

# THE COMPETITIONS THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE RISE AND SPREAD OF THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT IN THE LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

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## SUMMARY

The establishment of the modern Olympic Games can be considered a logical sequence of the Games that preceded them. The Cotswold, Wenlock, and Greek Olympic Games are known as the forerunners of the modern Olympic Games. The subject of this research is related to the competitions which also contributed to the rise and spread of the Olympic movement in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The aim of the research is to point out the importance of organizing the Palić Olympics, the Olympic competitions in Serbia and the Women's Olympic Games, which, thanks to their organizers, at that historic moment contributed to a certain extent to the expansion of the Olympic Movement. Baron Lajos Vermes, a famous athlete and a sports patron was the founder of the Palić Olympics, among many other sports competitions, which were regularly held in what was then Austria-Hungary at Lake Palić in the period from 1880 to 1906. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in Serbia, the officers who were educated in France, where they had met with the Olympic movement, upon their return to the country began to organize numerous and various competitions that had the adjective "Olympic" in their names. The perseverance in the work on the Olympic idea soon led to the establishment of the Serbian Olympic Club in 1910, and thanks to Captain Svetomir Đukić it also led to the inclusion in the IOC in 1912. In the period between the two world wars Alice Milliat worked hard on the equal inclusion of women in the Olympic movement. The requests for equal inclusion of women in the Olympic competition program that were rejected multiple times finally yielded results after the organization of the Women's Olympic Games in 1922 in Paris.

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The research results should show the importance of these Games, giving them the opportunity to be included among the already well-known forerunners of the Olympic Games.

**Keywords:** Palić Olympics, Olympic competitions in Serbia, Women's Olympics Games

## INTRODUCTION

The rise of the modern Olympic Movement in literature regarding this issue is mainly connected to Baron Pierre de Coubertin. Researchers in the history of sports used the facts in their publications to complement the events that preceded the renewal of the modern Olympic Games, which to some extent influenced the rise and spread of the Olympic Movement. The Games or organized competitions that are based on the idea of the ancient Olympic competitions are numerous. The Cotswold Games, the Wenlock Olympian Games, the Greek (Zapean) and Scandinavian Olympic Games are usually mentioned in the literature<sup>1</sup> (Fig. 1).

**Table 3.2.** Some Olympic Games revivals

Year	Event	Organisers	Country
1662–1952	Cotswold 'Olympick Games'	Robert Dover	England
1679	'Hampton Court Olympics'	Royal court	England
1790	Proposed Games in Paris		France
1779	Olympic Games, Worlitz		Germany
1819–present	Highland Games		Scotland & overseas
1830s	'Greek Competitions', Poznan	Commercial	Poland
1834, 1836	Scandinavian Olympic Games, Ramlösa	Johann Schartau	Sweden
1844	Montreal 'Olympic Games'	Olympic Club	Canada
1849–1895	Much Wenlock Games – annual	W.P. Brookes	England
1853	Franconi's Hippodrome, New York	Commercial	USA
1859, 1870, 1875, 1888	'Zappas Games', Athens	Evangelios Zappas	Greece
1861	Wellington Games	Shropshire Olympian Soc.	England
1862–67	Liverpool Olympics, annual	Liverpool Athletic Club	England
1866	Olympic Festival, Llandudno	Athletic Society of GB	Wales
1866–68, 1874, 1877,	National Olympiad Assn. Games (London, Birmingham,	Assn.	England
1883	Wellington, Much Wenlock, Shrewsbury, Hadley)		
1870s	'Olympic Games', Wrzesnia		Poland
1892	Campaign for 'Anglo-Saxon	J.A. Cooper	England
1893	'Ancient Greco-Roman Games'	Olympic Club of San Francisco	USA

**Fig. 1** – Forerunners of the Olympic games according to Toohey & Veal, 2007, 29

<sup>1</sup> Kristine Toohey & Anthony Veal. The Olympic Games: A Social Science Perspective. UK: Cromwell Press. 2007, 2nd. ed. p.29; Bill Mallon & Jeroen Heijmans. Historical dictionary of the Olympic movement. Plymouth: Scarecrow Press Inc. 2011, 4th ed. pp. xxvii-xxviii.

