



A BRIEF HISTORY OF RACE WALKING



by
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A BRIEF HISTORY OF RACE WALKING: SEVENTY YEARS ON ROAD AND TRACK

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It is appropriate and timely that such a work appear at a moment when removal of the walks from major international track and field programs is again imminent. By extolling the virtues of these events and by showing their long and distinguished tradition, the volume stands decisively against such abolition. It is devoted to an account of the noble line of spirits who have given themselves fully, courageously, and successfully to this most demanding, misunderstood, and wrongly unappreciated form of sporting activity.

It is further proper at this time to remember my track and field coaches who have given so freely of themselves and who have for so long had such a profound influence on me and so many other impressionable young persons: Dr. Wilbert Bolton, Mr. John Doolittle, the late Mr. Norman Gordon, Mr. Jackson Horner, and Dr. John Lucas. I wish to thank as well Mary Cossette whose able secretarial assistance assured the successful preparation of the final manuscript, and John Vieth of the Southern Printing Company, Blacksburg, Virginia, who printed and bound the volume.

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In loving memory,
to
Loyal C. Wilmarth

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INTRODUCTION

The International Amateur Athletic Federation, the international governing body of amateur track and field athletics, has defined walking as, "...a progression by steps so taken that unbroken contact with the ground is maintained...and in particular, that during the period of each step, in which a foot is on the ground, the leg shall be straightened (i.e., not bent at the knee) at least for one moment." (5: p.97) The conduct of such activity under standard competitive conditions has become known as, race walking.

Race walking events have been variously regarded; as an activity of artistic merit (3,16) and the most exacting form of athletics (12,25) by those inclined to a sympathetic interpretation of them; and, more characteristically, as ugly (2), artificial and being of no particular benefit (11) by those of alternative persuasion. Generally speaking, this category of events has suffered more grievously at the hands of views such as the latter, than prospered under notions of the former type. In fact, few athletic endeavors have been more maligned and less appreciated than these. Though attracting a small, but enthusiastic coterie of adherents, they have been generally among the least highly regarded categories of event on the standard international track and field program. They have never been generally popular, nor so much as well tolerated even among members of the track and field athletic community, let alone others.

Most of this dissatisfaction stems from the great difficulty with which the movement is judged fair or foul, and from what apparently impresses on first inspection as an unsightly and unduly restrictive movement. Race walking is, however, though difficult, not impossible to judge--in fact, this aspect of its conduct has improved immensely in recent years. And, it is as demanding as any event in all of sport, possessing all that is inherent in sport at its best, and so deserving of a place fully beside other such events.

Though a number of works have offered cursory and in large measure perfunctory accounts of the history of race walking, there remains a substantially conspicuous absence of any systematic and comprehensive treatment of the subject. This, together with the paucity of other, related literature, as well as the generally, albeit unwarranted, low regard for the activity, has made the task of preparing this history at once difficult and necessary.

It is the intent of this essay, then, to develop, in logical and chronological order, a description and interpretation of the significant events comprising the history of race walking since its sophisticated modern origins, some approximately seventy years ago. Following a brief, general overview of this history, the essay is organized around treatments of periods of dominance by athletes representing stipulated traditions. The central concern of the essay therefore turns about a treatment of the performances of the most significant figures in the annals of race walking (those who have profoundly influenced its development) as embodied in represented traditions. Attention is called both to instances in which these traditions are peculiar to race walking alone, as well as to cases in which they are participants in a more general track and field athletic movement. Moreover, the essay concerns itself almost entirely with amateur, senior, men's outdoor events conducted on both road and track over so-termed standard distances (3,5,10,15,20,30, and 50 km; 2,5,7,10,20, and 30 miles; and 1 and 2 hours). At any rate, reference to such events virtually exhausts the line of significant occurrence in the history of race walking. Particularly

great emphasis is also given to Olympic, European Championship, and Lugano Cup competitions, as even other international meetings pale into virtual insignificance beside these--and to officially ratified world records, thereby referring to performances achieved under rather unquestionably valid and reliable conditions, as distinct from world best performances over non-standard distances, performances achieved under evidently acceptable conditions yet never officially sanctioned (also termed world best performances here), and performances achieved under evidently suspect circumstances.

A GENERAL OVERVIEW

The most significant single event of the modern athletic era generally, not to mention the most important such event with respect to race walking is, of course, the Olympic Games. Race walking first appeared on the Olympic program at the "Interim Games" in Athens, 1906, ten years after the inaugural edition of the Games had been staged. From that time until 1932, when the Olympic walk program began to assume its present form, the conduct of Olympic race walks were literally veiled in dispute--most commonly over judging decisions. Bizarre and regrettable judging incidents had very significant effects on the results of the 1906 1,500 mtrs., the 1912 10,000 mtrs. (in which all but four competitors were disqualified), and all of the 1920 and 1924 events. Owing in large measure to these incidents as well as to an increasing sentiment favoring a reduction in the quantity of Olympic events for economic and aesthetic reasons, the 10,000 mtrs. alone was substituted in Stockholm, 1912, for the 3,500 mtrs. and 10 mile races contested in London, 1908, which had in turn appeared in the place of the 1,500 mtrs. and 3,000 mtrs. events held in Athens, 1906. The controversies surrounding both Olympic walks in Antwerp, 1920, over 3,000 mtrs. and 10,000 mtrs., and the lone Olympic walk event in Paris, 1924, over 10,000 mtrs., led to the removal of all walk events from the Olympic program in Amsterdam, 1928.

The Congress of the I.A.A.F. meeting in Amsterdam, 1928, did, however, agree to an international definition for race walking, and it was again placed on the Olympic program for Los Angeles, 1932. Due to the unfortunate experiences with judging the rapid tempo of short track events in previous editions of the Games, however, only 50 km road races were conducted in both Los Angeles and Berlin, 1936. The 50 km road event has continued as a part of the Olympic program through the Games of London, 1948; Helsinki, 1952; Melbourne, 1956; Rome, 1960; Tokyo, 1964; Mexico City, 1968; and Munich, 1972. It is, however, to be dropped from the program in Montreal, 1976, in the interest of reducing the scope of the track and field events. The track 10,000 mtrs. reappeared on the program in London and was again conducted in Helsinki, but, due to recurrent judging problems, was replaced by the road 20 km in Melbourne and since (and is to be dropped from the program after Montreal).

The true internationalization of race walking and its modern era began with its placement on the Olympic program (most particularly, with the impeccable style of George Larner and Ernest Webb and the generally high standard of performance in London, 1908), and with its scrutinization by the I.A.A.F. The I.A.A.F. was formed in 1913 for the purpose of governing track and field athletics on an international basis, and establishing a universal code of rules and regulations, a common definition of amateurism, and an authentic register of world records. It requires that all world walk records be established outdoors on a regulation 400 mtr. or 440 yd. track with a

specified number and quality of judges, timers, inspectors, and other officials in attendance. Performances achieved in road events, though more frequent and popular than track races, are not therefore considered for official record purposes, since conditions vary so widely among courses. The first world record list approved by the I.A.A.F. appeared in 1914. From 1914 to 1938 world records were ratified at 3,5,10,15,20,25,30,40, and 50 km, at 2,5,7,10,15,20,25, and 30 miles, and at 1 and 2 hours. In 1938 the records at 15,25, and 40 km, and at 5,15, and 25 miles were removed. And in 1946 records at 15 and 25 km, and at 5 and 15 miles were reinstated. As serious doubts had been raised concerning the authenticity of sprint walk records already accepted, the Congress of the I.A.A.F., acting in Stockholm, 1958, again further restricted the register, and refused to accept records at distances of less than 20 km. Since that time, only records in six standard events have been accepted: at 20,30, and 50 km, at 20 and 30 miles, and at 2 hours.

In track and field athletics generally, race walking more particularly, the European Championships are second in importance only to the Olympic Games. The first two editions of these competitions, conducted in Turin, 1934, and in Paris, 1938, included only the 50 km road event, which has continued on the program to the present time. Due to circumstances paralleling those associated with the Olympic movement, however, the track 10,000 mtrs. was also contested in Oslo, 1946; Brussels, 1950; and Berne, 1954, before having been replaced by the road 20 km in Stockholm, 1958, and since--Belgrade, 1962; Budapest, 1966; Athens, 1969; Helsinki, 1971; and Rome, 1974.

Rivalling the European Championships as second in significance to the Olympic competitions, are the Lugano Cup walking championships. In 1961 the I.A.A.F. inaugurated these championships held in central Europe at first every second year, now every third. It is a team competition in which qualifying regional elimination winners advance to both a road 20 km and 50 km final. Only Great Britain and East Germany have won the Cup, which has now been contested six times. The first Lugano Cup final was held in Lugano, Switzerland, October 14, 1961, and was won by Great Britain with Sweden coming second, and Italy third. The second final, conducted in Varese, Italy, October 12-13, 1963, had Great Britain successfully defending the Cup, which it subsequently lost to East Germany in the third championship in Pescara, Italy, October 17, 1965. In this third edition of the Cup, Great Britain finished second and Hungary third. East Germany also won the fourth Cup final in Bad Saarow, East Germany, October 15, 1967, with the Soviet Union second, and Great Britain third. The United States, the first non-European entrant, finished sixth. East Germany repeated its previous two victories in the fifth championship race, Eschborn, West Germany, October 10-11, 1970, with a narrow triumph over the Soviet Union. In the sixth Cup final held at the site of the first, Lugano, Switzerland, October 12-14, 1973, East Germany won its fourth consecutive title, again narrowly defeating the Soviet Union.

Though the number of major international track and field competitions has increased remarkably in recent decades, few of these competitions have included race walking events, or have included them only very recently; and yet fewer have produced noteworthy performances in the walks. Most notable of these are the British Empire and Commonwealth Games, and the Pan-American Games. Although the British Empire and Commonwealth Games were first held in Hamilton, Canada, 1930, race walking events did not appear on the program until Kingston, Jamaica, 1966, when a 20 mile road event was staged, and continued in Edinburgh, Scotland, 1970, and Christchurch, New Zealand, 1974.

Similarly, the Pan-American Games were first conducted in Buenos Aires, 1951, but did not include race walking until Sao Paulo, Brazil, 1963, when a road 20 km was added. A road 50 km was also included in Winnipeg, Canada, 1967, and Cali, Colombia, 1971. Far more significant race walking competitions are held in pre-Olympic, eastern European invitational, and international dual (most importantly, such involving the Soviet Union, East Germany, Great Britain, and West Germany) meetings. Though such events were virtually unknown until the late 1950's (when the U.S.A. vs. U.S.S.R., 1958, and the U.S.S.R. vs. Great Britain, 1959, matches first included walk events), many of them are noticeably more demanding than even non-European continental championship races--something that can be said as well for the national championship events of the Soviet Union, East Germany, Great Britain, and West Germany most particularly.

With this introduction to, and general overview of the history of race walking now in hand, a more specific accounting of its development may now be attempted. The ensuing analysis is to describe and interpret the significant events comprising the history of race walking since its sophisticated modern origins. Moreover, this analysis is to assume the form of an examination of the most significant figures in the history of race walking as embodied in represented traditions. And it begins with a brief, preliminary treatment of the pre-history of race walking.

THE PRE-HISTORY OF RACE WALKING

Race walking competitions were evidently first practiced in late sixteenth and early seventeenth century Britain. They then assumed the form of wagering on one's ability, or the ability of another in one's employ, to walk from one place to another in a stipulated period, or faster than another. Such events became enormously popular by the early nineteenth century, developing in both amateur and professional ways, and even secured military and royal favor. Its popularity had spread as well to other, particularly English-speaking nations by the end of the century.

The conditions under which such competitions were conducted during these periods were almost altogether unstandardized, however: "...no definition of the means of progression seems to have been attempted, although sometimes the expression 'fair heel and toe' was used." (21: p.12) Such that, "...the border line between walking and running was masked under the general term of Pedestrianism. Accordingly, much of the interest in many of these, undoubtedly very fine performances can mean little to us with our modern standards of definition." (21: p.16) It is principally in virtue of this that the "age of pedestrianism" (from the late sixteenth to the early twentieth century) qualifies as the pre-history of race walking proper.

As the pedestrian urge developed in progressively more professional, more bizarre, and less appealing forms, however, it fell into serious public disfavor, and was replaced by the spirit of international amateur sport and its institutionalization. By the late nineteenth century the age of pedestrianism had become overendowed with the consequences of professionalization, and the regrettable influence of attendant gambling and judging aberrations--promoting such bizarre events as walking backwards; intermittently walking and running at will for days over meaningless distances, from place to place, across countries and continents, and the like; and races between

cripples and infant boys and girls. With the changing view of sport, the emergence of amateur athletic clubs, and the establishment of regulatory associations (most importantly, the International Olympic Committee in 1894 and the I.A.A.F. in 1913) in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, the age of pedestrianism waned and the pre-history of race walking gave way to the modern, to the genuinely historical epoch of the walks at principal issue here.

THE PERVASIVE BRITISH INFLUENCE: LARNER TO NIHILL

Although race walkers of the British tradition have represented the unreservedly preeminent force in race walking only during the very early period of the modern era (1904-1911) and during the early years of its fourth decade (1931-1936), they have been among the performers of the first rank throughout the entire history of the walks. In fact, their influence on this history remains the most pervasive of any--it is, in this respect, unparalleled by any other tradition. They have produced a grand line of world and European record holders, Olympic and European medalists, five Olympic champions, four European champions, and twice won the Lugano Cup.

