

ATHLETICS FROM
ANCIENT TIMES
TO THE END OF THE
19th CENTURY

COLLECTION OF 100 ITEMS
DONATED BY CONSUDATLE
TO THE IAAF HERITAGE PROGRAM



Roberto Gesta de Melo
Organizer

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REGGO



CONTENTS

PRESENTATION	7
ANCIENT GAMES IN GREECE	9
THE IMPORTANCE OF ATHLETICS IN THE ANCIENT OLYMPIC GAMES.....	10
ROMAN GAMES	15
THE END OF THE ANCIENT GAMES	16
THE MIDDLE AGES.....	18
THE RENAISSANCE.....	18
THE REVIVAL OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES	21
OTHER BRITISH OLYMPIAN FESTIVALS.....	22
GREEK NATIONAL OLYMPIC GAMES (ZAPPAS GAMES)	23
GREAT BRITAIN.....	25
THE CHANGES IN SPORT IN GREAT BRITAIN IN THE MODERN ERA	25
SPORTS IN UNIVERSITIES AND SCHOOLS	25
THE CREATION OF SPECIALIZED FEDERATIONS	35
PEDESTRIANISM.....	47
HIGHLAND GAMES.....	48
THE INFLUENCE OF BRITISH SPORT IN THE WORLD.....	50
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.....	53
FRANCE.....	74
THE FIRST MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES – ATHENS 1896.....	92
ATHLETICS IN SOUTH AMERICA	100
INDEX.....	103



PRESENTATION

My personal interest in the hobby of collecting started due to the influence of my grandfather Manoel Barbosa Gesta, an expert in Brazilian stamps and coins. With him I learned the importance to research what was represented in those little artifacts.

Later on, having run sports organizations, my theme of choice in the vast field of collecting was only natural.

After I was elected to the IAAF Council, I was contacted by the two former Presidents to manage a project of setting up a museum devoted to Athletics. Unfortunately their efforts, either in Monte Carlo or in Athens, were not successful.

Now, President Sebastian Coe has wisely created the IAAF Heritage Department and so it is time for the members of the large Athletics Family to contribute to preserve the legacy of Athletics and to promote the knowledge on the history of our sport.

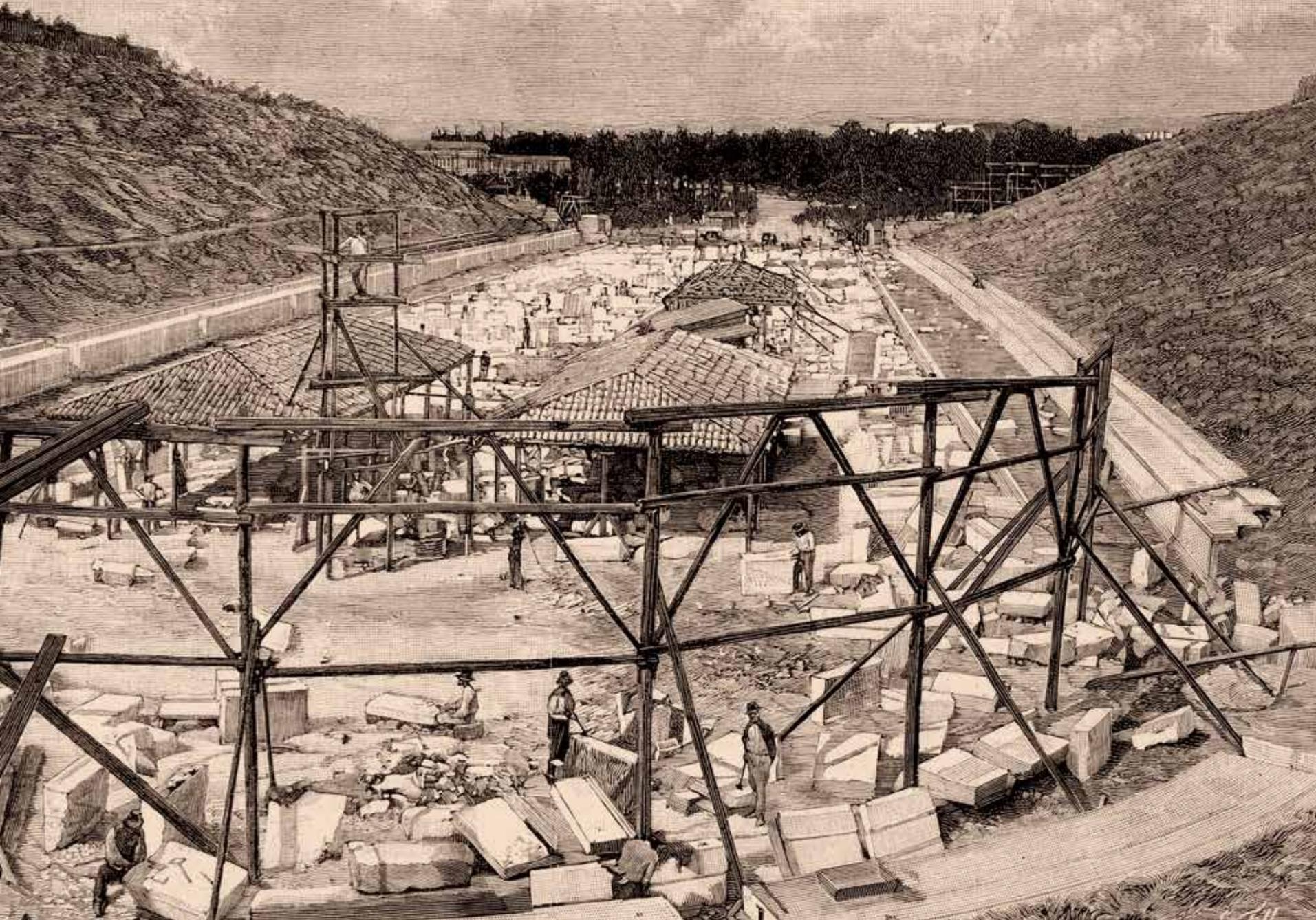
On our side, some years ago, CONSUDATLE began to acquire several articles related to Athletics throughout different ages in order to create an Athletics Museum.

Taking into consideration that our Area Confederation is completing its Centenary of existence and to mark the importance of this occasion, CONSUDATLE is donating 100 items to the Athletics International Body which can be used in Expositions or in other ways. We hope that this single gesture will help to spread out the interest in studying our magnificent past in the whole world.

There were only few days to select the items and to prepare a catalog of this small collection. So, I apologize for any eventual mistake. But the real meaning of this donation is to instigate people to give contributions to better describe what each piece represents, adding commentaries and informations. On the IAAF website for sure a section on this subject will be created with the addition of the images of hundreds of other objects.

Roberto Gesta de Melo





ANCIENT GAMES IN GREECE

In the City-States of Ancient Greece, physical exercises and sports competitions were integral part of the youth education.

Among the several Panhellenic Games, the most important were the Olympic Games (the greatest of all) in the sanctuary of Olympia, in Elis, first accurately recorded in 776 B.C.; the Isthmian Games, in the sanctuary of Isthmus of Corinth, first historically dated in 582 B.C.; the Pythian Game, in the sanctuary of Delphi, first well known in 582 B.C.; and the Nemean Games, in the valley of Nemea, registered since 573 B.C.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ATHLETICS IN THE ANCIENT OLYMPIC GAMES



01. ELIS OLYMPIA AR HEMIDRACHM COIN

Date: 256-252 B.C.

Obverse: Laureate head of Zeus right.

Reverse: F-A and Thunderbolt within wreath. ZEUS was worshiped as the supreme deity of the Olympic Games.

For the first 13 Olympic Games, the competition consisted of a single race of 192,27m (stadion), the length of the stadium.

The first recorded victor in 776 B.C. was Coroebus of Elis, a cook. The athletes of Elis maintained an unbroken string of victories until the 14th Olympic Games at which time a second race of two lengths of the stadium was added. In the 15th Olympic Games, an endurance event was added in which the athletes went 12 times around the stadium, about 4½ kilometers. The athletes competed in groups of four, which were determined by drawing lots with the winners meeting the other winners until a final race was run.



02. ASPENDUS, PAMPHYLIA AR STATER COIN

Date: 460-420 B.C.

Obverse: Hoplite advancing right, shield in left, sword in right.

Reverse: Triskele

The Hoplitodromos was the last foot race to be added to the Olympics, first appearing at the 65th Olympics in 520 BC, and was traditionally the last foot race to be held.

Unlike the other races, which were generally run in the nude, the hoplitodromos required competitors to run wearing the helmet and greaves of the hoplite infantryman from which the race took its name. Runners also carried the aspis, the hoplites' bronze-covered wood shield, bringing the total encumbrance to at least 120 kgs. After 450 BC, the use of greaves was abandoned; however, the weight of the shield and helmet remained substantial.



**03. SYRACUSE, SICILY,
HIERON II BRONZE AE 20 COIN**

Date: 275-215 B.C.

Obverse: Head of Poseidon left

Reverse: Ornamented trident,
dolphins at sides.

THE ISTHMIAN GAMES were organized in honor of POSEIDON. This festival seemed to focus primarily on combat sports, in contrast with the other three Panhellenic festivals.



THE PYTHIAN GAMES were considered to be founded to celebrate the victory of APOLLO against the Python serpent.

Homer, the legendary epic poet, “the father of History”, relates in the Ilyad and the Odyssey the organization of sports contests, including racing and discus throwing.

In the beginning, only musical contests were held in the Pythian Games then extended by singing to instrumental performances.

The athletics competition included four track sports (stadion, diaulos, dolichos, hoplitodromos) and pentathlon. These events were introduced to the games gradually over time.

**04. SMYRNA, IONIA, BRONZE
HOMERIUM COIN**

Date: 2nd Century B.C.

Obverse: Laureate head of Apollo
right.

Reverse: Homer seated left in
himation, right hand to chin, volume
on knees in left, transverse staff
behind, magistrate's name on left.

**05. TARENTUM, AR DIOBOL
COIN****Date:** c380-345 B.C.**Obverse:** Head of Athena right**Reverse:** Herakles (Hercules)
wrestling Nemean lion

THE NEMEAN GAMES, according to some legends, were held to commemorate the victory of HERAKLES against the Nemean Lion.

The first task of Hercules was to bring to King Eurystheus the skin of an invulnerable lion which terrorized the hills around Nemea.

When Hercules got to Nemea and began tracking the terrible lion, he soon discovered his arrows were useless against the beast. Hercules picked up his club and went after the lion. Following it to a cave which had two entrances, Hercules blocked one of the doorways, then approached the fierce lion through the other. Grasping the lion in his mighty arms, and ignoring its powerful claws, he held it tightly until he had choked it to death.

Athletics events in the Nemean Games: Stadion foot race (about 178m at Nemea); Diaulos Twice the Stadion foot race (about 355 meters at Nemea); Hippios Twice the Diaulos foot race (about 710 meters at Nemea); Dolichos. A long distance running race. The exact length of this race is uncertain; it could have been 7, 10, 20 or 24 times round the stadium; Hoplitodromos A Diaulos foot race with the competitors wearing helmets, a bronze covered hoplon and initially metal greaves; Pentathlon This pentathlon consisted of the stadion, a game of wrestling or pale, javelin-throwing, discus-throwing and long-jump.

ROMAN GAMES

By 146 B.C. Greece was subjugated by the Roman Empire and the Elis region became part of the Roman province of Acaia. Gradually the Olympic Games started to gather an heterogeneous community, with participants coming from the different far-offs towns conquered by the Roman legions, losing their primitive identity.

In general, Sports Games in Ancient Rome had a more violent character, being famous the Chariot Racing (with bigas, trigas and quadrigas) and the Gladiators fights.

**06. ROMAN REPUBLIC, L.
ANTESTIUS GRAGULUS SILVER
DENARIUS****Date:** 136 B.C.**Obverse:** GRAG, Helmeted head of
Roma right, below chin.**Reverse:** Jupiter in quadriga right,
scepter and reins in left, thunderbolt
in right L AES below, ROMA in ex.

THE END OF THE ANCIENT GAMES

**07. THEODOSIUS I, ANTIOCH
MINT, AE 22 ANTB VIRTUS
EXERCITI COIN****Date:** 379-395 A.D.**Obverse:** Diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right DN Theodosius PF AVG.**Reverse:** Emperor standing facing, head left, raising kneeling Tyche and holding Victory on globe.

The Olympic Games degenerated and no lists of victors are known after 267 A.D. There are even doubts if the competitors were later held in the sanctuary of Olympia.

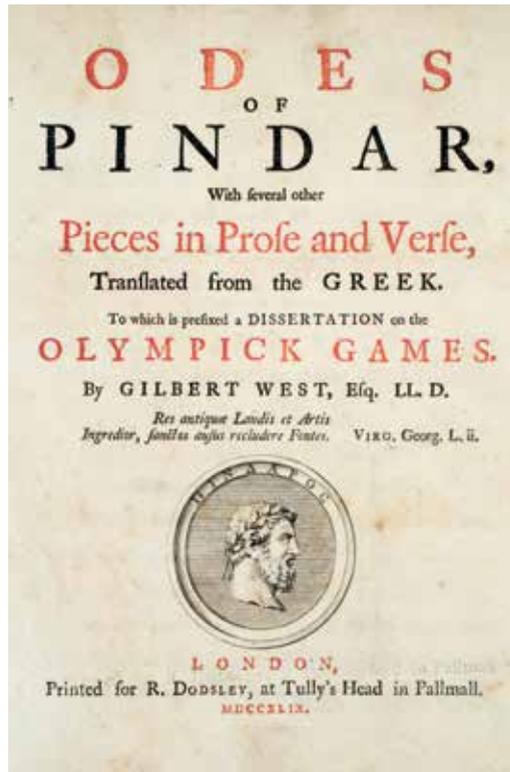
The Ancient Games associated with the cult of different deities were officially abolished in 393 A.D., as a result of a decree of the Christian Roman Emperor Theodosius I, following a long series of actions for the proscription of Paganism, including the destruction of the old temples.



After 393 A.D. Athletic Games continued to be organized in Greece Cities of the East, the most important of them in Antioch. According to reliable researchers, in Antioch a Sports Festival started to be called Olympic Games on 212 A.D., but other Games had been held there for Centuries.

Those were the last Athletic Games of the Roman Empire. They were abolished on 520 A.D. by Emperor Justin I or on 528 A.D. by Emperor Justinian I, in accordance with other sources.

**08. BYZANTINE EMPIRE, JUSTIN
I AND JUSTINIAN I, BRONZE
PENTANUMMIUM COIN****Date:** April-1 August 527 A.D.**Obverse:** Diademed, draped and cuirassed busts of Justin I and Justinian I facing.**Reverse:** Tyche of Antioch seated left, reversed E left.



09. THE ODES OF PINDAR, TO WHICH IS PREFIXED A DISSERTATION ON THE OLYMPIC GAMES

LONDON, Printed for R. Dodsley, at Tully's Head in Pallmall. Printed in 1749 FIRST EDITION IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

THE MIDDLE AGES

During the Middle Ages, between the 5th and the 15th Centuries, with the domination of Christianity in Europe, which identified the Ancient Sports Festivals with Paganism and considered the cult of the body sinful, Athletic Games, as they were known in the Classical Antiquity, disappeared. At that time, the ability to read was circumscribed to very few people and the memory of the Ancient Games was almost completely forgotten for more than 1.000 years.

THE RENAISSANCE

With the Reform, the Renaissance, the Age of Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution, a dramatic change occurred in the world. By 1439, Johannes Gutenberg invented the mechanical movable type printing and the books preserved by handwriting manuscripts, especially by the copyist monks at the monasteries, started to be published. The splendors of the Greek civilization were spread out through the works of ancient writers and words like Olympics and Olympic Games became to be frequently used.

The most important publication on this field was indubitably the Odes of Pindar, about the Olympian, Pythian, Nemean and Isthmian Games.

Pindar, the greatest lyric poet of Ancient Greece, celebrated victories achieved in the Ancient Panhellenic Games.



In the same way, studies on competitive sports and the human body associated to physical exercises came into light.

De Arte Gymnastica was the predecessor on sports medicine, dealing with the comprehension and the behavior of the Ancient Greeks and Romans about diet, practice of sports and natural methods to cure the diseases.

The second edition printed in 1573 was the first with the famous illustrations on the nature of sports in the Classical world.

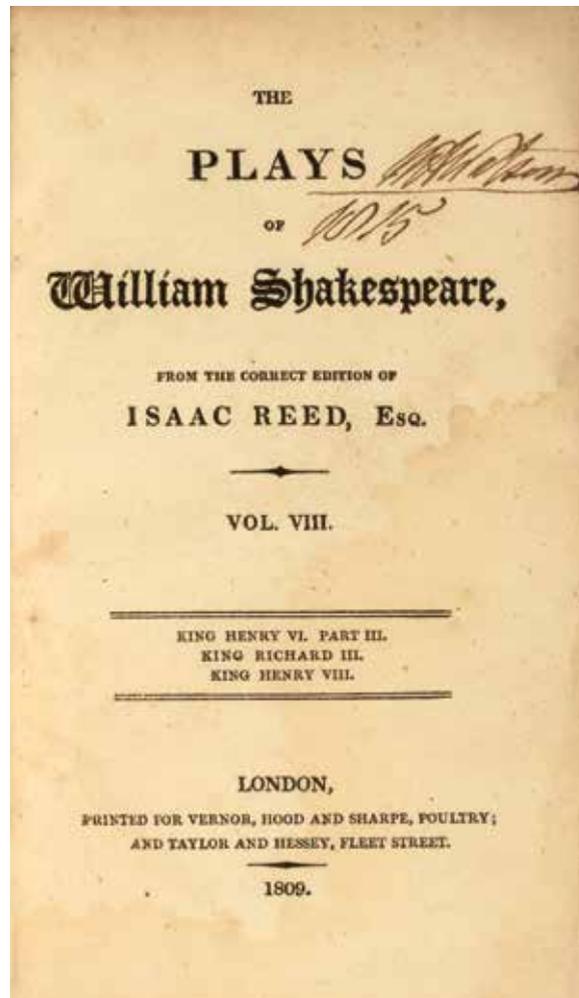
10. ILLUSTRATION OF DE ARTE GYMNASTICA. By Hieronymy Mercurialis.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the first ever recorded use of the word Olympian in the English language is to be found in William Shakespeare's Henry VI, Part 3, written in about 1591.

However, in fact Richard Mulcaster had already cited the term Olympian in the "Elementary" Pedagogic Treaty, published in 1582.

11. THE PLAYS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

From the correct edition of Isaac Reed, Esq., Volume III (containing King Henry VI, Part III: King Richard III, King Henry VIII).



THE REVIVAL OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES



With the advent of a new Era, Sports Festivals in Europe – in Great Britain in special – started to add the denomination Olympic or similar to give prestige to those manifestations. Among them, there were the Cotswold Olimpick Games, which probably started on 1612 and were organized by Captain Robert Dove.

The Cotswold Olympick Games were explicitly recognized by the King James I, who enjoyed such manifestations, in opposition to the Puritans, who considered them sinful.

King James I is more know because in 1604 he authorized that a new translation of the Bible into English be started. It was finished in 1611. The Authorized King James Version of the Bible quickly became the standard for English-speaking Protestants. Its flowing language and prose rhythm has had a profound influence on the literature of the past 400 years.

12. KING JAMES I SILVER SHILLING COIN

Date: 1603 to 1604

Obverse: Crowned portrait right with XII left, surrounded by Latin legend IACOBVS DG ANG FRA ET HIB REX

Reverse: Center quartered shield surrounded by Latin legend EXVGART DEVS DISSIPENTVR INIMICI



OTHER BRITISH OLYMPIAN FESTIVALS

Several other Festivals used the name Olympic but some of them were crucial for the restoration of the Modern Games: the Much Wenlock Olympian Games and the British Olympic Festivals.

Dr. William Penny Brookes, now recognized as the first precursor of the Modern Olympic Games, was born in Much Wenlock, in Shropshire, England in 1809. He was a doctor and a very prestigious man at his time.

In 1850, in October, he organized the first Much Wedlock Olympian Games “to promote the moral, physical and intellectual improvement of the inhabitants and neighborhood of Wenlock”. Pierre de Coubertin recognized the importance of the Much Wenlock Olympian Games for the revival of Modern Olympics. Those Games are held until nowadays.

In 1865, Dr. Brookes, John Hulley (Liverpool Athletic Club), Ernst Ravenstein (German Gymnastic Society, in London) and other enthusiasts founded the National Olympic Association, which organized six National Olympian Festivals: London (1866), Birmingham (1867), Wellington (1868), Much Wedlock (1874), Shrewsbury (1877) and Hadley (1883).

13. PRIZE MEDAL AWARDED AT THE GREAT BRITAIN NATIONAL OLYMPIAN FESTIVALS, WITH RIBBON (BRONZE)

Date: Between 1866 and 1883

Obverse: Britannia with Lion crowning a kneeling victorious athlete, surrounded by Latin inscription.

Reverse: Oak wreath surrounding NATIONAL OLYMPIAN ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING PHISICAL EDUCATION

GREEK NATIONAL OLYMPIC GAMES (ZAPPAS GAMES)

In Greece, the ideal to re-establish the Olympic Games continued in the imagination of new generations.

In 1833, in Athens, Panagiotis Soutsos, writer and journalist, pleaded for new Olympic Games in Greek territory.

Finally, in 1859, 1870, 1875 and 1888/1889, the Greek Olympic Games (also known as Zappas Games, as they were financed by the Maecenas Evangelis Zappas), were organized in Athens.

14. BRONZE WINNER'S MEDAL AWARDED AT THE 1870 ZAPPAS OLYMPICS, IN ORIGINAL BOX.

Obverse: King George I and legend (2nd Zappas Games).

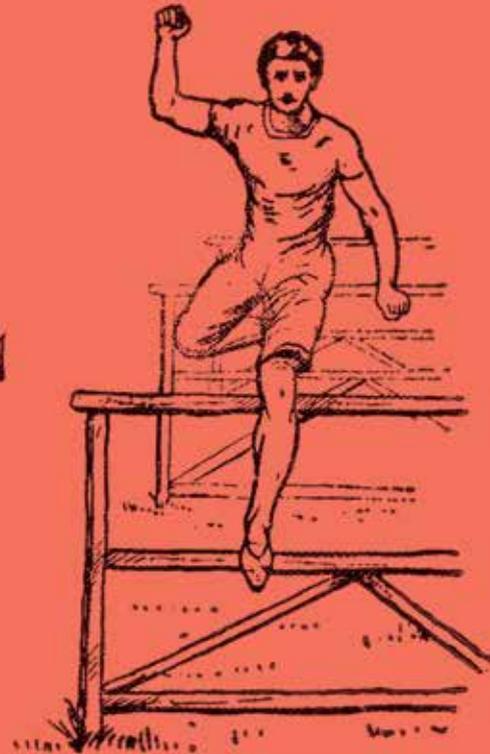
Reverse: Laurel wreath surrounding inscription AGONOTHETES EVANGELIS ZAPPAS OLYMPIA ATHENS 1870.



