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ISHPES news

1. Presidency news

Dear ISHPES members,

This Bulletin will reach you while I will be flying to Sydney in order to represent ISHPES during the works of the International Committee for Historical Sciences planned from July the 3rd to the 9th, 2005. It is also the last one of a Four-year cycle during which you entrusted the presidency of ISHPES to me. At the term of my mandate, I wished to thank sincerely the three vice-presidents, Richard Cox, Gertrud Pfister and Patricia Vertinsky for their precious help and advices, as well as the Council members and General Secretary Jean-Philippe Saint-Martin. It is not the place here for a long discourse; I will take stock more into detail during the General Assembly, in Cologne.

The congress of Cologne (7-11 September 2005) sounds very promising, as you will read it further in the Bulletin. In addition to the sessions themselves, please note that a General Assembly will take place on the 9th from 4.30 pm on. According to the new procedures explained in the Bulletin, this assembly will have the task to elect a new Council which, soon after, will elect the President of ISHPES. Every one wishing to be a candidate for Council membership is asked to contact Richard Cox, returning officer nominate for 2005.

The Congress of Cologne will be also the occasion to deliver the 2005 ISHPES Award and to distribute the Proceedings of Urbino for those who take part in 2003. Finally, it will give a chance to present our next international seminar, which will be hosted in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from August the 24th to the 27th, 2006, and will focus on « Sport, Nation and Nationalism ». Finally, the project of a common ISHPES-ISSA congress for 2007, possibly in Copenhagen, will be discussed. Put already these important scientific meetings on your agenda!

Knowing that many of you are planning to take some deserving holidays, I wish you an excellent summer time.

Thierry Terret
President of ISHPES

Chers membres de l’ISHPES,


Ce congrès de Cologne (7-11 septembre 2005) s’annonce d’ailleurs très prometteur, comme vous pourrez le constater dans la présentation qui est faite plus loin. Outre le déroulement des sessions, veuillez noter qu’une assemblée générale se déroulera le 9 septembre à 16h30. Elle verra l’élection d’un nouveau conseil puis, à la suite, d’un nouveau président selon des modalités qui sont précisées dans ce Bulletin. Toute personne
souhaitant faire acte de candidature pour le conseil de l’ISHPES voudra bien communiquer son nom à Richard Cox, returning officer, pour les élections de 2005.


Au moment où beaucoup d’entre vous vont prendre quelques vacances bien méritées, je vous souhaite un excellent été.

Thierry Terret
Président de l’ISHPES

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2. Invitation to the General Assembly, Cologne (Germany), September 9, 2005, from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm.

Agenda

1. Report of the president for the years 2004-2005
2. Financial report for the years 2004-2005
3. Information on next ISHPES seminars and congresses
4. Changes in the voting procedures

**Recall: Participation in the voting process is restricted to ISHPES members who have paid their membership fee for 2005.**

Thierry Terret

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3. 9th ISHPES Congress this September in Cologne / Germany

With less than three months to go to the opening of the biennial ISHPES Congress the preparations are moving at full speed. The Organising Committee is expecting more than 200 guests from all over the world to this 9th Congress of our Society, which will be hosted by the German Sport University Cologne/Germany from September 7 to 11, 2005. If you have not yet registered, you can still do this until July 15, 2005. The Congress will be held under the patronage of the new Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, Dr. Jürgen Rüttgers.

The topic “New Aspects of Sport History” was chosen to take a closer look at the new challenges that have emerged for Sport Sciences in general and for Sport History in particular. Seen within the context of globalisation and worldwide ideological controversies, the technological development and political and economic changes of the past two decades have had a significant impact on the area of Sport and Physical Education.
The 9th ISHPES Congress will therefore focus on innovative trends as well as new research and dissemination methodologies, new paradigms and fields of interest. It is intended to underline the relevance of Sport History for the future development of Sport, and its essential role in intercultural dialogue. Our invitation is extended, therefore, not only to colleagues from the field of Sport History but also to those who work in Philosophy, Education Science, Sociology, Ethnology, Anthropology, Theology and Political Science, as well as other subjects in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

