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Chapter 6

Physical Education and Sport in Spain: *El Explorador* Magazine

Introduction

The first third of the twentieth century, as we are going to explain in this chapter, saw drastic changes to physical education (PE) and related culture in Spain. Sport went from being considered aristocratic and bourgeois to becoming a popular, mass phenomenon among the working class which, in some cases, could support professional players. But these changes were not without controversies or challenges. The Spanish Scouts (*Exploradores de España*) played an important role in popularizing physical activity among children and adolescents, and reflected some of these controversies. Thus, we feel that their work deserves to be considered in this more general context. The present chapter specifically focuses on illustrated articles on PE and sport that appeared in the magazine *El Explorador* (The Scout), published by the Spanish Scouts from 1913 to 1938. Taking a critical point of view, we conducted a literary review of source documents from this period. The articles themselves, and especially the accompanying images, showcase the instrumental role that the culture surrounding PE and sport played in the association. We can also see how the association's effort to popularize PE and sport led to dubious and occasionally contradictory debate – an issue that also affected discussions outside of the organization.

Our study¹ is organized into three sections. The first briefly goes over the state of PE and sport in Spain (and the greater European context in which it was situated) from the end of the nineteenth century to the early 1930s. The second section focuses on the Spanish Scouts, as they were key in guiding the organization's way of understanding and promoting PE and sport. In the third section, we provide an analysis of the visual discourse in the illustrated articles that appeared in the Scouts' own *El Explorador* magazine, in order to better understand how the vision of PE and sport, which was in line with the ideology and ends pursued by Spanish scouting leaders, was spread.

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Physical Education and Sport in Spain during the First Third of the Twentieth Century

During the first third of the twentieth century, it was considered that the debate regarding physical activity had gone hand in hand with the progression of educational practice and thought from the times of classical Greece to the modern era. In his 1927 *Bibliografía General de la Educación Física* (General Physical Education Bibliography), Rufino Blanco aimed to shed light on this fact; he provided further evidence for this correlation in his 1932 publication *Ideas de la educación física del pueblo griego según Philostrato Peri Gymnastikees* (Ideas on the Physical Education of the Greek Population according to Philostratus's *Peri Gymnastikis*), which analyzed one of the first classical Greek works. A pedagogue, member of the Spanish Olympic committee, university professor at the Escuela de Estudios Superiores de Magisterio (a Spanish school for training teachers), Catholic, and editor of the newspaper *El Universo*, Blanco represents an exemplary figure from the period under consideration. In his consolidated bibliography, Blanco claimed that, around the world, there was no greater teaching issue than PE.²

From the middle of the eighteenth century, the association between physical activity, schooling, and the modernization of society grew ever stronger. Since time immemorial, physical activities were carried out naturally based on one's class.³ Popular practices and aristocratic tournaments and competitions were traditional. From the mid-nineteenth century, the exercises and competitions that were performed by the bourgeoisie in elitist clubs and upper-class education centers began to spread to the masses, especially the working class.⁴ In Europe, following the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, governments came to believe that physical exercise, and especially PE in schools, was necessary to build a strong citizenry, one capable of fighting the challenges of modern nation states. In Spain, various factors influenced the PE movement, including the Napoleonic Wars, the boom of nationalism across Europe,⁵ and mandatory military service. Physical activity was quickly

2 Xavier Torrebaddella Flix, "Rufino Blanco Sánchez y las fuentes bibliográficas de la educación física y el deporte en España," *Revista Internacional de Ciencias del Deporte* 10, no. 37 (2014): 281–284.

3 Miguel Ángel Betancor León, and Conrado Vilanou Torrano. *Historia de la educación física y el deporte a través de los textos* (Barcelona, PPU, S.A., 1995).

4 Xavier Pujadas Martí, *Atletas y ciudadanos. historia social del deporte en España, 1870–2010* (Madrid, Alianza Editorial, 2011).

5 George L. Mosse, *La nacionalización de las masas. Simbolismo político y movimientos de masas en Alemania desde las Guerras Napoleónicas al Tercer Reich* (Madrid, Marcial Pons, 2005).

institutionalized as PE in some academies, clubs, schools, and universities until it became established in the general education system.⁶

In Europe, Olympism (the philosophy that promotes the values of the Olympic games) became a movement that encouraged and gave direction to physical activity and education. Urban and removed from nature, bourgeois society considered leisure to be a way to address the need to strengthen participants' minds and bodies. Slowly but steadily, the twentieth century nurtured the sports revolution, even among women.⁷

Spain was also affected by the change and modernization that took place in Europe around the turn of the twentieth century. In 1897, the Spanish Gymnastics Federation (Federación Española de Gimnasia) was founded, including all sports and physical activity as well as cultural, leisure, and folkloric pursuits. One year later, the Federation established provincial delegations and, in Madrid, the Escuela Física (Physique School) was created to train PE teachers. Education and physical activity, schooling and gymnastics, sport and physical activity, all were interlinked until well into the twentieth century.⁸ Ideas of Olympism gave impetus to this institutional organizing, giving hope that society itself could be changed in the process. The move from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth century was characterized by bourgeois concerns to civilize the body and modernize life via gymnastics, rediscovering nature, and making use of sport⁹ which has been referred to as the transition from aristocratic gymnastics to sport for the masses.¹⁰

In the stages leading up to competitive, mass, professional sports, this transition largely explains the connection between physical activity, gymnastics, PE, and sport, all of which were influenced by the Olympic movement, the military, the scout movement, and educational reforms.

There is a certain consensus in Spain when it comes to studying the beginnings of the focus on physical activity. Specifically, the bourgeoisie in the Basque Country and Catalonia played a large role in its implementation; while in the rest of the country, this role was played by the army and the more conservative sections of society (i.e., the aristocracy and monarchy). The history of PE in Spain merits in-depth

6 Xavier Torredadella Flix, "La bibliografía gimnástica y deportiva de la educación física en el ejército español (1808–1919): textos en contexto social," *Revista Universitaria de Historia Militar* 5, no. 9 (2016): 172–192.

7 Milagros García Bonafé, "El siglo XX. La revolución deportiva de los dones," *Apunts* 2, no. 64 (2001): 63–68.

8 José Luis Pastor Pradillo, *El espacio profesional de la Educación Física en España: génesis y formación (1883–1961)* (Alcalá: Universidad de Alcalá, Servicio de Publicaciones, 1997).