The All-England Series

ATHLETICS

BY
H. H. GRIFFIN



PRICE ONE SHILLING

GREAT BRITAIN

THE CHANGES IN SPORT IN GREAT BRITAIN IN THE MODERN ERA

Over time, the British Festivals have undergone changes and incorporated the practice of sports with a certain degree of formal organization.

For the implementation of a formal sports system in Great Britain, written codes were created to discipline the way of practicing the various modalities, allowing, with the universalization of norms, the participation of different institutions in the competitions.

For this transition, one of the relevant factors was the Industrial Revolution, which led to the emergence of a new class of workers. At first, the working day was extremely strenuous, but the time available for leisure was gradually expanded with successive social achievements, allowing opportunities to use leisure time for a large number of people .

Manuals of sports began to guide the practice of these activities in everyday life.

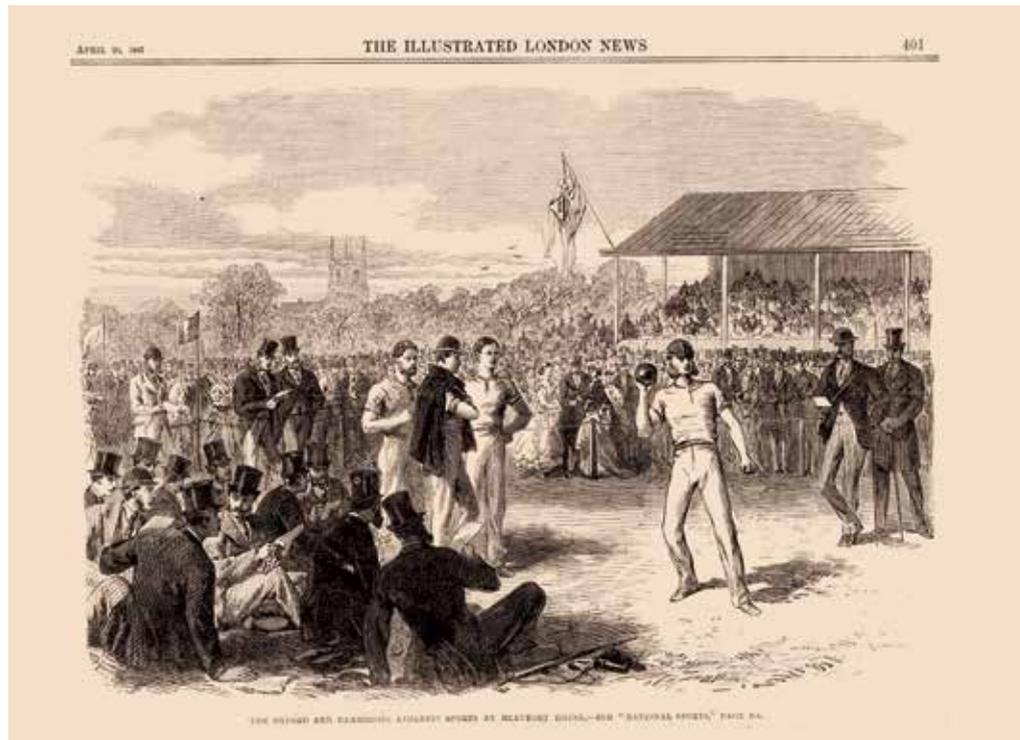
SPORTS IN UNIVERSITIES AND SCHOOLS

Meanwhile, middle schools and, above all, the British Universities have incorporated into their academic curricula the incentive to the sport, considering this activity as an important factor in the formation of the character of the youngsters, as in what happened in Classical Greece. This relevance attributed to sport has become one of the hallmarks of insular education.

Competitions between Universities and High Schools in Britain have become popular and have attracted the interest of the population and the press. Meetings between British and American Universities and also from other countries began to be held regularly.



15. MANUAL ON "ATHLETICS"
FROM H. H. GRIFFIN. London:
George Bell & Sons, York Street,
Covent Garden, 1891.



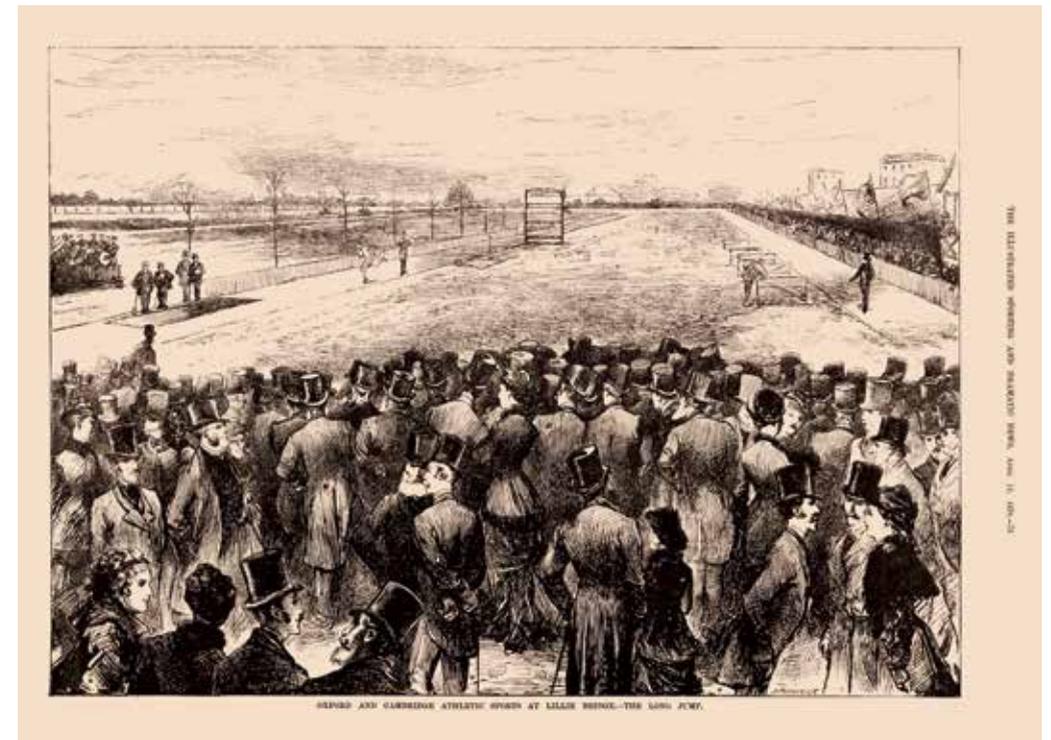
16. THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ATHLETIC SPORTS.

The contest was organized in London for the first time. Beaufort House – Putting the Shot THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS – April 20, 1867

The winner of putting the weight was R. Waltham (Boston Grammar School, Lincs and Peterhouse, C.) 34 ft. 91/2 inc.; the second was T. Batson (Sidney College, Bath and Lincoln, O.) 32 ft 11 inc. and the third was C. A. Abloom (Private and Trinity, C.) 32 ft. 8 inc.

The Inter-University Athletics Meetings between Oxford and Cambridge started in 1864 and took place on the Christchurch Ground and resulted in a tie. In 1865, the sports were held on the grass at Fenner's and Cambridge were the winners by six events to three. Next year the venue was again at Oxford, and Cambridge were once more victors, by 5½ to 3½.

At that time, the authorities of both Universities decided that the competition must be on a neutral venue. At Beaufort House in London there was a cinder path and the 1867 event was held there.



17. THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ATHLETIC SPORTS.

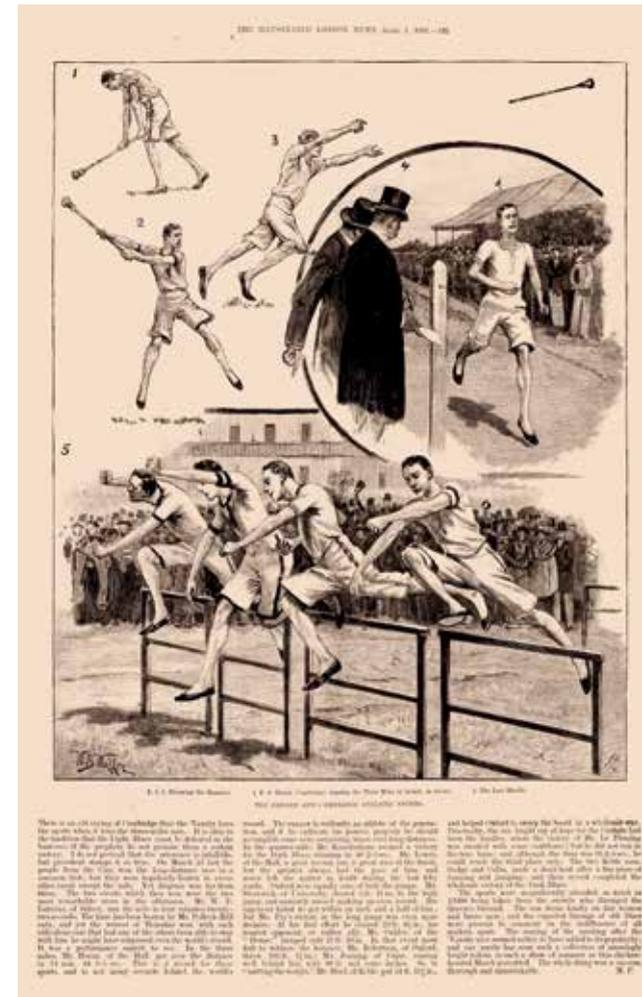
The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News, April 12, 1879.

The winner of the long jump was E. Baddeley (Derby and Jesus, C.) 20 ft. 103/4 in.; C. W. M. Kemp (Harrow and Oriel, O.) 20 ft. 83/4 in. was second; and J. A. L. Fellowes (Marlborough and Exeter, O.) 20 ft 3 in. was third.



18. BRONZE PRIZE MEDAL OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE ATHLETIC SPORTS. Putting the Weight – 2nd – 35ft. 0 1/2 in. – 1889 – J. C. Miller.

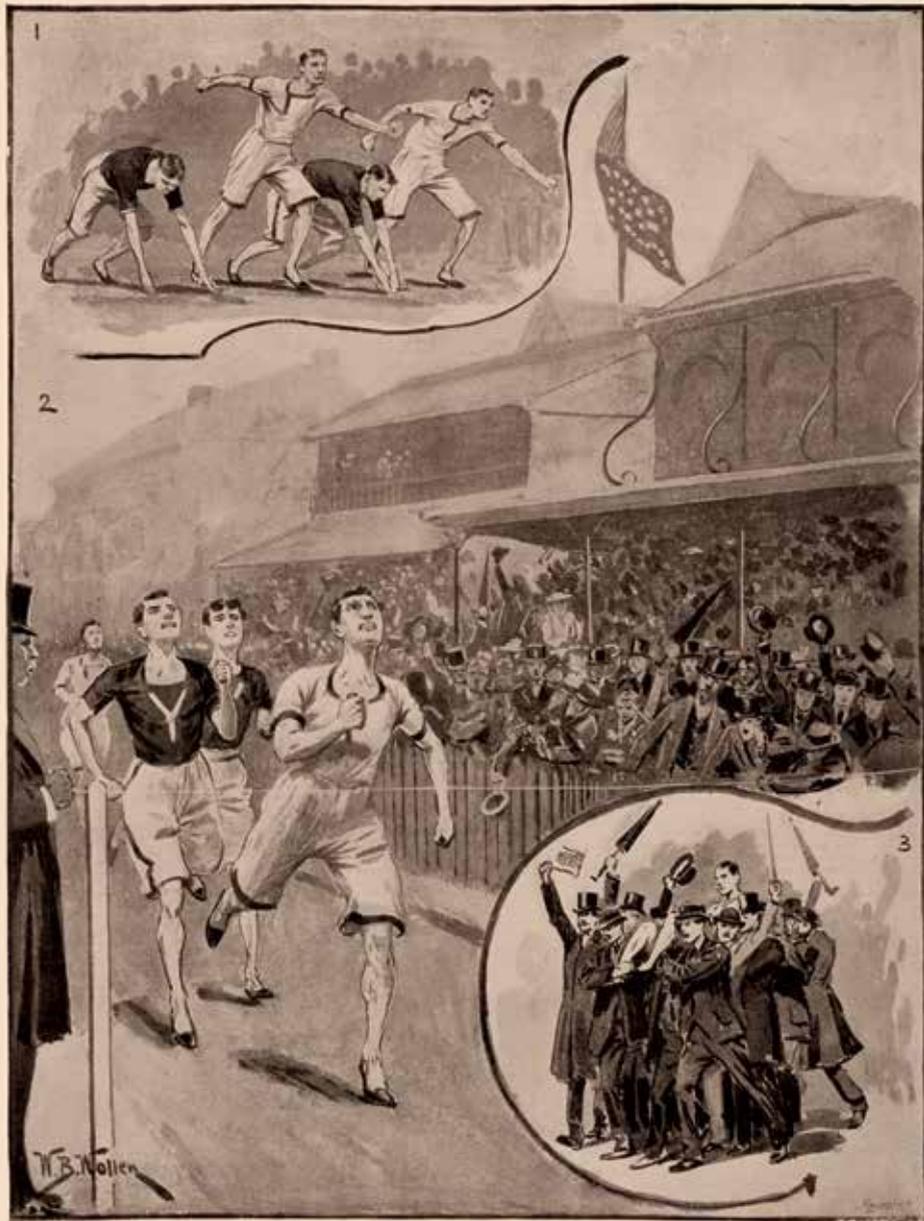
C. Rolfe (Merchiston and Clare, C), 35ft. 6 1/2 in. won the weight for Cambridge, with J. C. Miller (Haileybury and New, O) and C. R. Wilson (Haileybury and Exeter, O) tied for the 2nd place.



19. OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ATHLETIC SPORTS. THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS. April 1, 1893.

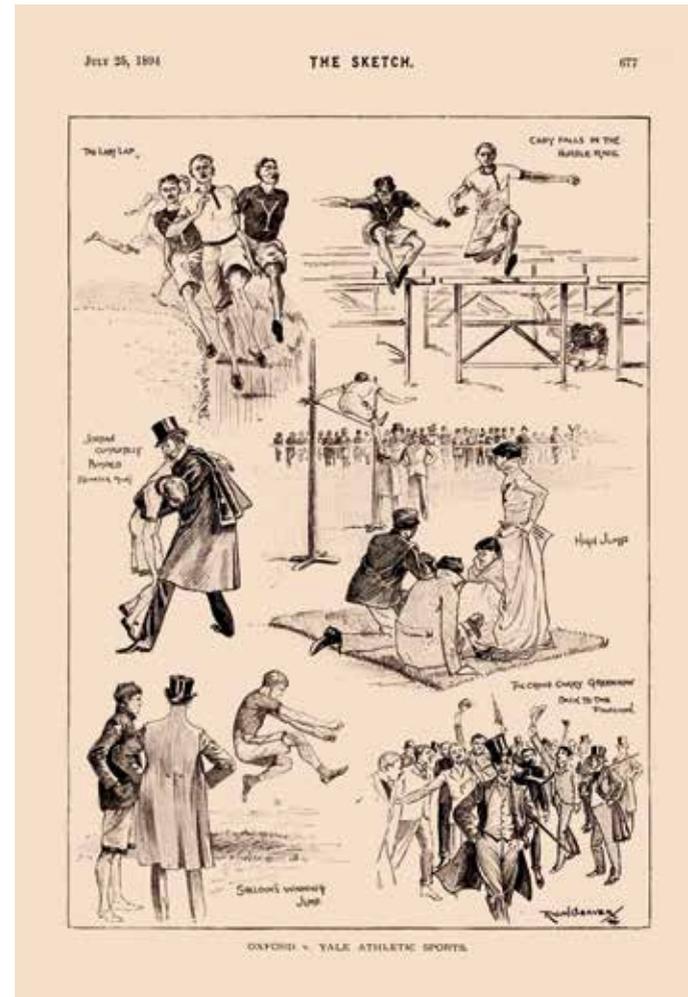
Interesting fact in this meeting described on the “Fifty Years of Sport at OXFORD, CAMBRIDGE and the GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS” which stated the difficulties of the judges to take decisions:

It is generally thought that the judges made a mistake in deciding that Ramsbotham and Fry had dead-heated in the one hundred race. Fry was quickest into the running and though Ramsbotham was going the faster at the finish he never quite got up until the pair were past the tape. Fry was on the outside under the stand, and the judge, who is posted on that side, is so close to his men that he does not get a perfect view of him who comes up within 2ft. of his nose. On this occasion the referee, seeing that both winner and second were Oxford men, did not care to pronounce one of the judges wrong.



1. The Start: Different styles of "setting." 2. Jinks Winning the Quarter-Mile on the Flat; a very fine piece of running under difficulties. 3. Cheering the Winner of the 100' Dash.

THE OXFORD AND YALE UNIVERSITIES' ATHLETIC SPORTS AT THE QUEEN'S CLUB GROUNDS, WEST KENSINGTON.



OXFORD & YALE ATHLETIC SPORTS.

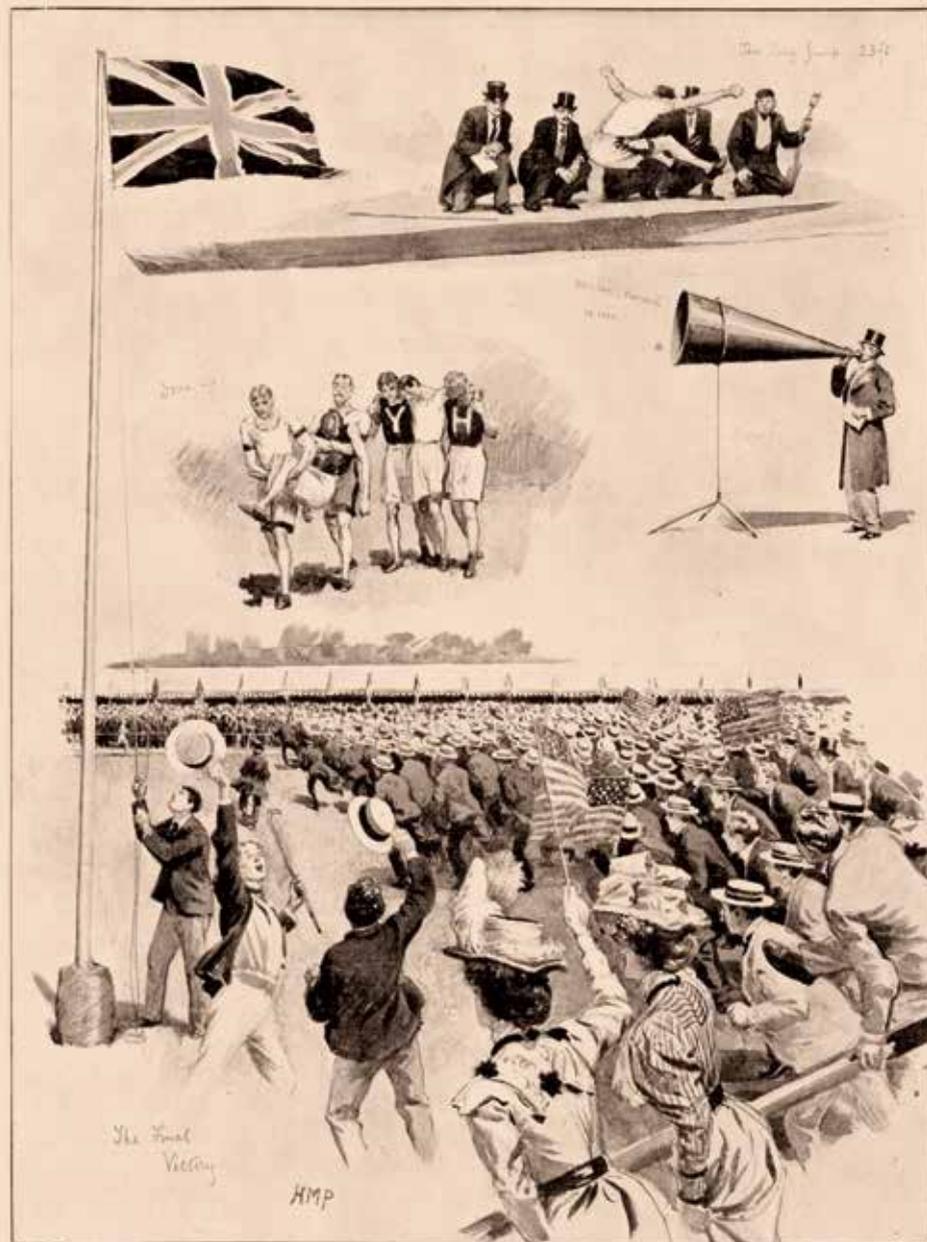
International Meetings

The first "foreign match" of English and American undergraduates was brought off on July 16, 1894, when Oxford tackled Yale. The Yale visitors enjoyed their stay in Oxford and it was noted that: "The Americans cheered the Oxford winners as heartily as any Britisher, and were more successful in making the right noise than the English spectators who tried to imitate upon occasions the elaborate and esoteric Yale cry.

21. OXFORD AND YALE ATHLETICS SPORTS. THE SKETCH. July 25, 1894.



20. OXFORD AND YALE ATHLETICS SPORTS. THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS. July 21, 1894.



INTERNATIONAL ATHLETICS: HARVARD AND YALE V. OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE AT THE QUEEN'S CLUB
DRAWN BY H. W. FAIRIE

“On four occasions Oxford and Cambridge have combined to meet the united forces of Harvard and Yale. The first of these meetings, at Queen's on July 22, 1899, produced as great a contest as has often been seen. Individual performances were of the best; the teams won alternately until eight events had been decided, and it was left to the three miles to settle the issue; and only points in which the entertainment fell short of perfection was in the provision of exciting finishes”.

“The gathering of spectators was worthy of the occasion, and the Prince of Wales, who was accompanied by the Duke and Duchess of York, honored it by his presence. The Royal party arrived before the start and stayed till the finish”.

“Oxford and Cambridge won by five events to four, and the spectators had some practice in cheering, which enabled them to give a proper send-off to two future kings of England as they left the ground”.