Through the available literature we come to the conclusion that the competitions inspired by the Olympic idea before the creation of the modern Olympic Games were, in addition to England and Greece, held in France, Germany, Poland, Canada, and the United States. However, during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, in what was then Austria-Hungary (now in Serbia) there were competitions held by the Lake Palić near Subotica, called the Palić Olympics, which deserve to be included in the publication of the history of sports and Olympism.

The IOC was established in 1894 with 14 member states and had a completely different approach to the admission of new members (states) than it does today. The number of 100 participating States and/or IOC members was reached in 1968 in Mexico (Fig. 2), and the number of over 200 participants at the 2004 Olympic Games held in Athens<sup>2</sup>.

OG Year	1896	1900	1904	1908	1912	1916	1920	1924	1928	1932	1936	1940	1944	1948	1952
NOC	14	24	12	22	28		29	44	46	37	49			59	69

OG Year	1956	1960	1964	1968	1972	1976	1980	1984	1988	1992	1996	2000	2004	2008	2012	2016
NOC	72	83	93	112	121	92	80	140	159	169	197	199	201	204	204	206

**Fig. 2** - Inclusion of Member States in the IOC

The period before World War I was marked by financial problems in organizing the Olympic Games. Not all countries in the world have been interested in joining the Olympic Movement yet, and thus the activity of those countries that have engaged in spreading Olympic ideas in order to become involved in the Olympic Movement is more significant<sup>3</sup>.

The perseverance in the organization of the competition inspired by the modern Olympic Movement, and admission to the IOC in 1912 certainly rank Serbia among the countries that recognized the significance of the rise and spread of the ideas of the Olympic Movement in its early stages.

According to Šiljak and Đurović, "*the Olympic Charter guarantees women equality today*<sup>4</sup>," however, in order to speak about the equal participation of women in the Olympic Games today, it is necessary to point out the importance of hosting the Women's Olympic Games, organized by Alice Milliat. The importance

<sup>2</sup> International Olympic Committee - <https://www.olympic.org/documents>.

<sup>3</sup> Violeta Šiljak & Dejan Đurović, Historical Development of the Olympic Movement, Sport Mont 2017, (15), 3, p. 44.

<sup>4</sup> Šiljak & Đurović, 2017, p. 44; International Olympic Committee, Olympic Charter, 2019, (Rule 1, paragraph 2), <https://www.olympic.org/search?q=olympic+charter+2015&filter=documents>, pp. 16-17.

of Alice Milliyat's work for the inclusion and equal participation of women in the Olympics is not well known to the general public.

The subject of this paper is related to the competitions which contributed to the rise and spread of the Olympic Movement in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, in addition to the already recognized ones.

The goal of this research is to emphasize the importance of the Palić Olympics, the Olympic competitions in Serbia, and the Women's Olympic Games, which thanks to their organizers in that historical moment contributed to the spread of the Olympic Movement to a certain extent.

### THE PALIĆ OLYMPICS

The exact name of the competition that was organized in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century in what was then Austria-Hungary near Lake Palić was "The Little Palić Olympics". The founder of these Olympics was Baron Lajoš Vermeš, a figure that had a huge impact on the development of sports in Subotica and Palić (Fig. 3).



**Fig. 3** – Lajoš Vermeš

Thanks to his noble origin and education, Lajoš Vermeš realized the importance of sport very early on, and dedicated his life to it in the form of an

athlete, organizer of numerous sports events, physical education teacher, and patron. As a young man he was a very active athlete, one of the most successful and versatile athletes of that era (cycling, gymnastics, fencing – Fig. 4, wrestling, swimming, boxing)<sup>5</sup>. He was the founder of several gymnastics sports associations in Subotica, under whose auspices the Little Palić Olympics were organized. When he changed his membership in a club, that club would take over the organization of the Palić Olympics. Much like Coubertin financially helped the Olympic Movement in the beginning, Vermeš financially supported the competition in Palić.



