

Pierre de Coubertin

A Talented Artist

Pierre de Coubertin as the youngest child of a wealthy noble family received a classical, traditional education. His mother, Marie-Marcelle, a very well-educated and cultivated woman, succeeded in early years to awaken her son's interest in the Greek and Latin languages as well as an attachment to nature and his Norman home. A large part of his childhood he spent at Castle Mirville, an idyllic place in Normandy.

Music

Coubertin played the piano and improvised pieces of music. He was a great admirer of Beethoven and his "9th symphony".



"Oh Sport, plaisir des Dieux!"

"Oh Sport, tu es la Joie!"

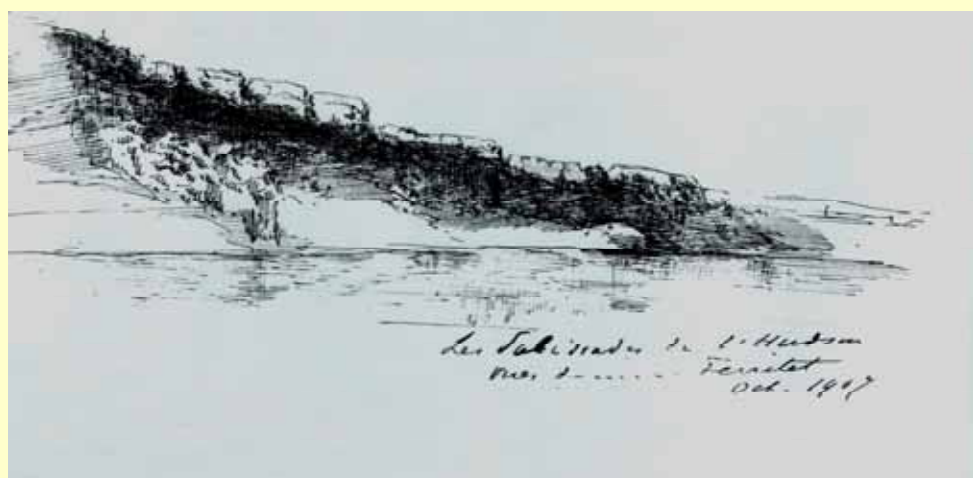
"Oh Sport, tu es la Beauté!"

Literature

In 1912 he wrote "Ode to sport" – a literary masterpiece, for which he won the Olympic gold medal for literature.

"Oh Sport, tu es la Justice!"

Coubertin's father, Charles Fredy de Coubertin, was a respected painter, who especially became famous for his portraits. Therefore it was not surprising that young Pierre developed artistic talent.



On his travels he did not take photographs but drew his impressions as sketches in a book. (here: the waterfront of the Hudson River)

Painting

He made pen-and-ink drawings and painted houses.



Castle Mirville, painted by Pierre de Coubertin