

WHITAKER'S



OLYMPIC ALMANACK

2004

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE OLYMPIC GAMES

STAN GREENBERG

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TO THE OLYMPIC GAMES

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First published 2000

A & C Black Ltd
37 Soho Square, London W1D 3QZ

ISBN 0-7136-6724-9

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A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Editorial team: Mandi Gomez; Inna Ward; Lauren Simpson

Cover photography: © Getty Images

Internal photography: © Getty Images

Designed by: Fiona Pike

Printed and bound in the EU by: Chiltern Press, Bicester, UK

FOREWORD

Most books about the Olympic Games tend to deal with them in Games order, i.e., starting with Athens in 1896 and following through until the latest celebration. Invariably, they deal with the various sports, breaking them up into those in the Summer Games, and then those in the Winter Games. This is all very well and proper, but it makes things very difficult for the reader or researcher who wants to look up, let's say, the competitor with the most medals, or the oldest to win a gold medal, or the tallest ever competitor. Having been involved in reference work for most of my life, putting things into lists, files and classification systems, it seemed obvious to me that what was required was an Olympic compendium in an alphabetical order – similar to an encyclopaedia. You will find the different celebrations of the Games, whether Summer or Winter, in chronological order, i.e. by year, in a separate section. However, all the various sports, Summer, Winter and Discontinued, plus subsidiary subjects, such as Most Medals, Smallest, Tallest etc., are shown in alphabetical order. It is my opinion that this method of presentation, a unique one I believe, will enable the reader to find the information they require easier and faster than previously possible.

I would like to express my thanks to Keith Greenberg and Paul Sparks for their technical help, and Carole Greenberg for her good humour and understanding. Where contradictions have been found in different sources I have invariably arrived at my own, hopefully correct, conclusion. The political upheavals of the former East European bloc have caused Olympic chroniclers some problems. I have taken my own attitude to such matters and made my own, unusual, medal compilations. However, I have given all necessary data so that readers with different views can reconstruct tables to their own liking if they wish.

Stan Greenberg
London 2003

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am greatly indebted to the original research by Olympic historians Erich Kamper (AUT), Volker Kluge (GER), Wolf Lyberg (SWE), Bill Mallon (USA) and Ian Buchanan (GBR). After extensive research, particularly by Wolf Lyberg, the International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH) has agreed new participation figures. My main sources have been, in alphabetical order, as follows:

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 Sandor Barcs (HUN), *The Modern Olympics Story* (1964)
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 David Wallechinsky (USA), *The Complete Book of the Olympics* (1984, 1988, 1992); *The Complete Book of the Summer Olympics* (1996, 2000); *The Complete Book of the Winter Olympics* (1998, 2002)
 Melvyn Watman (GBR), *The Encyclopaedia of Track and Field Athletics* (1981)

Other experts and organisations whose publications and personal help have been invaluable include:
 Richard Ayling, Howard Bass, Anthony Bijkerk (NED), Harry Carpenter, Jim Coote, Peter Diamond (USA), Maurice Golesworthy, John Goodbody, Mark Heller, Richard Hymans, Peter Johnson, Ove Karlsson (SWE), Ekkehard zur Megele (GER), Ferenc Mezo (HUN), Rebecca Middleton, Jan Patterson, Ron Pickering, Philip Pope, Jack Rollin, Bob Sparks, Stuart Storey, Dave Terry, John Tidy, Lance Tingay, Martin Tyler, David Vine, Alan Weeks, Ture Widlund (SWE), Dorian Williams and Don Wood. The Association of Track and Field Statisticians (ATFS), British Olympic Association (BOA), The International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH), The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), National Ski Federation of Great Britain (NSFGB), National Union of Track Statisticians (NUTS), *The New York Times*, *Sports Illustrated*, *The Times*, *Track and Field News*, *L'Equipe*, *USA Today*, and many national and international bodies and individuals.

KEY TO NOTES IN TABLES

G = gold or gold medallist
 S = silver
 B = bronze
 M = medallist
 W = wind assisted

km/h = kilometres per hour
 mph = miles per hour
 yd = yards
 m = metres

ABBREVIATIONS

All member countries, present and past, have an official Olympic three-letter abbreviation, used throughout this book. A list of these can be found under the entry 'Participation, by country' (p.115).

CONTENTS

A CHRONOLOGY OF THE SUMMER AND WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

Albertville 1992	52
Amsterdam 1928	21
Ancient Games	9
Antwerp 1920	16
Athens 1896	10
Athens 1906	13
Atlanta 1996	56
Barcelona 1992	53
Berlin 1936	25
Calgary 1988	49
Chamonix-Mont Blanc 1924	18
Cortina d'Ampezzo 1956	31
Garmisch-Partenkirchen 1936	24
Grenoble 1968	37
Helsinki 1952	30
Innsbruck 1964	35
Innsbruck 1976	42
Lake Placid 1932	22
Lake Placid 1980	44
Lillehammer 1994	55
London 1908	14
London 1948	28
Los Angeles 1932	23
Los Angeles 1984	47
Melbourne 1956	32
Mexico City 1968	38
Montreal 1976	43
Moscow 1980	45
Munich 1972	40
Nagano 1998	58
Oslo 1952	29
Paris 1900	11
Paris 1924	19
Rome 1960	34
Salt Lake City 2002	60
Sapporo 1972	39
Sarajevo 1984	46
Seoul 1988	50
Squaw Valley 1960	33
St Louis 1904	12
St Moritz 1928	20
St Moritz 1948	27
Stockholm 1912	15
Sydney 2000	58
Tokyo 1964	36

AN A–Z OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

A	
Abbreviations	4
Alpine Skiing	65
American Football	66
Archery	66
Athletics	67
Australian Rules Football	73
Automatic Timing	73

B	
Badminton	73
Bandy	74
Baseball	74
Basketball	74
Beach Volleyball	76
Biathlon	76
Bicycle Polo	77
Biggest Fields	77
Bobsledding	77
Boxing	78
Brothers	80
Budo	81

C	
Canoeing	81
Celebrations of the Games, tables	82
Consecutive medals	83
Creed	83
Cricket	83
Croquet	83
Curling	83
Cycling	84

