

Prof. RAIKO PETROV

# OLYMPIC WRESTLING THROUGHOUT THE MILLENNIA

This history of the oldest sport practised by man, which sheds a new light on the cultural and sporting patrimony of the world, *is dedicated to the hundredth anniversary of the International Olympic Committee.*

# CONTENTS

	page		page
<b>PREFACE</b> .....	<b>7</b>	<b>IV. THE OLYMPIC ERA</b> .....	<b>43</b>
<b>FORWARD</b> .....	<b>9</b>	1. DIVINE GENEALOGY .....	43
<b>I. DEFINITION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF WRESTLING</b> .....	<b>11</b>	2. INDIVIDUAL GAMES .....	44
<b>II. GENESIS AND THE PERENNIAL FORMS OF WRESTLING</b> .....	<b>13</b>	3. THE OLYMPIC PROGRAMME .....	47
1. THE ORIGIN OF WRESTLING .....	13	4. THE AGONISTIC SPIRIT OF ANCIENT GREEKS .....	49
2. THE ROOTS OF WRESTLING AND ITS DEVELOPMENT .....	16	5. SINGULAR COMBATS .....	50
3. ANIMAL FIGHTS .....	17	6. THE HERACLIDAE .....	60
4. FIGHTING BETWEEN MAN AND ANIMAL .....	18	<b>V. SINGULAR COMBAT IN ROME</b> .....	<b>68</b>
5. PROTOWRESTLING .....	21	<b>VI. THE LONG RECESS</b> .....	<b>73</b>
6. MYTHOLOGICAL BATTLES .....	26	<b>VI. THE RENAISSANCE OF OLYMPISM</b> ..	<b>79</b>
<b>III. WRESTLING IN THE PRE-OLYMPIC ERA</b> .....	<b>29</b>	<b>VIII. THE SOURCES OF OLYMPIC WRESTLING</b> .....	<b>82</b>
1. WRESTLING IN THE SUMERO- AKKADIAN CIVILIZATION .....	29	<b>IX. THE OLYMPIC GAMES</b> .....	<b>88</b>
2. WRESTLING IN ANCIENT EGYPT ...	31	<b>X. WRESTLING IN THE WORLD</b> .....	<b>91</b>
3. WRESTLING IN THE FAR EAST .....	35	<b>XI. CONCLUSION</b> .....	<b>117</b>
4. THE HEBREWS .....	37	<b>ANNEX I</b> .....	<b>119</b>
5. WRESTLING IN THE MINOAN, MYCENEAENAND HOMERIC PERIOD .....	39	<b>ANNEX II</b> .....	<b>122</b>
		<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY AND ANNOTATIONS</b> .....	<b>143</b>
		<b>ILLUSTRATIONS</b> .....	<b>151</b>