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1 The marathon start at the bridge in Marathon

The athletes had been instructed to be at the starting line half hour earlier. It was raining. The starter, Major Papadiamantopoulos arranged the athletes in rows that had been decided at an earlier lottery drawing. Seventeen runners assembled on the Marathon Bridge, 12 Greeks and 5 foreigners. (England). The race started in the rain on Friday, March 29, 1896, at 2 p.m.

The first three rows were formed by five athletes each, the fourth by two. The distance between two rows was set at 1.5 meters.

First row: 1. D. Deliyiannis - National Athletic Club of Athens. 2. E. Flack, Australian, of the Athletic Club of Victoria. 3. N. Belokas - National Athletic Club of Athens. 4. Lermusiaux, French, Racing Club of Paris. 5. D. Christopoulos, Gymnastic Company of Patras.

Second row: 1. Kellner, Hungarian from the Gymnastics Club of Budapest. 2. Ch. Vasilekos, independent participation. 3. A. Blake, U.S. from the Athletic Club of Boston. 4. E. Gerakaris, „Ethnikos“ Athletic Club of Athens.

Third row: 1. S. Lagoudakis, Greek listed as French. 2. G. Lavrentis, from Marousi. 3. I. Vrettos. 4. E. Papasymeon. 5. G. Kafetzis.

Fourth row: 1. Sp. Louis, from Marousi. 2. E. Massouris, from Marousi.

Drawing from the newspaper „Ta Olympia“ No. 20 of March 23, 1896, front page.