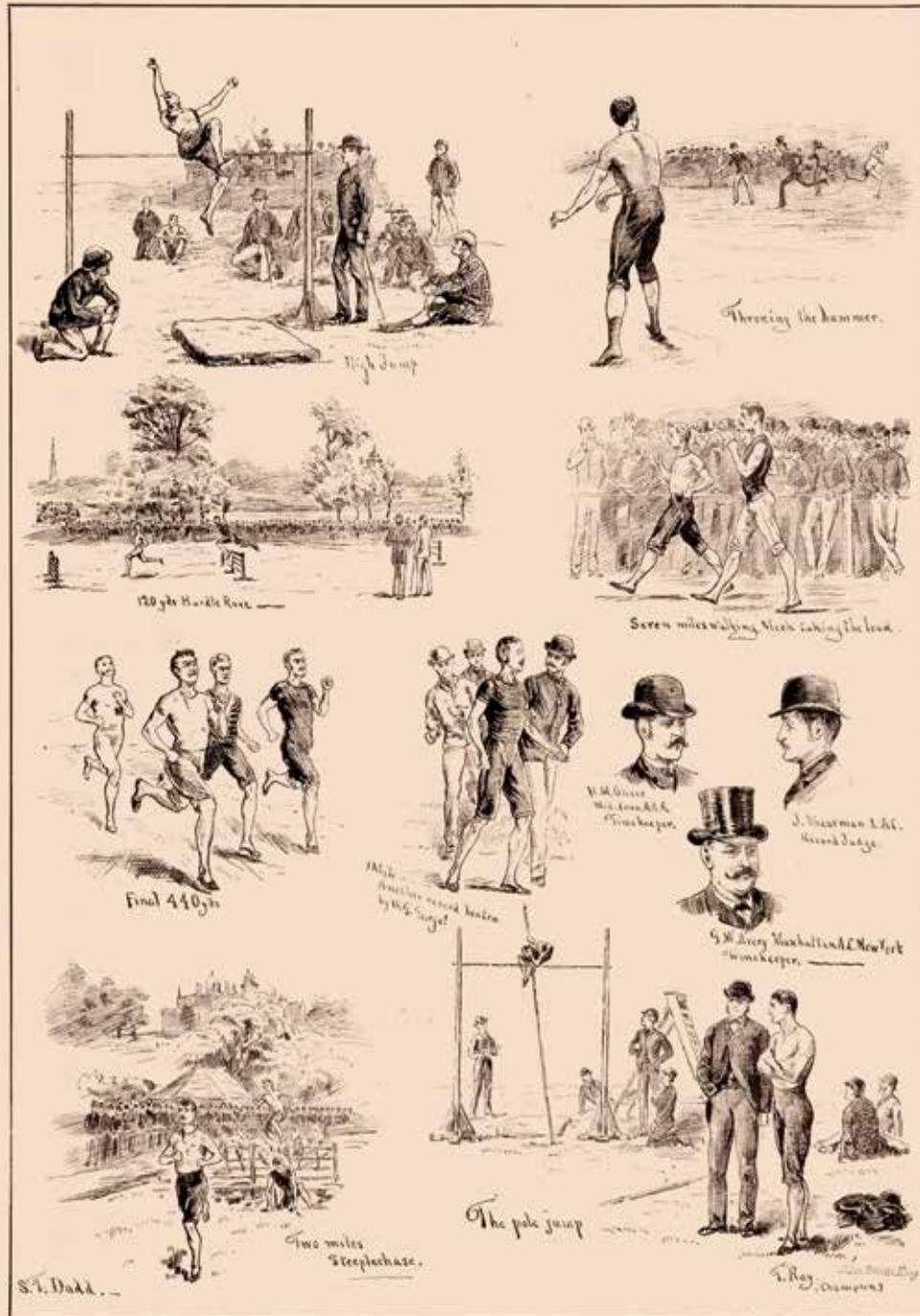
While the Oxford versus Cambridge Athletics Meetings started in 1864 and the Amateur Athletic Club was founded in 1866, Athletics Meetings were held at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst since 1812, and at Woolwich since 1849.

← **22. HARVARD AND YALE X OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE.** International Athletics at the Queen's Club. THE GRAPHIC. July 29, 1899.



23. BRONZE MEDAL ATHLETICS MILITARY SCHOOLS

WOOLWICH and SANDHURST. RAAA / RAAC, QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT, VIRES ACQUIRIT EUNDO, W GILLMAN / 1889



AMATEUR ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS AT BIRMINGHAM.

THE CREATION OF SPECIALIZED FEDERATIONS

With previously established rules, several specialized federations were founded, which went on to run regular sporting events, with an increasing degree of sophistication, among the hundreds of existing clubs.

In this initial period, the distinction between the amateur sport (practiced by the dominant elite or other layers of the population as a form of leisure) and the “professional” was common, which had as its primary objective to provide material benefits to the practitioners. This dichotomy has become increasingly important, and it was forbidden to include professionals in amateur events, which, not infrequently, caused controversy, since in some cases this difference was not clear.

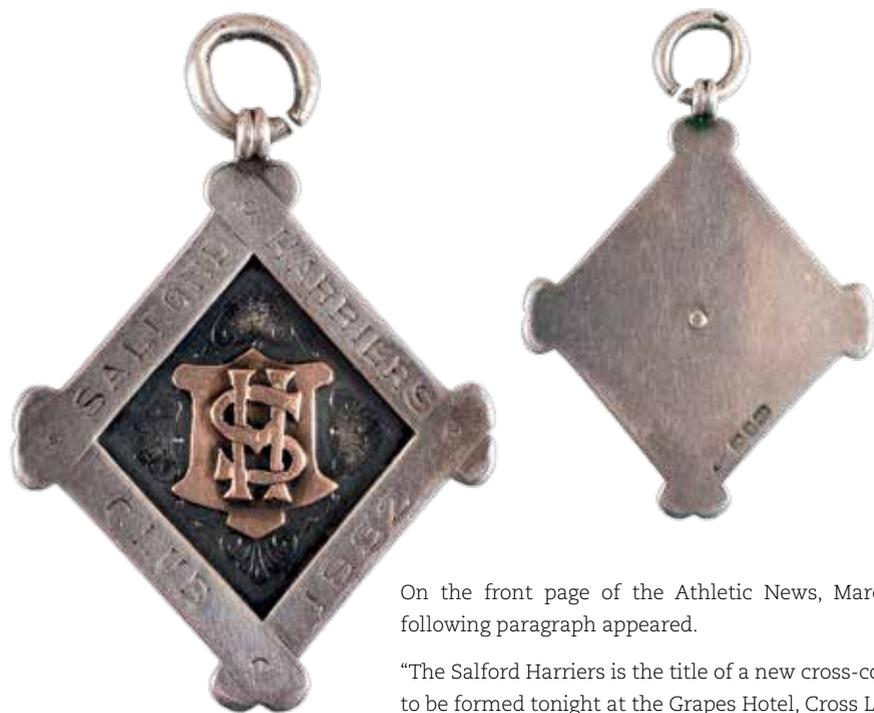
Amateur Athletic Association (AAA), the British national governing organization for the sport of Athletics was founded in 1880. It took over as the governing power from the Amateur Athletic Club, founded in 1866. The Association was the first such organization in the world. The AAA was one of the first groups to reject the requirement of upper-class background that had previously been necessary to achieve amateur athletic status.

The Championships Meetings in 1866 – 1878, and the first Meeting in 1879, were held by the Amateur Athletic Club, and the second Meeting in 1899 was promoted by the London Athletic Club. The A.A.A. Championships commenced in 1880.



25. BRONZE MEDAL. AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION. CHAMPIONSHIP 1888 – 10 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP TIME. Medal won by G. A. Pemington Time 55m 25 sec. In this event, the champion was E.W. Parry, Salford Harriers, 53m 43 2/5.

24. AMATEUR ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS AT BIRMINGHAM. THE ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS. June, 28, 1884.



26. SILVER AND GOLD MEDAL. SALFORD HARRIERS CLUB, 1892.

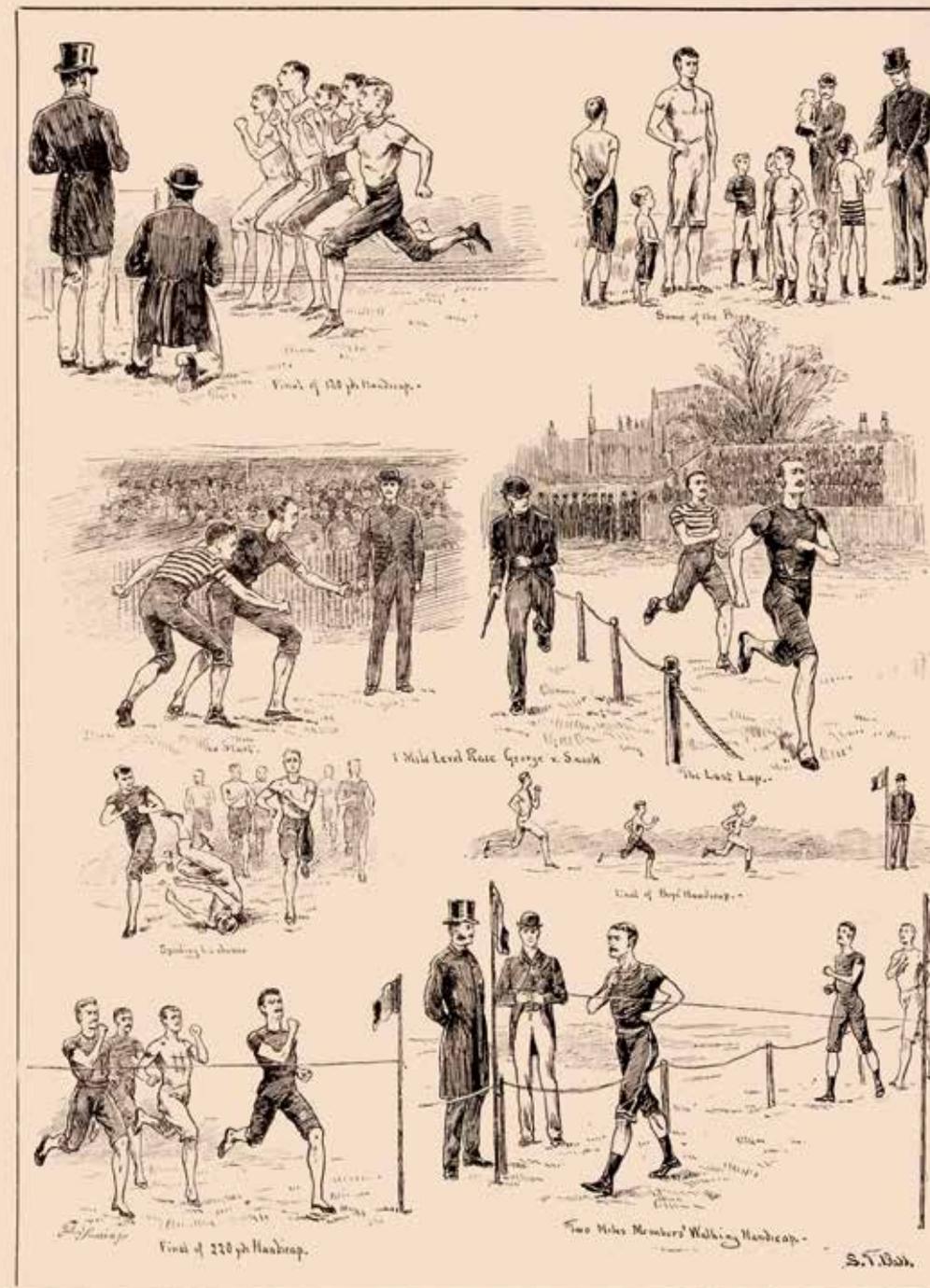
On the front page of the Athletic News, March 5th 1884, the following paragraph appeared.

“The Salford Harriers is the title of a new cross-country club about to be formed tonight at the Grapes Hotel, Cross Lane. Athletes and other desirous of supporting the new organisation are requested to meet at 19:30. The chief promoter is Mr. J.H Hardwick, and of those who have promised to join may be mentioned, E. Kane, R. Barlow, J.W Brown, J. Wilson, J.W Roberts, C. Silcock”.

South London Harriers was founded in 1871, making it one of the four oldest athletic clubs in England.

It was formed at a meeting in the Vivian Hotel in Peckham Rye. The founders were ex-members of the Peckham AAC, who had left that club after an argument about smoking in the changing room. The original object of the club was, ‘To enable athletes by means of cross-country runs, to continue training during the winter months’. Admission to the club was reserved exclusively to “Gentlemen Amateurs”.

27. THE SOUTH LONDON HARRIERS AT KENNINGTON OVAL. THE ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS. September 29, 1883



THE SOUTH LONDON HARRIERS AT KENNINGTON OVAL.

**28. BRONZE MEDAL**

LONDON ATHLETIC CLUB. Half Mile Race won by H. M. Durnford (2nd place). 4 DEC 1869

London Athletic Club is a track and field club based in London, England. It is the oldest independent track and field club in the world. More than sixty athletes connected with the club have since become Olympians and top athletics administrators in Britain.

Description of the race by a newspaper of the period:

“The last metropolitan meeting of the year was that of the LONDON ATHLETIC CLUB, held at Beaufort House, on Dec 4. All the events were confined to members only”.

“Four only out of ten entries started in the half mile novices' race, and two alone of these four completed the distance. A. B. Hill appeared winning easily up to 50 yards from home, when he slipped in the mire, and fell hopelessly. W. F. Woods and H. M. Durnford thus passed him, but the latter was exhausted 10 yards from the tape, so Woods spurted and won cleverly by a couple of yards, in 2 min. 33 sec.”

**29. BRONZE MEDAL – SECOND PLACE – DUAL MEETING**

LONDON ATHLETIC CLUB x UNITED HOSPITALS ATHLETIC CLUB. 1890 – 120 yards Hurdles. B. C. Green.

On May 31, 1867, the United Hospitals Athletic Club was formed at the West Brompton running grounds by Mr S Edwin Jolly. Eligible members were students on a medically-related degree at King's, Guys, London, St Thomas's, University College, St George's and St Mary's.

An annual meeting hosted by the UHAC featured events such as the 100 yards, 250 yards, 880 yards, 1 mile, 2 miles, 120 yard Hurdle Race, 440 yard Hurdle Race, High Jump, Long Jump, Hammer, Cricket Ball Throw, Stone Put, Three Legged Race and the 250 yards Consolation Race.

Such was the thirst for athletics in the late 1880's, the fourth meeting of the Championships had to be moved to the A.A.C Grounds in Lille Bridge to cater for a crowd of over 3,000 spectators. By the end of the 19th century, the club held the championships at Stamford Bridge – the home of the London Athletics Club. The Meeting was held at Little Bridge, West Brompton, on 8th April, 1871. The winner of the 120 hurdles race was A.F. Kinnaird.

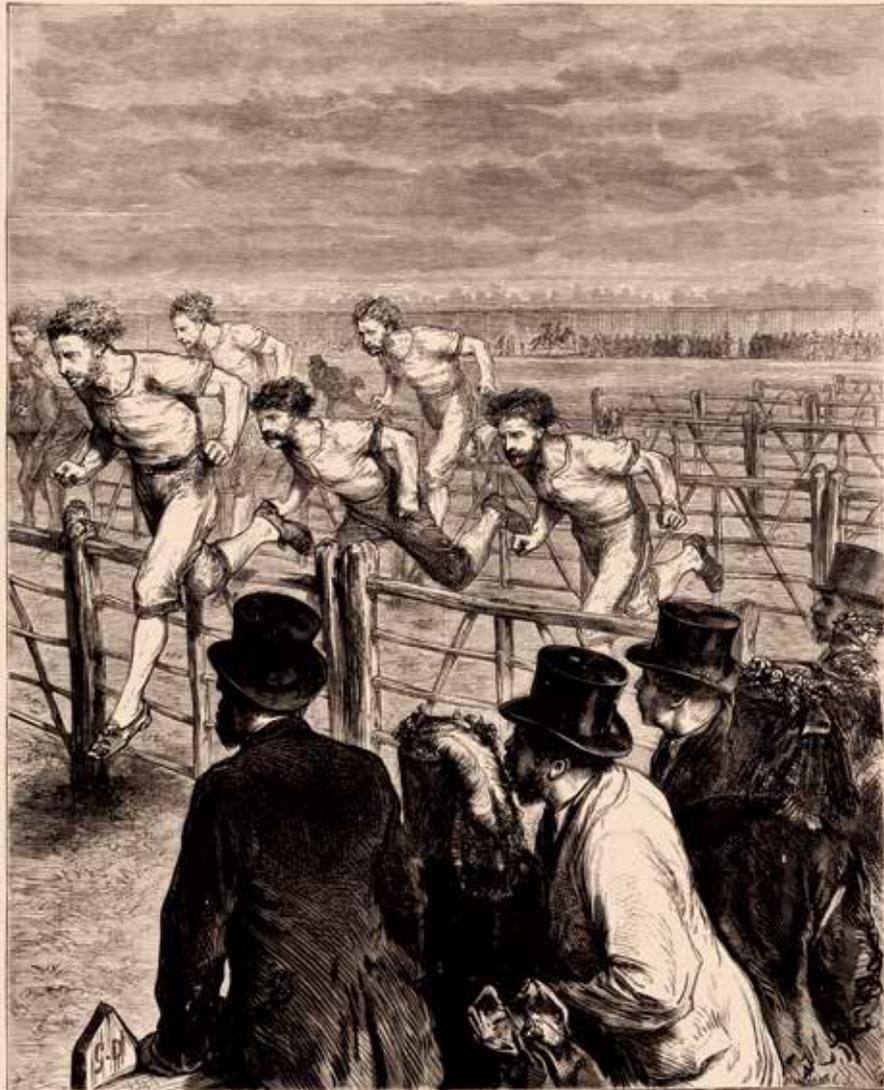
THE GRAPHIC

AN ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

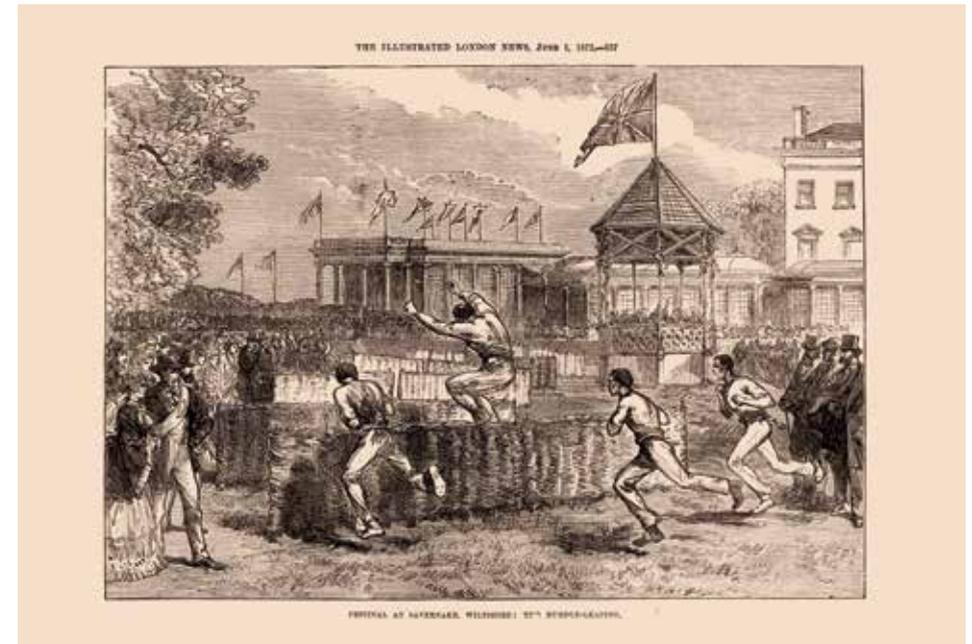
VOL. III—No. 72
Printed and General Post Office as a Newspaper.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1871

PRICE SIXPENCE
Or by Post Sixpence Halfpenny



ATHLETIC SPORTS AT BROMPTON—HURDLE RACING



FESTIVAL AT SAVERNAKE, WILTSHIRE: 25TH SEPTEMBER 1872.

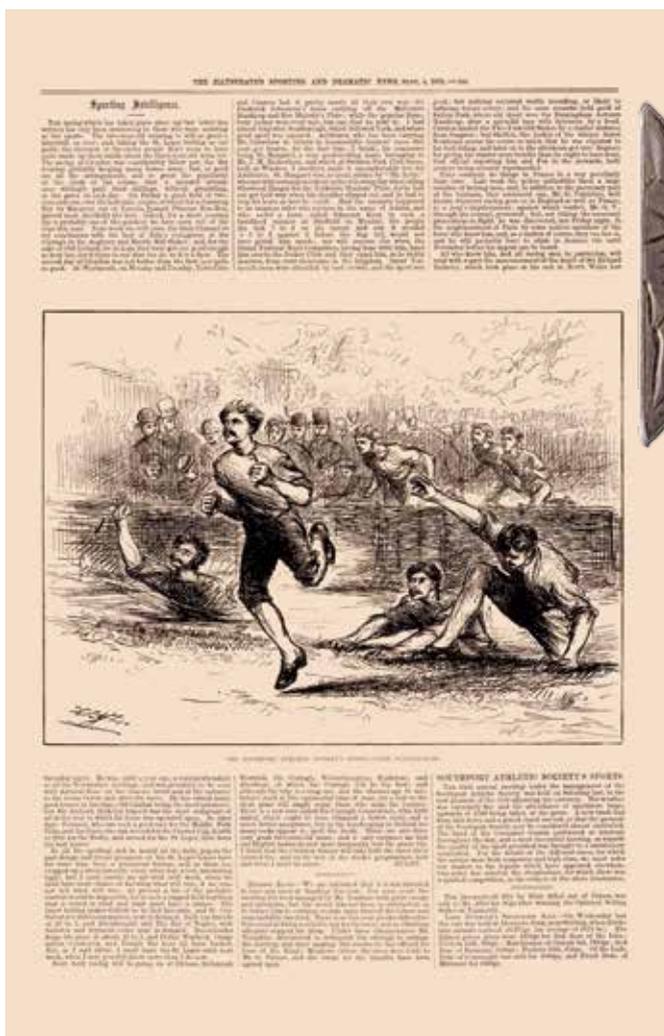
CLIPPING FROM THE LONDON
 ILLUSTRATED NEWS:

Savernake Forest Hoouse, near Marlborough, in Wiltshire, the seat of the Marquis of Ailesbury, was the scene of a popular festival on Monday Week, followed by a grand muster of the local benefit societies next day, and the opening of the Savernake Cottage Hospital, with a religious service by the Bishop of Salisbury, on the Wednesday, the whole concluding with a ball given by the Marquis and Marchioness

at their noble mansion. The object of these festivities was to raise funds for the new Cottage Hospital. ...Many of the nobility and gentry connected with that part of the country were present. The lawn and gardens, on the Monday were thronged with holiday people of different ranks and classes, who all seemed to enjoy themselves. ... The athletic sports, in which some of the young gentlemen from Marlborough College took part, afford the subject of an illustration."