With more than 150 paper submissions the Congress topic has proven to be at the centre of interest in current discussions. The detailed programme structure is still in progress and will be placed online as soon as it is ready. However, at this stage of the preparations we can already announce following sections: Social and Cultural History of Football; Inventing Traditions: Greek Antiquity and the Olympic Movement; On the way to Beijing: Asia and the Olympic Movement; Olympic Games between Idea and Commercialism; Minorities and National Identity; Eastern Europe: Sport in Transition of the Growing European Community; Sport History and Teacher Training; Sport, Globalisation and Peace Promotion; Sport History and Local Identity; Increasing Significance of Sport Museums; Ethics and Fair Play; Workshop for Young Researchers; Gender Perspectives in the History of Female Skiing; The Olympic Games of Paris 1924 and the Press; The Olympic Games of Paris 1924: A New Start for Individual Sports ?; Manifestations sportives - mises en scène politiques; Innovations in Teaching Sport History.

The opening speech will be held by Prof. Dr. Hartmut Schiedermaier, honorary president of the German University Association. The keynote speakers will be Dr. Christopher Young (Cambridge) and Prof. Dr. Dittmar Dahlmann (Bonn). In his paper “Talking of Past and Present. Narrating the German Olympics” Young will deal with the “simple” question of what literary studies and techniques can bring to the scholarship of sport. It will seek to answer this question by focussing on narrative as an “international, transhistorical, transcultural” phenomenon, yet one that is both highly constructed and polyvalent. Dahlmann’s paper will deal with the development of football as a spectator sport Russia, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria. He will focus on the cultural and social phenomenon in these Eastern European countries and the role of the state in making football a sport for the masses. The third keynote speech will be presented by the ISHPES Award winner.

Participants will visit the recently built World-Cup-2006 Stadium in Cologne, and will have dinner in its restaurant “The 12th Man” after a tour of the ground.

The Gala dinner will be held in the German Sports and Olympic Museum that is situated on the banks of the River Rhine in the centre of Cologne. There will also be time to visit and view the museum’s exhibition.

All ISHPES members who have already submitted their papers: please, remember to also register for the congress and transfer the registrations fee by 15 July, 2005.

The Organising Committee also advises everyone signed up for the Congress to take care of their hotel reservation and booking as soon as possible. On the weekend of our congress there are also several exhibitions and the annual Cologne Marathon will be staged on Sunday, September 11, 2005. This means that there will be many guests from all over coming to Cologne and looking for inexpensive accommodation. Please, take...
advantage of the options we have arranged with hotels near the Congress venue. These pre-reservations last until July or August (depending on the hotel). You can find all information on these hotels, addresses, contact data etc. on our homepage: www.dshs-koeln.de/ISHPES-2005 under the heading of “Accommodation”.

The Organising Committee

4. International Summer School for Young Researchers – Course for PhD Students
"Sport and the Body.
Historical, Sociological, Psychological and Pedagogical Approaches

Date: August 16 – 23, 2005

Place: Institute of Exercise and Sport Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Aims and Concept:
The summer school is addressed to PhD students and young researchers and intends to support them in their scientific work.

It offers them the opportunity of acquiring knowledge about the state of the art in the area of theories and methods, of presenting their research, of discussing problems, of obtaining advice from experts and of building up a network. It is hoped to help young researchers to become integrated into the scientific community.

The summer school will focus on "Sport and the Body" from the perspective of humanities and social sciences (including history, pedagogy and psychology). The topic will be addressed also from a gender, a race and a class perspective.

The involvement of internationally renowned experts will guarantee that knowledge and advice as well as the evaluation of students’ papers will contribute decisively to research of high quality and relevance.

Organisation:
In keynote lectures the experts will address important questions, new approaches and results, problems and strategies of research, current trends and main issues in the area of sport and the body. The students will have the opportunity of asking questions and discussing with the experts. In addition, students have the opportunity to give a report of their own projects. Papers with the main outlines of these projects must be submitted before the summer school begins. There will be an in-depth discussion of each research project in working groups. In addition, the experts are available for individual supervision.

Experts:
Lecturers from the Institute of PE and Sport Sciences
Gudrun Doll-Tepper, Free University, Berlin
Eric Dunning, Centre for Research into Sport & Society, University of Leicester
Gerald Gems, North Central College, Naperville
Gabriele Klein, Institute of Sport Sciences, University of Hamburg
Dong Jinxia, Beijing University, Beijing
J.A. Mangan, UK
Kari Fasting, Norwegian Sport University, Oslo

Asked:
Inge Kryger Pedersen, Institute of Sociology, University of Copenhagen
Selection of the students:
The summer school will take place in collaboration with the International Societies for Sport History, Sport Sociology and the European Federation of Sport Psychology. Each of these organisations can select and send students to the summer School.

