

# RUSSIA IN THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT AROUND 1900

By Alexander Sunik

The end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries is a key period in the history of the world sports. It was the time when the events determining processes in the sport movement of different countries as well as in the world sport movement in general took place. The revival of the Olympic games at the end of the 19th century and the rise of the international Olympic movement gave a great impulse to the development of sports and Olympic movement in many countries of the world. Russia was among the countries, which participated in the revival of the modern Olympic games, Olympism and Olympic movement. My monograph *Russian Sports and Olympic Movement at the Turn of XIX – X Centuries*<sup>1</sup> is devoted to various aspects of this problem. I would like to share some of my ideas and thoughts on the theme with the readers of the international Olympic journal.

There exist very few sources giving information about the participation of Russian sportsmen in the Olympic games of 1896-1908, the sources which shed light on the attempts of Russian sport activists to take part in the Olympic games in Athens are unique. In this respect a letter on February 19, 1895 written by the first Russian member of IOC Alexei Butovsky to Pierre de Coubertin is of great interest. The letter shows that A. Butovsky and A. Lebedev made attempts to set up an Olympic Committee and hoped that Russia would be represented in the Olympic Games in Athens. "I have got three parcels with *Bulletin*<sup>2</sup>"- Butovsky wrote - "and I used them to make the ideas of the Olympic games popular. I hope the Olympic Committee will be

set up. Before the arrival of your letter Mr. Lebedev and me have studied the issue thoroughly and he is eager to render assistance as a member of many sport societies. As soon as we succeed in this activity I'll inform you immediately"<sup>3</sup>. But their attempts were not successful.

A. Butovsky went to Athens as a member of IOC and he officially represented Russia in the first Olympic games. Athlete N. Ritter came from Kiev on his own initiative to participate in the Olympic games in Athens. His name was put down in the list for wrestling and shooting competitions but he didn't take part in either of them. He accounted for this fact, saying that "the schedule was such that the competitions were held in different places at one and the same time and it was impossible to be in time". According to Ritter's own acknowledgement, he didn't regret his having gone to Athens as "he had time to write down all the details of the Olympic games and could have written a large volume about the games but even by doing it he wouldn't have said all they were worth of"<sup>4</sup>.

The analysis of the Russian press in the year 1896 showed that the Olympic games in Athens were widely discussed, this unique historic event was paid great attention to. Moscow magazine *Tsiklist* devoted many publications in its three issues to the Olympic games in Athens. Newspapers and weekly press in St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kiev and Kharkov wrote about the games. St. Petersburg magazine *Velosiped* published two detailed reports about the Games in its issue in April 1896<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Sunik, A., *Russian Sports and Olympic Movement at the Turn of XIX-XX Centuries*, Moscow 2001, p. 664. (Александр Суник. Российский спорт и олимпийское движение на рубеже XIX-XX веков. – Москва, 2001. 664 с.)

<sup>2</sup> *IOC Bulletin* which Coubertin began to publish in 1894.

<sup>3</sup> *Proceedings of the IOC Museum*.

<sup>4</sup> Koronovsky, V., *The First International Olympic Games and Russian Sports. Proceedings and Reminiscences. Theory and Practice of Physical Culture*, Moscow, 1946(5) pp. 217-219. (Короновский В. Первые международные олимпийские игры и русский спорт. Материалы и воспоминания. - "Теория и практика физической культуры" (Москва), Выпуск 5, 1946, с. 217-219).

General A. Butovsky who was a witness of the Olympic games in Athens gave valuable information in his book *Athens in Spring 1896*. Seven members of the IOC out of fifteen were present in Athens but it was only A. Butovsky who devoted a special study to the event<sup>6</sup>. His unique work was published in Moscow in December 1896<sup>7</sup>. We see Butovsky as a deep analyst, a subtle observer and a talented publicist. The book is full of facts and details, it gives interesting ideas and conclusions. All this makes it one of the most outstanding sources not only in the Russian but also in the world historiography of the Olympic games in Athens.

I managed to find out that A. Butovsky was not the only one present in Athens from St. Petersburg (contrary to the fact mentioned in the Olympic historical literature). There was one more person from the Russian capital. His impressions were published in *Petersburgskaja Gazetta*. His story, especially his report of the marathon race (he watched the whole race as he was in one of the carriages accompanying the runners) is of great value and interest, it broadens our knowledge of the Olympic games in Athens. The above mentioned story was also published by magazine *Velosiped*<sup>8</sup>.

Attempts were also made to take part in the second games. G. Duperron, who acquainted a reader with the events of the Olympic games in Paris finished his article with the following lines: "We should hope that Russian

sports will worthily be presented in the competitions". But Duperron's hope didn't come true. Russia was presented then only in the world exhibition. Duperron wrote in his *Olympic Impressions*: "In Paris a Russian runner took part in the marathon, he must be living here but he is still a citizen of Russia"<sup>10</sup>. B. Khavin writes that according to the IOC official documents "there are 3 representatives of Russia - 2 equestrians and 1 shooter - among the participants of the games in 1900"<sup>11</sup>.

Russia was invited to participate in the 3rd Olympic games. The invitation came from Commissar-General of the World exhibition's Russian department, which took place in St. Louis in 1904. It was addressed to G. Duperron, editor of magazine *Sport* and he wrote about it in November 1903 issue of the magazine under the title *The Exhibition and Olympic Games in St. Louis*.

A small group of Russian sportsmen took part in the 4th Olympic games. Magazine *Sport* in June 1908 was the first to give information about the possible participation of Russian sportsmen in the Olympic games in London. The magazine informed its readers: "We are admitted to track and field athletics... A. Petrovsky is in the list for pole-vault... At the end of June (June 1908 – A.S.) amateur wrestlers are going to London: Petrov, Orlov, Demin and Zamotin. Doctor Petrov is training actively now in the Athletic Society"<sup>12</sup>. Duperron in his essay *The Olympic*

<sup>5</sup> "Olympic Games in Athens", *Velosiped*, St. Petersburg, 1896, April 6 (209) p. 202. "The End of the Olympic Games", *Velosiped*, 1896, April 27 (212), pp. 247-248. (Олимпийские игры в Афинах. - "Велосипед" (Санкт-Петербург), 1896, 6 апреля, № 209, с. 202. Конец Олимпийских игр. - "Велосипед", 1896, 27 апреля, № 212, с.247-248).

<sup>6</sup> de Coubertin, P., *Olympic Games: 776 B.C. – 1896*. In this work published in 1896 not much is said about the Olympic games in Athens.

<sup>7</sup> Butovsky, A., *Athens in Spring 1896* (reprint from *Russkoe Obozrenie* 1896), Moscow, 1896, p. 33.(Бутовский А. Афины весной 196 года. (Отдельный оттиск из "Русского Обозрения" 1896 г.). - Москва, 1896. 33с.)

<sup>8</sup> "The End of the Olympic Games", *Velosiped*, 1896, April 27 (212) p. 247.

<sup>9</sup> Duperron, G., "Sports at the French Exhibition in 1900", *Sportsmen*, St. Petersburg, 1899 (10), p. 189. (Дюперрон Г. Спорт на французской выставке 1900 года. - "Спортсмен" ( Санкт-Петербург), 1899, № 10, с.189).