9 Andrés Domínguez Almansa, "Civilizar o corpo e modernizar a vida: ximnasia, sport e mentalidade burguesa na fin dun século. Galicia 1875–1900," *Documentos de Traballo. Historia* 4 (1997): 3–22.

10 Francisco Lagardera Otero, "De la aristocracia gimnástica al deporte de masas: un siglo de deporte en España," *Sistema* 110–111 (1992): 9–35.

consideration as it is a riddle with prejudice and platitudes. Physical activity and sport were used as points of contention in political and ideological debates between liberal and conservative movements until well into the twentieth century.¹¹

There are two different aspects when considering PE for children at the turn of the twentieth century up to the early 1930s. On the one hand, the incorporation of PE into the Spanish school system lacked consistency, was carried out under different names, and repeatedly included and excluded from both teacher-training syllabi and the curricula for different grade levels.¹² A lack of political stability, and debates on how to focus PE content in schools, influenced these instabilities. On the one hand, some sectors advocated for considering PE exclusively as a way to exercise the body; others insisted – in opposition to the church – on the relationship between PE and (occasionally secular) moral and ethical guidance. On the other hand, education movements and institutions, such as the Free Institution of Education (Institución Libre de Enseñanza), and social movements, such as socialism and anarchism, defended different conceptions of PE. Liberal reform pedagogy envisaged a kind of PE that was quite different than that offered under the Amorosian¹³ model, advocating games that make use of the body, sport, and even free play.

Outside of the efforts to include PE in schools, one of the leading groups to emerge were called the “school battalions”.¹⁴ Formed at the end of the nineteenth century, they existed until the declaration of the Second Spanish Republic in 1931, and instilled in their charges, whether they went to school or not, the principles of Catholic Regenerationism, a response to the Disaster of 1898 which sought to reawaken Spanish national identity and restore Spanish pride through non-political, militaristic means. Their PE made use of army-fatigue-like uniforms, wooden replicas of weapons, parades, and music.¹⁵ However, from 1913, the school battalions found competition in the Spanish Scouts, whose pedagogy coexisted with the Spanish Scouts from 1913, but the latter quickly surpassed the former in prestige, relegating the battalions to a secondary role. The scout movement seemed more alluring, pedagogically speaking, even though Spain heavily supported the military. As the twentieth century went

11 Conchi Campillo Alhama, Paula González Redondo, and Juan Monserrat-Gauchi, “Aproximación historiográfica a la actividad deportiva en España (s. XIX–XXI): asociacionismo, institucionalización y normalización,” *Materiales para la historia del Deporte* 17 (2018): 18.

12 For a more detailed look at the different laws and education plans that affected the implementation of PE in schools, see the following: José Luis Pastor Pradillo, *El espacio profesional de la Educación Física en España*

13 This is in reference to Francisco Amorós, for more information, see: Rafael Fernández-Sirvent, “Aproximación a la obra educativa de un afrancesado: el coronel Francisco Amorós y Ondeano,” *Pasado y memoria: Revista de historia contemporánea* 1 (2002): 167–182.

14 Xavier Torrebaddella Flix, “Los batallones infantiles en la Educación Física española (1890–1931),” *Revista Observatorio del Deporte ODEP* 1, no. 1 (2015): 32–70.

15 María del Mar del Pozo Andrés, *Currículum e identidad nacional: regeneracionismos, nacionalismos y escuela pública: (1890–1939)* (Madrid: Biblioteca Nueva, 2000).

on, the number of sports associations dramatically increased across the country, the passions and hobbies of parents and adults influencing their children, and the expectations of both towards PE.

Any consideration of the background of the PE and sport movement in Spain leads us to make use of sports publications as a main source for studying the history and image of these activities in context. This topic has been studied previously in a number of works on the formation of sports associations and associations' publications which were often illustrated and had recognized literary and a certain typographical and visual value. Between 1869 and 1899, 25 cycling magazines were published¹⁶ and, in Catalonia alone between 1880 and 1899, 14 sports magazines were published in addition to those dedicated exclusively to cycling.¹⁷

The impact of PE and sport in Spain can be seen in the multifaceted efforts and commitments that were made by professionals from a variety of fields. In large part, this was the result of a confluence of different factors promoted by political and financial elites (i.e., the politicians behind Spain's Bourbon Restoration and those with varying, though predominantly conservative, ideologies), doctors, jurists, and even priests and clergymen. But especially crucial was the work done by journalists, professors, teachers, and servicemen. Journalists quickly became the champions of the sport movement and industry, as can be seen in magazines such as *Los Deportes* (The Sports, 1897) and *Stadium* (1911), and the works of Narciso Masferrer Sala¹⁸ and Ricard Cabot, respectively. Cabot, a disciple of Sir Robert Baden-Powell and his Scouting movement, promoted sports as part of his vision for an open, modern Spain. *Stadium* would tout sport and related practices, and served as the mouthpiece for the scout movement in Barcelona. Specialized sports reports, articles, and advertisements gradually began to appear in niche publications and journals as well as in education and sports magazines. They even began to appear on the pages of the popular press during the first third of the twentieth century.¹⁹

Appearing in 1907, the scout movement spread rapidly and was adapted in each country in which it took hold. The movement showed how the school system could be complemented by attracting children, adolescents, and young people in general to participate in physical activities that were, at that time, more associated with the bourgeois society that was gathering strength in countries undergoing

16 Eugenio Izquierdo Macon and María Teresa Gómez Alonso, "Los orígenes del ciclismo en España: la expansión velocipédica de finales del siglo XIX," *Apunts* 1, no. 71 (2003): 6–13.

17 Xavier Pujadas and Carles Santacana, *L'esport és notícia. Història de la premsa esportiva a Catalunya 1880–1992* (Barcelona: Col·legi de Periodistes de Catalunya, 1997).