Participants should be young researchers (either planning a PhD, working on their PhD or post docs). The participants may work in different disciplines from pedagogy to history. Participants will be selected according to the following criteria: state of their research, quality of the project.

The number of participants will be between 25 and 30; it is aimed to include students from as many countries as possible.

Applicants shall fill out the attached form and send it together with a short abstract about their research projects to Anne Lykke Poulsen apoulsen@ifi.ku.dk

Costs:
Participation will be free. However, the students have to cover travel and accommodation.

5. Karl Lennartz retirement

After Joachim Rühl last year, another outstanding ISHPES member has just retired from his University. A founding member of HISPA in 1973, Karl Lennartz participated in most of our events since he became a member of ISHPES in 1989. Most of his academic carrier developed in Cologne at the Deutsche Sporthochschule and at the Carl and Liselott Diem Archive. Karl is especially known for his numerous works on the Olympic history. In his honour, Jürgen Buschmann and Stephan Wassong edited a special set of three volumes titled “Karl Lennartz. Langlauf durch die Olympische Geschichte”. The first one, “Festschrift”, included the contributions of several ISHPES Council members.

On behalf of ISHPES, I wish Karl a very nice, productive and stimulating time.

Thierry Terret

ISSA Grant for Young Researchers:
The International Sport Socio-logical Association (ISSA) can support the participation of one student in the Summer School with 500 Euro. Students, who do not get support for travel and accommodation from their school, can apply for this grant. Candidates are to submit together with their application for participation a paper, where they describe their doctoral project (max. 3,000 words). In addition, they should send information about the cost of their travel.

More information:
Reinhard Stelter
Gertrud Pfister
Anne Lykke Poulsen
Institute of Exercise and Sport Sciences/ University of Copenhagen
Nørre Allé 51, DK-2200 Copenhagen N
Phone 0045 3532 1751
E-mail : apoulsen@ifi.ku.dk

Gertrud Pfister
Organizations and announcements


This year’s NASSH conference was held in Green Bay, Wisconsin, famous for the Green Bay Packers, a NFL team. Almost 230 visitors – among them many ISHPES members - from twelve different countries attended this convention to listen to almost 200 papers.

The international character of the convention was also reflected in the fact that the sessions not only concentrated on issues pertaining to American sports, but also on the history of sport and physical education in various European Countries, Brazil, Australia and Vietnam. Besides these country-specific topics, sport historical issues dealing with ethnicity, gender, religion, politics and media could be found on the program. Also quite popular were Olympic topics. Five sessions were related to Olympic issues, while other areas seemed to attract less interest, such as ancient sport history. Only one paper was concerned with sport in antiquity.

Besides the XLV sessions, a few „Honor Addresses“ were given. The German historian Christiane Eisenberg (Berlin) was invited to hold the Maxwell and Reet Howell International Address. In „From Political Ignorance to Global Responsibility: Turning Points of the International Sport Movement in the 20th Century,“ she examined the role of the FIFA and the IOC from various historical and social perspectives, referring to ‘monopoly: one country – one association’, ‘democratic voting’ and ‘no politics’. Martha Verbrugge (Bucknell University) no comma had the honor of presenting the John R. Betts Address, which she titled, „Active Bodies: Where the History of Science and Sport History Meet“. She elaborated on the historical and cultural construction of female ‘diseases’.

David Mizener (York University) was awarded the NASSH Graduate Student Prize for “The State, the Agrarian Press, and the Ontario Plowmen’s Association: Competitive Plowing and Agriculture in the Twentieth Century Ontario”, and Allen Guttmanns? received the NASSH book award for his latest publication on the world history of sport: “Sports. The First Five Millennia”.

James Coates and his team organized a successful conference. The next NASSH convention will be held in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, May 19-22, 2006.

