
Introduction

This is the fifth in a series of seven books giving complete summaries of the earliest Olympic Games. The series has run chronologically and the earlier books covered, in order, the 1896, 1900, 1904, and 1906 Olympic Games. The 1896 book was co-authored by Bill Mallon and Ture Widlund, while the 1900–1906 books were the sole work of Bill Mallon. Two further books planned for the series will deal with the 1912 and 1920 Olympic Games.

This book was written jointly by Bill Mallon and Ian Buchanan. It is an apt pairing and our fourth major book we have written together on the history of the Olympic Games. The pairing is apt because of our nationalities — Mallon is American, while Buchanan is British. Those who know little of the 1908 Olympic Games will shortly learn that these Olympics featured almost constant bickering between the American team and the British officials. In fact, because of the controversies, the 1908 Olympics have been termed “The Battle of Shepherd’s Bush,” referring to the site of the Olympic stadium. We have been able to look at the controversies from the eyes of both nations’ media to present a balanced outlook concerning the various arguments that transpired.

This series of books covers the earliest Olympics because these are the Olympic Games for which results are not well recorded. Currently, at the end of each Olympic Games, the Organizing Committee is required by the International Olympic Committee to produce a detailed *Official Report* of the Olympic Games. At the end of the first century of the Modern Olympic Movement, these *Official Reports* are often exhaustive, covering in great detail every aspect of the organization and the results of the Olympics. This was not the case in the early years.

Official Reports did exist for all the Olympic Games between 1896 and 1920 but they were of varying quality. Some of them barely contained results at all; the medalists were usually mentioned, but often nothing further. Thus, this series is an attempt to complete and re-create the Olympic record, as it were, by filling in the many gaps in the record left by several of the less than complete early *Official Reports*.

The *Official Reports* of 1908 and 1912 are by far the best of that era. In fact, both contain almost complete results of all the events and sports. So what then is the need for this book?

It should be noted that we have relied on the 1908 *Official Report* primarily, but not exclusively. And we have greatly expanded on it in terms of the results of the 1908 Olympic Games. We have found results for several sports (archery, athletics [track & field], football [soccer], gymnastics, motorboating, shooting) which are not contained in the 1908 *Official Report*, whose complete, unwieldy title is *The Fourth Olympiad: Being the Official Report of the Olympic Games of*

1908 Olympic Games — Background

Early History of the British Influence on the Modern Olympic Games

At the beginning of the twentieth century, Great Britain was the most powerful nation in the world. A quarter of the world's land mass and a quarter of the world's population owed allegiance to the Union Jack, the British navy was twice the size of the next largest fleet and commercial prosperity had been assured by the phenomenon of the Industrial Revolution.

Occasional setbacks such as the British defeat by the guerrilla tactics of an amateur army of Dutch settlers in the Boer War (1899–1902) could be taken in their stride but increasing German power in Europe was of more concern. After France had suffered a humiliating defeat in the Franco-Prussian war (1870–71), the British saw them as natural allies in curbing German influence in Europe. The Anglo-French alliance prospered and in 1904 the *entente cordiale*, which gave the British and the French jurisdiction over Egypt and Morocco respectively, was signed. In 1905 the two countries jointly began planning a vast trade fair in London. Only Britain and France and their colonies were to be permitted as exhibitors and the Franco-British Exhibition was to play a major role in the staging of the 1908 Olympic Games.

The British had a deep-rooted interest in the Olympic Games and from as early as the fifteenth century many festivals describing themselves as “Olympic” or “Olympian” were staged around the country. The most significant attempt at revival of the ancient Olympic Games, prior to Baron de Coubertin's efforts, came in England in the form of the Much Wenlock Olympian Games. Much Wenlock is a small town in Shropshire, England, 12 miles south of Shrewsbury and 40 miles west of Birmingham. On 22 October 1850, these Games were held for the first time. They were the brainchild of the British sports enthusiast, Dr. William Penny Brookes (1809–1895).

The Games were only national in nature and the events were more those of a British medieval country fair enriched by modern athletic sports disciplines. The original events in 1850 consisted of cricket, 14-a-side football, high and long jumping, quoits, a hopping race, and a running race. However, several athletic events were added in the next few years. The most popular event became tilting-at-the-ring, which was first held in 1858. The competitors, dressed in

medieval costumes, rode horses, and used lances to spear a small ring, suspended from a bar over the course.

The Much Wenlock Olympian Games, altogether 45 in number up to 1895, achieved their high point in the 1860s and 1870s. In those years, representatives of the German Gymnastic Society (which was based in London) competed regularly. In 1860, 1861, 1862, and 1864, Brookes also organized the Shropshire Olympian Games on a regional level in, respectively, Much Wenlock, Wellington, Much Wenlock, and Shrewsbury. These were followed by the other “Olympian” Games organized by the National Olympic Association: 1866 (London), 1867 (Birmingham), 1868 (Wellington), 1874 (Much Wenlock), 1877 (Shrewsbury), and 1883 (Hadley).

The Much Wenlock Olympian Games were held more sporadically after Brookes’ death in 1895, but are still held today, sponsored by the Much Wenlock Olympian Society, which celebrated the one hundredth Much Wenlock Olympian Games in 1986. The Much Wenlock Olympian Games are important in the history of Olympic revivals because of their influence on Pierre de Coubertin. Coubertin knew of Brookes’ efforts and visited the Much Wenlock Olympian Games as a guest of honor in October 1890, and in 1891, he donated a gold medal which was given to the winner of tilting-at-the-ring.

Dr. William Penny Brookes was educated at various schools in Shropshire. He began his study of medicine at Guy’s and St. Thomas’s Hospitals in London in about 1827, but finished his studies in Paris and Padua, returning to Much Wenlock in 1831 to carry on the general practice of medicine which his father had started. He founded the National Olympian Association in 1865, the forerunner of the British Olympic Association. Brookes was an invited dignitary to Coubertin’s Sorbonne Congress of 1894 which founded the Modern Olympic Games, but was unable to attend because of illness. However, in 1881, William Penny Brookes was the first person to propose an International Olympic Festival to be staged in Athens.

In more modern times, both Charles Herbert and Lord Ampthill were founding members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and, after hosting the 1904 IOC Session in London, the British finally established their interest in Olympic matters on a more formal basis. At a meeting at the Houses of Parliament on 24 May 1905, the British Olympic Association (BOA) was formed^{1*} but the founding members had no way of knowing that within one year they would assume the responsibility of organizing the 1908 Olympic Games. The circumstances which brought about this unexpected turn of events are unique in the history of the Games.

Choice of the Host City for the 1908 Olympic Games

At the 1904 Session of the IOC held in London, the Games of the IVth Olympiad were awarded to Rome but due to unforeseen circumstances, more than 50 years would pass before Italy actually hosted the Games. On 4 April 1906, Mount Vesuvius, near Naples, erupted, devastating the surrounding area; the reason usually given for Rome’s withdrawal as host for the 1908 Games is that the Italian government felt that all available funds should be used to provide relief for the victims. This was only a small part of the story.

Baron de Coubertin was a strong advocate for the 1908 Games going to Rome and was supported by such luminaries as Pope Pius X, King Victor Emanuel III and, not surprisingly, the mayor of Rome. Their main opponent was Prime Minister Giovanni Gioletti, who held the purse strings for many new government projects, such as the building of the Simplon Tunnel between Switzerland and Italy, the construction of the aqueduct in the Puglia region and land

^{*}See Notes on page 17.

reclamation projects in many parts of the country. It was clear that the Italian Government simply could not afford to subsidize the Games and, under pressure from Rome's rival cities of Milan and Turin, Prime Minister Gioletti decided to withhold the promised Government funds and effectively ended Rome's hopes of staging the 1908 Games.²

In an effort to salvage some of his country's lost prestige the Italian IOC member, Count Eugenio Brunetta d'Usseaux, advised the IOC members at the Intercalated Olympic Games at Athens in 1906 that because of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, which could not possibly have been foreseen, Rome no longer had the financial resources to honor its commitment. In reality, the decision had been made some time before the volcanic eruption. Interestingly, Baron de Coubertin must have known the true reason for the withdrawal as, in a circular letter to IOC members dated 9 December 1906, he mysteriously referred to "certain specific difficulties we encountered in Rome and which we had to keep secret."³ Since the disaster at Mount Vesuvius had received worldwide press coverage, de Coubertin can hardly have considered this particular event to be secret.

Faced with the dilemma of finding an alternative host city with both the facilities and inclination to stage the Olympics in only two years, the IOC acted with commendable speed. They immediately approached Lord Desborough, who was in Athens as a British member of the IOC and as a competitor in the épée team event, in which he won a silver medal. Desborough sounded out King Edward VII, who was also in Athens for the Games, and he had the added advantage of being able to discuss the matter in greater depth with his fellow members of the fencing team who were all staying aboard Lord Howard de Walden's private yacht, the *SS Branwen*, which was anchored in the Bay of Athens for the period of the Games.

The fencers on board the *Branwen* were Charles Newton-Robinson and Theodore Cook, both members of the Council of the British Olympic Association, and Lord Howard de Walden, a future President of the Amateur Fencing Association, together with two future Vice-Presidents of the Association, Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon and Edgar Seligman.⁴

The consensus of opinion from this experienced group was that the IOC invitation for London to host the 1908 Games should be accepted, provided support from the governing bodies of British sport was forthcoming. From his earlier conversations, Desborough knew that the King shared this view and the IOC was advised accordingly. On his return to London, Desborough put the matter of hosting the 1908 Games before the British Olympic Association (BOA). It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the governing bodies of all the major sports in the United Kingdom and when the replies were in favor of hosting the Games, a British Olympic Council was formed, within the BOA, whose sole responsibility was the organization of the 1908 Olympic Games. On 19 November 1906, a letter was sent to the IOC advising them that London was prepared to take over the Games.

The Olympic Movement is fortunate that a man of the calibre of William Henry Grenfell, Baron Desborough of Taplow, K.C.V.O. was available at that time. An Olympic fencer, he both ran and rowed for Oxford against Cambridge University, stroked an eight across the English Channel, swam across Niagara twice, and climbed the Matterhorn three times by different routes. He was also a renowned big game hunter in India and the Rockies, and was a successful tarpon fisherman off the coast of Florida. There were few sporting pursuits at which he did not excel. He was elected a Member of Parliament at the age of 25, was offered the governor-generalship of Canada, but declined, and at one time he served on as many as 115 sporting and civic committees. A tall, imposing man whose austere appearance hid a generous character, he sent flowers to Dorando Pietri wishing him a speedy recovery after his marathon ordeal and, after the gold medals of the American shooting team had been stolen, he personally paid for them to be replaced. By any standards his achievements were phenomenal and no man was better qualified, or better placed in society, to further the cause of Olympism in Britain.

Lord Desborough brought an intellectual authority to the task and gathered an influential, efficient, and enthusiastic Organizing Committee around him. With his fellow IOC member, the Rev. Robert Stuart de Courcy Laffan, acting as General Secretary and Captain F. Whitworth Jones as Assistant Secretary, work began immediately. The contribution of the Reverend de Courcy Laffan to the work of the British Olympic Council was inestimable, and has recently been well documented by Steve Bailey in *Olympika*.⁵ Only eight days after the agreement to stage the Olympics in London a letter appeared in the British press giving a broad outline of the arrangements for the Games.

The Franco-British Exhibition and the White City Stadium

Although such splendid and well-established venues as Wimbledon for tennis, Bisley for shooting, and Henley for rowing were immediately available, the major problem which faced the Organizing Committee was the lack of a suitable main stadium and it had already been made clear that no government funds would be made available for such a project.

By a fortunate coincidence the vast Franco-British Exhibition was planned for London in the summer of 1908 and the British Olympic Association was able to come to a highly satisfactory arrangement with organizers. The Franco-British Exhibition opened on 14 May 1908, with its express purpose being to further the feeling of *entente cordiale*. At the time, French relationships with the Germans were at a low ebb and the Exhibition was designed to build and strengthen a new trading partnership between France and Great Britain.

Planning for the Exhibition had begun in 1905. It was based on a 140-acre site in West London called Shepherd's Bush, and was laid out in a cross pattern. The prevailing architectural pattern was brilliant white buildings, which lent the exhibition site its nickname of the "White City." Only exhibitors from France, Britain, and their respective colonies were allowed to participate and it was planned that the Exhibition should be far more than just a "trade fair."

Displays were set amid gardens with lakes and fountains and exhibitors were keen to display the indigenous characteristics of their country and not just their wares. The size of the delegations was significant and on Saturday, 9 May, nearly 150 men, women, and children, natives of India and Ceylon, arrived at the Ceylon village with a large contingent of elephants, dromedaries, antelopes, bears, and monkeys. Among the party was a dwarf from Colombo named Maricar who stood only 3' 6" (1.06 meters) tall, and who was said to have a great reputation as a doctor. With the Edwardian macabre fascination for physical freaks he proved a great attraction. The Franco-British Exhibition lasted until 31 October 1908, with a total attendance of 8.4 million spectators and receipts of over £420,000. Contemporary opinion was that the event was an outstanding success.⁶

The Olympic Organizing Committee pulled off a notable coup when they persuaded the Exhibition authorities to build an entire stadium complete with running and cycling tracks, swimming pool, dressing rooms, and spectator accommodations. Not only was the Exhibition to pay for all this, at a cost of "not less than £44,000," they were also to make a grant of £2,000 towards the preliminary costs of the British Olympic Association. In return the Exhibition was to receive 75 percent of the gate receipts. This remarkably beneficial contract — from an Olympic viewpoint — was signed by both parties on 14 January 1907. Some sources suggest that the actual cost of construction of the Shepherd's Bush facilities subsequently rose to £220,000 and that the grant made to the British Olympic Association was increased to £20,000.