<sup>10</sup> Duperron, G., "Olympic Impressions", *Krasota i Sila*, Kiev, 1913 (3), p. 4. (Дюперрон Г. Олимпийские впечатления. - "Красота и сила"( Киев), 1913, № 3, с.4).

<sup>11</sup> Khavin, B., *All About Olympic Games*, Moscow, 1979, p. 35.(Хавин Б. Всё об Олимпийских играх. - Москва, 1979. С. 35).

*Impressions* wrote: "A real Russian team participated in London Olympics. Count G. Ribopeer and St. Petersburg Athletic Society which sent four wrestlers were engaged in the work"<sup>13</sup>. The essay "The 4th Olympic Games in London and Russian Wrestlers" published in magazine *Hercules* in 1913 gives all the details about the four Russian wrestlers' participation in the Olympic games. The essay was signed by D.G. Thanks to the author of the essay we learn much about the event<sup>14</sup>. Silver medals were won by Orlov in light weight and Petrov in heavy weight. Among the participants of the marathon race in London who covered the distance of 42km 195m for the first time was also a representative of Russia, Lind. He was the 19th out of 28 who finished the race and his result was 3 hours 26 min 38 4/5 sec. This fact was first mentioned in the press only five years after the Olympic games in London<sup>15</sup>.

N. Panin-Kolomenskin's performance in London was brilliant. The official report of the 4th Olympic games described his victory as follows: "Panin (Russia) was far beyond his competitors both in technical performance and in artistic impression. His drawings on ice were done with mathematical precision". It was the first gold medal won by the representative of Russia in the Olympic games. With such results a small group of Russian sportsmen made its debut in the 4th Olympic games in London

Before the 5th Olympic games of 1912 the Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) was set up. It was quite a new sport organization in the structure of Russian sport and Olympic movement and it played a great role in the development of Olympism and sports in Russia. It was mentioned above that the first

attempts to set up the Olympic Committee were made as early as 1894-1896. The second attempt dates back to 1897. This time three people - A. Butovsky, A. Lebedev and N. Ritter - tried to form the Olympic Committee. Public at large was aware of the necessity to create a standing body responsible for the training and participation of Russian sportsmen in the Olympic games. The article in a popular Russian magazine *Novoe Vremja* (this article was later republished by *Velosiped*) touched the problem of setting up the Olympic Committee. The author noted: "If the idea of setting up the Committee to regulate the rules of our sportsmen's participation in the Olympic games could arise, then it is St. Petersburg Athletic Society which should be charged with the task as its members are most competent in the problem and they have proved it many times. Our best wrestlers, weightlifters and fencers are in this Society. Nobody else but they should discuss the conditions of their participation in the Olympic games. Besides that, general A. Butovsky who was an official representative in the Olympic games last year also lives in St. Petersburg. The above-mentioned Society and general A. Butovsky who could help with good advice should be responsible for the task"<sup>16</sup>. But as before the efforts didn't give positive results.

Only at the end of the first and the beginning of the second decades of the 20th century there appeared a real prerequisite for setting up the Olympic Committee in Russia. By that time the geography of Russian sport movement had widened considerably, all-Russian leagues in certain kinds of sports were set up, the experience of carrying out competitions within Russia and establishing sport contacts with other regions was gained.

<sup>12</sup> "4th Olympic Games", *Sport*, St. Petersburg, 1908, June 21 (25) p. 396.(IV Олимпиада. - "Спорт" ( Санкт-Петербург), 1908, 21 июня, № 25, с. 396).

<sup>13</sup> Duperron, G., "Olympic Impressions", p. 4.

<sup>14</sup> "4th Olympic Games and Russian Wrestlers", *Hercules*, St. Petersburg, 1913(6), pp. 4-6. (IV Олимпиада и русские борцы. - "Геркулес" (Санкт-Петербург), 1913, № 6, с. 4- 6.).

<sup>15</sup> Boko, "Marathon Race", *Rusky Sport*, Moscow, 1913(28), p. 4. (Boko is a pseudonym of Boris Kotov- a well-known sportsman and sport journalist of his time).(Боко. Марафонский бег. - "Русский спорт" (Москва), 1913, № 28, с.4).

<sup>16</sup> *Velosiped*, 1897 (258), p. 187. ("Велосипед", 1897, № 258, с.187).

Russia also had some experience in the 4th Olympic Games in London. It became more and more obvious that participation in the Olympic games was a complex problem and it couldn't be solved by individuals, by a Maecenas. It was clear that collective efforts were needed so that Russia could take part in the further Olympic games. The formation of the Olympic Committee as a coordinating center for training and participation in the Olympic games became an objective need. It was also stimulated by the approaching Olympic games in Stockholm and the official invitation received by Russia.

The first information about the Olympic games in the capital of Sweden appeared in the Russian press in 1910<sup>17</sup>. Since then the Russian press wrote more and more on the theme. Moscow magazines *Rusky Sport* and *K Sportu!* popularized the forthcoming Olympic games. *Rusky Sport* in its editorial article "Olympic Games of 1912" published in early 1911 wrote: "The next Olympic games will be organized in 1912 in Stockholm... Though it is only the beginning of 1911 we are already training for the Olympic games as we have not got much time left. Everybody abroad is engaged in the work. This time we'll also have enough energy to train and send our participants to the Olympics carried out in the capital of Sweden"<sup>18</sup>. The idea of Russia's official participation in the 5th Olympic games became much more popular, enthusiasts of sports in St. Petersburg, Moscow and other cities supported it warmly. Sport activists of St. Petersburg began preparatory work in order to set up the Olympic Committee.

One of the first reports concerning the formation of the Russian Olympic Committee was published in the first issue of *Rusky Sport* in 1911. The article gave a list of members of the elected 'Olympic commission'. This part of the article ran as

follows: "...the commission is elected. It includes baron F. Meindorf as honoured chairman, he is a well-known sport Maecenas who contributed a lot to the organization of Russian-Swedish sport exhibition in St. Petersburg in 1909; A. Lebedev and G. Duperron who being real sports encyclopedia have always been engaged in the developing of sport activities, ubiquitous A. Macferon whose name speaks for itself<sup>19</sup>; P. Lidval – a real connoisseur and a pioneer of track and field athletics in Russia and four other workers devoted to sport"<sup>20</sup>. It wasn't the Olympic Committee yet but the first practical step was taken then in St. Petersburg in December 1910 to reach the aim. The author of the article "Thoughts Aloud" formulated the program of 'the Olympic commission' and also of the future Russian Olympic Committee.

In early February 1911 preparatory work aimed at the formation of Russian Olympic Committee was over. G. Duperron who participated most actively in the work and knew all the details shared with the readers his knowledge about the history of ROC formation in his essays "Olympic Impressions". They were written and published a year after the 5th Olympic Games. When Duperron wrote "Olympic Impressions" he already had at his disposal numerous articles about the participation of Russia in the 5th Olympic Games and criticism of ROC activity. He must have been deeply impressed by these publications and as a result he wrote his essays, it was also an answer to various critics. Duperron described that historic meeting when the Russian Olympic Committee was set up: "The meeting of representatives of Russian sport societies was held in February 1911... The Committee was elected rather unanimously. The following people were elected: honorary chairman – baron F. Macferon, chairman – V.

