

CURIOSITIES FROM THE HISTORY OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

colour slides
Part I from 1 to 31
Part II from 32 to 63

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1. CURIOSITIES FROM THE HISTORY OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES
2. How did the custom of the organization of olympic games develop? How far is it necessary to go back in time to discover the origins? Until what point in time did the Greeks hold their greatest national tournaments? When and by whom was the beautiful custom of the ancient olympic games revived? Who have been the legendary victors of olympic games up till now? What advice was given for the future by the founder, Pierre de Coubertin? These questions are answered by our filmstrip.
3. The early Greek literature associated the origin of the olympic games with gods and with heroes possessing divine properties. These competitions were organized in honour of Zeus, the supreme god. On the picture you can see the representation of Zeus, Heracles, Pelops.
4. Greeks believed that gods lived on the highest peak of Olympus. The site of the great olympic championships was also Olympia situated on the north-west part of the Peloponnesian Peninsula.
5. Illustration of the centre of Olympia, the sacred grove of Zeus, the original form of Altis (Model).
6. The gymnasium outside the Altis was the training place of runners and pentathlon competitors. The palaistra (our picture) served for the training of jumpers, wrestlers and boxers.
7. The names of the winners of the games have been recorded from 776 B.C. Owing to the work of ancient sculptors many sculptures have remained to us representing Greek competitors. Thus, Olympia has developed into a veritable outdoor museum

over the course of centuries. To the left: Praxiteles: Hermes, with the child Dionisos on his arm. In the middle: Wrestlers — To the right: Múron: The discus thrower.

8. Primarily it was Greek notables who took part in the carriage and horse races, and the winner's wreath was not received by the driver, but by the owner of the carriage or horse. The statue of the goddess of victory, Nike, was sculptured by Paionios.
9. The participants could enter the stadium through a vaulted gate. The stadium was about 220 m long, 120 m wide, and its competition distance was one stadium, that is, 192.27 metres. An artist's reconstruction: This is how the ancient runners may have started (Right, below).
10. Ancient champions:
The plaque represents the portrait of a stadium runner, Koroibos. In the middle: Diagoras the boxer is carried round in the stadium by his sons. The winners received either a laurel wreath or an olive branch.
Explicitly intellectual competitions were not organized at the olympic championships.
Yet, Herodotos, the famous historian was wreathed. The bust of Herotos is to be seen the right side.
11. The olympic games, which were once every four years for more than one thousand years, developed into the central festival of the known world at that time. During the age of their flourishing, wars were forbidden for three months. According to recent investigations, they finally ceased to exist in 520—21 A.D. The cult of the body, which belonged to the concept of harmonious man, played an important role in the advanced culture of ancient Greek society.

12. The birthday of the modern olympic movement is June 23, 1894. Its birthplace was the hall of the Sorbonne University of Paris. The International Olympic Committee was formed, it was created by Pierre de Coubertin. The Hungarian Ferenc Kemény (on the right) also deserved credit for the organization of the modern olympic movement.

13. Venues and dates of summer and winter olympic games from Athens (1896) to Los Angeles (1984). Keys to symbols used: red square = summer games, blue circle = winter games.

14. 1896 ATHENS

The first modern olympic games.

Seven of the 15 founding members of the International Olympic Committee can be seen in the picture. Standing: Willibald Gebhardt (Germany), Jiri Guth-Jarkovsky (Czechoslovakia), Ferenc Kemény (Hungary), and Viktor Balck (Sweden). Sitting: Pierre de Coubertin, secretary (France), Demetriosz Vikelasz, president (Greece) and Aleksandr Dimitrievics Butovszkij, general (Russia). The games started with the first running of 100 m race. The Hungarian Alajos Szokoly with start No. 1 was third in the finals.

15. At the Athens Olympic Games 285 participants from 13 countries competed in 43 events from 9 different sports. The first olympic champion was James Brendan Connoly, the first winner of the Marathon race was the Greek Szpiridon Luisz, the first Hungarian olympic champion was Alfréd Hájós in the 100 and 1200 m free-style swimming.

16. 1900. PARIS

The series of successes of the "rubber man", Ray C. Ewry started in the series of competitions held from May until November. (He won 8 gold medals in different jumping events between 1900—1908).

