

# Pierre de Coubertin

## An Educator and Friend of Youth

The educational system, pedagogics and the shaping of a citizen are in the centre of Pierre de Coubertin's mind. He sees himself as an "educator". Already as a young human being he realizes the necessity of an extensive educational reform in France. In the foreground of his considerations is youth, its body, mind and character which needs to be strengthened.

Inspired by the work of the headmaster of Rugby, the famous English public school, Thomas Arnold, whose work he admired a lot, he recognizes that youth needs to make its own experiences. In order to do so, sport is imperative for education and forming of character. Therefore Coubertin first concentrates on the introduction of school sports at French schools. 50 years of his life he dedicated to reform the educational system. His educational work is written on 15.000 printed pages, where he tries to find solutions to school questions and educational programmes, which are still up to date today. Coubertin himself calls his pedagogical work an "unfinished symphony".



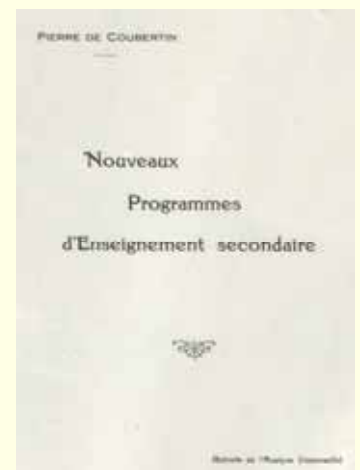
In 1925 he founded the Universal Pedagogical Union, the results of which – written in four different languages – cause a sensation due to originality and realism.



The Municipal elections on May 6<sup>th</sup> 1888 for the citizens of Mirville



Coubertin, "A 1915 Decalogue: To the Youth of France"



"New programmes for higher education"



At a radio broadcast to the American youth in 1934.

In 1890 Coubertin calls for a radical reform of the educational system. He says that *"no political, economic or social reform can be fruitful without first a reform of pedagogics"*.

Until his death he devoted himself to the educational work and encouragement of youth.