← **30. ATHLETIC SPORTS AT BROMPTON. HURDLE RACING.** THE GRAPHIC – SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1871.

31. FESTIVAL AT SAVERNAKE, WILTSHIRE. The Hurdle Leaping. THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS – June 1, 1872.



32. THE SOUTHPORT ATHLETIC SOCIETY'S SPORTS. The Steeplechase. THE ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS. SEPTEMBER 4, 1875.

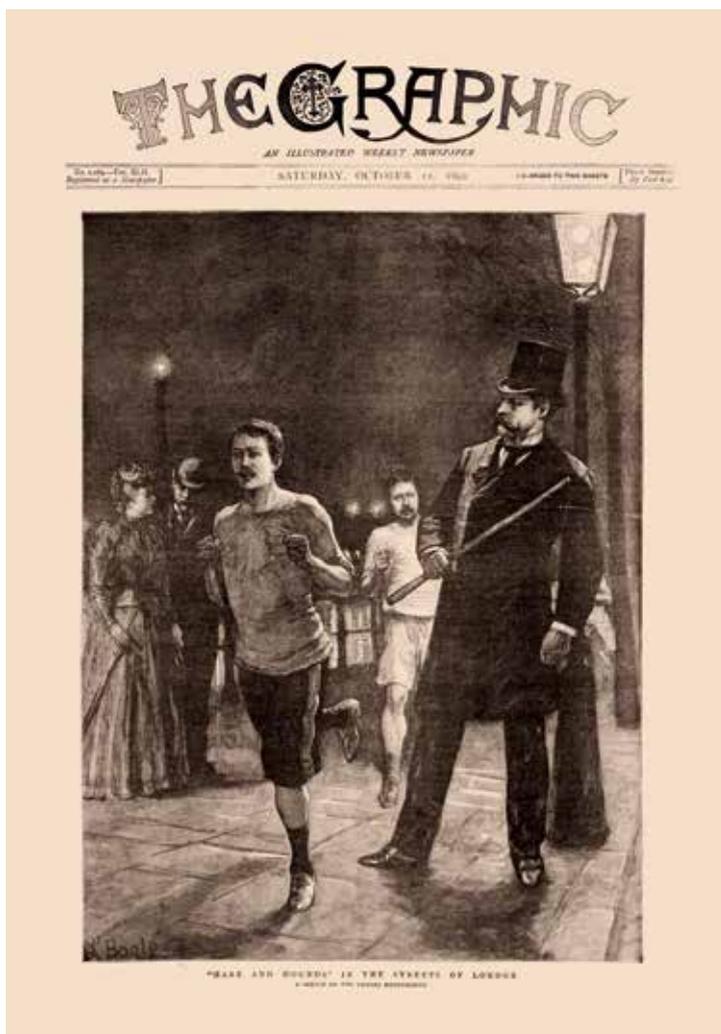


33. SILVER AND ENAMELED RUNNING MEDAL. Presented to R. Learning. Harrogate A.F.S. July 1889.



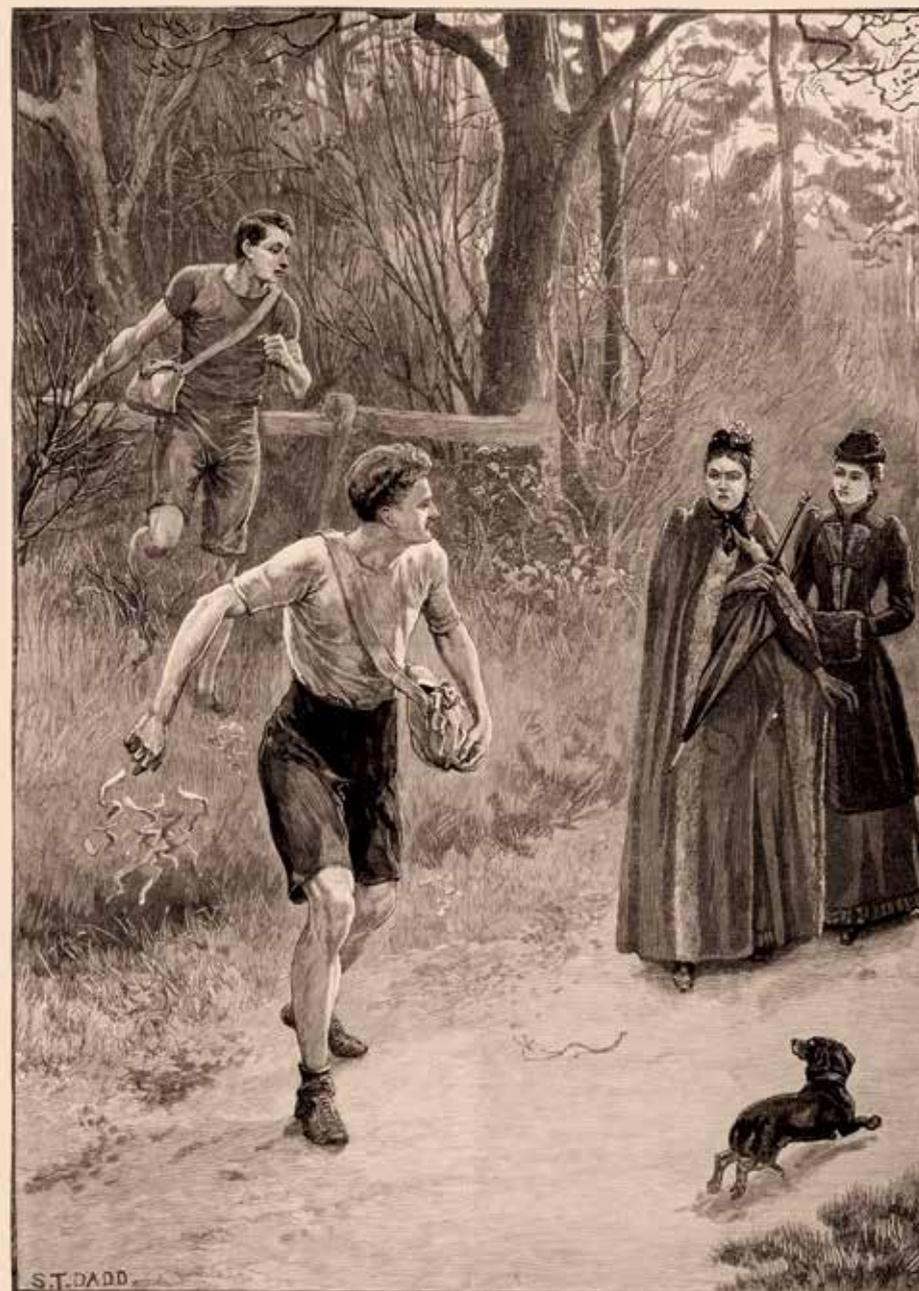
34. BRONZE MEDAL. MANCHESTER ATHLETIC FESTIVAL. 1870 Quarter Mile Flat Race – Second Prize.

35. BRONZE MEDAL, WITH RIBBON THIRD PLACE. W. M. I. A. 1889. Standing High Jump.



36. HARE AND HOUNDS IN THE STREETS OF LONDON. Print THE GRAPHIC – Saturday, October 11, 1890.

37. LAYING THE TRAIL FOR HARES AND HOUND. The Hares Breaking Cover. Cover. THE GRAPHIC – April 29, 1893. →



LAYING THE TRAIL FOR HARE AND HOUNDS; THE HARES BREAKING COVER.
DRAWN BY S. T. DADD

Hare and Hounds is an outdoor game in which certain players, the hares, start off in advance on a long, scattering small pieces of paper, called the scent, with the other players, the hound, following the trail so marked in an effort to catch the hares before they reach a designated point.

THE GRAPHIC

AN ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

VOL. XV.—No. 185
Printed on Thin Paper for Foreign Post.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1877

WITH EXTRA SUPPLEMENT [PRICE SIXPENCE
Or by Post Sixpence Halfpenny]



DANIEL O'LEARY



EDWARD PAYSON WESTON



"ON THE TRACK"—SCENE DURING THE LAST DAY OF THE RACE

THE GREAT SIX DAYS' WALKING MATCH

PEDESTRIANISM

Early pedestrianism's existence was underpinned by gambling on an enormous scale.

The blue riband discipline of the era was the six-day race, the longest timespan available without encroaching on the sacrosanct Sabbath. Competitors typically raced indoors, on sawdust tracks, from the early hours of a Monday to late Saturday night, doing umpteen thousand laps, stopping only for snatches of sleep in trackside cots or tents. The leading "Peds" attracted tens of thousands of paying fans.

Edward Payson Weston became the first man to walk 500 miles inside six days, in a closely monitored walk in December 1874 in New Jersey. It took him 143hr 34min, or 26 minutes shy of six days.

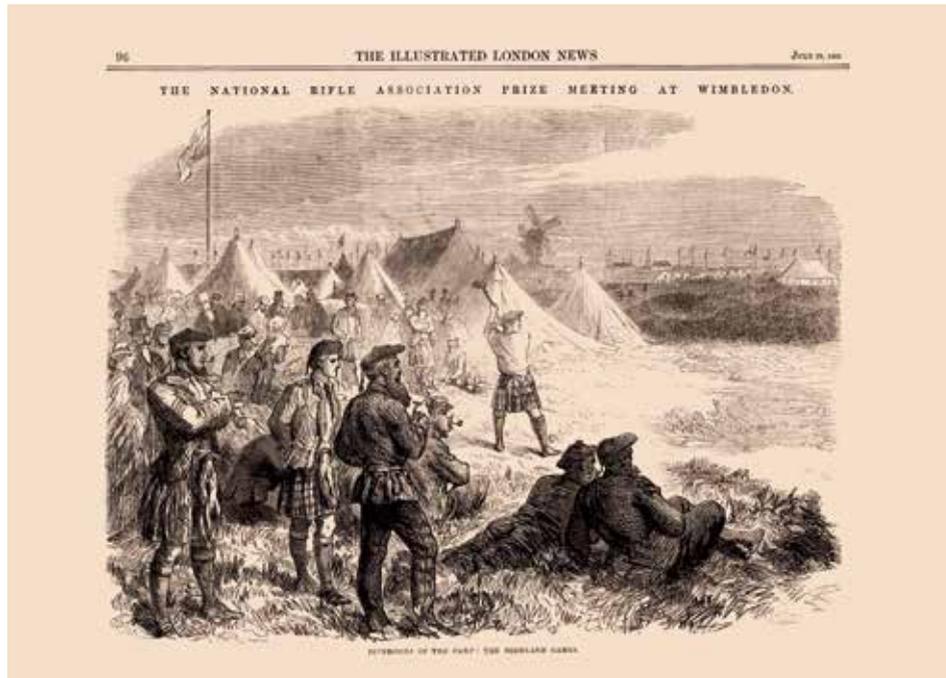
Daniel O'Leary responded by walking 500 miles at a Chicago rink in 1875.

Undeterred, O'Leary went head-to-head with Weston in a six-day race in Chicago in November 1875, and won, walking 500 miles in 143hr 13min, and breaking Weston's six-day record by walking 503 miles in the full time. The Tribune reported the crowd of 8,000 was "motley, but largely respectable; it represented wealth, standing, and brains, and thieves, gamblers and roughs."

Weston and O'Leary met in another famous race at the Agricultural Hall in Islington, London, in April 1877. O'Leary won again, breaking his own six-day record by walking 519 miles. The London Standard reported that there were 35,000 fans present at the end. The protagonists split the gate money and O'Leary later said: "For the week's work I received a check on the Bank of England for \$14,000. It was a good week's work." In today's money, that week's work would be worth more than £200,000.

From the Independent, by Nick Harris.

← **38. THE GREAT SIX DAYS' WALKING MATCH.** Daniel O'Leary – Edward Payson Weston. "On the Track" – Scene During the Last Day of the Race. THE GRAPHIC – Saturday, April 14, 1877.

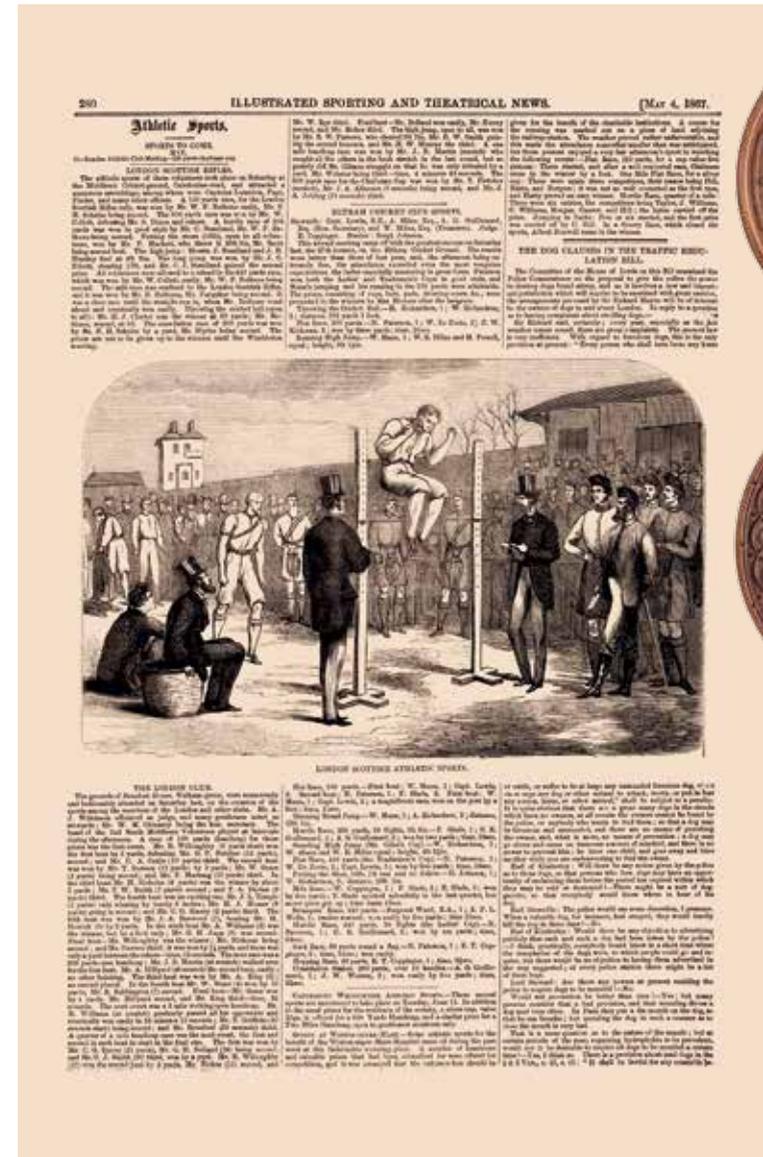


HIGHLAND GAMES

39. THE HIGHLAND GAMES AT WIMBLEDON. THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS. JULY, 29, 1865.

Highland games are events held in Scotland and other countries as a way of celebrating Scottish and Celtic culture, especially that of the Scottish Highlands. Certain aspects of the games are so well known as to have become emblematic of Scotland, such as the bagpipes, the kilt, and the heavy events, especially the caber toss. While centred on competitions in piping and drumming, dancing, and Scottish heavy athletics, the games also include entertainment and exhibits related to other aspects of Scottish and Gaelic culture.

The games are claimed to have influenced Baron Pierre de Coubertin when he was planning the revival of the Olympic Games. De Coubertin saw a display of Highland games at the Paris Exhibition of 1889.



40. LONDON SCOTTISH ATHLETIC SPORTS. Standing High Jump. ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND THEATRICAL NEWS. MAY 4, 1867.



41. BRONZE MEDAL. SCOTTISH AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION. CHAMPIONSHIP MEETING, 1894. 120 Yards Hurdle Race.

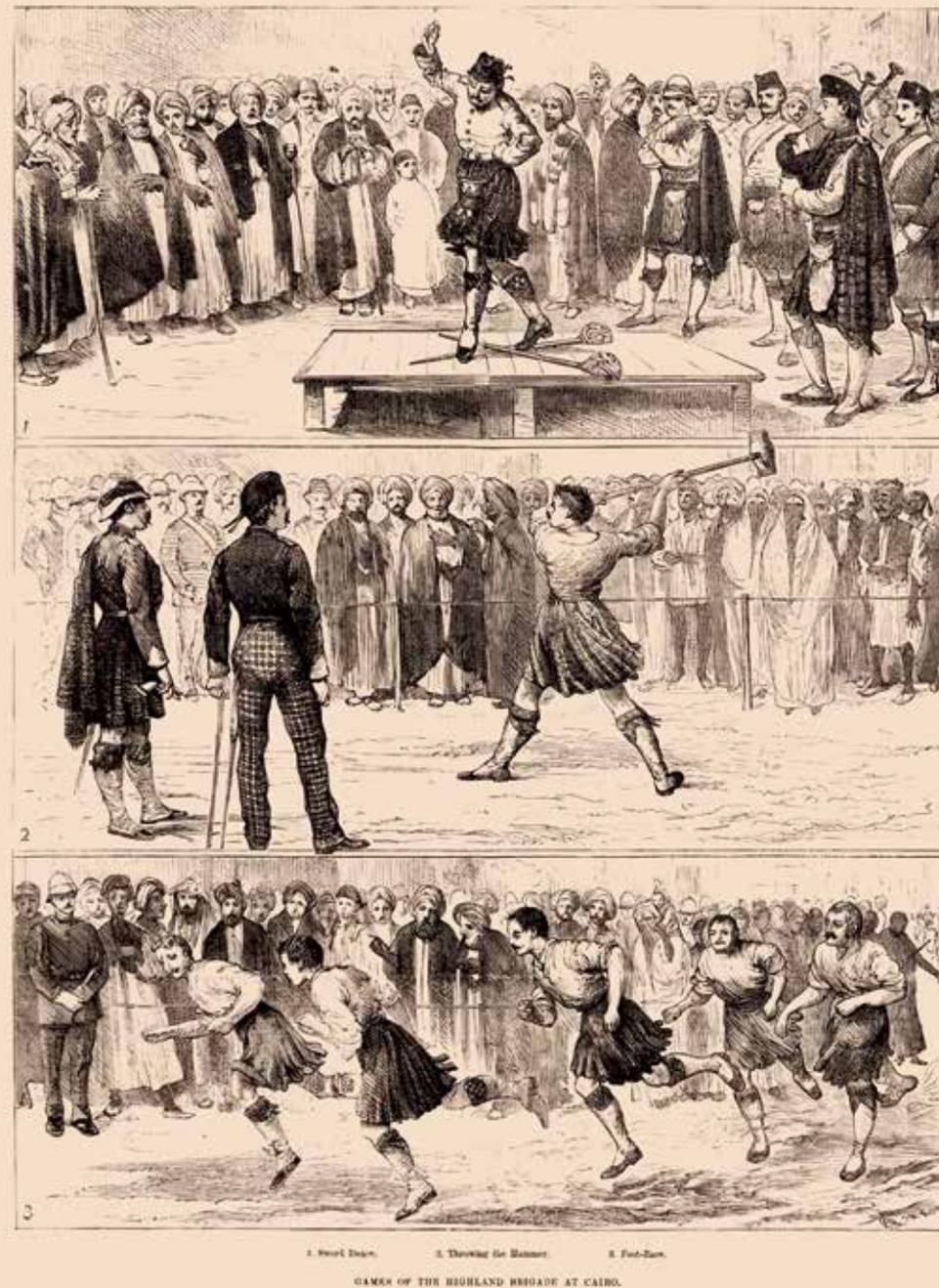
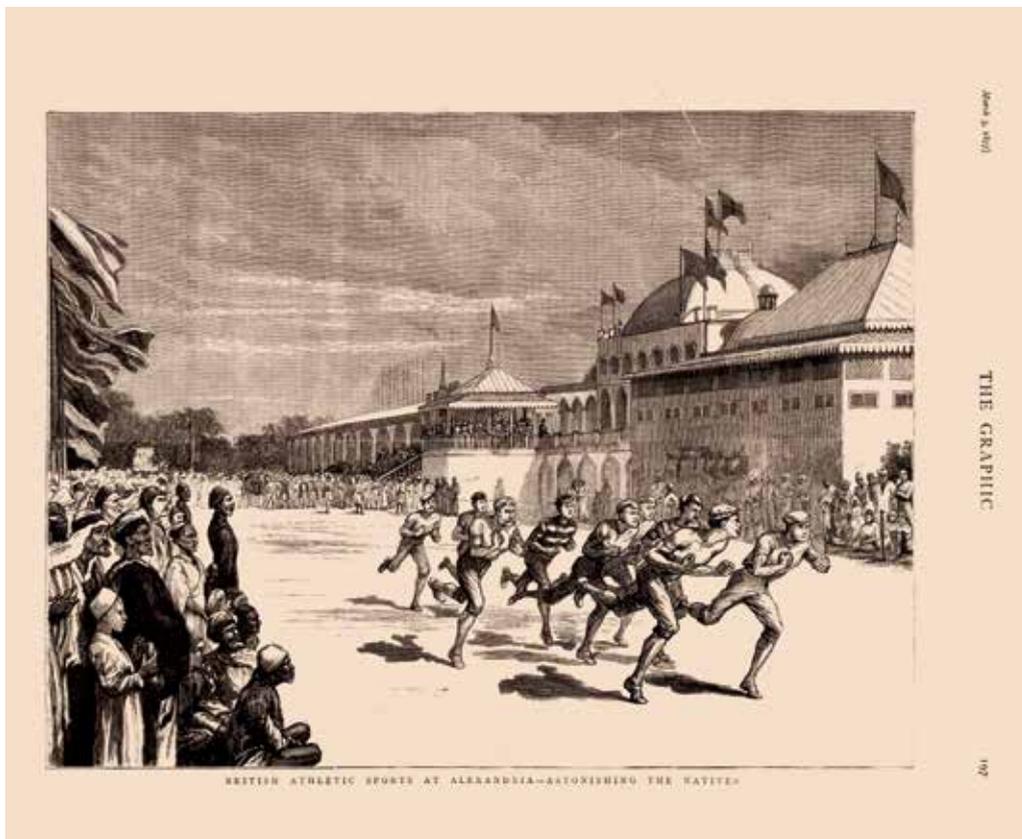
The Scottish Amateur Athletic Association was formed in 1883.