**Fig. 4** – Lajoš Vermeš fencing

According to Petkovič, at the age of 16 Vermeš traveled to Naples with a goal to model a disk from the original Greek sculptures<sup>6</sup>. Upon returning he got actively involved in the work of the existing sports clubs. The first competition in several sports events was held in Palić in 1878 in hiking, running (100 and 160 yards), shot put, and cycling (1000 m and 5000m). The following year in Palić there were no organized competitions, and the people went to promotional competitions in Halaš, Senta and Baja<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> Dragutin Rajić, *History of Subotica Sports*, College of Professional Studies for Education of Teachers and Trainers, Subotica, 2018, p. 225.

<sup>6</sup> Kalman Petkovics, *Regi szabadkai jatekok*, Forum, Ujvidek, 1983, noted by Rajić, 2018, p.225.

<sup>7</sup> Rajić, D., 2018, p. 226.

In August 1880, the Subotica sports club organized a sports competition which was considered the first official competition or the 1<sup>st</sup> Palić Olympics<sup>8</sup>. There were only three events - shot put, long jump and wrestling. However, the following year the competition program was significantly expanded (walking 7 km, boxing, fencing, running 200 m, running 250 m over 7 obstacles 1 m high, students race 200 m, shot put, gymnastics and swimming). The awards were very diverse (laurel wreath, ceric wreath, gold coins, silver forints, cups and honors) and were awarded for the first three places<sup>9</sup>.

A reorganized society under the name The Subotica Gymnastics Society continued to organize competitions in Palić. In 1882 the Palić Olympics were not held under the assumption of mutual disagreement in the management of the Subotica Gymnastics Society. Starting in 1883, the Little Palić Olympics were treated as the state championships of Austria-Hungary, which included a large number of athletes and sports. In addition to the other events, in 1887 horizontal discus throw and vertical discus throw events emerged for the first time. Once again, the Little Olympics were not held in 1887, which resulted in the absence of competitors from Budapest the following year. Although they had been planned, in 1891 the Palić Games were not held either, so it is believed that in 1890 these Olympics were held for the last time in the organization of the Subotica Gymnastics Society.

It is interesting to note that at that time in most cases silver medals were awarded for the first two places and bronze medal for the third place. According to the organizers, an exceptional commitment would be awarded a gold medal or an honorary donor award.

Meanwhile, the newly founded Achilles Sports Society (founded by Lajoš Vermeš) has been organizing competitions in Palić in many sports disciplines since 1885. Achilles, affiliated with the Subotica Gymnastics Society since 1892, has been organizing the Olympic Games in Palić.

Siklossy noted that "*... everyone loves to attend the Little Palić Olympiads, there are not as many visitors to any provincial competition, not even to sports competitions in Budapest, as those held at Palić, where everyone is pleasantly entertained by the host of a very kind and favorite Lajoš Vermeš*"<sup>10</sup>.

In 1905, Bačka, a Subotica track and field club, took over the organization of the Palić Olympics, and those are the last Palić Olympics for which there are official results with the list of sports events and athletes<sup>11</sup>. The program of

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<sup>8</sup> Rajić, D., 2018, p. 46.

<sup>9</sup> Rajić, D., 2018, p.47.

<sup>10</sup> Laslo Siklossy, A modern sportelet elokeszitese. Budapest, 1929, noted by Rajić, 2018, p.228.

<sup>11</sup> Rajić, D., 2018, p. 136.

competition in 1905 included the following sports disciplines: running at 100 yards, running at 400 m, running at 1 mile, throwing a ball, throwing a disc, throwing a javelin, pole vault, long jump and high jump. Before World War I there were several unsuccessful attempts to organize the Little Palić Olympics.