The next problem to be faced was the raising of funds for the day-to-day running expenses of the Games.⁷ A public appeal was duly launched, but by the end of June only £2,840 had been raised from 200 subscribers, most of them personal friends of Desborough's. With just two weeks

to go before the start of the Games a further £10,000 was still urgently needed, mainly to provide suitable hospitality for the visiting competitors and officials. Lord Northcliffe, the owner of the *Daily Mail*, was approached and at a meeting with Lord Desborough he reluctantly agreed that his newspaper group would sponsor a final appeal. The response was phenomenal and donations poured in from all corners of Britain and from abroad. The Prince of Wales, the Maharajah of Cooch Behar, and the American millionaire, Cornelius Vanderbilt all sent donations. The professional strongman, Eugen Sandow, gave £1,500, the French Government sent £680, the classical dancer Maud Allan passed on the proceeds of a special matinee performance, and hundreds of donations of just a few pence came from the readers of Lord Northcliffe's newspapers. In little more than one week over £12,000 had been subscribed and the newspapers had to beg their readers not to send any more money. To the total donations of almost £16,000 the organizers could add £6,000 as their share of the gate receipts. Out of a total sum of £15,000 for expenses, the £5,300 spent on entertainment and hospitality was the largest single item and the British Olympic Association finished with a profit of more than £6,000. The Franco-British Exhibition was not so fortunate and their only return on a substantial capital outlay was just £18,000 as their share of the gate receipts. The largest single individual contribution came from well-known strongman/bodybuilder Sandow, with his £1,500.

The Exhibition authorities were as good as their word and duly subsidized the construction of what was then the finest stadium in the world. The main features of the impressive new facility were a cinder running track of three laps to the mile (586.67 yds. [536.44 m.]), a banked concrete cycling track of 660 yards (603.5 meters), and a swimming pool 100 meters in length, twice the size of the standard modern Olympic pool. A special tower, 55 feet (16.76 meters) in height, which could be lowered below the water when not in use, was built for the high diving event. There was also room inside the running track for a full-sized pitch on which the soccer (association football), hockey (field), rugby football, and lacrosse matches were played; platforms for wrestling and gymnastics were erected; and the archery competitions were held in the grass infield. The stadium, which became known as the White City because of the white plaster buildings in the adjoining Exhibition, was years ahead of its time and was used as a model for the stadium which was built in Berlin for the ill-fated 1916 Olympic Games. A unique feature of the London stadium was that spectators could watch athletics, cycling, gymnastics, swimming and wrestling all at the same time.

Ten miles of seating provided accommodation for 63,000 spectators in the grandstands with standing room for another 30,000 and everything was built with miraculous speed. The first foundation was laid by Lord and Lady Desborough on 2 August 1907, and work began under the supervision of Charles Perry, the London Athletic Club groundsman at Stamford Bridge; Perry had not only laid down the track at Athens in 1896 but also took charge at Stockholm in 1912 and Antwerp in 1920 and thus claimed the unique record of being responsible for four Olympic running tracks.

In addition to the Royal Box, five other boxes were placed in a prime position. The Franco-British Exhibition, the International Olympic Committee and the British Olympic Committee each had their own box as did the Comité d'Honneur which was made up of three representatives from each competing country. Alongside these privileged viewing areas was the press box and a separate area for the judges, both of which were open to the elements.

The more affluent and socially prominent spectators became members of the Imperial Sports Club which had been founded in February 1908 and which boasted a fine clubhouse, with direct access to the stadium, within the Exhibition grounds. With two large dining rooms, drawing, smoking, and waiting rooms, all of which were surrounded by a sheltered terrace, the clubhouse provided the privileged membership with everything they needed to feel at home and it was an ideal venue for the IOC to hold their meetings.

The area underneath the banked seating for spectators was fully utilized. There were 14 large dressing rooms for upwards of 3,000 competitors, separate rooms for the police and ambulance services and five temperance restaurants. According to the plans of the stadium there were no refreshment facilities for those spectators who were not of a temperate persuasion. Surrounding the whole area at ground level were 167 stands for the Sports Exhibition which was an appropriate adjunct to the main Franco-British Exhibition. This area, known as the Sportsmen's Parade, was 5,000 feet (1,500 meters) in length, and exhibits were divided into thirteen categories: angling & fishing, archery, athletics, cycling, fencing, games, gymnastics & physical culture, life saving, riding, rowing, shooting, swimming, and touring.

On 14 May 1908, less than one year after the first stone had been laid, the Franco-British Exhibition was formally opened by the Prince and Princess of Wales and on the same day, with Lord Desborough and other members of the Organizing Committee drawn up in front of the Royal Box, the Royal couple dedicated the adjoining stadium to International Sport. Before the Games began, ten meetings were held in the stadium, including the British championships for athletics, cycling, and swimming. These served mainly as rehearsals for the Games although the international fly and bait casting tournament held in the swimming pool on 9–10 July could hardly be considered as a rehearsal.

After the Games, Britain took a well deserved rest from Olympism and one of the tragedies of the reaction was that the magnificent stadium fell into disuse. The surrounding Exhibition buildings were demolished; the seating capacity of the sporting arena was reduced but no major meetings were held there for many years. In 1927 the newly formed Greyhound Racing Association took over the stadium and in 1932 a 440 yard cinder track replaced the old one-third of a mile circuit and the White City became the center of British athletics. Mindful of the history of the White City, the Greyhound Racing Association staged a "Dorando Marathon" for dogs each year and after the stadium closed the event was moved to the Wimbledon dog track where it is still an annual event. Apart from greyhound racing, such sports as speedway, boxing, soccer (association football), rugby football, American football, show jumping, and even cheetah racing were staged at the White City, and American evangelist Billy Graham once addressed a crowd of 65,000 in the stadium.

In 1971 the Amateur Athletic Association moved their championships to a new athletics center at Crystal Palace and this finally marked the end of what was once the finest stadium in the world. The last event at the White City Stadium was a greyhound race held at 10:15 P.M. (2215) on 22 September 1984, which was won by the blue brindle bitch Hastings Girl. Demolition work on the stadium began a few days later. The site is now the headquarters of BBC television and no trace of the stadium remains although, ironically, television films of the 1908 Games are still occasionally transmitted from the site.

The Olympic Program and Early Plans

In the area of organization, the 1908 Olympics were seminal Games. From an entry list of 2,666, the actual number of competitors from 21 countries was 2,022 (1,978 men; 44 women) and no organized sports gathering had ever before been faced with such large numbers of overseas visitors. The committee of the London Games did not have the experience of any comparable celebration on which to base their plans and, under the circumstances, they showed superb organizational skills from which many future Games were to benefit.

At their session at the Hague in 1907 the IOC gave their general approval to the arrangements being made by the British organizers and various specific points were resolved. The design of the medals to be awarded was left to the absolute discretion of the British committee, it was

agreed that the British colonies should have separate representation both at the Games and on the IOC and, significantly, that the judges at the Games should be British. A Greek motion that an International Jury of Appeal should be appointed was not carried.

A provisional program, based on the 1906 Games, was approved during the Hague session although some events originally scheduled to form part of the London Games were never held. Notable among these sports were motor racing, flying machines (including models), golf, and military (horse) riding.

An individual and team event was planned for golf in early June, with play to be at three leading courses in Kent, but this failed to materialize. The matter of the inclusion of military riding was deferred pending a report from the Swedish IOC member, Count Clarence von Rosen. Evidently, the report was not favorable as no equestrian events were held in 1908. Conversely, it should be noted that boxing was not one of the original sports but eventually found its way into the Olympic program. There was also talk of including cricket and bandy in the program but nothing came of these preliminary suggestions.

The organizing committee was also asked to promote competitions for architecture, literature, music, painting, and sculpture and although these events were never held, the rules which had been drawn up were used as the basis for the arts competitions at Stockholm in 1912.

The organizers, with the approval of the IOC, decided to stage the Games in two parts. The Summer Games, including the major part of the program, were to begin with the official Opening Ceremony on 13 July while the Autumn or Winter Games comprising association football (soccer), rugby football, hockey, lacrosse, figure skating, and, rather surprisingly, boxing, were held in October. This convenient division does, however, overlook the fact that a number of events had been held much earlier in the year. The 1908 Olympic competitions actually began on 27 April with the racquets tournament and then the jeu de paume (real tennis), covered court tennis, and polo events were all held before the Games were officially declared open in July.

Admission prices in the stadium ranged from sixpence to one guinea with the cost of admission being doubled for the Opening Ceremony. This tariff was generally considered to be too high for the average spectator and this factor, allied with the abysmal weather, resulted in some very disappointing audiences. On Thursday, 16 July, a cold rainy day when a not particularly attractive program was offered, it is estimated that there were no more than 4,000 people in the vast stadium. The press urged the organizers to reduce prices and the President of the City of London Athletic Association, Mr. George Pragnell, explained to Lord Desborough that his members, who were essentially "working class," not only found the prices beyond their means but because of their work commitments they could not get to the stadium during the day. They therefore asked that the prime events be held in the evening. They had no success with their second request but the organizers eventually bowed to the growing pressure and reduced most admission prices by half. By Saturday (18 July), although the weather was still overcast, it had stopped raining, prices had been reduced, and with the presence of the Queen the number of spectators rose spectacularly to 45,000. Attendance figures remained satisfactory throughout the second week and on the day of the marathon every ticket was sold and with £10 being offered for a seat, no matter where it was placed, there was a brisk trade in black market tickets outside the stadium.

With Olympic Villages still a thing of the future, the problem of accommodating almost 1,500 competitors from overseas and their accompanying officials was immense. Hundreds of booklets listing recommended small hotels and boarding houses were sent to governing bodies and competitors overseas and the overall arrangements were entrusted to the Polytechnic Institute. Most countries found the arrangements quite acceptable but the Americans chose to stay in the coastal town of Brighton, 53 miles south of London, and travel to the stadium daily.

Large numbers of copies of the rules and regulations for the various sports were printed in

the English, German and French language and after they had been approved by the IOC they were dispatched around the world.

An extensive program of hospitality was arranged for visiting competitors and officials and there was a special religious service at St. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday, 19 July. It was here that the Bishop of Central Pennsylvania, Ethelbert Talbot, preached "that the Games themselves are better than the race and the prize." These words, slightly adapted, are often erroneously attributed to Baron de Coubertin and form the basis for the Olympic Creed.

The Opening Ceremony

With little more than one week to go before the opening of the Games King Edward VII finally consented to appear at the Opening Ceremony and the stage was set for a grand State occasion. Traveling by horse-drawn carriage from Buckingham Palace, the King and Queen entered the stadium at 3:49 P.M.⁸ on Monday, 13 July. The royal children were in attendance and many members of the royal households of Europe were in the party together with numerous noblemen, statesmen, and high ranking officers from the armed forces. Also present were the ambassadors and representatives of all the competing countries together with other senior members of the diplomatic corps. The IOC members were presented to His Majesty by Baron de Coubertin.

After a fanfare from the trumpeters of the Life guards, who were stationed on the wrestling stage, Lord Desborough bowed to the King, and asked him, "Will your Majesty graciously declare the fourth Olympiad open?" With the words "I declare the Olympic Games of London open," the King began two weeks of competition and controversy in the stadium.

The band of the Grenadier guards then played the national anthem and the standard bearers of the teams, who were lined up in the center of the stadium, lowered their national ensigns in salute. The 18 nations then marched in a parade around the stadium and again saluted the King as they passed the royal box.

The Continental teams marched in alphabetical order with Austria leading the file and these were followed by the British Empire nations — Australasia, Canada, and South Africa, with Great Britain, as the host country, bringing up the rear. All teams, except for Finland, were headed by a standard bearer carrying their national flag. The Finns, still considered a part of Russia, were refused permission by the Russian officials to march under the Finnish flag, and they refused to march under the Russian flag, preferring to join the parade with only a standard bearer and no flag. The Games had started badly for the Finns and they were lucky to make the Opening Ceremony at all after the boat bringing them to England was stranded off the port of Hull with a defective boiler.

The Opening Ceremony was marred by several controversies involving the flags of the nations, including the problem with Finland and Russia. When lined up in the center field and on passing the royal box, all teams, with the notable exception of the Americans, observed the protocol of dipping their flag as a salute to the King. Although this is now one of the better-known stories from the Games the incident was never widely reported in the British press at the time even though the Americans failed to make the salute that was expected of them on *two* separate occasions. Due to an embarrassing administrative error, the flags of Sweden and the United States were not flown during the Opening Ceremony and, although the matter was quickly rectified, it got things off to a bad start particularly as far as the Americans were concerned. Matters were not helped by the fact that the flags of China and Japan, who were not even taking part in the Games, were flying in their appointed places. In charge of the arrangements for the display of national standards in the stadium was Mr. Imre Kiralfy, the Director-General of

the Franco-British Exhibition, who had a close affiliation with America after spending some years in New York where three of his sons were born. All three became United States citizens and one son, Edgar, was actually a sprinter on the 1908 U.S. Olympic team. It seems inconceivable that a man with such strong American connections would deliberately arrange for the Stars and Stripes not to be flown.

The Games of the IVth Olympiad—Glory and Controversy

After the ceremonies, the program began with the heats of the 1,500 meters track race, the heats of the men's 400 meters freestyle swimming race, and the tandem cycling event held on the opening day. Interspersed among these competitions were diving and gymnastic displays and a busy first day in the stadium closed with an exhibition bicycle polo match in which the Irish Bicycle Polo Association beat the Deutscher Radfahrerbund from Germany by three goals to one.

From 13 to 25 July, the main portion of the Olympic Games was conducted at the White City Stadium. The Games were marred by controversies and protests, mainly involving the Americans protesting against the behavior of the British officials, although no nations were immune to the contagion and protests from many countries were made. The greatest controversies occurred in three events — the tug-of-war, the 400 meters, and the marathon — and all were between the American team and the British officials. It has been conjectured that the animosity began at the outset, with the Opening Ceremony problems in which the American flag was not flown at the stadium, and the American flag bearer, Ralph Rose, then refused to dip the American flag to King Edward. We will discuss these three controversies briefly here, although full descriptions are found in the summaries of the events themselves. In addition, Appendix II is devoted completely to a detailed description of the many controversies, including contemporary newspaper opinions.