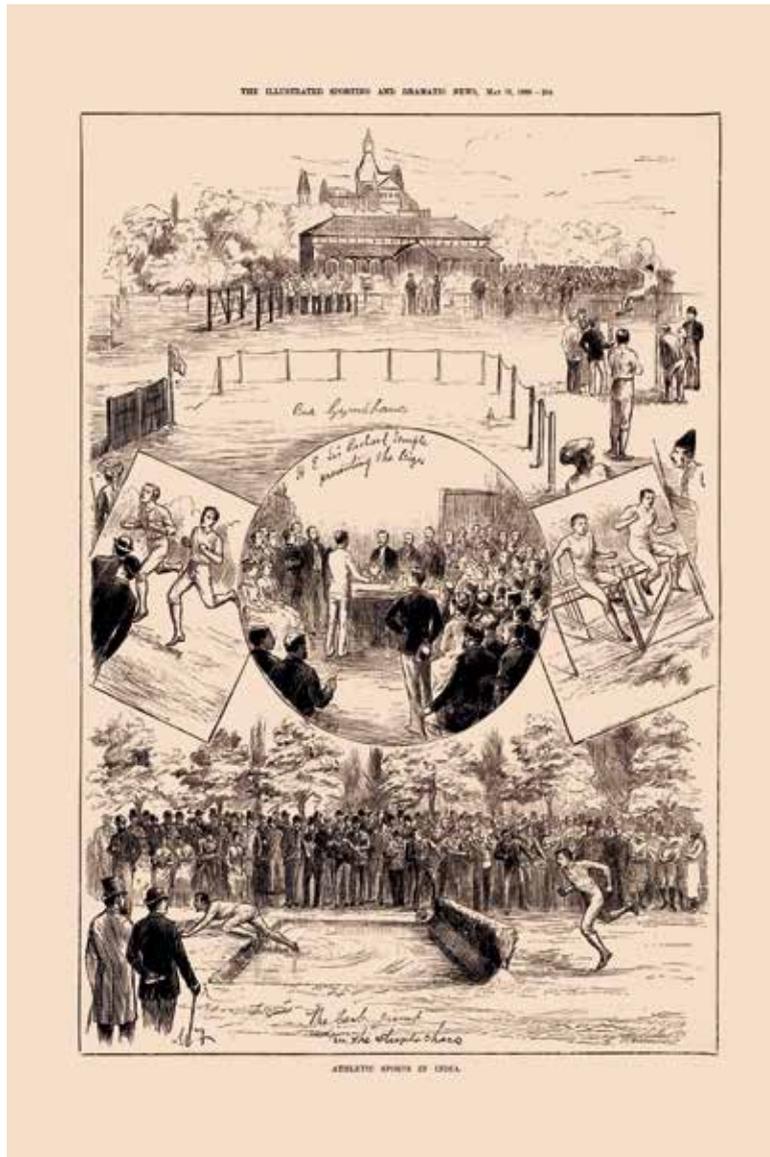
THE INFLUENCE OF BRITISH SPORT IN THE WORLD

The British Empire, in its colonies, which extended across all continents, and through its enormous commercial influence contributed enormously to the diffusion of the sport, in its present form, by the world.

42. GAMES OF THE HIGHLAND BRIGADE AT CAIRO. THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS January 20, 1883.

43. BRITISH ATHLETIC SPORTS AT ALEXANDRIA. Astonishing the Natives. THE GRAPHIC – March 3, 1877.





**44. ATHLETICS
SPORTS IN INDIA.**
THE ILLUSTRATED
SPORTING AND
DRAMATIC NEWS. May
15, 1880.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The United States of America developed and accentuated the practice of sport in Colleges and Universities and created Clubs and other Sports Institutions that began to greatly influence the formation of the citizens of that country.

Perhaps insufficient credit has been given in the past to the role of athletic clubs in the development of sport in the United States. Sports historians, with the exception of Betts and Krout, have but mentioned the athletic club phenomenon of the late 1800's and early 1900's, since the athletic club movement did much to popularize and lend respectability to amateur athletics, especially track and field, at a time when this sport was largely the province of promoters and professional pedestrians. The athletic clubs of this era also organized and provided most of the leadership in the formation of national athletic organizations to govern amateur sport and provided the first amateur competition at the national level in swimming, wrestling, boxing and track and field. Moreover, athletic clubs of the late 1800's were responsible for many innovations in sports equipment and facilities in the United States being the first to introduce such items as the spiked track shoe, the first cinder track, the use of lanes and staggers as well as many other "firsts."

Quoted from "Social Stratification in New York City Athletics Clubs", by J. Willis and R. Wettan Queens College, N.Y.

The New York Athletic Club was founded in September of 1868 and soon became the best known club in the United States.

On November 11th, 1868, the NYAC sponsored the first Indoor Athletics Meeting in American history. Subsequently, in 1874, the Club sponsored the first Inter-Collegiate Championships, and, in 1876, the first National Championships. The NYAC sponsored the National Championships for three years.



45. NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB.
Bronze Car badge dated 1868
(year of the foundation)



46. NEW YORK ATHLETIC.
Silver medal. 120 Yards Run 1895.



47. SPRING GAMES. Silver and gold
medal. won by Lee Davis 25 1/5 sec.
220 Yards Dash, 1891.

In 1870, the New York Athletic Club started their series of athletic meets, known as the Spring Games and Fall Games of the NYAC – two per year. Early in 1876, it was decided that a national championship meet was necessary and desirable and the best known meet of the year was chosen to serve that purpose. Thus, in late 1876, the 7th Annual Fall Games of the NYAC became the first national championship meet.



**51. NEW JERSEY
ATHLETIC CLUB.** Silver
medal, with ribbon, 220
YARDS HURDLE.



**52. INDOOR ATHLETIC
GAMES.** Silver medal, with
ribbon. Silver and enameled
medal. Running Broad Jump.
March 11, 1899



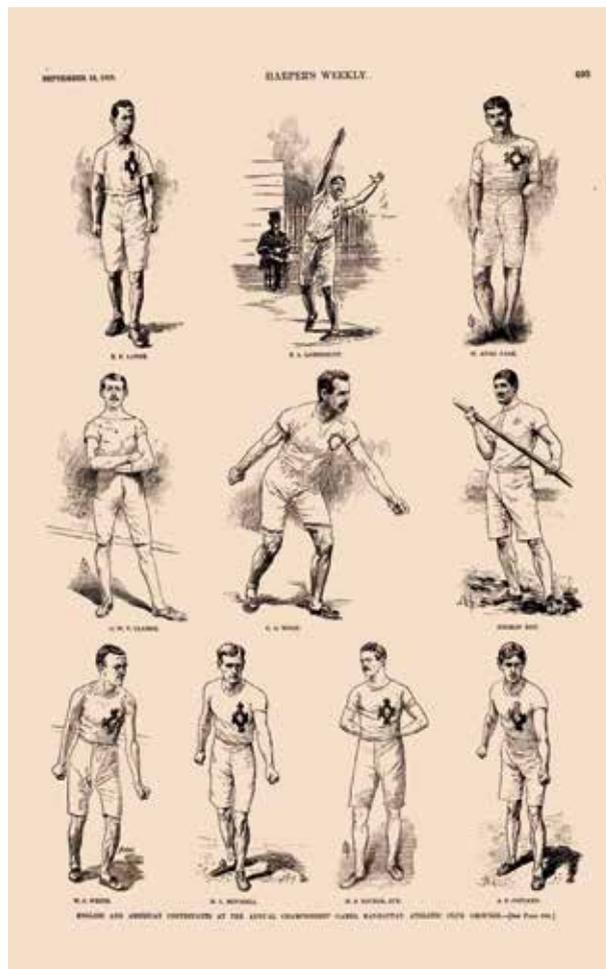
**53. W. S. A. C. SILVER
MEDAL.** Running High
Jump, 1895.



**54. P. A. A. SILVER
MEDAL.** 2nd Prize. 220
Yards Run. May 30th, 1898.



57. HARVARD YALE UNIVERSITY DUAL MEETING. Track Athletic Association. Silver medal, with ribbon. Half Mile. May 16th, 1891. First Athletic Meeting between Harvard and Yale. Harvard won by 85 to 27.



58. ENGLISH AND AMERICAN CONTESTANTS AT THE ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES. Manhattan Athletic Club Grounds. Harper's Weekly – September 24th, 1887.

The New York Club was founded in 1868. It started to stage "annual championships" beginning in 1876. In 1877, English athletes appeared and there were very good results.



59. COLUMBIA GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Silver medal. 120 Yards Hurdle.

Founded in 1764, Columbia Grammar School is one of the USA's oldest private in Manhattan.

60. COLUMBIA GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Bronze medal, with ribbon. Running High Jump 1896.

The Journal, May 2, 1896. SCHOOLBOY GAMES. The fifteenth annual games of the Columbia Grammar School's Athletic Association were held at the Oval, Williamsbridge, yesterday afternoon.



61. FIRST PRIZE BRONZE MEDAL. Put Shot 12 lbs. 1896.



62. MAJOR GENERAL JOSIAH PORTER. MILITARY ATHLETIC LEAGUE Tournament. Bronze Medal. 1898.

Major General Josiah Porter is reputed to have been the first Harvard College graduate to enlist in the Union Army during the Civil War.



63. P. A. C. 1st Prize Gilt medal. Hitch and Kick. May 30, 1888



Printed in Holland

A THREE-LEGGED RACE. By FRANK FELLER.



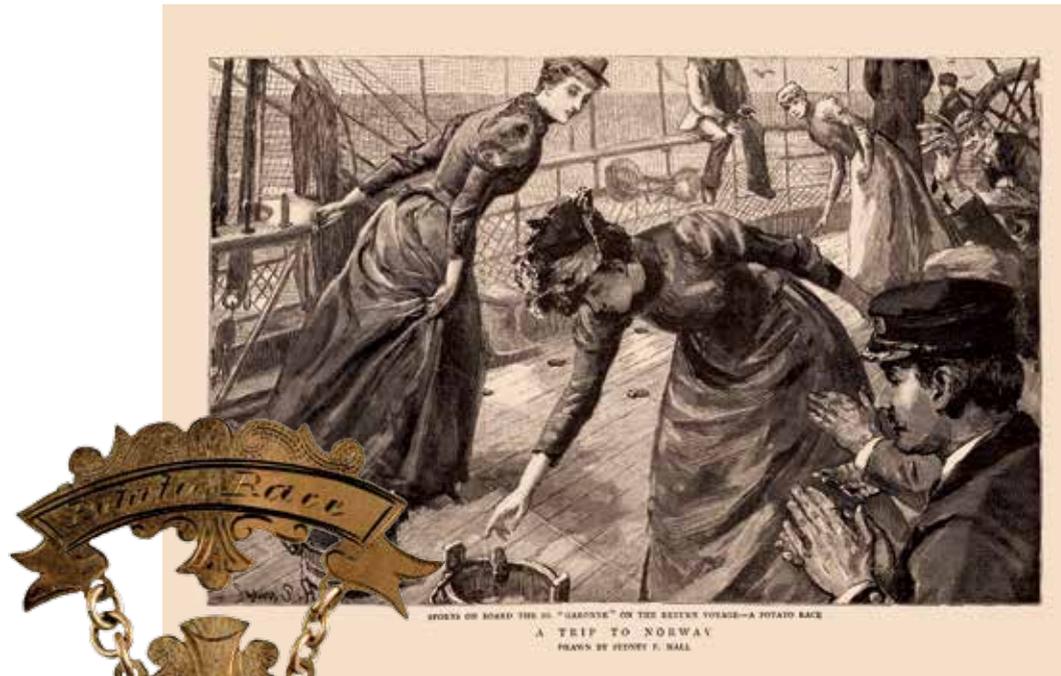
64. THREE LEGGED RACE

Print 1800's Color Print by Frank Feller.

A three-legged race involves two participants attempting to complete a short sprint with the left leg of one runner strapped to the right leg of another runner. The object is for the partners to run together without falling over, and beat the other contestants to the finish line.

65. THREE LEGGED RACE.

Gold medal..



66. SS GARONNE POTATO RACE.
VOYAGE DECK. 1891.

67. POTATO RACE. Gold medal.

A potato race is a running contest where the winner is the first who collects in a basket or other receptacle a number of potatoes, usually eight, placed, as a rule two yards apart, along a straight line, and then crosses a finish line five or ten yards farther on.

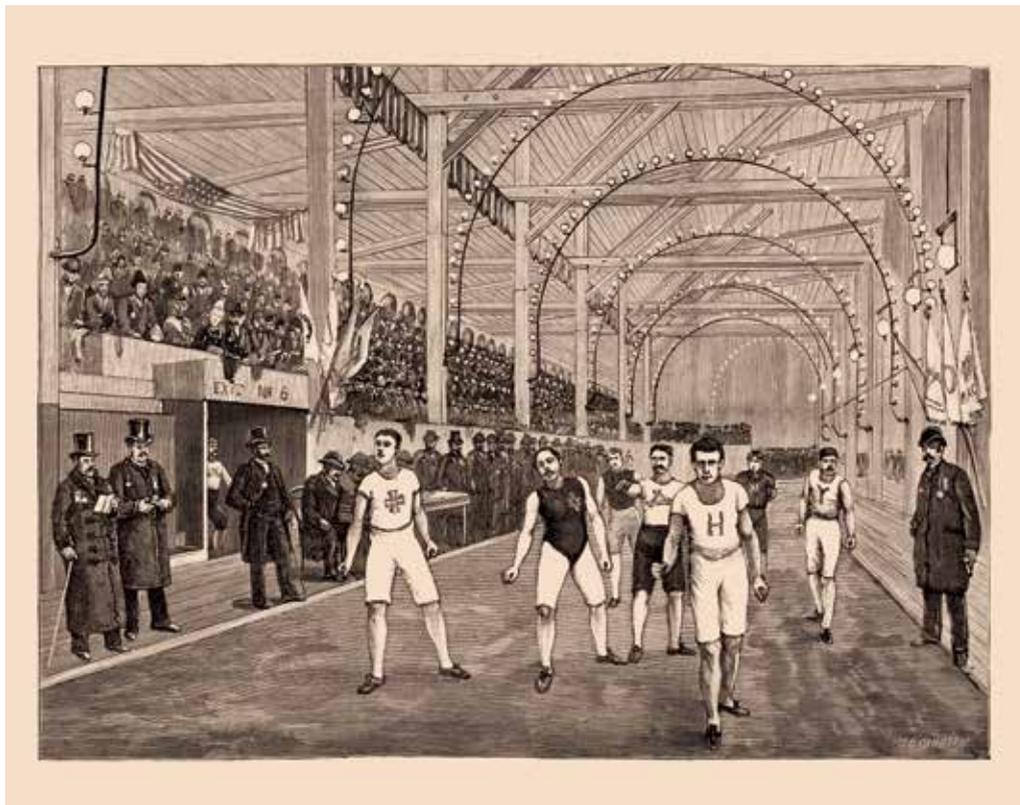


68. SACK RACE.

A "sack-race" for wearers of "hobble" skirts: ladies in "tube" frocks engaged in a speed contest.

69. SACK RACE.
Gilt medal. May 30th, 1895.

A sack race is a race which the competitor's legs and often bodies are enclosed in sacks.

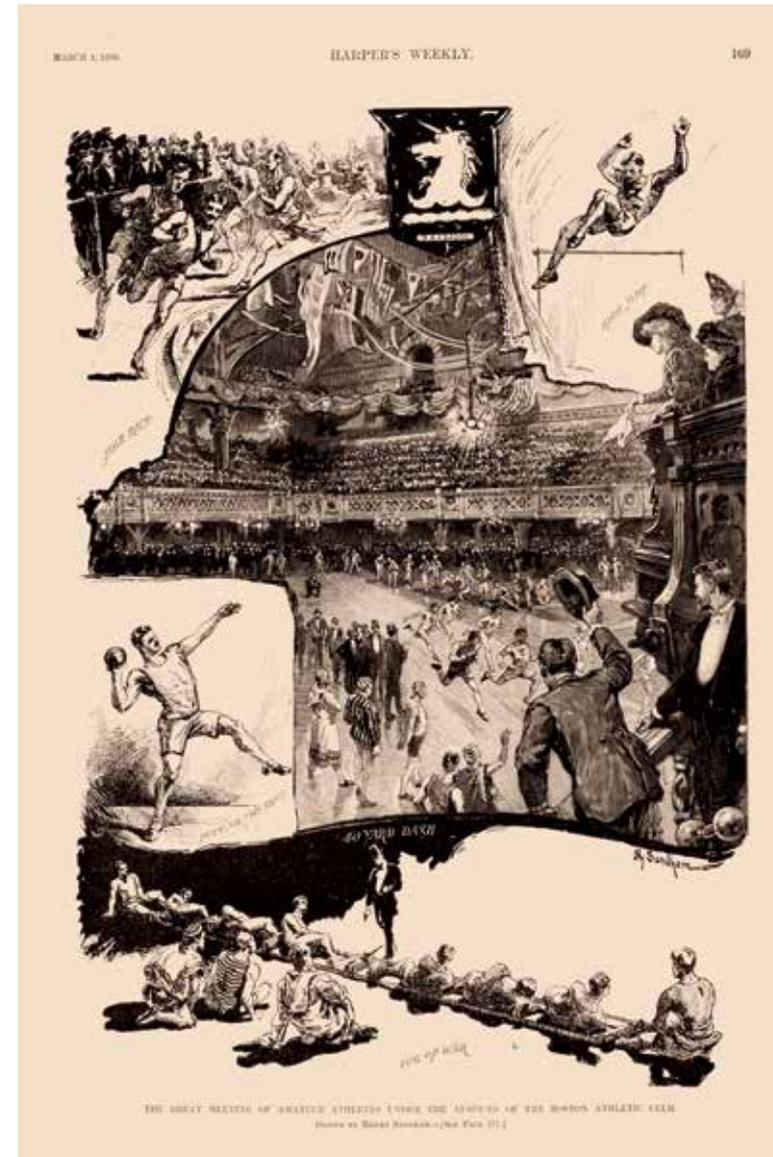


**70. HANDICAP RACE AT THE
MANHATTAN ATHLETIC CLUB.**

Harper's Weekly – February 4, 1888.

The Manhattan Athletic Club was organized in New York on November 7, 1877, and legally incorporated on April 1, 1878. Its emblem was a “cherry diamond”.

It established an athletic cinder ash track at Eighth Avenue, in Manhattan, which opened in 1878.

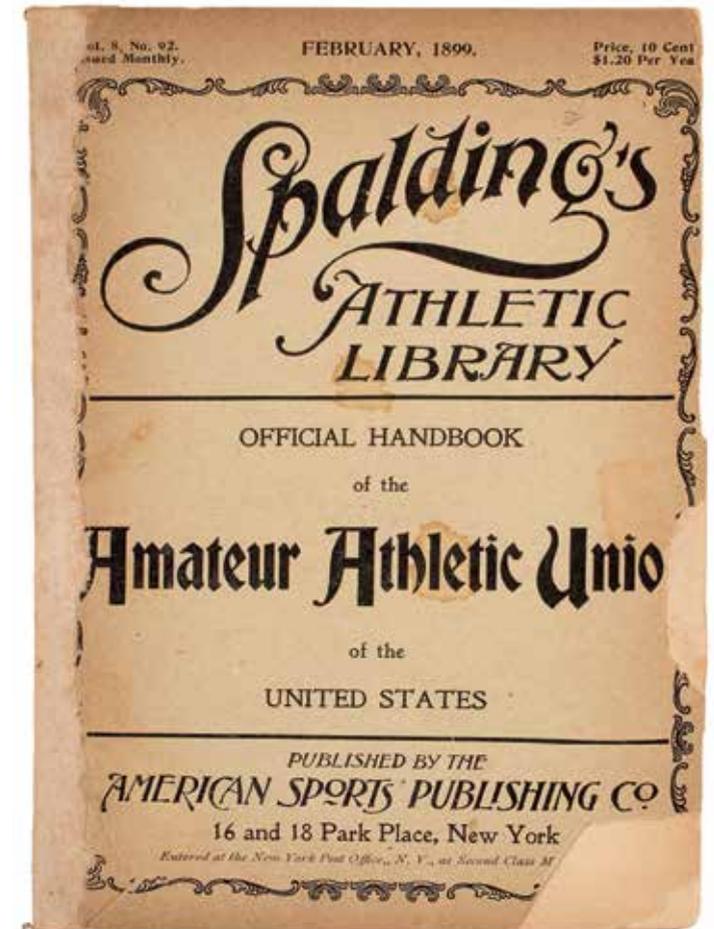


**71. GREAT MEETING OF
AMATEUR ATHLETES.**

Under the auspices of the
BOSTON ATHLETIC CLUB.
HARPER'S WEEKLY March
1, 1890.

Among the USA's oldest athletic clubs, the Boston Athletic Association was established on March 15, 1887 with the support of leading sports enthusiasts, entrepreneurs and politicians of the day.

The club held its first organized track and field competition in 1890 and in 1897 the first famed Boston Marathon took place. A unicorn was chosen as the Association's symbol and appears on the Boston Marathon medals to this day.



