausanne, International Olympic Committee, 1994, pp. 175-189.

Müller, Norbert. *Von Paris bis Baden-Baden: die Olympischen Kongresse 1894-1981*. Niedernhausen/Taunus, Schors, 1983.

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Date(s) of descriptions

19 February 2008