<sup>17</sup> The very first information about the Olympic games of 1912, according to my data, was published in one of the Sunday issues of *Rusky Sport* in March 1910. "Olympic Games in Sweden", *Rusky Sport*, 1910, March 14 (11), p. 4. ("Олимпийские игры в Швеции" ("Русский спорт", 1910, 14 марта, № 11, с.4).

<sup>18</sup> "Olympic Games of 1912", *Rusky Sport*, 1911, January 13 (4), p. 2. (Олимпийские игры 1912 года - "Русский спорт", 1911, 13 января, № 4, с.2.).

<sup>19</sup> A. Macferon as chairman headed two all-Russian sport leagues – rowing and lawn-tennis.

<sup>20</sup> "Thoughts Aloud", *Rusky Sport*, 1911 (1), p. 5-6. (Мысли вслух. - "Русский спорт", 1911, № 1, с.5-6).

Creznevsky, chairman's assistants – A. Lebedev, count G. Ribopeer; members – N. Bergman (he was also treasurer but he died in summer of the same year), G. Duperron (secretary), A. Ivashenzev, P. Lidval (treasurer after N. Bergman's death). N. Jtiglis, Dr. V. Peskov and G. Nebe were elected candidates<sup>21</sup>. Analyzing the pre-Olympic situation in Russia before the 5th Olympic games it should be stressed that this situation differed greatly from the one before the Olympic games in London. Then it was only count Ribopeer and St. Petersburg Athletic Society who made efforts so that Russian athletes could go to London and few people in Russia knew about it. Now not only the Olympic Committee and sport activists but also governmental circles of Russia paid much attention to the preparation for the Olympic games in Stockholm. It was first of all due to the change of public opinion as regards the Olympic games, realization of their importance and necessity to take part in them.

The nearer the Olympic games in Stockholm were, the more intensive the work of the ROC became, the more the press wrote about the event (*Rusky Sport*, 1911, January 27 (8); May 23 (30); September 18 (46); December (60); 1912, February 26 (9) March 4(10), May 13 (20), May 20 (21), June 3 (23); *K Sportu!*, 1912, February 24). Here are some reports, which make it clear what the Russian Olympic Committee was occupied with. *Rusky Sport* informed: "the meeting of the ROC in which military men took part was held on December 7 (1911 – A.S.) under the chairmanship of V. Creznevsky. The question of participation of officers-sportsmen in the Olympic games in Stockholm was discussed"<sup>22</sup>.

Magazine *K Sportu!* in its February issue of 1912 wrote: "The meeting of the Russian Olympic Committee under the chairmanship of V. Creznevsky took place on February 13. V. Creznevsky returned from his trip to Stockholm just then where he had met the organizers of the Olympic games and had had a talk with them about the participation of the Russian team. He began his speech at the meeting with the report about his trip..."<sup>23</sup>

In the history of Russian sport movement at the turn of XIX- X centuries the participation of Russia in the 5th Olympic games was an event of great value having the most important consequences for Russian sport and Olympic movement. The Russian press wrote much about the 5th Olympic games and Russian sportsmen's participation in them. The number of articles devoted to the Olympic games came to dozens. On one hand it was caused by the fact that the sport movement in Russia in the first and second decades of the 20th century became much more active, on the other hand by appearance of new energetic leaders. By that time Russian sport journalism had grown, new talented journalists showed up, the number of sport magazines had increased<sup>24</sup>.

The Russian press acquainted the public with the events of the 5th Olympic games and different other aspects in good time and thoroughly, which was not the case before the previous Olympic games. All this testified to the fact that it was a new stage in propagandizing the ideas of Olympism and Olympic games in Russia.

G. Duperron's essays "Olympic Impressions"<sup>25</sup> and L. Tchaplinsky's work *Reminiscences of the 5th Olympic Games (Impressions of the Russian Judge)*<sup>26</sup> should be regarded as the

<sup>21</sup> Duperron, "Olympic Impressions", (3) p. 4, (4), p. 3.

<sup>22</sup> "In the Olympic Committee", *Rusky Sport*, 1911, December (60), p.6.(В Олимпийском комитете. - "Русский спорт", 1911, декабрь, № 60, с. 6).

<sup>23</sup> "In the Russian Olympic Committee", *K Sportu!* Moscow, 1912, February 24 (13), p. 2 (В Российском Олимпийском Комитете. - "К Спорту!" (Москва), 1912, 24 февраля, № 13, с. 2)

<sup>24</sup> Anokhin, A., "Sport and the Press", *Rusky Sport*, 1912 (53), p. 16-17. (Анохин А. Спорт и пресса. - «Русский спорт», 1912, № 53, с. 16-17).

<sup>25</sup> Duperron, "Olympic Impressions", (3-7).

<sup>26</sup> Tchaplinsky, L., "Reminiscences about the 5th Olympic Games. Impressions of a Russian Judge", *Hercules*, 1913

most valuable sources. These essays give unique information about the 5th Olympic games and Russia's participation in them. I am happy to have managed to find these most interesting publications. I am going to speak about the main issues very briefly: the size of the Russian Olympic delegation; sportsmen's hopes and the results.

As for the number of people in the delegation there are different figures in various sources. Being interested in the question and having studied documents and works, first of all Russian publications of 1912-1913, I came across different numbers. For example, G. Duperron wrote that the Russian Olympic Committee "had sent 200 people to Stockholm and it cost them nothing"<sup>27</sup>. There exist some other data, which give the right to conclude that Russia was represented in Stockholm by more than 220 participants exclusive of official and accompanying staff. At the ROC meeting on February 3, 1912 – half a year before the games – it was mentioned: "After V. Creznevsky's report the approximate number of our sportsmen taking part in the Games was determined: it amounted to 230-240 participants"<sup>28</sup>. This difference in the amount of people in the Russian Olympic delegation can be explained by the system of counting. But the main thing is that Russia sent one of the most numerous delegations to the Olympic games in Stockholm. This fact showed vividly that Russia had serious intentions to take part in the Olympic games, to participate actively in the international Olympic movement.

Russian athletes took part in almost all events of the program: wrestling cycle-racing, gymnastics, yachting, swimming, shooting (pistol and skeet), tennis, fencing and football.

Such a wide presentation of the country in its first official participation was a definite success.

As for the results the analysis of numerous publications and statements made by the leaders of the Russian sport movement before the Olympic games showed that among those who knew the real possibilities of the Russian sports the dominating point of view was that the expectations should not be too great. On the eve of the 5th Olympic games magazine *K Sportu!* frankly wrote: "Sportive Russia is going there to learn, only to learn, in almost all kinds of sports. It is going there not to win, not to take medals, not to show itself. Russia is going to learn, so it shouldn't be afraid of any defeat"<sup>29</sup>. L. Tchaplinsky also wrote expressively on the point. Speaking about the first day on board the Birma (the ship on which the Russian delegation went to Stockholm) L. Tchaplinsky gave such details: "In the evening captains of the teams stayed later than usual discussing our teams' chances. The conclusion was that we were going to Stockholm mainly to learn and not to win...Nevertheless, everybody agreed that Russian shooters, equestrians and wrestlers as well as count Sumarokov in tennis and Kuzik in rowing had chances to win. The further events proved it. If the Swedes' attitude had been more impartial and correct we would have left the capital of Sweden having 20 points as a minimum"<sup>30</sup>.