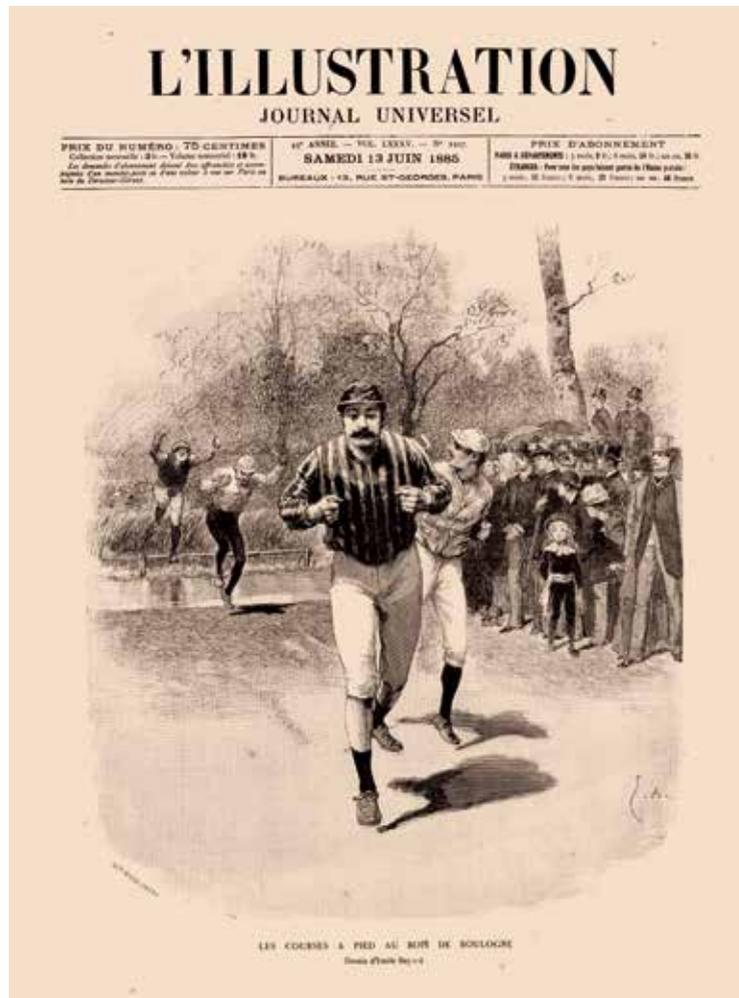
← 72. CALENDAR SEPTEMBER –
OCTOBER. Collegiate Athletics
– High Jump.

73. SPALDING'S OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF
THE AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION OF THE
UNITED STATES. February, 1899.

Spalding's handbooks of sporting rules and training, containing full and authentic codes of rules governing all popular games and sports.

FRANCE

Athletics in France has its origin in pedestrianism and walking.



74. LES COURSES À PIED AU BOIS DE BOULOGNE. L'ILLUSTRATION JOURNAL UNIVERSEL. Samedi 13 Juin 1865.

75. LA COURSE À PIED PARIS-BELFORT. Organisée par le "Petit Journal". Samedi 18 Juin 1892.



Le Petit Journal

TOUS LES VENDREDIS
Le Supplément illustré
5 Centimes

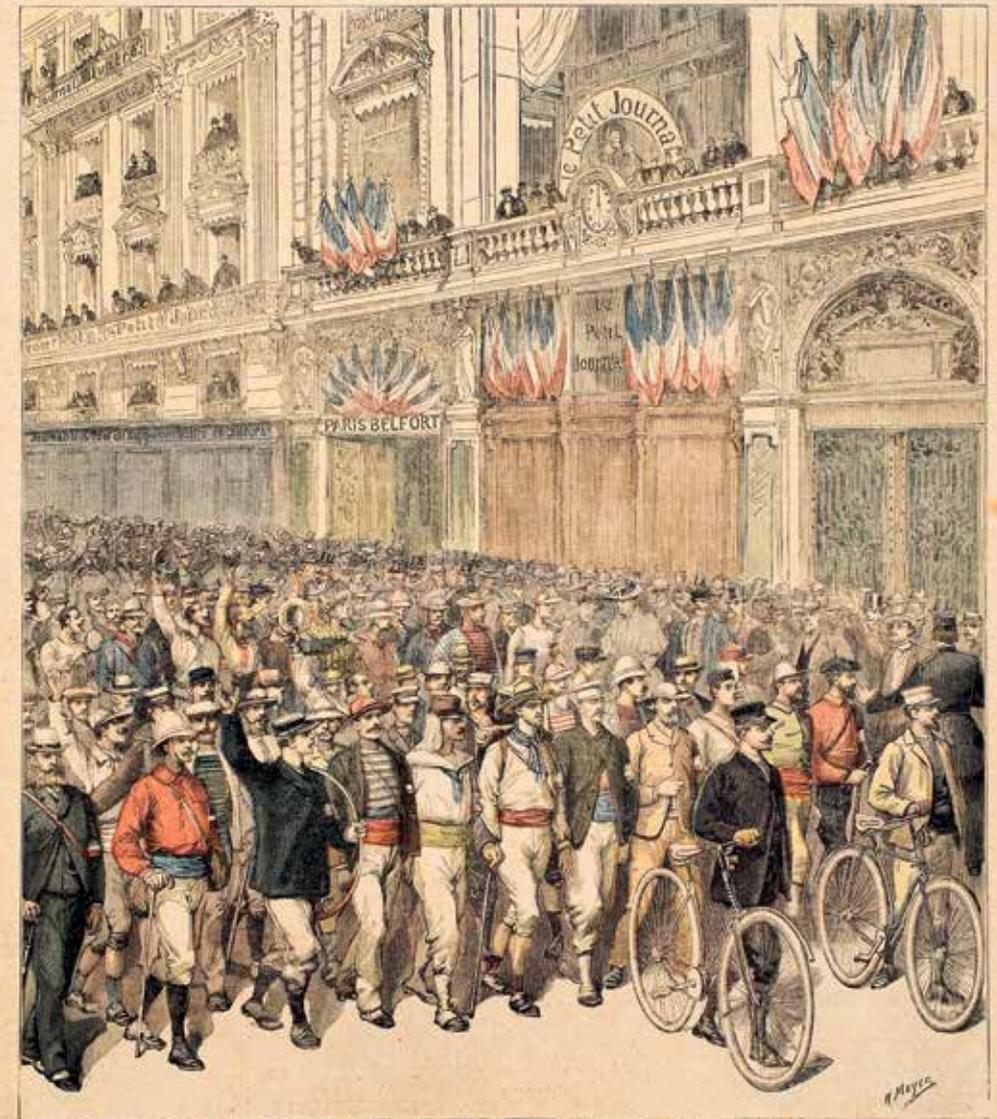
SUPPLÉMENT ILLUSTRÉ
Huit pages: CINQ centimes

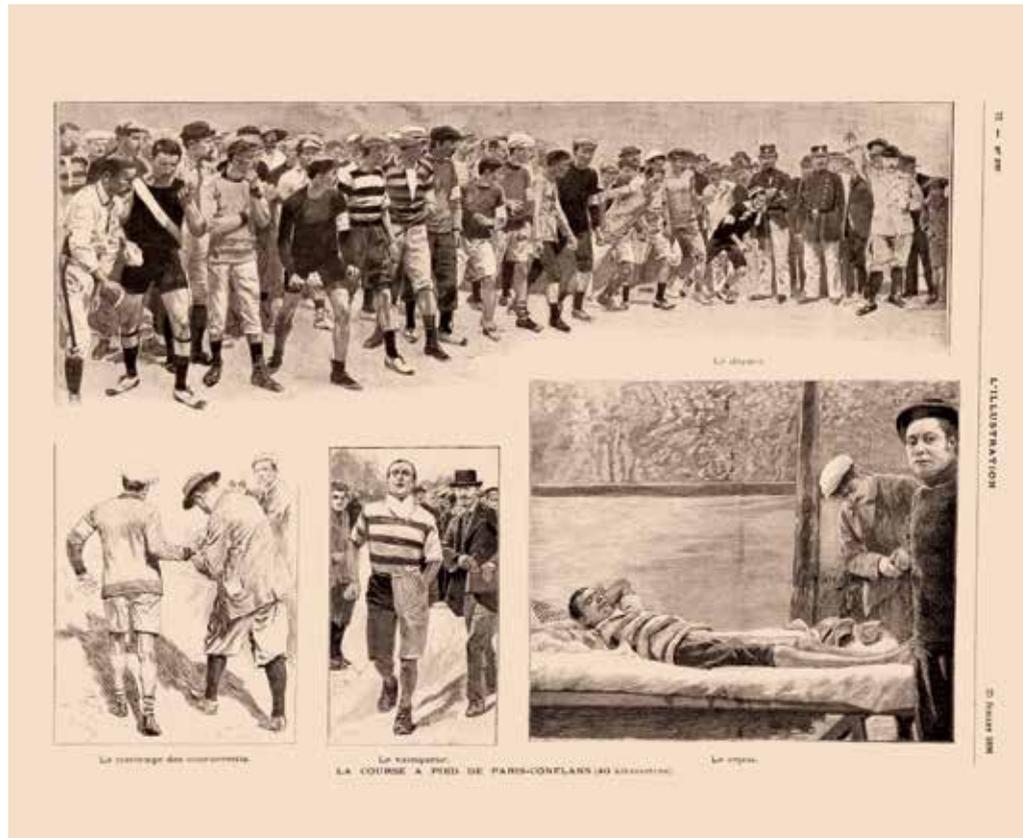
TOUS LES JOURS
Le Petit Journal
5 Centimes

Troisième Année

SAMEDI 18 JUIN 1892

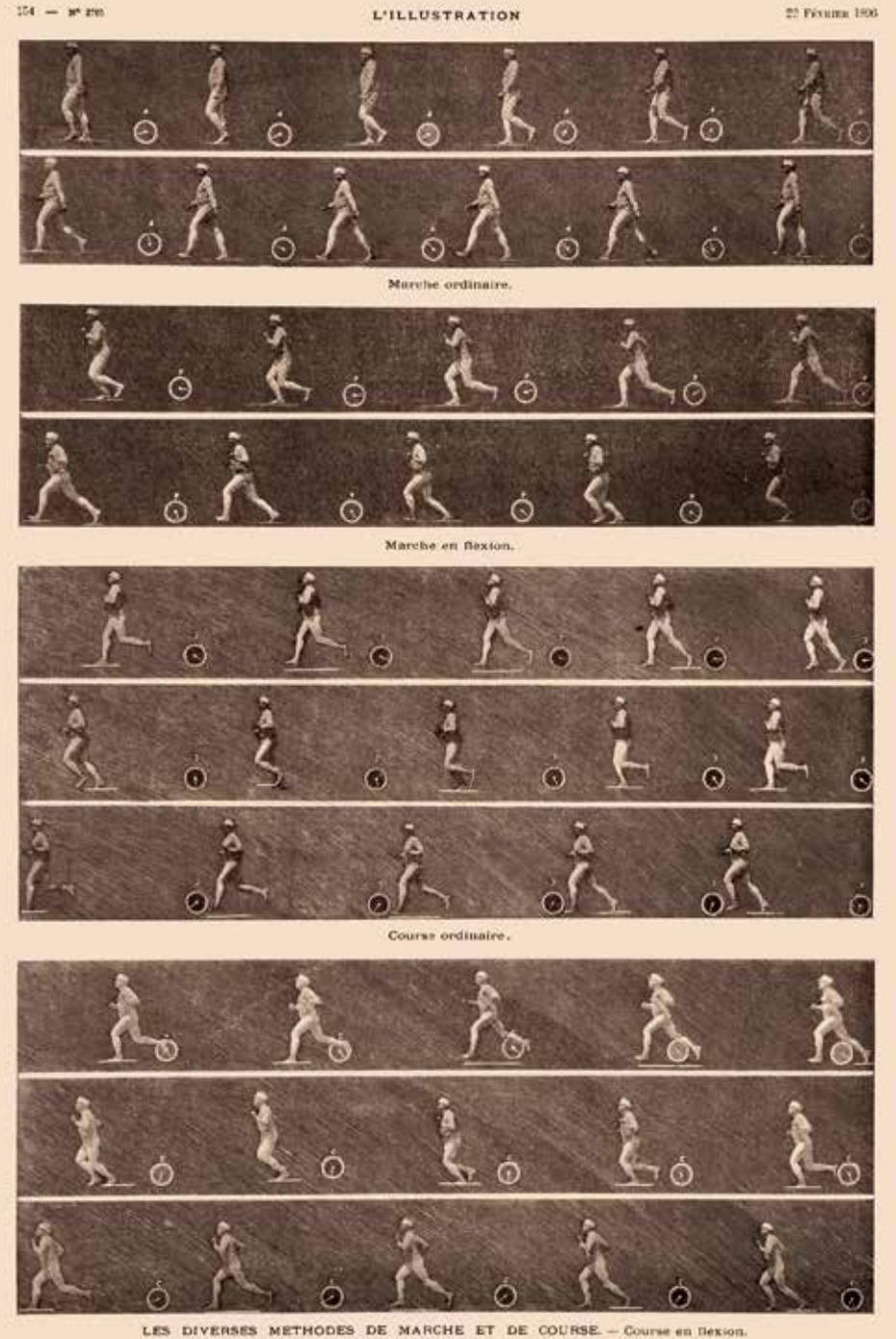
Numéro 82





76. LA COURSE À PIED PARIS-CONFLANS (40 KILOMETERS).
L'ILLUSTRATION, 25 Juillet 1896.

77. DES DIVERSES MÉTHODES DE MARCHÉ ET DE COURSE.
L'ILLUSTRATION, 22 Février 1896.



LA RÉUNION DU RACING-CLUB

La réunion internationale organisée samedi dernier par le Racing-Club de France n'a été qu'une longue série de triomphes pour les champions arrivés d'Amérique, qui ont gagné sans difficultés toutes les différentes épreuves.

Ce résultat ne constitue pas cependant une défaite pour notre vaillante jeunesse, mais il met encore une fois en évidence la supériorité d'entraînement de nos compétiteurs.

Venus espérés de New-York pour disputer en Angleterre et en France les championnats des courses plates et d'obstacles et des concours de sauts, MM. Ford, Cary, Duhann, Halliok, Mages, Largo, Remington, Rosly et Kueckler, faisant partie presque tous du monde du haut commerce et de la banque, ont été choisis à cet effet parmi l'élite des membres du Manhattan Athletic Club, la plus complète et la plus importante organisation sportive du monde entier.

L'imposante construction qui s'élève au coin de 47^e street et de Madison, avenue de New-York City, et qui a coûté environ une douzaine de millions, a eu un bien modeste point de départ. En 1877, quatre intrépides marcheurs organisèrent entre eux une course de 4 milles et la première idée d'un club athlétique surgit pendant le dîner qui suivit cette épreuve. Il fallut se contenter d'abord d'une simple piste permanente de 200 mètres, mais en quelques années le puissant esprit d'association avait fait des merveilles.

L'installation actuelle du Manhattan-Club permet à ses membres de s'exercer constamment à tous les genres de sports sans sortir de chez eux.

Sans compter le vaste gymnase, la piste d'entraînement recouverte de caoutchouc et qui a un développement d'environ 200 mètres, la piscine qui mesure 100 mètres sur 25 mètres et qui atteint une profondeur de 10 mètres, le club possède une superbe salle de spectacle, des salles de réunions, de lecture, de restaurant, de bains. La boxe, l'escrime, le tir, la vélocipédie, ont leurs cabinets réservés, et la grande terrasse couverte qui domine l'immeuble sert alternativement de jardin d'été et d'excuse pour patiner sur la glace naturelle.

Voilà donc dans quelles conditions exceptionnelles l'entraînement est pratiqué en Amérique, tandis que chez nous le Racing-Club ne possède qu'une piste en plein air, un modeste chalet en bois de quelques mètres qui sert de vestiaire, et un fort capital... de bonne volonté.

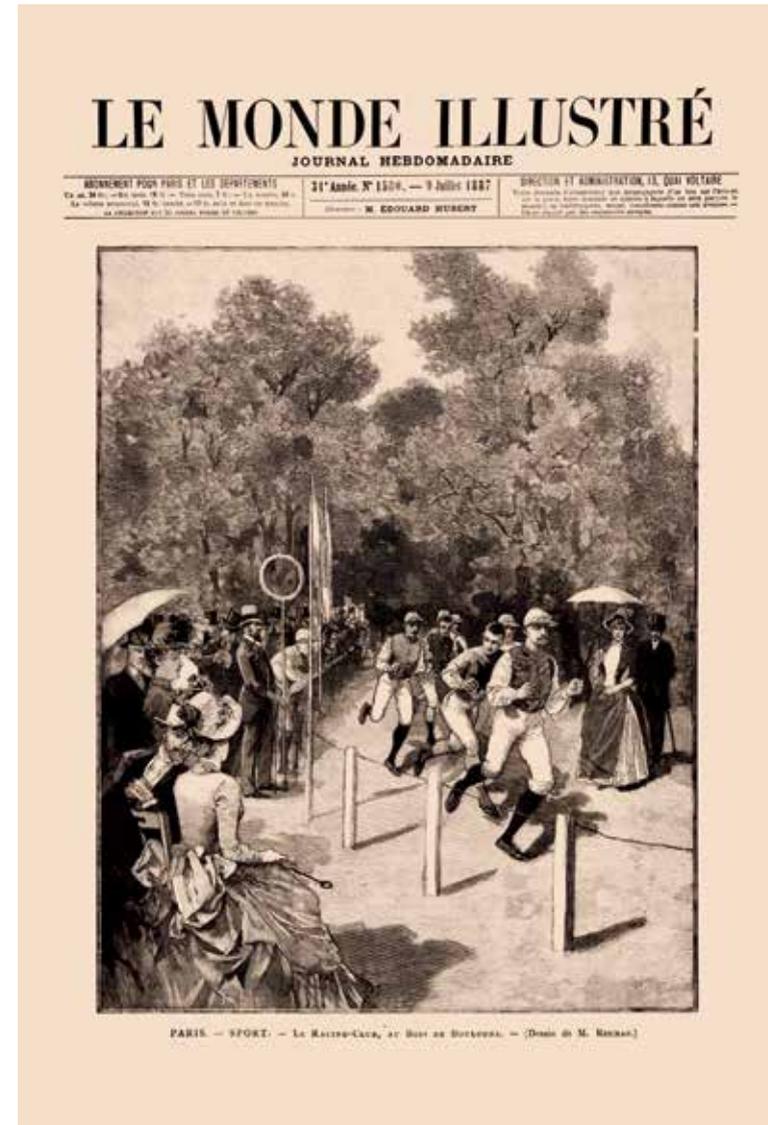
Il n'est pas moins vrai que nos jeunes champions nationaux ont tenu vaillamment tête, en prouvant clairement que les dispositions physiques ne sont pas inférieures chez eux. Quant à l'entraînement vraiment merveilleux de leurs adversaires, il ne peut, de reste, être atteint qu'au détriment d'autres qualités. Il est, croyons-nous, préférable de laisser aux sports leur caractère et de ne pas les pousser jusqu'au métier.



Hôtel du « Manhattan Athletic Club » à New-York.



Courses à pied organisées par le Racing-Club de France: les membres du « Manhattan Athletic Club de New-York », vainqueurs des épreuves. — Photographie Nader.



79. LE RACING CLUB. Au Bois de Boulogne print. LE RACING CLUB. LE MONDE ILLUSTRÉ. 9 Juillet 1887.

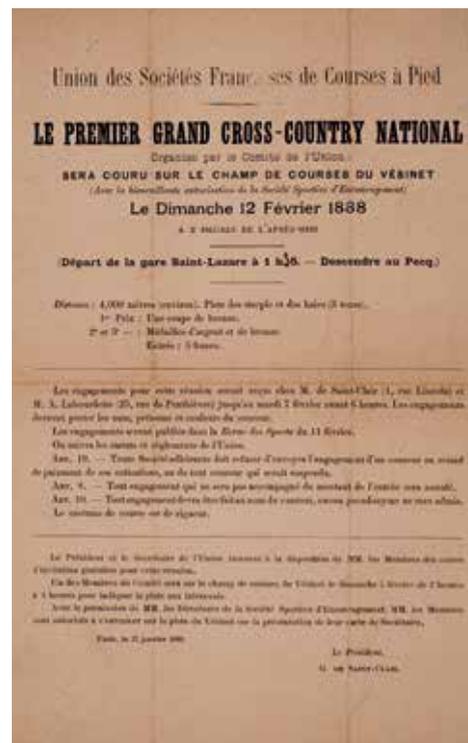
In September 1882, students from the Rollin, Monge and Condorcet high schools came together to found the Racing Club in the Bois de Boulogne. School students from Saint-Louis created the Stade Français in December 1883.

← 78. LA RÉUNION DU RACING CLUB. L'ILLUSTRATION Samedi. 11 Juillet 1891.



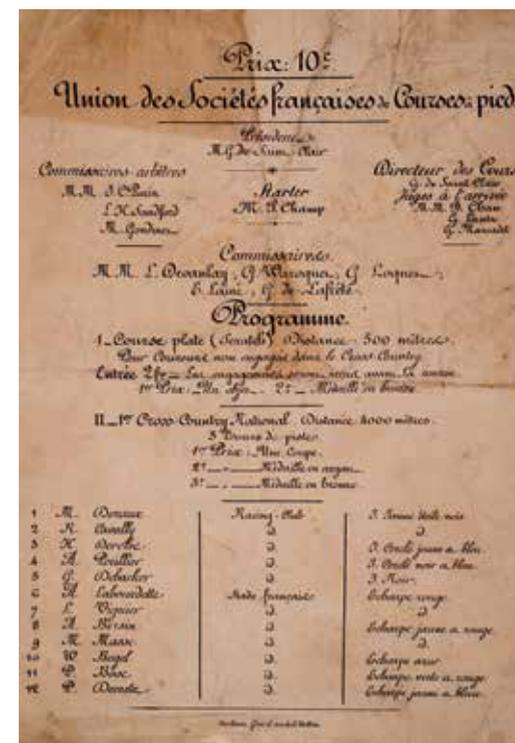
80. LE CROSS COUNTRY PRINT. L'ILLUSTRATION, 2 Avril 1898.

The introduction of physical exercise programs by the Ministry of Public Instruction in educational establishments in the 1840s was fundamental for the development of student sports and for the formation of the traditional Clubs of France.



81. PROGRAMME. UNION DES SOCIÉTÉS FRANÇAISES DE COURSES À PIED. LE PREMIER GRAND CROSS COUNTRY NATIONAL. Le Dimanche 12 Février 1888.

