

ART COMPETITIONS IN THE PROGRAMS
OF MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES

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*Lviv State University of Physical Culture, Lviv, Ukraine, e-mail: ivanella@ukr.net***МИСТЕЦЬКІ ЗМАГАННЯ В ПРОГРАМАХ ІГОР ОЛІМПІАД СУЧАСНОСТІ.**
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Анотація. На початку ХХ століття у програмах Ігор Олімпіад запроваджено мистецькі змагання, історія проведення яких започаткована ще в стародавній Олімпії. Виявлено, що мистецькі змагання були введені до програм сучасних Олімпійських ігор за ініціативою барона П'єра де Кубертена, наслідуючи традиції Олімпійських ігор Стародавньої Греції. Встановлено, що Консультативна конференція 1906 року утвердила п'ять змагань у галузі архітектури, скульптури, музики, живопису і літератури. Основною вимогою до конкурсних робіт була спортивна тематика, а їх автори нагороджувалися олімпійськими медалями. Мистецькі змагання відбувалися починаючи з 1912 до 1948 року. Їх переможцями стали учасники з 23-х країн світу, здобувши 49 золотих, 53 срібних та 49 бронзових нагород. Узагальнено дані про визначних постатей змагань мистецтв, серед яких президенти МОК (П'єр де Кубертен, Ейвері Брендедж), чемпіони Ігор Олімпіад у спортивних змаганнях (Вальтер Вінанс, Альфред Хайош).

Ключові слова: мистецькі змагання, Олімпійські ігри, Міжнародний олімпійський комітет, Консультативна конференція, архітектура, скульптура, музика, живопис, література.

**СОРЕВНОВАНИЯ ИСКУССТВ
В ПРОГРАММЕ ИГР
ОЛИМПИАД СОВРЕМЕННОСТИ**Иванна ЛИТВИНЕЦ,
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Аннотация. В начале ХХ века в программы Игр Олимпиад были введены соревнования искусств, история проведения которых была начата еще в древней Олимпии. Виявлено, что соревнования искусств были введены в программы Олимпийских игр современности по инициативе барона Пьера де Кубертена, следуя традиции Олимпийских игр Древней Греции. Установлено, что Консультативная конференция 1906 года утвердила пять соревнований в области архитектуры, скульптуры, музыки, живописи и литературы. Основным требованием к конкурсным работам была спортивная тематика, а их авторы награждались олимпийскими медалями. Соревнования искусств происходили начиная с 1912 до 1948 года. Их победителями стали деятели искусств из 23 стран мира, получив 49 золотых, 53 серебряных и 49 бронзовых наград. Обобщено участников соревнований искусств, среди которых президенты МОК (Пьер де Кубертен, Эйвери Брендедж), чемпионы Игр Олимпиад в спортивных соревнованиях (Уолтер Уайнэнс, Альфред Хайош).

Ключевые слова: соревнования искусств, Олимпийские игры, Международный олимпийский комитет, Консультативная конференция, архитектура, скульптура, музыка, живопись, литература.

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Abstract. At the beginning of the XX century Art Competitions were included in the program of Olympic Games, history event which started in ancient Olympia. Revealed that Art Competitions, on the initiative of Pierre de Coubertin were included in the programs of Modern Olympic Games for the realization of the ideals of Olympism by combining values of sport, culture and art, following the tradition of Olympic Games of ancient Greece. Established that the Consultative Conference in 1906 approved the five competitions in architecture, sculpture, music, painting and literature. The basic requirement for participating artworks was their relation to sport, and their authors were awarded Olympic medals. Art Competitions were held from the V Olympic Games in 1912 to the XIV Olympic Games in 1948. Their winners were participants from 23 countries of the world, having won 49 gold, 53 silver and 49 bronze medals. Are generalized data on prominent personalities Art Competitions, including the IOC President (Pierre de Coubertin, Avery Brundage), champions of the Olympics Games in sports competitions (Walter Winans, Alfred Hayosh).

Keywords: Art Competitions, Olympic Games, International Olympic Committee, Advisory Conference, Painting, Sculpture, Architecture, Music, Literature.

Research problem setting. At the beginning of the XX century Art Competitions were included in the program of Modern Olympic Games. In fact, Art Competitions originated in ancient Olympia for more than two thousand years ago. Olympic Games as a religious and culture festival was held at Olympia. Besides, athletes, representatives of various activities, including the artists – writers, painters, sculptors gathered there, whose presence contributed to the rise of athletes' prestige in the Greek society [4].

Art Competitions, at the initiative of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, were introduced to the Olympic Games program for the realization of the ideals of Olympism by combining sports, culture and arts.