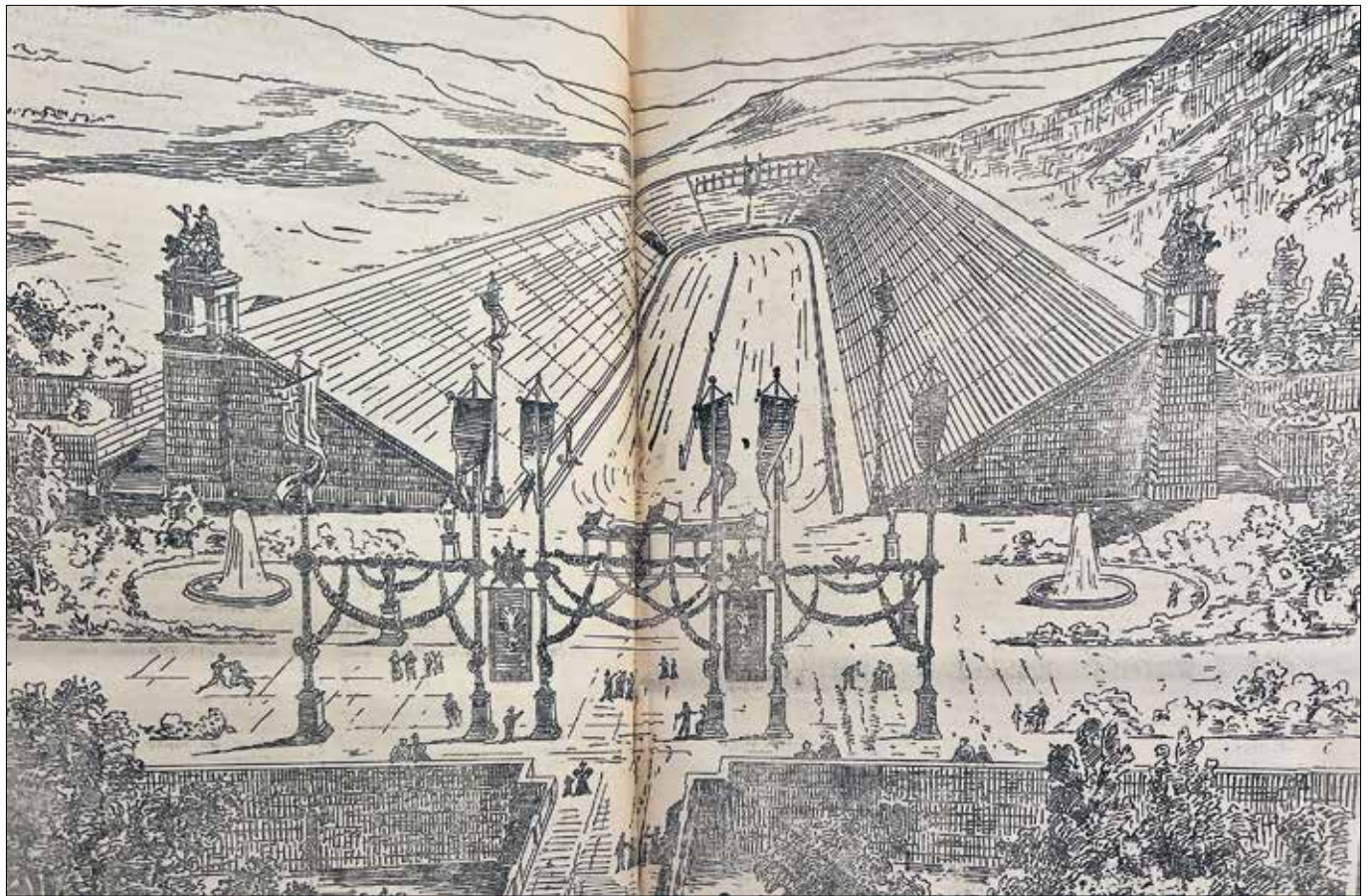
2 Spiridon Louis Victory Medal of 1896

Spiridon Louis' silver winner's medal can be seen in the Marathon Museum in the city of Marathon.

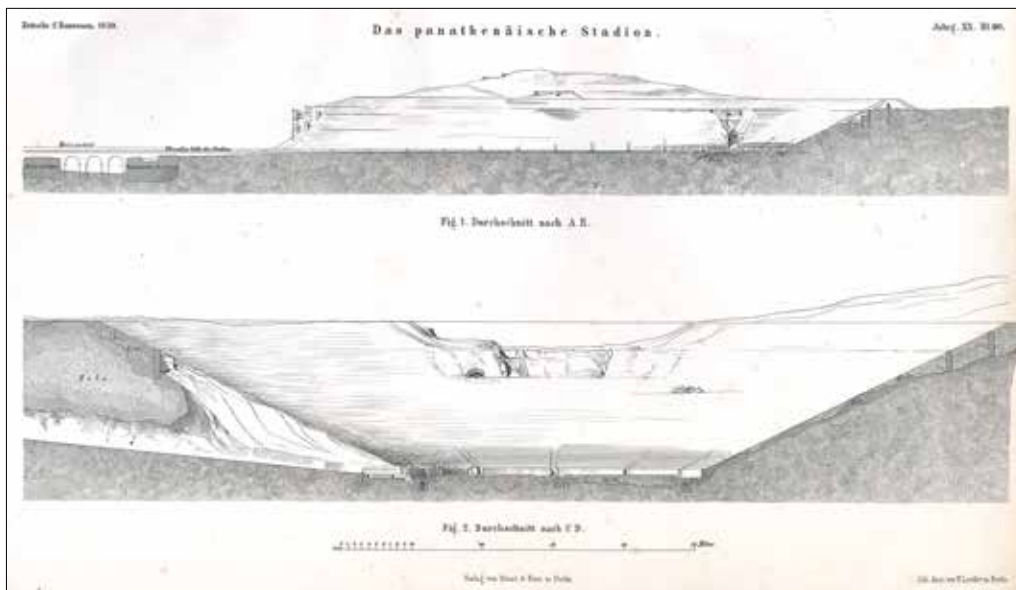
Photo: Gerd Steins, November 12, 2016.



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3 The Panathenaic Stadium in Athens

Overall view of the stadium.

Drawing from the newspaper „Ta Olympia“, 1896.

4 The Panathenaic Stadium in Athens

Longitudinal sections of the stadium.

Zeitschrift für Bauwesen, 1870.

5 Along the Marathon Route 1896

Excerpt from the daily newspaper “Ta Olympia”, 1896.



6 The Panathenaic Stadium in Athens

Stadium floor plan.