Summing up the very first results of the 5th Olympic games, G. Duperron wrote: "Only Klein supported us, he could get the second prize in wrestling in spite of all the tricks and hindrances made by the organizers. Competitions in sabre fencing gave us some comfort: with exception of Hungary, Russia

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(1-5). (Чаплинский Л. Воспоминания о V Олимпиаде. (Впечатления русского судьи). - "Геркулес", 1913, № 1-5).

<sup>27</sup> Duperron, "Olympic Impressions", (4), p. 4.

<sup>28</sup> "Olympic Games", *Rusky Sport*, 1912, February 19 (8), p. 6. (Олимпийские игры. - "Русский спорт", 1912, 19 февраля, № 8, с. 6).

<sup>29</sup> "Towards the Olympic Games", *K Sportu!*, 1912, June 16 (29), p. 2. (К Олимпийским играм. - "К Спорту!", 1912, 16 июня, № 29, с.2.).

<sup>30</sup> Tchaplinsky, L., "Reminiscences about the 5th Olympic Games. Impressions of a Russian Judge". Hercules, 1913 (1), p. 3. (Чаплинский Л. Воспоминания о V Олимпиаде. (Впечатления русского судьи). - "Геркулес", 1913, № 1, с.3).

had the greatest number of participants in the final competition.

The 5th Olympic games showed superiority of the USA and Sweden; the former really worked wonders while the latter did their best to score as many points as possible<sup>31</sup>, the USA had 129 points, Sweden – 123, England – 66, Finland – 48, Germany – 44, France – 29, South Africa – 16, Denmark – 14, Italy, Australia and Canada – 13, Hungary and Norway – 10, Belgium – 9, Austria and Russia – 6, Greece – 4, Holland – 3. Japan, Portugal, Serbia, Bulgaria and Chili gained no points. This result (6 points – A.S.) shouldn't wound our pride too much<sup>32</sup>. Out of 28 countries taking part in the Olympic games Russia (together with Austria) shared 15-16 places. L. Tchaplinsky being a judge in wrestling and at the same time chief coach and leader of the Russian team of wrestlers told us about the competitions of Russian wrestlers in Stockholm. He gave many details unknown before. It is interesting to note that out of five issues of magazine *Hercules* where *Impressions of the 5th Olympic Games* were published four issues were devoted to wrestling competitions. Preconceived opinion of Swedish judges, which greatly struck the participants of the games were especially seen in wrestling. Tchaplinsky gave many examples of it. Russian wrestlers were also among the victims of such judging. The main part of Tchaplinsky's reminiscences was dedicated to M. Klein. In three issues out of four devoted to wrestling Tchaplinsky spoke about the competitions of middleweight wrestlers in which Klein took part. All those who were interested in the 5th Olympic games, who wrote about these were also sure to write about Klein's duel against a Finnish athlete Assikainen, a duel in which a time record was achieved. Tchaplinsky's essay

described in every detail this thrilling duel which lasted more than ten hours, nobody else gave a more detailed account of it. Tchaplinsky wrote in particular: "Klein was the only wrestler who threw all his opponents including the Finns – world champions. Klein won in the duel against Assikainen. The Russian middleweight wrestler was the best among more than 60 participants of all countries of the world. I don't take into account a Swedish athlete Iohansen who was given the first place. French, English and German press unanimously consider Klein and not Iohansen world champion"<sup>34</sup>.

Besides wrestling the Russian sportsmen won prizes in three more events of the Olympic programme. Silver medals were won by N. Milnitsky, A. Kax, P. Voikoshnikov and J. Panteleimonov in 30m duel pistol shooting. G. Blau won a bronze medal in clay pigeon shooting. The Russian athletes won a bronze medal in yachting: yachtsmen from St. Petersburg yacht club took the third place.

We had strong hopes that our equestrians would perform well in Stockholm. Before the Olympic games success was predicted to the Russian athletes in this kind of sports. Samara magazine *Sport* wrote: "Swedish newspapers making predictions of the favorites consider that Russian sportsmen can get one of the first places". But their predictions didn't come true. Out of 13 equestrians taking part in the competitions only Grand Duke Dmitry Pavloitch could take the 7th place.

The press showed great interest in Russian track and field athletes though it was clear that their chances were not very good. In early 1911 the secretary of Moscow league of track and field athletics V. Dobrovsky in his talk with a correspondent of magazine *K*

<sup>31</sup> In the 5th Olympic games the following system of scores was used: the first place – 3 points, the second – 2 points and the third – 1 point.

<sup>32</sup> Duperron G. "The End of the Olympic Games". *Rusky Sport*, 1912, July 15 (29), p. 8. (Дюперрон Г. Конец Олимпиады. - "Русский спорт", 1912, 15 июля, № 29, с.8).

<sup>33</sup> Tchaplinsky L. "Reminiscences", (3), p. 5 ; (4), p. 3, 4, 6, (5), p.5.

<sup>34</sup> "Russian Officers in Equestrian Competitions in the 5th Olympic Games", *Sport*, Samara, 1912, June 12 (1-2) p. 10. (Русские офицеры в конских состязаниях пятой Олимпиады. - "Спорт" (Самара), 1912, 12 июня, № 1-2, с.10).

*Sportu!* said: “We can’t expect the Russian team to get one of the first places or any place at all because it will have to compete with the sportsmen of such countries where track and field athletics has been very popular for a long time while in Russia it is only St. Petersburg and Riga where track and field athletics has been known for some years, in Moscow it appeared only in 1909”<sup>35</sup>. 47 Russian track and field athletes were in the list for competitions, 32 sportsmen took part in them: 7 from St. Petersburg, 6 from Moscow, 18 from Riga, 1 from Yuriev. Muscovites were the best among track and field athletes: Alexander Elizarov was 6th in the 800 m race and 3rd in the 1500 m trial; Alexander Schulz – 11th in the decathlon. The resolution of all Russian Union of track and field athletics noted: “There was a great difference between the best Russian track and field athletes and those of other countries. It was so great that the speed in trials was higher than our records”<sup>36</sup>.

Magazine *K Sportu!* wrote: „140 racing cyclists started 320 km cycle-race. But only 70 cyclists finished, the others either had an accident or dropped out. 11 Russians started, only one of them, an inhabitant of Riga Apsit finished at 11.19”<sup>37</sup>. A Muscovite Borisov, the main challenger raced well but then fell and injured himself seriously 80 km away from the stadium”<sup>38</sup>. Another issue of the magazine gave such details of Borisov’s race: “240 km Borisov raced the second but the accident changed everything (he fell down into a swamped ditch and lay there unconscious until a farmer noticed him)”<sup>39</sup>.

After the first official participation in the Olympic games, the results achieved by the Russian athletes caused a violent and mainly

negative reaction in the society. The press commented actively on the theme. In this chorus of criticism there were a lot of unfair reproaches. Magazine *K Sportu!* published an article under the title “Sport Tsushima” which became a saying to define Russia’s performance in the 5th Olympic games<sup>40</sup>. There were many angry words and ruthless statements in the article. The author gave inaccurate information about the results of the 5th Olympic games and his judgments were extremely subjective. But it was this article that set an example to many critical publications. The analysis of various sources and documents connected with Russia’s participation in the Olympic games of 1912 makes it possible to conclude that critical remarks addressed to the Olympic Committee and those concerning the results were mainly unfair and biased.