D	
De Coubertin	86
Demonstration Sports	86
Discontinued Sports	86
Diving	86
Dog Sleigh Racing	87
Doubles across Sports	87
Drugs	88

E	
Equestrianism	88
Ever Present, Countries	91
Ever Present, Events	91
Ever Present, Sports	91

F	
Families	91
Fencing	91
Figure Skating	93
Firsts	94
Flag, Olympic	94
Flame, Olympic	94
Football (see American, Australian Rules, Soccer)	
Freestyle Skiing	95

G	
Gliding	96
Golf	96
Gymnastics	96

H	
Handball	98
Heaviest	99
Hockey	99

I			
Ice Hockey	100	Skeleton Sled (<i>see</i> Lugeing)	126
Ice Skating (<i>see</i> Figure, Speed)		Skiing (<i>see</i> Alpine, Freestyle, Nordic)	
International Olympic Committee (IOC)	101	Ski-Jumping	127
		Smallest	128
J		Snowboarding	128
Jeu de Paume	101	Soccer	128
Judo	101	Softball	131
		Speed	131
K		Speed Skating	131
Korfball	103	Speed Skiing	133
		Sports	133
L		Stadia	133
Lacrosse	103	Stamps	133
Lausanne	103	Summer Games (<i>see</i> Celebrations)	
Longest event	103	Swimming	133
Lugeing	103	Synchronised Diving	137
		Synchronised Swimming	137
M		T	
Mascots	104	Table Tennis	138
Medals, by Nation	104	Tae Kwon Do	138
Medals, most by Individuals	107	Tallest	139
Media	108	Television (<i>see</i> Media)	139
Member Countries (<i>see</i> Participation)		Tennis	139
Military Patrol	108	Tobogganing (<i>see</i> Lugeing)	
Modern Pentathlon	108	Torch Relay	141
Motorboating	109	Trampolining	141
Motto	110	Trebles across Sports	141
Multi-Representation	110	Triathlon	141
		Tug-of-War	141
N		Twins	142
Nordic Combination	110	V	
Nordic Skiing	110	Volleyball (<i>see also</i> Beach Volleyball)	142
O		W	
Oldest	111	Water Polo	143
Olympic Oath	112	Water Skiing	143
Openings	112	Weightlifting	144
Outstanding Achievements, table	113	Winter Games (<i>see also</i> Celebrations)	145
P		Winter Pentathlon	145
Participation, by Competitors	115	Women, participation	146
Participation, by Country	115	Wrestling	146
Pelota Basque	119	Y	
Polo	119	Yachting (<i>see</i> Sailing)	
Press (<i>see</i> Media)		Youngest	148
R		IMAGES FROM THE	
Rackets	119	OLYMPIC GAMES	
Roller Hockey	119	OLYMPIC MEDALS TABLES	
Roque	119	AND RESULTS BY SPORT	
Rowing	119	AND YEAR	149
Royalty	121		
Rugby Union	121		
S			
Sailing (Yachting)	122	International Sporting Organisations	280
Shooting	124		
Short-Track Speed Skating	126	Names Index	282
Sisters	126		

A CHRONOLOGY OF THE SUMMER AND WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

ANCIENT GAMES

The Olympic Games originally evolved from legendary conflicts among the Greek Gods and the religious ceremonies held in their honour. Historical evidence dates the Games from about 900 BC, but there is good reason to believe that a similar festival existed four centuries previously. Indeed the modern word 'athlete' is said to derive from Aethlius, King of Elis. The area in which Olympia lies is in the plain of Elis, on the banks of the River Alpheios. It was a successor, Iphitus, who was instrumental in reviving the then faltering concept in the late ninth century BC. He also arranged for the truce (called *ekecheiria*) between the continually warring states of the region which recognised the neutrality and sanctity of Olympia, and which lasted for the period of the Games. The first firm record dates from 776 BC, and the Games were numbered at four-yearly intervals from then. At that time there was only one event, the *stade* race, and the winner, the first recorded Olympic champion, was Coroibis of Elis. The *stade* was 192.27m (210.26yd) long, reputedly 60 times the length of the god Heracles's (Hercules) foot. After thirteen Olympiads, in 724 BC, a race of two *stade*, the *diaulus*, was also contested, and in the following celebration the 24-stadia *dolichus*, about 4.5km (2.8 miles) in length, was instituted. In 708 BC came the pentathlon, mythically invented by Jason (of *Jason and the Argonauts* fame). This consisted of a run, standing long jump (with the aid of *halteres*, hand-held weights), throwing the discus and javelin, and wrestling. Eventually chariot racing, running in armour and boxing were included, and in 648 BC the *pankration*, a brutal mix of boxing and wrestling. Numerous variants of these sports appeared over the years, as did also activities of a less sporting nature, such as contests for trumpeters.

Initially contestants wore simple shorts-like garments, but from about 720 BC they competed in the nude, and until 692 BC the Games only lasted for a single day. This was later increased to two days, and in 632 BC to a total of five days, of which the middle three were for actual competitions. For the next six centuries the fame of Olympia spread throughout the known world, and many famous people visited the Games. Victors, in those early days, won only a crown of wild olive leaves, but were often richly rewarded by their home cities or states, and sometimes became very wealthy. Crowd figures were not published but archaeologists have estimated that the stadium at Olympia could hold over 20,000 spectators.

For reasons not fully understood today women, and slaves, were strictly forbidden, under pain of death, to even attend the Games. An exception does appear to have been made for high-ranking priestesses of the most important gods. However, it was possible for a woman to gain an Olympic prize. This was because in the chariot race the chaplet of olive leaves was awarded to the owner of the horses and not the drivers. One of the first women to win an Olympic title in this way was Belistike of Macedonia in 268 BC as owner of the champion two-horse chariot, and an inscription at Olympia refers to

Kyniska of Sparta as one of the first such female chariot owners. It is recorded that some women did defy the rules and disguised themselves, but, on discovery, were thrown over a cliff to their deaths. There is a story, perhaps apocryphal, that Pherenice of Rhodes acted as a second to watch her son, Pisidores, win his event. In her excitement she gave herself away, but when it was realised that not only her son, but also her father and brothers had all been Olympic champions, she was pardoned.