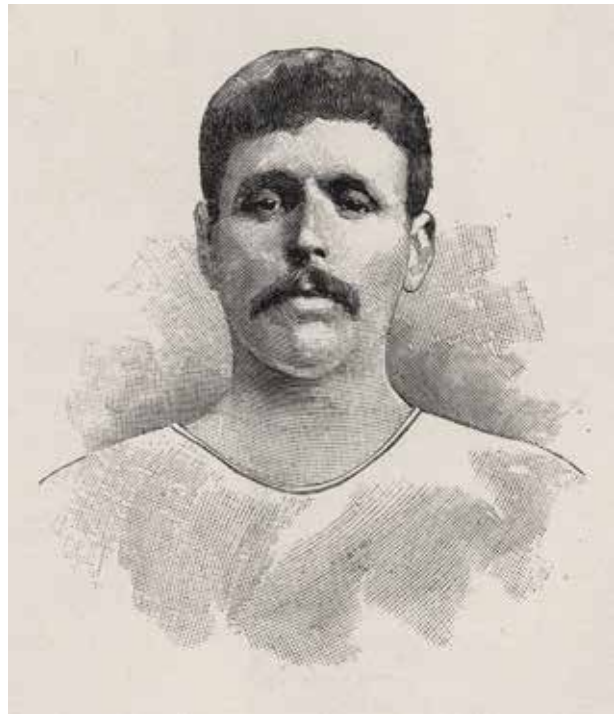
Zeitschrift für Bauwesen, 1870.



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7 Ancient Vase

Black-figure Skyphos or Lambros Cup presented by M.J. Lambros to Louis, victor in the Marathon Race.

Official Report of the 1896 Olympic Games in Athens.

8 Awards Ceremony at the Athens Stadium 1896

Spiridon Louis shows off his many trophies.

Official Report of the 1896 Olympic Games in Athens

9 Spiridon Louis

Portrait of the winner of the first Olympic marathon.

Official Report of the 1896 Olympic Games in Athens.

10 Awards Ceremony at the Athens Stadium

Distribution of prizes by H.M. King George I.

Official Report of the 1896 Olympic Games in Athens.

11 Awards Ceremony at the Athens Stadium

Triumph procession of all the Champions round the track of the Stadium.

Official Report of the 1896 Olympic Games in Athens.



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12 Louis House in Maroussi

For many years, no one knew who was in possession of the 1896 Breal Cup. In 1989, three German sports historians visited the descendants of Spiridon Louis in Maroussi. From left to right: Heiner Gillmeister, Eutychia Louis (Spiridon's great-granddaughter), Andreas Höfer, Manuel Louis (Spiridon's great-grandson), Karl Lennartz, Katharina Louis (Spiridon's great-granddaughter).

13 Louis House in Maroussi

Spiridon's great-grandson Manuel presents the original Breal Cup from 1896.

14 Breal-Cup 1

The Cup belongs to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, which acquired it at an auction held on April 18, 2012 by Christie's in London.

Photo: Gerd Steins.

15 Breal-Cup 2

The silver replica of the Breal Cup, which was presented to AIMS on its 25th anniversary and subsequently donated to the Marathoneum.

Photo: Gerd Steins.

16 Breal-Cup 3

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation funded the construction of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center in Athens, which was designed by Renzo Piano and serves as the new home of the National Library and the National Opera. The Breal Cup is on display there in a special exhibition case.

Photo: Gerd Steins.



Left: Alfred Schiff (1863-1939). Photo: Deutsches Archäologisches Institut.
Right: Carl Diem (1882 - 1962).

The first Olympic Torch Relay is organised on the occasion of the Olympic Games Berlin, 1936. The Planning and Organisation is ascribed to Carl Diem, the essential research for this was carried out by archaeologist Alfred Schiff.

25.8.1931 „On the birthday of a new plan“: Carl Diem took this notes into the guestbook of his friend Walter F. Kleffel.

31.7.1933 according to Carl Diem, his idea gains full approval of Pierre de Coubertin and the joyful approval of Baillet-Latour during a conversation.

18.5.1934 Proposal and approval of the plan, during the 1934 meeting of the International Olympic Committee in Athens.

22.5.1934 During the passage from Athens to Olympia Carl Diem and his companion stay in Tegea. It is likely that they discussed the torch relay race. This makes the Tegeats wrongly believe that the idea has born there.

