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HISTORICAL DICTIONARY of
FIGURE
SKATING



JAMES R. HINES

Historical Dictionary of Figure Skating

James R. Hines



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HISTORICAL DICTIONARIES OF SPORTS

Jon Woronoff, Series Editor

Competitive Swimming, by John Lohn, 2010.

Basketball, by John Grasso, 2011.

Golf, by Bill Mallon and Randon Jerris, 2011.

Figure Skating, by James R. Hines, 2011.

Dedicated to
Benjamin T. Wright,
my colleague, friend, and mentor,
who has continually encouraged
my figure skating research.

Editor's Foreword

In every sport there is an element of art, but in none is this so striking and visible as in figure skating and actually now more than ever since the compulsory figures and compulsory dances have been eliminated. Executing the actual figures and jumps requires an incredible amount of skill, self-control, and strength, and skating to music may appear more agreeable but certainly not simpler. Thus, anyone engaged in the basic competitive categories of men's and ladies' singles, pairs, ice dancing, and synchronized skating must have an extraordinary set of talents. This sporting side explains why figure skating has become increasingly prominent in the Winter Olympics and among other competitive events, but it is the more artistic side which is making it an uncommonly popular form of show business, with competitive skaters retiring not into oblivion or entering a coaching career as in most other sports but rather appearing with various shows that tour winter and summer performing before large and appreciative audiences.

This *Historical Dictionary of Figure Skating* covers the field both as a sport and an art with a multitude of entries in the dictionary section on the top skaters over the years. Indeed every skater who has won a gold medal in any of the eight major championships is included, as well as other prominent people and governing bodies. There are entries on the leading countries that produce skaters as well as entries on the basic disciplines and assorted jumps, spins, and spirals. Figure skating did not appear out of nowhere but evolved from rather simple forms in the Netherlands and England as early as the late Middle Ages, and this long development is traced in one chronology, while another presents the sport's defining moments. The history is plotted out more substantially in the introduction. And to follow events, it is helpful to have the handy list of acronyms and abbreviations. While these sections will be extremely interesting for general and specialist readers, it is the extensive appendixes which will absorb the real skating buffs most with lists of medalists, members of the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame, and key information on the International Skating Union.

This volume was written by James R. Hines, professor emeritus of music at Christopher Newport University. He is a musicologist and an active member

of related societies. But here it is his avocation which assumes the spotlight, namely as a historian of figure skating. He has written the definitive history of the sport, *Figure Skating: A History*, a second book, *The English Style: Figure Skating's Oldest Tradition*, as well as articles for various publications including the *Journal of Olympic History*. On top of all this, Dr. Hines is an elector for the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame. This latest publication, a historical dictionary which presents the information in a handy, easy-to-use format will certainly be added to the collections of those truly interested in the sport and art of figure skating.

Jon Woronoff
Series Editor

Preface

Figure skating, one of the most popular Winter Olympic sports, lacked a comprehensive dictionary of skating and skaters. Although information on individual skaters, results of international competitions, and information on the sport itself appear in a variety of sources, many of them are not readily available, even in large libraries, making it difficult for interested persons to find answers to relatively basic questions about the sport and its participants. The *Historical Dictionary of Figure Skating* fills this void. It includes entries on hundreds of skaters, past and present, but also on skating countries, governing bodies, skating disciplines, technical elements, skating styles, and many other subjects. For those seeking additional information, a comprehensive, topical bibliography lists sources, some readily available and others that can be retrieved through interlibrary loan. Coupled with my previous history of the sport, *Figure Skating: A History*, interested persons, skaters, commentators, coaches, officials, skating fans, and librarians now have at their disposal complementary sources that can provide answers to many questions and direct them to additional sources for further study.

The dictionary entries include all of the champions from the most important international figure skating competitions, specifically the World Championships, the European Championships, the Four Continents Championships, the North American Championships, the Olympic Winter Games, the Grand Prix Finals, and the World Junior Championships. Other skaters whose careers have made a significant impact on the sport, positively or negatively, are included, persons such as Janet Lynn, one of the most artistic skaters of the 1970s, and Tonya Harding, whose misdeeds influenced the popularity of the sport during the 1990s. Important persons, skaters and nonskaters, from the early history of the sport, presidents of the International Skating Union (ISU), influential judges and referees, and major writers are also included. Twenty-one countries are included, specifically all of those that have fielded skaters who won world or Olympic titles. Skating elements, such as jumps and spins, and all disciplines, including the newer ones such as theater on ice, are described. Through extensive cross-referencing, information on people not represented by separate entries but who are mentioned in those entries becomes available.