The assumption is that a large number of sports associations in Subotica that organized several annual competitions at Lake Palić in that period, as well as in the period before World War I confuses interpretation of the time period of these Olympics.

The fact is that the Palić Olympics could have been organized, among other things, with the financial support of Lajoš Vermeš. In 1884, Vermeš funded an elliptical-shaped athletic track 225 meters long. Seven years later he financed the construction of a 500-meter cycling track that cost 100,000 forints. In addition to the track he also built the Ahileon (Fig. 5), a building in which the athletes had free room and board<sup>12</sup>.



**Fig. 5 – Ahileon on Palić**

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<sup>12</sup> Rajić, D., 2018, p.232.

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## THE OLYMPIC COMPETITIONS IN SERBIA

Only a few months after the founding of the IOC in Paris on June 23, 1884, Serbia submitted its application for the membership. However, the then Secretary of the IOC, Ferenc Kemenji, did not support Serbia's membership in the IOC because the Hungarian Olympic Committee opposed it as it had a hostile attitude towards Serbia. This file is located in the Croatian Museum of Physical Culture in Zagreb<sup>13</sup>.

An important incentive for the acceptance of the Olympic idea in Serbia, including more complete knowledge of this great sports event, was provided by a five-day stay of King Aleksandar Obrenović in Athens in 1896 during the first Olympic Games. King Aleksander Obrenovic was invited to the Olympics by the Greek King George. His stay at the Olympic venues was noted in the Serbian press, and the Serbian public attention was directed at the events related to the Olympic Games. Playing the Serbian national anthem and raising the flag of the Kingdom of Serbia at one of the Olympic venues, meant the official presence of the Serbian king at this major sporting event, and thus, in a certain way, the presence of Serbia at the renewed Olympic Games. Certainly, the comprehensive coverage of Serbian newspapers on the King's presence at the Olympic venues in Athens also informed the type, character and specifics of competitions of athletes from around the world in various sports disciplines. Thus, numerous readers were able to inform themselves about the Olympic competitions and the results achieved at the First Olympic Games.

The athlete from Serbia was also present in the competition part of the Games. Momčilo Tapavica (1872-1949) is a native of Nadal near Novi Sad, who won third place in tennis with Greek Konstantinos Paspatis, who was not awarded a medal at the time, but because of that his name is on the IOC revised lists of Games medal winners in the Athens (Fig. 6).

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<sup>13</sup> Srbislav Todorović, Srpski olimpijski komitet (1910-1920), Beograd, SSS, 2003, p. 26.




OLYMPIC GAMES ▾ SPORTS ▾ ATHLETES COUNTRIES RESULTS PHOTOS VIDEOS NEWS ▾ ABOUT ▾ MUSEUM SHOP 🔍

ATHENS 1896

Rectangular Sign

# SINGLES MEN

## CLASSEMENT FINAL

RANK	PARTICIPANT	RESULT	NOTES
6	 John BOLAND GBR		
5	 Dionysios KASDAGLIS GRE		
8	 Momecsillé TAPAVICZA HUN		

**Fig. 6** – Results from the IOC official site in tennis at the 1896 Olympics<sup>14</sup>

At the Games in Paris in 1900, Milan Neralic (1875-1918), born in Slunj, competed for Austria and won a bronze medal in saber discipline. At the 1906 Inter-Olympic Games in Athens, Đuro Stantić, a Serb from Subotica, won the gold Olympic medal in 3000 m race walk (Fig. 7).



**Fig. 7** – Đuro Stantić

<sup>14</sup> International Olympic Committee, <https://www.olympic.org/athens-1896/tennis>.

In London in 1908, two gold medals went to a competitor who originated from this region. Paul Radmilović was a member of the winning swimming relay of Great Britain (4x200m) and a member of the most successful team in the Olympic water polo tournament. These were the last Olympic Games in which Serbian athletes, by chance, won medals under other countries' flags. The reason for the participation of the above athletes under the flags of other countries was that Serbia had not yet been admitted to the "Olympic family".