23.5.1934 Final clarification of the organisational details and finetuning with the Hellenic Organisation Committee (HOC), during a banquet in Olympia. The HOC president hands over an olive-branch with a blue-white ribbon to the mayor of Olympia. This olive-branch should be send on 1936 with a courier to Berlin, like a consecration from the homeland. Subsequently is it being transported by a Lufthansa Airplane from Athens to Berlin on occasion of the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games 1936.

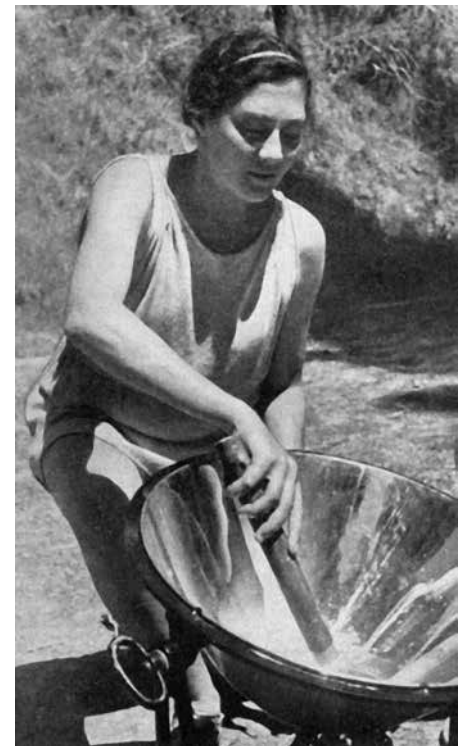
17.8.1934 The Tegeats mount a plaque on the place in Tegea where Carl Diem and his campaigns had stayed.

20.7.1936 Olympia, 12 am; the lighting of the Olympic flame by priestess Koula Pratsika. She lights the fire by placing a piece of wood in a concave lens which concentrates rays from the Sun. [Fig. 14] In a before setted route the flame was delivered to the Opening ceremony of the Olympic Summer Games Berlin, 1936. [Fig. 12] The first torchbearer of the very first torch relay is a Greek: Konstantin Kondylis.

1.8.1936 Berlin, 5 pm; the last torchbearer is Fritz Schilgen, a German athlete. He lights the bowl with the Olympic Fire on the Olympic stadium in Berlin. Berlin, 5:25 pm; Spiridon Louis, the winner of the marathon run Athens 1896, hands over the olive-branch to the German chancellor, Adolf Hitler. [Fig. 19]



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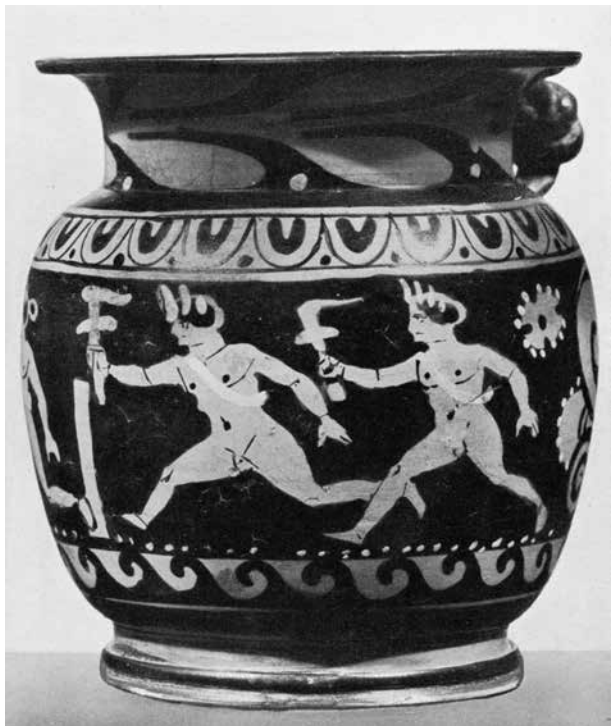
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17 Olympic Torch Relay

