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of archaeology and history

ICOM ICMAH Workshop 2022

Sports In Museums of Archaeology and History Museums

22nd August 2022

Prague Congress Center, Prague, Czech republic

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Sports Museums as Mirrors of Society

ICMAH Online Webinar, 23 August 2022
(International Committee of Museums of Archaeology and History)

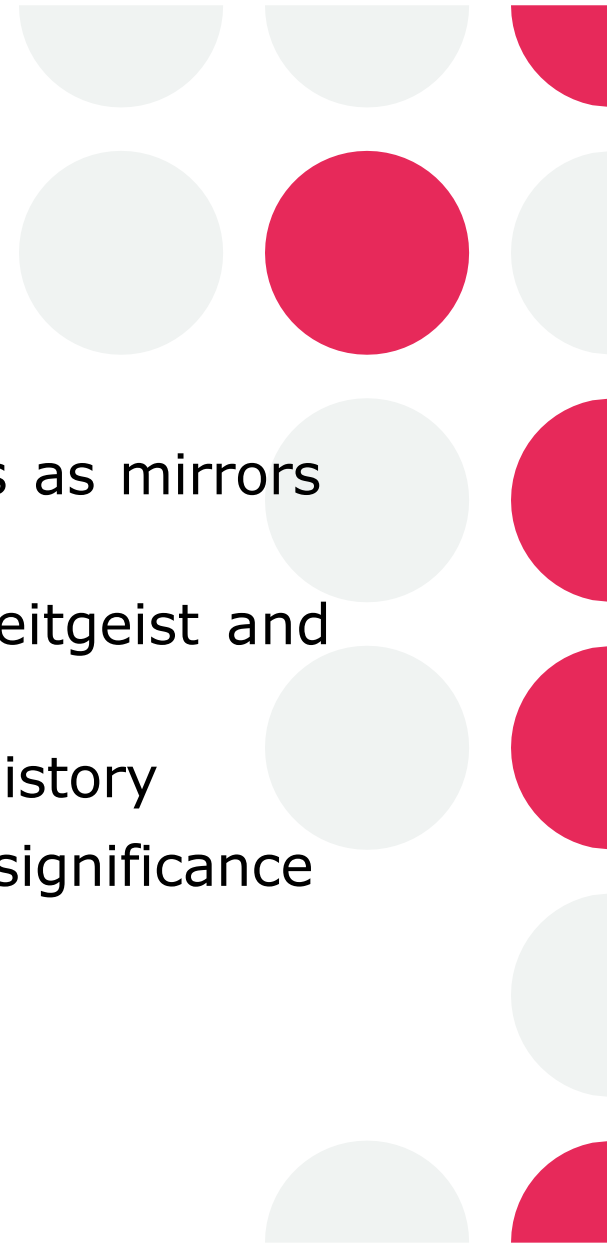
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Member of the JOC Olympic Movement Commission

Presentation Outline

- Sports Museums in Japan
 - What are the key challenges for Sports Museums as mirrors of society?
 - ▶ Collecting sports materials that reflect the zeitgeist and society
 - ▶ Giving sports materials a place in Olympic History
 - ▶ Redefining sports materials to explore their significance
 - Conclusion
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Sports Museums in Japan

- 70-150 sports museums exist, according to the database of the Japan Society of Sport History and the Japan Sports Arts Association.
 - These numbers include museums with themes such as toys, traditional arts, ethnic sports, health, automobiles, specific people and specific sports.
 - Five museums focus on the Olympics
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Five museums focus on Olympic history

- Japan Olympic Museum
- Sapporo Olympic Museum
- Nagano Olympic Museum
- Prince Chichibu Memorial Sports Museum and Library
- Chukyo University Sports Museum



