

DATA REGARDING THE BIRTH OF SPORTS IN THE FRANCO-FLEMISH REGION OF THE MIDDLE AGES

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Abstract: *Over the centuries, the practice of sports has evolved in a dynamic way, which led to its current state as an integral part of our society. However, the history of physical education in the Middle Ages period is controversial.*

The traditions of chivalry and tournaments often took the spotlight of historians and readers, sadly leaving much of the celebrations, games and exercises practiced by ordinary people, which were most often very imaginative, dynamic, cheerful and appealing in a shade.

This paper attempts to highlight the fact that the Franco-Flemish region can be considered the "cradle" of modern sports, especially the majority of games. So in order to locate the origins, we present the beginnings of sports such as the cricket, golf, ball games.

Key words: *game, sport, Middle Ages, modern, player.*

1. Introduction

The study of facts showing the development of physical education and sport mainly from fifteenth century, contribute to the understanding of the present and glimpse the future direction of the sports.

In this paper, we present the data and information collected from the literature of authors listed in the bibliography, where we present some of the history of modern sports ball games today, their origin and their evolution in time and space.

The role and importance, the roots of most of them are not found in ancient

Greece so as would be expected, but in France the feudal Middle Ages, specifically the Franco-Flemish region. It is hockey on grass and ice, cricket, football, golf, badminton, squash, Basque pelota, field and table tennis etc.

The technique is described in many textbooks of game most French. In England and Germany the game is held by French methods. Many games in France and Germany had existed for many centuries in their own very interesting forms. Of course apart from France, ball games were practiced with the same pleasure and the same passion in other countries, giving the opportunity to a rich

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literature. In England the ball game development followed the same trend as in France.

2. Work Material and methods

The methods used are: documentary study of literature, theoretical analysis and synthesis of information. Documentation theoretical sought to identify and review the state of knowledge issues addressed. The main method used was the historical method that the general nature of the application method, having a double benefit in that it is also particular method of empirical and analytical research.

3. Results and Discussion

"La Soule" [6] was a very old and popular game played by the French even before the reign of Louis the Saint, it is considered an ancestor of football, but not only, as we shall see later, it is the origin of other sports too.

'La Soule' exists in two forms, "La Soule" itself, where players wore leggings to protect legs and "Soule lacrosse" in which the medieval peasant was using the shepherd bat. "Soul à la crosse" is of course the ancestor of modern hockey (on grass) and ice hockey's, but this game has evolved so that today we encounter it as a modern game: cricket, the national game of Great Britain.

Valuable information about the game in France have been found in a book "Les jeux avec uns des Garçons jeunes et une explication devise morale" (game the young accompanied by an explanation and a moral motto) one specimen (a remake made in Paris 1807) is preserved in the museum of the Swedish ball sports [3].

This game is described as " one of the players is next to two pebbles found each other at a distance of about 1 m in this position armed with a wooden paddle rounded at one end, he must prevent his opponent, at a distance, to pass through the two stones and you need to keep away as far as possible [3]. A picture showing the description of the game is on upholstery extracted from "L' Histoire de Gombaud et Mace" in 1600 (and indeed one hundred years later would be borrowed and adapted by Henry René d' Allemagne in his "Sports and games in ancient France" [1].

In the spread of cricket there was an intermediary, Franco- Flemish region, as shown in the etymology of the term "cricket". Cricket Flemish verb derived from "Ketsen", a word borrowed from the term picaresque (Picardy – French region) "cadrier" = track. The phrase "met the crik" (or crek) Ketsen, track ball putter was introduced in England between XV and XVI centuries which reappeared as "Kreketts "at mid-century XVI [4]. Cricket appeared therefore quite late in the evolution family game "Soul La Crosse". Throughout this evolution playful element portions defense was abandoned in favor of skill element – why the dimensions of the gate were reduced. It seems that players with the intention of finding the right word for this purpose diminished the while aware of the origin of their game have deliberately chosen the word "Wicket" warlike connotations of the gate. Wicket word picaresque (Picardy) corresponding to the term "Guichet" (door / peephole) of modern French designate the Middle Ages the small entrance gate of a castle fortification wall [2]. The use of this term is illustrated in a passage from the Old English novel about King Richard the Lionheart [5] and the 3rd crusade where

Saracens after they were expelled from their city d'Orglyous have managed to return with an entry in the wall using a conspirator inside.