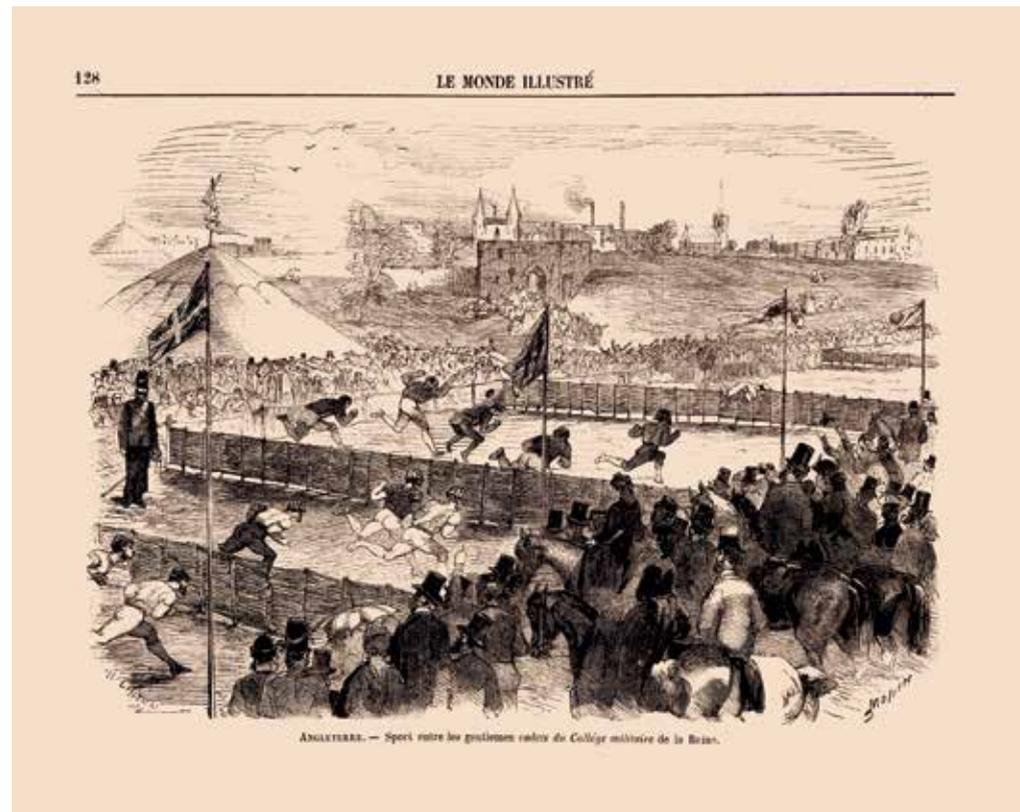
In January 1887, Georges de Saint-Clair, General Secretary of the Racing Club and former consul of France in Edinburgh, who had practiced athletics at an English college, founded the "Union des Sociétés Françaises de Courses à Pied" which adopted sports codes and standards used in Great Britain.



82. PROGRAMME. UNION DES SOCIÉTÉS FRANÇAISES DE COURSES À PIED.



87. SPORTS ATHLÉTIQUES. L'ILLUSTRATION JOURNAL UNIVERSEL. Samedi 7 Juin 1890.



88. SPORT ENTRE LES GENTLEMEN CADETS DU COLLEGE MILITAIRE DE LA REINE. Angleterre. Le Monde Illustré. 23 Février 1867.

Reference to Military Athletic competition in England.



89. LA COURSE, Bronze medal, in the original case. U. A. L. M. S. C. 500 m H. 9 Juin 1892.



90. LA COURSE DE MARATHON. Organisée par le "Petit Journal". Dimanche 2 Aout 1896.

After the Olympic Games in Athens, the Tour de Paris Marathon took place on July 19, 1896. A big crowd gathered to watch 191 participants. It was run over a course of 40 km from Paris to Conflans-Sainte-Honorine via Versailles, and the organizers decided to award a commemorative medal to all runners who finished the race in less than 4 hours.

The race was won by Len Hurst from England who crossed the finishing line in 2 hours, 31 minutes and 30 seconds. His prize money was 200 francs.

91. LE MATCH DES JAMBES DE BOIS, À NOGENT-SUR-MARNE. L'ILLUSTRATION JOURNAL UNIVERSEL. 16 MARS 1895. (Next page). ↓

LE MATCH DES JAMBES DE BOIS, A NOGENT-SUR-MARNE



Le dimanche 10 mars 1888, à Nogent-sur-Marne, se disputait le match des Jambes de Bois...

Comme les participants au match, qui furent de 100 à 120 personnes, se réunirent à la messe...

En ce qui concerne les participants, il faut noter qu'ils furent tous de la région...



Le grasseage



Le directeur

Le directeur du match, M. de la Roche, se fit entendre par un coup de trompe...

Après le match des Jambes de Bois, les participants se réunirent pour le grasseage...

Le grasseage consistait à oindre les participants avec du saindoux...



Le défilé

Après le défilé, les participants se dirigèrent vers le lieu de la messe...



Pendant le course

Pendant le match des Jambes de Bois, les participants furent encouragés par les spectateurs...



L'excursion

Après le match, les participants se dirigèrent vers le lieu de l'excursion...

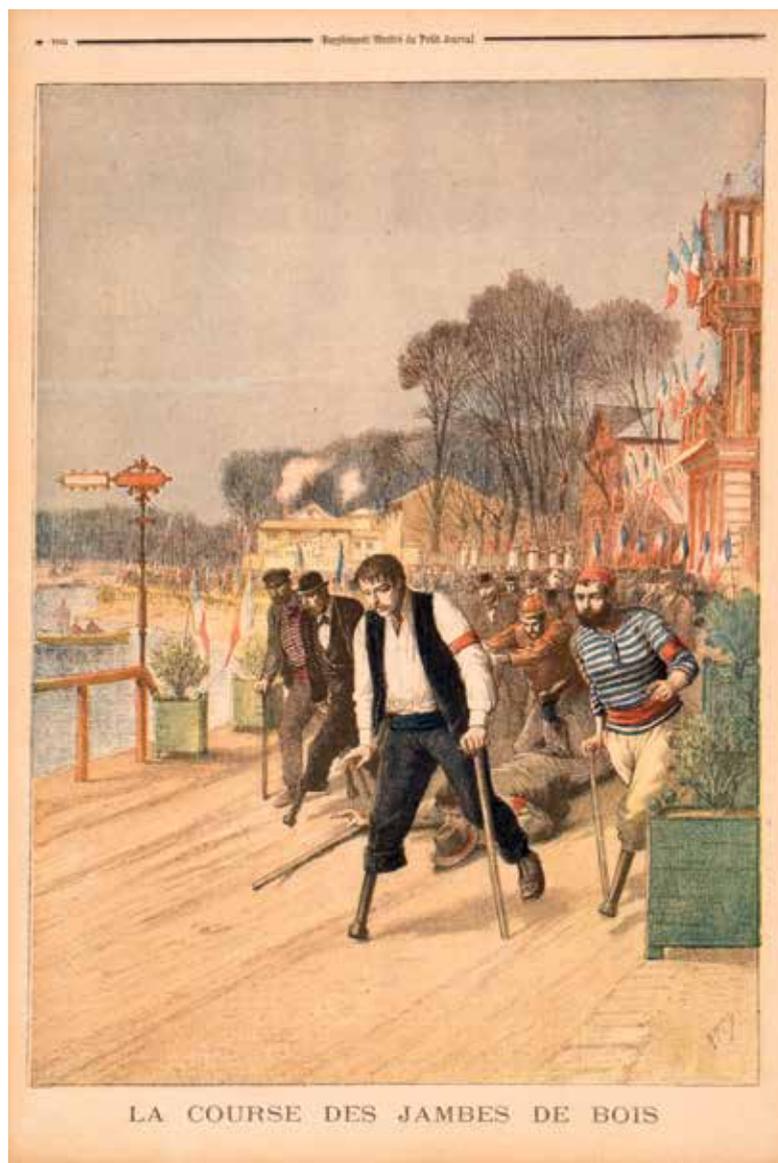


Le gagnant des Jambes de Bois

Le gagnant du match des Jambes de Bois fut couronné par les spectateurs...



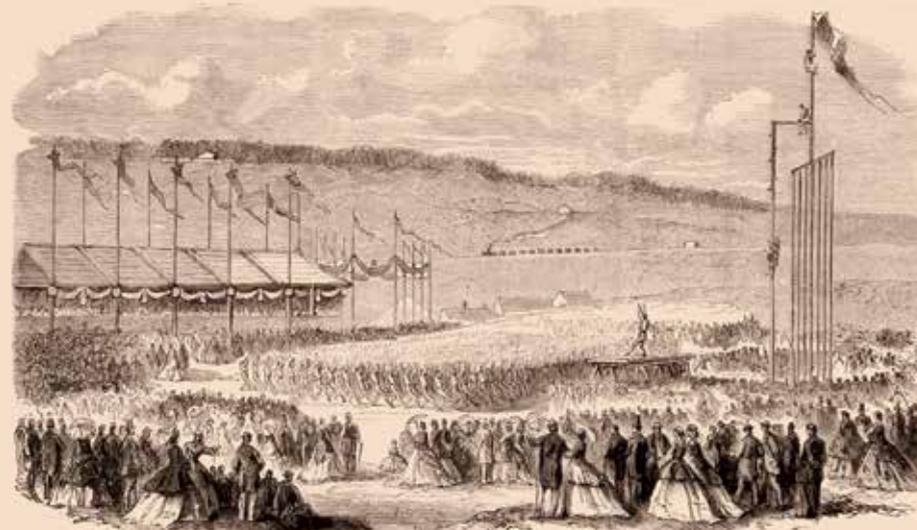
Après l'excursion, les participants se réunirent pour un repas...



92. LA COUSE DE JAMBES DE BOIS. Le Petit Journal Dimanche. 24 Mars 1895.

Wooden leg race in France – precursor of the parasports competition.

93. FÊTE FEDERALE DES GYMNASTES, AU LOCLE. Le Tir du Javelot. L'ILLUSTRATION – JOURNAL UNIVERSEL. Samedi 2 Septembre 1865. →



FÊTE FÉDÉRALE DES GYMNASTES AU LOCLE (Suisse), LES 14 ET 15 AOUT. EXERCICE D'UNIONNÉE.

Un autre exercice, celui du javelot à pointe de fer, a été inauguré au Locle avec un prix spécial. Les modèles de cette arme antique font partie des objets donnés par l'Empereur à M. le professeur Bied, en échange de la collection d'objets antiques qu'il lui a cédés. C'est le javelot romain des conquérants de la Gaule. Une lance: l'aide son bois de la pointe lui sert de ressort, et permet de le lancer à une grande distance; il décrit, en partant, une courbe prononcée, et peut cependant atteindre un

but déterminé, comme l'ont prouvé quelques membres des sections vaudoises.

Les jeux nationaux, la lutte et les pierres occupèrent une large place dans la fête et eurent le privilège de grouper la foule autour de leurs adeptes. Là sera toujours l'intérêt spécial de la gymnastique suisse.

Le 15, à la nuit tombante, se termina le concours: alors, à la clarté des flambeaux, deux jeunes filles à robes blanches et écharpes rouges, belles, et choisies

comme les vierges grecques que demandait Phébus, présentèrent la couronne sur le front des deux vainqueurs, couverts encore de la poussière de l'arène.

Le lendemain la fête continue; malgré la pluie, on va visiter les bœufs et le saut du Doubs, et l'on rentre le soir... pour se coucher... — non, — pour aller au bal jusqu'au matin... Voilà la fête fédérale des gymnastes.

Après, etc.

A. BACHMANN.



FÊTE FÉDÉRALE DES GYMNASTES, AU LOCLE. LE TIR DU JAVÉLOT. — D'après les croquis de M. A. Biedler.

THE FIRST MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES – ATHENS 1896

Athens was chosen to stage the inaugural modern Olympic Games in 1896 during a congress organized by Pierre de Coubertin in Paris on 23 June 1894, during which the International Olympic Committee was also created.

The main venue was the Panathenaic Stadium, where Athletics took place.

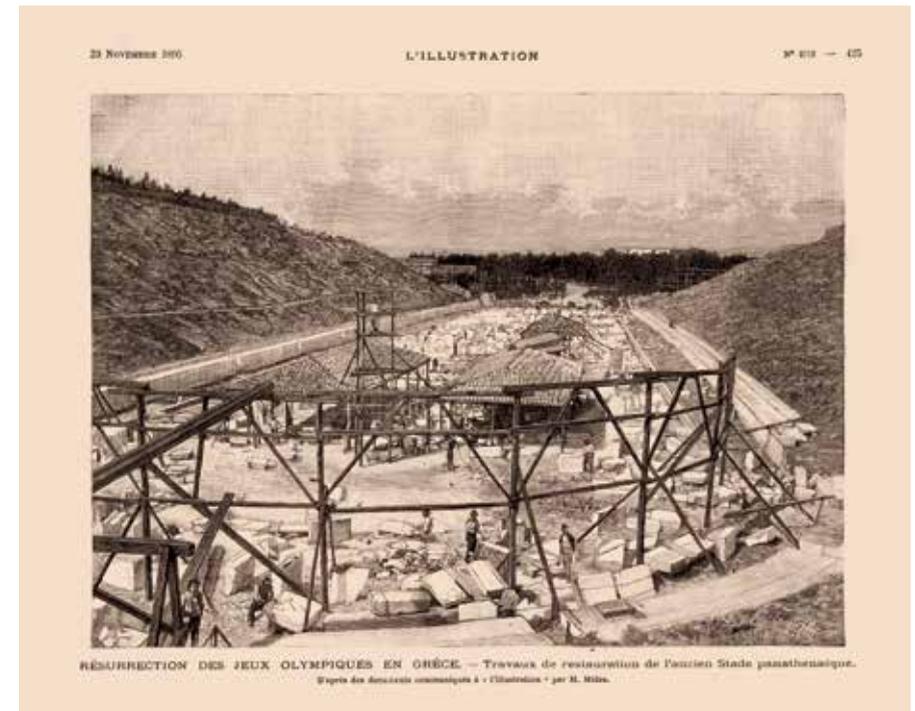
The 1896 Olympics were regarded as a great success. The Games had the largest international participation of any sporting event to that date.

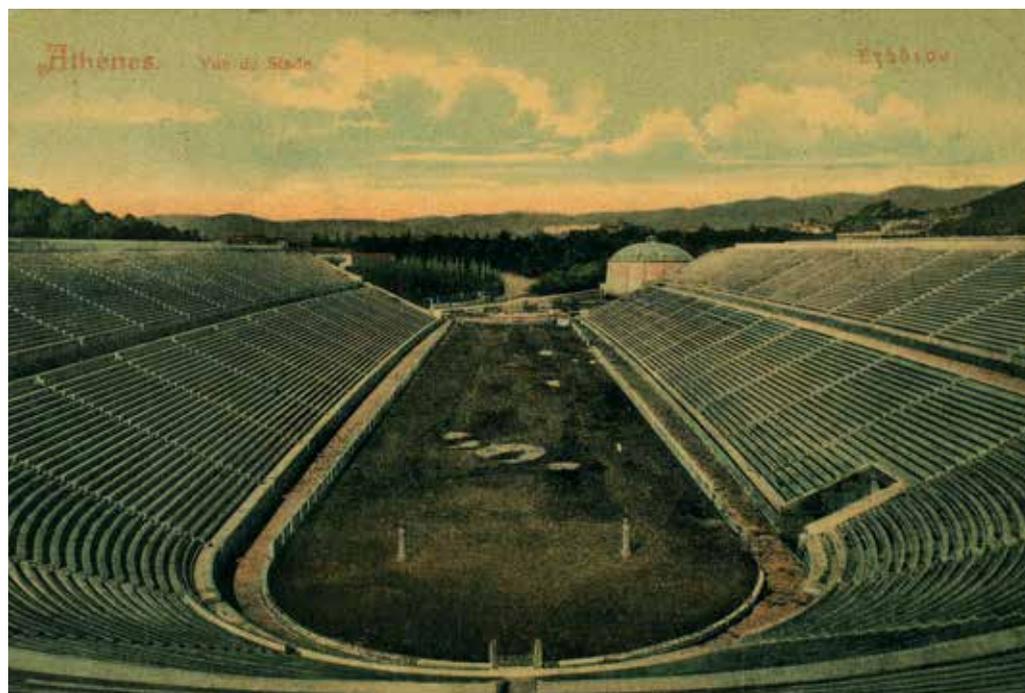
The Panathenaic Stadium overflowed with the largest crowd ever to watch a sporting event. After the Games, Coubertin and the IOC were petitioned by several prominent figures, including Greece's King George and some of the American competitors in Athens, to hold all the following Games in Athens. However, the 1900 Summer Olympics were already planned for Paris and, except for the Intercalated Games of 1906, the Olympics did not return to Greece until the 2004 Summer Olympics, 108 years later.

**94. RÉSSURECTION DES
JEUX OLYMPIQUES EN
GRÈCE.** L'ILLUSTRATION 23
NOVEMBRE. 1895.



**95. POSTCARD OF THE
"MARBLE STADIUM".** Before
the 1896 Olympic Games.





96. POSTCARD OF THE STADIUM. Before the 1896 Olympic Games.



97. POSTCARD OF THE START OF THE SECOND HEAT OF THE 100 METERS. 1896 Olympic Games.

98. JEUX OLYMPIQUES ATHENS 1896. L'ILLUSTRATION. 25 April 1896. (Next page). ↓

The men's marathon event was a special race invented as part of the Athletics at the 1896 Athens Summer Olympic Games program. The length of the marathon in 1896 was approximately 38 – 40 km.

Michel Bréal, Coubertin's friend, originated the idea of a race from the city of Marathon to Athens, taking inspiration from the legend of Pheidippides.

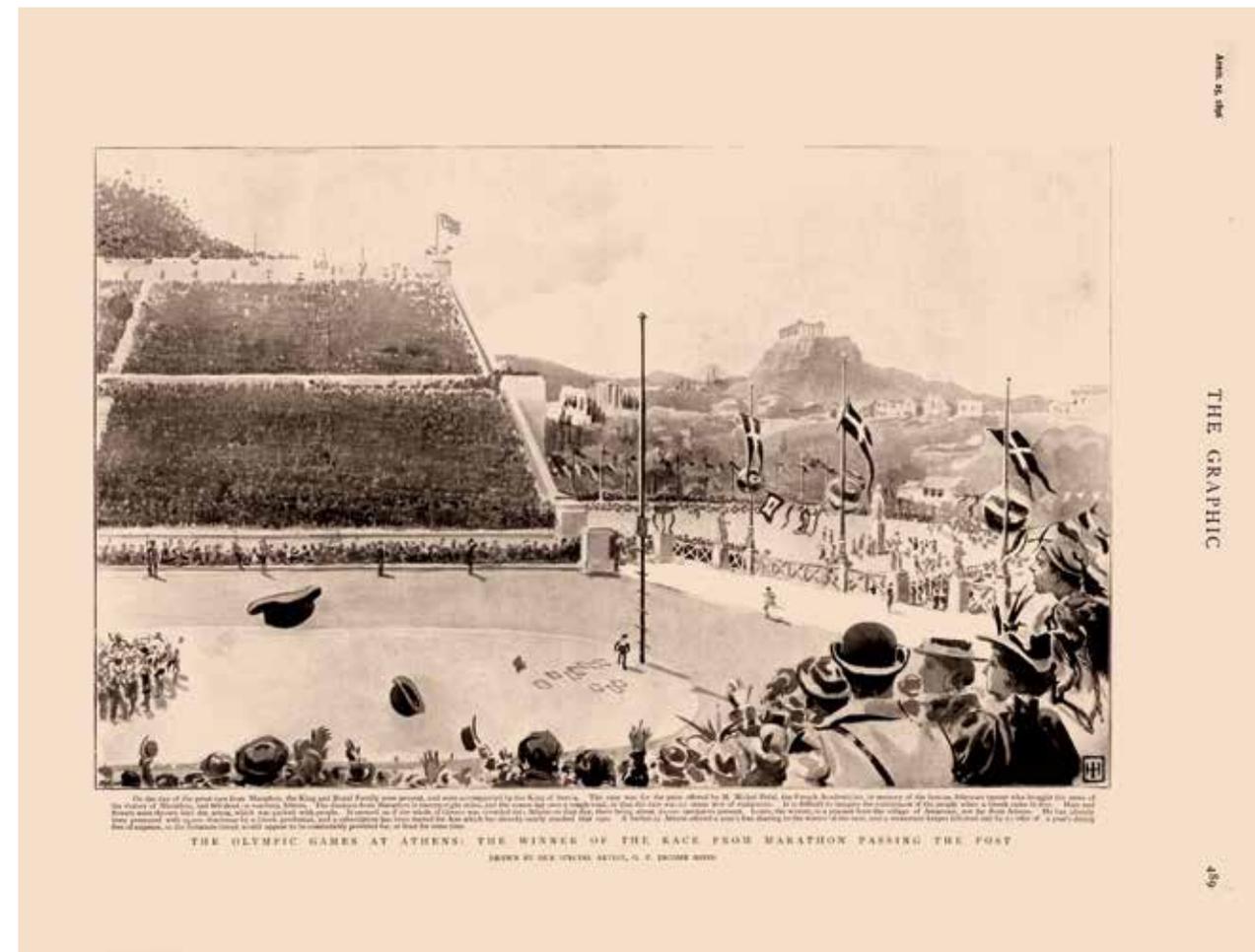
The first marathon race was a Greek national competition that served as a qualifier for the Olympic marathon organized on March 10, 1896 and won by Charilaos Vasilakos, who completed the course in 3:18.

According to Charlie Lovett, two runners had already run the course in February.

He also states that only few days before the Games another trial was held because the Greek officials were eager to field the best team possible. This race was won by Mr. Lavrentis and improvement of nearly seven minutes over the winning time of the first trial. So additional names were added to the team, including Spiridon Louis.

“In the earlier track and field events, the Americans had been dominant, and the Greeks were desperate for a victory. The marathon was considered the highlight of the Games. A failure by the Greeks to win the event would mean deep disappointment and resentment. Even the foreigners in the crowd of over 100,000 that lined the road and filled the stadium where the race would finish hoped for a Greek victory.”

“Spiridon Louis ran through the streets of Athens, barely able to pass through the joyous throng that greeted him. When he entered the stadium, he was joined by the Crown Prince Nicholas and Prince George who ran with him to the finish line and then carried him in triumph to the royal box. Louis was an instant national hero, and his victory erased all hard feelings.