Possibly the most famous champion of early times was Leonidas of Rhodes who won the three 'track' events on four consecutive occasions 164–152 BC, making a total of 12 victories — not surpassed since. The first recorded triple gold medallist at one Games was Phanas of Pellene in 512 BC, while the Spartan runner Chionis won the *stade* in three successive Games 664–656 BC. Other excellent champions included Theagenes of Thassos who won eight titles at boxing, wrestling and *pankration* from 468–456 BC, and Milon of Croton who won six wrestling titles 536–516 BC. Eventually, the very success of the Games gave rise to its downfall. The importance of winning at Olympia, and the reflected glory it bestowed on the winner's birthplace, led cities to hire professionals and bribe judges. With the dawn of the Christian era the religious and physical backgrounds of the Games were attacked. An irreversible decline set in under Roman influence, so much so that in AD 67 a drunken Emperor Nero was crowned victor of the chariot race despite the fact that there were no other entrants (who could blame them) and he did not even finish the course. According to accepted belief, in AD 393 the Roman Emperor Theodosius I issued a decree in Milan, which prohibited the Games. Recent archaeological evidence seems to suggest that the Games may have continued — in some form — for another 100–120 years, but then the ravages of foreign invaders, earthquakes and flooding virtually obliterated the site of Olympia, and the world forgot the glory that once had been.

There was a resurgence of interest in Ancient Greece in the 17th and 18th centuries and references to the Olympic Games in the poems of Pindar and other Greek poets were noted. In Britain the Cotswold Olympic Games were inaugurated in the early 17th century, and in 1850 Dr William Penny Brookes founded the Much Wenlock Olympic Society. At the end of the 18th century, in Germany, the famed founder of modern gymnastics, Johann Guts Muths, had suggested the revival of the Olympic ideal. Some 50 years later a fellow-countryman, Ernst Curtius, who had worked as an archaeologist at Olympia (started by the French in 1829) reiterated the idea in a lecture he gave in Berlin in 1852. In Greece itself Major Evangelis Zappas organised a Pan-Hellenic sports festival in 1859 that attracted a great deal of public support, and which was revived at intervals over the next 30 years.

However, the true founder of the modern Olympic Games is commonly acknowledged to be Pierre de Fredi, Baron de Coubertin, of France. In 1889 he met Brookes of Much Wenlock, and formed his concept of a revived

Games, which he first propounded publicly at a lecture in the Sorbonne, Paris, on 25 November 1892. In the following year, he met with representatives of the top American universities. In June 1894 he convened an international conference, also in the Sorbonne, the outcome of which was a resolution on 23 June, calling for competitions along the lines of the Ancient Games to be held every four years. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) was inaugurated under the presidency of Demetrius Vikelas of Greece with de Coubertin as Secretary-General. The Frenchman had hoped to herald the new century with the first Games in Paris in 1900, but the delegates were impatient. There was strong sentiment in favour of London or Budapest, but, at the instigation of Vikelas, Athens was finally selected and the date set as 1896.

ATHENS 1896

1 OLYMPIC GAMES HELD IN ATHENS, GREECE, 6–15 APRIL 1896 (25 MARCH–3 APRIL 1896 ACCORDING TO THE JULIAN CALENDAR)
ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF 14 COUNTRIES, COMPRISING 211 COMPETITORS (NO WOMEN).

Although the Greek government was apparently not consulted, and was beset with internal financial and political problems, the Greek public was very enthusiastic. However, it was not until Crown Prince Constantine set up a committee and began organising and collecting funds that the project became feasible, and the prospect of Budapest getting the honour by default faded. The turning point came with the generosity of a Greek businessman, Georges Averoff (formerly Avykeris) who actually lived in Alexandria, Egypt. He offered to pay for the reconstruction of the Panathenean Stadium in Athens at a cost of 920,000 *drachmas* (£36,500 at the 1896 exchange rate). The stadium was initiated and built by the orator Luycurgus, a disciple of Plato in 330 BC. It was rebuilt 500 years later by Herodes Atticus, but had gradually disintegrated and was covered up until 1870 when King George of Greece had arranged for its excavation by a German, Ernst Ziller. The new track measured 33,333m, had very sharp turns, and the competitors ran in a clockwise direction. There was supposed to be a total of 50 events, but the seven rowing competitions were cancelled due to inclement weather in Phaleron Bay.

The opening of the Games coincided with the 75th anniversary of the declaration of Greek independence from Turkish rule. Over 40,000 spectators in the stadium, plus thousands more on the surrounding hills, saw King George I formally open the proceedings. The greater bulk of competitors were from Greece itself. Many athletes entered privately, including holidaymakers, and the British contingent included two employees of the Embassy in Athens. Another member of the British team was an Irishman, John Bolland, who was on holiday in Greece at the time and entered the tennis events. He won the singles and, partnering a German, also won gold in the doubles. A French sprinter who insisted on wearing his gloves as he was running before royalty provided a further nice touch of the period.

Not for the last time a gymnast, Hermann Weingärtner (GER), was the most successful competitor, with three first places, two seconds and a third; a Frenchman, Paul Masson, won three cycling events; but perhaps the most outstanding achievement was that of Carl Schuhmann of Germany who not only won three gymnastic events but also won the wrestling title. Another competitor to gain medals in two sports was gymnast Fritz Hofmann (GER) whose total of five placings included a silver medal in the 100m. In shooting, John and Sumner Paine (USA) became the first brothers to win Olympic gold medals, in military pistol and free pistol respectively. Their father had successfully defended yachting's America's Cup some years before, and John Paine's great granddaughter later sculled in the 1996 Games.

The first competition of the modern Olympic Games was heat one of the 100m, which was won, in 12.5sec by the American Francis Lane of Princeton University, thus carving a niche in history for himself. The first gold medallist of modern times was James Brendan Connolly (USA) who won the hop, step and jump (now known as the triple jump). In fact the American team, composed exclusively of college students, dominated events in the stadium, despite arriving only the day before the start of the competitions, having travelled by ship to France and then by train to Greece. Victors actually received a silver medal and a crown of olive leaves; runners-up were given bronze medals and a crown of laurel; no awards were made for third place.