The modern era actually begins with the athletic genius of Britain's, and the world's first great walk champion, George E. Larner. The high quality of his performances, his Olympic triumphs, and his unimpeachable style clearly distinguish him as among the most outstanding performers in the entire history of race walking. In only his second year of competition, Larner set up a world 2 mile record of 13:11.4 (Manchester, July 13, 1904), which endured for an unprecedented 39 years--no other world track and field record has ever so much as approached such longevity. Enroute he also established a world best performance of 6:26.0 for 1 mile. The following year Larner achieved a world best performance of 21:09.4 over 5,000 mtrs. (Brighton, August 19, 1905), and established three world records in a single effort (London, September 30, 1905): 5 miles in 36:00.2, 7 miles in 50:50.8, and 8 mi. 438 yds. (13,275 mtrs.) within the hour. Owing to his police duties Larner retired following the 1905 season, but was fortunately persuaded to re-enter training for the 1908 Olympic Games in London. At the Games he was the decisive victor of both walk events, returning 14:55.0 for 3,500 mtrs. and a world record (which was to endure for 26 years) of 1:15:57.4 for 10 miles (July 17, 1908). On both occasions Larner overcame his venerable teammate Ernest Webb, the 10 miles having been a particularly memorable event--in fact, it is said to have been among the best in the Games.

Second only to Larner during this formative period was thrice Olympic silver medalist, Ernest J. Webb. Webb finished second to Larner in both Olympic walks, London, 1908, with performances of 15:07.4 at 3,500 mtrs. and 1:17:31.0 at 10 miles. And after leading for most of the distance, he succumbed to George Goulding's closing sprint in the 1912 Olympic 10,000 mtrs. in Stockholm, again finishing second with 46:50.4--22 seconds behind the winner. Earlier that year Webb had set up a world best performance of 45:15.6 (London, May 4, 1912) over the same distance.

The only other significant British achievement of this period was Harold V. L. Ross' inaugural 2 hour world record of 15 mi. 128 yds. (24,256 mtrs.) in Liverpool, May 20, 1911. There was little genuine athletic activity of any sort during the ensuing period of World War I, and the Italian star, Ugo Frigerio (among others of his countrymen) rather thoroughly domi-

nated the largely record-free twenties. British athletes did, however, win a medal in each of the 1920 and 1924 Olympic 10,000 mtr. competitions. Only with the thirties did a re-emergence of British superiority appear. This renaissance was primarily the contribution of four athletes: Tom Green, Alfred Pope, Albert Cooper, and Harold Whitlock.

The earliest mark of this re-birth occurred in London, April 23, 1932, when Tom W. Green established a world best performance for 20 miles of 2:40:00.0. Later that year, and yet more significantly, however, Green unexpectedly annexed the Olympic 50 km title in Los Angeles in 4:50:10.0 from such extraordinary talents as Janis Dalinsch and pre-race favorite, Ugo Frigerio.

The contribution of Alfred H. G. Pope was singular, but nonetheless important. In a single race in London, August 31, 1932, Pope established four world records: 35:47.2 for 5 miles, 44:42.4 for 10,000 mtrs., 50:28.8 for 7 miles, and 8 mi. 474 yds. (13,308 mtrs.) for the one hour. During much the same period, Albert Cooper set two world records: 12:38.2 for 3,000 mtrs. (London, July 20, 1935) and 21:52.4 for 5,000 mtrs. (London, September 14, 1935). He also achieved 12:46.6 (London, August 19, 1933) and 12:35.6 (London, June 29, 1935), neither of which were ratified as world standards.

The capstone of British dominance in the thirties was provided, however, by Harold H. Whitlock. Whitlock must be considered the finest British performer of the thirties, and perhaps the most outstanding long distance performer in the long and celebrated British tradition. And this, despite his having held but a single world record during his long and remarkable career, a 4:29:31.8 for 30 miles (London, October 5, 1935). His major achievements were competitive instead. With a style beyond all suspicion, he led from 20 miles on to capture the 1936 Olympic 50 km in Berlin in the new Olympic record time of 4:30:41.4. He also won the 50 km event at the second European Championships in Paris two years later in 4:41:51.0. These two victories alone serve to set Whitlock atop the British long distance heritage.

The period of World War II again brought a virtual suspension of athletic activities in Europe, but for neutral Sweden and Switzerland. The only two major British figures of international consequence during the forties did not, as a result, make their contributions until the last several years of the decade. T. Lloyd Johnson won the bronze medal in the 1948 Olympic 50 km in 4:48:31.0, and Harold Churcher finished fifth in the 1948 Olympic 10,000 mtrs., and also twice exceeded the world 5 mile standard with performances of 35:43.4 (London, June 5, 1948) and 35:33.0 (London, June 16, 1949). The two most prominent British figures of the early fifties were Roland Hardy and George Coleman. Hardy's carriage was commonly called into serious question and he never competed successfully as an international, but twice gained acceptance of world 5 mile records (35:24.0 in London, August 4, 1951, and 35:15.0 in London, May 31, 1952) and was credited with two world best road performances: 7 miles in 49:54.0 (Stannington, August 1, 1955) and 20 miles in 2:35:58.0 (Manchester, April 28, 1956). Though much less successful than Hardy with respect to record attempts, Coleman did compete somewhat more successfully than Hardy in international races, finishing fifth in the 1952 Olympic 10,000 mtrs. and seventh in the 1956 Olympic 20 km.

Britain steadily regained its pre-forties stature throughout the decade of fifties, and produced one of its greatest sprint champions, Stan Vickers, in the latter part of this period. Vickers' successes were followed by those of Donald Thompson, Ken Matthews, and Paul Nihill in the sixties, and, in significant measure, the international British prowess had been recovered.

One of race walking's greatest stylists, Stan Vickers, after finishing fifth in the 1956 Olympic 20 km, won the European title at 20 km in Stockholm, 1958, in 1:33:09.0, and was the 1960 Olympic bronze medalist at 20 km in 1:34:56.4. He also broke George Larner's long standing British 2 mile record with a brilliant 13:02.4 (London, July 16, 1960), and achieved a world best performance for the road 7 miles of 49:36.0 (Leicester, October 1, 1958).

During his decade long prominence, Donald Thompson is principally remembered for his narrow victory over John Ljunggren in the 1960 Olympic 50 km in the Olympic record time of 4:25:30.0, and for his third place finish in the European Championship 50 km, Belgrade, 1962, in 4:29:00.2. Thompson, an irrepressible international, competed in all Olympic, European Championship, and British Empire and Commonwealth long distance finals between 1956 and 1966. Most significantly he finished fifth in the 1958 European 50 km title race and fourth in the 1966 Commonwealth 20 miles. He also contested three Lugano Cup 50 km finals, finishing second in 1961 in 4:30:35.0, fourth in 1965 with the fastest 50 km of his career, 4:09:14.2, and sixth in 1967. His finest track performance came at Walton, October 14, 1960, when he did 4:08:11.6 for 30 miles and 4:17:29.8 for 50,000 mtrs. The long distance prowess of Thompson was quickly overshadowed, however, by the emergence of the greatest British sprinter since Larner, Ken Matthews.

Ken Matthews, to a degree unmatched by any of his British predecessors but Larner, was equally as great an international competitor as he was a prolific producer of record and near-record times. He must, as a result and with Larner, be considered among the greatest figures in the entire history of race walking. Like Thompson, Matthews won his Olympic title after having suffered a bitter failure in his first Olympic final. In Rome, 1960, he set out a tortuous early tempo and led throughout the early stages of the race, only to be forced to retire later under severe exhaustion. He returned four years later, however, to annex the Tokyo 20 km in the Olympic record time of 1:29:34.0. This completed the rarely achieved Olympic-European slam (the only one at 20 km until Golubnichiy won his European title in 1974) in the most brilliant of fashions, as he had previously won the 1962 European Championship 20 km in 1:35:54.8. He also won the first two Lugano Cup 20 km finals in 1961 (1:30:54.0) and 1963 (1:30:10.2), leading Britain to the team title on both occasions. Matthews also achieved two world best track performances at 5 miles (34:26.6 in London, September 30, 1959, and 34:21.2 in London, September 28, 1960) and one at 10 miles (1:09:40.6 in Walton, June 6, 1964). In the latter race Matthews achieved an extraordinary series of marks, each of which seriously challenged the then prevailing world best performances: 7 miles in 48:22.2, 8 mi. 1151 yds. (13,927 mtrs.) within the hour, 15,000 mtrs. in 1:04:47.0, 20,000 mtrs. in 1:28:45.8, and 15 mi. 1556 yds. (25,563 mtrs.) in 2 hours. Most notable among Matthews other fine track performances were: a 13:09.6 for 2 miles behind Vickers' 13:02.4 in London, July 16, 1960, a 42:35.6 10,000 mtrs. (London, August 1, 1960), a 48:24.0 7 miles (London, May 20, 1961), and 8 mi. 1018 yds. (13,805 mtrs.) in the hour (London, September 24, 1960). Matthews' record prowess on the road was equally impressive. He established five world best performances during his illustrious career:

10 km	42:36.0	London	July 23, 1960
7 miles	48:02.0	Surrey	Jan. 14, 1961
15 km	1:04:55.0	London	July 23, 1960
10 miles	1:09:38.0	Birmingham	Feb. 22, 1964
15 miles	1:50:17.0	Berlin	May 27, 1961

The London race of 1960 also brought him the fastest authentic 20 km of his career, 1:28:15.0.

With Matthew's retirement in 1964 and Thompson's career waning by this time, both the British sprint and long distance forces sought a genuine successor. Surprisingly, they came upon a single performer capable of outstanding performances over an impressively large range of distances. Paul Nihill is likely the most versatile performer of international stature yet to appear in the British tradition. Unlike his three immediate and remarkable predecessors, Vickers, Thompson, and Matthews, Nihill achieved among his greatest competitive successes in his first Olympic appearance. In the Tokyo Olympic 50 km, he was narrowly defeated by Abdon Pamich's Olympic record performance, despite a brilliant 4:11:31.2. After having shown good speed with a 13:20.0 clocking over 2 miles (London, July, 1965), and having failed to finish the grueling 1968 Olympic 50 km, Nihill turned to the 20 km event. In 1969 he won the British Commonwealth vs. U.S.S.R. vs. U.S.A. triangular 20 km from Olympic champion, Vladimar Golubnichiy, in 1:31:49.8, and later in the year enjoyed his greatest triumph, winning the European 20 km title in Athens in 1:30:49.0. He also came third in the 1971 European Championship 20 km in Helsinki in 1:27:34.8, and sixth in the 1972 Olympic 20 km in 1:28:44.4. Most notable among Nihill's other achievements were road performances of 1:24:50.0 for 20 km (Douglas, July 30, 1972--the first sub-1:25), 2:17:11.0 for 30 km (Bellinzona, October 20, 1963) and 3:18:25.0 for 25 miles (Birmingham, July 9, 1966)--all world best performances--and 2:36:41.0 for 20 miles (Mitcham, April 24, 1965). Other recent and noteworthy international achievements of British race walkers include the British Empire and Commonwealth Games 20 miles victories of Ron Wallwork (2:44:42.8 in Kingston, 1966) and John Warhurst (2:35:23.0 in Christchurch, 1974).

FIRST NON-EUROPEAN GREAT: GEORGE GOULDING

George Goulding of Canada was one of only three non-Europeans to win an Olympic walk title, and one of only two to hold an official world walk record. He is the only non-European in the history of race walking to have done both. After finishing fourth in the 1908 Olympic 3,500 mtrs., and following Lerner's final retirement, Goulding became the most accomplished race walker in the world. He established a world best performance of 6:25.8 for 1 mile in Montreal, June 4, 1910, and with scrupulously fair style, as was the custom with him, won the 1912 Olympic 10,000 mtrs. from Ernest Webb in world record time, 46:28.4. Three years later Goulding established a world 7 mile record of 50:40.8 in New Brunswick, New Jersey, U.S.A., October 23, 1915, while winning the national title of the United States at that distance--a record that remained unsurpassed for seventeen years.

Goulding cannot be said to have represented a Canadian tradition in race walking, as there have been few other Canadian walkers of international prominence, of which Goulding was without serious question the most significant. Only two others suggest themselves for mention: Edward McDonald, a contemporary of Goulding's, who eclipsed the Olympic heir apparent's short-lived world 1 mile best performance in Toronto, 1911, with a 6:22.8; and, Alex Oakley, who competed in three Olympic finals (his best finish having been a sixth in the 1960 50 km), won the inaugural Pan-American Games 20 km

in 1963 with a 1:42:43.2, and finished fifth in the 1966 British Empire and Commonwealth Games 20 miles.

EARLY GERMAN PRESENCE

The few German performers of the first three decades of the century who did achieve some order of international prominence did so through performance achieved exclusively in Germany, most of which were considered suspect and never officially ratified. And none of these figures ever competed successfully as an international. The German presence in race walking during the early twentieth century was nonetheless apparent, though it clearly did not challenge the pre-eminent positions of Great Britain and Italy, nor did any individual figure approach the prominence of Goulding.