Prince Chichibu Memorial Sports Museum and Library



**What are the key challenges for
sports museums
as mirrors of society?**



1. Collecting sports materials that reflect the zeitgeist and society

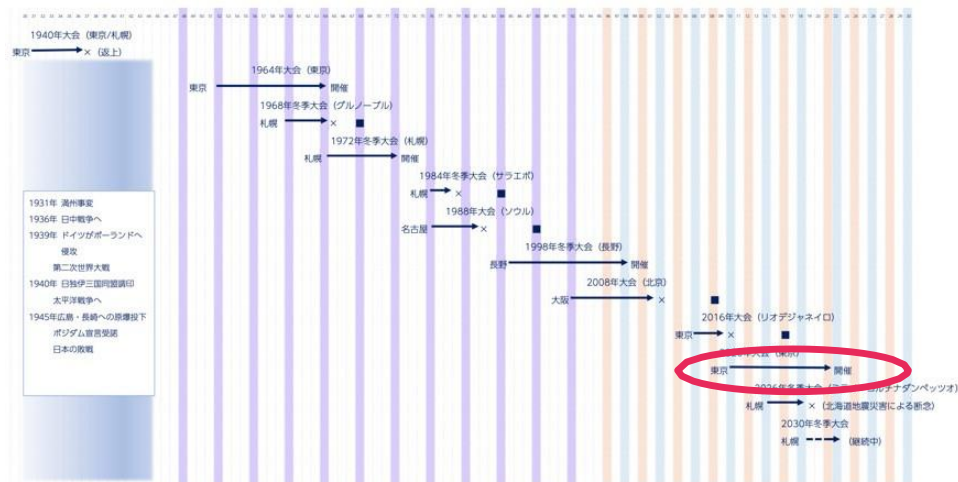


Chukyo University Sports Museum collection

- Phonograph needle cases sold at the time of the (cancelled) 1940 Tokyo Games
- American and British flags are scraped off from the case (right)
- Flags of Manchukuo (the Japanese military puppet regime) and Nazi Germany are present

These are Olympic materials that directly reached the general public

2. Giving sports materials a place in Olympic history



- In Japan, the significance of holding the Tokyo 2020 Games during the Covid-19 pandemic was questioned.
- An exhibition looking back on the first anniversary of the Games was accompanied by a timeline of the bid/hosting activities of the Olympic Games in Japan.

3. Be aware that “sports materials” are no more than peripheral sports materials

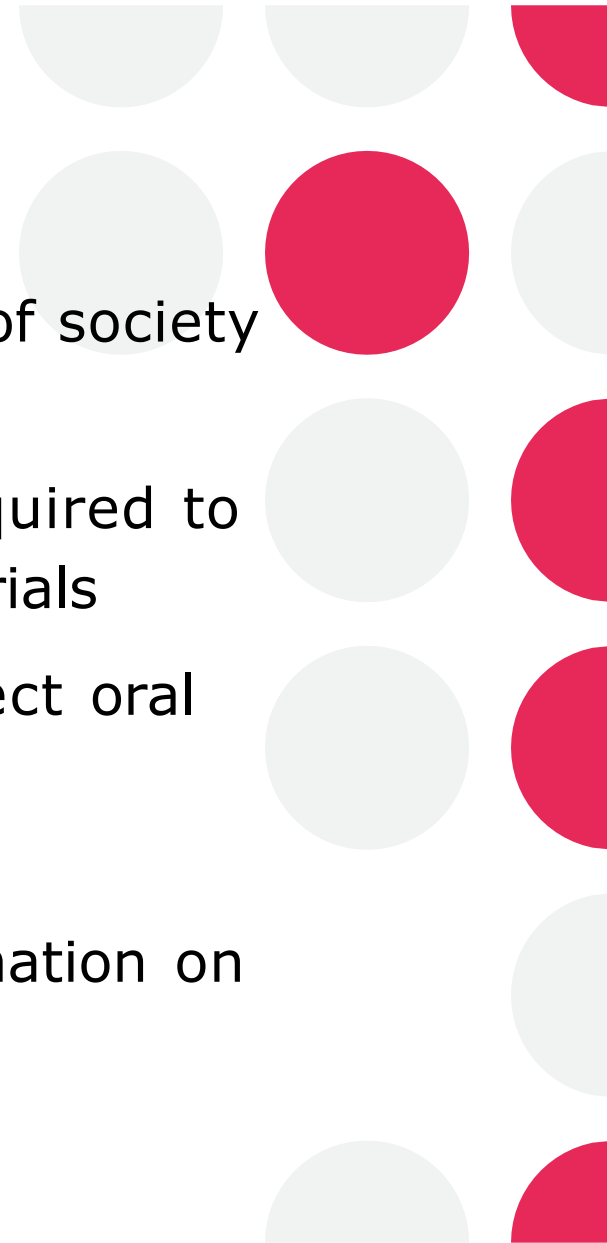
- Sports materials such as sports equipment, uniforms and tournament memorabilia should be regarded as peripheral sports materials
- Efforts are needed to prevent dissipation of the peripheral materials, many of which are privately owned
- In order to portray the relationship between sporting humanity and society, it is necessary to **redefine sports materials**
- Redefined sports materials might include oral histories and digital information on body movement