18 Fernando Arrechea Rivas, *España y los juegos Olímpicos* (Murcia: Universidad Católica de Murcia, 2017).

19 Juan Antonio Simón Sanjurjo, "Conquistando a las masas: el impacto del deporte en la prensa española, 1900–1936" *Recorde: Revista do Historia do Esporte* 5, no. 1 (2012), <https://revistas.ufjr.br/index.php/Recorde/article/view/709>

industrial revolutions. In Spain, this consolidation took place between 1913 and 1931, with support from the monarchy, the army, and the political powers behind the Bourbon Restoration. Aided by Spain's Associations Law of 1906, the prevailing political system during this period pushed forward with its own education and association model. The change of the education paradigm and citizenship during the Second Spanish Republic affected the structure of the Spanish Scouts, and it became difficult for the group to adapt to the new social framework. Scouting in Spain expanded alongside the hiking movement, the systematization of physical education in schools, the popularization of physical activity, and the organization of sports.

As in the rest of the world, the development of physical activity, creation of national identities, civil and youth activism, and sport were key focal points in Spain after WWI, though they did have particular characteristics in the country. PE, gymnastics federations and organizations, and hiking associations saw greater actual development than in the social imaginary. The evolution of sport quickly became a mass movement in the 1920s. The pessimism of the Spanish Regenerationist movement coexisted with the boom in traditional sporting practices at the end of the nineteenth century, practices that were associated with the aristocracy, social elites, and the military (sailing, horse riding or shooting). These activities, however, did not hinder the foundation of new sports federations in Spain (pigeon keeping, 1884; cycling, 1885; gymnastics, 1895; shooting, 1900; sailing, 1900; and tennis, 1909). In Spain, the most intense period for the consolidation of sports groups took place between 1910 and 1930, most notably through football and cycling, the latter of which had occurred at the end of the previous century.²⁰ The boom in football and gymnastics coincided with the height of the scout movement.

In the spirit of the times, Olympism served as the main point of reference. Under the leadership of the Baron of Coubertin, the modern Olympic Games were founded in 1896. Although Spanish participation in the first Games was limited, the Spanish Olympic Committee (1905, 1912, and 1924) wished for Spain to be competitive in Olympic sports, despite the lamentable state of education, physical activity, and organized sport in general.²¹ Our work focuses on the emergence of sports in Spain, a transformation that took place naturally alongside the formation of education and training organizations that, directly and indirectly, promoted the practice of sport, encouraged participation, and fostered competition and entertainment in a society plagued by illiteracy and hung up on traditions and religion.

²⁰ Fernando Arrechea Rivas, *España y los juegos*, 96.

²¹ Fernando Arrechea Rivas, *España y los juegos*, 101.

The Spanish Scouts 1913–1938

At its inception, the Spanish Scouts (whose statutes were approved on July 30, 1912) was a markedly conservative, monarchical, and militaristic group. At the turn of the century, Spain was afflicted by crises resulting from the loss of overseas colonies, the emergence of the Regenerationist movement, and the political instability left over from the nineteenth century. For Spanish scouting leaders, PE and sport became important parts of the solutions to these crises. To better understand how they construed PE and sport in their magazine *El Explorador*, we consider their professional and ideological backgrounds.

Appalled at the loss of Cuba, Teodoro Iradier, cavalry captain and driving force behind the scouts in Spain, blamed the poor conduct of the army for the debacle. He considered the soldiers to be in poor physical condition, rife with health and dietary issues, a result of their low social origin.²² Since the creation of the Spanish Scouts, a large number of its leaders and instructors have been servicemen. In fact, in 1920, about 40 per cent of them had been or were in the military, and despite the pacifist movements that were taking hold in Europe, across Spain they promoted a kind of scouting that focused on preparation for military service.²³ Both militaristic vocabulary and activities were incorporated into the organization, which was described as excessively militaristic and removed from the original, less rigid, and more naturalistic idea behind the scouts.²⁴ The group also had a decidedly patriotic tone. For example, Iradier modified the international scout oath to include references to love for the motherland, a willingness to be useful to the country, and respect for its laws.

King Alfonso XIII supported the organization from its inception. He was not only the group's honorary president, but regularly attended various scout exhibitions and would often dress in the Spanish Scouts' uniform. The social acceptance and adaptability of the movement made it ripe for partisan use. In Spain, it was used to strengthen the image of the crown.²⁵ The scouts represented an opportunity to change the monarchy into a symbol that was loved by all Spaniards, while

²² Xavier Torrealbadella Flix, "Regeneracionismo e impacto de la crisis de 1898 en la educación física y el deporte español," *Arbor: Ciencia, pensamiento y cultura* 190, no. 769 (2014), DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3989/arbor.2014.769n5012> (accessed March 30, 2020).

²³ Javier Moreno Luzón, "'Seeds of Spain' Scouting, Monarchy and National Construction, 1921–1931," *European History Quarterly* 50, no. 2 (2020): 226–247.

²⁴ Antonio S. Almeida Aguiar, "Escultismo y educación física en Canarias (1912–1920)," *Vegueta: Anuario de la Facultad de Geografía e Historia* 8 (2004): 51–70.

²⁵ Javier Moreno Luzón, "Performing Monarchy and Spanish Nationalism (1902–1913)," in *Transnational Histories of the 'Royal Nation'*, ed. Cathleen Sarti and Charlotte Backerra (Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017).

reinforcing a national identity.²⁶ It also offered an excellent tool for physical control due to the characteristics of its hidden curriculum. Later, the government of Primo de Rivera,²⁷ himself a scout, received support from the organization. In turn, the government responded with ostentatious support for the Spanish Scouts. First from the King, and then from Primo de Rivera, this support was crucial for the group's success, especially in the face of other attempts to create scouting associations. In 1920, the Spanish Scouts were declared the only official organization of the state.²⁸ This meant that they would receive significant financial aid and their popularity would grow among the upper social classes. There were various reasons why the group was mostly appreciated among the upper classes and not in the more underprivileged and working classes. Most important are the following: the leaders and their interests were more in line with those of the middle and upper classes; the more affluent classes had greater interest in physical exercise; the working classes considered PE and sport to be bourgeois;²⁹ republicans, anarchists, and socialists rejected the group because of its bourgeois and militaristic nature;³⁰ and the difficulty many lower-class families had to purchase the scout uniform. The Spanish Scouts aimed to improve the physical well-being of young people via sport and PE, while channeling the frustrations of the burgeoning working class away from large-scale changes to the political system or socially accepted values. This channelling was especially clear with the popularization of mass sports and the introduction of professional sports in the 1920s.³¹

It is also worth noting that the majority, if not all, of the notable leaders of the Spanish Scouts held conservative Spanish values, maintained political outlooks that

²⁶ With regard to the creation of a national identity via sports, and specifically soccer, see: Francisco Javier Caspistegui and John K. Walton, eds., *Guerras danzadas. Fútbol e identidades locales y regionales en Europa* (Pamplona: Ediciones Universidad de Navarra, 2001).