It should be noted that French authors have studied history of this sport, which has become a national sport practiced by both aristocratic class and the common people in popular festivities as simple games and sports entertainment.

<Golf> Is another game whose origin is still in the game "La Soule". Like cricket, it is distinguished by its predecessor, the importance element acquires skill and almost complete elimination of force.

However, the playing instrument characteristic of the game "Soul crosse", remains the club. A common error made in the research of this game is to place its origin early in the XIV century and even XVIII century on the pretext that the Flemish term "Korf" or "KOLV" etymological basis of the modern word meets literary or historical sources of those eras. In 1261 the Flemish writer Jacob van Maerlant managed to translate the Flemish "The Book of Merlin" ("Livre de Merlin") by Robert Baron. In this book, the envoys of King Vortigern I meet young Merlin, the famous prophet and magician, playing a ball game with his friends in front of the gate of a city. To attract attention to the messengers in search of an orphan child, Merlin kicks one of the players in the shin with his club and player so provoked calls Merlin a "fatherless bastard". The word "Kolf" Maerlant used in his translation does not prove that there was in the XIII-th century in Flanders, a forerunner of golf today.

Comparison with the French text of Robert Baron clearly proves that it was the game "Soul lacrosse." It applies in all cases

where words Klof or golf are used to describe games in medieval documents by mid-century XVI. Even if terminology is of Flemish origin, which means that Flanders is the home country, still north of France plays a very important role in its genesis. Oldest document about the game of golf is a miniature of a book "d'Heures" of Picard origin, written in the mid fifteenth century [7].

Ball game that presents the most striking features of medieval tournament is "Jeu de Paume". Therefore, the origin of the traditional games which it is spread throughout the world through a process of migrating several hundred years. Among the latter we must mention: the game of Saterland (Germany), very old, with two of its offspring - the game "frisson" of "keatsen" and "párkspel" ball game traditional in the Swedish island of Gotland - ball game "au tamis Picard" (Picard sieve) and its variant, play ball "Walloon" (called Kaatsen in Flemish), the game "jo de paumo" (Spain), the traditional ball game in Tuscany (Italy) called "palla", varieties of Basque game "pelota" called "bote Lueza" and "Lachout" game of the Canary Islands. "Lanzarote" and finally the overseas games in Mexico, Colombia and Ecuador "pelota mixteque" and "juego de la chaza" (Jeu de Paume) [7].

Ball game was first of all a variation of the "jeu de Soule" played in the northern monasteries since mid-century XII. Architectural feature of the monasteries consists of gallery with sloping roof surrounding the square yard. Opening columns were replaced with gates, targets used in the "jeu de Soule". The sloping roof gave the monks the impression of a very high importance in relation to medieval game, the idea of throwing the

ball to mark the beginning of the game. The space between the columns, defended against balls coming from the opponent in the tournament according to the model was known as the "dedans" (inside). The roof service has also been maintained by players with a remarkable conservatism, even when the game early enough, had to leave the monastery walls to settle on city streets or in the countryside.

Thus, in the streets, choose a roof top of a bourgeois house at the street, while in the country side they raised a pillar. Finally, they used a sieve (in Picardy called "SAS"), or an inclined surface made of wood or stone, or just above home plate to serve to put the ball in play.

Historical value of these traditional games derived from "Jeu de la Paume" – including "game screen" ("jeu de tapis"), keep their terminological conservatism. Oldest generation of these traditional games represent a group of games which common feature is the preservation of "park" to designate closed land, term borrowed from the tournament.