The first Hungarian gold medal in athletics was won by Rudolf Bauer.

17. 1904. ST LOUIS

The Hungarian delegation. Standing: Szilárd Stan-
kovits, Lajos Gönczy, Ferenc Kemény, Béla Mező
and Gyula Muzsa. Sitting: Zoltán Halmay and Gé-
za Kiss. Of them Zoltán Halmay scored a double
swimming victory.

18. 1908 LONDON

In the Marathon race the tape was crossed first
by the Italian Dorando Pietri, but he was disqua-
lified because he had accepted aid. The first female
olympic champion was the tennis-player Gwendoli-
ne Eastlake-Smith. Two Hungarian gold medal-
winners: Dr. Jenő Fuchs (first in sword-fencing),
and Richárd Weisz, wrestler.

19. 1912. STOCKHOLM

Jim Thorpe of Indian origin, winner of the pen-
tathlon and decathlon, was disqualified after the
olympic games, then after seventy years, in 1982,
he was reinstated. The Hungarian sports shooter,
Dr. Sándor Prokopp (in the middle) became an
olympic champion despite being a reserve.

20. 1920. ANTWERP

In 1916, during World War I, the best sportsmen
of the world could not meet in Berlin. Then, four
years later, the unique series of success of the
Finnish "wonder runner" Paavo Nurmi (to be seen
on the left of the picture) began: in 1920 he won
three, in 1924 five, in 1928 one gold medals. The
oldest champion, the former Swedish gold medal-
winner Oscar Swahn, won a silver medal in sports
shooting at the age of 73. The youngest person on
the right: the American Allen Riggins won in
springboard diving.

21. 1924. PARIS

The great swimmer trio — the Australian Andrew Charlton, the American John Weissmüller (star of the Tarzan films) and the Swedish Arne Borg — broke several records. In the architectural category of the artistic competitions organized since 1912, the Hungarian Alfréd Hajós and Dezső Lauber won a silver medal with their stadium design. (In 1953 the International Olympic Committee distinguished Alfréd Hajós with a diploma for his many-sided activities). At that time the competitors still lived in such a simple olympic village.

22. Between January 25 and February 4, 1924 a series of competitions was organized in 14 events in Chamonix, in France, — this was declared a winter olympic games later by the International Olympic Committee. The Finnish speed skater, Clas Thunberg won three gold, one silver and one bronze medals, and again two gold medals in 1928 in addition to these. The Norwegian skier, Thorleif Haug, won three gold medals and one silver medal.

23. 1928. AMSTERDAM

Dr. Ferenc Mező won an olympic gold medal in the category of epic poetry. The only Hungarian intellectual olympic champion was a member of the International Olympic Committee between 1948—1961, his works on the history of the olympic games have been published in several languages.

24. 1928. ST. MORITZ

The new star of figure-skating, who won a gold medal in 1932 and in 1936, the Norwegian Sonja Henie first attracted the attention at this olympic games. The Norwegian speed skater, Ivar Ballangrund started here with one gold medal, then continued with three in 1936. The Norwegian skier, Johan Grøttumsbraaten won another gold medal in 1936 in addition to the two gold medals won here.

25. 1932. LOS ANGELES

The Hungarian sword team could stand up on the highest step of the platform for the fourth time. From left to right: Aladár Gerevich, Attila Petchauer, György Piller, Endre Kabos, Ernő Nagy, Gyula Glykais. The 10,000 m race was won by the Polish Janusz Kusocinski. who was executed by the fascists in 1940.

26. 1932. LAKE PLACID

An interesting picture: ski-jumper "over the city". In speed skating, the gold medals were shared between two Americans, John Shea and Irving Jaffee.

27. 1936. BERLIN

The olympic flame kindled by the heat of the sun was started on its way from the ancient Olympia for the first time. The hero of the summer olympic games was the American Jesse Owens, who gained a gold medal in four events. The Japanese Son Kitei, the winner of the Marathon race can be seen with an oak-tree sapling, which was presented to every olympic champion.