However, in spite of everything, the visit of King Aleksandar Obrenović to the Olympic Games in Athens in 1896 did not contribute much to the faster development of Olympism and promotion of sports because of the turbulent political events and dynasty conflicts that engulfed Serbia in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. After the stabilization of political situation in Serbia the interest in the development of sports and Olympism in particular rose again.

Serbian officers educated in France in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, where they were introduced to the Olympic Movement, upon returning to the country sought to implement the idea of Olympism in Serbia. They organized various sports competitions which were often called the Olympics. The Olympic clubs are founded in many cities to organize such competitions. The basis for the spread of the Olympic Movement in Serbia was the so-called Serbian Olympiad, which was held in 1908 at Ada Ciganlija in Belgrade. People competed in running, high jump, javelin, discus and hammer throw, rowing, swimming, and so on<sup>15</sup>.

The accepted Olympic idea grew into the Olympic Movement, and athletes wanted to participate in the International Olympic Movement. As a result of these needs and wishes, on February 10, 1910, the Serbian Olympic Club was founded in Belgrade. In the period that followed, the SOC directed sports clubs and organizations towards the inclusion in the international Olympic community.

The most deserving person for the establishment of the Serbian Olympic Club was captain Svetomir Đukić (Fig. 8). Throughout his life he was associated with sports as a competitor and as an organizer of sports competitions. He and other supporters of the Olympic Movement began the realization of the Olympic idea in the Kingdom of Serbia. A comment on the work of the Olympic team since the founding and a report on the work was published in the January issue of the Serbian Knight in 1911<sup>16</sup>.

The most important campaigns of the Serbian Olympic Club were the so-called Olympic matches, which were usually held on Sundays or on important holidays, including: the Easter, Vidovdan, Petrovaradin, Miholj, and other campaigns. These

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<sup>15</sup> Violeta Šiljak, *Olimpizam*, Beograd: Alfa univerzitet, 2013, p. 218.

<sup>16</sup> Srba Janković, *Nastanak i razvoj sportskog novinarstva kod Srba do 1914. godine*, Beograd: Fakultet za menadžment u sportu, Doktorska disertacija. 2008, p. 52.

Olympic shows were in fact territorial celebrations because the procession of people went from a certain place to the sports venues to the sound of military music, where young people gathered and satisfied their sports ambitions. They were published in newspapers and on posters, so this increased the interest of the people even more.



**Fig. 8** – Svetomir Đukić

The tendency of the Serbian Olympic Club was to become a member of the International Olympic Committee and participate in the Olympic Games in Stockholm in 1912. By then, Serbian athletes had won medals under the foreign flags.

Call for Serbia's participation in the Olympic Games in Stockholm in 1912 with great joy brought the concern of choosing the athletes to go to the Games. Through the qualifying competition in Belgrade on May 20 and 27, 1912 Dušan Milošević (100-meter and 200-meter races) Dragutin Tomašević (10,000-meter race and the marathon race) won their right to represent Serbia at the Games in Stockholm.

With the admission to the IOC, the Serbian Olympic Club changed its name to the Olympic Committee of Serbia. It was admitted as the 28<sup>th</sup> National Committee into the composition of the IOC, and Svetomir Đukić was admitted as a permanent member, which he remained until 1948.

The creation of the new country in the region - the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians, when the Slovenian and Croatian nations joined the Kingdom of Serbia, was followed by a need for a unique Olympic Committee. International

recognition of the Olympic Committee of Yugoslavia took place automatically through the inheritance of the Olympic Committee of Serbia, with no specific procedure for admission to the International Olympic Committee. The Olympic Committee of Yugoslavia kept this name until 2003 when it became the Olympic Committee of Serbia and Montenegro. Since 2006, its name has been the Olympic Committee of Serbia – the OCS<sup>17</sup>.

