

An Enthusiastic Sportsman

Pierre de Coubertin was brought up in an aristocratic family. From early childhood he was dedicated to sports. He himself did several sports, such as riding, fencing, tennis and biking, which was exceptional at that time. At the end of the 19th century sport was not yet modern. Several opponents even tried to prevent its integration into society. Among them were:

1. The parents, who were afraid of consumption and bad morals, and who were also encouraged in their resistance by the catholic church.

2. Doctors saw in sport a danger to health.

3. Especially the educationalists were worried about this "ferment of liberty", They were afraid of sport coming into the French college, where there was strict Napoleonic discipline.



Pierre de Coubertin loved hiking in the mountains.



Coubertin playing tennis

Coubertin never ceased to promote his enthusiasm for sports to the young.

Therefore he organized the first school contest on July 4th, where only two schools took part.



The sports enthusiast, Coubertin, on his bike "Nini patte en l' air", in English "Nini, one paw in the air"



1936, one year prior to his death, Coubertin in his boat "Yole" on Lake Geneva.