At the same time there were also considered points of view in the Russian press. Many articles expressed optimism and confidence that Russian sports men would learn from their own mistakes and achieve success in the future Olympics. There were some serious analytical publications in which the authors tried to attain thoughtful analysis, to formulate the goals of sport organizations taking into account the Olympic experience. It was often the case that the articles containing much criticism as regards the results of the Olympic games expressed nevertheless positive ideas and suggestions aimed at the further development of sports in Russia. It was one of the positive consequences of Russia’s participation in the 5th Olympic games.

An analytical article touching upon a complex of problems connected with the development of sports in Russia was written by one of the

<sup>35</sup> “Towards the Olympic Games”, *K Sportu!*, 1911 (4), p. 5.

<sup>36</sup> Central State Military – Historical Archives (Moscow). Fund 61, inventory 1 (1), p. 130.

<sup>37</sup> As it was mentioned in the report “Towards Sports” Luise (South Africa), the winner of the race, had the result of 10h 42 min 30 sec.

<sup>38</sup> *K Sportu!*, 1912 (34), p. 6. (“К Спорту!”, 1912, № 34, с.6).

<sup>39</sup> “Impressions of the 5th Olympic games’ participants”, *K Sportu!*, 1914 (13), p. 15.(Впечатления участников V-й Олимпиады. - “К Спорту!”, 1914, № 13, с.15).

<sup>40</sup> “Sport Tsushima”, *K Sportu!*, 1912, July 7 (32), p. 2.(Спортивная Цусима. - “К Спорту!”, 1912, 7 июля, № 32, с.2).

main sport experts of those years Dr. Alexander Anokhin from Kiev<sup>41</sup>. Articles written by F. Gennig – chairman of Moscow league of track and field athletics were an example of analytical approach. In Stockholm F. Gennig watched competitions in track and field athletics attentively and gave his report in seven issues of magazine *Rusky Sport*<sup>42</sup>. His essays reflected the passions raging in the competitions of track and field athletes; he gave both the detailed analysis of the results and the analysis of Russian sportsmen's failures. In the final essay F. Gennig suggested a number of measures the implementation of which could contribute not only to the development of track and field athletics but to the development of sports in the country in general<sup>43</sup>.

The active attitude of the Russian society towards Russian athletes' participation in the 5th Olympic games, in spite of the contradictory estimation of the results was of great importance for the further development of sport and Olympic movement in the country. In various strata of the Russian society there appeared more interest towards sports and Olympic games. The importance of taking part in the Olympic games became obviously clear. It should be noted that the press immediately began to discuss the problems concerning the 6th Olympic games.

On the eve of World War I there were favorable conditions in Russia for the further development of sports and its penetration in to the society. Though 1913 and the first of 1914 were pre-war years, this short pre-Olympic period was the time of the highest rise in the Russian sport and Olympic movement in the history of pre-revolutionary Russia. It resulted in considerable expansion of sport geography;

sports spread in the province much faster than before 1912; many kinds of sports were developing: football, weightlifting and wrestling, track and field athletics, tennis, skiing and skating; the schedule of all Russian competitions became wider. It was also a period of searching for new forms of sport and Olympic movement, of all Russian competitions. Immediately after the 5th Olympic games leaders of Russian sports set a course for the 6th Olympic games in 1916 in Berlin. It is greatly to the ROC leaders' credit that original solutions and interesting ideas were found, their realization contributed to the development of sports and Olympism in Russia.

Integration processes in sport movement, intensification of activity of all-Russian leagues and regional Olympic committees are characteristic features of this period (this form of sport and Olympic movement appeared in Russia at that time). A significant event in the history of Russian sport movement was also the formation of a new structure under the aegis of the government in 1913. This body was called the Chief Observer Office of the Physical Development of the Russian Empire Population, its sphere was physical training and sport movement in the country. General Vladimir Voeikov was appointed chief of the Office. The formation of the Office testified clearly that physical training and sport development were of great significance to the country. According to the press Russian public was enthusiastic about the establishment of the Office and Voeikov's appointment. L. Tchaplinsky appreciated greatly Voeikov's work<sup>44</sup>. Voeikov's Office elaborated a complex of measures concerning the 6th Olympic games of 1916,

<sup>41</sup> Dr. Anokhin, A., "Olympic Games and Russian Sports", *Rusky Sport*, 1912, August 12 (33), p. 3-4. (Д-р Анохин А. Олимпийские игры и Русский спорт. - "Русский спорт", 1912, 12 августа, № 33, с.3-4).

<sup>42</sup> Gennig, F., "The Olympic Games in Stockholm. Track and Field Athletics. Impressions of a Spectator", *Rusky Sport*, 1912 (30), p. 6-7; (31), p. 4-5; (32), p. 4-5; (33), p. 4-5; (34), p. 4-6; (36), p. 6-7; (37), p. 5-7. (Генниг Ф. Олимпийские игры в Стокгольме. Легкая атлетика. Впечатления зрителя. "Русский спорт", 1912, № 30, с.6-7; № 31, с.4-5; № 32, с.4-5; № 33, с.4-5; ; №34, с.4-6; № 36, с. 6-7; № 37, с. 5-7).

<sup>43</sup> Gennig, "Olympic Games", (37), p. 6-7. (Генниг Ф. Олимпийские игры в Стокгольме. Легкая атлетика. Впечатления зрителя. - "Русский спорт", 1912, 9 сентября, № 37, с. 6 –7).

<sup>44</sup> Tchaplinsky, L., "General Voeikov's New Appointment", *Rusky Sport*, 1913, June 23 (25), p. 3. (Чаплинский Л. К новому назначению генерала В.Н. Воейкова. - "Русский спорт", 1913, 23 июня, № 25, с.3).

the further sport development in the country, the improvement of physical training in Russia. But this first Sport Ministry' in the history of Russia couldn't fulfill its plans – the war broke out.

An important event of the pre-war years was also a reorganization of the Russian Olympic Committee. G. Duperron put forward an idea that the Olympic Committee was to unite all Russian leagues and “perform the functions of the supreme body of amateur sports in Russia”<sup>45</sup>. This idea became the basis of the ROC reorganization. The new ROC regulations were confirmed by the Minister of Internal Affairs in March 1914. The ROC meeting held in March 1914 in Creznevsky's flat stated: “The new ROC regulations are confirmed, the ROC is considered a body uniting all Russian leagues in different kinds of sports”<sup>46</sup>. In May 1914 a meeting of the Russian Olympic Committee was held in which delegates from all Russian sport unities took part. The new presidium of the Committee was formed, V. Creznevsky was elected chairman again<sup>47</sup>. The new staff of the Committee had good opportunities for work. F. Gennig wrote: “It is a new era in the Russian sports and we can hope the future of our activity is bright.”<sup>48</sup> But it was the last ROC staff elected in peace-time Russia. The hopes didn't come true – two months later the world war broke out.