Two new sporting events were introduced at these Games: the discus throw and the marathon. Both were based on Greek antiquity and the hosts were eager to win them. However, the former was taken by Robert Garrett (USA) who had inadvertently practised with an implement much larger and heavier than the one actually used at Athens. The marathon had been proposed by Frenchman Michel Breal, to commemorate the legendary run of a Greek courier, possibly Pheidippides, with the news of a Greek victory over the Persians in 490 BC. He is supposed to have run from the site of the battle, and, after crying out 'Rejoice! We conquer', collapsed and died. To the great delight of the spectators the race was won by a Greek shepherd, Spiridon 'Spyros' Louis, who was escorted into the stadium by Crown Prince Constantine and Prince George.

The oldest gold medallist was Georgios Orphanidis (GRE) in the free rifle contest, aged 36 years 102 days, while the youngest was swimmer Alfréd Hajós (HUN) aged 18 years 70 days when he won the 100m and 1200m freestyle events. A member of the Greek bronze medal gymnastics team was reported to be less than 11 years of age, but some doubt exists about the veracity of this claim. In view of the modern saturation coverage of the Olympics by the media, it is noteworthy to record that the British press gave little space to reports from Athens, despite an earlier complaint in *The Times*, about the lack of knowledge of the occasion in the country, and Britain's inadequate representation. Nevertheless, the Games were a tremendous success and Greece looked forward to the next celebration, which they also expected to host.

1896 MEDALS

	G	S	B
United States	11	7	1
Greece	10	19	18
Germany	7	5	2
France	5	4	2
Great Britain	3	3	1
Hungary	2	1	3
Austria	2	—	—
Australia	2	—	—
Denmark	1	2	4
Switzerland	1	2	—

PARIS 1900

II OLYMPIC GAMES HELD IN PARIS, FRANCE,
20 MAY–28 OCTOBER 1900
ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF 24 COUNTRIES,
COMPRISING 1225 COMPETITORS, OF WHICH 19
WERE WOMEN.

Despite strong Greek pressure for the exclusive rights to organise future Games, Baron de Coubertin won agreement to hold the 1900 Games in Paris, but made a serious mistake in making it part of the Fifth Universal Exposition also being held there. In the event the Games became merely a sideshow to the fair. Numerous internal rivalries within French sport left many of the sports without experienced officials or adequate venues. The track and field events were held on uneven turf at Croix-Catelan, in the Bois de Boulogne, where it is reported that the jumpers had to dig their own pits. Many of the competitors, especially the Americans, had never run on a grass track before. Generally there were few spectators, and even these were nearly reduced in number when the 1896 discus champion threw the implement into the crowd on all three throws. Cricket, croquet and golf made their appearance, and amid the general confusion many competitors, even medal winners, were not aware until much later that they had been competing at the Olympic Games.

France, the host country, had a record-sized team numbering 884, the largest ever entered for the Games. Russia competed for the first time. The Americans were still represented by colleges and clubs, and the decision to have competition on Sunday upset many of those whose colleges were church controlled. Thus the long jump world record holder Myer Prinstein, a Russian-born Jew but under the aegis of the University of Syracuse, a strong Methodist institution, gained a silver medal with his Saturday qualifying round jump (such performances then counted for medals), but had to withdraw from the Sunday final. The eventual winner, Alvin Kraenzlein (USA) set a record of four individual gold medals, a feat never surpassed in track and field at one Games. Also much in evidence was America's Ray Ewry, the standing jump expert, at the start of his fabulous Olympic career, with three gold medals here. Behind him in those standing jumps was countryman Irving Baxter. He had already won the regular high jump and the pole vault, and reputedly became the first athlete of Native American

ancestry to win at the Olympic Games. Athlete Norman Pritchard (GBR), usually, and mistakenly, shown as representing India, won two silvers in the 200m flat and hurdles races, and later became an actor in Hollywood silent films.

Women were allowed to compete for the first time, but not in the major sports, and the first female Olympic competitor (only recently researched) was Helen, Countess de Pourtalès (SUI), in the one- to two-tonne class sailing event in May. The first individual champion was Charlotte Cooper (GBR), who won the tennis singles on 7 July. A unique record was set in the coxed pairs rowing final, in which a small French boy was drafted in at the last moment to cox the winning Dutch crew. His name was never recorded and he disappeared without trace afterwards, but he was no more than ten years old, and possibly as young as seven, in either case the youngest ever Olympic gold medallist. The oldest gold medallist in 1900 was French-born Count Hermann de Pourtalès (SUI) in the one- two-tonne class sailing aged 53 years 55 days. The youngest female champion was Margaret Abbott (USA) in golf aged 20 years 110 days, while the oldest was 31-year-old Helen, Countess de Pourtalès, who was a crewmember for her father.

Press coverage was barely apparent, with many of the events not mentioned at all, and for years afterwards there was much confusion as to the names and nationalities of even the medallists. Thus it was that the first Olympic medals won by Canada, a gold and bronze gained by George Orton, were not 'discovered' for some years, as Orton had been entered by his American university and was billed as an American. Constantin Henriquez de Zubiera (FRA) gained a silver in the tug-of-war, and then a gold medal in Rugby in 1900 – he was Algerian-born and thus the first African and, indeed, black athlete to (a) compete in the Games, (b) win a medal, and (c) gain a gold medal. Even more recently it has been found that the winner of the marathon, Michel Théato (FRA), was actually a Luxembourgish – in this case the medal tables have not been altered.

1900 MEDALS

	G	S	B
France	27	39	34
United States	19	15	15
Great Britain	17	9	12
Switzerland	6	3	1
Belgium	5	5	3
Germany	3	2	2
Australia	3	—	4
Denmark	2	3	2
Italy	2	2	—
The Netherlands	1	1	4
Hungary	1	2	2
Cuba	1	1	—
Canada	1	—	1
Sweden	1	—	1
Austria	—	3	3
Norway	—	2	3
Czechoslovakia	—	1	2

ST LOUIS 1904

III OLYMPIC GAMES HELD IN ST LOUIS, USA, 1 JULY–23 NOVEMBER 1904

ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF 13 COUNTRIES, COMPRISING 687 COMPETITORS, OF WHICH 6 WERE WOMEN.