28. Perhaps the greatest surprise of the Berlin Olympic Games was the victory of the Hungarian Ferenc Csík in the 100 m free-style swimming. Originally he was not given much chance because his two Japanese opponents, Yusa Masaroni and Taguchi Masaharu both achieved olympic records in the semi-finals. And the final result: 1. Ferenc Csík, 2. Yusa Masaroni, 3. Arai Shigeo... In the left-hand picture the Hungarian radio reporter can be seen.

29. Hungarian victories of the 1936 Olympic Games: Endre Kabos, single champion of sword-fencing (on the left). In women's high-jump, Mrs. Kádár

Ibolya Csák became olympic champion after a treble tie. Ilona Elek also won her first gold medal here in women's foil-fencing. Károly Kárpáti reaped glory in wrestling. Olympic boxing champion Imre Harangi waited for the announcement of the results in "turban" because of his injury suffered during the competition.

30. Pierre de Coubertin died on September 3, 1937 in Geneva. His body was buried in Lausanne, but in accordance with his last will, his heart was placed in a memorial column in ancient Olympia. The International Olympic Academy, the forum of debate of the olympic movement, can be found in its vicinity.
31. In this picture, the number and placings of the Hungarian competitors can be reviewed. The first column includes the number of male participants, the second includes that of the women, the third one contains these numbers added together. Fourth column: first place, fifth column: second place, sixth column: third place. In the last column the placings can be read summarized.
32. Remember and do not forget those Hungarian sportsmen who were the victims of World War II: Attila Pestchauer died on the Ukrainian front (1) Endre Kabos lost his life when Margaret Bridge was blown up (2) Ferenc Csík died during a bombing raid in Sopron (3) János Garai, famous Hungarian fencer died in Mauthausen (4).
33. 1948 LONDON
In 1948, after the holocaust of World War II. 4106 sportsmen of 59 countries waited with relieved joy the torch-bearer arriving to the Wembley Stadium: "Come sacred flame! Ligth, warm and never cease burning!"

34. The Hungarian sportsmen were also glad to accept the invitation for the 1948 winter and summer Olympic Games. The pictures show the procession of the Hungarian delegation in St. Moritz.
35. The first champion of the London Olympic Games was the Czechoslovakian Emil Zatopek, who later went on to win three gold medals in 1952. The Dutch Francina Blankers, mother of a family, stood four times on the highest step of the platform.
36. The Hungairans won ten gold, six silver and thirteen bronze medals. After twelve years Ilona Elek became an olympic champion once again. Aladár Gerevich was an olympic champion in sword-fencing, Imre Németh in hammer-throwing, and Gyula Bóbis in wrestling.
37. The Hungarian sword team were victorious in 1948 and in 1952. From left to right: Pál Kovács, Rudolf Kárpáti, Tibor Berczelly, Aladár Gerevich, Bertalan Papp and László Rajcsányi.
38. 1952. HELSINKI
It was in the Finnish capital first that Soviet sportsmen could take part in the Olympic Games. They won 71 medals (22 gold, 30 silver, 19 bronze), and they won the first place in a tie with the United States. The picture shows Paavo Nurmi, again in an athletic dress, but this time with a burning torch. It seems almost unbelievable that the Soviet gymnast, Viktor Csukarin, won four gold and two silver medals with a broken finger which was secured by splints.
39. The Hungarians also recall the 16 days in Helsinki with pleasure. Of the 43 medals 16 were gold, 10 silver and 17 bronze. In the unofficial competition

of nations the Hungarians won third place. Károly Takács having a legendary will-power repeated his success achieved in sports shooting in 1948. József Csermák became an olympic champion with a world record in hammer-throwing.

40. Éva Székely won in 200 m breast-swimming, Imre Hódos in wrestling. Hungary came first in the 4×100 m women's speed swimming relay and the Hungarian water-polo team won a gold medal for the third time.

41. Another unforgettable memory from Helsinki: three Hungarians on the platform in individual sword-fencing: 1. Pál Kovács, 2. Aladár Gerevich, 3. Tibor Berczelly. An outstanding personality of the winter Olympic Games held in Oslo was the Norwegian Hjalmar Andersen, who won three gold medals in speed-skating.