Appendixes include lists of current members of the ISU and major office-holders throughout its history. Another appendix identifies all members of the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame. The remaining appendixes name all medalists through the 2010 skating season for each of the eight international championships named earlier. The bibliography is preceded by an explanatory introduction to make it as useful as possible.

The spelling of proper names presents a challenge, primarily a result of variant spellings which occur in official documents. In the case of Russian and other Slavic languages, this often results from transliteration of the Cyrillic alphabet. An effort has been made to maintain consistency while employing logical spellings or those most frequently found. For medal winners in ISU championships before 1992, the spellings are those printed in *Results: Figure Skating Championships, 1968–1991*. It provides complete results for competitors within the indicated dates but also lists of earlier medalists from the World Championships, the European Championships, and the World Junior Championships.

Dates for skaters are often difficult to obtain, especially death dates, which occur many years after their competitive careers or other involvement with the sport. ISU and federation records often but not always include birth dates. Some lists of skaters that include birth dates have been compiled, but none are complete. For dates needed, I have contacted respective federations and requested any information included in their records. Some dates, however, were not known at the time of the printing of this publication.

Skating seasons usually begin in October and end in March, always spanning two calendar years. Grand Prix events are held during the fall; the World Championships, the Olympics, and most other events are held in the new year. For consistency and to avoid confusion, all events in each skating season are referenced to the new year. Thus, the Grand Prix Finals, held in early December 2009, are considered as events in the 2010 skating season.

Although it is acknowledged that today females are most often referred to as women, in the sport of figure skating, from the 18th century to the present, the term “ladies” has been employed for young novice skaters through the oldest adult skaters. It was a subject of discussion at an ISU Congress, the result of which was confirmation that in figure skating there are only men and ladies. In an attempt to be historically accurate and correct, the term “ladies” has been used extensively throughout this book.

Figure skating, like all sports, evolves rapidly. This book, including its appendixes, is complete through the 2010 skating season. The photos are of all Olympic champions who have won multiple titles.

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I want to acknowledge those people who have contributed to the success of this book. Special appreciation goes to Benjamin T. Wright, to whom this book is dedicated. Since beginning my figure skating research and writing 14 years ago, Ben has become my mentor, colleague, and friend. He has read the entire manuscript for this book, as he did for my two previous books, and made many excellent suggestions. His knowledge of the sport, a result of his involvement, nationally and internationally, for more than 70 years, his training as a historian, and his own comprehensive books and numerous articles have served as my models in an attempt to continue the high level of scholarship he established many years ago. I also want to acknowledge the late Dennis Bird who was the historian for the National Skating Association of the United Kingdom. His personal files on individual skaters, of which I have copies, have been invaluable. Other persons who have answered various questions are listed here in alphabetical order. They include Vicki Binder, Karen Cover, Judy Edmunds, Joyce Hisey, Lennart Månsson, David Raith, and Huub Snoep. Appreciation is expressed to the World Figure Skating Museum and Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs, which has generously furnished the pictures included in this book, and Paul Harvath, who furnished the cover picture. Finally, I want to thank Jon Woronoff of Scarecrow Press, the series editor, who offered me the opportunity to write this volume, and Kellie Hagan, the production editor, who readily acceded to my many requests. They provided much guidance, responded promptly to my questions, and made numerous useful suggestions.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Country Abbreviations for ISU Members

Prior to 1998, the country abbreviations used by the International Skating Union (ISU) were based on its official language, English since 1948. At its 1998 congress, the ISU adopted the country abbreviations used by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which are based on one of its official languages, French. The former ISU designations are indicated where different because they occur in pre-1998 sources, but to avoid confusion, in this book the IOC designations are employed throughout.