For a time the third celebration seemed likely to go to Britain, and then to Philadelphia, whilst de Coubertin had favoured New York. The IOC finally designated Chicago for these Games, but at the request of President Theodore Roosevelt, also president of the USOC, the venue was changed to St Louis to coincide with the World's Fair, held to celebrate the centenary of the Louisiana Purchase. Thus again they became merely a sideshow. Held in the centre of the North American continent, the problems of distance and travel meant that there were very few overseas entrants. Indeed, even de Coubertin did not attend. Thus 85 per cent of the competitors were from the host country, and, not surprisingly, they won 84 per cent of the medals. In fact the Games were a virtual college and club tournament with the New York Athletics Club (NYAC) beating the Chicago Athletic Association (CAA) for the track and field team title (a points table was actually published). It went so far that a German team applied to enter the gymnastics competition but was refused because all its members did not belong to one club. In swimming much was made of the fact that New York beat Germany and Hungary overall.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1904 George Eyser of the United States won three gold medals in the gymnastics competitions despite having a wooden leg.

In such circumstances the Games degenerated into something of a farce, so that the cycling events, which had no foreign entrants at all, and included a number of professional riders, were initially refused official Olympic status. However, recent scholarship suggests that they should be included in medal tables and results. So the unique achievement of Marcus Hurley in winning four cycling events should now be given due credit. Gymnast Anton Heida (USA) won five golds and a silver and became the most successful at these Games.

Under the rather loose controls imposed on most sports some strange things happened. In the 400-m track race no heats were held, and all 13 entrants ran in the final. Rowing events were held over a 1 1/2-mile (2.4km) course which entailed making a turn. The swimming events were held over Imperial distances, while the athletics track (in the grounds of Washington University, St Louis) measured one-third of a mile in circumference (536m) and had a 220-yd straightaway, which was quite an innovation for the visiting Europeans. In the track and field programme only two events went to non-Americans. The French-Canadian policeman Etienne Desmarteau won the 56lb (25.4kg) weight throw. He unfortunately died the following year of typhoid and a park was named after him in his home city of Montreal. The ten-event all-round competition, a forerunner of the decathlon, was won by Thomas Kiely, who, incidentally, like the silver

medallist in the 2500m steeplechase, John Daly, was an Irishman. However, as Ireland at the time was part of the United Kingdom, they have to be taken as representing Great Britain, despite attempts by 'historical revisionists' to make it otherwise. The unfortunate Myer Prinstein redressed his grievance of four years previously by taking the long jump title, as well as winning the hop, step and jump. He also placed fifth in both the 60m and 400m finals. The ever-liberal Prinstein here was representing the Greater New York Irish Athletics Association (NYIAA).

The 200m final, uniquely held on a straightaway (i.e. no turns), was won by Archie Hahn, with all three of his opponents given a one-yard (0.99m) handicap under the rules then governing false starts. Joseph Stadler won a silver medal in the standing high jump, while George Poage won bronzes in the 200m and 400m hurdles races. The significance of their performances was that they were thought to be the first black men to win medals in the Olympics. Recent research suggests that a French-Algerian in 1900 pre-dates them. Despite the lack of foreign opposition the standard in many sports was very high, and the triple victories of Archie Hahn, Harry Hillman, James Lightbody, Ray Ewry and swimmer Charles Daniels were outstanding. Daniels, in winning three golds, a silver, and a bronze, was the prototype of the American swimmers who were to dominate Olympic freestyle swimming for many years.

There was a scandal in the marathon when the first man out of the stadium, Fred Lorz (USA), was also the first man back, looking remarkably fresh. It later transpired that he had received a lift in a car after suffering cramp, and when the car itself broke down near the stadium he resumed running – as a joke he claimed. He was banned for life (but was competing again after only a year) and the title was awarded to British-born American Thomas Hicks who had finished in a daze due to being administered strychnine by his handlers as a stimulant – a practice then common and allowable. In ninth place was Len Tau (SAF), in St Louis as part of a World's Fair exhibit, the first black African distance runner to compete in the Olympics.

The youngest gold medallist was golfer Robert Hunter (USA) aged 17 years 301 days, while the oldest was the Reverend Galen Spencer (USA), an archer, aged 64 years 2 days. Another American archer, Samuel Duvall, won a silver medal aged 68 years 194 days – the oldest American medallist ever. The oldest female champion was Lida Howell (USA) in archery aged 45 years 25 days. The youngest medallist was another archer, Henry Richardson (USA), aged 15 years 124 days. Another American, Frank Kungler, won a silver in wrestling, a bronze in tug-of-war, and two bronzes in weightlifting, to become the only Olympian to win medals at three different sports at a single Games.

A final insult to the Games were the Anthropology Days, during which competitions were held, parodying the regular Olympic events, for aboriginal peoples, such as American Indians, African pygmies, Patagonians, Ainu from Japan, and the like. Finally, in November, with the Association Football competition won by a Canadian college over two American teams, the III Olympic Games came to an end – and many in Europe wondered if the fledgling movement would recover.

1904 MEDALS

	G	S	B
United States	80	84	84
Germany	4	4	5
Canada	4	1	1
Cuba	4	—	—
Austria	2	1	1
Hungary	2	1	1
Great Britain	1	1	—
Greece	1	—	1
Switzerland	1	—	1
France	—	1	—

ATHENS 1906

THE INTERIM OR INTERCALATED GAMES HELD IN ATHENS, GREECE, 22 APRIL–2 MAY 1906
ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF 20 COUNTRIES,
COMPRISING 826 COMPETITORS, OF WHICH 6 WERE WOMEN.

After two debacles, in Paris and St Louis, something was needed to revive the flagging Olympic movement and de Coubertin, with some misgivings, agreed a series of four-yearly meetings, interspersed with the main Games, to be held in Athens. Although these had the blessing of the IOC, it was decided that the Interim Games would not be numbered in sequence. This has caused an ambivalence in Olympic historians, when writing about the Games, leading to the ludicrous situation where some of them refuse to include these Games in their narratives, but do include the medals won in their totals. This author considers that as these Games were sanctioned by the IOC, numbered or not, they were genuine Olympic Games, and should be treated as such. In the event, only this meeting of the projected series was ever held. Competitors were housed in the Zappeion, thus predating the first Olympic 'village' by 18 years. Again the Greeks showed their enthusiasm and large crowds, missing for the past ten years, were in evidence. The marble stadium in Athens was full to capacity, and enthusiasm often helped to overcome organisational mishaps.