Today the Olympic Games are recognized around the world as the largest sporting event, which history has more than 100 years. An integral part of the Olympic Games during most of the first half of the twentieth century, from 1912 to 1948 were Art Competitions, that played a prominent role in popularizing the ideas of Olympism and healthy lifestyle. They contributed to raising the overall intellectual and moral level of Olympic competition.

Analysis of recent research and publications. In their writings, researchers of history of the Olympic Movement (F. Myeze, 1959. Vladimir Platonov, 2002; E. Vilchkovskyy, 2008) deal with art competitions issue only partially. Certain aspects of the issue are analyzed by foreign authors (Alexandra Thumm, 1997; Richard Stanton, 2001; Beatriz Garcia, 2002, 2008; Bernhard Kramer, 2004; Norbert Müller, 2006; Yoshida Hiroshi, 2009; Patrik Steorn, 2012), in particular the question of the organization, rules and the prerequisites of creation and decay and so on. There was not revealed fundamental research on the issue of arts competitions in Ukraine. This fact determines the relevance of this work.

Research objective: to describe the features of the organization and holding of “Art Competitions” within the program of Modern Olympic Games.

Methods and research organization. To solve this task the following methods were used: analysis and synthesis of literature, historical, documentary, theoretical interpretations and explanation. To highlight this problem scientific works of Ukrainian and foreign researchers were used. Primary sources were official reports on conducting the Olympic Games. Name of “Concours d'Art” was mentioned in official records of holding V, VII and VIII Olympic Games (1912, 1920, 1924) [8, 10]. Another name – “Art Competitions” appeared in official reports of IX, X, XI and XIV Olympic Games (1928, 1932, 1936, 1948) [9, 11, 12, 13].

Research results and discussion. In the history of the Olympic Movement in the early twentieth century is a special phenomenon – a combination of sports and arts. Art Competitions – one of the most important cultural events of that time, implemented in the programs of the Olympic Games. According to sources, the idea of their holding belongs to a French baron, founder of Modern Olympic Games – Pierre de Coubertin. The origins of this idea go back to ancient times. Coubertin liked the ancient Greek concept of combining athletics and arts.

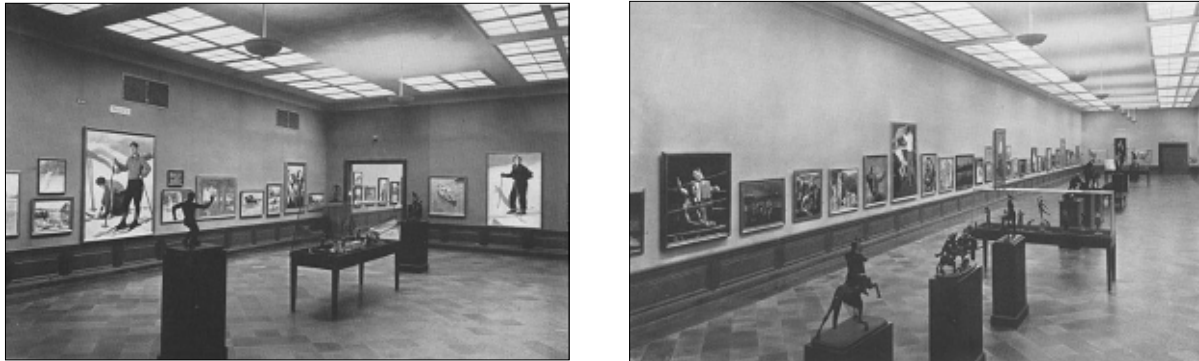
At the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth century's Pierre de Coubertin, trying to revive the Olympic Games, addressed local organizers of the first Games in Athens, Paris and St. Louis viewing the need for art competitions [15].

Within Advisory Conference on art, literature and sport, held in May 23–25, 1906 in Paris, it was discussed the extent to which and how art and literature can be integrated into Modern Olympic Games. Subsequently, recommendations were adopted and voiced at the final session of the conference. The main requirement of entries was exceptionally sporting themes. It was assumed that the winners of the election carried out by competent international jury should be the best creative works exhibited or performed during the Olympic Games, and their authors, alike sportsmen, should be awarded Olympic medals [6, 7].

Among the participants of Advisory Conference were known French writers, sculptors, architects and artists, representatives of government agencies, heads of sports associations. A large number of artistic circles not only in France but also abroad expressed support for the conference in written form. In particular, such famous writers as Maurice Barres and Romain Rolland.

In the context of the Olympic Movement, Pierre de Coubertin stated that holding of Advisory Conference in 1906 will be marked among important dates of history and “estimated immediately after June 23, 1894” [7].

International Olympic Committee has set certain rules for participants of “Concours d’Art”. For example, the jury could consider only those works that have not been previously published or presented and had a direct relation to sport (Pic. 1). There was not set the limit on volume and form for manuscripts, plans, drawings or paintings. The size of a sculpture needed to transport in clay models, should be no bigger than 80 centimeters in height, length or width [5].