The tug-of-war preliminaries were scheduled for Friday, 17 July. After withdrawals there were only five teams entered and the only quarter-final match was to be between the American team and a British team representing the Liverpool police. The match was to be the best two of three pulls, but the Americans were thoroughly outmatched by the Liverpoolians in the first pull. They then refused to compete further, protesting that the police were wearing illegal footwear. The rules stated that spikes or other projections from the shoes were not permitted. The Liverpool Police wore what was standard footwear for them, with thick metal rims, which the Americans considered to embroach the rules. The subsequent American protest was disallowed, but they refused to pull further, and the Liverpool Police team advanced to the semi-final where they defeated Sweden, before losing in the final to another British team representing the London Police.

Of the three major protests, we basically agree with the decision of the British officials on the next two. We are slightly more ambivalent in the matter of the tug-of-war although it is difficult to be precise because pictures of the footwear have not survived in any source we could find. We suspect that the Liverpool team followed the letter of the law, but that they pushed the envelope of the rules somewhat.

The 400 meter controversy occurred in the final, originally held on 23 July (Thursday). The favorite was the British runner, Wyndham Halswelle, who was opposed by three Americans — John Carpenter, John Taylor, and William Robbins. Carpenter was leading going into the last turn, with Halswelle close behind. Entering the final straight, Halswelle moved outside Carpenter to pass him, and Carpenter then ran almost diagonally across the track to obstruct Halswelle, who pulled up somewhat. The tape at the finish was pulled down as the British officials

immediately noted the foul. The race was ordered to be re-run and Carpenter was, we feel, properly disqualified. American Olympic officials protested against this and refused to allow the other Americans to participate in the re-run of the final. Thus, Halswelle ran by himself to collect the Olympic gold medal.

The final major controversy occurred in the marathon race which was conducted on Friday, 24 July, starting at Windsor Castle and finishing in the White City Stadium. The leader entering the stadium was the tiny Italian candymaker, Dorando Pietri. But Pietri was spent and collapsed shortly after beginning his final lap around the track. He was helped to his feet by British officials, who were cheered on by the sympathetic British crowd. Pietri eventually collapsed four more times while rounding the track, but he was able to finally cross the finish line, although basically held up by the British officials. The next finisher was the American, Johnny Hayes, who finished relatively fresh and unaided. Initially, Pietri was declared the winner of the race, but the Americans protested that decision because of his receiving assistance. Pietri was correctly disqualified, and Hayes was eventually declared the marathon champion.

It is difficult at this distance to apportion the blame fairly for the strained relations which developed between the Americans and the British. During the two weeks when the main events were held at the stadium, the total American protests averaged almost one per day. This was undoubtedly an excessive number but the American anger was likely increased by the seemingly condescending manner with which their complaints were received. The British reserve was probably prompted by the aggressive manner in which James Edward Sullivan, Secretary of the American Olympic Committee, lodged the American complaints.

It is usually said that much of the animosity which developed between the Americans and the British teams can be attributed to the anti-English feeling among the Irish members of both teams, but this is a dangerous over-simplification. There is little evidence that the athletes themselves felt particularly strongly on what was, essentially, a political matter, and in a number of the disputes, notably the 400 meters final, no Irish athlete was involved. The U.S. officials saw things differently and Sullivan felt that, in order to consolidate his position in the sporting hierarchy at home, he felt that he must be seen as a dedicated team leader fighting for the rights of his charges. While the image he sought to convey was reported to his liking in the sensational newspapers the more respected and responsible journals took a quite different view of Sullivan's behavior in London.

Then, as now, tabloid-type newspapers would print a "story" regardless of the facts and Casper Whitney, the President of the American Olympic Committee and the influential editor of *Outing Magazine*, provided an interesting and informed viewpoint in a letter he sent to Lord Desborough on his return to New York.⁹ Whitney wrote "I want to tell you that we Americans understand the highly colored and sensational newspaper stories that correspondents have been sending over. We have in America the same fault-finding, suspicious and bickering class that you have in England, but we know how much stock to take of the output; and I suppose you (i.e., your kind) in England also know." In his letter to Desborough, Caspar Whitney also passed on his forthright views on the Olympic Movement in general. He referred to de Coubertin as a "well-meaning, fussy and incompetent little Frenchman" and on the question of national representation he said "... the IOC has members from Mexico, Peru, Russia and Turkey (Good Lord, think of it) and yet ignores Canada entirely."

Sullivan, the son of an Irish-born construction worker, left school at the age of 16 and took a variety of jobs as he set out to improve his lot in life. He wrote a column for the *New York Morning Journal* but his controversial writings failed to meet with the approval of his peers and the *Spirit of the Times* was moved to comment "Mr. J. E. Sullivan degrades modern journalism. He is a renegade Irishman, the purveyor of shameful and malicious falsehoods." An early supporter of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Sullivan used the AAU as his power base and after

being appointed Secretary in 1889 he was elected President in 1906. Undoubtedly the most powerful man in American sport at this time, he made as many enemies as he did friends but, most importantly, he remained in power. Sullivan's relationship with Coubertin fluctuated constantly but, even at the best of times, they were never really on friendly or intimate terms and once Sullivan realized that he had no chance of being invited to join the magic inner circle of the IOC, he set up a commission within the AAU to look into the possibility of forming a new IOC.¹⁰

Unfortunately, James Sullivan seemed to encourage, rather than try to restrain, the press in their sensational reporting and he made no effort to set the record straight, even when the competitors themselves pointed out that certain reports were simply not true, (e.g. swimmer Charles Daniels' denial that the 100 meters freestyle had been started before he was ready).¹¹ In his *Mémoires olympiques* Coubertin wrote, "I just could not understand Sullivan's attitude. He shared his team's frenzy and did nothing to try and calm them down."¹²

Perhaps the most telling insight into Sullivan's character came at a reception for the returning Olympic team at New York City Hall. Sullivan chose the occasion to parade a "British Lion" in chains and on a leash and considerable diplomatic skills were needed to prevent a major international incident from developing.

Whatever the reasons and whatever the rights and wrongs, a serious rift in Anglo-American sporting relationships developed. Under the editorship of Theodore Cook, a member of the British Olympic Council, the British Olympic Association published the pamphlet *A Reply to Certain Criticisms* which set out to answer the more serious of the American complaints. The publication adopted a strictly factual tone with signed statements from officials and competitors but confessed that it was at a loss to fully understand the complaint of James E. Sullivan that there were too many events at the London Games. Theodore Cook no doubt took pleasure in pointing out that there were 110 events on the program in London compared to the 390 events at St. Louis in 1904 when Sullivan himself was in charge of the arrangements. For the Americans, Gustavus Town Kirby, a staunch ally of Sullivan's, produced his own pamphlet which was addressed to the Intercollegiate American Amateur Athletic Association and a copy was mailed to every college newspaper in the United States. This did nothing to lower the tension and at their 1909 Convention the Amateur Athletic Union voted to break off relations with the Amateur Athletic Association in England. In practice, this did little to restrict competition between athletes of the two countries but it was not until 1922 that a letter of agreement was signed formally restoring amicable relationships between the two bodies.

Fortunately, the 1908 Games were considered a great success by every other country and, on their return home, their chief delegates wrote effusive letters of thanks to Lord Desborough expressing their appreciation of the hospitality and fair play they had encountered in London. Just one chief delegate failed to send such a letter and that, as one might expect, was James Edward Sullivan of the United States.

Despite all the difficulties between America and Britain, the 1908 Olympic Games were highlighted by some wonderful performances. Mel Sheppard won three gold medals on the track, winning the 800 meters, the 1,500 meters, and running on the winning U.S. medley relay team. Britain's Henry Taylor also won three golds in the stadium, but these were in the swimming pool, as he was victorious in the 400 freestyle, the 1,500 freestyle, and swimming the anchor leg on the 4 × 200 freestyle relay. Other outstanding individual performances were achieved by Ben Jones (GBR) who won two gold medals and one silver on the cycling track, Martin Sheridan (USA), who garnered two gold medals and one bronze in the weight-throwing events and the standing broad jump, and Oscar Swahn (SWE) who won three shooting medals, two gold and one bronze.

In the measured events, numerous world records were set. On the track, Melvin Sheppard's 1:52.8, set in winning the 800 meters, bettered the best mark on record for 800 meters or 880

yards, although it was probably slightly inferior to Charles Kilpatrick's world record of 1:53.4 for 880 yards. Both hurdle races saw new world records by American hurdlers, Forrest Smithson winning the 110 hurdles in 15.0 and Charles Bacon the 400 hurdles in 55.0. Both marks would become the initial world records for those distances at the establishment of the International Amateur Athletic Federation in 1912. George Larner (GBR) established a world record of 1-15:57.4 in winning the 10 mile walk and en route, also broke the 9-mile walking world record with 1-07:37.8.

In the classical discus throw, Martin Sheridan won the event with a new world mark of 124-8 (38.00), although the crowd did not realize it because the world record in the program was listed as the one for the freestyle discus throw. Sheridan led four finishers past the world record. Another world record set at the White City Stadium during the 1908 Olympic Games came in the 100 kilometer cycling event, which was won by Charles Bartlett in 2-41:48.6.

The swimming events saw the world record broken in all six events on the program, probably due to the quality of the pool. The records set were as follows: 100 meter freestyle-1:05.6 Charles Daniels (USA); 400 meter freestyle-5:36.8 Henry Taylor (GBR); 1,500 meter freestyle-22:48.4 Henry Taylor (GBR); 100 meter backstroke-1:24.6 Arno Bieberstein (GER); 200 meter breaststroke-3:09.2 Fred Holman (GBR); and 4 x 200 meter freestyle relay-10:55.6 by the Great Britain team of John Derbyshire, Paul Radmilovic, William Foster, and Henry Taylor. Thus Taylor not only won three gold medals in the swimming pool, but did so in world record time in each event.

In both 1900 and 1904, the Olympic Games were spread out over several months, as they were arranged to take advantage of their nexus with the World's Fairs held concurrently with those Olympics. In 1908, a somewhat similar situation existed, both with the Franco-British Exhibition, and the length of the Olympics. The events began in late April with the racquets tournament and ended over six months later.

But the bulk of the competition was conducted in July. The White City Stadium saw competition held from 13-25 July, save for Sunday, 19 July. During this period, spectators could watch track & field athletics, swimming, diving, water polo, cycling, wrestling, archery, gymnastics, tug-of-war, and even fencing, which was held in the periphery of the stadium. There were also events in July both before and after the stadium competitions. From 6-11 July, shooting and lawn tennis competitions were held, and rowing and yachting competition took place from 27-31 July, with one yachting event, the 12-meter, finished in Glasgow, Scotland on 11-13 August.

That an Olympic event in 1908 was held in Glasgow was quite unusual. In 1896 and 1906 all the Olympic events were held in the center of Athens or in the bay just off Athens, near Piraeus. In 1900 and 1904, the events were slightly more spread out, but with the exception of one yachting class in 1900 held at Le Havre, all the Olympic events in those years were held basically in the centers of Paris and St. Louis.

The 1908 "London" Olympic Games were really the first Olympics to begin the modern style of spreading the events around, so that not all were held in the host city proper. This trend really began just after the close of the stadium events, when the yachting events were held at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club in Ryde, on the Isle of Wight. The Isle of Wight is a small island off the southernmost coast of England, and the nearest large mainland town is Southampton. Olympic events were also held in the waters of Southampton as well, when the motorboat races were conducted there on 28-29 August. The 12-meter yacht racing events were moved to Glasgow because there were no foreign entries in the 12 meter class and both the British entries were racing on the River Clyde in Glasgow that summer. Finally, even the rowing competitions were held about 36 miles (58 km.) from central London at Henley-on-Thames.

The Closing and Awards Ceremony

Having officially opened the Games, it had been planned that King Edward would also preside over the awards ceremony which brought to a close the two weeks of activity in the stadium. But the King, angered and hurt by what he saw of the American behavior and the way they impugned the integrity of British officials, decided that he wanted nothing further to do with the Games. A brief announcement was made from Buckingham Palace stating "The King would not give the prizes, as had been planned, nor participate in the finish of the Games."

In the King's absence, the duty of presenting the prizes on Saturday, 28 July fell to Queen Alexandra and the ceremony began immediately after the medley relay race concluded the program in the stadium. The Queen awarded the gold medals. Silver medals were given out by the Duchess of Rutland, bronze medals by Catherine, Duchess of Westminster, and Lady Desborough presented the diplomas of merit and commemorative medals.

With the rowing and yachting events and the Autumn Games still to come, only 86 of the 110 events on the program had been decided but even so there was a formidable number of prizes to be presented. There were gold, silver, and bronze medals for the three place winners, each of whom also received a diploma, with the winners also getting a smaller diploma for presentation to their Club or Association. Diplomas of Merit were awarded to athletes who achieved a standard of excellence but failed to win a medal and a number of officials also received this award. Participants in the various demonstration events were each awarded a commemorative medal. For some sports, even more medals were awarded, and in the épée and sabre individual events after the customary gold and silver medals had been awarded to the winner and the runner-up all the other six finalists received a bronze medal.

This proliferation of awards meant that no less than 1,320 presentations had to be made. Separate tables with different categories of prizes were set out and prior to the arrival of the Queen, the silver medals were presented by the Duchess of Rutland, the bronze medals by the Duchess of Westminster, and the commemorative medals and merit certificates by Lady Desborough.

At 4:00 P.M. (1600) the Queen arrived to present the gold medals to the winners. As the band of the Grenadier Guards struck up "See, the Conquering Hero Comes" the newly-crowned Olympic champions advanced across the grass to receive their awards and each was also presented with a sprig of oak leaves from Windsor Forest tied with red, white and blue ribbons.