One of the most interesting ideas, which appeared at this time was the idea of annual Russian Olympiads. It was initiated by the editorial office of magazine *Rusky Sport* two years before the Olympic games in Stockholm<sup>49</sup>. Russian Olympiads were a

significant event in the history of Russian sport and Olympic movement. It showed that the social importance of sports had become greater, the interest towards the Olympic games and the significance of taking part in them had risen. It showed the influence of the Olympic movement on Russian sports. Besides, Russia had done much more than other countries. After the Olympic games' revival Russia became the first country there the idea of national Olympiads appeared and was put into practice, these sport competitions were the most effective means of training for the Olympic games.

The first Russian Olympiad was held in Kiev in summer 1913. Many periodicals published articles about it: daily Kiev newspaper *Kievskaya misl* and *Kievljanin*; magazines *Krasota i Sila*, *Rusky Sport*, *K Sportul*, *Hercules*, *Vestnik Sporta i Turisma*, *Ves Mir* and other magazines and newspapers. 600 athletes from 20 Russian cities took part in the Olympiad in Kiev. The programme included 11 kinds of sports. Track and field athletes competed in 27 events. It was the first time that the Russian athletes competed in 42 km 195 m marathon race, according to the press this competition aroused great interest. One of the peculiarities of the first Russian Olympiad was the participation of women in track and field athletics and fencing. Nina Popova from Kiev became a real heroine of the Olympiad: she won 5 gold medals and achieved two all-Russian records<sup>50</sup>. The all-Russian record she achieved in 100 m race (13,1sec) was equal to the world women's record of those years<sup>51</sup>. G. Duperron wrote about the results of the first Russian Olympiad: “The success of the Olympiad was

<sup>45</sup> Gennig, F., “The Russian Olympic Committee”, *K Sportul*, 1913, August 4 (25), p. 2. (Генниг Ф. Российский Олимпийский Комитет. - “К Спорту!”, 1913, 4 августа, № 25, с.2).

<sup>46</sup> *Rusky Sport*, 1914, April 6 (14), p. 9. (“Русский спорт”, 1914, 6 апреля, № 14, с. 9).

<sup>47</sup> “The Russian Olympic Committee”, *Vestnik Sporta i Turisma*, Moscow 1914 (6), p. 12. (Российский Олимпийский комитет. - “Вестник спорта и туризма” (Москва), 1914, № 6, с. 12).

<sup>48</sup> Gennig, “Olympic Committee”, (25), p. 3.

<sup>49</sup> “About All-Russian Congress of Sport Organizations”, *Rusky Sport*, 1910, March 14 (11), p. 3. (К вопросу о Всероссийском съезде спортивных организаций. - “Русский спорт”, 1910, 14 марта, № 11, с.3).

<sup>50</sup> Popova was the second in fencing.

<sup>51</sup> “The First Russian Olympiad”, *Kievljanin*, 1913, August 25 (233), p. 6. (Первая Российская Олимпиада. - “Киевлянин”, 25 августа 1913 г., № 233, с.6).

great. A lot of all-Russian records were beaten, it always happens when the competition is strong”<sup>52</sup>.

The second Russian Olympiad was held in Riga in July 1914, more than 1000 athletes from 24 cities took part in it. The programme included 13 kinds of sports. The competitions finished only a week before the beginning of World War I. G. Duperron wrote about the results of Olympiad: “The second Olympiad in Riga was the final chord before the war. We should mention its great success as regards sports. A number of new Russian records have been achieved again, a lot of young sportsmen took part in it.”<sup>53</sup> A hero of Russian Olympiads was Vasily Archipov, a track and field athlete from Moscow. In Kiev he won in 100 m and 200 m race, in Riga – in 100 m, 200 m and 400 m race. On July 19, 1914 in semi-final 100 m race he set a new all-Russian record – 10,8 sec, this result was equal to world records of those years.

At the time when the first Russian Olympiad was held the Russian Olympic Committee made a decision to organize the third Russian Olympiad in Moscow in 1915 and the fourth in St. Petersburg in 1916, but the world war changed these plans – the Olympiads were not held.

Russia’s presentation and participation in the Olympic Congresses are the issues of great interest. Russian representatives took part in four Congresses out of six, which were held before World War I. Special attention should be paid to Russia’s participation in the Congress in Paris in June 1894. For many decades Russian Olympic historiography

believed that it was general Alexei Butovsky who represented Russia in Paris. In 1990 on my inquiry at the IOC Museum, I got documents from Lausanne concerning the Congress in Paris in 1894. According to these documents 4 Russian representatives were invited to the Congress. In the official list of the Congress participants among the honorary members there were the following people: Grand Duke Vladimir (the fifth in the list), general de Butovsky, attache of military schools department<sup>54</sup> (the 17th in the list). D. Melenevsky (an honorary deputy from Kiev) was the last in the list of 50 honorary members. Alexei Lebedev who represented a gymnastic society of St. Petersburg was among the delegates of the Congress (the ninth in the list)<sup>55</sup>. The fact that four Russian representatives were invited is noteworthy – only a few countries at the Congress were so highly honored<sup>56</sup>.

A. Butovsky and A. Lebedev have been mentioned above. But nothing has ever been said about Grand Duke Vladimir. It was very difficult to find any information about him. I could state the following: Grand Duke Vladimir – Vladimir Alexandrovitch (10.4.1847, St. Petersburg – 4.2.1909, St. Petersburg) was the third son of Alexander II and Maria Alexandrovna<sup>57</sup>, the eldest among brothers of Alexander III and an uncle of Nicolai II. Since 1876 – president of the Imperial Academy of Arts, curator of Rumjantsev museum, he extended his patronage to many artists and possessed a valuable collection of painting, he was chairman of the Resurrection Cathedral construction committee. He was one of the

<sup>52</sup> Duperron, G., “The First Russian Olympiad”, *Ves Mir*, St. Petersburg. 1913 (36), p. 25. (Дюперрон Г. Первая Русская Олимпиада. - “Весь мир” (Санкт-Петербург), 1913, № 36, с. 25).

<sup>53</sup> Duperron, G., “The War and the Sportsmen”, *Ves Mir*, 1914 (31), p. 27. (Дюперрон Г. Война и спортсмены. - “Весь мир”, 1914, № 31, с.27).

<sup>54</sup> A. Butovsky signed his letters – de Butovsky.

<sup>55</sup> Proceedings of the IOC Museum.

<sup>56</sup> The participants of the Congress in Paris had a different status: honorary members and delegates. According to the rules delegates had a right to take part in the workshop of the Congress. Representatives of 20 countries participated in the Congress. 16 countries were represented by honorary members, 12 countries – by delegates. 8 countries including Russia were represented by both honorary members and delegates. Only 5 countries (including Russia) were given 3 and more places.

<sup>57</sup> Maria Alexandrovna (1824-1880) – the first wife of emperor Alexander II, empress.

most beloved and close relatives of the last Russian czar. It is noteworthy that in his Diary Nicolai II mentioned Grand Duke Vladimir very often<sup>58</sup>. Count S. Vitte characterized Grand Duke Vladimir as follows: "...Vladimir Alexandrovitch was a well-educated person, a man of considerable culture, noble and respectable"<sup>59</sup>. Grand Duke Alexander Michailovitch wrote about his cousin: "Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovitch was artistically very talented. He painted, was interested in ballet and was the first to finance S. Diaghilev's ballet tours abroad. He collected ancient icons, visited Paris twice a year... Vladimir Alexandrovitch was really concerned in art"<sup>60</sup>. A. Izvolsky, Russian Foreign Minister (1906-1910) who knew the Russian imperial court well wrote in his *Memoirs*: "Grand Duke Vladimir was a brilliantly educated man, French scholars admired his knowledge of history. He was inclined to a liberal way of thinking"<sup>61</sup>. Judging from various sources we can conclude that Grand Duke Vladimir also took interest in sports, he was honorary chairman of St. Petersburg athletic society headed by Count Ribopeer. This portrait of Grand Duke Vladimir gives an answer to the question why Pierre de Coubertin chose him as an honorary member of the Congress in Paris.