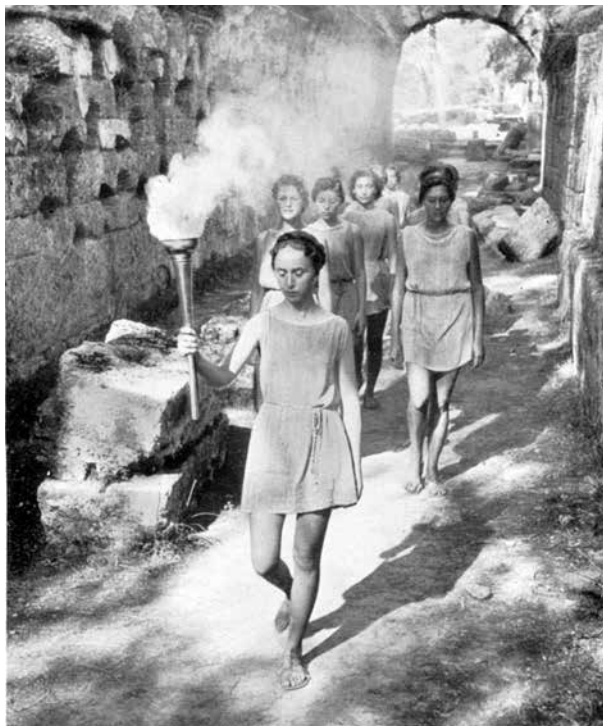
Poster showing the route of the first Olympic torch relay from Olympia to Berlin. Distance table for the seven countries to be traversed.

18 The lighting of the Olympic flame

The Olympic flame was lit in ancient Olympia on July 20, 1936, using a parabolic mirror.



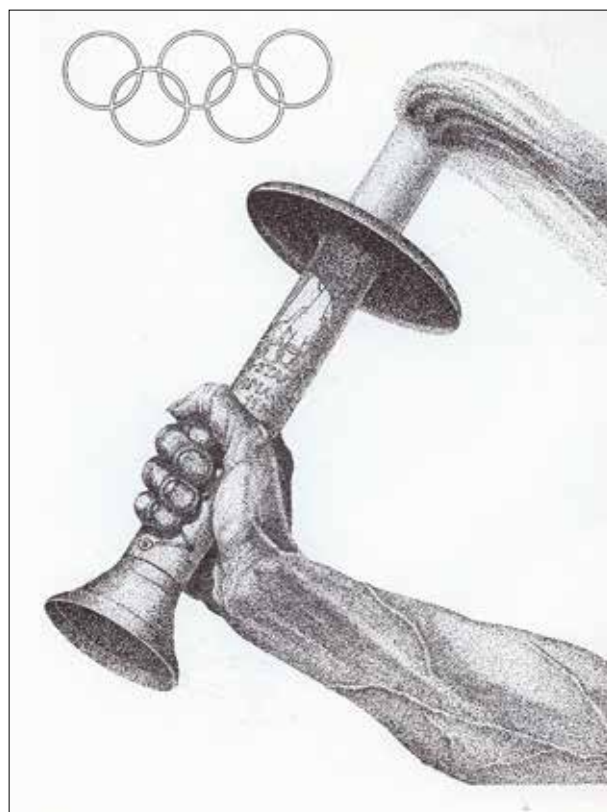
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19 Bowl with torch relay

The front of the vessel depicts three naked youths carrying torches. This bowl, from the Karlsruhe Museum, was displayed in the exhibition "Sport of the Hellenes—Exhibition of Greek Art" held in Berlin on the occasion of the 1936 Olympic Games.

20 The Olympic Flame

Greek girls carried the Olympic flame in Olympia to a fire altar, where Konstantin Kondylis, the first runner, lit his torch.

21 The Olympic flame arrives in Germany

On July 31, 1936, the Olympic flame reached Germany. At the former German-Czechoslovak border (the Bahratal-Peterswald/Petrovice crossing), Czechoslovak runners handed the torch over to Paul Goldammer (left), the first German runner.

22 The 1936 Olympic torch

Drawing of the torchbearer in the call for entries for the torch relay.



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23 Spiridon Louis Visits Berlin in 1936

To accompany the torch relay, an olive branch was to be carried from the Olympic Grove to Berlin as a symbol of peace. Instead of being carried in the relay, however, the olive branch was flown to Berlin, and Spiridon Louis was tasked with presenting it to German government officials at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin.

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Spiridon Louis is recognized on the street and signs autographs.

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On August 1, 1936, after visiting the “Unter den Linden Memorial” — now known as the Neue Wache — Spiridon Louis departed.