Pic. 1. One of the Exhibition Galleries, Los Angeles, 1932

In addition to the general rules, there were certain requirements for certain types of work. In particular, literary work which was applied to the arts competition, should not be more than 20,000 words. Language for writing of the work was not limited, on condition of its translation in French or English (in some cases abstract in specified languages was considered enough). One author was allowed to present several of his works. For participants it gave an opportunity to compete for more medals in one category [2].

First Concours d’Art was held at the V Olympic Games in Stockholm in 1912. The organization took place primarily thanks to personal efforts of Baron Pierre de Coubertin. The participants had to realize the main conditions of the competition – sports representation through a variety of arts and literature [14].

Art Competitions, introduced to the program Olympic Games were thematically related to sports. Participants competed in five categories, including Literature, Architecture, Music, Painting and Sculpture [2, 5].

Works of art on sports subjects made a significant contribution to the world treasury of culture. During the period of 1912–1948 winners of Art Competitions were the representatives of 23 countries of the world. Winners were awarded official Olympic medals. In general, similar to sports, according to official statistics it was given 151 Olympic medals: 49 gold, 53 silver and 49 bronze medals. Gold medal winners are recorded to this day as official Olympic champions [1, 5].

According to sources [4, 5] among the participants of Art Competitions were two presidents of the International Olympic Committee: Pierre de Coubertin and Avery Brundage.

At V Olympic Games in 1912 in Stockholm, during the first Art Competitions, founder of the modern Olympic Movement Baron Pierre de Coubertin took part in the literary competition. His work “Ode to Sport”, written in two languages has won a gold medal in this contest [2, 5, 14]. The work was presented, as stated in the official report of the Games, under a pseudonym – Georges Hohrod und M. Eschbach [10].

Avery Brundage took part in Olympic art competitions in 1932 and 1936 during X Olympic Games in 1932 in Los Angeles and was awarded Honorable Mention in the category “Literature” for essay on “The Significance of Amateur Sport” [4, 11].

These art competitions were called “pentathlon of the muses”. Throughout the time of their holding these competitions had varying degrees of international participation and success.

Artists reflected in their artworks a wide range of competitive sports: boxing, wrestling, horse racing, athletics, ski jumping, skating, etc. (Pic. 2, Pic. 3). Dreams of Pierre de Coubertin to implement the Greek ideals of unity of body, mind and spirit, which he defined as “sport plus art” to some extent came true [2].



**Pic. 2. Artwork “The Sulky Driver”.
Author – Farpi Vignoli (Italy).
1st place in the category “Sculpture”
(round sculpture). Berlin, 1936**



**Pic. 3. Artwork “London Amateur Championships” (Oil painting). Author – Alfred Reginald Thomson (Germany).
1st place in the category “Painting and graphics”. London, 1948**

Over the next few decades, when the Olympic Games become an international event, Art Competitions experience evolution. Their format was inconsistent and sometimes chaotic, because it happened that in certain categories only silver medal was awarded, or jury did not consider to honour any participant [14].

At Art Competitions during the XIV Olympic Games in 1948 in London the issue of participants’ citizenship appears in the rules. Previously, they presented their work directly to the Olympic Games Committee. According to the innovation, the work should be approved by the country’s National Olympic Committee, which represents the artist. And then each of the national committees had to delegate the presented artworks to the Organizing Committee, evaluating them and adjusting the amount of artworks in each category of the competition. Each piece of art should be associated with sports and approved by the National Olympic Committee of the author country of origin [15].

As it is stated in official reports of the Olympic Games, the most successful artist and the only one participant who won two Olympic gold medals is Luxembourg painter Jean Jacoby. He received a gold medal at the VIII Olympic Games in 1924 in the category “Painting” for three watercolors titled “Etude de sport” [5, 9]. As well as a gold award at the IX Olympic Games in 1928 for a watercolor painting “Rugby” [5, 10].

When analyzing a number of sources [5, 12, 13], we found only two participants, who received three awards in Olympic Art Competitions. These were an artist Alex Walter Diggelmann and a writer Josef Petersen.

Swiss artist Alex Walter Diggelmann is considered one of the most famous poster and graphics painters in Switzerland. He received a gold medal at the XI Olympic Games in 1936 in Berlin in the category “Painting” in the nomination “Applied Graphics” for poster “Arosa” [5, 12], as well as two medals in Art Competitions at the XIV Olympic Games

1948 in London: silver and bronze awards in the category “Painting” in the nomination “Applied Graphics” for the posters “World Cycling Championships” and “Ice Hockey World Championships” [5, 13].