None of the two world best performances of Richard Schumann, nor the six such efforts of Paul Gunia received world record approval. Schumann twice achieved such performances over 3,000 mtrs.--13:45.4 in Berlin, July 17, 1904, and 13:27.6 in Berlin, June 25, 1905. Gunia was successful over a larger range of event:

3,000 mtrs.	13:22.8	Magdeburg	Sept. 26, 1907
3,000 mtrs.	12:55.6	Berlin	Oct. 17, 1908
5,000 mtrs.	21:46.4	Berlin	Oct. 17, 1908
10,000 mtrs.	49:23.8	Berlin	July 7, 1907
10,000 mtrs.	49:09.6	Berlin	Oct. 27, 1907
10,000 mtrs.	45:43.6	Berlin	Oct. 24, 1908

Hermann Muller also achieved three world best performances during this period--3,000 mtrs. on the track in 12:37.6 (Hannover, June 18, 1911), 5,000 mtrs. on the track in 22:57.6 (Berlin, 1907), and a road 15 km in 1:11:10.0 (Berlin, October 10, 1909)--but did not reach greatest prominence until 1921. In that year he recorded a sensational track 5,000 mtrs. mark of 21:05.8 (Berlin, August 5, 1921) which was never ratified, established two world best road performances (a 1:38:26.0 20 km in Berlin, July 17, 1921, and a 4:40:14.4 50 km in Munich, 1921), and established the first officially accepted world record by a German walker (a 2:37:18.2 30,000 mtrs. in Munich, September 11, 1921). Other prominent figures of this early German period were Paul Sievert, who established a world best road performance of 4:34:03.0 for 50 km (Munich, October 5, 1924) and finished sixth in the 1932 Olympic 50 km (the only noteworthy competitive achievement of the period), and Hermann Schmidt who created a world 30,000 mtrs. standard of 2:30:33.6 (Hamburg, April 27, 1941). Schmidt's achievement was the last noteworthy German walk effort until the emergence of the East German hegemony in the mid-sixties.

THE ITALIAN PHENOMENA: ALTIMANI, FRIGERIO, DORDONI, AND PAMICH

The Italian force in race walking actually began with the paling of British domination toward the end of the first, and at the beginning of the second decade of this century. Armando Balestrieni established a world best performance of 48:48.0 over 10,000 mtrs. in Rome, November 3, 1907. And Fernando Altimani appeared in the 1912-1913 period with his contributions to the Italian movement. Italian walkers did not become the pre-eminent influ-

ence on race walking until the twenties, however, and they did not remain the pre-eminent influence beyond that time. Since the Frigerian twenties, Italy has produced only two genuinely outstanding performers, though they have been among the very greatest in history, Giuseppe Dordoni and Abdon Pamich. Aside from this, there is apparently no pattern to the history of Italian race walking; that is, isolated individual, but phenomenal athletes appear from the first decade of the century to the most recent one, as is the case with respect to Italian track and field athletics generally.

Fernando Altmani was the first genuinely outstanding figure of the Italian movement. He won the 1912 Olympic bronze medal at 10,000 mtrs. in 47:37.6 behind Goulding and Webb; established a world best performance of 8 mi. 447 yds. (13,284 mtrs.) for the hour (Milan, July 22, 1913); and created six world best performances in a single race (Milan, July 29, 1913): 3,000 mtrs. in 12:25.2, 5,000 mtrs. in 21:31.8, 5 miles in 35:53.0, 10,000 mtrs. in 44:34.4, 7 miles in 50:24.2, and 8 mi. 578 yds. (13,403 mtrs.) for the hour. Of these, the 5 mile and 1 hour marks were not surpassed for 19 years, and the 10,000 mtrs. effort was the first sub-45 minute clocking. Since, however, only two timers were in attendance, none of these latter six standards were officially ratified as world records. During the period of World War I little athletic activity of significance can be observed. In the immediate post-war years, however, Italian performers emerged as the most prominent race walkers in the world. Primary among these figures was the engaging Ugo Frigerio.

Ugo Frigerio was undoubtedly one of the most flamboyant figures in all of track and field athletic history, and did a great deal to focus public attention on the walks. More has likely been written of Frigerio's entertaining manner and remarkable crowd appeal, than about his athletic prowess generally, his impeccably fair style, and his devastating finish. Frigerio completely dominated the three Olympic walks of 1920 and 1924, but the journalistic emphasis on his manner and style was not without cause. The twenties was not a particularly challenging period in race walking, and Frigerio won his Olympic gold medals with performance notably inferior to the efforts of Larner, Goulding, and Webb of a decade or two before. In fact, Frigerio never did achieve the quality times produced by his three most illustrious predecessors. He nevertheless did win three Olympic finals, something no one else before or since has accomplished, and was the predominant figure in race walking during the twenties. He was one of only three double victors in the 1920 Games where he annexed the 3,000 mtrs. in 13:14.2, and the 10,000 mtrs. in 48:06.2. He returned to the Olympic arena in Paris, 1924, successfully defending his 10,000 mtrs. title in 47:49.0. Because of his seemingly effortless victories in Antwerp and Paris, Frigerio came to the 1932 Olympic 50 km as the favorite. Under tortuously warm and difficult conditions, and after having led with Janis Dalinsch for most of the distance, however, he succumbed to the circumstances and to the strong finishing efforts of Dalinsch and Tom Green. His third place finish in 4:59:06.0 nonetheless won for him a fourth Olympic walk medal--a feat equalled only by Vladimar Golubnichiy. While Frigerio's competitive record was impressive at very least, his record on the watch was not. His most notable such effort was an indoor 44:38.0 10,000 mtrs. in New York, March 28, 1925, while on his highly successful American tour.

In addition to Frigerio's feats, three Italian walkers broke the world 20,000 mtrs. record four times during this period. Armando Valente was the first to eclipse Niels Petersen's eight year old world standard with a 1:39:20.4 in Bologna, December 2, 1926. Attilio Callegari was next (1:38:53.2 in Milan, December 26, 1926), followed by Donato Pavesi (1:37:42.2 in

Milan, October 23, 1927), who imitated Frigerio in both manner and style, and who had finished fourth in the 1924 Olympic 10,000 mtrs. Valente completed the cycle by recording a 1:36:34.4 (Genoa, October 25, 1930). Twice during his career Valente also surpassed the world 2 hour record--15 mi. 147 yds. (24,275 mtrs.) in Paris, September 28, 1930, and 15 mi. 254 yds. (24,373 mtrs.) also in Paris, September 16, 1931, though only the former mark was officially ratified. Twenty years would now pass before the appearance of the next Italian great, Giuseppe Dordoni.

Giuseppe Dordoni, a brilliant stylist, competed in four consecutive Olympic Games from 1948 to 1960, and became only the third to achieve the Olympic-European 50 km slam. He won the 1950 European Championship 50 km in Brussels in 4:40:42.6, and the 1952 Olympic 50 km in Olympic record time, 4:28:07.8. Among his other competitive efforts, a sixth place finish in the 1958 European Championship 20 km ranks highest. Like his most illustrious Italian predecessor, Frigerio, however, Dordoni never achieved an outstanding record of fast times. His career best over 50 km came in a fourth place road finish in Ponte San Pietro, October 16, 1960, when he returned 4:24:19.0 behind winner Abdon Pamich's 4:03:02.0, in a race of suspect length.

During his long and luminous career Abdon Pamich established himself as the undisputed long distance giant of the Italian race walking tradition. And, unlike other, even major figures in the tradition, he achieved both extraordinary competitive triumphs and outstanding record performances. Like Whitlock, Ljunggren, and Dordoni before him, Pamich achieved both Olympic and European 50 km victories. He also, moreover, won an Olympic bronze, a second European gold (a feat matched only with Hohne's second victory in 1974), a European silver medal, and a Lugano Cup final, all over the 50 km distance. After finishing second to Evgeni Maskinkov in the 1958 European Championship 50 km in 4:18:00.0, Pamich captured the next two European 50 km titles in brilliant and decisive fashion with a 4:18:46.6 in Belgrade, 1962, and a 4:18:42.2 in Budapest, 1966. In his first Olympic appearance of note in 1956, Pamich finished fourth in the 50 km event. In Rome, 1960, he won his Olympic bronze medal at 50 km with a 4:27:55.4, and the next year captured the first Lugano Cup 50 km final in 4:25:38.0. Also in 1961, Pamich set up two world records in Rome, November 19, 1961, 4:04:56.8 for 30 miles and 4:14:02.4 for 50,000 mtrs. His greatest victory came in the Olympic 50 km, Tokyo, 1964, when he captured the most coveted title in race walking. His superlative Olympic record of 4:11:12.4, established on this occasion, stood for eight years. In 1965 he returned to Lugano Cup competition, finishing third in the 50 km final in 4:06:40.2. His career entered its declining stages toward the end of the decade as he finished sixth in both the 1967 Little Olympics 20 km in Mexico City, and the 1969 European Championship 20 km in Athens, and failed to finish the grueling 1968 Olympic 50 km in defense of his Olympic title (his fourth Olympic 50 km final). Most notable among Pamich's fine non-record track performances are the marks achieved in Rome, November 24, 1963: 2:22:11.8 for 30,000 mtrs., 2:33:05.4 for 20 miles, and 15 mi. 1498 yds. (25,509 mtrs.) for the 2 hours. Major international road victories aside, his finest other road performances also warrant mention: 20 km in 1:28:06.0 (Carate Brianza, July 5, 1964), 30 km in 2:17:27.0 (Suna, August 13, 1967), and 50 km in 4:03:02.0 (Ponte San Pietro, October 16, 1960), now thought to be suspect.

THE SWISS DUO: SCHWAB AND SON

The contributions of A. T. Schwab and his son, F. E. Schwab, are not drawn out of a more general tradition of track and field athletic prowess in Switzerland, but are instead the contributions of two outstanding athletes performing in isolation of any national tradition. Both performers had exceptional competitive records as well as clockings of extraordinary quality to their credit, and both achieved all that they did of significance outside of Switzerland.

Arthur Tell Schwab first came to prominence in 1924 when he finished fifth in the Olympic 10,000 mtrs., and recorded a world best road performance of 1:37:56.0 for 20 km in Berlin. He later claimed three officially ratified world records; among them, the first sub-1:10 performance for 15,000 mtrs.: 5,000 mtrs. in 21:59.0 (Riga, May 30, 1931), 15,000 mtrs. in 1:09:04.8 (Oslo, June 20, 1935), and 20 miles in 2:41:07.0 (Riga, October 8, 1934). In the Riga race of 1934, Schwab also achieved the first sub-2:30 30,000 mtrs. (2:29:37.6), but the performance was never recognized as a world record. An identical fate befell his two other world best track performances: 5,000 mtrs. in 21:57.8 (Riga, May 31, 1931) and 20,000 mtrs. in 1:37:05.8 (Berlin, April 15, 1929). Schwab completed his long and distinguished career with two brilliant efforts--one in the 1934 European Championships and the other in the 1936 Olympic Games. He captured the 50 km silver medal in both competitions with a 4:53:08.0 in Turin and an inspiring 4:31:09.2 in Berlin.

A. T. Schwab's son, Fritz E. Schwab, created a world 1 hour record of 8 mi. 535 yds. (13,363 mtrs.) in Berlin, August 9, 1941, very early in his career, then proceeded to win a European gold, Olympic and European silver, and Olympic bronze medal, all over the 10,000 mtr. distance. He came second in the 1946 European Championship 10,000 mtrs. in 47:03.6, third in the 1948 Olympic 10,000 mtrs. in 46:00.2, first in the 1950 European 10,000 mtrs. in 46:01.8, and second in the 1952 Olympic 10,000 mtrs. in 45:41.0. He was beaten by John Mikaelsson in Oslo, London, and Helsinki, and shunted Mikaelsson to third in the Brussels victory.

NORWEGIAN INTERCEDENT: EDGAR BRUUN

The achievements of Edgar Bruun, like those of Goulding and the Schwabs most notably among those previously discussed, are not drawn out of a national heritage in race walking, but are instead the product of an individual performer isolated from such a tradition. He was among the most versatile champions in the history of the walks, having competed successfully over distances from 3,000 to 50,000 mtrs., and was as well among the most durable. Bruun's prominence developed concurrently with the development of the Swedish era in race walking, and he competed successfully throughout the greater part of the era's duration. He participated during the period largely dominated by the Swedes (who followed the British to pre-eminence in 1937), and was among the first Scandinavian champions, and so in some measure among the heralds of the Swedish era.

Bruun established six world records during his long and celebrated career, including the first sub-44:00 10,000 mtrs. and the first 2 hours ex-

ceeding 25,000 mtrs.:			
3,000 mtrs.	12:23.8	Oslo	Sept. 23, 1937
5,000 mtrs.	21:42.0	Oslo	June 16, 1937
5,000 mtrs.	21:02.8	Oslo	Sept. 26, 1937
10,000 mtrs.	43:52.0	Oslo	June 25, 1937
10,000 mtrs.	43:25.0	Oslo	Sept. 26, 1937
2 hours	15 mi. 1228 yds.	(25,263 mtrs.)	
		Kristinehamn	Oct. 8, 1939

The 20,000 mtr. time of 1:32:54.0 recorded enroute to the 2 hour world record, though a world best track performance, was never officially ratified for world record status. Bruun also set up two world best road performances early in his career: 2:27:55.0 for 30 km (Oslo, 1936) and 4:26:41.0 for 50 km (Oslo, July 5, 1936). Although a non-record and a non-winning performance, one of his finest efforts came in a 15,000 mtr. race which he narrowly lost to John Mikaelsson (whose winning time of 1:04:47.6 was a world best performance and the first sub-1:05) in Oslo, September 30, 1945. The titanic duel found Bruun coming second in 1:04:54.0, and recording an extraordinary 42:41.2 for 10,000 mtrs. enroute. Bruun's Olympic and European Championship competitive record, while other than brilliant, nonetheless merits brief mention. His most significant finishes included a fifth in the 1936 Olympic 50 km, third in the 1938 European Championship 50 km in 4:44:55.0, and a fourth in the 1948 Olympic 50 km.

THE SWEDISH ERA: MIKAELSSON, HARDMO, LJUNGGREN, ET.AL.