At the second Olympic Congress held in Le Havre the delegation of Russia was among 60 delegates from 9 countries. The first Russian sport newspaper *Tsiklist* wrote about the work

of this congress (in 1897 Moscow magazine *Tsiklist* was issued as a daily sport newspaper). The newspaper sent its correspondent to Le Havre to give information about the Congress. Articles in two issues of the newspaper under the title "Olympic Congress (from our correspondent)" were devoted to the results of the Congress<sup>62</sup>. These articles are unique. They enrich our knowledge of the Congress in Le Havre; the correspondent wrote about pastor Didon and his speech in defense of sports addressed to the Congress. The *Tsiklist* correspondent stressed that three Russian delegates - Lebedev<sup>63</sup> from St. Petersburg, Ritter and Berg from Moscow - took an active part in the discussion of items of the agenda of the Congress. On behalf of all foreign delegates Lebedev thanked the mayor of Le Havre for hospitality. On the whole, our delegates played a large part in the Congress. Ritter raised a very important question in the sport commission of the Congress of admitting physical training teachers to the Olympic games<sup>64</sup>. The majority of members agreed with this opinion<sup>65</sup>.

The third Olympic Congress was held in Brussels on June 9-14, 1905. General Alexei Butovsky was among the delegates. He devoted a special work to this significant event – *Problems of Physical Training and Sports at the international Congress in Brussels in Summer 1905*<sup>66</sup>. Butovsky's work is a unique and valuable source, which makes

<sup>58</sup> *Diary of Emperor Nicolai II*, 1890-1906. Berlin: Slovo. 1923. 273 pages (incl. commentary and notes). It is among rare books in the Russian library of Tolstoy Fund in Munich.

<sup>59</sup> Vitte, S., *Reminiscences*, 1960, Moscow. Vol. 2, p. 13-83. (Витте С. Воспоминания. Том 2. - Москва, 1960. С.13, 83).

<sup>60</sup> Grand Duke Alexander Mixailovitch, *The Book of Reminiscences. Appendix to Illustrirovannay Rossia*, Paris, 1933, p. 134, 135, 173. (Великий Князь Александр Михайлович. Книга воспоминаний. - Paris: Приложение к "Иллюстрированной России", 1933. С. 134, 135, 173).

<sup>61</sup> Izvolsky, A., *Reminiscences*, Moscow. 1989, p. 178-179. (Извольский А. Воспоминания. - Москва, 1989, С.178-179).

<sup>62</sup> *Tsiklist*, Moscow, 1897, July 27 (August 8) 160, p. 1; July 30 (August 11) 162, p. 1. ["Циклист" (Москва), 1897, 27 июля (8 августа), № 160, с.1; 30 июля (11 августа), № 162, с.1).

<sup>63</sup> Alexei Lebedev – a delegate of the International Athletic Congress in Paris in June 1894.

<sup>64</sup> According to the established rules of amateur sports teachers of gymnastics and physical training were then considered professionals. N. Ritter stood up for a special status for this category of sport specialists, which would give them the right to take up in competitions on equal terms with amateur sportsmen.

<sup>65</sup> "The Olympic Congress. (from Our Correspondent)", *Tsiklist*, 1897, July 27 (August 8) 160, p. 1. (Олимпийский конгресс. (От нашего корреспондента). - Циклист", 1897, 27 июля (8 августа), № 160, с. 1).

our knowledge of the Congress' participants, programme and decisions deeper. The work is full of details which even a century later enable us to feel the moral-psychological atmosphere peculiar to the Congress in Brussels. Butovsky spoke about Russian delegates: "They were represented by K. Zirul, a teacher of St. Petersburg teachers' training institute; Madam Kritievsky, a doctor working in Paris and me"<sup>67</sup>. He continued: "Madam Kritievsky was one of the most interesting figures in the group of doctors. Having studied medicine in Paris, she completed a full-time course in pedagogical and remedial gymnastics in Stockholm and was a certified director of gymnastics. The aims of pedagogical gymnastics were quite clear to her...Our countryman K. Zirul aroused unanimous support of all members of the Congress by his thorough report on manual training"<sup>68</sup>. Concerning his own participation at the Congress Butovsky wrote: "...All three sections<sup>69</sup> worked at one and the same time, each in a separate building of the Academy, so it was difficult for the members of the Congress to take part even in two sections simultaneously. We had to specialize in one sphere. I was present at all meetings of the pedagogical section. Occasionally, I attended the meetings of the military section. The lack of time didn't allow me to take part at the meetings dealing with sport problems"<sup>70</sup>. It should be noted that though Butovsky was a professional military man he, nevertheless, attended the pedagogical section regularly which showed his great interest in the pedagogical aspects of physical training and sports.

A significant event of history in the Russian sports was the participation of Russia in the 6th Olympic Congress in Paris in summer 1914. No other Olympic Congress was paid so much attention to as this jubilee Congress. It can be explained by the fact that Russia had then much more interest in everything concerning Olympic games. *Rusky Sport* gave information about the Congress for the first time in 1911, i.e. almost three years before it took place. "In 1914 in Paris a Congress will be called in which representatives of Olympic Committees of all countries will take part, a regular program of Olympic games obligatory for the organizers beginning from the 6th games forth will be elaborated there"<sup>71</sup>. A year later the magazine wrote: "Interest towards sports is growing with every passing year and the Olympic Committee (IOC – A.S.) is planning to celebrate in Paris in 1914 the 20th anniversary of Olympic games' revival as the beginning of a new era for the mankind's physical health"<sup>72</sup>. In March, 1914 the meeting of the ROC informed of "a colossal Olympic Congress which is to take place from May 31 to June 10 (old style – A.S.) in Paris... The number of delegates is strictly determined: only six countries, including Russia have a right to send as many as ten delegates"<sup>73</sup>. In fact, there were seven people in the Russian delegation: V. Creznevsky, L. Tchaplinsky, R. Fulda, F. Kubki, A. Mordovin, B. Jarozinsky and G. Duperron. The Russian delegation was very active in discussing all items on the agenda. L. Tchaplinsky wrote about it in magazine *K Sportu!*<sup>74</sup>. Thanks to Tchaplinsky Russian readers had a chance to learn much

<sup>66</sup> This work was first published in *Pedagogichesky Sbornik*, 1906 (1), p. 34-69. In 1906 Butovsky's work was reprinted as a book. Butovsky, A., *Problems of Physical Training and Sports at the International Congress in Brussels in Summer 1905*, St. Petersburg. 1906, p. 36. (А. Бутовский. Вопросы физического воспитания и спорта на международном конгрессе в Брюсселе, летом 1905 года. – С.-Петербург, 1906. 36 с).