The 20 countries included the first 'official' American team, selected and sent by the USOC, so ending the practice of colleges, clubs and private individuals entering. Also present was the first ever team from Finland, with the doyen of the famous Järvinen family, Werner, gaining his country's first ever Olympics gold medal. The programme of track and field events was altered by a reduction in the number of sprint and hurdles races, and the addition of a pentathlon and the javelin throw.

There were some excellent performances, especially by some of the 1904 champions such as the perennial Ray Ewry and the New York policeman Martin Sheridan. Another American, with the apt name of Paul Pilgrim, had only been added to the team at the last moment after he had raised the money for his fare privately. He had won a gold medal in 1904 as a member of the NYAC relay team, but in Athens surprisingly won both the 400m and 800m titles, a feat not equalled until 1976.

The new pentathlon event, consisting of a 192m run, standing long jump, discus and javelin throws, and Greco-Roman wrestling, was won by Hjalmar Mellander of Sweden. In third place was his countryman Erik Lemming who also gained bronze medals in the shot and tug-of-war as well as winning the first of three Olympic javelin titles. There was a real surprise in the 1500m walk, which was also the scene of a number of purely chauvinistic decisions by the various national judges. The American distance runner George Bonhag had disappointed in the 1500m and 5 mile runs, and had entered the walk, an entirely new event to him, in a last effort to win a medal. Owing mainly to the excessive number of disqualifications, all the favourites were ruled out, and he won the gold. With all three previous Olympic marathons having been won by the host country, the Greeks were hopeful of continuing the tradition, but despite half of the entrants coming from Greece it was won by William Sherring of Canada, incidentally wearing a trilby hat, by a massive margin of nearly seven minutes. In addition to his medal he was given a goat. The most successful competitor at these Games was shooter Louis Richardet (SUI) who won three gold and three silver medals.

The oldest gold medallist was Maurice Lecoq (FRA) aged 52 years 31 days when he won the rapid-fire pistol event. Youngest was the coxswain of the Italian fours crew, Giorgio Cesana aged 14 years 12 days. The youngest female champion was Marie Decugis (FRA) in tennis aged 21 years 261 days. She and her husband, Max, became the first married couple to win Olympic gold medals. The oldest medallist was fencer Charles Newton-Robinson (GBR) at 52 years 195 days.

Despite the soft cinder track in the stadium, poor facilities for the swimmers at Phaleron Bay, complaints about food and judging decisions, these, since much maligned, Interim Games put the whole Olympic concept back on the path towards de Coubertin's ideal.

1906 MEDALS

	G	S	B
France	15	9	16
United States	12	6	6
Greece	8	11	13
Great Britain	8	11	5
Italy	7	6	3
Switzerland	5	6	4
Germany	4	6	5
Norway	4	2	—
Austria	3	3	2
Denmark	3	2	1
Sweden	2	5	7
Hungary	2	5	3
Belgium	2	2	3
Finland	2	1	1
Canada	1	1	—
The Netherlands	—	1	2
Australia	—	—	3
Czechoslovakia	—	—	2
South Africa	—	—	1

LONDON 1908

IV OLYMPIC GAMES HELD IN LONDON, ENGLAND, 27 APRIL–31 OCTOBER 1908
ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF 22 COUNTRIES,
COMPRISING 2035 COMPETITORS, OF WHICH 36
WERE WOMEN.

Originally awarded to Rome the IV Games were re-allocated to London when the Italian authorities informed the IOC during the 1906 Interim Games that they would have to withdraw due to financial problems caused by an eruption of Mount Vesuvius. London formally accepted on 19 November 1906. Nevertheless, they were the most successful held up until then and set the pattern for future Games. Drawing on the expertise of many British sporting governing bodies – such as the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) founded in 1869, and the Amateur Athletic Association (AAA), founded in 1880 – the organising committee under Lord Desborough went to work. A 68,000-capacity stadium was built in West London for a reported cost of £40,000. (That stated 'capacity' was apparently well exceeded on a number of occasions). It contained an athletics track of three laps to the mile, inside a 660yd banked concrete cycle track. On the grass infield stood a giant (330ft x 50ft, 100m x 15.24m) pool for the swimming events. Rowing was on the Thames at Henley, tennis was held at the All-England Club, Wimbledon, and the new sport of motorboating was on Southampton Water. The sailing competitions took place at Ryde, Isle of Wight, with some on the River Clyde, at Glasgow – the only time that any Olympic events have been held in Scotland. The main competitions took place in July, although the overall programme lasted from April to October. There were 21 sports in all, including four ice skating events. There was also a demonstration sport, bicycle polo, in which Ireland beat Germany 3–1.

Entries were only by nations, as opposed to individuals. This tended to emphasise the nationalism that undoubtedly caused some of the disputes that marred this first truly international sporting occasion. These problems started during the formal opening, by King Edward VII, at what later became known as the White City stadium, on 13 July. Sweden and the United States were upset that their flags had been inadvertently missed from those flying around the stadium. Then Ralph Rose, the American flag bearer, and eventual winner of the shot, refused to dip the Stars and Stripes to King Edward in the march past. The Finnish team would not march behind the flag of Czarist Russia and came in without any banner. Later things got worse as complaints came from all sides, but especially from American officials. They complained about 'fixed' heats, illegal coaching, rule breaking and British chauvinism. The weather was also rather foul, even by British standards, and badly affected cycling and tennis in particular.

All the rancour came to a head in the 400-m event final, in which three of the four finalists were Americans. Prior to the race officials had been tipped off about an American 'plot', after someone overheard them planning how to impede and beat the British favourite, Lieutenant Wyndham Halswelle. In the event the race was declared void, and a re-run, with strings delineating the lanes was

ordered for the next day, and the winner of the disputed race, Carpenter, was disqualified. The other Americans refused to appear and Halswelle gained the gold medal in the only walkover in Games history. One of the runners involved was John Taylor who, as a member of the winning medley relay team, has always been noted as the first black man to win an Olympic gold medal. However, recent research has indicated that an Algerian in the French team of 1900 has that distinction. A more imaginative resolution to a problem, apparently, came in the 110m hurdles. The favourite, Forrest Smithson, an American student of theology, protested against the official decision to run the final on a Sunday, and then proceeded to break the world record with 15.0sec, supposedly carrying a bible in his left hand. While uplifting, the only 'evidence' of this story is a photograph that was obviously staged after the event.