JOM's exhibition on Olympism, introducing the way of life through interviews with Olympians and their stories

Conclusion

- Sports museums reflect the lights and shadows of society through Olympic history
 - Organisational or systematic approaches are required to prevent the dissipation of privately owned materials
 - An international network can be created to collect oral histories of athletes and stakeholders to deepen understanding of Olympism
 - Investigate methods of recognizing digital information on body movement as sports materials
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Thank you for your attention !

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Session 1 – Workshop

The Sports in Museums of Archaeology and History Museums

« Sport and power :
exposing stories to tell History »

MUSEE NATIONAL DU SPORT

National Museum of Sports, Nice, France.

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Which History are we displaying ? Through which works preserved by time?

Quelle Histoire raconte-t-on ? A travers quels objets conservés au fil du temps ?



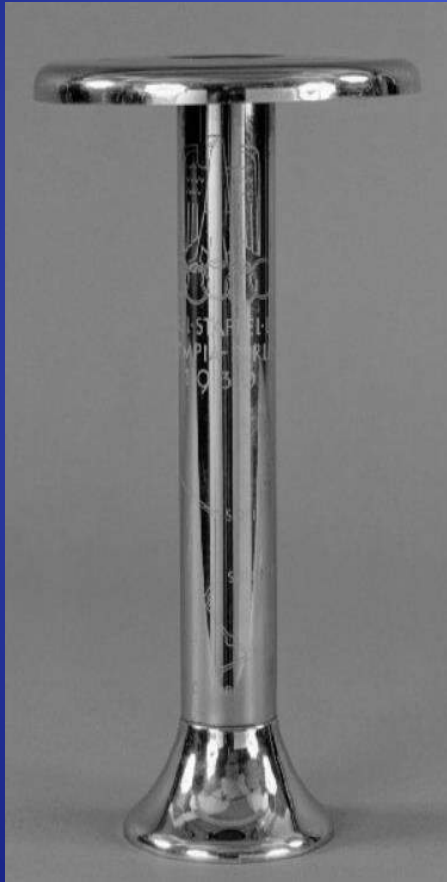
Wheelchair and fencing outfit used by Robert Citerne during the 2016 Paralympic games in Rio.



The Museum's showcase of Olympic torches.

Over time, we notice that sports are often instrumentalized by politics.

On s'aperçoit au fil du temps que le sport est souvent instrumentalisé par la politique.



Torch from the 1936 Olympic games in Berlin.



Picture and oak crown of wrestling champion Emile Poilvé from the 1936 Olympic games in Berlin.

“This quasi-religious fervor in which the crowd is called upon to participate makes sports such an ambiguous topic.

Le sport est ambigu par cette ferveur quasi religieuse à laquelle la foule est appelée à participer.



Showcase of supporters items at the Museum.



View of the Allianz Riviera Stadium in Nice during the *Coupe de France* 2022 final. Picture by Icon Sport.

Anyone can use the visibility offered by sporting events, so did John Carlos and Tommie Smith by raising their fists on the podium in 1968, terrorists took advantage of this visibility as well in Munich (1972) and Atlanta (1996).

