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Story Script and Shot log

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STORY HEADLINE: Pierre de Coubertin's historic founding text donated to the Olympic Museum

LOCATION: Olympic Museum, Lausanne, Switzerland

DATE: 10 February 2020

LANGUAGE: English

Broadcast quality footage available at the IOC Newsroom: <http://iocnewsroom.com>

STORY SCRIPT:

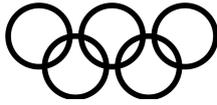
The donor was revealed as Alisher Usmanov, President of the International Fencing Federation when the original manuscript of Baron Pierre de Coubertin's speech outlining the plans to revive the Olympic Games was today received by the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland, almost 130 years after it was written.

The 14-page manuscript contains the speech in which Coubertin first presented his visionary idea to revive the Olympic Games in the modern world. The Coubertin speech was delivered on 25 November 1892 at the old Sorbonne, in Paris, during the celebration of the fifth anniversary of the Union des Sociétés Françaises de Sports Athlétiques – when Pierre de Coubertin was just 29 years old. Two years later, in the same auditorium, the decision to re-establish the Olympic Games was formalised.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach said: "Today we are witnessing history. At one level, we are witness to this historic document, the manuscript of the speech that laid out the philosophical foundations of the Olympic Movement. On another level, we are witnessing a historic moment, with this manuscript returning to its Olympic home, the place where it belongs."

Thanking Alisher Usmanov for this donation, Bach added: "This donation goes well beyond the handing over of a manuscript to The Olympic Museum. Your generosity is making this unique moment possible, a moment that reminds us so vividly of the mission of the Olympic Games to unite the world in peaceful competition. It is thanks to your generosity that we can reflect on our history today and celebrate this direct link to our founding father."

Usmanov said: "This manuscript is the manifesto for the modern Olympic Games. Pierre de Coubertin had a vision of a world united by athletic pursuits and not divided by confrontations and wars. I believe that The Olympic Museum is the most appropriate place to keep this priceless manuscript."



The French manuscript was elegantly written in sepia ink, on 14 leaves of wove paper on the back of blank registration forms for the 1889 International Congress on Physical Education, co-organised by Coubertin during the Paris World Fair. Original pages from the manifesto, showing intriguing revisions, will now go on display at The Olympic Museum – the first time they have been shown to the public. The full document will eventually be put on permanent display.

Alexandra de Navacelle de Coubertin, President of the Pierre de Coubertin Family Association, commented: “For our family, it is remarkable and a source of great pride to see in writing the foresight that my great-uncle had. Well over a hundred years ago, he clearly understood how sport can change the world, and what an enormous power for good the Olympic Games could be, at his time and in the future. It is so reassuring and a great emotional moment to see Pierre de Coubertin’s Olympic Manifesto back in the hands of the Olympic Movement at The Olympic Museum, where it can be appreciated by the millions of fans from around the world. With me, the family of Pierre de Coubertin believes that only the IOC can preserve and continue the work of our ancestors, and we trust them to do so.”

Professor Stephan Wassong from the German Sport University Cologne, and President of the International Pierre de Coubertin Committee, remarked: “The link between the *Olympic Manifesto* and the modern mission of the IOC stresses that Coubertin’s thoughts and ideas are not from the past. They still have relevance for today’s Olympic Movement and its impact on societies across the globe. Coubertin strongly believed that the Olympic Games could make a great contribution to world peace.”

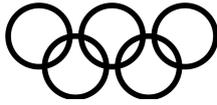
Coubertin finishes the manifesto by making the case for his vision of how the modern Olympic Games could help build a better world through sport.

From Coubertin text.