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Autograph card signed by Spiridon Louis on the street in Berlin in August 1936.



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27 Olympic Flame on “Unter den Linden”

The Olympic flame is being carried from the Lustgarten to the Olympic Stadium. Bredel, the 92nd German torchbearer from the Hamburg Police Sports Club, is currently on Unter den Linden, just before the Brandenburg Gate.



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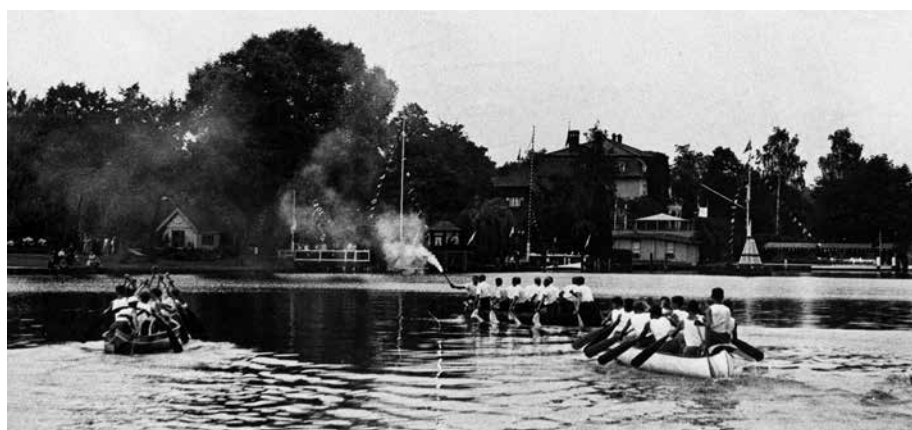
Das Olympische Feuer wird vom Lustgarten nach dem Reichssportfeld getragen.



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28 The Olympic Flame at the Olympic Stadium

Fritz Schilgen, the 104th and final German runner at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin on his way to the cauldron.

29 The Olympic Torch in Kiel

The sailing competitions were held in Kiel in 1936, so the Olympic flame was rowed to a sailing ship in Kiel Bay.

30 The Olympic Flame in Berlin-Grünau

The rowing and canoeing competitions will take place on the Grünau regatta course. The Olympic flame will be carried to the regatta grandstand by canoe.

31 The Olympic Torch in Kiel

A sailing ship is anchored in Kiel Bay, with the Olympic flame burning at the top of its mast.

32 Certificate of Participation in the Torch Relay

A total of 3,075 runners took part in the torch relay on the main route from Olympia to Berlin. Including the additional special relay teams and escort runners, a total of 3,422 runners received a certificate for their participation.

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“The Run of his Life”



The 1936 Olympic torch

The torches consist of two parts: 1. torch handle, 2. conical wooden section on which the red-painted burner is mounted. The conical wooden section is screwed into the torch handle using a twisting motion. The torch handle was designed by Walter E. Lemcke and is made of V2A stainless



steel from Friedrich Krupp A.G. (Essen); height: 27.2 cm, diameter: 15.5 cm. The shaft features a stylized depiction of the over 3,000 km route from Olympia (Greece) to Berlin. Above the route is engraved an eagle with folded wings, holding the Olympic rings in its talons. Below the eagle is the inscription:

„Fackel-Staffellauf / Olympia-Berlin / 1936“. On the base is engraved the dedication: „Als Dank dem Träger / Organisations-Komitee für die XI. Olympiade Berlin 1936“.

The torch handle shown here is on loan from the Eifrig estate.



For the 1936 Olympic Games, **Siegfried Eifrig** (6 Feb 1910 – 23 June 2008, SC Charlottenburg), who was never a member of the NSDAP, was given the honour of bearing the Olympic torch (1) for the stretch of the torch relay ending at the Lustgarten.

The runner before me turned from Wilhelmstrasse onto Lindenstrasse, Eifrig narrates. It was August 1, 1936. He passed the torch to me on the middle promenade in front of the Russian Embassy. (2) The flame burned on a magnesium alloy. I was told that it would even burn under water. The fire sizzled loudly. The 26-year-old ran behind the support vehicle. Very slowly. Five minutes were planned for the 1000 metres. He wore a white shirt with a Swastika on the front; the accompanying runners wore shirts with the logo from their club, SC Charlottenburg. The group crossed Friedrichstrasse, and ran past Humboldt University, which was then called Friedrich Wilhelm University.