Country	IOC	ISU
Andorra	AND	
Argentina	ARG	
Armenia	ARM	
Australia	AUS	
Austria	AUT	
Azerbaijan	AZE	
Belarus	BLS	BLR
Belgium	BEL	
Bosnia Herzegovina	BIH	
Brazil	BRA	
Bulgaria	BUL	
Canada	CAN	
China	CHN	
Chinese Taipei	TPE	
Croatia	CRO	
Czech Republic (Czechoslovakia)	CZE	CSR
Denmark	DEN	
Estonia	EST	
Finland	FIN	
France	FRA	
Georgia	GEO	

Germany	GER	
Federal Republic of Germany	FRG	
Democratic Republic of Germany	GDR	
Great Britain	GBR	GRB
Greece	GRE	
Hong Kong	HKG	
Hungary	HUN	
Iceland	ISL	
India	IND	
Ireland	IRL	
Israel	ISR	
Italy	ITA	
Japan	JPN	
Kazakhstan	KAZ	
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PRK	DPK
Republic of Korea	KOR	ROK
Latvia	LAT	
Lithuania	LTU	LIT
Luxembourg	LUX	
Mexico	MEX	
Monaco	MON	
Mongolia	MGL	
Netherlands	NED	
New Zealand	NZL	
Norway	NOR	
Poland	POL	
Portugal	POR	
Puerto Rico	PUR	
Romania	ROM	RUM
Russia	RUS	
Scotland*	SCO	
Serbia and Montenegro	SCG	
Singapore	SIN	
Slovakia	SVK	
Slovenia	SLO	
South Africa	RSA	SAF
Soviet Union	URS	
Soviet Union (1992 only)	CIS	EUN
Spain	ESP	SPN
Sweden	SWE	

Switzerland	SUI	SWI
Thailand	THA	
Turkey	TUR	
Ukraine	UKR	
United States	USA	
Uzbekistan	UZB	
Yugoslavia	YUG	

*Scotland is not a member of the ISU; however, the Junior Grand Prix Finals in Figure Skating were held there in 2001.

Other Abbreviations

ABC	American Broadcasting Corporation
ASC	American Skating Congress
CBE	Commander of the Order of the British Empire
CFSA	Canadian Figure Skating Association
IJS	International Judging System
IOC	International Olympic Committee
IPSA	International Professional Skaters Association
ISU	International Skating Union
ISUofA	International Skating Union of America
MBE	Master of the British Empire
MGM	Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer
NBC	National Broadcasting Corporation
NISA	National Ice Skating Association of the United Kingdom
NSA	National Skating Association
OBE	Officer of the British Empire
PSGA	Professional Skaters Guild of America
SCofB	Skating Club of Boston
USFSA	United States Figure Skating Association
USOC	United States Olympic Committee
WSF	World Skating Federation

Chronology

Figure Skating

c. 1220 The *Prose Edda* provides our first written sources for northern myths which include mentions of skating.

13th century The Dutch revolutionized skating by sharpening steel blades.

1396 Lydwina of Schiedam, Netherlands, fell to the ice while skating. Her injuries led to a life of suffering. St. Lydwina is the patron saint of figure skating.

1572 The Dutch used skates as a tool of warfare against Spanish troops at Amsterdam during the Dutch revolt against the Spanish. Traversing the frozen sea wearing clogs with spikes, the Spanish soldiers were attacked by Dutch musketeers on bladed skates, moving with the mobility the skates provided, who routed and massacred the Spanish attackers.

1652 The Stuarts after the infamous Rump Parliament fled to Holland during the Cromwellian era where they learned how to skate and to do the Dutch roll.

1660 The birth of figure skating occurred in England after the Restoration.

1713 British officers stationed in Nova Scotia following its seizure from the French probably skated there. It is presumed to be the first skating on bladed skates in the New World.

1738 Benjamin West, an important painter and America's first well-known skater, was born in Philadelphia. While working in England in the 1760s, he was called the best skater then on the ice.

1744 The world's first skating club was founded in Edinburgh, Scotland.

1772 Robert Jones published in London the first book on skating, *A Treatise on Skating*.

1813 Jean Garcin published the first book on skating in France, *Le vrai patineur* (The True Skater).

1830 The London Skating Club was formed. It continues today as the Royal Skating Club and is the oldest skating club in existence.

1833 The first known skating club in the New World was formed at St. John, New Brunswick.

1849 The Philadelphia Skating Club was founded. In 1861, it became the Philadelphia Skating Club and Humane Society. The club, which is still active today, was an original member of the United States Figure Skating Association, established in 1921.

c. 1860 Jackson Haines is believed to have invented the sit spin.

1863 Edward F. Gill published *The Skater's Manual*, the first North American book on skating.

1864 Jackson Haines, later to be called "America's Skating King," departed for Europe.

1867 Der Wiener Eislaufverein (Vienna Skating Club) was formed. It still exists today.

1869 H. E. Vandervell and T. Maxwell Witham in their book, *Figure Skating*, became the first to refer to the sport as "figure skating."