## THE WOMEN'S OLYMPIC GAMES

When the Olympic Games were renewed in 1896, even the founder of the Games, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, did not agree with the participation of women. This issue was the subject of much debate among the members of the IOC. However, in these first Olympics, though unofficially, Greek woman named Melpomeni took part and ran the marathon race in 4 hours and 30 minutes. Women started to participate as late as the Olympic Games in Paris in 1900 in two sports, golf and tennis. At the 1908 Olympic Games in London 36 women took part, while at the Games that were held in 1920 in Antwerp, out of 2669 competitors only 78 were women. In 1924, the IOC decided to grant greater participation of women in the Olympic Games.

It is evident that Coubertin opposed the inclusion of women in the Olympic Movement<sup>18</sup>. At a Congress held in Prague in 1925, Coubertin announced his retirement as president, and slowly tradition as a factor used for the exclusion of women started to weaken. At the next Congress held in Lisbon in 1926, women were admitted in the track and field competitions, and were able to enter the Olympic stadium for the first time in 1928 at the Games in Amsterdam<sup>19</sup>.

However, although Coubertin openly expressed his negative attitude about women's participation in the Olympic Games, he was not the only opponent of women's inclusion. Many decades had to pass for us to be able to speak of an equal activity of women in all aspects of the Olympic Movement (women's water polo has been on the Olympics program since 2000).

It was not until 1981 that the initiative to include women as members of the IOC came from IOC President Juan Antonio Samarán. Following these goals at the IOC Congress in 1994, a decision was made to form the IOC's Working Group on

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<sup>17</sup> Violeta Šiljak, 2013, p. 207.

<sup>18</sup> Violeta Šiljak, 2013, p. 152.

<sup>19</sup> Ivana Parčina, Violeta Šiljak, Aleksandra Perović, Eleni Plakona, Ženske svetske igre. Fizičko vaspitanje i sport kroz vekove, 2014, 1 (2), p. 73.

Women's Sport, which was conducted the following year<sup>20</sup>. In 2004, the working group grew into a committee on women and sports, to which Ms. Anita De Franc, who became a member of the IOC in 1986, contributed most, being elected a member of the Executive Board in 1993, and in 2004 Elected President of the IOC Commission on Women and Sport<sup>21</sup>.

Going back to the period from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, it is clear that women had limitations in taking part in the Olympic Games. The women were able to participate in the Games early on in the events that were socially acceptable for women. Track and field was not an event open to women, and those who took part in it were frowned upon. The IOC refused to consider the participation of women in the 1920 and 1924 Games. It was the decision of the IOC and the International Athletics Amateur Alliance not to deal with the problems of women that led to the creation of the International Women's Sports Federation, which was the main driver of change in women's sports during the 1920s and 1930s<sup>22</sup>. The head of this body was Alice Milliat, who in 1917 founded the Women's Sports Federation of France<sup>23</sup>.

After the FSFI was founded, Milliat repeatedly made her request to the International Olympic Committee to include women in the track and field events at the Olympic Games. As the IOC rejected it yet again, she organized the first Women's Olympic Games in Paris on August 20, 1922. These Games were followed by 15,000 spectators, and experienced such a success that in the August edition of the newspaper *Sports (Le Sportif)* Milliat was compared to Coubertin<sup>24</sup>.

The FSFI became a strong independent body which began to compete with the Olympic Movement. As a result the aforementioned agreement was signed, and the IOC was finally ready to admit some track and field women events to the Games.

Because the IOC did not include all the events in which women competed at their Games into the Olympics, Alice Milliat sent a letter to the IOC, which was read out at a Congress in Oslo in 1935, in which she proposed to exempt all women's events from the Olympic Games because they had their own Games, held every 4 years, and regulated by the FSFI, comprising of all the sports in which

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<sup>20</sup> International Olympic Committee, <https://www.olympic.org/factsheets-and-reference-documents/women-in-the-olympic-movement>.