42. 1956. MELBOURNE

Though the Olympic Games were organized in Melbourne the horse races had to be held in Stockholm because of the Australian embargo on horses. There was an unforgettable contest between Vlagyimir Kuc and the British Pirie. Finally the Soviet boy won. He also won the 10,000 m race. The left side of our other picture shows the Swedish Gert Fredriksson, the "canoe king", who won six gold medals in four olympic games, beside him the double canoe-winner Leon Rotman is to be seen.

43. László Papp was an olympic champion in boxing for the third time. Rudolf Kárpáti won a gold medal in individual sword-fencing for the first time. Ágnes Keleti, fourfold gold medal-winner on the bar. The duo of János Urányi — László Fábrián was the first in the 10,000 m distance of the canoe doubles.

44. 1960. ROME

Wilma Rudolph broke the tape three times as a winner. She fought her way up among the best sportsmen of the world after a long illness with a wonderful will-power. Abeba Bikila, serving in the bodyguard of the Abessynian Emperor became the winner of the Marathon race; four years later he won again over this long distance.

45. Rudolf Kárpáti was the winner of the individual sword-fencing again. In 1960 the Hungarian team could stand on the highest step of the platform for the ninth time. Announcement of the result of the 1000 m canoe race: first is the Hungarian János Parti defeating the Soviet Alekszandr Szilajev and the Rumanian Leon Rotman. Gyula Török won a gold medal in boxing.

46. 1964. TOKIO

The Polish Jozef Szmidt became a gold medal-winner in the triple jump. The American swimmer, Donald Scholander can be seen in the picture with four gold medals to which another was added in 1968. The Czechoslovakian Vera Caslavská won seven gold medals in 1964 and 1968.

47. Ferenc Török (above, left) won the individual pentathlon. László Hammerl, Hungarian sports shooter, olympic champion and his trainer gives an interview to a journalist (below, left). Above to the right the happy Hungarian foil-fencing team raises the cup. Imre Polyák, wrestler, also deserved a gold medal after three silver medals.

48. 1968. MEXICO-CITY

The American discus-thrower Alfred Oerter (in the middle) was a gold medal-winner for the fourth time. Here is the 890 cm long-distance jump world record of the American Robert Beamon. Above the

winning members of the American 4×400 m relay race team can be seen leaving with clenched fists after the announcement of the results because of racial discrimination.

49. The double olympic champion in wrestling, the Hungarian István Kozma (below, left) can be seen during the shooting of a film. Angéla Németh, woman javelin-thrower olympic champion and her trainer, Jenő Koltai were perpetuated by a witty cartoon. Gyula Zsivótzky won a gold medal in hammer-throwing with olympic record. Above to the right: the Hungarian winning épée-fencing team. Pál Schmitt, Hungarian member of the International Olympic Committee is marked by a circle.
50. One of the outstanding competitors of the winter Olympic Games between 1956—68 was the Soviet Ligyija Szkoblikova, who won six gold medals in 1960 and 1964 in women's speed-skating. The Austrian Anton Sailer won three victories in various ski events in 1956. In ice-hockey, the team of the Soviet Union was a gold medal-winner in 1956, 1964 and 1968, the team of the United States won a gold medal in 1960.
51. In 1970 the 75th anniversary of the Hungarian olympic movement was commemorated by an intimate ceremony. The festive general meeting was addressed also by Avery Brundage, the then president of the International Olympic Committee. He spoke with appreciation about the merits and results of the Hungarian Olympic movement. On the left side the jubilee stamp series issued for the anniversary can be seen.
52. 1972. MUNICH
The "king" of the swimming-pool, the American Mark Spitz won seven gold medals, and thereby

increasing his "collection" to eight. The title of "queen" was received by the Australian Shane Gould for her treble victory. In the event of weight-lifting over 100 kg (lead-weight) the Soviet Vaszilij Alekszejev became an olympic champion "easily". In 1976, he repeated his victory again.

53. The hundredth Hungarian olympic gold medal was won by Csaba Hegedűs, by his victory achieved in wrestling. After earlier team victories András Balczó also succeeded in winning the individual pentathlon event. Imre Földi won a gold medal in weight-lifting for the first time. After twelve years a victory in boxing was achieved by György Radó.