Annette R. Hofmann

-2. Next seminars and congresses

9. ISHPES Kongress 2005
an der Deutschen Sporthochschule Köln, Köln, 14-18 September 2005
“New Aspects of Sports History”

modern methods of sport history. A brochure with details about planned sessions, call for papers, and organisational aspects is in
work and will be sent to all ISHPES members in autumn 2004. If you wish to
already join the ISHPES Congress 2005 mailing list, please, send an e-mail to
ISHPES-congress@dshs-koeln.de or contact the Department for Sports History,
German Sports University Cologne, Carl-Diem-Weg 6, 50933 Cologne, Germany,
Tel. +49-221-4982-3830, Fax: +49-221-4982-8470. For further information also
http://www.dshs-koeln.de/ISHPES-2005

9ème Congrès de l’ISHPES 2005
à l’Université allemande des Sports
de Cologne, Cologne/Allemagne, 7-11 Septembre 2005
“Nouveaux aspects de l’histoire du sport”

Le 9ème congrès de l’ISHPES se tiendra à l’Université allemande des sports
de Cologne, en Allemagne, du 14 au 18 septembre 2005, sous le titre de
“Nouveaux aspects de l’histoire du sport”. Le congrès portera sur les
innovations en cours et les démarches modernes de l’histoire du sport. Une
brochure comprenant les informations relatives aux sessions, un appel à
communications et les détails de l’organisation est en cours de rédaction et
sera envoyée à tous les membres de l’ISHPES à l’automne 2004. Si vous
souhaitez d’ores et déjà participer au congrès de l’ISHPES 2005, nous vous
remercions d’envoyer un Email à ISHPES-
congress@dshs-koeln.de ou de contacter le
département d’histoire du sport, German
Sports University Cologne, Carl-Diem-
Weg 6, 50933 Cologne, Germany, Tel.
+49-221-4982-3830, Fax: +49-221-4982-
8470. Pour plus d’information, consulter également
## Remember

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<td>University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne</td>
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<td>&quot;Sport and War&quot;</td>
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<td>UK contact: Dr Tony Collins, <a href="mailto:TCollins@dmu.ac.uk">TCollins@dmu.ac.uk</a></td>
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<td>October 29, 2005</td>
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<td>De Montfort University, International Center for Sport History and Culture</td>
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<td>August 5-7, 2005</td>
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<td>Jared Kirby: <a href="mailto:jaredkirby@hotmail.com">jaredkirby@hotmail.com</a> or <a href="http://artofcombat.org">http://artofcombat.org</a></td>
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<td>4th world communication conference Play the gameGovernance in sport: the good, the bad &amp; the ugly</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:mondschein@fordham.edu">mondschein@fordham.edu</a> or <a href="http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress">http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress</a></td>
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Books, Journals and Thesis


   In January 05 Slovenian Sport Office has published a book “Heritage of traditional folks’ games – contemporary sport” written by dr. Rajko Uganman, Professor at the Faculty of Sports, University of Ljubljana. The book has 464 pages. Besides the abstract (also in English) and the introductory theoretical chapters (the introduction, methodology, definitions of game, sport, theories of games, and some more well-known classifications of games) the book contains the description of 459 games, out of which 249 are adult games, 95 are children games and 115 are entertainment games. Out of all games 344 contain all of the elements of sport. In different places certain game is played in different ways and for that reason the book also describes 150 variations. More than ninety percents of the games have only one set of basic rules, but there are about ten percents of the games that contain variations to the rules. Out of those 10%, most have one or two variations; but there are also some with more variations (there’s one having as much as 17 variations). Beside the main name of the game (459 names of the games), we also described other names found on the field. In addition, we listed 313 more names of the games – including the dialect versions; all together we registered 772 different game-names. Book contains more than 500 illustrations.

   Dr. Uganman’s work is the first in Slovenia which describes folks’ games in such an extent.

   Publisher:
   Zavod za _port Slovenije, Celov_ka 25a, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenija.
   E-mail: info@spic.si


   A few months after the last women’s soccer world championships the British sport historians Fan Hong and Toni Mangan edited in the serial "Sport in the Global Society", “Soccer, Women, Sexual Liberation”, which is a collection of essays on women’s soccer in different countries and cultures. In this publications authors from 14 countries present a historical overview and describe the present...
condition of women’s soccer, showing problems and resistance.