In view of the numbers involved, it is hardly surprising that not all the prize winners were able to be at the stadium for the ceremony. This prompted the British Olympic Council to announce that they would be prepared to accept duly authorized postal claims for the prizes which had not been collected.

In addition to the multitude of medals and diplomas, which remained the property of the recipients, 12 perpetual Challenge Cups or Trophies had been donated and these formed an impressive display on a separate table in front of the Queen.

The Brunetta Trophy for the men's 1,500 meters swimming race had not arrived in time for the prize giving ceremony but the Queen presented The Hurlingham Trophy for the winners of the polo tournament; The International Cup for Fencing for the épée team event; The Prince of Wales Cup for the 100 kilometer cycling race; Lord Westbury's Cup for individual clay pigeon shooting; The Greek Trophy for the marathon race; The Prague Trophy for individual gymnastics; The Montgomerie Statuette for the discus throw and The Goldsmith's Trophy for the winner of the Greco-Roman heavyweight wrestling event. Three additional events, for which trophies had been donated, had not yet taken place and the Brunetta Statuette for the rowing eights, The Football Association Trophy and The French President's Vase for yachting were all presented at a later date. Count Eugene Brunetta d'Usseux, the IOC member for Italy,

gave trophies for both swimming and rowing, one of which was originally intended to be awarded to the “Champion Nation” but the idea was abandoned half-way through the Games when it was realized that a satisfactory points scoring system could not be agreed on. Except for polo and the 100 kilometers cycling event, which were not on the program in 1912, all the other perpetual trophies were presented for a second time in Stockholm.

In contrast to the previous two weeks, the prize ceremony was a thoroughly happy occasion with many pleasant interludes. Amid cheers and laughter Lord Desborough was presented with his commemorative medal by his wife, and as Charles Kingsbury, the winner of the 20 kilometers cycling race, had left for the world championships in Leipzig, the Queen presented his gold medal to his infant daughter. Dorando Pietri was the center of attention and seemed fully recovered from his trials of the previous day. The Italian was feted and Queen Alexandra presented him with a trophy which was the exact replica of the one given to the marathon winner, Johnny Hayes. As there had been no time to get the cup engraved it was presented with an accompanying card in the Queen’s own hand bearing the words “For P. Dorando, In Remembrance of the Marathon Race from Windsor to the Stadium, From Queen Alexandra.” The eventual winner of the marathon, Johnny Hayes, also received his due share of attention, and after being presented with the handsome Marathon Trophy donated by the Greek Olympic Committee he was carried around the stadium, shoulder-high on a table, by his teammates.

Summary and Retrospective

In the cool mist of a British autumn afternoon, on 31 October, slightly more than six months after they had begun in April 1908, the London Olympic Games finally ended when the umpire blew his whistle to end the hockey final between England and Ireland. The time had come to assess the success — or failure — of the Games.

There was no true closing ceremony at the end of October. But that night, the final official function of the 1908 Olympics occurred when a banquet was given at Holborn Restaurant for the Olympic officials and any remaining competitors. It was chaired by Lord Desborough, President of the British Olympic Council, and the attendance was about 450. A description of the event is found in *The Times*¹³:

The company, numbering about 450, included Lord Selby, Lord Kinnaird, Count Brunetta d’Usseaux, the Mexican Minister, Sir John Cockburn, Mr. Hayes Fisher, the Rev. R. S. de Courcy Laffan, Sir H. Mackworth Praed, Captain Muirhead Collins, Mr. T. A. Coghlan, Mr. Imre Kiralfy, Mr. C. Freeman Murray (secretary, British Empire League), and the Mayors of Oxford, Windsor, Reading, High Wycombe, Maidenhead, and Hammersmith.

After the toast of “The King and Foreign Rulers,”

LORD DESBOROUGH proposed “The Olympic Games.” He said that both the summer and the winter games of 1908 had been a great success. They had brought together from nearly every civilized country a trained body of athletes who had fought amicably in, he thought, the finest arena ever constructed for the purpose in the history of athletics. (Hear, hear.) In the course of the games, 3,000 picked athletes had represented 21 different countries and there had been 800 officials engaged in the management of the games. The programme had been criticized, to some extent, but it began to be drawn up two years ago, and was submitted to the International Olympic Committee at The Hague, and discussed in its entirety for a week. It was, therefore, a programme which received the endorsement of all the

distinguished gentlemen belonging to different countries who formed the great International Committee which, under Baron Pierre de Coubertin, started and had since carried on the Olympic Games. (Cheers.) He thought these games had completed two great objects in the sphere of athletics. They had brought foreign athletes of various countries into close comradeship with each other, and they had also made them realize that they must set aside their local jealousies and enter as teams representing their particular countries as a whole. (Hear, hear.) Without the hearty co-operation of the great athletic associations which governed sports in this country it would have been impossible to carry out the programme. Having expressed regret at the absence of Mr. Eugen Sandow, who, he reminded them, contributed £1,500 to the fund for the entertainment of the competitors, he said they were greatly indebted to the executive of the Franco-British Exhibition and to Mr. Imre Kiralfy, the designer for the splendid building in which the sports took place. (Cheers.) He spoke of the successes of the different countries in the winter games, and said that France, Germany, Sweden, the United States, Australia, and South Africa were represented at the dinner. (Cheers.)

Mr. E. B. DENNEY, replying on behalf of the French competitors, said that he and his friends had been surprised at the results obtained in organizing such an enormous athletic meeting. (Cheers.)

Mr. SALCHOW, on behalf of Sweden, said that his countrymen were more than satisfied with the splendid arrangements made, especially in connexion with the skating competition.

Mr. COGHLAN (Agent-General for South Australia) said that the people of Australia were athletes. They did not pay their shillings to see others contend in the arena, but contended themselves, with the result that they produced the greatest scullers in the world, and in England's own game, cricket, they were well able to hold their own. (Cheers.)

LORD DESBOROUGH, on behalf of the members of the British Olympic Council, then presented to the Rev. R. S. de Courcy Laffan a specially prepared autograph album and a brass lantern clock in recognition of the kindly, tactful, and whole-hearted manner in which he had discharged the arduous duties of hon. secretary. The clock was made about 1647 by Thomas Wheeler, who was an apprentice of the Clockmakers' Company, in the parish of Walbrook, in which Mr. Laffan's church is situated.

The REV. R. S. DE COURCY LAFFAN, in acknowledging the gifts, said that but for Lord Desborough's prestige as a sportsman it would have been practically impossible to have held the Olympic Games in London at all. The Olympic movement was one with great ideals—the perfect physical development of a new humanity, the spreading all over the world of the spirit of sport, which was the spirit of the truest chivalry, and the drawing together of all the nations of the earth in the bonds of peace and mutual amity. They were at the beginning of one of those great world movements which was going to develop long after all present had passed away. (Cheers.)

Mr. HAYES FISHER next made a presentation of an illuminated address to Lord Desborough in appreciation of the zeal and untiring energy and good will displayed by him as president of the British Olympic Council. At the top of the address appears the Olympic badge: half-way down on each side, surrounded by laurel leaves, are reproductions of the obverse and reverse of the commemorative medal, while at the lower corners are the obverse and reverse of the prize medal. Between these are shown

the arms of Lord Desborough. A suitable inscription is enclosed in a border of red roses, symbolical of England, among which are entwined the names of the 21 countries which have taken part in the Fourth International Olympiad.

LORD DESBOROUGH expressed his warm thanks for the presentation, and testified to the valuable assistance given by every member of the British Olympic Council. He also alluded to the splendid personal efforts of Lord Northcliffe, who, he said, came to their help at a critical time and secured the success of the hospitality fund. (Cheers.) He afterwards proposed "The Fifth International Olympiad."

COUNT BRUNETTA D'USSEAU (hon. secretary, International Olympic Committee) responded to the toast. Before separating the whole company joined enthusiastically in singing "Auld Lang Syne," followed by "God Save the King."

And thus it ended — hardly with a bang, though not exactly a whimper, either. The London Games brought the Olympic Movement back onto the track of Coubertin's ideal. Had the debacles of the 1900 and 1904 Games been repeated, the Olympic Movement probably would not have survived or, at best, deteriorated into little more than a minor sporting organization with little influence. The Games of Paris (1900) and St. Louis (1904) suffered from the overbearing influence of the World's Fairs with which they were associated. Although the London Games also had a strong affiliation with a major exhibition, Lord Desborough and his colleagues on the British Olympic Council deserve the utmost credit for the way in which they kept the Franco-British Exhibition on an equal footing with the Olympic Games and never allowed it to assume a dominant role in what was essentially a joint venture.

In retrospect, it is clear that the London Olympic Games helped to resurrect the flagging Olympic Movement, after the failures in Paris and St. Louis. Many innovations introduced in London were developed and refined for use at future Games and lessons were also learned from the mistakes made in London. Disputes over judging in certain sports had the ultimate advantage of bringing about the introduction of international judges. Similarly, the unfortunate incident in the 400 meters resulted in the race being run in lanes in Stockholm. Improvements such as the provision of a planting hole and a soft landing area for the pole vaulters and a stop-board for the shot putters were also introduced in Stockholm but these were due more to normal technical evolution within the sport rather than to any specific lessons learned from the London Games.

The ever-present problem of amateurism was again in evidence. The organizers were guided by the General Regulations approved at the IOC Congress at the Hague in 1907 but the resolution was loosely worded and there was plenty of scope for misunderstanding. In essence, the rules drawn up at the Hague placed the onus of establishing amateur credentials on the governing bodies of different sports in the participating countries. The most publicized amateur dispute arose over the Canadian marathon runner, Tom Longboat, who was considered an amateur in his native Canada but was classified as a professional across the border in America. The organizers had no alternative but to accept the assurances of the Canadians but the whole situation was far from satisfactory. The complexity of the amateur problem was underlined in the *Official Report* which listed separate definitions of an amateur for seventeen different sports in England alone, and additional interpretations were given for sports in Scotland and Ireland.

After the Games, the English journal *The Sporting Life* took an interest in the subject of amateurism and, after collecting information from around the world, they turned over a file of 150 documents to the IOC. Coubertin wasn't particularly interested in the findings and passed the file on to Baron Bertier de Sauvigny who prepared an exhaustive report for the 1909 session in Berlin which, in turn, decided to send out a questionnaire to all the interested parties. Coubertin felt that the issue was getting too complicated and that every possible situation could not

be covered by legislation. He maintained, perhaps naively, that the concept of amateurism could be adequately covered in a few paragraphs.

A major step was taken towards clarifying, in an Olympic context, the definition of a “country” and a “sovereign state.” At previous Games any members of athletic clubs were permitted to represent the country where that club was domiciled, irrespective of their own nationality, but for the 1908 Games more stringent rules were introduced. A complex set of new regulations permitted British Dominions to enter separate teams and countries such as Finland could enter separately from Russia. The IOC was well aware that the decision they had reached was no more than a compromise and that they would have to review their position if, for example, Bavaria or Saxony made representations to compete as separate entities.

Another positive factor to come out of the London Games was the formation of an International Swimming Federation, but on the debit side the Games marked the first significant exodus to the professional ranks by successful Olympians.

Still, despite all the acrimony for which they are known, the 1908 Olympic games presaged the bright future of the Olympic Movement. Perhaps the truest summary of the early years of the Olympic Movement, exemplified by the 1908 Olympic Games, the finest held to that date, was noted by the Rev. de Courcy Laffan at the banquet on the night the 1908 Olympic Games ended, “The Olympic movement was one with great ideals — the perfect physical development of a new humanity, the spreading all over the world of the spirit of sport, which was the spirit of the truest chivalry, and the drawing together of all the nations of the earth in the bonds of peace and mutual amity. They were at the beginning of one of those great world movements which was going to develop long after all present had passed away.”¹⁴

NOTES

1. Writing in the April-July 1902 issue of *Revue Olympique* Coubertin refers to a National Olympic Committee of Great Britain. There was certainly no formally constituted body at the time and he was in all probability referring to the group of individuals who founded the British Olympic Association three years later.

2. Background information from Giuseppe Odello.

3. Coub2, p. 97.

4. Cook, Theodore Andrea. *Cruise of the Branwen*.

5. Bailey, Steve. “A Noble Ally and Olympic Disciple: The Reverend Robert S. de Courcy Laffan, Coubertin’s ‘Man’ in England,” *Olympika*, VI: 51–64; 1997.

6. Jeens C. “London 1908: The Franco-British Exhibition.” In: Findling/Pelle.

7. Most of our facts concerning the fund raising efforts are contained in the OR, in various pages near the introduction.

8. The time is usually listed as 3:30 P.M., but *NYHP* carefully described the opening ceremony, noting, “At twelve minutes to four o’clock, the Grenadier Guards’ band, resplendent in scarlet, struck up ‘God Save the King,’ and the gathering arose and uncovered and a minute later their Majesties made their appearance.”

9. The letter dated 31 July 1908 is held in the Desborough files at the Hertford County Record Office, England.

10. *The International Journal of the History of Sport*. Vol. 11(3), (December 1994.)

11. *ARCC*, p. 12.

12. Coub2, p. 57.

13. *Times*, 2 November 1908, p. 17.

14. *Ibid.*, p. 17.

1908 Celebrated in London Under the Patronage of His Most Gracious King Edward VII and by the Sanction of the International Olympic Committee. In addition, we have tried to expand on the results by giving complete statistics for the Games, as much background information as a student of the Olympics will need to understand the political milieu, and in particular, we have tried to cover the controversies more completely than previous works have.

Finally, please note that students of Olympic history will not find the 1908 report or any of the early reports with ease. Copies are rare and few libraries have them. The 1908 report does show up for sale in certain auctions of Olympic memorabilia from time to time, but expect to pay at least \$1,500 (American) or £1,000 (British).