An impressive variety of events in mid-thirties Sweden and elsewhere in Europe combined to produce the longest and perhaps the most singular epoch of domination in the history of race walking, the Swedish era, 1937-1952. Though other events of interest were occurring during this period, most importantly those in eastern Europe, these others ebbed into virtual obscurity beside the Swedish pre-eminence--a pre-eminence which extended as well to middle distance running. The world record registers were very nearly the property of the Swedes during this period. They won three of four Olympic finals, and two of five European Championship finals from 1938 to 1952. Moreover, the great champions of this era, principally, John Mikaelsson, Verner Hardmo, and John Ljunggren, rank among the most outstanding of all-time.

Though Tore Bildt had established the inaugural 5,000 mtr. world record of 24:35.8 in Stockholm, July 30, 1911--a decidedly mediocre and isolated performance--the Swedish era was not launched in earnest until the 1936-1937 exploits of Bruun; the August 23, 1936, 3,000 mtr. world record of 12:36.0 by Gunnar Jonning in Mjølly; and the 1936-1937 emergence of the unparalleled John Mikaelsson. By any standard John Mikaelsson ranks among the greatest sprinters in the history of the walks. He competed with great success and an impeccably fair style both within and without Sweden for more than fifteen years (1936-1952), and was unmistakably the most durable and cohesive force of the era. He is the only man ever to achieve the Olympic-European slam at 10,000 mtrs., and the only athlete, save Frigerio (who competed in a much less demanding age) and Golubnichiy (though not successively), to successfully defend an Olympic walk title. During his brilliant career, Mikaelsson won two Olympic titles (both in Olympic record times), a European title,

and a European bronze medal. He won the 1946 European Championship 10,000 mtrs. in 46:05.2, the 1948 Olympic 10,000 mtrs. in 45:13.2 (after having established a new Olympic record of 45:03.0 in a heat), and the 1952 Olympic 10,000 mtrs. in 45:02.8. His only major international defeat came at the hands of Fritz Schwab in the 1950 European Championship 10,000 mtrs., where he finished third in 46:48.2. Astonishingly, Mikaelsson also established fourteen officially accepted world records, second only to Hardmo's twenty-two:

3,000 mtrs.	12:34.2	Copenhagen	July 13, 1937
3,000 mtrs.	12:19.0	Malmo	Sept. 5, 1942
5,000 mtrs.	21:49.2	Kristinehamn	Sept. 13, 1936
5,000 mtrs.	21:14.0	Copenhagen	July 13, 1937
5,000 mtrs.	20:55.8	Malmo	Sept. 5, 1942
7 miles	50:19.2	London	Apr. 3, 1937
7 miles	49:21.2	Kristinehamn	Sept. 27, 1942
7 miles	48:36.4	Stockholm	Sept. 1, 1945
1 hour	8 mi. 744 yds. (13,555 mtrs.)	Kumla	Oct. 5, 1941
1 hour	8 mi. 1025 yds. (13,812 mtrs.)	Stockholm	Sept. 1, 1945
10 miles	1:13:59.4	Sundbyberg	Sept. 2, 1939
10 miles	1:13:03.8	Soderhamn	Aug. 30, 1942
10 miles	1:10:55.8	Stockholm	Aug. 23, 1945
20,000 mtrs.	1:32:28.4	Vaxjo	July 12, 1942

Mikaelsson also achieved eleven world best track performances (unratified world records), among which were the first sub-35:00 5 mile and the first sub-1:05 15,000 mtrs.:

3,000 mtrs.	12:24.8	Karlstad	July 23, 1937
5,000 mtrs.	21:15.6	Ockelbo	June 20, 1937
5 miles	34:54.8	Kristinehamn	Sept. 27, 1942
5 miles	34:33.4	Stockholm	Sept. 1, 1945
10,000 mtrs.	44:09.6	Stockholm	June 18, 1937
15,000 mtrs.	1:07:53.8	Stockholm	June 6, 1949
15,000 mtrs.	1:06:37.0	Kumla	Oct. 5, 1941
15,000 mtrs.	1:05:59.4	Stockholm	Aug. 23, 1945
15,000 mtrs.	1:04:47.6	Oslo	Sept. 30, 1945
20,000 mtrs.	1:33:58.4	Riga	Aug. 25, 1939
30,000 mtrs.	2:27:28.0	Lund	Sept. 21, 1941

Also numbered among his achievements were three world best road performances: 10 km in 45:00.0 (Borlange, September 27, 1936), 15 km in 1:06:33.2 (Angelholm, September 14, 1941), and 20 km in 1:31:44.0 (Stockholm, June 10, 1946). Mikaelsson had several outstanding non-record performances during his career as well: a second place 1 mile in 6:24.4 (Arboga, September 5, 1943), a 13:14.8 for 2 miles (Stockholm, 1942), and a 48:32.0 for 7 miles (Kumla, September 9, 1945) in finishing second to Hardmo's world record, 48:15.2. Also at this time, Harry Olsson broke two world records in Boras, August 15, 1943: 30,000 mtrs. in 2:28:57.4 and 20 miles in 2:41:07.0. More significant than Olsson's achievements, however, in the 1943-1945 period was the appearance of the most prolific recordman in the history of race walking, Verner Hardmo.

Verner Hardmo officially held twenty-two world records, more than any other figure, and eight world best performances during the brief duration of his prominence. But much unlike his two most illustrious Swedish colleagues, Mikaelsson and Ljunggren, Hardmo never competed successfully outside of Sweden; such that, the credence of his style has often been challenged. He was

disqualified in each of his two appearances in major international competition, the 1946 European 10,000 mtr. title race and the 1948 Olympic 10,000 mtr. final. His single moderately successful international effort came in Prague, October 24, 1945, when he succumbed to Vaclav Balsan's brilliant 42:31.0 over 10,000 mtrs. in a race now considered suspect. Hardmo's second place time of 42:31.6 was the best of his career, though he thrice surpassed the world record at this distance.

Of his world record performances, the Upsala 3,000 mtrs. was the first sub-12:00 achievement, the Mariestad 10,000 mtrs. was the first sub-43:00 effort, and the first Kumla 7 miles was the first sub-50:00 performance. And his terminal records at 2 miles, 5,000 mtrs., and 7 miles have yet to be surpassed, now nearly thirty years after their establishment. A register of Hardmo's world records follows:

3,000 mtrs.	12:10.4	Orebro	Aug. 25, 1943
3,000 mtrs.	12:02.2	Stockholm	Sept. 8, 1943
3,000 mtrs.	11:59.8	Upsala	July 22, 1944
3,000 mtrs.	11:56.0	Tibro	Aug. 21, 1945
3,000 mtrs.	11:51.8	Malmo	Sept. 1, 1945
2 miles	13:09.8	Vasteras	June 18, 1943
2 miles	13:05.2	Orebro	Sept. 26, 1943
2 miles	13:00.8	Stockholm	June 28, 1944
2 miles	13:00.0	Malmo	July 17, 1944
2 miles	12:54.0	Landskrona	July 18, 1945
2 miles	12:45.0	Malmo	Sept. 1, 1945
5,000 mtrs.	20:31.6	Malmo	Sept. 4, 1943
5,000 mtrs.	20:26.8	Kumla	July 31, 1945
10,000 mtrs.	43:21.4	Vaxjo	Aug. 29, 1943
10,000 mtrs.	42:47.8	Mariestad	Sept. 19, 1943
10,000 mtrs.	42:39.6	Kumla	Sept. 9, 1945
7 miles	49:59.2	Kumla	Sept. 13, 1942
7 miles	49:04.6	Kumla	Sept. 10, 1944
7 miles	48:53.6	Orebro	Oct. 1, 1944
7 miles	48:15.2	Kumla	Sept. 9, 1945
1 hour	8 mi. 785 yds. (13,593 mtrs.)	Arvika	Oct. 8, 1944
10 miles	1:11:58.0	Arvika	Oct. 8, 1944

Enroute to his 12:45.0 2 mile, Hardmo recorded 6:21.0 for 1 mile, among the best times ever achieved over this distance. Of his eight world best performances only one was a road mark (10 km in 43:16.0 in Shillings, July 7, 1945), the Boden 2 miles was the first sub-13:00 effort, and the Kumla 7 miles was the first sub-49:00 achievement:

3,000 mtrs.	12:18.0	Vasteras	June 18, 1943
3,000 mtrs.	11:52.8	Vanersborg	Aug. 7, 1945
2 miles	13:05.2	Arboga	Sept. 17, 1943
2 miles	12:53.8	Boden	Aug. 9, 1944
5 miles	34:41.0	Vaxjo	Aug. 29, 1943
7 miles	48:42.2	Kumla	Oct. 10, 1943
15,000 mtrs.	1:06:32.8	Arvika	Oct. 8, 1944

Throughout this period, both Mikaelsson and Hardmo received an impressive measure of quality competition, most notably from Olle Anderson and Lars Hindmar. Andersson himself established a world 2 hour record of 15 mi. 152 yds. (25,531 mtrs.) in Stockholm, September 15, 1945, and posted some extraordinary marks in extending Mikaelsson and Hardmo to a number of their record efforts. He finished fifth behind Hardmo's 13:00.8 world 2 mile record in 13:20.0, second behind Hardmo's 48:53.6 world 7 mile record in 49:01.0, third behind Hardmo's 11:52.8 world best performance 3,000 mtrs. in

12:10.4 (Lars Hindmar was second in 11:58.2), second to Mikaelsson's 1:10:55.8 world 10 mile record in 1:12:19.0, and third to Mikaelsson's 1:04:47.6 world best performance 15,000 mtrs. in 1:05:57.0 (Edgar Bruun was second in 1:04:54.0). Hindmar also played a major role in the Swedish avalanche of record performances in the mid-forties. He came second to Hardmo's 11:52.8 world best performance 3,000 mtrs. in 11:58.2, second behind Hardmo's 12:45.0 world 2 mile record in 12:54.4, and second in an Oslo, September 30, 1945, 5,000 mtrs. in 20:41.8. Later in his career, Hindmar further distinguished himself with three outstanding 5 mile efforts--all world best performances: 35:35.2 in Malmo, August 7, 1948, 35:00.0 in Malmo, August 9, 1955, and 34:49.8 in Goteborg, August 31, 1955. Like his venerable predecessor, Hardmo, however, Hindmar too failed badly in his few major international meetings.

During the period of Hardmo's decline, the greatest long distance figure of the Swedish era appeared. John Ljunggren held six official world records during his career, more than any other long distance ace, and established as well the most durable, quality record of competitive success in race walking history (1946-1964). His Olympic-European competitive record in the long distances has few equals. He competed in Olympic finals from 1948 to 1964, and in European Championship finals from 1946 to 1962, winning an Olympic and a European gold and silver medal, and an Olympic bronze medal (the only man, with Golubnichiy to win Olympic gold, silver, and bronze in the walks) during his enviable career, and only Whitlock had achieved the Olympic-European 50 km slam before him. His most important victories (his Olympic-European double) came in the 1946 European 50 km title race in 4:41:52.0, and in the 1948 Olympic 50 km in 4:38:20.0. Most notable among his other Olympic and European efforts were a second place finish in the 1950 European Championship 50 km in 4:43:25.0, a fourth in the 1954 European Championship 50 km, fourth in the 1956 Olympic 20 km, third in the 1956 Olympic 50 km in 4:35:02.0, second in the 1960 Olympic 50 km in 4:25:47.0, and fifth in the 1962 European Championship 50 km. Ljunggren also placed fourth in the 1961 Lugano Cup 20 km final. Among his six world record performances were the first sub-2:40 for 20 miles, and the first sub-4:30 for 50,000 mtrs.:

30,000 mtrs.	2:27:42.0	Varnamo	Aug. 3, 1952
20 miles	2:39:22.8	Varnamo	Aug. 3, 1952
30 miles	4:21:38.2	Gislaved	July 29, 1951
30 miles	4:21:11.0	Fristad	Aug. 8, 1953
50,000 mtrs.	4:32:52.0	Gislaved	July 29, 1951
50,000 mtrs.	4:29:58.0	Fristad	Aug. 8, 1953

He also had a world best road performance over 30 km of 2:26:38.0 in Helsingfors, May 28, 1952, and achieved his best 50 km of 4:19:40.0 on the road in Goteborg, September 30, 1956.

The Swedish era waned with the diminishing influence of Ljunggren, the retirement of Mikaelsson, and the emerging talents of the eastern Europeans. Swedish athletes competed with only moderate success in the late fifties and throughout the sixties. Among them, only Lennart Back was significantly influential during this period, Ljunggren aside; most notably, finishing third in the 1958 European Championship 20 km in 1:35:22.2, sixth in the 1960 Olympic 20 km, second in the 1961 Lugano Cup 20 km final in 1:32:12.0, and fifth in the 1962 European Championship 20 km.

THE EASTERN EUROPEAN REVOLUTION

The rise of eastern European pre-eminence in the walks did not manifest itself fully until the early fifties, though its embryonic stages showed themselves in the forms of Dalinsch of Latvia and Balsan of Czechoslovakia in the thirties, and Selmeczi of Hungary and Skodin of Russia in the forties. Athletes representing the eastern European traditions actually came to domination in 1952 and continue, together with East German performers, to exert the most significant influence on race walking.

