

Report on Art Exhibitions

Historical Record.

In Paris in 1906, Baron de Coubertin summoned a consultative assembly of art and letters, entrusted with the task of studying in wath form art and letters could participate in a modern Olympiad.

It is only following the decision taken by this conference of 1906, that the suggestion was made to the I. O. C. to create the five competitions in architecture, sculpture, music, painting, and literature of all unpublished works, directly inspired by sport.

Subsequently, these competitions were added to the celebration of each Olympiad, as they used to be at the Olympic Games of ancient days, and thus the revived Olympic Charter was completed.

Ever since 1912, the art exhibitions have competed with great success in the Olympic Games.

Coubertin on Art Exhibitions.

At the closing ceremony of the Olympic Games of the 8th. Olympiad in 1924, Baron de Coubertin said: « There is needfor something else besides athleticism and sport, we want the presence of national genius, the collaboration of the muses, the cult of beauty, all the display pertaining, to the strong symbolism incarnate in the past by the Olympic Games, and which must continue to be represented in our modern times.

Art Contests in Ancient Times.

In ancient days the Olympic Games offered to the artist, writer, etc. a unique chance of making himself known.

Painters and sculptors also exhibited their works on Mount Olympus and received the same awards as other athletes competing in these Games.

The Modification of Art Competitions into Exhibitions.

By a decision taken at the meeting in Rome in 1949, the motion was adopted to modify art competitions into art exhibitions, as it appeared illogical that professionals should compete at such exhibitions and be awarded Olympic medals.

In conclusion we propose that the Art COMPETITIONS should be re-instated in the programme of the Olympic Games and that no consideration should be taken regarding the amateur or professional question as such categories do not exist in the Art competition, all participants being ARTISTS.

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(This report has been accepted at the Vienna Session. Réd.)
