

# Humanist and Visionary

With great interest Pierre de Coubertin pursued social-political developments and scientific discoveries. All his effort, his feeling and his working were characterized by an open mind. Due to the enormous scope of his knowledge and the variety of the topics he worked on, he can be considered as an inheritor of the great encyclopaedists of the 18th century. His talent in scientific topics is astonishing, both as a popular author and as a scholar, who knows how to share his knowledge. In many sectors of life he was a meaningful forerunner, precursor and revolutionary of his epoch. Even one century later many of his visions have not lost relevance.

## Friendship among Nations

*"Every four years the restored Olympic Games must give universal youth the opportunity for a happy and fraternal meeting which will gradually contribute to removing the ignorance of nations concerning their common interest: an ignorance which encourages old resentments, accumulates misunderstandings and precipitates events towards savage conflict."*

## World Peace

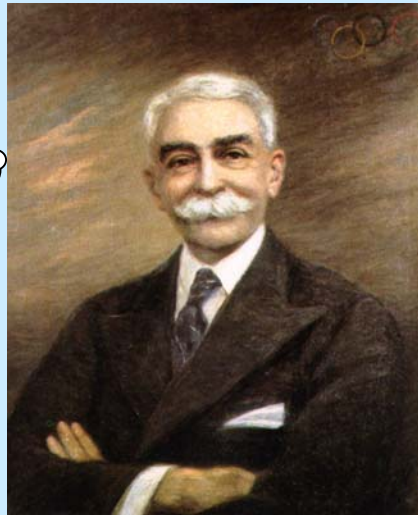
*"Let us export rowers, runners, fencers! Therein lies the free-exchange of the future and, the day it is introduced into the customs of old Europe, the cause of peace will have received new and powerful support."*

## Reformation of the Educational System

*"The indispensable necessity of Physical Culture and Culture of Character does not exclude the formation of intelligence and sensibility. It is a question of a harmonious whole."*

## Social Justice

As revolutionary for his time he proposes the creation of Popular Universities, in 1906 he founds a society for workers' sport and demands: *"Open the doors of the Temple to admit everyone to Culture..."*



## Sport for All

*"All types of sport for everyone; that slogan will undoubtedly be called wildly utopian. It matters little. I have weighed it and examined it at length: I know it is both possible and precise. All my remaining strength and years shall be employed in making it triumph."*

This man - self-willed, creative and enthusiastic - whose personal motto is: *"voir loin, parler franc, agir ferme"* ("see afar, speak frankly, act firmly"), this rebel against conventional opinion, to whom *"success is no purpose, but a means to seek for the higher"*, deserves the title "humanist".