<sup>67</sup> Butovsky, *Problems*, p. 35

<sup>68</sup> Butovsky, *Problems*, pp. 47-48.

<sup>69</sup> Three sections worked at the Congress: pedagogical, military and sport.

<sup>70</sup> Butovsky, *Problems*, p. 42.

<sup>71</sup> *Rusky Sport*, 1911 (55), p. 4. ("Русский спорт", 1911, № 55, с.4).

<sup>72</sup> "The Olympic Games in Stockholm", *Rusky Sport*, 1912, June 10 (4), p. 4.(Олимпийские игры в Стокгольме. - "Русский спорт", 1912, 10 июня, № 24, с.4).

<sup>73</sup> "In the Russian Olympic Committee", *Rusky Sport*, 1914, March 16 (11), p. 5.(В Российском Олимпийском комитете. - "Русский спорт", 1914, 16 марта, № 11, с. 5).

about the work of the jubilee Olympic Congress and it convinced them that Russia had gained prestige in the international Olympic movement.

The most interesting pages in the history of Russian Olympic movement, Russian participation in the international Olympic movement are connected with the activity of the IOC members who worked for Russia. Before World War I, 6 representatives of Russia were elected as members of the IOC. All of them were the flower of the nation's intellectuals, each of them – a bright outstanding personality. Among these pioneers and founders of Russian sport and Olympic movement the personality of A. Butovsky (1838-1917) is one of the most interesting. He was a talented, well-educated and well-read military pedagogue. A. Butovsky had a good command of many foreign languages especially of French. He was one of the most educated persons of his time. My essay published in 1984 in magazine *Olimpiskaya Panorama* is devoted to A. Butovsky<sup>75</sup>. My other work<sup>76</sup> is also devoted to his many-sided activity, it is an analysis of his creative heritage.

It so happened that he began to take interest in the problems of physical training only at the end of the 80ies when he was 50. This work absorbed him completely and became his main activity. Butovsky showed himself in this sphere as a scholar and a practical man: a historian, a theorist, a specialist in educational methods, an organizer and a manager of centers of training specialists in this field. Butovsky wrote more than 40 works concerning various problems of physical training and sport, there were written during a relatively short period of time (the 90ies – early 20th century). They are a treasury of his creative work.

Among them are the following works: *Corporal Exercises in France* (1893), *Field Gymnastics in Different Countries of Western Europe* (1897), *The System of Swedish Pedagogical and Military Gymnastics* (1898, 1899, 1903), *Lectures on the History and Methods of Corporal Exercises* (1910-1912), *Notes on the History and Theory of Corporal Exercises* (1913), *Training and Corporal Exercises in English Schools* (1915).

A. Butovsky takes an honored place among the pioneers of Olympic movement. He was at the outset of Olympism, modern Olympic games and Olympic movement. In his works he reflected many events of the international Olympic movement originating at the turn of the century. Butovsky was one of the first who realized and appreciated the integrating importance of sports; he wrote about it at the time when there were more opponents of sports than its supporters.

Announcing the first staff of the IOC on June 23, 1894 at the International Congress in Paris Pierre de Coubertin named the fourth member “general Butovsky for Russia”<sup>77</sup> (after Bikelas, a Greek, his countryman Kallo and himself). This fact was not a pure coincidence. As far as I know, Coubertin and Butovsky got acquainted in spring-summer of 1892 in Paris – two years before the Congress. In spite of the considerable age difference (25 years) they became friends. Unity of views on sports, on its place in the system of youth's training and education contributed to their friendship. After the Congress in Paris Coubertin and Butovsky began to exchange letters. Coubertin recalled it in *Olympic Memoirs*<sup>78</sup>. Five letters written by A. Butovsky to Pierre de Coubertin are kept in Lausanne in the Olympic Museum Archives: of July 11, 1894; February 19, 1895; October 5, 1896; April 16, 1910; February 14, 1911.

<sup>74</sup> Tchaplinsky, L., “The International Olympic Congress”, *K Sportu!*, 1914, July 6 (26), p. 2. (Чаплинский Л. Международный Олимпийский конгресс. - “К Спорту!”, 1914, 6 июля, № 26, с.2).

<sup>75</sup> Sunik, A., “The First IOC Member for Russia”, *Olimpijskaya Panorama*, 1984 (2), p. 38-40. (Суник А. Первый член МОК для России. - “Олимпийская панорама”, 1984, № 2, с.38-40).

<sup>76</sup> Sunik, A., “The First Russian in the IOC”, *Teoria i Praktika Fisicheskoj Kulturi*, 1998 (8), p. 52-63. (Суник А. Первый россиянин в МОК. - “Теория и практика физической культуры”, 1998, № 8, с.52- 63).

<sup>77</sup> Sunik, A., *Russian Sports*, pp. 498 - 516.

<sup>78</sup> de Coubertin, P., *Memories Olympiques*, Lausanne, 1931, p. 20.



These letters give unique evidence of the friendship between Coubertin and Butovsky<sup>79</sup>.

After general Butovsky had left the IOC (1900) the following people were elected its members for Russia: Count G. Ribopeer (1900-1913), Prince S. Beloselsky – Belozersky (1900-1908), Prince S. Trubetskoy (1908-1910), Prince L. Urusov (1910-1933) and G. Duperron (1913-1915).

The scope of this article doesn't allow me to speak about all of them, about their great contribution to the development of sport and Olympic movement in Russia.

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<sup>79</sup> de Coubertin, *Memories*, p. 33.

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## OFFICIAL REPORT MOSCOW 1980 NOT COMPLETELY CORRECT

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*By Tony Bijkerk*

In the official results, as published in Volume 3 Participants et Résultats/Participants and Results, page 43, from the Official Report of the Organising Committee of the Games of the XXII Olympiad, Moscow 1980, a mistake has been found, which needs to be corrected officially.

In the first series of the 4x400 metres relay, the team from the Netherlands took part, and finished in fifth place in a new Dutch record of 3: 06.0 sec. According to the Official Report, the first runner was Peter Beusekom; the second one was Mario Westbroek; the third one Marcel Klarenbeek and the final runner was Harry Schulting. Nobody ever doubted these results, and as a consequence these names were also mentioned in my database and in our book: *Het Gouden Boek van de Nederlandse Olympiërs*, published in 1996.

Twenty-two years later, I came in discussion with a member of the board of the Society "Friends of the Royal Netherlands Athletic Union", Mr. Chris Konings [himself a former

middle-distance runner], who told me that the name of the first runner in the 4x400 metres relay at the 1980 Olympic Games from Moscow was not correct. Peter van Beusekom had not been the first runner, as stated in the Official Report, since he was in Moscow only as the coach of the relay-team.

I asked him to find a witness who could confirm this statement, and after a few days I received an official letter from Hendrik Melchior "Henk" Brouwer, who informed me that he had been the first runner in the relay and not Peter van Beusekom.

Strange enough, when I checked the various historical books I came to the conclusion that Ekkehard zur Megede in Berlin, Germany, also mentioned Henk Brouwer as first runner in this relay and not Peter van Beusekom.

On the other hand, Volker Kluge made the same mistake I made and of course, he trusted the Official Result as well! It seems that this is not always so!