“As for sports in general, I do not know what its fate will be, but I wish to draw your attention to the important fact that it presents two new features, this time in the series of these secular transformations. It is democratic and international. The first of these characteristics will guarantee its future: anything that is not democratic is no longer viable today. As for the second, it opens unexpected prospects to us. There are people whom you call Utopians when they talk to you about the disappearance of war, and you are not altogether wrong; but there are others who believe in the progressive reduction in the chances of war, and I see no Utopia in this. It is clear that the telegraph, railways, the telephone, the passionate research in science, congresses and exhibitions have done more for peace than any treaty or diplomatic convention. Well, I hope that athletics will do even more. Those who have seen 30,000 people running through the rain to attend a football match will not think that I am exaggerating. Let us export rowers, runners and fencers.(...)”

“(...) I hope that you will help me as you have helped me thus far and that, with you, I shall be able to continue and realise, on a basis appropriate to the conditions of modern life, this grandiose and beneficent work:

“The re-establishment of the Olympic Games.”



SHOTLIST:

00:02 IOC President Thomas Bach greets Alisher Usmanov, President of the International Fencing Federation, outside the Olympic Museum in Lausanne.

00:07 Wide of Alisher Usmanov and IOC President Thomas Bach entering the Olympic Museum.

00:12 Alisher Usmanov hands IOC President Thomas Bach the Baron Pierre de Coubertin Olympic Manifesto manuscript.

00:25 Various shots of Alisher Usmanov and IOC President Thomas Bach with Baron Pierre de Coubertin's manuscript.

00:33 Close up of Baron Pierre de Coubertin's manuscript.

00:39 Delegation having a photograph taken with Baron Pierre de Coubertin's manuscript.

00:41 Various close ups of Baron Pierre de Coubertin's manuscript.

00:51 IOC President Thomas Bach and Alisher Usmanov looking through manuscript.

00:56 Close up of document.

00:59 Shots of Alisher Usmanov signing golden book.

01:14 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language).

"Pierre de Coubertin first outlined his vision for restoring the Olympic Games on the 25th November 1892. His speech at the Sorbonne University in Paris is considered the founding moment of the Olympic movement."

01:36 Wide shot of IOC President Thomas Bach and Alisher Usmanov during his speech at the Olympic Museum.

01:40 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language).

"Your generosity is making this unique moment possible, a moment that reminds us so vividly of our roots and our mission. Since the days of Pierre de Coubertin, our founding father, the overarching mission of the IOC is to unite the world in peaceful competition".

02:08 Shot of Alisher Usmanov during Thomas Bach's speech at the Olympic Museum.

02:12 SOUNDBITE: Alisher Usmanov, President of the International Fencing Federation (English Language).

"And for me, this is unity in excellence of the human true sport competitions, this big idea which unites the world which today has so many confrontations and are divided by conflict etc. In my view this is more than the first goal that we need to achieve through sport."

02:42 IOC President Thomas Bach and Alexandra de Navacelle de Coubertin, President of the Pierre de Coubertin Family Association, unveil Alisher Usmanov's name carved in stone on the wall of the Olympic Museum.

02:47 Alisher Usmanov looks at his carved stone and poses for photos with IOC President Thomas Bach.



02:53 SOUNDBITE: Alisher Usmanov, President of the International Fencing Federation (English Language).

"This is more than a great day because I think what I did has had some slabs of generosity but what President Bach has made, made me embarrassed and made me hugely indebted to the IOC after I saw this stone."

03:18 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language).

"It is a day of great emotion because we have today received, at home, the founding document of the Olympic Movement and of the Olympic Games. This is how it all started with the re-establishment of the Olympic Games and therefore you cannot overestimate the significance and importance of this speech of Pierre de Coubertin and you cannot overestimate the effect, and thanks to the generosity of Mr Usmanov, this document is coming back home to the Olympic Museum and the IOC."

04:04 SOUNDBITE: Alexandra de Navacelle de Coubertin, President of the Pierre de Coubertin Family Association (English Language).

"In this speech he outlines his vision of how sports can bring good, and there are a few words where he says 'we have wars, we have nationalism, we have colonial rivalries, we have all of those and this is part of reality. I'm among the people who believe we can actually bring the nations together and have them compete peacefully with the same values'".

04:31 Image and sculpture of Baron Pierre de Coubertin from inside the Olympic Museum in Lausanne.

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