Finally the bitterness reached such a level that it was thought necessary to produce a booklet entitled *Replies to Criticism of the Olympic Games*, which, owing to its rather pompous tone, did little to alleviate the situation. One result of all this was the decision that future control of competitions should be in the hands of the various international governing bodies of the sports and not left solely to the host country.

The previous year the IOC had decided that medals should be awarded for the first three places in all events. There were many excellent performances throughout the Games, despite all the problems. The ubiquitous Ray Ewry, now 33 years old, won his record-breaking ninth and tenth gold medals in the standing jumps, while John Flanagan (one of the so-called Irish-American 'Whales') won his third hammer title. Middle distance runner Mel Sheppard (USA) was a triple gold medallist, as was British swimmer Henry Taylor. Charles Daniels (USA) won the 100-m freestyle to add to his three titles from the last two Games, and set a record of four individual event swimming gold medals that has been equalled, but not beaten, since. The Hungarian swimmer Zoltán von Halmay increased his total medal haul to nine since 1900, a total unsurpassed in the sport until 1972.

The introduction of skating events gave Russia the opportunity to win its first Olympic title, courtesy of Nikolai Panin (actually Kolomenkin), who four years later was a member of the fourth-placed revolver shooting team. Another Olympic first came in the London shooting programme when Oscar and Alfred Swahn of Sweden became the first father and son to win gold medals, with Oscar being the oldest gold medallist at these Games aged 60 years 265 days. The youngest champion was Daniel Carroll (AUS) in rugby aged 16 years 245 days, while the youngest female gold medallist was Gladys Eastlake-Smith (GBR) in tennis aged 24 years 273 days. The oldest female champion was archer Queenie Newall (GBR) aged 53 years 275 days.

Undoubtedly the most famous event in the IV Games was the marathon. Originally the distance was to be about 25 miles (40km), but the start was moved to Windsor Castle, an exact 26 miles (41.8km). Then at the request of Princess Mary, it was moved again to start beneath the windows of the royal nursery in the Castle grounds, making a final distance of 26 miles, 385yd (42.195km). This arbitrarily arrived-at distance was later

(in 1924) accepted worldwide as the standard marathon length. The race itself was run in intensely hot and humid conditions, quite the opposite of most of the preceding weather, and was watched by an estimated 250,000 people. The little Italian Dorando Pietri reached the stadium first in a state of near collapse – it has been suggested that his gargling with wine during the race did not react well with the heat. He fell five times on the last part-lap of the track. Over-zealous officials, reputedly, but erroneously, including the famous author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, helped him over the finish line, thus leading to his disqualification. Doyle was in the stadium, but sitting in the stand reporting the events for a newspaper. On behalf of the second finisher, Irish-born Johnny Hayes, the Americans lodged a protest, which was upheld, and the Italian was disqualified. The wave of public sympathy found expression in the gift of Queen Alexandra to Pietri of a special gold cup.

Great Britain won the greatest number of medals overall, but the United States, as always, was well in front in the centrepiece of the Games, the track and field events. Two sportsmen, Ivan Osier (DEN) a fencer, and Magnus Konow (NOR) a yachtsman, though unplaced in their events, began Olympic careers which continued until the next Games in London in 1948, setting a record breaking span for Olympic competition of 40 years. Colonel Joshua Millner, winner of the 1000yd free rifle, at least aged 58 years 237 days, was Britain's oldest ever Olympic gold medallist. The youngest British winner in 1908 was William Foster (GBR), in the 4 x 200m swimming relay six days past his 18th birthday.

1908 MEDALS

	<i>G</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>B</i>
Great Britain	56	50	39
United States	23	12	12
Sweden	8	6	11
France	5	5	9
Germany	3	5	5
Hungary	3	4	2
Canada	3	3	9
Norway	2	3	3
Italy	2	2	
Belgium	1	5	2
Australia*	1	2	1
Russia	1	2	—
Finland	1	1	3
South Africa	1	1	—
Greece	—	3	1
Denmark	—	2	3
Czechoslovakia	—	—	2
The Netherlands	—	—	2
Austria	—	—	1
New Zealand*	—	—	1

* Australia and New Zealand combined as Australasia.

STOCKHOLM 1912

V OLYMPIC GAMES HELD IN STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN, 5 MAY–22 JULY 1912
ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF 28 COUNTRIES,
COMPRISING 2547 COMPETITORS, OF WHICH 57 WERE WOMEN.

Stockholm finally attained the honour that Sweden had wanted from the very beginning, and Torben Grut designed and built a 31,000-capacity stadium, with a 383m (407yd) track laid out under the direction of Charles Perry, the Englishman responsible for the 1896 and 1908 tracks. Baron de Coubertin had insisted that the number of sports be cut, and now, with only 14, there were high standards of performance and sportsmanship, with few arguments or protests. Boxing was not held, the last time that it has been left out of the Olympic programme. King Gustav V officially opened the Games. One of the rare complaints at these Games was from the Finns, again about competing under the Russian flag. Indeed the triple gold medallist Kolehmainen stated that he almost wished he had not won rather than see the hated flag raised for his victories.

Various innovations included the first use of electrical timing equipment for the running events. Baron de Coubertin had asked for a new event to be introduced, the modern pentathlon, which consisted of five disciplines of different sports. It was dominated by the Swedes but in fifth place was one Lieutenant George S. Patton (USA), later to become a controversial Second World War general. As previously, the American team lived on the liner that had brought them across the Atlantic, ironically named *Finland* – for this was the Games in which the first of the 'Flying Finns', Hannes Kolehmainen, made his appearance, winning the 5000m, 10,000m and 12,000m cross-country. He also set a world record in a heat of the 3000m team race, in which the Finnish team surprisingly did not qualify for the final. Nevertheless, this was the beginning of a domination that lasted into the 1940s. Kolehmainen's race with Jean Bouin of France in the 5000m was one of the most enthralling races ever seen to that time with the Finn winning by a stride in 14min 36.6sec, improving the world record by a margin of 24.6sec. Other track stars were Ted Meredith (USA), gold medallist in the 800m in a new world mark, and Ralph Craig (USA) who took both sprints. Under current rules he would not have won, as he was responsible for three of the seven false starts to the race. He reappeared at the Games, as a reserve yachtsman, 36 years later, in London, when he was given the honour of carrying the American team flag.