Latvian Prelude: Dalinsch and Comrades

The germinal force of this movement was provided by a small but talented coterie of Latvian performers, foremost among whom was Janis Dalinsch. During his career Dalinsch broke three world records (20,000 mtrs. in 1:34:26.0 and 15 mi. 768 yds, or 24,843 mtrs. for the 2 hours in Riga, June 1, 1933, and 2:37:37.6 for 30,000 mtrs. in Riga, June 11, 1937), set up two world best performances (both over 30,000 mtrs. in Riga: 2:31:08.0 on August 17, 1934, and 2:33:09.0 on September 10, 1949), and won an Olympic silver medal and a European title. After leading most of the 1932 Olympic 50 km with Frigerio, Dalinsch submitted to the heat and the finishing charge of Tom Green to finish second in 4:57:22.0. Two years later, however, he won the inaugural European Championship 50 km in 4:49:52.6.

During this same period, two other Latvian performers established world best performances for 1 mile: Paul Bernhards clocked 6:21.2 (London, July 27, 1936) and Valdemar Grandy did 6:15.2 (Riga, August 28, 1943). And A. Bubenko captured the Olympic bronze over 50 km in Berlin in 4:32:42.2. Also prior to the Latvian prelude passing into the Russian epoch, Adolfs Liepaskalns achieved four world best performances: 15,000 mtrs. in 1:06:33.6 (Riga, October 14, 1951), 20,000 mtrs. in 1:31:23.8 (Riga, October 14, 1951), 30,000 mtrs. in 2:32:34.0 (Riga, October 4, 1938), and 30,000 mtrs. in 2:28:32.4 (Riga, September, 1949).

Russian Predominance: Junk to Golubnichiy

The native precursors of the Russian movement proper were Ivan Skodin and Issaij Papkov. Skodin established three world best performances in the early forties, including the first sub-21:00 5,000 mtrs. in race walking history: 3,000 mtrs. in 12:12.8 (Smolensk, June 18, 1940), and 3,000 mtrs. in 12:01.0 and 5,000 mtrs. in 20:51.0 (Smolensk, June 22, 1941). Papkov achieved a single world best performance nearly a decade later, a 35:32.8 for 5 miles in Baku, May 22, 1950. And with this, the Latvian prelude, and the declining Swedish prowess the stage for Russian predominance had been set. Among the most salient features of this development has been the great depth of quality performers it has produced. The unprecedented number and depth of quality mass finishes (which first came into vogue in the Swedish era) became a characteristic quality of the Russian tradition.

The first truly significant figure to perform within, and in a sense to launch the Russian tradition proper was Bruno Junk. Junk was the first Russian walker to win an Olympic medal, and the first to hold an official world record. He won bronze medals in both the 1952 Olympic 10,000 mtrs. in 45:41.0 (after an excellent 45:05.8 in a heat) and the 1956 Olympic 20 km in 1:32:12.0 (as the third man in a Russian sweep--only the second such in Olympic walk history: the 1908 Olympic 10 miles had ended in a British sweep). He also established two world records in the course of his distinguished

career: a 1:08:08.0 for 15,000 mtrs. in Charkov, September 17, 1951, and a 1:30:00.8 for 20,000 mtrs. in Tallin, May 28, 1956. His brilliant 11:51.4 for 3,000 mtrs. in Sotschi, April 7, 1952, though apparently achieved under acceptable conditions, was never officially accepted as a world record, yet remains the world best performance at the distance. Junk also had two genuinely outstanding non-record performances to his record: a 20:41.4 for 5,000 mtrs. in Moscow, August, 1952, and a 1:28:04.6 for 20,000 mtrs. in Kiev, October 13, 1956.

The appearance of the first great Russian sprinter, Junk, was soon accompanied by the emergence of the first of many outstanding Russian long distance performers, Vladimar Ukhov. After a sixth place finish in the 1952 Olympic 50 km, Ukhov became the first European walk champion from the Soviet Union with a marvelous 4:22:11.2 victory in the 1954 European Championship 50 km. He had three other great road 50 km races during his career as well: a world best road performance 4:20:30.0 in Leningrad, August 29, 1952, a fifth place 4:11:31.0 in Tbilisi, November 17, 1955, and a fourth place 4:11:23.0 in Moscow, August 10, 1956.

With Ukhov, two European medalists and multiple world record holders who competed successfully into the late fifties, the versatile Sergei Lobastov and Anatoli Yegorov, came to prominence. Lobastov came fifth in the 1952 Olympic 50 km, and won the bronze medal in the 1954 European Championship 10,000 mtrs. in 46:21.8. His two world records came in Moscow, August 23, 1958, when he achieved 4:07:11.0 for 30 miles and 4:16:08.6 for 50,000 mtrs. He also posted outstanding marks for the road 30 km (2:22:21.0 in Moscow, June 15, 1958) and 50 km (4:10:08.2 in Podebrady, October 6, 1957). Yegorov won the silver medal in the 1954 European Championship 10,000 mtrs. in 45:43.0, and surpassed two world records in Leningrad, July 15, 1959, when he did 16 mi. 743 yds. (26,429 mtrs.) in 2 hours, and 2:17:16.8 for 30,000 mtrs. He also had to his record indoor 5,000 mtr. times of 20:59.6 (Leningrad, February 10, 1958) and 20:36.2 (Leningrad, February 23, 1959), an extraordinary outdoor 5,000 mtrs. of 20:31.2 (Moscow), a road 50 km of 4:06:27.0 (Moscow, August 13, 1959), and led the first quality mass finish of the Russian period (in a road 50 km in Tbilisi, November 17, 1955):

1. Anatoli Yegorov 4:07:28.6
2. Anatoli Vedyakov 4:07:50.0
3. Mikhail Lavrov 4:08:15.0
4. Evgeni Maskinskov 4:10:58.0
5. Vladimar Ukhov 4:11:31.0
6. Antanas Mikenas 4:13:54.2

His winning time in Tbilisi was a world best road performance and the first sub-4:10 effort.

Much as the 1952 Olympic-1954 European Championship competitions had produced a great Russian sprint-distance duo in Junk and Ukhov, the 1956 Olympic-1958 European title races produced another such tandem, Leonid Spirin and Evgeni Maskinskov. During his career, Leonid Spirin established three world records, achieved two world best performances, and won a European silver medal and an Olympic gold medal (the first of three by Russian walkers). Spirin led the brilliant Russian sweep of the 1956 Olympic 20 km in 1:31:27.4, and two years later finished second to Stan Vickers in the European title 20 km in 1:35:04.2. He twice broke the world record for 15,000 mtrs. (1:05:45.8 in Moscow, May 7, 1957, and 1:05:18.0 in Dnepropetrovsk, September 24, 1957), and once the world standard for 20,000 mtrs. (1:28:45.2 in Kiev, June 13, 1956--the first official sub-1:30 performance). His two world best performances came on the road, over 20 km (1:27:28.6 in

Moscow, July 7, 1957) and 30 km (2:19:24.2 in Moscow, June 15, 1958--the first sub-2:20 performance). Spirin also produced several fine non-record efforts, in finishing second to Antanas Mikenas's 2:24:34.6 30,000 mtrs. in Wilma, September 27, 1955, in 2:26:36.2; second to Mikhail Lavrov's world 20,000 mtr. record of 1:27:58.2 in Moscow, August 13, 1956, in 1:28:08.8; and winning a fine 1 hour in Dnepropetrovsk, September 24, 1957, by covering 8 mi. 1005 yds. (13,794 mtrs.) enroute to his second world 15,000 mtr. record.

Like Spirin, Evgeni Maskinskov also competed successfully in both the Olympic Games and the European Championships. After having suffered an unexpected defeat at the hands of Norman Read in the 1956 Olympic 50 km, while finishing second in 4:32:57.0, he narrowly defeated the Italian phenom-to-be, Abdon Pamich, in the 1958 European Championship 50 km with an extraordinary 4:17:15.4 clocking. Unlike Spirin, however, Maskinskov did not produce a genuinely outstanding record on the watch, though he did manage two fine road 50 km efforts in finishing fourth in the celebrated Tbilisi race of November 17, 1955, in 4:10:58.0, and second behind Grigori Klimov's world best performance 4:05:12.2 in Moscow, August 10, 1956, in 4:08:57.0; as well as a now suspect 41:46.8 10,000 mtrs. in 1961.

Of the other major Russian figures of the late fifties, except the two great emerging champions, Vladimar Golubnichiy and Anatoli Vedyakov, all achieved excellent marks while competing in the Soviet Union, but competed rarely if at all outside Russian borders, and achieved little internationally throughout this period (but for Mikenas's Olympic silver medal, and Panichkin's European silver medal performances). Of these, Grigori Klimov was the most proficient at long distances, Mikhail Lavrov was the most versatile, and Antanas Mikenas, Valentin Guk, and Grigori Panichkin were the most outstanding sprinters.

Klimov failed to finish both of his Olympic appearances, but did set up three world best performances--one on the road (4:05:12.2 for 50 km in Moscow, August 10, 1956), and two on the track (4:00:46.8 for 30 miles and 4:09:56.4 for 50,000 mtrs., both in Moscow, September 26, 1964). In the 4:05:12.2 road 50 km, Klimov led a brilliant mass Russian finish:

1. Grigori Klimov 4:05:12.2
2. Evgeni Maskinskov 4:08:57.0
3. Mikhail Lavrov 4:09:47.0
4. Vladimar Ukhov 4:11:23.0
5. Anatoli Vedyakov 4:15:08.0

He also posted four outstanding road marks during his career, of which the two 50 km times are considered dubious: 20 km in 1:28:40.0 in Moscow, July 1, 1962; 30 km in 2:20:46.8 in Moscow, June 15, 1958; 50 km in 4:01:39.0 in Leningrad, August 17, 1961; and 50 km in 4:02:08.0 in Alma Ata, October 17, 1965--third to Gennadi Agapov's also doubtful 3:55:36.0.

Like Klimov, Mikhail Lavrov never competed successfully as an international, though he did achieve notable successes on the watch at distances from 15 km to 50 km. His lone world record came at 20,000 mtrs. in Moscow, August 13, 1956, where he narrowly defeated Leonid Spirin in 1:27:58.2. Enroute he also achieved a fine 8 mi. 957 yds. (13,750 mtrs.) for the hour. In finishing second to Anatoli Yegorov's world record performances for 2 hours and 30,000 mtrs. in Leningrad, July 15, 1959, Lavrov narrowly missed establishing two other world marks, as he returned 16 mi. 540 yds. (26,244 mtrs.) and 2:18:43.4 respectively. He also established two world best track performances in Grosniji, September 16, 1959 (4:02:04.6 for 30 miles and 4:11:18.6 for 50,000 mtrs.), and had five non-record road marks worthy of mention: 1:06:17.0 for 15 km in Nalchik, April 22, 1961; 1:27:47.0 for 20 km

in Moscow, July 5, 1959, in finishing third to Golubnichiy's 1:27:03.6 and Mikenas's 1:27:21.8; 1:27:53.4 for 20 km in Moscow, August 10, 1959; 1:26:25.6 for 20 km in Moscow, September 5, 1959, in finishing third behind Vedyakov's also doubtful 1:25:57.2; and a suspect 4:00:49.8 for 50 km in Kasan, September 5, 1961. The Moscow 20 km of August 10, 1959, produced another in the long and fabled series of quality Russian mass finishes: 1. Mikhail Lavrov, 1:27:53.4; 2. Anatoli Vedyakov, 1:28:02.4; and 3. Grigori Panichkin, 1:28:09.0.

Antanas Mikenas, who was the second man in the Russian sweep of the 1956 Olympic 20 km in 1:32:03.0, also compiled an impressive series of non-record performances between 1955 and 1959. He finished sixth in the famous Tbilisi road 50 km on November 17, 1955, in 4:13:54.2; second to Golubnichiy's 1:27:03.6 road 20 km in Moscow, July 5, 1959, in 1:27:21.8; third behind Panichkin's also suspect 41:35.0 and Golubnichiy's 41:49.6 10,000 mtrs. in Odessa, September 12, 1959, in 41:59.8; and second to Golubnichiy's excellent winning, though suspect track marks at 1 hour, 15,000 mtrs., and 20,000 mtrs. in Odessa, September 15, 1959, with respective performances of 8 mi.926 yds. (13,722 mtrs.), 1:05:40.2, and 1:28:22.2. The least distinguished of the Russian contingent mentioned in the late fifties was Valentin Guk. Guk established a world best road performance of 1:28:38.4 for 20 km in Kiev, April 13, 1957, later achieved 1:28:31.6 on the track over the same distance, and returned a suspect 42:09.4 for 10,000 mtrs. on the track in Kiev, 1959.

Also appearing at this time was Grigori Panichkin, who must be ranked, with Junk, Spirin, Golubnichiy, and Smaga, among the greatest sprinters of the Russian tradition. Panichkin won the silver medal behind Abdon Pamich in the 1962 European 50 km title race in 4:24:35.6, held two officially accepted world records, and would have held three others had the I.A.A.F. been accepting performances over the sprint distances at the time of Panichkin's achievements. Of his five extraordinary records, only the earliest at 10,000 mtrs. and the 20,000 mtr. performances were ratified, the marks at 10,000 mtrs. and 15,000 mtrs. are yet the best achieved at these distances, and the 1 hour effort was the first to exceed 14,000 mtrs.:

10,000 mtrs.	42:18.4	Stalinabad	May 7, 1958
10,000 mtrs.	42:10.4	Riga	June 10, 1958
1 hour	8 mi. 1294 yds. (14,058 mtrs.)	Stalinabad	May 9, 1958
15,000 mtrs.	1:04:22.0	Stalinabad	Nov. 1, 1959
20,000 mtrs.	1:27:38.6	Stalinabad	May 9, 1958

Panichkin also produced an incredible, but suspect 41:35.0 for 10,000 mtrs. in Odessa, September 12, 1959, which had Golubnichiy come second in 41:49.6, and Mikenas third in 41:59.8. His most outstanding road marks were a 1:28:09.0 for 20 km in Moscow, August 10, 1959, behind Lavrov's 1:27:53.4 and Vedyakov's 1:28:02.4, and a 4:12:26.6 for 50 km in Moscow, August 12, 1962.