The study of Olympic history has undergone a renaissance in the past decade, partly sparked by the formation of the International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH). ISOH was formed on 5 December 1991 at a meeting at a pub called the Duke of Clarence in the Kensington section of London. Both Mallon and Buchanan were present, were founding members, and have served as officers since its inception. In particular, Ian Buchanan has been the group's only president to date.

We would like to thank the various members of ISOH, many of whom have helped us with this project. Notably, we give very special thanks to another founding member, David Wal-lechinsky (United States), who provided us with an unusual set of newspaper clippings he found in the archives of the British Olympic Association. This set contained clippings from many British and American papers in 1908 and was invaluable in our research.

We also give thanks to the following for helping answer specific question relating to the topic of this book: Peter Diamond (United States), Hardy Fink (Canada — Gymnastics), Josef Goehler (Germany — Gymnastics), Harry Gordon (Australia), Hubert Hamacher (Germany), Paul Jenes (Australia), Rupert Kaiser (Germany), Ove Karlsson (Sweden), Jiří Kössl (CZE), Hans Larsen (Denmark), Karl Lennartz (Germany), Alan Little (Great Britain — Tennis), John Lucas (United States), Jos Luypaers (Belgium), Bill McNulty (Canada), Giuseppe “Beppe” Odello (Italy), Ted Radcliffe (Canada), Ralf Regnitter (Germany), Jonathan Rosenthal (Great Britain), Daniel Schamps (France), Markku Siukonen (Finland), Gabriel Szabó (Hungary), Magne Teigen (Norway), Floris J. G. Van Der Merwe (RSA), Lewis Waller (Canada — Gymnastics), and Ture Widlund (Sweden).

Naturally we both give thanks to our wives, Karen Mallon and Jeanne Buchanan, for putting up with this crazy “hobby” of ours.

Bill Mallon
Durham, North Carolina
October 1998

Ian Buchanan
Burgh Next Aylsham, England
October 1998

Summary and Statistics

<i>Dates:</i>	27 April–31 October 1908. ^{1*}
<i>Site:</i>	London, England, United Kingdom
<i>Candidate Cities:</i>	Berlin, Germany; Milan, Italy; Rome, Italy (Rome was originally selected but the site was later moved to London)
<i>Official Opening By:</i>	King Edward VII
<i>Number of Countries Competing:</i>	23 ² [23 Men — 3 Women]
<i>Number of Athletes Competing:</i>	2,023 [1,979 Men — 44 Women]
<i>Number of Sports:</i>	23 [23 Men — 5 Women]
<i>Number of Events:</i>	110 [103 Men — 4 Women — 3 Mixed]

Members of the International Olympic Committee in 1908³ [36] ***(years on IOC in brackets)***

<i>President:</i>	Pierre Frédy, Baron Pierre de Coubertin [1894–1925]
<i>Secretary-General:</i>	Count Eugenio Brunetta d’Usseaux [1897–1919]
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Ernst Callot [1894–1913]
Argentina	Manuel Quintana [1907–1910]
Australia	Richard Coombes [1905–1932]
Austria	Prince Alexander von Solms Braunfels [1905–1909]
Belgium	Count Henri de Baillet-Latour [1903–1942]
Bohemia	Dr. Jiří Stanislav Guth-Jarkovský [1894–1943]
Bulgaria	Dimitry Tzokov [1906–1913]
Denmark	Torben Grut [1906–1912]
Finland	Baron Reinhold Felix von Willebrand [13 July 1908–1919] ⁴
France	Pierre Frédy, Baron Pierre de Coubertin [1894–1925] Ernst Callot [1894–1913] Henri Hébrard de Villeneuve [1900–1911]

^{*}See Notes on pages 36–38.

	Count Albert de Bertier de Sauvigny [1904–1920]
Germany	Karl August Willibald Gebhardt [1896–1909] Count Julius Caesar Karl Oskar Erdmann von Wartensleben [1903–1914]
	Count Egbert Hoyer von der Asseburg [1905–1909]
Great Britain	Reverend Robert Stuart de Courcy Laffan [1897–1927] William Henry Grenfell, Lord Desborough of Taplow [1906–1913]
Greece	Count Alexandros Merkati [1897–1925]
Hungary	Count Géza Andrássy [1907–1938]
Italy	Count Eugenio Brunetta d’Usseaux [1897–1919] Prince Scipion Borghese [1908–1909]
Mexico	Miguel de Beistegui [1901–1931]
Monaco	Count Albert Gautier Vignal [1908–1939]
The Netherlands	Baron Frederik Willem Christiaan Hendrik van Tuyll van Serooskerken [1898–1924]
Norway	Thomas Heftye [1907–1908] ⁵ Captain Johan Tidemann Sverre [1908–1927] ⁶
Peru	Carlos F. de Candamo [1903–1922]
Portugal	Duke Antonio de Lancastre [1906–1912]
Russia	Count Nikolao Ribaupierre [1900–1916] Prince Simon Andreyevich Trubetsky [1908–1910]
Spain	Count Antonio Gonzalo Mejorada del Campo, Marquis de Villamejor [1902–1921]
Sweden	Colonel Viktor Gustaf Balck [1894–1921] Count Carl Clarence von Rosen [1900–1948]
Switzerland	Baron Godefroy de Blonay [1899–1937]
United States	Professor William Milligan Sloane [1894–1924] James Hazen Hyde [1903–1908]

Co-opted in 1908 After the Olympic Games Ended

Romania	Gheorghe A. Plagino [1908–1949] ⁷
Turkey	Selim Sirri Bey Tarcan [1908–1920] ⁸
United States	Allison Vincent Armour [1908–1920] ⁹

Council of the British Olympic Association, 1908

<i>Chairman:</i>	The Right Honorable Lord Desborough of Taplow
<i>Honorary Secretary:</i>	The Reverend Robert Stuart de Courcy Laffan
<i>Assistant Secretary:</i>	Captain F. Whitworth Jones
<i>Members:</i>	The Right Honorable Lord Montagu of Beaulieu (Automobile Club) Major General Right Honorable Lord Cheylesmore (Chairman of Council, National Rifle Association) Sir Lees Knowles (Ex-President, Cambridge University Athletic Club) Francis Philip Armstrong, Esquire (Chairman, Motor Yacht Club) Henry Benjamin, Esquire (Ex-President, Amateur Swimming Association) Edwin Anthony Biedermann, Esquire (Honorary Secretary, Tennis and Racquets Association)

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 T. W. J. Britten, Esquire (Honorary Treasurer, National Cyclists' Union)
 Michael J. Bulger, Esquire, M.D. (Irish Amateur Athletic Association)
 Guy M. Campbell, Esquire (F.R.G.S.)
 Theodore Andrea Cook, Esquire (F.S.A., Amateur Fencing Association)
 Lieutenant Colonel C. R. Crosse (Secretary, National Rifle Association)
 John H. Douglas, Esquire (President, Amateur Boxing Association)
 David Scott Duncan (Honorary Secretary, Scottish Amateur Athletic Association)
 William Hayes Fisher, Esquire (President, National Skating Association)
 Percy L. Fisher, Esquire (Honorary Secretary, Amateur Athletic Association)
 Major Francis Egerton Green (Hurlingham Club)
 Reginald Claude M. Gillett Gridley, Esquire (Honorary Secretary, Amateur Rowing Association)
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 George Rowland Hill, Esquire (Past President, Rugby Football Union)
 Captain Alfred Hutton (F.S.A., President, Amateur Fencing Association)
 W. J. Leighton, Esquire, M.B. (Vice-President, Irish Amateur Swimming Association)
 Edward Lawrence Levy, Esquire (Honorary Secretary, Amateur Gymnastics Association)
 George Richmond Mewburn, Esquire (Honorary Secretary, Lawn Tennis Association)
 Colonel G. M. Onslow (National Physical Recreation Society)
 E. J. O'Reilly, Esquire (Irish Cyclists' Association)
 William Ryder Richardson, Esquire (Honorary Secretary, Amateur Golf Championship Committee)
 George Stuart Robertson, Esquire (British Representative Juror at the Olympic Games of Athens, 1906)
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 Edgar Morris Wood Syers, Esquire (Honorary Secretary, Figure Skating Club)
 Henry Moncrief Tennent, Esquire (Honorary Secretary, Hockey Association)
 Frederick Joseph Wall, Esquire (F.C.I.S., Secretary, Football Association)
 Colonel Henry Walrond (Honorary Secretary, Royal Toxophilite Society)

Comité d'Honneur

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	William Hill
	Charles Campbell

Austria	Dr. Gustav Magy H. Robert Deutsch Felix Graf
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Italy	Marquis Compans de Brichanteau Marquis Charles Collobrini Prince Scipion Borghese
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Norway	Captain Jacob P. Grøttum Anton A. Frisch Captain Jean Louis Adolph Bentzen
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South Africa	Harry Sidney Howard Farrer Gustov Imroth J. B. Reynolds

	J. P. Taylor
Sweden	Johannes Sigfrid Edström Bernhard Fredrik Burman Fred Löwenadler
Switzerland	Walther de Bonstetten Marcel Guinand Maxime de Stoutz
United States	James Edward Sullivan Bartow Sumner Weeks Gustavus Town Kirby General James Andrew Drain

Flag Bearers at the Opening Ceremonies¹⁰
(18 nations¹¹; 11 bearers known)

Austria	not known
Belgium	not known
Bohemia	Miroslav Šusterka [Athletics]
Denmark	Aage Vilhelm Holm [Swimming]
France	not known ¹²
Germany	Wilhelm Kaufmann [Gymnastics]
Greece	not known ¹³
The Netherlands	not known ¹⁴
Hungary	István Mudin [Athletics]
Italy	not known ¹⁵
Norway	Oskar Wilhelm Bye [Gymnastics]
Sweden	Erik Granfelt [Gymnastics]
Finland	Bruno W. Zilliacus ¹⁶ [Athletics]
United States	Ralph Rose [Athletics]
South Africa	Douglas Stupart ¹⁷
Canada	not known ¹⁸
Australasia	Henry St. Aubyn Murray (New Zealand) [Athletics]
Great Britain	John Edward Kynaston Studd [Official]
Argentina	did not march in the opening ceremony
Iceland	did not march in the opening ceremony ¹⁹
Russia	did not march in the opening ceremony ²⁰
Switzerland	did not march in the opening ceremony

Attendance and Weather at the White City Stadium²¹

13 July (Monday)	30,000	Windy, cool, drizzling rain
14 July (Tuesday)	18,000	Cold, rain all day
15 July (Wednesday)	15,000	Drizzling rain all day
16 July (Thursday)	4,000	Cold, rain all day
17 July (Friday)	15,000	Cool rain and windy in A.M., clearing in P.M.
18 July (Saturday)	45,000	Drizzling rain in A.M., sunny in P.M.

19 July (Sunday)	—	Non-competition day
20 July (Monday)	30,000	Gloomy with threatening rain
21 July (Tuesday)	50,000	Warm and sunny
22 July (Wednesday)	45,000	Ideal summer weather
23 July (Thursday)	60,000	Warm and sunny
24 July (Friday)	80,000	Warm (78° F. [26° C.]), calm, sunny, and dry
25 July (Saturday)	60,000	Bright and warm

Competition Sites²²

Archery	White City Stadium, Shepherd's Bush, London
Athletics	White City Stadium, Shepherd's Bush, London
Boxing	Northampton Institute, Clerkenwell, London
Cycling	White City Stadium, Shepherd's Bush, London
Diving	White City Stadium, Shepherd's Bush, London
Fencing	Fencing Grounds on the periphery of the White City Stadium, Shepherd's Bush, London
Figure Skating	Prince's Skating Club, Knightsbridge, London
Football (Soccer)	White City Stadium, Shepherd's Bush, London
Gymnastics	White City Stadium, Shepherd's Bush, London
Hockey (Field)	White City Stadium, Shepherd's Bush, London
Jeu de Paume	Queen's Club, West Kensington, London
Lacrosse	White City Stadium, Shepherd's Bush, London
Motorboating	Southampton Water, Southampton, Southern Coast of England
Polo	Hurlingham Polo Grounds, London
Racquets	Queen's Club, West Kensington, London
Rowing & Sculling	Henley-on-Thames
Rugby Football	White City Stadium, Shepherd's Bush, London
Shooting	Bisley Rifle Range (rifle, pistol, and running deer shooting) Uxendon School Shooting Club (trap shooting)
Swimming	White City Stadium, Shepherd's Bush, London
Tennis (Lawn)	All-England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club (Wimbledon), London
Tennis (Indoor)	Queen's Club, West Kensington, London
Tug-of-War	White City Stadium, Shepherd's Bush, London
Water Polo	White City Stadium, Shepherd's Bush, London
Wrestling	White City Stadium, Shepherd's Bush, London
Yachting	Royal Victoria Yacht Club, Ryde, Isle of Wight Royal Clyde Yacht Club, Hunter's Quay, Glasgow, Scotland

SUMMARY STATISTICS

1908 Olympic Games — Medals Won by Countries

	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>	<i>Medals</i>
United Kingdom ²³	56	51	39	146
United States	23	12	12	47

	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>	<i>Medals</i>
Sweden	8	6	11	25
France	5	5	9	19
Canada	3	3	10	16
Germany	3	5	5	13
Hungary	3	4	2	9
Norway	2	3	3	8
Belgium	1	5	2	8
Finland	1	1	3	5
Denmark	–	2	3	5
Italy	2	2	–	4
Australia	1	2	1	4
Greece	–	3	–	3
Russia	1	2	–	3
South Africa	1	1	–	2
The Netherlands	–	–	2	2
Bohemia	–	–	2	2
New Zealand	–	–	1	1
Austria	–	–	1	1
Totals (110 events)	110	107	106	323
Great Britain/England	54	46	36	136 ²⁴
Ireland	2	5	1	8 ²⁵
Scotland	–	–	1	1 ²⁶
Wales	–	–	1	1 ²⁷