Women’s soccer can be found on all continents; however, its spread and the battle for acknowledgment will still take much more time. This sport has very different social positions in different countries. Whereas, for instance, in the U.S., soccer is an accepted sport for girls and women, in other countries, where men’s soccer is considered a national sport – as in Germany and southern European nations - women’s soccer is not really acknowledged, despite the success the women can show. This not only shows the situation of women’s soccer in various countries but also illustrates its problems, which are mostly related to cultural peculiarities, and very often have to be seen in the context of the image of women in a specific culture. Moreover, this publication shows that in many countries the acceptance and recognition of women’s soccer is a step towards women’s emancipation, which in most cases implies obstacles and prejudices.

Let me give a short survey.

Norway is one of the countries in which women’s soccer is quite popular. At the Olympic Games 2000 in Sydney, the Norwegian team won the gold medal. Today women’s soccer has more than 70,000 active players and as such, is the most popular women’s sport, as Kari FASTING mentions (S. 149). The rise goes back to the 1970’s. Despite concerns and criticism in the beginning, the Norwegian Soccer Federation reacted to the needs of girls and women and founded a commission for women’s soccer. Today it tries to integrate more women in leadership positions; however, it has not really been successful yet.

As in Norway, women’s soccer became popular in Brasil in the 1970’s. Today the Brazilian women’s national team is just like the men’s, one of the best in the world. Sebastião VOTRE and Ludmila MOURÃO describe how obstacles and gender-specific prejudice had to be overcome.

How is women’s soccer doing in Asia? In China it already gained acceptance a few decades ago. At international tournaments the Chinese women are among the favorites. In their country a few big tournaments are also organized, such as the China World Cup. In neighbouring Korea, too, girls and women have played soccer for over 50 years; it is the fastest-growing sport. In India the situation is different, although one would expect that, due to the former influence of the English colonialists, women’s soccer would be just as popular as in England. However, the contrary is the case, as can be seen in the movie „Bend it like Beckham“. According to Borai MAJUNDAR, women’s soccer is not accepted in Indian society; female soccer players are part of the lower class and this sport is a „taboo for respectable middle-class women“ (p. 81). Therefore women’s soccer is fighting for financial support and official acceptance. Again and again the author relates to “Bend it like Beckham”, hoping that this movie will have a positive impact on the development of women’s soccer in India.

Women’s soccer in African countries have similar and partially the same or even bigger problems, as Martha SAAVEDRA elaborates. She tries to introduce the reader to the situation in this continent, which is not an easy undertaking. Right at the beginning SAAVEDRA complains that there is hardly any literature on women’s sport, and none on women’s soccer at all. As a source she mainly uses the internet. The other difficulty is the fact no comma that Africa consists of many countries with various religions and cultures no comma which cannot be lumped together. However SAAVEDRA manages to give a broad overview of the development of women’s soccer on this huge continent, and then uses three examples for further details: Senegal, Nigeria and South Africa.
With respect to athletic success, Nigeria is dominating, but is challenged by South Africa. In general SAAVEDRA complains no comma that the FIFA support does not reach women's soccer and that there are "indigenous cultural prohibitions" towards this sport (p. 232). If in African countries sport is supported, then it is men's sport and mostly elite sport. Beyond this, many of these countries have to struggle with problems quite different from the fostering of women's soccer.

In summary, one can say that the subheading of this book "Kicking Off a New Era" has been chosen well, referring to the worldwide attempts and results in spreading women's soccer. In many countries this new era has already started, whereas in others, it will take many more years to begin, if it at all.

Annette R. Hofmann


Sports historiography is booming in France (see Loudcher et al., 2001). Exemplary is that the *Société française d'Histoire du Sport* resurrected as a phoenix from its ashes, and that one sole publisher as L'Harmattan has presented more than twenty scientific publications in five years, dealing with French sport history. A recent publication of L'Harmattan is *Educations physiques françaises et exemplarités étrangères entre 1815 et 1914*, edited by Jean Saint-Martin. Eight French sports historians (four of them, including Saint-Martin, with an affiliation to the sport history research unit of the Université Lyon 1) analyze the 'exemplarity' of foreign physical education models in France, between the defeat in Waterloo and the outbreak of World War I. The objective was ambitious. The result is interesting.