1876 The first artificial ice rink opened in Chelsea, London, England.

1879 Madison Square Garden became the first large artificial rink in the United States. The National Skating Association was formed. It is today called the National Ice Skating Association of the United Kingdom.

1881 *Spuren auf dem Eise* (Tracings on the Ice), the most extensive book on figure skating yet published, was written by three members of the Vienna Skating Club. A second and expanded edition was published in 1892.

1882 The first major international competition, the Great International Skating Tournament, was held in Vienna sponsored by the Vienna Skating Club. Axel Paulsen did a special figure jump that now bears his name.

1890 A major international competition was held on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the skating club in St. Petersburg, Russia.

1891 The first European Championship was held at Hamburg. The winner was Oskar Uhlig of Germany.

1892 Internationale Eislauf-Verein (International Skating Union (ISU) was formed in Scheveningen, Netherlands. Willem Mulier of Netherlands was elected the first chairman (president).

1893 The results of the European Championship held in Berlin were annulled by the ISU because of a scoring controversy over the application of conflicting rules.

1895 The ISU adopted formal rules for figure skating. Viktor Balk of Sweden became the second president of the ISU and served for 25 years.

1896 The first World Championship was held at St. Petersburg, Russia. It was for men only. Gilbert Fuchs of Germany won the title. The first championship in English style skating, the Challenge Shield for combined skating, was held. The winning team included A. E. Crawley, J. Le Fleming, R. Readhead, and G. R. Wood.

1902 Madge Syers of Great Britain entered the World Championship held in London, viewed as an all-male event, and placed second to Ulrich Salchow. The European Championship scheduled for Amsterdam was canceled for lack of ice. It was canceled again in 1903 for the same reason.

1905 The first Canadian national championships were held. The winners were Ormond B. Haycock, Anne L. Ewan, and in pairs, Katherine and Ormond Haycock.

1906 The first World Championship for ladies, called simply a Championship of the ISU, was held in Davos, Switzerland. Madge Syers of Great Britain became the first lady world champion.

1908 The first Olympic Games to include figure skating were held at London. The winners were Madge Syers of Great Britain in the ladies' competition, Ulrich Salchow of Sweden in the men's competition, Anna Hübler and Heinrich Burger of Germany in the pairs' competition, and Nikolai Panin of Russia in the special figures' competition. The first World Championship for

pairs, called simply a Championship of the ISU, was held in St. Petersburg, Russia. The champions were Anna Hübler and Heinrich Burger of Germany. Irving Brokaw of the United States became the first North American to compete in an Olympic figure skating competition. He placed sixth. Special figures were contested at the Olympic Games for the only time in world or Olympic competition. The winner was Nikolai Panin of Russia.

1910 Charlotte Oelschlagel of Germany, figure skating's first major theatrical star, began appearing in ice ballets in Berlin. In 1914 she moved to the United States to perform at New York's Hippodrome.

1911 Ulrich Salchow of Sweden became the first and only man to earn 10 world titles. They were not consecutive.

1913 The Figure Skating Department of the Amateur Skating Association of Canada was established, separating figure skating from speed skating. The name Canadian Figure Skating Association was adopted in 1939 and then changed to Skate Canada in 2000. The first Connaught Cup competition in fours between Canada and the United States was held in Ottawa, Ontario. It was the first competition held in North America in which the international style was employed.

1914 The first of what are now designated as the United States Championships were held in New Haven, Connecticut. The winners were Theresa Weld in the ladies' competition, Norman Scott in the men's competition, Jeanne Chevalier and Norman Scott in the pairs' competition, and Theresa Weld and Nathaniel Niles in the waltz competition.

1915–1922 The European and World Championships for seven years and the Olympic Winter Games of 1916 were not held because of World War I.

1916 Charlotte Oelschlagel appeared in a six-part serial, *The Frozen Warning*, the first motion picture to include figure skating.

1920 The first postwar Olympic Games were held at Antwerp, Belgium. They included figure skating events and for the first time ice hockey. The winners were Magda Mauroy-Julin of Sweden in the ladies' competition, Gillis Grafström of Sweden in the men's competition, and Ludowika Eilers and Walter Jakobsson of Finland in the pairs' competition. Theresa Weld of the United States became the first North American to win an Olympic medal. She won the bronze medal in the ladies' competition.