Note: *No second/third in 400 meters (athletics—men); three seconds/no third in high jump (athletics—men); two firsts/no second/three thirds in pole vault (athletics—men); two seconds/no third in standing high jump (athletics—men); no medals in match sprint (cycling); two thirds in springboard diving; two thirds in hockey (field); no third in lacrosse; no second/third in class A motorboating; no second/third in class B motorboating; no second/third in class C motorboating; two seconds/no third in polo; two thirds in men's singles racquets; two thirds in single sculls (rowing); two thirds in pairs without coxswain (rowing); two thirds in fours without coxswain (rowing); two thirds in eights (rowing); no third in rugby football; no third in running deer, single shot, team shooting; no second/third in 7 meter class (yachting); and no third in 12 meter class (yachting).*

Most Medals (2 or more) [65: 64 Men, 1 Woman]

<i>Men</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>	<i>Medals</i>
Melvin Sheppard (USA-ATH)	3	–	–	3
Henry Taylor (GBR-SWI)	3	–	–	3 [2]
Benjamin Jones (GBR-CYC)	2	1	–	3 [3]
Martin Sheridan (USA-ATH)	2	–	1	3
Oscar Gomer Swahn (SWE-SHO)	2	–	1	3 [5]
Major Josiah Ritchie (GBR/IRL-TEN)	1	1	1	3 [6]
Thomas “Ted” Ranken (GBR-SHO)	–	3	–	3 [7]
Gaston Alibert (FRA-FEN)	2	–	–	2

<i>Men</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>	<i>Medals</i>
Raymond Ewry (USA-ATH)	2	–	–	2
Capt. John Field-Richards (GBR-MTB)	2	–	–	2 [10]
Jenő Fuchs (HUN-FEN)	2	–	–	2
Arthur “Wentworth” Gore (GBR-TEN)	2	–	–	2
Albert Helgerud (NOR-SHO)	2	–	–	2
Clarence Kingsbury (GBR-CYC)	2	–	–	2
George Larner (GBR-ATH)	2	–	–	2
Eric Lemming (SWE-ATH)	2	–	–	2
Paul Radmilovic (GBR-SWI/WAP)	2	–	–	2
Bernard Redwood (GBR-MTB)	2	–	–	2
Isaac Thornycroft (GBR-MTB)	2	–	–	2 [19]
Kellogg Casey (USA-SHO)	1	1	–	2 [20]
Walter Ewing (CAN-SHO)	1	1	–	2
Reginald Fenning (GBR-ROW)	1	1	–	2
Harry Humby (GBR-SHO)	1	1	–	2
Alexandre Lippmann (FRA-FEN)	1	1	–	2
Maurice Matthews (GBR-SHO)	1	1	–	2
George de Relwyskow (GBR-WRE)	1	1	–	2
Arthur Robertson (GBR-ATH)	1	1	–	2
Maurice Schilles (FRA-CYC)	1	1	–	2
Gordon Thomson (GBR-ROW)	1	1	–	2
Paul Van Asbroeck (BEL-SHO)	1	1	–	2 [30]
Edward Amooore (GBR-SHO)	1	–	1	2
John Jacob Astor (GBR-RAQ)	1	–	1	2
André Auffray (FRA-CYC)	1	–	1	2
Edward Barrett (GBR/IRL-TOW/WRE)	1	–	1	2
Nathaniel Cartmell (USA-ATH)	1	–	1	2
Charles Daniels (USA-SWI)	1	–	1	2
James Gorman (USA-SHO)	1	–	1	2
Robert Kerr (CAN-ATH)	1	–	1	2
Alexander Maunder (GBR-SHO)	1	–	1	2
Evan Noel (GBR-RAQ)	1	–	1	2 [40]
Eugène Olivier (FRA-FEN)	1	–	1	2
Ole Sæther (NOR-SHO)	1	–	1	2 [42]
George Beattie (CAN-SHO)	–	2	–	2
George Caridia (GBR-TEN)	–	2	–	2
Zoltán von Halmay (HUN-SWI)	–	2	–	2
Réginald Storms (BEL-SHO)	–	2	–	2
Konstantin Tsiklitis (GRE-ATH)	–	2	–	2
Ernest Webb (GBR-ATH)	–	2	–	2 [48]
Frank Beaurepaire (AUS-SWI)	–	1	1	2
Hanns Braun (GER-ATH)	–	1	1	2 [50]
John Eisele (USA-ATH)	–	1	1	2
Walter Ellicott (GBR-SHO)	–	1	1	2
John Garrells (USA-ATH)	–	1	1	2
Arne Halse (NOR-ATH)	–	1	1	2
Marquis “Bill” Horr (USA-ATH)	–	1	1	2

<i>Men</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>	<i>Medals</i>
Henry Leaf (GBR-RAQ)	–	1	1	2
Karl Neumer (GER-CYC)	–	1	1	2 [57]
Gordon Balfour (CAN-ROW)	–	–	2	2
Becher Gale (CAN-ROW)	–	–	2	2
Vilém Goppold von Lobsdorf (BOH-FEN)	–	–	2	2 [60]
Pontus Hanson (SWE-SWI/WAP)	–	–	2	2
Harald “Julie” Julin (SWE-SWI/WAP)	–	–	2	2
Charles Riddy (CAN-ROW)	–	–	2	2
Geoffrey Taylor (CAN-ROW)	–	–	2	2 [64]
<i>Woman</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>	<i>Medals</i>
Florence “Madge” Syers (GBR-FSK)	1	–	1	2 [1]

Most Gold Medals (2 or more) [17:17 Men, 0 Women]

<i>Men</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>	<i>Medals</i>
Melvin Sheppard (USA-ATH)	3	–	–	3
Henry Taylor (GBR-SWI)	3	–	–	3 [2]
Benjamin Jones (GBR-CYC)	2	1	–	3 [3]
Martin Sheridan (USA-ATH)	2	–	1	3
Oscar Gomer Swahn (SWE-SHO)	2	–	1	3 [5]
Gaston Alibert (FRA-FEN)	2	–	–	2
Raymond Ewry (USA-ATH)	2	–	–	2
Capt. John Field-Richards (GBR-MTB)	2	–	–	2
Jenő Fuchs (HUN-FEN)	2	–	–	2
Arthur “Wentworth” Gore (GBR-TEN)	2	–	–	2 [10]
Albert Helgerud (NOR-SHO)	2	–	–	2
Clarence Kingsbury (GBR-CYC)	2	–	–	2
George Larner (GBR-ATH)	2	–	–	2
Eric Lemming (SWE-ATH)	2	–	–	2
Paul Radmilovic (GBR-SWI/WAP)	2	–	–	2
Bernard Redwood (GBR-MTB)	2	–	–	2
Isaac Thornycroft (GBR-MTB)	2	–	–	2 [17]

Youngest Competitors, Men (10 athletes/13 performances)*Yrs-days*²⁸

16-001	Erik “Loppan” Adlerz (SWE-DIV, plain high diving)
16-026	Mario Massa (ITA-SWI, 400 meter freestyle)
16-031	Ödön Toldi (HUN-SWI, 200 breaststroke)
16-124	Amilcare Beretta (ITA-SWI, 100 meter backstroke)
16-125	Beretta (ITA-SWI, 200 meter breaststroke)

16-132	Victor Jacquemin (BEL-ATH, 100 meters)
16-135	Jacquemin (BEL-ATH, 400 meters)
16-205	Stanislao Di Chiara (ITA-GYM, Combined exercises, team)
16-212	Ferenc Szpts (HUN-GYM, Combined exercises, individual)
16-296	Christian Marius Hansen (DEN-GYM, Combined exercises, team)
16-312	Adamo Bozzani (ITA-GYM, Combined exercises, team)
17-035	Harry Hebner (USA-SWI, 100 meter freestyle)
17-039	Hebner (USA-SWI, 4 × 200 meter relay)

Youngest Competitors, Men, Individual (5 athletes/7 performances)

Yrs-days

16-001	Erik "Loppan" Adlerz (SWE-DIV, Plain high diving)
16-026	Mario Massa (ITA-SWI, 400 meter freestyle)
16-031	Ödön Toldi (HUN-SWI, 200 breaststroke)
16-124	Amilcare Beretta (ITA-SWI, 100 meter backstroke)
16-125	Beretta (ITA-SWI, 200 meter breaststroke)
16-132	Victor Jacquemin (BEL-ATH, 100 meters)
16-135	Jacquemin (BEL-ATH, 400 meters)

Youngest Medalists, Men (10 athletes/11 performances)

Yrs-days

17-039	Harry Hebner (USA-SWI, 4 × 200 meter relay)
17-064	Frank Beaurepaire (AUS-SWI, 400 meter freestyle)
17-073	Beaurepaire (AUS-SWI, 1,500 meter freestyle)
17-207	Pál Simon (HUN-ATH, 1,600 meter medley relay)
17-237	József Munk (HUN-SWI, 4 × 200 meter relay)
17-298	Hermann Bohne (NOR-GYM, Combined exercises, team)
17-303	Sverre Grøner (NOR-GYM, Combined exercises, team)
18-014	William Foster (GBR-SWI, 4 × 200 meter relay)
18-073	John Skrataas (NOR-GYM, Combined exercises, team)
18-074	Imre Zachár (HUN-SWI, 4 × 200 meter relay)
18-095	Béla Las Torres (HUN-SWI, 4 × 200 meter relay)

Youngest Medalists, Men, Individual (5 athletes/6 performances)

Yrs-days

17-064	Frank Beaurepaire (AUS-SWI, 400 meter freestyle)
17-073	Beaurepaire (AUS-SWI, 1,500 meter freestyle)
18-111	Arvid "Sparven" Spångberg (SWE-DIV, Plain high diving)
18-115	Harald "Julie" Julin (SWE-SWI, 100 meter freestyle)
18-170	Albert Zürner (GER-DIV, Fancy high diving)
18-217	Otto Scheff (AUT-SWI, 400 meter freestyle)

Youngest Gold Medalists, Men (10 athletes/performances)²⁹*Yrs-days*

18-014	William Foster (GBR-SWI, 4 × 200 meter relay)
18-131	“Gustaf” Johnsson (SWE-GYM, Combined exercises, team)
18-170	Albert Zürner (GER-DIV, Fancy high diving)
18-228	Rolf Johnsson (SWE-GYM, Combined exercises, team)
18-240	Edward Cook, Jr. (USA-ATH, Pole vault)
18-272	Carl Bertilsson (SWE-GYM, Combined exercises, team)
19-110	Carl Folcker (SWE-GYM, Combined exercises, team)
19-128	“Reggie” Walker (SAF-ATH, 100 meters)
19-265	Jay Gould, Jr. (USA-JDP, Singles)
19-300	A. Henry Thomas (GBR-BOX, Bantamweight)

Youngest Gold Medalists, Men, Individual (5 athletes/performances)*Yrs-days*

18-170	Albert Zürner (GER-DIV, Fancy high diving)
18-240	Edward Cook, Jr. (USA-ATH, Pole vault)
19-128	“Reggie” Walker (SAF-ATH, 100 meters)
19-265	Jay Gould, Jr. (USA-JDP, Singles)
19-300	A. Henry Thomas (GBR-BOX, Bantamweight)

Oldest Competitors, Men (10 athletes/22 performances)*Yrs-days*

61-004	Joshua Millner (GBR-SHO, Free rifle, 1,000 yards)
61-004	Millner (GBR-SHO, Running deer, double shot, individual)
61-004	Millner (GBR-SHO, Running deer, single shot, individual)
60-263	Oscar Gomer Swahn (SWE-SHO, Running deer, double shot, individual)
60-263	Swahn (SWE-SHO, Running deer, single shot, individual)
60-263	Swahn (SWE-SHO, Running deer, team)
58-242	István Móricz (HUN-SHO, Free rifle, 3 positions)
58-183	George Barnes (GBR-SHO, Small bore rifle, prone)
58-074	John Penrose (GBR-ARC, Double York round)
56-114	John Bridges (GBR-ARC, Double York round)
56-110	William Milne (GBR-SHO, Small bore rifle, disappearing target)
56-110	Milne (GBR-SHO, Small bore rifle, moving target)
56-110	Milne (GBR-SHO, Small bore rifle, prone)
56-097	Walter Winans (USA-SHO, Small bore rifle, disappearing Target)
56-097	Winans (USA-SHO, Small bore rifle, moving target)
56-096	Winans (USA-SHO, Free pistol)
56-095	Winans (USA-SHO, Running deer, double shot, individual)
56-095	Winans (USA-SHO, Running deer, single shot, individual)
56-012	John Butt (GBR-SHO, Trap shooting, individual)
56-012	Butt (GBR-SHO, Trap shooting, team)
56-012	Daniel Mérillon (FRA-SHO, Military rifle, team)
56-010	Mérillon (FRA-SHO, Free rifle, 1,000 yards)

Oldest Competitors, Men, Individual (5 athletes/8 performances)*Yrs-days*

61-004	Joshua Millner (GBR-SHO, Free rifle, 1,000 yards)
61-004	Millner (GBR-SHO, Running deer, double shot, individual)
61-004	Millner (GBR-SHO, Running deer, single shot, individual)
60-263	Oscar Gomer Swahn (SWE-SHO, Running deer, double shot, individual)
60-263	Swahn (SWE-SHO, Running deer, single shot, individual)
58-242	István Móricz (HUN-SHO, Free rifle, 3 positions)
58-183	George Barnes (GBR-SHO, Small bore rifle, prone)
58-074	John Penrose (GBR-ARC, Double York round)