Countless are the publications dealing with the history of physical education and sport in France and the foreign influences it has undergone. Does Saint-Martin's book add new elements to the existing body of knowledge? The answer is affirmative. Innovating is the fact that the emphasis of the study is on the dynamic European context, i.e. the international relations and geo-strategic interests of the three great powers of the nineteenth century: Germany, England and France. The study reveals the presence of both complementary and contradictory feelings when foreign 'models' of physical education were promoted in France. Whatever the model, the same strategy occurred. With the importation of foreign physical education systems on the national territory, France was concerned in the first place to build up a strong national identity to regain its central geo-strategic position on the international political level.

The book includes two main parts. The first part focuses on international rivalries and their impact on physical education. The articles of Jean Saint-Martin and Pierre Arnaud 'rewrite' - if we may use that contested word - the history of German Turnen in France. They show that a Germanophile attitude on the practical educational level served, in fact, a kind of Germanophobia on the strategic level: France had to copy the German physical education system to defeat Germany. The contributions of Fabrice Auger, Pierre-Alban Lebecq and Régis De Reyke show the same ambiguous 'xenophilophobia' towards England and English sports. Their articles focus on the specific 'personal' pedagogical projects of,

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respectively, Pierre de Coubertin, Paschal Grousset and Edmond Demolins.

Whereas the first part focuses on military or colonial objectives, the second is dealing with the imported foreign scientific discourse about PE to foster French identity. The medical-hygienic objectives were not less patriotic than the military objectives. Foreign ‘scientific’ models of physical education were supposed to stop the degeneration of the French race and help France to regain its central geo-strategic status. Jean Saint-Martin discusses the introduction of Swedish gymnastics in France and, more particularly, the role of Philippe Tissié. Jacques Gleyse studies the ‘French’ reaction against Tissié by Georges Demený, who ‘modernized’ (read: ‘Gallicised’) Swedish gymnastics. Sylvain Villaret explores the influence of German naturism (later associated with ‘nudism’) in France, while Thierry Terret examines the foreign influences on the debates dealing with physical education for girls in France. In the last contribution, Pierre-Alban Lebecq analyzes the impact of the Italian scientist Angelo Mosso on the scientificization of physical education in France.

It is clear that Saint-Martin’s enterprise is more than a compilation of independent articles. All papers of the corpus are pointing into the same direction. A general introduction and conclusion embrace the two parts; likewise, each part has a proper introduction and conclusion. The balanced structure of the book facilitates its comprehensiveness. The language is also clear. Although Saint-Martin framed the ‘chapters’ in a theoretical framework based on French reference works dealing with international relations, his work is not over-theorizing, which is sometimes the case in French historiography. As the book has a good structure and is clear and easy to read, it appeals to a large audience. Extensive notes and glosses can satisfy the experienced reader.

The irony is, however, that a book that analyses ‘the use of foreign references in the French discourse about the utility of physical education’ (p. 213) contains rather few foreign bibliographic references. Of course, one can argue that the focus is in the first place on internal French processes. Nevertheless, a book that is situated ‘on the field of international relations’ (p. 9) should show more awareness of the international ‘dialogue’. Maybe this is the ‘tendon of Achilles’ of French sports historiography. Only very few French researchers assimilate Anglo-Saxon literature or publish articles in English. Vice-versa, rare are the Anglophone researchers that read French publications. Though French sports historiography is booming, it risks being isolated on the international level by the Anglo-Saxon dominance, which would be unfortunate of course. Maybe this interesting book edited by Jean Saint-Martin can help to turn the tide. Since its significance surpasses the French boarder, L’Harmattan should consider an English translation – the lingua franca of today.