<sup>21</sup> Violeta Šiljak, Georgios Fragkiadakis, *Žene na Olimpijskim igrama, Godišnjak Fakulteta sporta i fizičkog vaspitanja Univerziteta u Beogradu*, 2005, p. 29.

<sup>22</sup> Parčina i sar. 2014, p. 74.

<sup>23</sup> Anita De Frantz, *The changing role of women in the Olympic Games*. *Olympic Review*, 1997, Vol.26, No.15 p. 18.

<sup>24</sup> Andre Drevon, *Alice Milliat La Passionaria du Sport Feminin*. Vuibert, Paris, 2005, str. 68.

women competed. After considering this proposal, the IOC decided that the decision could be made after consulting with the federations.

These Games were last held in 1934 in London, and they were attended by 200 female contestants from 19 countries competing in 12 events<sup>25</sup>. These Games confirmed the persistence of women led by Alice Milliat in exercising their rights because the Games scheduled to be held in Vienna in 1938 were canceled because in the meantime the women had been allowed to compete in all track and field events at the Olympics.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Based on archival sources, the survey results show that the Little Palić Olympics were held in the period from 1880 to 1905, with occasional interruptions. A number of other competitions which were organized by the numerous Subotica sports clubs in the same period, up to 1914, cannot be attributed to the Palić Olympics. There is an obvious similarity of the Palić Olympics to the other forerunners of the modern Olympic Games, which stems from the fact that all the founders of the Games were inspired by the ancient Olympic competition model. Baron Lajoš Vermeš, the founder of the Palić Olympics, besides the Little Palić Olympics organized a large number of various annual sports competitions. He financed the track and field and cycling tracks in Palić, and built a sports facility where the athletes had free accommodation and food, indicating the existence of the first "Olympic village" back in 1891. A large number of participants, rich competition program and awarding the medals made this sports event prestigious at the time. It is significant that the Palić Olympics originated and were organized 16 years before the first Olympic Games were held in Athens in 1896.

The stay of the 20-year-old Serbian king in Athens in 1896 indirectly played a very important role in informing the public about the sports competitions at the Olympic Games. Press reports that followed the mission of King Aleksandar significantly influenced the introduction and acceptance of the Olympic idea, and thus the rise of the Olympic Movement in the Kingdom of Serbia because they informed, introduced, aroused interest in, and encouraged young people in Serbia to adopt and further develop the Olympic idea. After the dynastic changes, the Kingdom of Serbia seriously dedicated additional time and effort to spreading the Olympic idea by organizing a number of competitions which in their name contained the adjective 'Olympic'. Svetomir Đukić, who is considered the founder of the Serbian Olympic Movement, and his followers were devoted to their task of

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<sup>25</sup> Parčina i sar. 2014, p. 80.

spreading the Olympic idea through the organization of competitions and the inclusion of a large number of young people in sports. Serbia was admitted to the IOC in 1912. Although today there are certain conditions that a country must meet to become a member of the IOC, they are much more feasible and easier than at the beginning of the modern Olympic Movement. With its membership in the IOC Serbia enabled the states of the newly formed country of Yugoslavia to become members, which they remained after the disintegration of Yugoslavia.

The role of Alice Milliat in the more equal acceptance of women in the track and field competitions at the Olympics in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century is undeniable. By organizing the Women's World (Olympic) Games and establishing the Federation, Milliat managed to overcome the resistance of Pierre de Coubertin and allow women to participate equally in the Olympic Games, as well as for the IAAF to take women's track and field seriously. Thanks to the effort of Alice Milliat and her collaborators, the IOC was forced to include women in the track and field competitions at the Olympic Games.

The archival materials complete the historical facts that show the importance of these Games, giving them the opportunity to be included among the already well-known forerunners of the Olympic Games.