²⁷ Primo de Rivera was a dictator that governed Spain from 1923 to 1930. See Eduardo González Calleja, *La España de Primo de Rivera. La modernización autoritaria* (Madrid, Alianza Editorial, 2005); Alejandro Quiroga, "Los apóstoles de la patria. El ejército como instrumento de nacionalización de masas durante la dictadura de Primo de Rivera," *Mélanges de la Casa de Velazquez* 34, no.1 (2004): 243–272.

²⁸ Despite this, the Spanish Scouts were not the only scouting organization in Spain. There are many studies on the history of peripheral scout movements in Spain: Albert Balcells and Genís Samper, *L'escoltisme català (1911–1978)* (Barcanova, Barcelona, 1993); José Ignacio Cruz Orozco, *Escultismo, educación y tiempo libre* (Valencia, Institut Valencià de la Joventut, 1995); Mateu Cerdà, *Escultisme a Mallorca (1907–1995)* (Barcelona: Publicacions de l'Abadia de Montserrat, 1999); Lorenzo Alonso Delgado, "Deporte, Ocio y Sociabilidad en las Islas Canarias Occidentales (1850–1936)," (PhD diss., Universitat Ramon Llull, 2015).

²⁹ Francisco de Luis Martín, *Historia del deporte obrero en España (De los orígenes al final de la guerra civil)* (Salamanca: Ediciones Universidad de Salamanca, 2019).

³⁰ Miguel Fernández Ubiría, *Fútbol y anarquismo* (Madrid: Catarata, 2020).

³¹ Xavier Pujadas and Carles Santacana, "La mercantilización del ocio deportivo en España. El caso del fútbol, 1900–1928," *Historia Social* 41 (2001): 147–168.

avored a centralized state, administration, and culture, and were wary of peripheral nationalist movements such as those in Catalonia and the Basque Country. Thus, they introduced nationalistic symbols and practices into scouting rituals, similar to those seen in the military. In addition to having their own flags, each troop carried the Spanish flag. “*Viva España*” (Long live Spain) chants were common at scouting events and celebrations, and the Scouts’ anthem was dedicated to the motherland.

In addition to these conservative viewpoints, we should note that the Spanish Regenerationism movement played a crucial role in the institutionalization of PE and sport in Spain. After the disaster of 1898 with the loss of Cuba and Puerto Rico, an increased number of voices called for an improvement of the race,³² based on health- and education-related proposals to undertake social, economic, and political reforms that would place Spain alongside other advanced Western nations. This improvement was, in part, to come from PE and sport, leading to not only improvements in physique but also in morale.

There was a struggle in the Spanish Scouts between those who wished to push forward a new model of Spain and those who wanted to improve the country’s production, financial, and military capacities, without giving up certain cultural aspects such as the importance of religion, language, the role of women in society, a centralized political system, and the Spanish Hidalgo model as opposed to that of the English gentleman, or similarly, cultural conservatism. Teodoro Iradier himself was involved in one of these conflicts: as a result of attempting to maintain the religious neutrality of the Spanish Scouts, he was forced to resign his position as the group’s secretary general in 1915. After his departure, the group became more Catholic, and the more conservative elements of the movement were strengthened.³³ This conservative and militaristic vision of scouting was harshly criticized by progressive thinkers and pedagogues such as the members of the Free Institution of Education. However, the political, social, and military power held by those in charge of the Spanish Scouts were able to dismiss criticisms and attempts to reform the group.

During the Second Spanish Republic, the organization was forced to make significant changes. All monarchical symbols and contributions from the state were to be removed. Despite this, the Spanish Scouts were able to survive through both this Republic and the Spanish Civil War. Franco himself put an end to the association.

32 Improving the race was one of the greatest aspirations of Regenerationists. Since the end of the nineteenth century, there had been a belief in the Western world that humanity has entered a period of physical decline. During the first third of the twentieth century, after having lost their last colonies and suffered defeat in the Moroccan War (1921–1926), this feeling was especially intense in Spain, and promoting good hygiene and PE was seen as a way to restore the condition of the race.

33 Pere Fullana Puigserver, “Els Boy-Scouts a Espanya (1913–1915): desconfiances i divisions a l’episcopat espanyol,” *Educació i Història: Revista d’Història de l’Educació* 34 (2019): 183–199.

The Image of Sport and PE in *El Explorador* Magazine

In the context of the growing field of sports journalism and press,³⁴ the Spanish Scouts decided to edit their own magazine for sale. On July 1, 1913, eleven months after Madrid approved the statutes of the Spanish Scouts, the National Steering Committee published the first issue of the magazine *El Explorador. Revista Oficial de la Asociación Patriótica de los Exploradores de España* (The Scout. Official Magazine of the Patriotic Association of Spanish Scouts). In print until 1938, the magazine was the organization's official publication at the national level. The magazine was geared toward highlighting the National Steering Committee's orders and provisions, as well as publishing educational articles and stories on the main activities carried out by affiliates. In addition to covering the festivals, outings, and other events organized in Spain and abroad, the magazine aimed to reach all young people in Spain, not just those who were in the Spanish Scouts. The publication also reiterated provisions made by provincial committees and news about the scout movement around the world. While provincial committees would soon publish their own magazines, *El Explorador* would draw the lines and shape the discussions concerning scouting in Spain.

In its first issues, the magazine stated that the purpose of the publication was to serve as an example for Spanish youth, whether or not they were part of the scouting movement. Subsequently, it was scheduled to be a biweekly publication, although this would not be achieved for the entirety its 25 years in print. Occasionally, it was published monthly, and sometimes two issues appeared in a single publication with double the page count.