With the coming to prominence of Vladimir Golubnichiy in the mid-fifties, the Russian epoch came of genuine age. It was with Golubnichiy, the most durable and greatest of the Russian champions, let alone among the greatest of any vintage, that the Russian position of pre-eminence was fulfilled. Though he has on occasion produced extraordinarily fast times, it has been his numerous international triumphs which provide the mark of his true greatness, and has made him both the sustenance and the culmination of the Russian movement. Golubnichiy first came to international attention with a stunning world 20,000 mtr. record of 1:30:02.8 in Kiev, October 2, 1955. After the world standard at this distance underwent several revisions in the years immediately following Golubnichiy's precocious Kiev achievement, he regained it with a 1:27:05.0 performance in Simferopol, September 23,

1958. He also established a world best road performance of 1:27:03.6 for 20 km in Moscow, July 5, 1959--Mikenas was second here in 1:27:21.8, Lavrov third in 1:27:47.0, and Vedyakov fourth in 1:27:55.0. His virtually unapproached excellence as an international competitor, however, is the feature of his record which sets Golubnichiy clearly atop the Russian tradition, and perhaps atop the entire lot of race walkers. He has won two Olympic titles (a total matched only by Larner and Mikaelsson, and exceeded only by Frigerio), an Olympic silver and bronze medal (thereby holding Olympic gold, silver, and bronze--a feat matched only by Ljunggren), a European title (with Matthews, the only athlete to win the Olympic-European slam at 20 km), and a European Championship silver and bronze medal as well (thereby also holding European gold, silver, and bronze--a feat equalled by no other performer). He won the 1960 Olympic 20 km in 1:34:07.2, finished third in the 1962 European Championship 20 km in 1:36:37.6, third in the 1964 Olympic 20 km in 1:31:59.4, second in the 1966 European 20 km in 1:30:06.0, again won the Olympic 20 km in 1968 with 1:33:58.4, finished second in the 1972 Olympic 20 km in 1:26:55.2, and won the 1974 European Championship 20 km in 1:29:30.0. In his only Lugano Cup appearances he finished second in the 1967 20 km final in 1:28:58.0, and second in the 1970 20 km final in 1:27:12.4. Golubnichiy also posted several non-record marks worthy of note: a suspect 41:49.6 10,000 mtrs. behind Panichkin's 41:35.0 in Odessa, September 12, 1959; a 1:26:13.2 for 20,000 mtrs. on the same occasion; a suspect 8 mi.1169 yds. (13,944 mtrs.) for 1 hour and 1:04:33.8 for 15,000 mtrs. in Leningrad, March 20, 1960; and a 2:20:02.0 for 30 km on the road in Kiev, September 22, 1965.

The emergence of the great Golubnichiy was accompanied by the appearance of a more versatile, but less durable and internationally successful long distance ace, Anatoli Vedyakov. Vedyakov established four world records during his career; among them, the first 2 hours to exceed 16 miles, the first official sub-2:20 for 30,000 mtrs., and the yet extant world standard for 20 miles: 16 mi.126 yds. (25,865 mtrs.) for the 2 hours and 2:20:40.2 for the 30,000 mtrs., both in Moscow, October 7, 1955; and 2:19:43.0 for 30,000 mtrs. and 2:31:33.0 for 20 miles, both in Moscow, August 23, 1958. In the latter effort, Vedyakov also broke his own European 2 hours record (of 25,865 mtrs.) with 16 mi.145 yds. (25,883 mtrs.), but fell short of the global standard since lifted by Australian Ted Allsopp. Vedyakov also won two quality mass finishes--one in the suspect 1959 U.S.S.R. vs. Great Britain dual 20 km in 1:25:57.2 from Ken Matthews (1:26:05.2), Mikhail Lavrov (1:26:25.6), and Stan Vickers (1:28:43.6), and the other in a road 50 km in Moscow, August 13, 1959, which ended in a world best road performance of 4:03:52.2:

1. Anatoli Vedyakov	4:03:52.2
2. Anatoli Yegorov	4:06:27.0
3. Grigori Klimov	4:07:42.0
4. Vyacheslav Michin	4:10:24.6
5. Aleksandr Tscherbina	4:10:26.4
6. Sergei Lobastov	4:12:58.6

And he had as well a fine track 20,000 mtrs. of 1:29:10.2 in Krasnodar, September 10, 1959, and road 30 km of 2:20:58.2 in Moscow, June 15, 1958. Vedyakov's Olympic and European Championship encounters met with only moderate success, however; his highest finishes having been a fourth in the 1962 European 20 km title race, and a fifth in the 1966 European Championship 20 km.

The major Russian figures of the sixties and seventies were Golubnichiy in continuance from the fifties, Nikolai Smaga, and Venyamin Soldatenko. Most notable among an ominous number of supporting figures have been Aleksandr Tscherbina, Gennadi Agapov, Boris Khrolovich, and Otto Bartsch. Tscherbina finished fourth in the 1960 Olympic 50 km, third in the 1966 European Championship 50 km in 4:20:47.2, and third in the 1967 Lugano Cup 50 km final in 4:13:07.0. His best clockings include a 2:22:25.0 road 30 km (Moscow, June 9, 1963), a 4:10:26.4 road 50 km in finishing fifth to Ved-yakov's 4:03:52.2 (Moscow, August 13, 1959), and a suspect 3:57:28.0 road 50 km in finishing second to Agapov's 3:55:36.0 (Alma Ata, October 17, 1965). Agapov won the silver medal in the 1966 European Championship 50 km in 4:20:01.2, finished third in the 1967 Little Olympics 20 km in Mexico City in 1:36:02.4, and fifth in the 1970 Lugano Cup 20 km final in 1:28:24.8. He also once held the world 20,000 mtrs. record at 1:26:45.8 (Simferopol, April 6, 1969), did 1:05:13.2 in an indoor 15,000 mtrs. (Leningrad, March 20, 1966), 1:27:30.2 for the road 20 km (Naumberg, August 12, 1970), 2:20:09.0 for 30 km on the road (Moscow, June 9, 1963), and 4:07:51.0 for the road 50 km (October 1, 1972). Agapov also produced two of the most astounding marks in the history of the walks: 30 km on the road in 2:12:56.4 (Sverdlovsk, June 12, 1966) and 50 km on the road in 3:55:36.0 (Alma Ata, October 17, 1965), both of which are now considered suspect. The Alma Ata 50 km produced some equally impressive place times:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Gennadi Agapov | 3:55:36.0 |
| 2. Aleksandr Tscherbina | 3:57:28.0 |
| 3. Grigori Klimov | 4:02:08.0 |
| 4. Mikhail Korschunov | 4:05:15.0 |
| 5. Vytautas Zurnia | 4:06:43.0 |

Boris Khrolovich's major claim to a place in this history is his world 2 hours records of 16 mi.992 yds. (26,657 mtrs.) in Minsk, September 27, 1959, and a 1:28:47.4 road 20 km in Minsk, July 9, 1963. And Otto Bartsch has been an outstanding international competitor in recent years, finishing fourth in the 1969 European Championship 50 km, fourth in the 1971 European Championship 50 km in 4:09:14.4, fourth in the 1972 Olympic 50 km in 4:01:35.4, second in the 1973 Lugano Cup 50 km final in 3:57:10.0, and second in the 1974 European Championship 50 km in 4:02:38.8.

Golubnichiy aside, the greatest Russian sprinter in this most recent period has been Nikolai Smaga. Smaga was the 1971 European 20 km champion in 1:27:20.2, twice won European Championship bronze medals over 20 km (1:30:18.0 in Budapest, 1966, and 1:31:30.2 in Athens, 1969), annexed an Olympic 20 km bronze (1:34:03.4 in Mexico City, 1968), as well as having won the 1966 Little Olympics 20 km in Mexico City in 1:31:04.0, and the 1967 Lugano Cup 20 km final in 1:28:38.4. He also finished fourth in the 1970 Lugano Cup 20 km final in 1:28:08.6, fifth in the 1972 Olympic 20 km in 1:28:16.6, and fourth in the 1973 Lugano Cup 20 km final. As Golubnichiy and Smaga have been the finest Russian sprinters of this period, Venyamin Soldatenko has been the most outstanding distance performer. Soldatenko is principally remembered for his great 1971 European Championship 50 km victory over Christoph Hohne in 4:02:22.0, his 1972 Olympic silver medal 50 km performance of 3:58:24.0, and his world 50,000 mtr. record of 4:03:42.6 in Moscow, October 4, 1972. He also, however, finished third in the 1969 European Championship 50 km in 4:23:04.8, second in the 1970 Lugano Cup 50 km final in 4:09:52.4, fourth in the 1973 Lugano Cup 50 km final in 4:01:33.6, and fifth in the 1974 European Championship 50 km, as well as having achieved a second sub-4:00 clocking over the road 50 km (3:59:17.8 vs. East Germany,

September 20, 1971, in narrowly defeating Peter Selzer's 3:59:21.0).

The immense volume of quality performers and performances, no less than the high quality of such, is perhaps the most impressive and unique feature of the Russian predominance. Though Russian walkers currently share their pre-eminent status with the East Germans, they remain, as they have since 1952, among the most significant international influences on the walks.

Czech Influence: Balsan to Dolezal

Vaclav Balsan was one of the earliest and most significant figures in the formulation of the eastern European revolution, and the first in a line of outstanding Czech performers. During his career he established two world best road performances (1:09:08.0 for 15 km in Prague, September 20, 1933, and 1:34:14.8 for 20 km in Cesky Brod, August 18, 1933) and a world best track performance of 8 mi.945 yds. (13,739 mtrs.) for the 1 hour in Prague, June 29, 1944. In a race now considered suspect, Balsan achieved his greatest competitive triumph. After passing 5,000 mtrs. in 20:46.6 in Prague, October 24, 1945, he went on to narrowly defeat Verner Hardmo over 10,000 mtrs., 42:31.0 to 42:31.6. Balsan also produced two outstanding non-record sprint marks during his career: 12:02.6 for 3,000 mtrs. in Prague, September 9, 1943, and 21:24.0 for 5,000 mtrs. in Prague, July 9, 1933.

Balsan established a precedent of excellence for Czech race walkers which was soon to be taken yet further by the incomparable Jozef Dolezal. Dolezal was among those responsible for the transition from standards characteristic of the thirties and forties, to those of more modern proportion. His record achievements commonly eclipsed former standards by a wide margin. He is to be rightfully ranked among the greatest sprinters of all-time, and was perhaps the most versatile performer in race walking history. During his venerable career, Dolezal established ten official world records from 5 miles to 20 miles:

5 miles	35:00.0	Tabor	May 4, 1955
5 miles	34:32.8	Manchester	Oct. 15, 1955
15,000 mtrs.	1:07:54.0	Stara Boleslav	Nov. 1, 1953
15,000 mtrs.	1:05:59.6	Stara Boleslav	April 30, 1954
10 miles	1:10:45.8	Stara Boleslav	April 30, 1954
20,000 mtrs.	1:30:26.4	Stara Boleslav	Nov. 1, 1953
2 hours	15 mi.1591 yds. (25,595 mtrs.)	Prague	Oct. 12, 1952
2 hours	15 mi.1707 yds. (25,701 mtrs.)	Stara Boleslav	May 14, 1955
30,000 mtrs.	2:21:38.6	Prague	Oct. 12, 1952
20 miles	2:33:09.4	Stara Boleslav	May 14, 1954

He also achieved three world best road performances; among them, the first sub-1:30 for 20 km and the first sub-4:20 for 50 km: 1:29:59.8 for 20 km in Prague, July 25, 1956; 2:25:15.0 for 30 km in Prague, September 30, 1956; and 4:16:05.8 for 50 km in Prague, September 12, 1954 (he later achieved 4:15:13.8 for this distance in Podebrady, June 6, 1957--the best of his career). Dolezal also posted several extraordinary, non-record sprint marks: 11:58.0 for 3,000 mtrs. in Prague, September 28, 1947, on which occasion he also recorded 20:53.0 for 5,000 mtrs.; and 34:24.8 for a world best performance 5 miles in Stara Boleslav, October 26, 1954--all on the track. After finishing second in his first Olympic final, the Helsinki 50 km, in 4:30:17.8, however, Dolezal failed badly in subsequent Olympic appearances. His record in European Championship events was, conversely, excellent. He fin-

ished fourth in the 1950 50 km final, and four years later came as close as any has to a European double victory, winning the 10,000 mtrs. in 45:01.8, and coming second in the 50 km in 4:25:07.2.

During the mid-fifties, when Dolezal's prominence had begun to decline, two Czech long distance specialists of some reputation appeared, Milan Skront and Ladislav Moc. Like Dolezal, both performed poorly in their few Olympic appearances, but showed well in record achievements. Skront broke two world records in Krnov, April 30, 1956 (30 miles in 4:16:14.8, and 50,000 mtrs. in 4:26:05.2), and two world best track performances in Opava, September 15, 1957 (30 miles in 4:08:21.8, the first sub-4:10 on the track, and 50,000 mtrs. in 4:17:58.8, the first sub-4:20 on the track). His best 50 km came in a road event in Podebrady, August 26, 1956, however, where he did 4:16:20.8 in a third place finish. Moc's fastest 50 km also came on the Podebrady roads, a 4:12:18.2 effort on June 10, 1957. More significant, however, were his three world records: a 4:27:28.4 for 50,000 mtrs. in Znojmo, November 13, 1955 (the enroute 30 mile time of 4:18:00.0 was never ratified, though it was the best track mark achieved to that time); and a 4:12:03.4 for 30 miles, and 4:21:07.8 for 50,000 mtrs., both in Prague, June 21, 1956.

