

Olympics Ancient and Modern: Exhibitions, Conferences, Workshops

June-September 2012

Various Locations

2012 is a great year for athletics. And for the history of athletics. The whole concept of peaceful international competition through sport has its origin in the ancient world. To celebrate the return of the games to London after 64 years cultural bodies across London are offering a rich programme of events devoted to sport and competition, ancient and modern. Through exhibitions, public lectures, conferences, the programme looks not just at events and sites but at the idea of competition, the pursuit of excellence, motivation, rewards and prizes; it the way the ancient games have travelled across space and time, from a small site in ancient Greece to worlds then undreamt of. We look at the rebirths and revivals, at the different shapes the original idea has taken in different periods and cultures down to today.

Programme of Events:

1 June – 31 July	Open Exhibition Theme: Ideal bodies, ancient and modern Location: Petrie Museum
Tuesday 12 June	Public Lecture Speaker: Angela Teja 'Roman Sport' Location: Italian Cultural Institute
Wednesday 13 June	John Barron Memorial Lecture Speaker: Maria Bouya, title (tba) Location: Institute of Classical Studies, Senate House.
14-15 June	Conference Sport and competition in Greece and Rome Location: British Museum, BP Lecture Theatre.

Speakers:

Laura Ambrosini (ISCIMA) Sports in ancient Etruria
Chris Carey (UCL) Athletics and ideology
Ian Jenkins (British Museum) The Discobolus
Jason König (University of St Andrews) Philostratus' *Gymnasticus*: How to write, in the Roman Empire, a history of the Olympics
Leslie Kurke (University of California, Berkeley) Athletes and (as)Dedications
Vivienne Lo (UCL) Perfect bodies: sports medicine and immortality
Stephen Miller (University of California, Berkeley) Nemea: ancient stadium, modern games
Zahra Newby (University of Warwick) Sport and Identity in the Art of the Roman Empire
Robin Osborne (Cambridge) The origins of the non-competitive sports day
Olga Palagia (University of Athens) From gods to exiles: the afterlives of Olympic victors

Otto Schantz (University of Koblenz) Reception of Ancient Greece in Modern Olympic Narratives
Reinhard Senff (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Athens) Ancient horse races and the hippodrome at Olympia
Nicholas Stampolidis (University of Crete) The Motya charioteer
Judith Swaddling (British Museum) Honouring Athletes
Oliver Taplin (University of Oxford) Competition and the spread of Greek theatre
Angela Teja, theme (tbc)
Hans Van Wees (UCL) Fighting over the Olympics: war and games in archaic and classical Greece

Thursday 14 June (evening): Panel discussion

Location: UCL (Open to the public)

Speakers: Paul Cartledge, Bettany Hughes, Margaret Mountford, Edith Hall and Michael Scott

Friday 15 June (evening): Public lecture

Location : British Museum, BP Lecture Theatre

Speakers: Dr Nigel Spivey, Ancient Athletics, title (tbc)

Prof Mary Beard, The Much Wenlock Olympics

Monday 18 June Conference

Theme: Athletic foundations: identity, heritage and sport

Location: Open University London Regional Centre

Tuesday 19 June Public Lecture

Theme: Fit Bodies

Location: Petrie Museum

Wednesday 20 June Public Lecture

Theme: Training, cheating, winning, praising: athletes and shows in texts from Roman Egypt

Location: British Academy

Saturday 23 June Study Day

Theme: Sport across ancient cultures

Location: British Museum

Saturday 30 June Public Colloquium

Theme: Representing victory

Location: KCL

6 July – 22 Sept. Exhibition.

Theme: Stadia: Sport and Vision in Architecture.

Location: Sir John Sloane's Museum.

The programme now has a dedicated website, which will be updated regularly, at
<http://www Romansociety.org/events/olympics-2012.html>