These games have moved from their homeland in the North Picard to immediate neighbors, tribes Frisone which in the Middle Ages were from the North Sea to the heights of Brugal. Of the three known varieties of this group, "archetype" was a practice game until mid-century nineteen in Saterland - geographical enclave of West Grand Duchy of Oldenburg the only region of Germany where the language was kept shivering until today, revealing evidence of isolation of its inhabitants to their German neighbors, lower German speakers. As already mentioned, this game keeps the old name of "park", and also the distinction between positions "upstream" and "downstream" that I've

encountered in the novel by Hem. This distinction survived in Italy by playing "palla" and "juego de la chaza" in Colombia (Latin America) although if last idea of the conquest of heights so characteristic of medieval tournaments players disappeared from memory using the term "arriba" (above) for which should be called the "abajo" (underneath)" and vice versa.

All the traditional games without exception should retain the term used to describe medieval jousting horse attack, "chasse" (tracking) which in ball games, denotes a special rule.

In traditional games, there are two features which intrigue any history of sports. The Basque game "bote lueza" place in which in medieval jousts was the gate is called "paso". This seems to make allusions to "bed weapons," the discipline of the tournament in sec. XV, after which the gate is used to stage conquest. In the game "pårkspel" from Gotland, the rules require to mark the limits of "Parck's" (land) with wooden boards. This method is unsuitable for the lines could be drawn easily with chalk.

"Jeu de balle" rooted in a tournament, initiated or at least influenced, the child's play. There is a question that has caused a long debate for historians of sport, the origin of the name of the game of tennis. A thesis already exceeded believes that (the origin) the name comes from a medieval rule in game Paume (Jeu de la Paume) required the player at the launch of the first ball first to shout "tenez" thus alerting his service.

Evidence was found in a variation of "jeu de bâtonnet" which was introduced in the Rhineland Palatine during the Napoleonic Wars. But after the World War II, Palatinate children change service always

shouting "tenez!" Cry inherited from the "jeu de balle" medieval. They also contributed to increasing our knowledge of the "Jeu de la Paume" using the answer "oui" (meaning s'il vous plaît - please), informing us that the Middle Ages was mandatory, not only from those who served but from the one who got the ball to announce that he was ready to start the game.

4. Conclusions

1. The ball game was most practiced in the sixteenth century to the eighteenth century, from the petty bourgeoisie to the royal family. For any gentleman of the city and for those who imitated him, it was fashionable to know how to play ball, but there were championships in the true sense of the modern word and we do not know the lists of winners.
 2. In cities, masters players, balls and rackets were often manufacturers and owners of ball games and were organized into guilds (associations) as other craftsmen. Game rooms, along with churches and Roundabouts were premises largest playgrounds in the city. In 1789 "ball-oath of Versailles" was one of the major events of the French Revolution.
 3. The play hall will occur fast enough to provide the possibility of practicing the game often banned in public places, home to noble course, allows players to play with each other without having to play with ordinary people and to practice it in good comfort, without risking being interrupted by weather. In the nineteenth century ball game has been replaced with other motion games.
- Today, it is highly regarded in various variants such as: badminton, squash, table tennis, and regional forms, Basque pelota, etc.
4. Fuedale social decay has caused gradual decline and then the disappearance of the game, so the game rooms were becoming less frequented, entrepreneurs of the rooms being unable to uphold their travel expenses out, gave them another destination.
 5. As mentioned in the literature (Palestrica, pg. 190) the game itself has maintained the popular circles in different forms for a long time. In southern France they still play today "Basque Pelota", regional power games.
 6. In 1874, English Major Wingfield brought modifications, the old "Jeu de Paume" that became "lawn-tennis" tennis, was played on grass, so that under this new name, the ball play retook the place, while the other, mentioned above became "modern" and found notoriety still enjoyed today.

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