Oldest Medalists, Men (10 athletes/12 performances)*Yrs-days*

61-004	Joshua Millner (GBR-SHO, Free rifle, 1,000 yards)
60-263	Oscar Gomer Swahn (SWE-SHO, Running deer, single shot, individual)
60-263	Swahn (SWE-SHO, Running deer, double shot, individual)
60-263	Swahn (SWE-SHO, Running deer, team)
58-183	George Barnes (GBR-SHO, Small bore rifle, prone)
56-095	Walter Winans (USA-SHO, Running deer, double shot, individual)
56-012	John Butt (GBR-SHO, Trap shooting, team)
55-161	Charles Rivett-Carnac (GBR-YAC, 7-meter class)
55-322	Blair Cochrane (GBR-YAC, 8-meter class)
54-096	Maurice Lecoq (FRA-SHO, Free rifle, team)
53-094	Léon Lécuyer (FRA-SHO, Small bore rifle, team)
50-182	Charles Benedict (USA-SHO, Military rifle, team)

Oldest Medalists, Men, Individual (5 athletes/6 performances)*Yrs-days*

61-004	Joshua Millner (GBR-SHO, Free rifle, 1,000 yards)
60-263	Oscar Gomer Swahn (SWE-SHO, Running deer, double shot, individual)
60-263	Swahn (SWE-SHO, Running deer, single shot, individual)
58-183	George Barnes (GBR-SHO, Small bore rifle, prone)
56-095	Walter Winans (USA-SHO, Running deer, double shot, individual)
47-159	Alexander Maunder (GBR-SHO, Trap shooting, individual)

Oldest Gold Medalists, Men (10 athletes/11 performances)*Yrs-days*

61-004	Joshua Millner (GBR-SHO, Free rifle, 1,000 yards)
60-263	Oscar Gomer Swahn (SWE-SHO, Running deer, single shot, individual)
60-263	Swahn (SWE-SHO, Running deer, team)
56-095	Walter Winans (USA-SHO, Running deer, double shot, individual)
55-161	Charles Rivett-Carnac (GBR-YAC, 7-meter class)
55-322	Blair Cochrane (GBR-YAC, 8-meter class)
50-193	Charles Benedict (USA-SHO, Military rifle, team)

- 49-163 James Gorman (USA-SHO, Free pistol, team)
 48-193 Charles Axtell (USA-SHO, Free pistol, team)
 47-159 Alexander Maunder (GBR-SHO, Trap shooting, team)
 46-112 Arthur Carnell (GBR-SHO, Small bore rifle, prone)

Oldest Gold Medalists, Men, Individual (5 athletes/performances)

Yrs-days

- 61-004 Joshua Millner (GBR-SHO, Free rifle, 1,000 yards)
 60-263 Oscar Gomer Swahn (SWE-SHO, Running deer, single shot, individual)
 56-095 Walter Winans (USA-SHO, Running deer, double shot, individual)
 46-112 Arthur Carnell (GBR-SHO, Small bore rifle, prone)
 41-000 William Dod (GBR-ARC, Double York round)

Youngest Competitors, Women (5 athletes/performances)

Yrs-days

- 21-326 Phyllis Johnson (GBR-FSK, Pairs)
 22-302 Else Rendschimdt (GER-FSK, Ladies' individual)
 23-006 Elna Montgomery (SWE-FSK, Ladies' individual)
 23-311 Anna Hübler (GER-FSK, Pairs)
 24-271 Gladys Eastlake-Smith (GBR-TEN, Singles [covered court])

Youngest Medalists, Women (3 athletes/performances)

Yrs-days

- 21-326 Phyllis Johnson (GBR-FSK, Pairs)
 22-302 Else Rendschimdt (GER-FSK, Ladies' individual)
 23-311 Anna Hübler (GER-FSK, Pairs)

Youngest Medalists, Women, Individual (3 athletes/performances)

Yrs-days

- 22-302 Else Rendschimdt (GER-FSK, Ladies' individual)
 24-271 Gladys Eastlake-Smith (GBR-TEN, Singles [covered court])
 26-312 "Madge" Syers (GBR-FSK, Ladies' individual)

Youngest Gold Medalists, Women (2 athletes/performances)

Yrs-days

- 23-311 Anna Hübler (GER-FSK, Pairs)
 24-271 Gladys Eastlake-Smith (GBR-TEN, Singles [covered court])

***Youngest Gold Medalists, Women, Individual
(2 athletes/performances)***

Yrs-days

- 23-311 Anna Hübler (GER-FSK, Pairs)
26-312 “Madge” Syers (GBR-FSK, Ladies’ individual)

Oldest Competitors, Women (5 athletes/performances)

Yrs-days

- 54-093 Sybil “Queenie” Newall (GBR-ARC, Double national round)
53-201 Margaret Weedon (GBR-ARC, Double national round)
45-201 Albertine Thackwell (GBR-ARC, Double National Round)
43-201 Jessie Wadworth (GBR-ARC, Double national round)
43-201 Lillian Wilson (GBR-ARC, Double national round)

Oldest Medalists, Women (3 athletes/performances)

Yrs-days

- 54-093 Sybil “Queenie” Newall (GBR-ARC, Double national round)
40-330 Märtha Adlersträhle (SWE-TEN, Singles [covered court])
36-298 “Lottie” Dod (GBR-ARC, Double national round)

Oldest Medalists, Women, Individual (3 athletes/performances)

Yrs-days

- 54-093 Sybil “Queenie” Newall (GBR-ARC, Double national round)
40-330 Märtha Adlersträhle (SWE-TEN, singles [covered court])
36-298 “Lottie” Dod (GBR-ARC, Double national round)

Oldest Gold Medalists, Women (2 athletes/performances)

Yrs-days

- 54-093 Sybil “Queenie” Newall (GBR-ARC, Double national round)
33-209 Frances Rivett-Carnac (GBR-YAC, 7-meter class)

***Oldest Gold Medalists, Women, Individual
(2 athletes/performances)***

Yrs-days

- 54-093 Sybil “Queenie” Newall (GBR-ARC, Double national round)
29-342 Dorothea Lambert Chambers (GBR-TEN, singles [lawn])

Total Known Competitors (Men and Women)

	Arc	Ath	Box	Cyc	Div	Fen	Fsk	Ftb	Gym	Hok	Jdp	Lax	Mib	Pol	Raq	Row	Rug	Sho	Swi	Ten	Tow	Wap	Wre	Yac	Subl	Totals	
Argentina	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Australia	-	6	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	29	27	
Austria	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	7	7	
Belgium	-	6	-	6	1	18	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	10	7	-	-	7	4	3	74	70	
Bohemia	-	3	-	-	-	6	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	19	18	
Canada	-	27	-	5	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	12	-	-	-	13	-	22	1	3	-	-	1	-	88	87	
Denmark	-	8	2	-	-	8	-	13	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	5	-	-	10	-	-	80	78	
Finland	-	15	-	-	2	-	-	-	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	3	-	-	4	-	-	64	62	
France	15	19	7	23	-	22	-	22	59	12	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	20	4	1	-	-	-	3	208	208	
Germany	-	20	-	8	5	10	3	-	11	11	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	5	5	-	-	1	-	83	81	
Great Britain	41	126	32	37	16	23	11	11	65	45	9	12	13	12	7	30	15	67	28	22	24	7	53	40	746	736	
Greece	-	12	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	20
Hungary	-	19	-	-	-	8	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	2	10	3	-	-	7	-	66	65	
Iceland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	
Italy	-	12	-	4	1	11	-	-	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	66	66	
The Netherlands	-	19	-	5	-	13	-	12	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	17	7	2	-	7	9	-	118	113	
New Zealand	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	
Norway	-	11	-	-	-	1	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	13	-	-	-	-	1	5	70	69	
Russia	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	6	6	
South Africa	-	6	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	14	14	
Sweden	-	31	-	2	10	7	4	14	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	12	4	8	7	9	13	178	168	
Switzerland	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
United States	1	84	-	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	8	-	8	-	6	-	131	122	
Totals	57	431	42	97	39	130	21	72	325	68	11	24	14	12	7	81	30	215	100	50	40	28	115	64	2,073	2,023	
Nations	3	21	4	11	9	14	6	5	13	3	2	2	2	1	1	8	2	14	14	10	3	4	15	5	23	23	

Women

	<i>Arc</i>	<i>Fsk</i>	<i>Mtb</i>	<i>Ten</i>	<i>Yac</i>	Totals
Germany	–	2	–	–	–	2
Great Britain	25	4	1	8	1	39
Sweden	–	1	–	2	–	3
Totals	25	7	1	10	1	44
Nations	1	3	1	2	1	3

Known Competitors by Nation

	<i>Sub-Total Men</i>	<i>Men 2-sport</i>	<i>Men 3-sport</i>	<i>Total Men</i>	<i>Total Women</i>	<i>Total</i>
Argentina	1	–	–	1	–	1
Australia	29	–	1	27	–	27
Austria	7	–	–	7	–	7
Belgium	74	4	–	70	–	70
Bohemia	19	1	–	18	–	18
Canada	88	1	–	87	–	87
Denmark	80	2	–	78	–	78
Finland	64	2	–	62	–	62
France	208	–	–	208	–	208
Germany	81	2	–	79	2	81
Great Britain	707	8	1	697	39	736
Greece	20	–	–	20	–	20
Hungary	66	1	–	65	–	65
Iceland	1	–	–	1	–	1
Italy	66	–	–	66	–	66
The Netherlands	118	5	–	113	–	113
New Zealand	3	–	–	3	–	3
Norway	70	1	–	69	–	69
Russia	6	–	–	6	–	6
South Africa	14	–	–	14	–	14
Sweden	175	8	1	165	3	168
Switzerland	1	–	–	1	–	1
United States	131	7	1	122	–	122
Totals	2,029	42	4	1,979	44	2,023
Nations	23	12	4	23	3	23

Competitors, Nations, and Events by Sports

	<i>Total Comp.</i>	<i>Nations</i>	<i>All Events</i>	<i>Men Comp.</i>	<i>Men Nations</i>	<i>Men Events</i>	<i>Women Comp.</i>	<i>Women Nations</i>	<i>Women Events</i>	<i>Mixed Events</i>
Archery	57	3	3	32	3	2	25	1	1	–
Athletics	431	21	26	431	21	26	–	–	–	–

The 1908 Olympic Games

	<i>Total</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Mixed</i>	
	<i>Comp.</i>	<i>Nations</i>	<i>Events</i>	<i>Comp.</i>	<i>Nations</i>	<i>Events</i>	<i>Comp.</i>	<i>Nations</i>	<i>Events</i>	
Boxing	42	4	5	42	4	5	–	–	–	–
Cycling	97	11	7	97	11	7	–	–	–	–
Diving	39	9	2	39	9	2	–	–	–	–
Fencing	130	14	4	130	14	4	–	–	–	–
Figure Skating	21	6	4	14	6	2	7	3	1	1
Football (Soccer)	72	5	1	72	5	1	–	–	–	–
Gymnastics	325	13	2	325	13	2	–	–	–	–
Hockey (Field)	68	3	1	68	3	1	–	–	–	–
Jeu de Paume	11	2	1	11	2	1	–	–	–	–
Lacrosse	24	2	1	24	2	1	–	–	–	–
Motorboating	14	2	3	13	2	2	1	1	–	1
Polo	12	1	1	12	1	1	–	–	–	–
Racquets	7	1	2	7	1	2	–	–	–	–
Rowing & Sculling	81	8	4	81	8	4	–	–	–	–
Rugby Football	30	2	1	30	2	1	–	–	–	–
Shooting	215	14	15	215	14	15	–	–	–	–
Swimming	100	14	6	100	14	6	–	–	–	–
Tennis	50	10	6	40	10	4	10	2	2	–
Tug-of-War	40	3	1	40	3	1	–	–	–	–
Water Polo	28	4	1	28	4	1	–	–	–	–
Wrestling	115	15	9	115	15	9	–	–	–	–
Yachting	64	5	4	63	5	3	1	1	–	1
Sub-Totals	2,073	23	110	2,029	23	103	44	5	4	3
Multi-Sport Athletes	50	–	–	50	–	–	–	–	–	–
Totals	2,023	23	110	1,979	23	103	44	5	4	3

*Athletes Competing in Multiple Sports in 1908 (46)***Three Sports (4)***Australia* (1)

Reginald “Snowy” Baker, Boxing/Diving/Swimming.

Great Britain (1)

Edward Barrett, Athletics/Tug-of-War/Wrestling.

Sweden (1)

Robert “Robban” Andersson, Diving/Swimming/Water Polo.

United States (1)

Leander “Lee” Talbott, Jr., Athletics/Tug-of-War/Wrestling.

Two Sports (42)*Belgium* (4)

Victor Boin, Swimming/Water Polo.

Fernand Feyaerts, Swimming/Water Polo.

Oscar Grégoire, Swimming/Water Polo.

Herman Meyboom, Swimming/Water Polo.

Bohemia (1)

Miroslav Šustera, Athletics/Wrestling.

Canada (1)

Robert Zimmerman, Diving/Swimming.

Denmark (2)

Poul Holm, Gymnastics/Swimming.

Harald Klem, Gymnastics/Swimming.

Finland (2)

Johan Kemp, Gymnastics/Athletics.

Aarne Salovaara, Gymnastics/Athletics.

Germany (2)

Paul Fischer, Gymnastics/Athletics.

Friedrich Rahe, Hockey, Tennis (Lawn).

Great Britain (8)

Arthur Hawkins, Gymnastics/Wrestling.

William Hoare, Diving/Gymnastics.

Frederick Humphreys, Tug-of-War/Wrestling.

Albert Ireton, Boxing/Tug-of-War.

Evan Noel, Jeu de Paume/Racquets.

Vane Pennell, Jeu de Paume/Racquets.

Kenneth Powell, Lawn Tennis/Athletics.

Paul Radmilovic, Swimming/Water Polo.

Hungary (1)

György Luntzer, Athletics/Wrestling.

The Netherlands (5)

Bouke Benenga, Swimming/Water Polo.