Also worthy of mention here are the more recent achievements of Aleksander Bilek, who has recorded an impressive number of fast times from 2 miles to 2 hours. His best track performances include: 13:18.8 for 2 miles and 20:46.8 for 5,000 mtrs. in Usti, October 20, 1965; 49:09.6 for 7 miles, 1:05:06.0 for 15,000 mtrs., 1:10:28.0 for 10 miles, and 1:28:04.8 for 20,000 mtrs. in Opava, June 11, 1967; 16 mi. 375 yds. (26,092 mtrs.) for the 2 hours in Liberec, September 17, 1967; and 33:58.2 for 5 miles in Ostrava, July 9, 1969, which remains the best ever achieved for this distance. And his best road performance was a suspect 41:56.8 for 10 km in Opava, June 25, 1966.

Hungarian Contributions: Roka to Kiss

Accompanying the emergence of the Russian and Czech influences were those of Hungarian vintage. Just as Skodin had been the harbinger of the Russian tradition, and Balsan that of the Czech, Hungary too produced a germinal force in the early forties in Jozsef Selmeczi. Though G. Stantics had won the 1906 Olympic 3,000 mtrs. decades before, Selmeczi was nonetheless the first major Hungarian figure. He achieved a world best track performance of 20:46.8 for 5,000 mtrs. in Budapest, July 20, 1941. A full decade elapsed between Selmeczi's embryonic contribution and the flowering of the Hungarian tradition, however. Sandor Laszlo established a world 30,000 mtr. record of 2:27:46.6 in Budapest, May 18, 1952, and a world best track performance for 50,000 mtrs. of 4:31:56.0 in Budapest, November 4, 1951. After a fifth place finish in the 1954 European Championship 50 km, Janos Samogyi achieved world best track performances over 30 miles, 4:18:23.4, and 50,000 mtrs., 4:28:24.8, in Budapest, August 28, 1955. Anral Roka nonetheless rates as the finest of the Hungarian performers, with his three world records, and Olympic and European bronze medals. Roka's world marks were a 4:21:12.6 for 30 miles and 4:31:21.6 for 50,000 mtrs. in Budapest, June 1, 1952; and a 4:20:10.6 for 30 miles in Budapest, October 30, 1955. He won his Olympic bronze over the 50 km distance in Helsinki in 4:31:27.2, and his European bronze also over the 50 km distance in Berne two years later in 4:31:32.2. Roka also finished fifth in the 1956 Olympic 50 km, and had a career best over 50 km of 4:21:57.6 on the road in Podebrady, August 26, 1956.

Another decade then passed before the appearance of Istvan Havasi and

Antal Kiss. Havasi is best remembered for his 1963 Lugano Cup 50 km final victory in 4:14:24.2. In fact, he achieved little else of international significance, save a sixth place finish in the 1962 European Championship 50 km, a 4:16:46.6 track 50,000 mtrs. in Budapest, June 6, 1963, and a 2:23:14.0 track 30,000 mtrs. in Budapest, September 22, 1963. Kiss' greatest achievement was his Olympic silver medal performance behind Christoph Hohne in the 1968 Olympic 50 km in 4:30:17.0. He also came second in the 1965 Lugano Cup 20 km final in 1:29:08.2, sixth in the 1966 European Championship 20 km, and fourth in the 1967 Little Olympics 20 km in Mexico City; and has done 42:24.2 for 10,000 mtrs. on the track in Tatabanya, October 31, 1965, 4:09:02.0 for 50 km on the road in Budapest, November 1, 1970, and 1:26:56.8 for 20,000 mtrs. on the track in 1971. The Hungarian influence, like the Rumanian (a brief discussion of which follows), carries little significance in itself, and is included here largely in virtue of the support it contributed to the eastern European revolution generally.

Rumanian Phenomenon: Dmitru Paraschivescu

Least significant of the eastern Europeans have been the Poles and the athletes of southeastern Europe. Of these, only Rumanian phenomenon, Dmitru Paraschivescu, is worthy of mention here. Though Paraschivescu performed poorly in his few international meetings, he nonetheless lays claim to a place in this history in virtue of his world 15,000 mtr. record of 1:08:28.0 in Bucharest, March 19, 1949, and a fine 2 hours of 15 mi. 701 yds. (24,781 mtrs.) in Bucharest, October 29, 1952.

NEW EMERGING NON-EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTIONS

Recent years have evidenced an increasing number of quality performers and performances from non-eastern European nations (most particularly East Germany) and from non-European nations (most particularly Australia, New Zealand, and the United States) as well. It is to the latter of these to which reference is made here. Though these latter contributions have in no significant measure diminished the pre-eminence of European athletes in the walks, they have appeared beside such eminence, have had some important degree of impact on the history of race walking, and so come in for consideration here.

The Aussie Threat: Stubbs to Freeman

Though Australian contributions to race walking did not come full blown until the mid-fifties, Australian athletes had achieved several fine marks earlier in the century. Most notable among the earliest Australian figures were William Murray, who established a world best track performance for 1 mile of 6:22.8 in Melbourne, February 24, 1912; and Athol Stubbs, who twice created world best track performances for 1 mile (6:18.2 in Sydney, February 25, 1939, and 6:15.4 in Sydney, February 17, 1940). The two central figures in Australian race walking did not come forward until the mid-fifties in the case of Ted Allsopp, and the late fifties in the case of Noel Freeman, however. Though Ted Allsopp never showed well as an international performer, he was one of only two non-European athletes (with George Goulding--both British Commonwealth athletes) to hold an official world record. His 2 hours world standard of 16 mi. 403 yds. (26,118 mtrs.) in Melbourne,

September 22, 1956, was also the first 26,000 mtr. performance. Allsopp also recorded a world best road performance of 1:11:09.4 for 10 miles in Ilemington, July 10, 1954, and had an outstanding 4:11:14.8 for 30 miles and 4:20:28.2 for 50,000 mtrs. on the track in Melbourne, August 22, 1959.

Noel Freeman was the best of the Australian race walking contingent, and the only one to have competed well internationally. His most significant achievement was his Olympic silver medal performance in the Rome 20 km, in which he was narrowly defeated by Golubnichiy, 1:34:07.2 to 1:34:16.4. He also finished fourth in the 1964 Olympic 20 km in 1:32:06.8, and won the 1970 British Empire and Commonwealth Games 20 miles in 2:33:33.0. Freeman also achieved a world best road performance of 2:35:02.2 for 20 miles in Melbourne, August 15, 1964, and recorded two great 5 mile times (34:57.2 in Melbourne, May 21, 1960, and 34:55.0 in Melbourne, May 30, 1964).

The Australian challenge to European domination (like that of Norman Read, which is about to be discussed) was not a genuine threat, but did (most particularly in the form of Allsopp's world record and Freeman's Olympic 20 km performances) stand equally beside European achievements. That is, the highest efforts of the Australians included achievements previously reserved for European athletes alone.

The Renegade Kiwi: Norman Read

Norman Read was one of the most unlikely champions in the history of race walking. In an era in which an impressive number of athletes had achieved sub-4:10 clockings over the road 50 km, Read had a lifetime best of only 4:21:23.0 (in Upper Hutt, April 9, 1960). He nevertheless became the first non-European Olympic champion since George Goulding in 1912 (and only the third ever). Read was English-born, but moved first to Australia, then to New Zealand when British and Australian officials in turn refused to select him for their 1956 Olympic teams. Under the Kiwi banner, then, he defeated Evgeni Maskinkov in the Melbourne 50 km in 4:30:42.8--a stunning upset by any standard. He also finished fifth in the 1960 Olympic 20 km, failed to finish the Rome 50 km in defense of his coveted gold medal, and came third in the 1966 British Empire and Commonwealth Games inaugural 20 miles in 2:46:28.2. Read's contribution to the the history of race walking resides primarily in his having provided a romantically exciting interlude to the European hegemony of the modern era. He effected no discernible movement in New Zealand, led no traditions, and produced no extraordinarily fast times. The image of his singular great triumph is nonetheless one of the most engaging in the history of the walks.

The Tradition of the United States: Bonhag to Young

The high prowess of the United States in track and field athletics generally has not been commonly reflected in race walking accomplishments. Such that, the walk tradition of the United States, if a tradition at all, is not among the world's most prominent. And virtually without significant exception, the performers of the pre-sixties were of importance only in terms of their having provided the foundations for the emerging internationalism of this most recent period. Despite this, the first Olympic walk champion was a representative of the United States, George V. Bonhag, who, distraught over his failure to medal in the 5 mile run, entered the 1906 Olympic 1,500 mtr. walk and won in 7:12.6 amid great protestation and after a series of bizarre occurrences and the disqualification of the best athletes. Bonhag later achieved 6:28.6 for 1 mile in New York City, September 29, 1917, but never figured as a genuinely important contributor to the history of the walks.

United States representatives also won Olympic silver and bronze medals in the relatively weak (but for Frigerio) Olympic finals of the twenties: Joseph B. Pearman finished second in the 1920 Olympic 10,000 mtrs., and R. F. Remer third in the Antwerp 3,000 mtrs. The most important impetus for the international emergence of United States walkers, however, was the sixth place finish of Ron Zinn in the 1964 Olympic 20 km. Zinn was the most prominent United States figure in the early sixties, winning the bronze medal in the 1963 Pan-American Games inaugural 20 km in 1:49:44.2, and recording 6:18.3 for an indoor 1 mile in New York City, March 10, 1962. Appearing at much the same time as Zinn, and much inspired by his great Tokyo effort, were Ron Laird, Rudy Haluza, Dave Romansky, Goetz Klopfer, and Larry Young. Though Laird did not perform favorably in his several Olympic appearances, he did finish sixth in the 1966 Little Olympics 20 km in Mexico City, won the 1967 Pan-American Games 20 km title in 1:33:05.2, placed a brilliant third in the 1967 Lugano Cup 20 km final in 1:29:12.6, and again third in the 1973 Lugano Cup 20 km final in 1:30:45.0; as well as achieving a best road 10 km of 43:10.4 (London, August 12, 1967) and a best road 20 km of 1:28:18.2 (Viareggio, August 19, 1967). Haluza is principally remembered for his fourth place finish in the 1968 Olympic 20 km, Romansky for his yet world best performance 1 mile of 6:10.4 (Quantico, May 2, 1970) and for his track 10,000 mtrs. of 43:03.8 (Stuttgart, July 16, 1970), and Klopfer for his 1971 Pan-American Games 20 km victory in 1:37:30.0.

Larry Young, the best of the United States walkers, has achieved the most internationally. Surpassing even Zinn's Tokyo sixth and Haluza's Mexico City fourth in significance, are Young's two Olympic bronze medal performances. He finished third in the 1968 Olympic 50 km in 4:31:55.4, and third again in the 1972 Olympic 50 km in an extraordinary 4:00:46.0--the latter of which yet ranks as the finest achievement by a United States walker, and the two together as the only medals won by a United States walker in any of the modern 20 km and 50 km Olympic events. Young also won two consecutive Pan-American Games 50 km titles, 4:26:20.8 in 1967, and 4:38:31.0 in 1971.

Jose Pedraza and the Diffusion of Power

The achievements of Jose Pedraza of Mexico, like those of Allsopp, Freeman, Read, and Young, represent the small, but important influence of non-European performers in race walking. Pedraza, however, is the only non-European, non-Anglo Saxon athlete to have won an Olympic walk medal. He is best known for his silver medal performance against Golubnichiy and Smaga in the closest walk final in Olympic history; that is, for his 1:34:00.0 in the 1968 Olympic 20 km. Pedraza also finished third in the 1966 Little Olympics 20 km in Mexico City in 1:32:55.0, won the 1967 Little Olympics 20 km in 1:34:22.0, and came second in the 1967 Pan-American Games 20 km in 1:34:50.6.

THE EAST GERMAN HEGEMONY AND BEYOND: LINDNER, HOHNE, FRENKEL, AND STABLE

Despite the impact of the new emerging non-Europeans, European athletes yet remain the predominant force in race walking. Currently representing this pre-eminence most significantly are the Russian performers previously discussed (since 1952), and an ominous stable of brilliant East German competitors (since 1964). The first of these was European and Lugano Cup 20 km

champion, Dieter Lindner. Lindner, with Frenkel and Reimann the most accomplished of the East German sprinters, won the 1966 European 20 km title in 1:29:25.0, won the 1965 Lugano Cup 20 km final in 1:28:10.8, captured the Olympic 20 km silver medal in Tokyo in 1:31:13.2, finished fourth in the 1960 Olympic 20 km, and finished sixth in the 1962 European Championship 20 km. He also recorded a fine 1:28:31.0 for 20,000 mtrs. on the track in finishing third to Pathus and Reimann in Karl Marx Stadt, July 25, 1965. Appearing at much the same time as Lindner was the first significant long distance figure of the East German camp, Kurt Sakowski. Sakowski's most notable efforts included a fifth place finish in the 1965 Lugano Cup 50 km final in 4:12:36.2, a fourth place finish in the 1966 European Championship 50 km, a fourth place finish in the 1967 Lugano Cup 50 km final, and a 12:05.0 for 3,000 mtrs. on the track (Berlin, April 9, 1956).