54. 1976. MONTREAL

The Cuban Alberto Juantorena gained an unparalleled and brilliantly executed victory in the 800 m and then in the 400 m races. The Finnish Lasse Viren — just like in 1972 — was first in the 5000 m and 10,000 m races. The Soviet Viktor Szanyejev became the winner of the triple jump for the third time. The Polish Irena Szewinska—Kirszenstein won two gold medals in 1964 and 1968, and a third one this time in the 400 m race.

55. The Hungarian water polo players were on the highest step of the platform for the sixth time. Zoltán Magyar became an olympic champion with the "magyar-vándor" exercise named after him. He repeated his success once again in 1980. The victorious Javelin throw of Miklós Németh — son of olympic champion Imre Németh — on the title page of a Hungarian sports journal.

56. The table shows the results of the two countries winning the largest number of medals at the summer Olympic Games between 1952—1976, the Soviet Union and the United States of America, more-

over the first, second and third placings can be read in sequence. The summarized results are indicated with yellow.

57. 1980. MOSCOW

Though the USA and some other countries did not participate in the games, outstanding results were achieved. In the 800 m and 1500 m race there was a great struggle between the British Sebastian Coe and Steven Ovett. Coe won in the 1500 m distance (our picture). In the 500 m and 10,000 m race the Ethiopian Miruts Yifter was first. An outstanding result was achieved by the Soviet Vlagyimir Szalnyikov: he broke the 15 minutes' „dream boundary” of the 1500 m free style swimming (14:58,27).

58. The memorable joy of Norbert Növényi, Hungarian olympic champion in wrestling. László Foltán and István Vaskuti won a gold medal in canoe duple.

59. Have achievements in sports an upper limit? Competing, the achievement of the maximum of human abilities is not in contradiction with the aim of modern olympic games, moreover, it is an important feature of it. As a point of interest, we show the almost unbelievable development of a few events.

LONG DISTANCE JUMP

1896 Ellery Clark USA 635 cm

1968 Robert Beamon USA 890 cm

HIGH-JUMP

1869 Ellery Clark USA 181 cm

1980 Gerd Wessig GDR 236 cm

100 M RACE

1896 Thomas Burke USA 12,0 s

1968 James Hines USA 9,9 s

1500 M FREE STYLE SWIMMING

1908 Henry Taylor GBR 22:48,4 s

1980 Vlagyimir Szalnyikov USSR 14:58,27 s

100 M FREE STYLE SWIMMING

1896 Alfréd Hajós, Hungary 1:22,2 s

1976 Jim-Montgomery USA 49,99 s

400 M RACE

1896 Thomas Burke USA 54,2 s

1976 Alberto Juantorena Cuba 44,26 s

60. The venue of the 23rd summer Olympic Games was Los Angeles. In the upper part of our picture the Coliseum is to be seen, in which the olympic flame flared up on the day of the funeral of Dr. Árpád Csanádi, sports director of the International Olympic Committee in memory, on March 16, 1983. The Hungarian memorial publication ("Memorial Publication of the Hungarian Olympic Committee") contains the writings of the officials of the International Olympic Committee and the Hungarian Olympic Committee, Árpád Csanádi, his colleagues and friends.
61. Below to the right the peace plaque of Hungarian sculptor Gyula Kiss Kovács, and on the left side the reprint and Hungarian translation of the ode of Pierre de Coubertin written in 1912 are to be seen. The first lines of it might be even the closing ideas of our film: "Sports, you are the peace! The beautiful ribbon lacing people together".
62. The modern olympic movement celebrated the 90th anniversary of its beginning in 1984. There have been periods in its history when the olympic ideal could not assert itself completely. The influence of the supporters of political, racial, religious discrimination, war hatred, the forces of aggression

has frequently been detrimental to the olympic movement both in the past in the present. Precedents for this are: 1920, Antwerp; 1936, Berlin; 1940, Tokyo; 1944. London; 1972. Munich; 1980 Moscow and 1984, Los Angeles.

The olympic ideal, however, has stood and will stand the test of time. The olympic flame cannot be extinguished, together with the desire of peace, fair human competition. Olympic champions, ideals have been and will be forever.

The pictures are taken from the archives of the Museum for Physical Education and Sports, the Hungarian News Service, the Olympic Committees, sportsmen, their relatives and the author.

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