Danish writer Josef Petersen in the Olympic Art Competitions won three silver medals in the category “Literature”. In particular, the work “Euryale” at the VIII Olympic Games in Paris in 1924 [5, 9] and “Argonauts” at the X Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 1932 (“Epic works”) [5, 11]. The last silver medal was awarded for work “Olympic Champion” at XIV Olympic Games 1948 in London [5, 13].

Aale Maria Tanni won in 1948 the gold medal in literature for her poem “Laurel of Hellas”. She was the only woman who won Olympic gold award in Art Competitions. That same year, 73-year-old John Copley from the UK became the oldest winner of the Games, winning a silver medal for his graphic work titled “Polo Players” [13].

Not only artists competed in the Olympic Art Competitions, but athletes as well. In the history of the Olympic Games two participants were winners both at sports and art competitions. Walter Winans – American archer and sculptor who won the title of the first Olympic champion in Art Competitions in the category “Sculpture”. Hayosh – Hungarian swimmer and architect who was the winner in the category “Architecture” [5].

Walter Winans at IV Olympic Games 1908 in London, won the gold medal in archery competitions [5]. At V Olympic Games in Stockholm in 1912 was a member of the US team that won a silver medal in archery. In most of these Olympic Games, besides sporting events, Walter Winans participated in Art Competitions and won a gold award for the bronze sculpture “An American Trotter”. It was the first ever Olympic “gold” for sculpture [5, 8].

In 1896 in Athens, Alfred Hayosh – a Hungarian athlete became the first swimming champion in the history of the Modern Olympic Games, winning two gold medals (100m, 1200m freestyle). 28 years later, after the triumphant victory, he took part in the Olympic Art Competitions. At the VIII Olympic Games in Paris in 1924 in the category “Architecture” Alfred Hayosh together with D. Lauber won a silver medal for the stadium project [5, 9].

When analyzing the sources [5, 10] we found architects who participated in the Olympic Art Competitions and received awards for already built sports facilities. In particular, the Dutch architect Jan Wils at IX Olympic Games in 1928 in Amsterdam won the gold medal in the category “Architecture” for the architectural design of the Olympic Stadium, built in the city. For the first time the medal has been awarded for the already erected building. At all previous Art Competitions, the awards were gained by authors only for projects of sports facilities.

Complex “Reichssportfeld”, which included Olympic stadium and other sports facilities, was awarded by the Olympic Art Competitions jury. The authors received awards in architecture and town planning. Werner March – the famous German architect, participant of the XI Olympic Art Competitions in 1936 in Berlin, where he together with his brother Walter won the gold medal (the nomination – “Designs for Town Planning”) for the project “Olympic complex in Berlin” (“Reichssportfeld”), as well as a silver medal (the nomination – “Architectural Designs”) for the architectural design of the same complex [5, 12].

In 1948, International Olympic Committee initiated discussions viewing Art Competitions. The most serious problem was the issue of amateurism. In addition to violations of amateur status of Art Competitions as a part of the Olympic Games, during the next meeting of the IOC it was emphasized on significant cost and labour, the public indifference, lack of objectivity in judicial decisions [3].

According to the report on the 44th IOC Session in Rome in 1949, it was determined that combining sports and art must continue. But as almost all members of Art Competitions are professionals, they should not be awarded the Olympic medals. The event should take place in the form of exhibitions. This meant that since 1952 Art Competitions no longer awarded the Olympic medals.

Conclusions:

1. Art Competitions, on the initiative of Pierre de Coubertin were included in the programs of Modern Olympic Games for the realization of the ideals of Olympism by combining values of sport, culture and art, following the tradition of Olympic Games of ancient Greece.

2. Advisory Conference on art, literature and sport in 1906 with the participation of competent renowned artists and writers approved the proposal to the International Olympic Committee on the organization of five competitions in the field of Architecture, Sculpture, Music, Painting and Literature.

3. The basic requirement for participating artworks was their relation to sport. Authors of the best art works exhibited or performed during the Olympic Games, alike sportsmen were awarded Olympic medals.

4. Art Competitions were held from the V Olympic Games in 1912 to the XIV Olympic Games in 1948. Their winners were artists from 23 countries of the world, having won 49 gold, 53 silver and 49 bronze medals.

5. The participants of Art Competitions were: the IOC Presidents Pierre de Coubertin and Avery Brundage (category “Literature”); repeated winners, including Jean Jacoby, Alex Walter Diggelmann (category “Painting”), Josef Petersen (category “Literature”), Werner March (category “Architecture”); winners of both sporting and artistic events, including Walter Winans (category “Sculpture”) and Alfred Hayosh (category “Architecture”); authors that constructed sports facilities – Jan Wils, Werner March and Walter March (category “Architecture”).

Prospects for further research. Art Competitions in programs of Modern Olympic Games require further study. First of all, study of member-countries and analysis of their achievements.

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