Lindner and Sakowski thus set the stage for the appearance of the greatest figure of the East German hegemony, and one of the greatest performers in the history of the walks, Christoph Hohne. Hohne is the last in a line of great walkers (with Whitlock, Ljunggren, Dordoni, and Pamich) to have achieved the Olympic-European 50 km slam, has twice won the European title at 50 km (a feat equalled only by Pamich), has won the Lugano Cup 50 km final an unprecedented three times, won a European Championship 50 km silver and a Lugano Cup 50 km bronze medal, and has eclipsed five world records (second only to Ljunggren's six among long distance performers). His Olympic victory came in the grueling Mexico City 50 km, and by the most decisive margin in Olympic history (by more than 10 minutes over Antal Kiss) in 4:20:13.6. He had finished sixth in the 1964 Olympic 50 km. After having finished fourth in the 1962 European Championship 50 km, Hohne won the 1969 European 50 km title in 4:13:32.8, finished second in the 1971 European Championship 50 km in 4:04:45.2, and again won the European 50 km title in 1974 in 3:59:05.6. He won the Lugano Cup 50 km final in 1965 (4:03:14.0, a world best road performance), 1967 (4:09:09.0), and 1970 (4:04:35.2), and finished third in 1973 (3:57:25.2, his career best). Hohne's world records came in Potsdam, May 16, 1965 (4:02:33.0 for 30 miles, and 4:10:51.8 for 50,000 mtrs.), in Berlin, October 18, 1969 (4:00:06.0 for 30 miles, and 4:08:05.0 for 50,000 mtrs.), and in Berlin, April 11, 1971 (2:15:16.0 for 30,000 mtrs.). He also won the 1971 Pre-Olympic 50 km in Munich in 4:07:47.0; recorded a world best road performance 50 km of 4:02:43.4 in Podebrady, August 6, 1967; and had outstanding road efforts over 2 hours (16 mi.35 yds., or 25,782 mtrs.) in Sebnitz, May 14, 1966, over 20 miles (2:34:13.2) in Sebnitz, May 30, 1964, and over 50 km (3:57:44.4) in Magdeburg, October 15, 1972.

Appearing at nearly the same time as Hohne were two extraordinary sprinters, Hans-Joachim Pathus and Hans-Georg Reimann. Pathus' only noteworthy international effort was a fifth place finish in the 1965 Lugano Cup 20 km final. He did, however, produce some remarkably fast road times during his career. Most notable among these were a world best road performance of 42:32.6 over 10 km in narrowly defeating Reimann's 42:32.8 in Machern, July 18, 1965; and a 1:27:21.8 for 20,000 mtrs. on the track in Karl Marx Stadt, July 25, 1965, where he led one of the greatest quality mass finishes in the history of the event:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Hans-Joachim Pathus | 1:27:21.8 |
| 2. Hans-Georg Reimann | 1:27:32.4 |
| 3. Dieter Lindner | 1:28:31.0 |
| 4. Gerhard Sperling | 1:28:47.2 |
| 5. Peter Frenkel | 1:29:24.6 |
| 6. Christoph Hohne | 1:30:13.2 |

Hans-Georg Reimann, unlike Pathus, had an extensive and successful international career, and, with Lindner and Frenkel, is properly ranked among the best sprinters of the East German hegemony. Reimann won two Lugano Cup 20 km finals (1:26:54.6 in 1970, and 1:29:31.0 in 1973), a European Championship silver medal in the 1962 20 km title race in 1:36:14.2, and an Olympic bronze medal in the 1972 Olympic 20 km in 1:27:16.6. He also came second in the 1967 Little Olympics 20 km in Mexico City in 1:35:36.2, fifth in the 1969 European Championship 20 km, and fifth in the 1971 European Championship in 1:28:56.8. Reimann's finest performance on the watch came in the East German Championships, June 24, 1972, when he matched Peter Frenkel's winning 1:25:19.4 for a share of the world 20,000 mtr. record. Most notable among his other performances were a second place 42:32.8 road 10 km to Pathus (Machern, July 18, 1965), a second place 1:27:32.4 track 20,000 mtrs. to Pathus (Karl Marx Stadt, July 25, 1965), a second place 1:26:36.0 road 20 km to Stadtmuller (Dresden, July 19, 1973), a second place 1:26:07.8 track 20,000 mtrs. to Frenkel's world record 1:25:50.0 (Erfurt, July 4, 1970), a 42:40.0 track 10,000 mtrs. (Potsdam, August 24, 1966), and an 8 mi. 932 yds. (13,727 mtrs.) track 1 hour (Dresden, April 23, 1967).

Yet more recently, the appearances of Peter Frenkel, Gerhard Sperling, Peter Selzer, and Karl-Heinz Stadtmuller have sustained and enhanced the East German stature. The most accomplished of these, Peter Frenkel, won the 1972 Olympic 20 km in a brilliant 1:26:42.4, and has established five world records and a world best track performance:

20,000 mtrs.	1:25:50.0 (a world best track performance of 1:09:16.0 for 10 miles enroute)	Erfurt	July 4, 1970
		Erfurt	June 24, 1972
20,000 mtrs.	1:25:19.4	Berlin	April 11, 1971
2 hours	16 mi.993 yds.(26,658 mtrs.)	Berlin	April 14, 1974
2 hours	16 mi.1289 yds.(26,928 mtrs.)	Berlin	April 12, 1974
30,000 mtrs.	2:14:21.2	Berlin	April 12, 1974

Most significant among Frenkel's other achievements were a third place finish in the 1970 Lugano Cup 20 km final in 1:27:32.8, a fourth place finish in the 1971 European Championship 20 km in 1:27:52.8, and a third place 1:26:42.0 road 20 km to Stadtmuller and Reimann (Dresden, July 19, 1973). Gerhard Sperling has also placed impressively high in recent international meetings, coming fourth in the 1966 European Championship 20 km, fifth in the 1968 Olympic 20 km, fourth in the 1969 European Championship 20 km, sixth in the 1970 Lugano Cup 20 km final in 1:28:47.6, second in the 1971 European Championship 20 km in 1:27:29.0, and fourth in the 1972 Olympic 20 km in 1:27:55.0. Sperling has also recorded several superbly fast track times over 20,000 mtrs.: 1:27:04.4 in finishing third to Frenkel's world record in Erfurt; July 4, 1970; 1:27:08.6 while winning the East German title, June 25, 1971; and 1:25:37.8 in finishing third to Frenkel's and Reimann's world record at the East German Championships, June 24, 1972.

Hohne aside, the finest East German long distance performer has been Peter Selzer. Selzer won the 1969 European 50 km silver medal in 4:16:09.6, and the European bronze medal both in 1971 in 4:06:11.0, and in 1974 in 4:04:28.4. He also came fourth in the 1968 Olympic 50 km, fourth in the 1970 Lugano Cup 50 km final, second in the 1971 Pre-Olympic 50 km in Munich in 4:07:47.0, fifth in the 1972 Olympic 50 km in 4:04:05.4, and sixth in the 1973 Lugano Cup 50 km final in 4:03:10.4. His best 50 km came in an East German vs. U.S.S.R. match, however, where he was narrowly defeated by Soldatenko, 3:59:17.8 to 3:59:21.0 on September 20, 1971. Selzer also established

a world 30 mile record of 3:56:12.6 and a world 50,000 mtr. record of 4:04:19.8 both in Naumburg, October 3, 1971. Karl-Heinz Stadtmüller is best remembered for his world 30,000 mtr. record of 2:14:45.6 and his world 2 hours record of 16 mi. 1269 yds. (26,910 mtrs.) both in Berlin, April 16, 1972. Most notable among his other achievements were a second place finish in the 1973 Lugano Cup 20 km final in 1:29:36.0, and a fine 1:25:21.0 road 20 km in Dresden, July 19, 1973. Other major participants in the East German movement have included Burkhard Leuschke, who finished fourth in the 1964 Olympic 50 km, and third in the 1970 Lugano Cup 50 km final in 4:11:10.4; and Winfried Skotnicki, who came fifth in the 1970 Lugano Cup 50 km final, fifth in the 1971 European Championship 50 km, and sixth in the 1974 European Championship 50 km.

Recent Olympic, European Championship, and Lugano Cup results, as well as world record registers reveal the high degree to which the East German hegemony dominates international competition in the walks. Only the continuing influence of the Russian performers and the recently emerging talents of the West Germans diminish it in any significant measure whatever--and this is an era unequalled with respect to the intensity of competition. Moreover, there are no imminently foreseeable events which portend to revise the prevailing trend.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY INFLUENCES

Of the other noteworthy influences on the history of race walking none represents an established tradition of the sort thusfar discussed. Principal among these are the influences of West Germany, France, and Denmark.

West Germany

By far the most important of these other influences comes from West Germany. In fact, recent (since 1972) competitive and record successes suggest that West German walkers may soon find themselves participating in a tradition of the first rank, though it does not yet rival the achievements of its eastern counterpart. The earliest of several outstanding West German performers were Bernhard Nermerich and Gerhard Weidner. Nermerich is most remembered for his sixth place finish in the 1971 European Championship 50 km, and his 3:59:33.6 road 50 km in a dual match vs. Great Britain, May 27, 1972. Gerhard Weidner broke two world records in Hamburg, April 8, 1973 (30 miles in 3:51:48.6, and 50,000 mtrs. in 4:00:27.0), finished sixth in the 1972 Olympic 50 km, and came fifth in the 1973 Lugano Cup 50 km final in 4:01:58.4. The greatest talent of the West German movement, however, and among the reigning great walkers in the world, is Bernd Kannenberg. Kannenberg's competitive and record successes have been equally astounding. He won the 1972 Olympic 50 km in a world best road performance, 3:56:11.6, won as well the 1973 Lugano Cup 50 km final in 3:56:50.8, and finished second in the 1974 European Championship 20 km in 1:29:38.2. He has also established three world records and one world best track performance: 16 mi. 1517 yds. (27,137 mtrs.) for 2 hours, and 2:12:58.0 for 30,000 mtrs., both in Kassel, May 11, 1974; and 1:24:45.0 for 20,000 mtrs., and 8 mi. 1485 yds. (14,233 mtrs.) for a world best track performance 1 hour, both in Hamburg, May 25, 1974. Kannenberg has recorded as well a yet standing world best road performance 50 km of 3:52:44.6 in a match vs. Great Britain, May 27, 1973, and an excellent 1:27:19.0 road 20 km in a match vs. U.S.S.R., June 16, 1973.

France

The first French race walker of international stature was Florimond Cornet, who competed in the late thirties and early forties, and who established a world 30 mile record of 4:24:54.2 and a world best track performance for 50,000 mtrs. of 4:34:39.4 in Paris, October 11, 1942, and a world best track performance for 30,000 mtrs. of 2:34:16.0 in Paris, October 16, 1938. The best of the French performers, a sprinter, Emile Maggi, appeared in the late forties. Maggi established a European 15,000 mtrs. record of 1:08:49.6 in Paris, October 24, 1948, and came third in the 1946 European Championship 10,000 mtrs. in 48:10.4, sixth in the 1948 Olympic 10,000 mtrs., and second in the 1950 European Championship 10,000 mtrs. in 46:16.8.

Denmark

The most significant Danish athlete in the history of race walking was Gunnar Rasmussen. Between his fourth place finish in the 1912 Olympic 10,000 mtrs. and his disqualification from both the 1920 Olympic 3,000 mtrs. and 10,000 mtrs., Rasmussen set up three world records (12:53.8 for 3,000 mtrs. in Copenhagen, July 7, 1918; 21:59.8 for 5,000 mtrs. in Copenhagen, July 6, 1918; and 45:26.4 for 10,000 mtrs. in Copenhagen, August 13, 1918), a world best track performance (21:44.6 for 5,000 mtrs. in Odense, August 25, 1918), and a world best road performance (1:10:23.0 for 15 km in Copenhagen, May 9, 1918).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

It has been the intent of this essay to develop, in logical and chronological order, a description and interpretation of the significant events comprising the history of race walking since its sophisticated modern origins, some approximately seventy years ago. The central concern of the essay turns about a treatment of the performances of the most significant figures in the annals of race walking (those who have profoundly influenced its development) as embodied in represented traditions. As such, only the most prominent figures and movements have gained attention.

A ranking of the most outstanding of those mentioned here has been further augmented by an underlining emphasis. There is, then, no need to repeat the rightful adulations previously ascribed, nor to rank the great figures in any more specific way than they have already been ranked, for to do so is to be redundant for one and to obscure the particularity of circumstance, opportunity, time, and place for another. In fact, many of the more recent developments in this history cannot be seen in full historical relief, due to our veiling propinquity to them, and so cannot be fully understood beside the historical perspective of earlier occurrences.

Moreover, the essay makes no pretense at connecting the events of this history to the larger socio-cultural affairs of their time, though a fully satisfactory and altogether responsible account of them waits upon such a connection. Most significant of such affairs that may have been cited are the socio-cultural underpinnings which serve to explain the British penchant for outdoor sport, the colonization of British sport in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States, the influence of the German and Swedish gymnastic societies, the early nationalization of Italian and German sport, and the later nationalization of sport in the Soviet Union and elsewhere in eastern Europe, Swedish and Swiss war neutrality, and the growing spirit of internationalism in sport.

The major conclusion which suggests itself here--that is, the single most dominant theme in the history of the walks--is the virtually complete, European domination of it. Only three non-Europeans (Bonhag, Goulding, and Read) have won Olympic titles; since 1932 when the current Olympic program began to develop only four (Read, Freeman, Pedraza, and Young) have won Olympic medals; and only two (Goulding and Allsopp) have held official world records. The history of race walking generally is therefore virtually synonymous with the history of its European practice.

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