

# SPORT AND SOCIETY IN MODERN FRANCE

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# SPORT AND SOCIETY IN MODERN FRANCE

Richard Holt

*Lecturer in History  
University of Stirling*



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For Jim Holt and Liz Glass

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- Cover* Crowds line the route for the Paris–Roubaix (1927)  
(Henri Pelissier leads the field with his brother Francis  
in third place)
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Note the size of the crowd
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The cover photograph and plates 2, 9, 12 and 13 are reproduced  
by courtesy of *Presse-Sports*; plates 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14 and 15  
by courtesy of H. Roger-Viollet; and plate 5 by the Mansell  
Collection.

# Acknowledgements

When I applied for a reader's ticket at the Bibliothèque Nationale, I was eventually interviewed by an official of the library who asked me what I wished to do. I replied that I was thinking about writing a thesis on French sport. A mixture of pain and sheer disbelief crossed his face, and I thought I would be told to buy a track suit and sent off to the nearest park. I rather felt as if I were impugning the dignity of French culture by the mere mention of sport in so august an institution, but after careful checking of my letters of recommendation I was given my ticket. After a while I started to like that byzantine institution with its strange indexes and even stranger characters. When a pile of books on football or cycling arrived on my desk I would get the odd bemused look from an elderly scholar sitting nearby. 'What on earth are these foreigners up to?' you could almost hear them saying to themselves. But the porters who delivered the books were less surprised that I should want to read about Georges Carpentier or the Tour de France, and occasionally stopped for a brief chat or to look at a few photographs.

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Edinburgh, October 1979

Richard Holt

# List of Abbreviations

AD	Archives Départementales
AN	Archives Nationales
Bib. Hist. Coll. Act.	Bibliothèque Historique de la ville de Paris. Collection 'Actualités'
Con. Gen. PV	Conseil Général du département de la Seine: Procès-verbaux
Con. Mun. PV	Conseil Municipal de la ville de Paris: Procès-verbaux
Con. Mun. RD	Conseil Municipal de la ville de Paris: Rapports et Documents
Deb. Parl. Ch. Dep.	Débats Parlementaires: Chambre des Députés
ENSEPS	Ecole Normale Supérieure d'Education Physique et des Sports
FGSPF	Fédération Gymnastique et Sportive des Patronages de France
FSGT	Fédération Sportive et Gymnastique du Travail
USFG	Union des Sociétés Françaises de Gymnastique
USFSA	Union des Sociétés Françaises des Sports Athlétiques
UVF	Union Vélocipédique de France