The Spanish Scouts reached a high level of popularity, as can be seen in the fact that their name was used to advertise candies and even anise liquor, or in the forgery of their uniforms to commit fraud.³⁵ Their interest in physical activities, frequent public festivals and exhibitions, and parades and marches, in addition to the support they received from local and national authorities, helped to popularize PE and sport. It should be noted that as members of an international movement, the Spanish Scouts had contact with European initiatives and developments that would later be implemented in Spain with differing levels of success. Nonetheless, the

³⁴ Jorge Uría, "Los deportes de masas en los años veinte. Fútbol, élites simbólicas e imágenes de modernidad en España," in *La réception des cultures de masse et des cultures populaires en Espagne (XVIIIe-XXe siècle)*, ed. Serge Salaün and Françoise Étienvre (Paris: Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle, 2009), <http://crec-paris3.fr/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/actes-08-Uria.pdf> (accessed April 8, 2013); Xavier Motilla Salas and Llorenç Gelabert Gual, "Fotoperiodisme, revistes il·lustrades i educació a Mallorca (1917–1936)," in *Imatges de l'escola, imatges de l'educació: Actes de les XXI Jornades d'Història de l'Educació*, ed. Francisca Comas Rubí, et al. (Palma: Universitat de les Illes Balears, 2014).

³⁵ Moreno Luzón, "'Seeds of Spain' Scouting."

organization often deviated from international trends which, after the Great War, were largely focused on pacifism; instead, the Spanish Scouts encouraged the practice of sport as a kind of preparation for military service, specifically sports with militaristic applications, such as soccer and Swedish gymnastics.

El Explorador magazine played a significant role in popularizing sport, reporting on sporting events and championships, and publishing numerous photos of sports and related matters. Among those sports that were photographed for the magazine were Swedish gymnastics, pole vault, high jump, track racing, swimming, racewalking, wrestling, boxing, self-defense, archery, soccer, motorcycling, tennis, horse racing, discus and javelin throw, weightlifting, cycling, athletics, shooting, fencing, and even aviation. In some instances, there are photos of winning horses belonging to the nobility, such as the horse of the Duke of Toledo, or photos of servicemen participating in a contest, such as the image of captain of the Royal Escort, Don Celedonio Febrel. Other photos show events, contests, and matches that were not organized by the Scouts. Taking all of this into consideration, we conclude that the presence of military-related sport was extensive, and further, that in addition to being a mouthpiece for a youth organization, *El Explorador* was used, at least to some extent, to grandstand the upper class that ran the Spanish Scouts.

Sport photography had more presence in the publication between 1913 and 1922, but it greatly waned by the 1930s. It is possible that the attempts of Juan Antonio Dimas³⁶ to introduce scouting practices more in line with international norms affected the presence of sport photography. In any event, the decreasing presence of such imagery has led us to focus our analysis on the period between 1913 and 1930, before the proclamation of the Second Spanish Republic.

The selection of photographs that appear in this chapter was made by taking into account three aspects. Firstly, we have selected the most photographed sports: football and Swedish gymnastics. Secondly, among photographs of these two sports we have selected those that are representative of their category and also demonstrate the traditionalist ideas and values of the Spanish Scout leaders. Finally, taking into account that what is shown is just as important as what is not, we have incorporated the only photos of women who appear practicing sports in *El Explorador*. The absence of the feminine in sport is another example of the conservative nature of the magazine's editors.

López Lacárcel found that the magazine had a decidedly propagandistic nature regarding PE since its foundation.³⁷ The advantages of spreading the practice of sport and gymnastics in the country included: it would improve the physical conditioning of future recruits, improve the productivity of the country, and standardize

³⁶ Moreno Luzón, "'Seeds of Spain' Scouting."

³⁷ José María López Lacárcel, *Historia de scouts en España. Así fuimos, así somos. Exploradores de España* (Madrid: ASDE, 2003).

ideas regarding the concept of the motherland and the monarchy. However, the magazine did not offer a singular discourse. While some leading members of the Scouts admired what was happening in Europe, others insisted on preserving Spanish idiosyncrasies against foreign influence. The need to promote PE to regenerate the Spanish race and the country was an idea accepted by everyone: the disputes arose over how to do it. There were three differing approaches. One was more in line with Baden-Powell's vision of PE, another wished to dedicate more space to sports as a way to keep young people's interest, and a third contingent rejected popular sports that they considered foreign. In the magazine, we see how these different opinions about PE and sport were mixed together, depending largely on perceptions about the country. The photographs that appear in *El Explorador* articles reflect these issues.

Soccer is one of the sports most often depicted in *El Explorador*, and related photographs provide us with insights into the interest that leaders of the Spanish Scouts had in promoting its practice. Fig. 6.1 shows a soccer team made up of Spanish Scouts from Sant Feliu de Llobregat (Barcelona). This kind of photograph focused on scouts who play soccer in order to stimulate and encourage the creation of teams, and consequently bring this practice into the organization. However, there are a large number of photographs that show matches being played by teams not associated with the Spanish Scouts, such as Irún, Barcelona, Atlético de Madrid, Racing, and Real Gimnástica. Fig. 6.2 shows a match being played for the Prince of Asturias Cup (organized by the *Real Federación Española de Fútbol*),³⁸ between one team comprised of members from Catalan teams and another (Centro) comprised of members from teams from the central region of Spain. First, it is important to note that the inclusion of photographs of non-scout matches reflects the popularity that soccer was attaining: a popularity that would reach a high point when the Spanish national team won the silver medal in the 1920 Olympics in Antwerp. Both Figs. 6.1 and 6.2 date to 1917, when soccer, though spreading rapidly, was predominately an amateur sport in Spain.³⁹ By publishing photographs of a sport popular among all social groups, and including matches not just between scouts but between non-scouts as well, the editors of *El Explorador* attempted to boost the popularity of the Scout movement, and with it, their numbers.

The large number and different kinds of photos promoting soccer led us to question the underlying motivation of Spanish scouting leaders. On the one hand, soccer

38 The trophy was instituted at the beginning of the 1914/15 season by the National Committee of the Royal Spanish Football Federation in honor of the then Prince of Asturias. Xavier Torredadella-Flix, "El nacimiento del fútbol en España: ¿Cómo se entrenaba y cómo se jugaba? 1ª parte (1800–1920)." *Recorde: Revista de História do Esporte* 13, no.1 (2020): 1–28.