Tous ceux qui peuvent exploiter sa visibilité tentent de le faire, tels ces athlètes noirs John Carlos brandissant le poing sur le podium à Mexico en 1968, les terroristes s'en sont servis aussi à Munich (1972) et à Atlanta (1996).



John Carlos and Tommie Smith protesting against the racial discriminations faced during the 1968 Olympic games in Mexico.

Picture by John Dominis.

Olympic Torch of Mexico 1968 showing several doves, symbol of peace.



Nowadays, the « sports show », attracts crowds that are invited to participate.

[...] aujourd'hui, le « show sportif », séduit des foules entières qui sont appelées à participer.



The Museum's wall of football jerseys and tropees including the *Ballon d'or* (2007), *Coupe de la ligue* (2005) and Champions League trophee (2006 official replica).



The crowd celebrating France winning the Would Cup in 2018 on the *Champs Elysées* (Paris). Picture by Jean Nicholas Guillo.

If sport represents movement, it has to be taken into account for the display of inanimate and mute collections.

Si le sport représente le mouvement, il faut l'intégrer aux collections, qui elles sont inanimées et muettes.



Immersive rooms in the Museum, *Football* (left) and *Adventures* (right).
Works by groups Exposition, Opixido and Inythium.



Thank you for listening

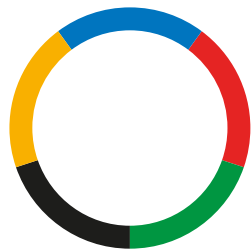
Merci de votre attention



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INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY OF
OLYMPIC HISTORIANS

ORGANISATION RECOGNISED BY THE
INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

become a part of it!

Olympic Museums shape Olympic History

Dr. Christian Wacker



Definition of Olympic History

The notion Olympic History consists of the term History and the adjective Olympic. Olympic describes all topics related to ancient Olympia and/or the Olympic Movement at large. Olympic History is the study of the Olympic past. The notion Olympic History comprises past events as well as the memory, discovery, collection, organization, presentation, and interpretation of these events. Olympic History is largely, but not exclusively related to the subfields Social History, Cultural History and People's History.

32 Olympic Museums

The Olympic Museums Network's main objective is to increase the promotion of the values of Sport and the Olympism by:

1. Sharing information and best practices
2. Encouraging cooperation on common issues encountered by the members
3. Working on common projects, in particular in relation to exhibitions, educational programmes, events, collections management, communication and commercial development
4. Finding ways to work in common in order to improve the efficiency and achieve economies of scales to the benefit of the members of the network



Olympic Charter

„Modern Olympism was conceived by **Pierre de Coubertin**, on whose initiative the International Athletic Congress of Paris was held in June 1894. The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** constituted itself on 23 June 1894. The **first Olympic Games** (Games of the Olympiad) of modern times were celebrated in Athens, Greece, in 1896. In 1914, the **Olympic flag** presented by Pierre de Coubertin at the Paris Congress was adopted. It includes the five interlaced rings, which represent the union of the five continents and the meeting of athletes from throughout the world at the Olympic Games. The first **Olympic Winter Games** were celebrated in Chamonix, France, in 1924.“



Pierre de Coubertin



Pierre de Coubertin et le miracle
Grec (2004)

Pierre de Coubertin et les arts
(2007ff.)



International Olympic Committee



Samaranch Memorial Museum,
Tianjin (China)



Olympic Flag



On 5th April 1914 a flag bearing the Olympic rings was raised for the first time at this gathering in Alexandria's Chatby stadium.



Further Reading

- The Value of Olympic History for the Olympic Movement,
in: Journal of Olympic History 30.1, 2022, 10-16.
- Olympic Education in Museums,
in: K. Voolaid-H. Kaptein-A. Roos (Eds.), 9th Seminar
Tartu, Estonia (2008) People in Sport History - Sport History for People, 9th ISHPES seminar,
Tartu: Estonian Sports Museum, 2011.
- The role of Olympic Museums in culture and education,
in: International Olympic Academy (Ed.), 11th Joint International Session for Presidents or
Directors of National Olympic Academies and Officials of National Olympic Committees,
Ancient Olympia 2013, 104-117.