Pascal Delheye


A côté des réflexions sur les enjeux politiques et/ou économiques du sport, l’ouvrage dirigé par Bernard Michon et Thierry Terret interpelle les relations entre le local et les sports et, plus particulièrement, les enjeux identitaires locaux par l’intermédiaire de la pratique sportive. Commanditée par le CNRS au milieu des années quatre-vingt dix, l’étude trouve enfin une lisibilité éditoriale et offre...
la possibilité, aux lecteurs etlectrices, d’enrichir les connaissances sur un thème original et enclins à de nombreux sens communs. D’un côté, le sport est un des objets de la mondialisation dans la mesure où au cours du 20ème siècle, il s’internationalise et surtout se neutralise sous la pression des enjeux politiques puis économiques. De l’autre, le sport est régulièrement l’objet de mécanismes d’identification d’un groupe à un pays, une ville, une quartier comme en atteste l’écho international de la victoire des bleus à la coupe du monde de football en 1998. Comment expliquer, comprendre ce paradoxe ? Comment, malgré la mondialisation, le sport peut-il être un agent de diffusion de la spécificité d’une identité locale ? Le sport peut-il marqué un territoire géographique dans la durée ou à l’inverse un territoire peut-il marqué l’organisation, les modalités, les valeurs d’une pratique sportive ? L’identité locale est alors abordée au sens large et selon des approches pluridisciplinaires (histoire, géographie, sociologie et psychosociologie). Elle peut se construire à partir d’une délimitation spatiale, d’une longue durée, d’un événement, mais elle peut aussi disparaître. Le sport, comme d’autres éléments peut être un agent de la construction de l’identité d’une ville, d’un quartier, d’un groupe... mais cette accroche identitaire n’est pas systématique et varie non seulement à l’échelle de l’histoire mais aussi à l’échelle de la nation. Des relations complexes s’établissent alors entre un local et les pratiques sportives. Des enjeux identitaires les unissent, au carrefour de deux processus complémentaires d’unification et de différenciation. Pour cerner la complexité de ces relations, les études de cas concernent des « zones » spatialement et socialement délimitées que sont les régions de Lyon et Strasbourg.

Ainsi, au cours du 20ème siècle, trois périodes se distinguent. L’avant première Guerre Mondiale, marque la mise en place locale du processus de sportivisation (processus de localisation). L’article de Benoît Caritey sur les pratiques touristiques alsaciennes à la fin du 19ème siècle, montre comment diverses modalités de pratiques se fondent sur les propriétés des lieux et sont, progressivement, à l’origine de conflits entre les touristes et/ou avec les locaux. Ainsi les pratiques touristiques (définition nouvelle des lieux) participent à la formation des divisions qui structurent la société alsacienne. Une logique de territorialisation se met en place et définit des utilisations légitimes et des stratégies de protection. Mais les enjeux identitaires ne sont pas systématiquement territoriaux. Pierre Arnaud aborde à travers le cas lyonnais d’autres formes de construction de l’identité locale. A Lyon, ce n’est ni un événement, ni des pratiques, ni des logiques de territorialisation de la ville mais une identité construite sur des traditions corporatives et professionnelles. A travers la diffusion d’une priorité gymnique plus que sportive, une identité locale se met en place autour d’une autre forme de sociabilité privilégiant l’entre soi et une politique socio-éducative en faveur de la masse de la population lyonnaise. L’identité « sportive » de Lyon a toujours existé mais elle est d’une autre nature, une nature opposée à celle de la Capitale.

Dans l’entre-deux-guerres et jusqu’aux années soixante, la diffusion (quantitative et qualitative) du phénomène sportif implique, par exemple avec l’imposition d’un modèle d’organisation fédérale du sport (B.Caritey), une période de délocalisation. Avec la massification de l’engouement sportif mais aussi le monopole fédéral sur les calendriers, sur l’organisation des modalités de pratique, sur la diffusion des cadres dirigeants et techniques, l’uniformisation de la pratique sportive contribue à remettre en cause les singularités mais aussi à exacerber certaines différences. Cette étape de délocalisation s’accompagne alors d’un processus croissant de différenciation dans les modalités de pratique sportive, si bien que le sport n’est jamais exclusivement un
facteur d’acculturation. Cette délocalisation ne signifie pas pour autant perte de liens identitaires avec les pratiques sportives. A partir de la natation, Thierry Terret montre notamment que des formes diversifiées de reconnaissance peuvent structurer un groupe : l’identité sexuée, l’identité corporative, l’identité socioculturelle mais aussi l’identité locale à partir des choix politiques de la municipalité en matière de diffusion de la natation. Cet exemple permet d’appréhender l’identité sportive par le local et dans le local et non plus seulement l’identité locale par le sport.