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## **ТАКМИЧЕЊА КОЈА СУ ДОПРИНЕЛА НАСТАНКУ И ШИРЕЊУ ОЛИМПИЈСКОГ ПОКРЕТА КРАЈЕМ XIX И ПОЧЕТКОМ XX ВЕКА**

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### **САЖЕТАК**

Оснивање модерних Олимпијских игара се може сматрати логичним следом Игара које су им претходиле. Котсволдске, Венлочке, Грчке олимпијске игре, познате су као претече модерних Олимпијских игара. Предмет овог истраживања се односи на такмичења која су такође допринела настанку и ширењу Олимпијског покрета крајем XIX и почетком XX века. Циљ истраживања је да се укаже на значај одржавања Палићких олимпијада, Олимпијских утакмица у Србији и Женских олимпијских игара које су захваљујући њиховим организаторима у том историјском моменту допринели у одређеној мери ширењу Олимпијског покрета. Барон Лајош Вермеш, чувени спортиста и спортски мецена је међу многим другим спортским такмичењима био оснивач Палићких олимпијада, које су се у тадашњој Аустроугарској на језеру Палић, редовно одржавале у периоду од 1880-1906. године. Почетком XX века у Србији, официри који су се школовали у Француској, где су се упознали са Олимпијским покретом, по повратку у земљу почињу да организују бројна и разноврсна такмичења која у свом називу имају придев „олимпијска“. Истрајност у раду на олимпијској идеји убрзо доводи до оснивања Српског олимпијског клуба 1910. године и захваљујући капетану Светомиру Ђукићу укључењу у МОК 1912. године. У периоду између два светска рата Алис Милиат је напорно радила на равноправном укључењу жена у Олимпијски покрет. Вишеструко одбијани захтеви за равноправно укључење жена у такмичарски програм ОИ уродили су плодом након организовања Женских олимпијских игара 1922. године у Паризу. Резултати истраживања требало би да укажу на значај ових Игара, дајући им перспективу да се уврсте међу већ познате претече Олимпијских игара.

**Кључне речи:** Палићке олимпијаде, олимпијска такмичења у Србији, Женске олимпијске игре

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## СОДЕЙСТВИЕ РАСШИРЕНИЮ ОЛИМПИЙСКОГО ДВИЖЕНИЯ В 19-20 ВЕКАХ

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### АННОТАЦИЯ

Организацию современных Олимпийских игр можно считать логическим продолжением предшествовавших им Игр. Котсуолдские, Венлокские и греческие Олимпийские игры известны как предшественники современных Олимпийских игр. Предмет настоящего исследования связан с соревнованиями, которые также способствовали подъему и распространению олимпийского движения в конце XIX – начале XX веков. Цель исследования – указать на важность организации Олимпийских игр в Паличе, олимпийских соревнований в Сербии и женских Олимпийских игр, которые, благодаря их организаторам, в тот исторический момент в определенной степени способствовали расширению олимпийского движения. Барон Лайош Вермес, известный спортсмен и спортивный меценат, был основателем Олимпийских игр в Паличе, которые среди многих других спортивных соревнований регулярно проводились в Австро-Венгрии на озере Палич в период с 1880 по 1906 год. В начале 20-го века в Сербии офицеры, получившие образование и испытавшие на себе олимпийское движение во Франции, после возвращения в страну стали организовывать многочисленные и разнообразные соревнования, в названиях которых использовалось прилагательное "Олимпийский". Упорная работа по реализации олимпийской идеи вскоре привела к созданию сербского Олимпийского клуба в 1910 году, а благодаря капитану Светомиру Джукичу этот клуб был включен в состав МОК в 1912 году. В период между двумя мировыми войнами Алиса Миллиат сделала все возможное, чтобы вовлечь женщин в олимпийское движение. Многократно отклонявшиеся просьбы о равноправном включении женщин в программу Олимпийских соревнований, наконец, дали свои результаты после организации женских Олимпийских игр в Париже в 1922 году. Результаты исследований должны показать важность этих игр, дать им шанс быть включенными в олимпийские игры, как уже известные предшествующие им игры.

**Ключевые слова:** Олимпиада в Паличе, олимпийские соревнования в Сербии, женские Олимпийские игры.

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