39 Miguel Ángel Álvarez Areces, "Fútbol y revolución industrial, fabricando una pasión," *Abaco* 76–77 (2013): 47–60.

Primer «team» de «foot-ball» del Club Exploradores de San Feliú de Llobregat.

aspiraciones y anhelos de poseer una pelota y equipo total, formado por «gerseys» de color blanco y rojo con la estrella de «boy».

Es evidente que la pelota, juntamente con el equipo, característica del club formado bajo el título Club Exploradores, no forma un club propiamente dicho, sino que falta completarlo; es decir, para que forme un club completo es necesario poseer en buenas condiciones un campo en donde poder ensayar este juego, jugar con equipos forasteros y vigorizar nuestro cuerpo, adquiriendo energía, valor, fuerza, y robusteciendo, por lo tanto, nuestra salud, objetivo principal de esta Asociación, considerada como «sport».

Pronto la ocasión se nos mostró favorable, inaugurando nuestro Club en Esplugas de Llobregat, en donde dió señales de verdadera vida y apogeo, midiendo nuestras fuerzas, aun no ensayadas, con el primer «team» de aquella población, ayudado con algún elemento del España, que, queriendo dejarnos á cero, quedamos siete á tres á favor de los locales, sobresaliendo en ellos Passus, Ponsá y Santamars, y en los exploradores, Marcial Vergés, que entró dos «goals»; Joaquín Rius, que entró uno; el delantero Bernardo Rius, y el defensa Malaspina, como el portero Terral.

Luis RIUS POLL,

Instructor de la Tropa.

Castro Urdiales.

El miércoles 25 de Julio se celebraron las carreras de bicicletas Campeonato de Castro Urdiales, organizadas por el Fomento de Castro.

Toda la carrera estuvo cubierta por la tropa de exploradores, que establecieron sus puestos de socorro y señales en las vueltas, sin que, por fortuna, y gracias á todas estas medidas, ocurriese accidente alguno desagradable.

El Fomento ha hecho presente su agradecimiento á la tropa, tanto por esto como por toda la ayuda que están prestando los muchachos en todas las fiestas y actos que celebran este verano.

R. S.

EN GENERAL Foot-ball

Madrid.

El domingo 2 de este mes contendieron en el campo del Madrid F. C. el Sporting Club y el Madrid F. C.

✱

Por haber disuelto la sección de «foot-ball» la R. S. G. E., los partidos del próximo Campeonato se jugarán en las siguientes fechas:

Primera vuelta: 28 Octubre, Athlétic-Stadium; 4 Noviembre, Racing-Athlétic; 11 Noviembre, Madrid-Stadium; 18 Noviembre, Stadium-Racing; 25 Noviembre, Athlétic-Madrid; 2 Diciembre, Madrid-Racing.

Segunda vuelta: 13 Enero, Stadium-Athlétic; 27 Enero, Athlétic-Racing; 3 Febrero, Stadium-Madrid; 10 Febrero, Racing-Stadium; 24 Febrero, Madrid-Athlétic, y 3 Marzo, Racing-Madrid.

Fuera de Campeonato se jugarán los siguientes partidos:

El día 30 de Septiembre: Beneficio de la Asociación de la Prensa.

El 7 de Octubre: Entrenamiento de la selección que ha de ir á Barcelona.

El 14 de Octubre: Partido en Barcelona entre nuestra selección y la catalana.

El 21 de Octubre: Athlétic de Bilbao contra Athlétic de Madrid. (A beneficio del público).

El 30 de Diciembre: Partido en Madrid entre las selecciones Catalana y Centro.

Barcelona.

Para la renovación de cargos celebró junta el Colegio oficial de Arbitros de Cataluña.

La Junta quedó constituida en la siguiente forma: Presidente, Brú; secretario, Femenas; tesorero, Gimeno, y vocales, Pozo y Pons.

✱

Para disputarse la copa Español contendieron los equipos Alfonso XIII, de Palma de Mallorca, y Tarrasa.

Salió vencedor el Tarrasa por dos á cero.

✱

El domingo 5 del pasado mes de Agosto se celebró un partido en el que los equipos del Internacional y el Tarrasa se disputaban la copa *Dia Gráfico*.

El partido terminó con la victoria del Tarrasa.

✱

El Internacional, con motivo de la fiesta de Sans, concertó un partido con el Español.

Ganó el Español, por tres «goals» á uno.

✱

Fig. 6.1: *El Explorador* 60, September 1917. Municipal Newspaper Archive of Madrid (Hemeroteca Municipal de Madrid).

Vuelve el Arenas al ataque; pero nuestro equipo, no sólo defiende, sino que avanza con ímpetu arrollador.

Terminado el tiempo reglamentario se acuerda una prolongación de veinte minutos, con cambio de campo cada diez.

Por instantes va haciéndose cada vez más patente el dominio de nuestros paisanos, notándose agotamiento en todos los jugadores.

Se prorroga otra vez el partido; y cuando faltaban cinco minutos para acabar, Alvarez, que ha ido a la línea de delanteros, entra la pelota en la red, después de un centro maravilloso de Sotero.

Brú toca el final, y los equipos son despedidos, en medio de estruendosas ovaciones. El árbitro, imparcial.

Los que mejor jugaron en nuestro equipo fueron Machín, René, Alvarez, Múgica y Teus. De los contrarios, Jáuregui, Vallana, Suárez y Chacho.

Entre los infinitos telegramas que el Madrid ha recibido con motivo de su glorioso triunfo figura uno muy significativo de los socios del Deportivo, de Portugalete, y otro del de San Sebastián.

Pedestrisimo

El domingo 22 de Abril corríase la segunda prueba de «Legua española» para el campeonato de Madrid; esta vez la ha organizado el Club Deportivo Ferroviario.

El recorrido era saliendo del principio de la calle del Marqués de Monistrol seguir las tapias de la Casa de Campo hasta un poco más allá de la línea del ferrocarril.

El recorrido era todo llano y el suelo estaba en muy buenas condiciones.

Tanto la salida como la entrada fueron presenciadas por un numeroso público, en su totalidad de la populosa barriada del puente Segovia.