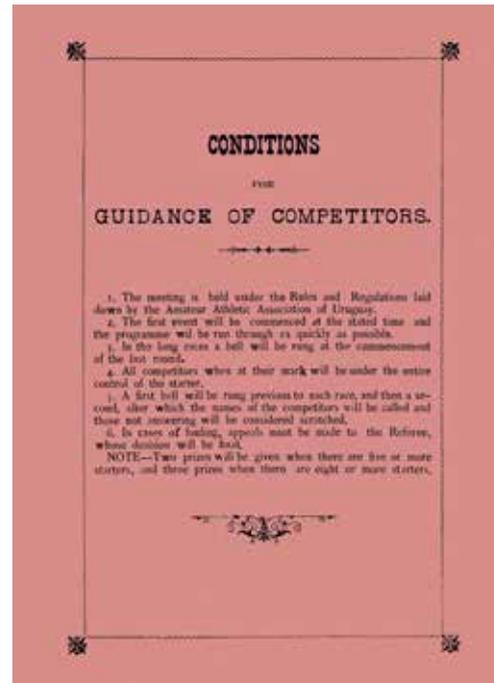
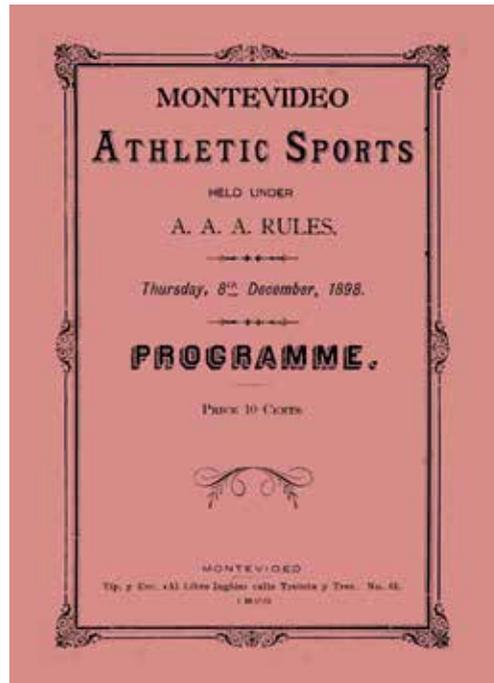
The first race of the modern era from Marathon, the King and Royal Family were present, and were accompanied by the King of Greece. The race was for the prize offered by M. Michel Bréal, the French Ambassador, in memory of the Greek messenger who brought the news of the victory of Marathon, and killed on his return. The distance from Marathon to Athens is 26 miles, and the course that runs a rough road, is the same as the one used by the messenger. It is difficult to imagine the excitement of the people when a runner came to the city. Many had already seen the race, which was carried out with great interest, as if the whole of Greece was crowded with spectators. The race was a triumph for the Greeks, and the first American. The first Olympic race (marathon) was held in 1896, and a champion has been elected the King who has already nearly finished the race. A further 12 miles added to the race during the course of the race, and a messenger brought the news of a victory in a party during the Olympic Games.

THE OLYMPIC GAMES AT ATHENS: THE WINNER OF THE RACE FROM MARATHON PASSING THE POST

DRAWN BY HER SUPREMACY ARTIST, G. F. BRIDGES 1896

99. THE WINNER OF THE RACE FROM MARATHON.

THE GRAPHIC April 25, 1896.



ATHLETICS IN SOUTH AMERICA

100. MONTEVIDEO ATHLETIC SPORTS. Held under A. A. A. Rules. Programme Thursday, 8th December, 1898

At the beginning of the 19th Century, different manifestations in the South American countries may be considered valuable precursors of the practice of Athletics.

Travelers, the British in special, organized physical exercises and athletics demonstrations, in a recreational way, which drew attention of the local people. In different regions and after certain time, they started to imitate such practices, enjoying them and, in several cases, showing an interesting capacity of organization.

In Argentina, before 1870, Thomas Hogg, a pioneer of the sport, and his brother James, introduced the practice of Athletics and in the Buenos Aires Cricket Club the first meetings were organized.

In Uruguay also, in the same period, some athletics events were held under the influence of the British inhabitants and the organization of the Montevideo Cricket Club.

In 1890, the first Athletics League is founded, the Montevideo Athletics Association.

In Chile, in 1877, yet with the British, the athletics activities start under the coordination of the Valparaiso Cricket Club.

In Brazil, around 1850, races and walking events are registered, introduced by officials of the British Navy, in the occasions when their ships were in the Santos and Rio de Janeiro ports.

In 1880, the Jornal do Comércio newspaper, in Rio de Janeiro, starts to publish informations about sports events. On September 7th that year, it mentions the organization of the "Jogos Athleticos Inglezes" with several events.

In Venezuela, in 1896, there is a movement to encourage the practice of athletics and a club of youngster to participate in 300m, 500m races and steeplechase events is created, under the influence of an English man. "El Tiempo" newspaper also mentions, in a good-humored way, the foundation of a club for women runners

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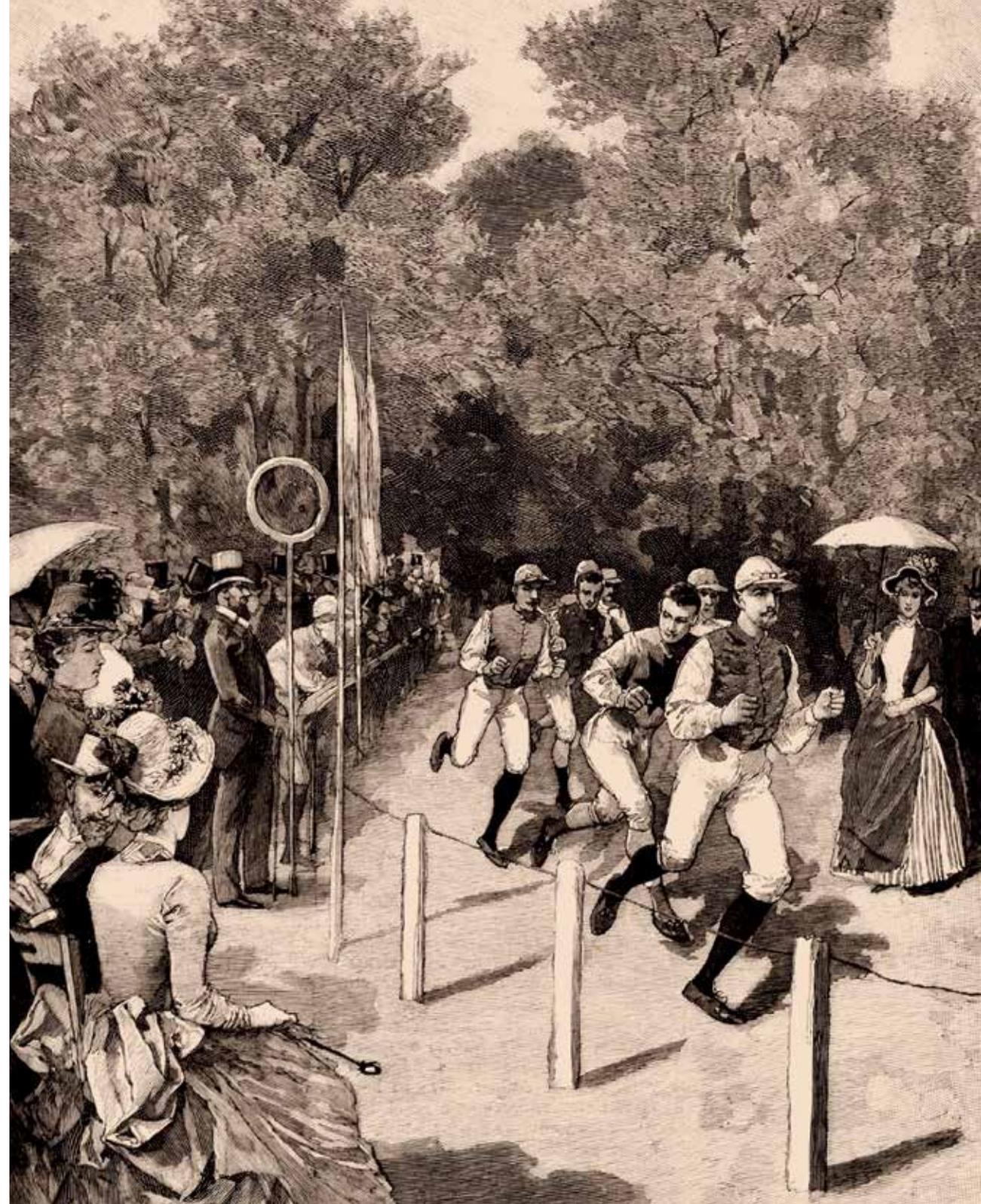
INDEX

- | | | | |
|---|----|--|----|
| 01. ELIS OLYMPIA AR HEMIDRACHM COIN | 10 | 15. MANUAL ON "ATHLETICS" FROM H. H. GRIFFIN. LONDON: GEORGE BELL & SONS, YORK STREET, COVENT GARDEN, 1891. | 24 |
| 02. ASPENDUS, PAMPHYLIA AR STATER COIN | 11 | 16. THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ATHLETIC SPORTS. THE CONTEST WAS ORGANIZED IN LONDON FOR THE FIRST TIME. BEAUFORT HOUSE – PUTTING THE SHOT THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS – APRIL 20, 1867 | 26 |
| 03. SYRACUSE, SICILY, HIERON II BRONZE AE 20 COIN | 12 | 17. THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ATHLETIC SPORTS. | 27 |
| 04. SMYRNA, IONIA, BRONZE HOMERIUM COIN | 13 | 18. BRONZE PRIZE MEDAL OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE ATHLETIC SPORTS. | 28 |
| 05. TARENTUM, AR DIOBOL COIN | 14 | 19. OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ATHLETIC SPORTS. THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS. APRIL 1, 1893. | 29 |
| 06. ROMAN REPUBLIC, L. ANTESTIUS GRAGULUS SILVER DENARIUS. | 15 | 20. OXFORD AND YALE ATHLETICS SPORTS. THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS. JULY 21, 1894. | 30 |
| 07. THEODOSIUS I, ANTIOCH MINT, AE 22 ANTB VIRTUS EXERCITI COIN | 16 | 21. OXFORD AND YALE ATHLETICS SPORTS. THE SKETCH. JULY 25, 1894. | 31 |
| 08. BYZANTINE EMPIRE, JUSTIN I AND JUSTINIAN I, BRONZE PENTANUMMIUM COIN. | 17 | 22. HARVARD AND YALE X OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE. INTERNATIONAL ATHLETICS AT THE QUEEN'S CLUB. THE GRAPHIC. JULY 29, 1899. | 32 |
| 09. THE ODES OF PINDAR, TO WHICH IS PREFIXED A DISSERTATION ON THE OLYMPIC GAMES | 18 | 23. BRONZE MEDAL ATHLETICS MILITARY SCHOOLS | 33 |
| 10. ILLUSTRATION OF DE ARTE GYMNASICA. BY HIERONYMY MERCURIALIS. | 19 | 24. AMATEUR ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS AT BIRMINGHAM. THE ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS. JUNE, 28, 1884. | 34 |
| 11. THE PLAYS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE. | 20 | | |
| 12. KING JAMES I SILVER SHILLING COIN | 21 | | |
| 13. PRIZE MEDAL AWARDED AT THE GREAT BRITAIN NATIONAL OLYMPIAN FESTIVALS, WITH RIBBON (BRONZE). | 22 | | |
| 14. BRONZE WINNER'S MEDAL AWARDED AT THE 1870 ZAPPAS OLYMPICS, IN ORIGINAL BOX. | 23 | | |

25. BRONZE MEDAL. AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.CHAMPIONSHIP 1888 – 10 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP TIME. MEDAL WON BY G. A. PEMINGTON TIME 55M 25 SEC. IN THIS EVENT, THE CHAMPION WAS E.W. PARRY, SALFORD HARRIERS, 53M 43 2/5.35
26. SILVER AND GOLD MEDAL. SALFORD HARRIERS CLUB, 1892.....36
27. THE SOUTH LONDON HARRIERS AT KENNINGTON OVAL. THE ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS.SEPTEMBER 29, 188337
28. BRONZE MEDAL38
29. BRONZE MEDAL – SECOND PLACE – DUAL MEETING39
30. ATHLETIC SPORTS AT BROMPTON. HURDLE RACING. THE GRAPHIC – SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1871.....40
31. FESTIVAL AT SAVERNAKE, WILTSHIRE. THE HURDLE LEAPING.THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS – JUNE 1, 1872.41
32. THE SOUTHPORT ATHLETIC SOCIETY’S SPORTS. THE STEEPLECHASE. THE ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS. SEPTEMBER 4, 1875.....42
33. SILVER AND ENAMELED RUNNING MEDAL. PRESENTED TO R. LEAMING. HARROGATE A.F.S. JULY 1889.42
34. BRONZE MEDAL. MANCHESTER ATHLETIC FESTIVAL. 1870 QUARTER MILE FLAT RACE – SECOND PRIZE.43
35. BRONZE MEDAL, WITH RIBBON THIRD PLACE. W. M. I. A. 1889. STANDING HIGH JUMP..... 43
36. HARE AND HOUNDS IN THE STREETS OF LONDON. PRINT THE GRAPHIC – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1890..... 44
37. LAYING THE TRAIL FOR HARES AND HOUND. THE HARES BREAKING COVER. THE GRAPHIC – APRIL 29, 1893.45
38. THE GREAT SIX DAYS'WALKING MATCH. DANIEL O'LEARY – EDWARD PAYSON WESTON. “ON THE TRACK” – SCENE DURING THE LAST DAY OF THE RACE. THE GRAPHIC – SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1877.46
39. THE HIGHLAND GAMES AT WIMBLEDON. THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS. JULY, 29, 1865. . .48
40. LONDON SCOTTISH ATHLETIC SPORTS. STANDING HIGH JUMP. ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND THEATRICAL NEWS. MAY 4, 1867.49
41. BRONZE MEDAL. SCOTTISH AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.CHAMPIONSHIP MEETING, 1894. 120 YARDS HURDLE RACE.49
42. GAMES OF THE HIGHLAND BRIGADE AT CAIRO. THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS JANUARY 20, 1883.....50
43. BRITISH ATHLETIC SPORTS AT ALEXANDRIA. ASTONISHING THE NATIVES. THE GRAPHIC – MARCH 3, 1877.51
44. ATHLETICS SPORTS IN INDIA. THE ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS. MAY 15, 1880.....52
45. NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB. BRONZE CAR BADGE DATED 1868 (YEAR OF THE FOUNDATION)53
46. NEW YORK ATHLETIC. SILVER MEDAL. 120 YARDS RUN 1895.54
47. SPRING GAMES. SILVER AND GOLD MEDAL. WON BY LEE DAVIS 25 1/5 SEC. 220 YARDS DASH, 1891.....55

48. AUTUMN ATHLETICS. FIRST ANNUAL. CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES TO THE AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION OF THE UNITED STATES. DETROIT, MICHIGAN. FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER. SEPTEMBER 29, 1888.56
49. AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION OF THE UNITED STATES. BRONZE MEDAL. 3 MILE RUN NEW YORK. SEPT 14, 1895.57
50. KNICKERBOCKER ATHLETIC CLUB. SILVER MEDAL. KNICKERBOCKER FIELD. 300 YARDS RUN – LABOR DAY 1899.57
51. NEW JERSEY ATHLETIC CLUB. SILVER MEDAL, WITH RIBBON, 220 YARDS HURDLE.....58
52. INDOOR ATHLETIC GAMES. SILVER MEDAL, WITH RIBBON. SILVER AND ENAMELED MEDAL. RUNNING BROAD JUMP. MARCH 11, 189958
53. W. S. A. C. SILVER MEDAL. RUNNING HIGH JUMP, 1895.59
54. P. A. A. SILVER MEDAL. 2ND PRIZE. 220 YARDS RUN. MAY 30TH, 1898.....59
55. INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETES. HARPER'S WEEKLY – JULY 28, 1877.60
56. INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC GAMES. AT THE BERKELEY OVAL, NEW YORK – MAY 25TH, 1895.61
57. HARVARD YALE UNIVERSITY DUAL MEETING. TRACK ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION. SILVER MEDAL, WITH RIBBON. HALF MILE. MAY 16TH, 1891. . .62
58. ENGLISH AND AMERICAN CONTESTANTS AT THE ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES. MANHATTAN ATHLETIC CLUB GROUNDS. HARPER'S WEEKLY – SEPTEMBER 24TH, 1887. . 62
59. COLUMBIA GRAMMAR SCHOOL. SILVER MEDAL. 120 YARDS HURDLE.63
60. COLUMBIA GRAMMAR SCHOOL. BONZE MEDAL, WITH RIBBON. RUNNING HIGH JUMP 1896.....63
61. FIRST PRIZE BRONZE MEDAL. PUT SHOT 12 LBS. 1896.64
62. MAJOR GENERAL JOSIAH PORTER. MILITARY ATHLETIC LEAGUE TOURNAMENT. BRONZE MEDAL. 1898.64
63. P.A.C. 1 ST PRIZE GILT MEDAL. HITCH AND KICK. MAY 30, 188865
64. THREE LEGGED RACE. PRINT 1800'S COLOR PRINT BY FRANK FELLER.66
65. THREE LEGGED RACE. GOLD MEDAL..67
66. SS GARONNE POTATO RACE. VOYAGE DECK. 1891.68
67. POTATO RACE. GOLD MEDAL.....68
68. SACK RACE.69
69. SACK RACE. GILT MEDAL. MAY 30TH, 1895.....69
70. HANDICAP RACE AT THE MANHATTAN ATHLETIC CLUB. HARPER'S WEEKLY – FEBRUARY 4, 1888.....70
71. GREAT MEETING OF AMATEUR ATHLETES. UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE BOSTON ATHLETIC CLUB. HARPER'S WEEKLY MARCH 1, 1890.71
72. CALENDAR SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER. COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS – HIGH JUMP.....72
73. SPALDING'S OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION OF THE UNITED STATES. FEBRUARY, 1899.73

74. LES COURSES À PIED AU BOIS DE BOULOGNE. L'ILLUSTRATION JOURNAL UNIVERSEL. SAMEDI 13 JUIN 1865.....74
75. LA COURSE À PIED PARIS-BELFORT. ORGANISÉE PAR LE "PETIT JOURNAL". SAMEDI 18 JUIN 1892.....75
76. LA COURSE À PIED PARIS-CONFLANS (40 KILOMÈTRES). L'ILLUSTRATION, 25 JUILLET 1896.....76
77. DES DIVERSES MÉTHODES DE MARCHÉ ET DE COURSE. L'ILLUSTRATION, 22 FÉVRIER 1896. ...77
78. LA RÉUNION DU RACING CLUB. L'ILLUSTRATION SAMEDI. 11 JUILLET 1891.....78
79. LE RACING CLUB. AU BOIS DE BOULOGNE PRINT. LE RACING CLUB. LE MONDE ILLUSTRÉ. 9 JUILLET 1887.....79
80. LE CROSS COUNTY PRINT. L'ILLUSTRATION, 2 AVRIL 1898.80
81. PROGRAMME. UNION DES SOCIÉTÉS FRANÇAISES DE COURSES À PIED. LE PREMIER GRAND COURSE COUNTRY NATIONAL. LE DIMANCHE 12 FÉVRIER 1888.81
82. PROGRAMME. UNION DES SOCIÉTÉS FRANÇAISES DE COURSES À PIED.....81
83. BRONZE MEDAL. UNION DE SOCIÉTÉS FRANÇAISES DE SPORTS ATHLÉTIQUES. S. A. L. L. LUDUS PRO PATRIA. PARIS.....82
84. LES SPORTS ATHLÉTIQUES – LE SAUT EN HAUTEUR. L'ILLUSTRATION JOURNAL UNIVERSEL. SAMEDI 7 JUIN 1890.....82
85. LES SPORTS ATHLÉTIQUES. ORGANE OFFICIEL DE L'UNION DES SOCIÉTÉS FRANÇAISES DE SPORTS ATHLÉTIQUES. 16 JUILLET 1892.....83
86. LES SPORTS ATHLÉTIQUES. ORGANE OFFICIEL DE L'UNION DES SOCIÉTÉS FRANÇAISES DE SPORTS ATHLÉTIQUES. 17 SEPTEMBRE 1892...83
87. SPORTS ATHLÉTIQUES. L'ILLUSTRATION JOURNAL UNIVERSEL. SAMEDI 7 JUIN 1890....84
88. SPORT ENTRE LES GENTLEMEN CADETS DU COLLEGE MILITAIRE DE LA REINE. ANGLETERRE. LE MONDE ILLUSTRÉ. 23 FÉVRIER 1867.85
89. LA COURSE, BRONZE MEDAL, IN THE ORIGINAL CASE. U. A. L. M. S. C. 500 M H. 9 JUIN 1892....86
90. LA COURSE DE MARATHON. ORGANISÉE PAR LE "PETIT JOURNAL". DIMANCHE 2 AOUT 1896. ...87
91. LE MATCH DES JAMBES DE BOIS, À NOGENT-SUR-MARNE. L'ILLUSTRATION JOURNAL UNIVERSEL. 16 MARS 1895.88
92. LA COUSE DE JAMBES DE BOIS. LE PETIT JOURNAL DIMANCHE. 24 MARS 1895.90
93. FÊTE FEDERALE DES GYMNASTES, AU LOCLE. LE TIR DU JAVÉLOT. L'ILLUSTRATION – JOURNAL UNIVERSEL. SAMEDI 2 SEPTEMBRE 1865.91
94. RÉSSURECTION DES JEUX OLYMPIQUES EN GRÈCE. L'ILLUSTRATION 23 NOVEMBRE. 1895..93
95. POSTCARD OF THE "MARBLE STADIUM". BEFORE THE 1896 OLYMPIC GAMES.93
96. POSTCARD OF THE STADIUM. BEFORE THE 1896 OLYMPIC GAMES.94
97. POSTCARD OF THE START OF THE SECOND HEAT OF THE 100 METERS. 1896 OLYMPIC GAMES.95
98. JEUX OLYMPIQUES ATHENS 1896. L'ILLUSTRATION. 25 AVRIL 1896.96
99. THE WINNER OF THE RACE FROM MARATHON. THE GRAPHIC APRIL 25, 1896.....99
100. MONTEVIDEO ATHLETIC SPORTS. HELD UNDER A. A. A. RULES. PROGRAMME THURSDAY, 8TH DECEMBER, 1898. 100



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Organizer of the Images	»	Marcelo Macedo dos Anjos
Layout and Graphic Design	»	© StudioReggo
Photographic Records	»	Roumen Koynov, Olympic Gallery RGM, João Pedro Sales
Printing	»	Gráfica Santa Marta
Cataloging card	»	Ycaro Verçosa dos Santos - CRB-11 287-AM

Dados Internacionais de Catalogação na Publicação (CIP)

R672p Melo, Roberto Gesta.

Athletics from Ancient Times to the end of the 19th Century. – Manaus:
Reggo Edições, 2018.

108 p.

ISBN 978-85-63651-88-4

1. Esporte – História I. III. Título

CDD 798.098142

22. ed.

Depósito Legal na Biblioteca Nacional, conforme Lei n.º 10.994, de 14 de dezembro de 2004.

Todos os direitos reservados (Lei 9.610/98).

Partes desta publicação poderão ser citadas, desde que referenciada a fonte.

2018

Este livro foi composto pela Reggo Edições, em Guardian Egypt e impresso em sistema offset sobre papel couchê 115g/m², em janeiro de 2018.

Av. Djalma Batista, 1.661
Millennium Business Tower – sala 1308
69050-010 – Chapada – Manaus-AM

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