Enfin, depuis les années soixante, une nouvelle étape de relocalisation identitaire (revalorisation des caractéristiques singulières des quartiers, des villes, des régions) par le sport est en cours. Les formes de cette reconstruction sont multiples. Les pratiques, tout d’abord, comme le vol libre en Alsace (R. Huesca) sont un outil de la reconstruction de l’identité locale. A Villeurbanne pourtant (P. Chantellat, M. Fodimbi, T. Terret), si les volontés politiques sont explicitement centrées sur une reconstruction identitaire, les pratiquants répondent par la déterritorialisation et la fragmentation des identités. L’espace géographique, ensuite, est aussi un outil de cette relocalisation. Cela est illustré par Jean Praicheux et Loïc Ravenel avec la démonstration de la reconstruction d’identités locales du football dans la rhétorique sportive ou l’explication, par Loïc Ravenel, de l’avantage à domicile au football par l’effet derby (c’est-à-dire les confrontations des différentes identités territoriales sur fond des passions idéologiques). A travers le modèle sportif alsacien, William Gasparini démontre aussi l’effet de la spécificité juridique et organisationnelle du secteur associatif sportif non marchand comme facteur de renforcement de l’identité locale. Liée à des spécificités d’ordre historique, géographique, culturel, politique, linguistique, cette distinction locale se manifeste aussi dans l’organisation du sport. Pour d’autres régions, par exemple, le lyonnais, c’est l’événement et en l’occurrence la rencontre de football entre les stéphanois et les lyonnais (P. Charroin) qui révèle les oppositions identitaires des deux villes sur le plan territorial/géographique mais aussi sur le plan social et culturel et sur le plan esthétique et artistique. L’événement sportif est alors le prolongement des conflits quotidiens. L’événement peut aussi contribuer, pour ces protagonistes, à modifier les représentations sociales sur une ville (A. Ferrand, M. Pages). Enfin, la politique sportive s’avère déterminante dans la reconstruction de l’identité locale d’une ville comme Strasbourg (B. Caritey) ou Vaulx en Velin (M. Clément). Les enjeux sont alors électoraux mais aussi économiques ou sociaux. De même, les usagers ne peuvent être exclus des logiques de consommations sportives et donc des logiques d’appropriation territoriale (B. Michon, C. Faber).

La multiplication des points de vue scientifiques de cet ouvrage s’avère heuristique pour cerner la richesse et la complexité des mécanismes d’identification par ou dans le sport. La diversité, tant temporelle que géographique apparaît et déconstruit les stéréotypes classiques sur les fonctions du sport. Par contre, la diversité sociale et sexuée des logiques d’identification reste quasiment et malheureusement inexistante, ce qui pérennise une tendance à l’universalisation du sport autour d’un idéal masculin. Marque d’une époque que, à n’en point douter, la prochaine publication des quatre tomes sur « Sport et Genre », abolira.
-5. Thèses soutenues en France


La thèse, portant sur un objet complexe et difficile, s’attache à comparer la manière dont le judo s’implante de manière différenciée en France et en Belgique à peu près à la même époque et à partir de l’action de prosélytes japonais, mais sur des terreaux culturels très sensiblement différents. En outre, alors que l’histoire institutionnelle, l’histoire sociale voire également l’histoire des méthodes du judo, sont aujourd’hui relativement bien connues, cette recherche porte sur un aspect dont les sources rendent compte d’une manière beaucoup moins directe : l’histoire des pratiques et, plus précisément, l’histoire de l’entraînement. Or on sait que cette dimension est, dans l’histoire du sport comme dans l’histoire en général, la plus délicate à appréhender. Les écrits restent, mais rendent compte de représentations ; les comportements et les pratiques réelles sont rarement décrites comme tels. D’où le recours à des archives variées, allant des archives fédérales des deux pays à des entretiens en passant par la presse spécialisée.

Par ailleurs, il faut bien convenir que les travaux d’histoire du sport résolument comparatifs sont extrêmement rares et limitaient donc les points d’appui pour monsieur Groenen. Surtout, le cas de la Belgique s’est très vite présenté comme très spécifique au regard des deux communautés wallonnes et flamandes qui rendaient une approche trop généraliste tout simplement erronée et impertinente, en obligeant à distinguer les sous-cultures wallonnes et flamandes.

Au prix de cette vigilance, la thèse réalisée est finalement de qualité. Elle met en évidence l’existence de perceptions et de processus d’assimilations différents des modèles japonais entre les deux pays, qu’expliquerait une plus grande perméabilité aux influences étrangères de la Belgique par rapport à la France.

Thierry Terret

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