Johan Cortlever, Swimming/Water Polo.

Hermanus van "Herman" Leeuwen, Gymnastics/Athletics.

Eduard Meijer, Swimming/Water Polo.

Pieter Ooms, Swimming/Water Polo.

Norway (1)

Conrad Maurentius Carlsrud, Gymnastics/Athletics.

Sweden (8)

Eric Carlberg, Fencing/Shooting.

Pontus Hanson, Swimming/Water Polo.

Hjalmar Johansson, Diving/Swimming.

Harald "Julie" Julin, Swimming/Water Polo.

Torsten Kumfeldt, Swimming/Water Polo.

Gustaf "Gösta" Olson, Fencing/Gymnastics.

Axel Runström, Diving/Water Polo.

Gunnar Wennerström, Swimming/Water Polo.

United States (7)

Wilbur Burroughs, Athletics/Tug-of-War.

William Coe, Jr., Athletics/Tug-of-War.

Arthur Dearborn, Athletics/Tug-of-War.

John Flanagan, Athletics/Tug-of-War.

Marquis "Bill" Horr, Athletics/Tug-of-War.

Matthew McGrath, Athletics/Tug-of-War.

Ralph Rose, Athletics/Tug-of-War.

NOTES

1. The dates are not completely inclusive. Specifically, events only took place on the following dates: 27–30 April; 1, 6–9, 11, 18–21, 23, 28 May; 18, 21 June; 6–11, 13–19, 20–25, 27–31 July; 11–13, 28–29 August; 19–20, 22–24, and 26–31 October 1908. See Appendix I for a detailed chronology of the 1908 Olympic program.

2. The number of nations competing varies in different sources, and a precise number cannot be given, because it depends on one's interpretation of what constituted a "nation" in 1908 and several other controversial decisions. We will mention all of them, in alphabetical order.

Australasia is usually listed as the nation representing both Australia and New Zealand. However, New Zealand could certainly be considered a separate nation, as it became independent from Australia in 1905.

Bohemia was not an independent nation in 1908, as it was a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Hapsburg Monarchy. But Coubertin was on friendly terms with Bohemian IOC Member Jiří Guth, and arranged for Bohemia to compete at the Olympics as an independent nation in both 1906 and 1908.

Finland was still strictly a part of Russia, and was not independent until 6 December 1917, and Russia insisted that the Finnish flag not be displayed. Finland could be considered not to have competed by crediting their athletes' performances to Russia, but this is not done in any sources.

Great Britain obviously competed, but it could also be considered that Scotland, Wales, and even England also competed as separate nations. In hockey (field), four teams represented Great Britain — one each from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

Irish participation was hotly disputed in 1908 as Ireland wished to compete as an independent nation. The ruling British Olympic officials did not allow this, however, as Ireland was still a portion of the United Kingdom and would remain so until 6 December 1922 when it was established as a Dominion of the Crown.

In a similar vein, no problems were found with South Africa competing as a separate nation although the Union of South Africa would not become an independent nation until 1910. In 1908 it still consisted of four British colonies, all with separate governments: Cape Colony, Natal, Transvaal, and the Orange River Colony (later the Orange Free State).

Iceland was represented at the 1908 Olympics by one athlete, the wrestler Johannes Jósefsson. But in 1908, Iceland was still considered a Danish protectorate and not an independent nation. Similar to the situation with Russia, one could consider Iceland not to have competed, and credit Jósefsson's participation to Denmark. Again this is not usually done.

Switzerland is usually considered to have competed at the 1908 Olympic Games but it was represented by only one athlete, Julius Wagner, who competed in the hammer throw. Wagner was born a German citizen who competed at the 1906 Olympics for Germany. Shortly after those Olympics, he married a Swiss woman on 6 July 1906, and applied for Swiss citizenship. He did not have Swiss citizenship approved until 1917, but his 1908 and 1912 participation is usually credited to Switzerland. It is of some importance in Olympic history as Switzerland claims to be one of the five nations (Australia, France, Great Britain and Greece) to have competed in every Olympic Games. If Wagner's participation in 1908 was as a German representative, then Switzerland was not represented at these Olympic Games and cannot be considered to have competed at every Olympics. However, it should be noted that in the entry lists given in *The Sporting Life*, Wagner is listed as representing Switzerland.

Turkey is usually listed as competing in the 1908 Olympic Games (see Kluge [OSVK], Koryürek, and the *Olympic Review*, Vol. 89-90, March-April 1975, p. 119), represented by a single gymnast, Aleko Mulos. However, our research shows he almost certainly did not compete. Now it should be noted that the only event for which we have been unable to find complete results is the individual gymnastics competition. But entry lists for that event exist in the OR and in SL, as do the list of final competitors in the OR, and there is no evidence that Mulos competed or was even entered. Turkey should not be considered to have competed at the 1908 Olympic Games.

For the record, our final decision considered the following nations to have competed as inde-

pendent nations: Australia, Bohemia, Finland, Iceland, New Zealand, and South Africa. We considered Switzerland to have competed and Turkey to have not competed. We listed England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales as portions of Great Britain rather than as independent nations, except for the separate teams entered in hockey (field) and polo.

3. The following main list includes only members of the IOC during the “main body” of the 1908 Olympic Games.

4. Von Willebrand was co-opted as a member of the IOC during the IOC session (on 13 July) held in London during the 1908 Olympic Games.

5. Heftye resigned from the IOC at the session held in London during the 1908 Olympic Games (specifically on 13 July).

6. Von Willebrand was co-opted as a member of the IOC during the IOC session (on 13 July) held in London during the 1908 Olympic Games.

7. Co-opted 15 December 1908 by postal vote.

8. Co-opted 15 December 1908 by postal vote.

9. Co-opted 15 December 1908 by postal vote.

10. Listed in the order of entering the stadium.

11. The list of nations marching, and the order, is given in several daily newspapers and varies slightly. This list is as given on pp. 46–47 of the OR. It is noted in several newspapers that the nations marched in alphabetical order, except that the “English-speaking nations” brought up the rear. There is no mention in any source of Argentina, Iceland, Russia, or Switzerland taking part in the opening ceremony.

12. According to Daniel Schamps, French Olympic historian and the Comité Nationale Olympique et Sportif Français (CNOSF).

13. According to Athanassis Tarassouleas, Greek Olympic historian.

14. According to Tony Bijkerk, Dutch Olympic historian. The Netherlands marched after Greece and before Hungary because the London Organizing Committee used Holland as the name of the country.

15. According to Giuseppe Odello, Italian Olympic historian.

16. Zilliacus carried a name-plate and not the flag of Finland. In 1908 Finland was a subject of Russia and although Russia allowed Finnish athletes to compete independently, they were not allowed to march under their own flag. Finland also marched out of alphabetical order, whether they were listed under “Finland” or “Russia.” This was due to the tardy arrival of their steamer to England. They arrived in the country only on the day of the ceremony, and barely made it to the ceremony at all.

17. See the earlier note concerning South Africa, which notes that South Africa did not become an independent nation until 1910. In 1908, it consisted of four British Crown colonies — Cape Colony, Natal, Transvaal, and the Orange River Colony (later the Orange Free State). It is not known which flag that Stupart carried in leading the South African contingent.

18. The Canadian Olympic Association states that Canada had no flag bearer in 1908, but this contradicts newspaper evidence stating that all the nations, save Finland, marched behind the flag of their country. It is possible that Australasia, Canada, and South Africa all marched under the Union Jack, as members of the British Empire, but this contradicts evidence given in Australian Olympic books (Howell and Lester) that Henry St. Aubyn Murray of New Zealand carried the flag for Australasia.

19. According to the Olympic Committee of Iceland the only Icelandic athlete in 1908 was Johannes Jósefsson. However, Iceland was not an independent nation in 1908, being a part of Denmark. Jósefsson marched with the Danish team.

20. Non-participation of the Russian athletes in the opening ceremony has been confirmed by the Russian Olympic Committee.

21. Figures are estimates based on newspaper reports.

22. Maps of the competition sites can be found in Appendix IV.

23. Includes all medals won by Great Britain, England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

24. Includes separate medals won by Great Britain athletes, and the medal won by the English

team in hockey (field), but does not include medals won by Scottish and Welsh teams in hockey (field) and by Irish athletes.

25. Ireland was a part of Great Britain in 1908, but did compete separately in hockey (field) and polo.

26. Competed separately only in hockey (field).

27. Competed separately only in hockey (field).

28. All ages are listed as years-days. Italicized numbers indicate that the exact day of birth is not known, only the year of birth. In all such cases, a “worst case” assumption is made, i.e., for oldest records, we assigned a date of 31 December, while for youngest records, the date assigned was 1 January.

29. Daniel Carroll’s (AUS-RUG) date of birth is usually listed as 17 February 1892, but research by Buchanan and his British colleagues who study rugby history has shown this year to be incorrect. The erroneous 1892 year of birth made him only 16 in 1908 and the youngest gold medalist in 1908, and one of the youngest gold medalists ever.

References

with Their Abbreviations as Cited in Text

Primary Sources from Circa 1908

- AATM *Arms and the Man*, weekly American (New York) shooting magazine.
- AKTZ *Amerikanische Turnzeitung*, weekly American (Milwaukee, Wisconsin) gymnastics (turner) magazine.
- Answer *The Olympic Games: An Answer to Mr. Francis Peabody, Jr., and "A Member of the British Olympic Committee"* by "A Member of the American Olympic Committee" ns: np, [1908–09].
- AR *The Archer's Register*, monthly British (London) archery magazine.
- ARCC Cook, Theodore Andrea. *The Olympic Games of 1908 in London: A Reply to Certain Criticisms*. London: British Olympic Council, 1908.
- ASZ *Allgemeine Sport Zeitung*, weekly Germany (Berlin) sporting magazine.
- BDG *Boston Daily Globe*, daily American (Boston) newspaper (later *Boston Globe*), 1908.
- BET *Boston Evening Transcript*, daily American (Boston) newspaper, 1908.
- Blue *The Olympic Games: Their Origin and Their Organization*. by "An Old Blue" of "The Daily Telegraph." London: Daily Telegraph, 1908.
- BMP *Birmingham Morning-Post*, daily British (Birmingham) newspaper.
- BOADW British Olympic Association/David Wallechinsky newspaper clipping files. In many cases we can identify the newspaper or magazine from which the clipping was taken. In cases where we cannot it is listed as "BOADW/source uncertain."
- Burlford Burlford, Thomas R. *American Hatred and British Folly*. London: np, 1911.
- CDT *The Chicago Daily Tribune*, daily American (Chicago) newspaper.
- CRH *Chicago Record-Herald*, daily American (Chicago) newspaper.
- Cyclist *Cyclist*, weekly British (London) cycling magazine.
- Desb Clipping files in Lord Desborough's Archives, held at Hertfordshire County Record Office, Hertfordshire, England (under D/ERv F25).
- DG *Daily Graphic*, daily British (London) newspaper.
- DM *The Daily Mirror*, daily British (London) newspaper.
- DMail *The Daily Mail*, daily British (London) newspaper.
- DT *Das Turner*, weekly German (Berlin) gymnastics (turner) magazine.

- DTZ *Deutsche Turnzeitung*, weekly German (Berlin) gymnastics (turner) magazine.
- GH *Glasgow Herald*, daily Scottish (Glasgow) newspaper.
- Kirby Kirby, Gustavus Town. *To the Inter-Collegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America: An answer to statements of the Amateur Athletic Association of Great Britain concerning the Olympic games of 1908*. New York: privately printed, 1909.
- LGym *Le Gymnaste*, weekly French (Paris) gymnastics magazine.
- NYEW *New York Evening World*, daily American (New York) newspaper.
- NYH *New York Herald*, daily American (New York) newspaper.
- NYHP *New York Herald (Paris Edition)*, daily French (Paris) newspaper published by the American company, this is the forerunner of the *International Herald Tribune*.
- NYS *New York Sun*, daily American (New York) newspaper.
- NYT *The New York Times*, daily American (New York) newspaper.
- OR 1908 *Official Report*; the proper title is *The Fourth Olympiad: Being the Official Report of the Olympic Games of 1908 Celebrated in London Under the Patronage of His Most Gracious King Edward VII and by the Sanction of the International Olympic Committee*, edited by Theodore Andrea Cook. London: British Olympic Association, 1908.
- Outing *Outing Magazine*, weekly American (New York) sporting magazine.
- People *The People*, daily British (London) newspaper.
- Ref *The Referee*, weekly British (London) sporting newspaper.
- SF *The Scottish Field*, weekly Scottish (Glasgow) sporting newspaper.
- SL *The Sporting Life*, daily British (London) sporting newspaper.
- SLHG *South London Harriers Gazette*, bi-weekly journal of leading British (London) athletics club.
- SLR The *Sporting Life, Olympic Games of London. 1908. A Complete record with photographs of winners of the Olympic Games held at the Stadium, Shepherd's Bush, London, July 13–25, 1908, Along with Accounts of other Olympic Events*. London: *Sporting Life*, 1908. This is the summary report published by *The Sporting Life* after the Olympic Games. *The Sporting Life* also published a daily sporting newspaper during the Olympics, which we also consulted — our versions were contained in BOADW (see above) — see that paper listed above as SL.
- SM *The Sportsman*, daily British (London) sporting newspaper.
- SMR *The Sportsmen's Review*, weekly American (Cincinnati, Ohio) shooting journal.
- STBS *Shooting Times and British Sportsman*, weekly British (London) shooting journal.
- TF *The Field*. Weekly British (London) sporting newspaper.
- Times *The Times*. Daily British (London) newspaper.
- TRS *The Rifle Shot*, monthly British (London) shooting magazine.
- YBM *The Yachting and Boating Monthly*, monthly British (London) sailing magazine.
- YM *The Yachtsman*, monthly British (London) sailing magazine.
- YW *Yachting World*, weekly British (London) sailing magazine.

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