La inscripción batió el «record» madrileño con 88, de los cuales salieron 68, clasificándose 66 y retiráronse dos.

La clasificación fué la siguiente:

- 1.º Emilio González.
- 2.º F. Morales.
- 3.º J. Encinas.
- 4.º L. Velasco.
- 5.º E. Martínez.
- 6.º L. R. Urbano (E. de E.)
- 7.º J. U. Zarandíeta.
- 8.º M. Alzamora.
- 9.º Carpiñero.
10. Práxedes.
11. Cruz Martín.
12. E. Alzamora.
13. M. Sánchez (E. de E.)
14. D. Sánchez.
15. S. García.

La carrera, muy bien organizada por el C. D. F., que con el trabajo de sus directores y socios pronto será un Club de los pri-

Copa del Principe de Asturias.—Equipos de selección Centro y Cataluña.—Un momento de peligro.

(Fot Torres.)

Fig. 6.2: *El Explorador* 56, May 1917. Municipal Newspaper Archive of Madrid (Hemeroteca Municipal de Madrid).

del suplemento al mismo del 28 de noviembre que inserta el discurso de Su Santidad a los 15.000 Exploradores que recibió en audiencia el 6 de septiembre, y del opúsculo «LOS EXPLORADORES DE ESPAÑA».

Mucho me ha complacido la acogida que han dispensado y la difusión que procuran al discurso bellísimo del Santo Padre. Y más aún las manifestaciones que se contienen en su atenta carta de afirmación de profunda fe cristiana y de carácter esencialmente religioso de esa benemérita Institución.

Hubo, efectivamente, prejuicios y recelos en un principio al introducirse en España la Obra de los Exploradores. Pero hace tiempo que no tengo noticia alguna de que haya quien la combata.

Por mi parte puedo contar con que le he de prestar mi apoyo por razón de la finalidad que se propone, cual es una educación moral, social y patriótica de los jóvenes y la formación del carácter, para lo cual es la base religiosa el más adecuado fundamento.

Se ofrece a Vd. atto. s. s. y amigo, y a Vd., a los Instructores y a todos los Exploradores de España bendice afectuosamente. —Firmado, Cardenal Reig.

En análogo sentido escriben a nuestro Presidente General los Emms. y Excmos. Sres. Nuncio de Su Santidad, Arzobispo de Tarragona, Arzobispo de Zaragoza, Arzobispo de Valladolid, etc., etc., etc.

Muestrario Pedagógico

III

En Castellón los equipos *foot-ballistas* «Castellón» y «Valencia» no terminaron el encuentro a causa de la invasión del campo por el público. Como nota interesante y extraña, *A B C* del 26 de enero dice: «No hubo palos»

♦♦

En Pontevedra el «Unión Sporting» de Vigo venció al «Athletic» de Pontevedra. «El árbitro intentó expulsar al jugador Rey, siendo insultado por éste, por lo que el árbitro le abofeteó en pleno campo». Así lo dice *Informaciones* del 25 de enero último.

♦♦

A B C del 24 del mismo mes refiriéndose al partido de campeonato jugado en Barcelona entre los clubs «Barcelona» y «Español» dice:

«Las autoridades han adoptado algunas precauciones y el gobernador civil ha facilitado esta noche un bando, en el que dice que los gritos y denuestos contra los que formen los equipos en este partido, y en los sucesivos, y contra los pueblos que representen los mismos, serán corregidos con multas, cuya cuantía se determinará según las circunstancias que concurran. Asimismo se castigarán con multas las faltas de respeto al árbitro, y serán detenidos todos los que arrojen piedras o cualquier objeto al campo durante los partidos.

La Federación Catalana de Clubs de Fútbol y la Directiva del Club Español, en cuyo campo se juega el partido, han publicado también notas en la Prensa, haciendo un llamamiento a la deportividad, para que no se produzcan incidentes y la lucha se desarrolle en el terreno de nobleza que es de desear.»

A propósito de esto nos escribe un lector manifestándonos su propósito de pedir a las autoridades se permita el uso de armaduras de la Edad Media para asistir a los partidos.

♦♦

A B C de 27 de diciembre, en telegrama de Barcelona relativo a los equipos «Español» y «Barcelona» decía que «a pesar de tratarse de un «match» amistoso, unos y otros desarrollaron un juego muy violento, resultando algunos jugadores lesionados». Los jugadores Bordoy y Olariaga se propinaron tal encontronazo que «el primero tuvo que ser retirado con conmoción cerebral» y el segundo resultó lesionado en una rodilla. Después «el juego adquirió una inusitada dureza, siendo víctima Trabal de un encontronazo tan tremendo, que hubo de retirarse

MOLIÉNDOSE A COCES

Fot. publicada en *A B C* del 26 de Enero, con el epígrafe

Foot-ball que no lo parece

del campo. Poco después Velltoldrá recibió por su parte otra carga y quedó lesionado, retirándose igualmente».

Los últimos momentos del partido, en el que la violencia por ambas partes era tremenda, repercutieron en el público en donde los incidentes menudearon.»

Sabiendo que los jugadores eran 22 y las bajas declaradas 4, la proporción, casi de un 20 por 100, resulta superior a la de cualquier gran batalla de la Guerra Europea.

♦♦

Informaciones del 8 del actual, hablando del partido entre el «Real Madrid» y el «Unión Sporting», censura al árbitro no haber expulsado del terreno de juego a Isidro, cuando éste respondió a una zancadilla de Del Campo con una patada «bien encajada» y un «crochetazo» al aire. Si no estamos equivocados, «crochetazo» quiere decir puñetazo dirigido a la mandíbula.

Fig. 6.3: *El Explorador* 203, February 1926. Municipal Newspaper Archive of Madrid (Hemeroteca Municipal de Madrid).

was of great interest to the military.⁴⁰ Players had to be physically strong, technically skilled, able to make decisions quickly depending on the development of the game, and able to play on a team following the orders of the coach. We could add to this the warlike symbolism of having two teams facing off and fighting for victory. On the other hand, soccer played an important role in building national identities. In this vein, it is important to note the implicit message in Fig. 6.2: the publication of a photograph showing a Prince of Asturias Cup match between Catalonia and Centro. While the photo modernizes the image of the monarchy via sport, it also reaffirms royal power over all Spanish territories, even those with their own nationalist social movements, i.e., Catalonia. Furthermore, soccer began to emerge as a passion in which the audience could express their emotions in such a way that frustration with situations of poverty and inequality could be channeled and neutralized in stadiums. Thus, soccer served both as pre-military training and as a tool for social control. We believe that these reasons explain the presence of a large number of soccer images in the magazine, contrary to the international scouting trend of putting a greater emphasis on the practice of sport in nature.