In the swimming pool the first of the great Hawaiian competitors, Duke Paoa Kahanamoku, won the 100-m freestyle. The son of Hawaiian royalty, he received his first name as a mark of respect for the then Duke of Edinburgh, Queen Victoria's second son, who was visiting the islands at the time of his birth. He competed in two more Games before becoming a movie star. There was only one cycling event, but it was unique in that it was the longest road race ever held at the Games. It was won by Rudolph Lewis (SAF), who took the 320km (198.8 miles) event in just short of 10½ hours. A great impetus was given to the game of soccer at these Olympics, with 25,000 spectators present to see Great Britain beat Denmark 4–2 in the final. Gymnastics, which like wrestling, was held outdoors, also gained new status.

In wrestling, problems were caused by the extreme length of some of the bouts. In the light-heavyweight final the judges called a halt after the bout had gone on

for nine hours and gave both wrestlers a silver medal, with no gold awarded. Even this was surpassed in the middleweight category where the tussle for the silver medal between Asikainen (FIN) and Klein, an Estonian representing Russia, went on for 11hr 40min, a record for the sport. Klein finally triumphed. The first known twins to win Olympic gold medals were the Carlberg brothers, Vilhelm (three) and Eric (two), in shooting, while an even more unusual sibling combination came in the 6-m class yachting when the French winner *Mac Miche* was crewed by the three Thubé brothers.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the 1912 Greco-Roman light-heavyweight wrestling final, the two competitors struggled for nine hours. A draw was declared and both men received silver medals: no gold was awarded. In the semi-final of the middleweight class at the same Games, the competitors wrestled for 11 hours 40 minutes before there was a decision. The winner was too exhausted to contest the final.

However, the star of the Games was undoubtedly Jim Thorpe. Of Irish, French, but mainly Native American ancestry, Thorpe won both the newly constituted athletic pentathlon as well as the decathlon, with consummate ease. Additionally he was fourth in the individual high jump and seventh in the long jump. Thus, it can be said that he actually competed in a total of 17 events. Presenting him with his medals King Gustav V called him 'the greatest athlete in the world'. Thorpe reportedly replied 'Thanks King'. Six months later, a sportswriter for the Worcester Telegram in Massachusetts, Roy Johnson, reported that Thorpe had played minor baseball for money. Owing to the violent amateur/professional dichotomy of the time, perhaps reinforced by American anti-Native American prejudice, Thorpe's medals were taken back and his performances removed from Olympic annals. It seems almost certain that he was ignorant of the amateur laws of the time, and the amount involved was very small. Twenty years after his death in 1953 the American Athletic Union (AAU) reinstated him as an amateur, but the IOC stubbornly refused all entreaties on his behalf. It has been suggested that his cause was not helped by the fact that the President of the IOC from 1952-72 was Avery Brundage, a teammate of Thorpe's in 1912 who had placed fifth (or sixth depending on your view) in the pentathlon. To their credit the runners-up to Thorpe, Hugo Wieslander (SWE) and Ferdinand Bie (NOR) initially refused to accept the gold medals when they were sent them, although their names were inscribed in Olympic annals as winners of the events. Finally, in October 1982 Thorpe, the man who had been voted in 1950 as the greatest athlete of the first half-century, was pardoned by the IOC and the medals presented to his family. However, they were in addition to the medals already presented, i.e. the amended result still stands, and two people are reckoned as winners.

DID YOU KNOW?

The oldest ever competitor at the Olympic games was Oscar Swahn of Sweden, who also won a silver medal in the 1920-shooting programme when over 72 years of age. He actually qualified for the next games in 1924, but was

too ill to take part. He had become the oldest Olympic gold medallist ever in 1912, aged nearly 65, when his son, Alfred, was one of his teammates.

The oldest gold medallist at these Games was the ubiquitous Oscar Swahn (SWE) now aged 64 years 258 days, while his teammate, diver Greta Johansson, was the youngest aged 17 years 186 days. Only 40 days older was Isabella Moore (GBR) in the winning freestyle swimming relay team, who became Britain's youngest ever female gold medallist. The youngest male champion was fencer Nedo Nadi (ITA) aged 18 years 30 days. British tennis player Edith Hannam was the oldest female gold medallist aged 33 years 171 days. The youngest medallist was swimmer Grete Rosenberg (GER) in the relay at 15 years 280 days.

At the Stockholm Games the Olympic movement finally 'came of age' and the marvellous efforts of the organising committee under Viktor Balck, later, deservedly, President of the IOC, must take much of the credit. The only unfortunate incident at the Games was the collapse and death of Francisco Lazzaro (POR) during the marathon – ironically it was the first Games that his country had attended. Another new country was Japan, and the Games were beginning to achieve the worldwide support originally envisaged for them.

1912 MEDALS

	G	S	B
United States*	25	18	19
Sweden	24	24	16
Great Britain	10	15	16
Finland	9	8	9
France	7	4	3
Germany	5	13	7
South Africa	4	2	—
Norway	4	1	5
Hungary	3	2	3
Canada	3	2	2
Italy	3	1	2
Australia†	2	2	2
Belgium	2	1	3
Denmark	1	6	5
Greece	1	—	1
New Zealand†	1	—	1
Switzerland	1	—	—
Russia	—	2	3
Austria	—	2	2
The Netherlands	—	—	3

* Adjusted by the re-instatement of Jim Thorpe in 1982.

† Australia and New Zealand combined as Australasia.

ANTWERP 1920

VII OLYMPIC GAMES HELD IN ANTWERP, BELGIUM,
20 APRIL-12 SEPTEMBER 1920

ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF 29 COUNTRIES,
COMPRISING 2668 COMPETITORS, OF WHICH 77
WERE WOMEN.

When the venue of the VI Games, due in 1916, came to be discussed in Stockholm, three cities were put forward as candidates: Budapest, Alexandria and Berlin. It is said that