People filled the sidewalks from the street to the walls of the buildings – there were



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hundreds of thousands. Suddenly it was silent. The area in front of the New Guard House (Neue Wache) was blocked off. Eifrig stopped briefly, lowered his torch. I made my salute. (3) Then he continued running. (4, 5) A few ashes fell onto my skin and I got burnt a little, he said.

After passing the Palace Bridge (Schlossbrücke), he finally reached the Lustgarten, where the National Socialists had organised a large youth rally. Flags with Swastikas lined the square between the palace and Old Museum. In addition to the participants of an international youth camp, 28,600 members of the Hitler Youth (Hitlerjugend) and the League of German Girls (Bund Deutscher Mädel) filled the square. They all awaited Siegfried Eifrig with the flame. Propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels was speaking, but the runner did not understand a single word as he approached. It all simply raced past me.

The support vehicle had set the pace so that Siegfried Eifrig would turn into the aisle between the rows of youth just as Goebbels spoke his final words: "Glow flame, glow, and never burn out." ("Glüh Flamme, glüh, und verlösche nie.") Then Eifrig lit the urns on two altars with his torch and exited the Lustgarten. (6, 7, 8)

... it was naturally a propaganda event from the Nazis – but what nation does not exhibit itself at the Olympic Games? (...) I never experienced any benefits due to my participation in that relay.



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The text in red is taken from an interview that Siegfried Eifrig gave to the Berlin newspaper „Der Tagesspiegel“ in July 2004.

World Athletics Heritage Plaque for the Sports History Forum in Berlin

The Sports History Forum in Berlin has been awarded the highest recognition by the world athletics governing body World Athletics, comparable in importance to the Nobel Prize or the World Cultural Heritage designation.

For Forum President Gerd Steins and his team, the City of Berlin, and the founding fathers, the World Athletics Heritage Plaque is an outstanding tribute to the decades-long work of documenting and preserving the history of athletics and running.

"With the award of the World Athletics Heritage Plaque, we honor the more than 70 years of work of the Sports History Forum in Berlin, which methodically engages in researching, preserving, and promoting the history of running," said Sebastian Coe, President of World Athletics.

The Forum is located in the "House of German Sports" in Berlin's Olympic Park, where it houses its collections, including an image archive and the extensive marathon library of the late Dr. David Martin from Atlanta, USA. The history of the Sports History Forum, which also includes the AIMS Marathon – Museum of Running, began in 1954 with the founding of the Willy Kohlmey Circle in West Berlin and, under the leadership of its president, Gerd Steins, is supported by many passionate enthusiasts such as Horst Milde, Martina Behrendt, Thomas Willaschek, and Dagmar Beer.

"My colleagues and I are delighted to be awarded the Heritage Plaque, which will encourage us to make further efforts for the Marathon Museum in Berlin," said Gerd Steins in an initial statement. *"We would like to thank everyone in Germany and abroad who has supported the Marathon Museum since 1994 with many objects, advice, assistance, and donations. Without this many years of tremendous support, the Marathoneum would not have been possible!"*

Steins also thanked the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS), which has supported the Sports History Forum since 2008. The "AIMS



Left: Gerd Steins, Right: Pierre-Jean Vazel.
Photo: Jürgen Engler, Berlin.

Marathon-Museum of Running," also known as the "Marathoneum," is maintained by the Forum and houses countless running treasures, including a milestone from the Olympic Marathon at the 1908 London Olympic Games, where the current marathon distance of 26 miles and 385 yards was first run.

The World Athletics Heritage Plaque, which honors the long-standing work of the Forum for Sports History and its founder, the Willy Kohlmey Circle, was presented by Pierre-Jean Vazel, Director of the World Athletics Archive & Museum. The occasion was a three-day conference hosted by the Sports History Forum on the topic of "German Sports Museums, Archives, and Collections. Strengthening the Memory of Sports. Promoting Sports History Discourse."

The World Athletics Heritage Plaque will be permanently displayed in the colonnade in the atrium of the "House of German Sports."

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