Nevertheless, not all Spanish Scout leaders shared the same ideas about the benefits of soccer. In the magazine, there are some writers who denounced the sport, considering it to be unconnected to Spanish traditions, out of line with the national character, and responsible for popularizing foreign jargon. Additionally, in certain instances soccer was claimed to be the cause of serious injuries, and its health benefits were refuted. This attitude is reflected in Fig. 6.3: one player attacking another. The rejection of soccer by certain members of the association went beyond injuries and health. We believe that some photographs (such as Fig. 6.3) conceal decidedly conservative political motives. The following is a fragment from *El Explorador* that hints at this dismissal of soccer:

Ya sé que perteneces al *team* de los rojos como *centromedio* y que más de una vez has logrado algún magnífico *goal* después de un *penalti* bien dirigido [. . .]

Pero, antes de continuar, díme: ¿No te parece muy divertido esto de no hablar en cristiano? No hace mucho tiempo he leído en un periódico que alguien ofrece un importante premio al cronista de deportes que durante un año no incurra en anglicismos, galicismos y demás barbarismos que convierten nuestro hermoso idioma en un galimatías que ni el diablo entiende.

[I know that you play for the reds' *team* as *midfielder* and that more than once you have scored a spectacular *goal* after a well-called *penalty* [. . .] But before going on, tell me, do you find it fun, this not speaking Christian? Not long ago I read in an article that someone was offering a

⁴⁰ Xavier Torredadella Flix and Javier Olivera Beltrán, "Institucionalización del fútbol en el ejército español (1919–1920). Orígenes del patriotismo futbolístico nacional," *El Futuro del Pasado* 7 (2016): 497–532.

prize to the sports journalist that could go a full year without using any Anglicisms, Gallicisms, or any other barbarism that turns our beautiful language into gibberish that not even the devil could understand.⁴¹

The identification made between the Spanish language and Christianity is an attempt to affirm the national identity through language and religion. The text and images in *El Explorador*, in their historical context, provide us with a vision of sport at a social level, not as a phenomenon isolated from the realities of the day, but instead as a melting pot in which all the desires and feelings of the different sectors of society mixed.

Fig. 6.4: *El Explorador*, January 15, 1914. Municipal Newspaper Archive of Madrid (Hemeroteca Municipal de Madrid).

Swedish gymnastics is another of the most represented physical activities in *El Explorador*. Its health benefits, positive effects on the respiratory system, and ability to create a well-developed body were well-known and accepted by health specialists and doctors of the day. Thus, it fits perfectly with the objectives of the Spanish Regenerationists in the Scouts and, by accustomizing young people to obey a commanding

⁴¹ Dr. Shamid, “Juguemos al ‘foot-ball’,” *El Explorador* 40, February 1920. Note the emphasis placed on Anglicisms in the Spanish text. The debate on the benefits and detriments of including foreign jargon was a recurring topic in political, intellectual, and journalism circles. For more information, see Xavier Torredadella Flix and Antoni Nomdedeu-Rull, “Foot-ball, futbol, balompié . . . Los inicios de la adaptación del vocabulario deportivo de origen anglosajón,” *RICYDE. Revista internacional de ciencias del deporte* 30, no. 9 (2013): 5–22.

voice, those of the military.⁴² Though the magazine itself recommended that men practice Swedish gymnastics wearing short pants or briefs and simple canvas sandals⁴³ both in the summer and winter, Fig. 6.4 is representative of the majority of photographs that appear in *El Explorador*. The formation of rows is typical in Swedish gymnastics, although the uniforms lend the images a militaristic tone. This represents another way in which the organization showed its patriotic nature and the intention of its leaders to have the group serve as preparation for the military.

The Spanish Scouts did not have a women's section until 1934, under the Republican government. However, the group's international contacts kept them aware of the emerging presence of female sports.

El Explorador is a magazine that was written, published, and edited by men. Sportswomen were practically non-existent in its pages. However, from 1913 to 1936, women slowly began acquiring visibility and playing greater roles in the world of sport; similarly, their presence in Spanish sports journalism grew.⁴⁴ One of the first publications in show photographs of sportswomen was *Stadium*, a graphic sports magazine published in Barcelona and the mouthpiece in Catalonia for the Spanish Scouts.⁴⁵

In October and December of 1913 (Fig. 6.5), the magazine published two articles with images of “señoritas” (from Denmark, Belgium, Italy, and France) doing gymnastics, push-ups, arm exercises, using weights and gym bars, and supporting themselves on Swedish benches. They were taken from performances at the 1913 International Conference on Physical Education in Paris. The Conference held debate sessions at the Faculty of Medicine at the Sorbonne. The women performed in a closed arena – the *Velodrome d'Hiver* with a capacity of 15,000 – in one of the Conference's main acts. The Spanish delegation (one of 31 that attended the Conference) included physician Joaquín Decref y Ruiz, who was sponsored by the Committee for the Advancement of Scientific Research and Studies (*Junta para Ampliación de Estudios e Investigaciones Científicas*; JAE), and Augusto Condo.⁴⁶ That same year, both Decref and Condo published works on the Conference and promoted the event in circles that were especially

⁴² Xavier Torrebaddella Flix, “La bibliografía gimnástica y deportiva de la educación física en el ejército español (1808–1919): textos en contexto social,” *Revista Universitaria de Historia Militar* 5, no. 9 (2016): 172–192.

⁴³ Carlos A. Esteban, “La gimnasia sueca. Algunas consideraciones sobre su práctica,” *El Explorador*, December, 1917.

⁴⁴ Itziar de Ozámiz Lestón, *Representación de las mujeres deportistas en la prensa deportiva española (1893–1923)* (PhD diss., Universidade da Coruña, 2017).

⁴⁵ Pere Fullana Puigserver, “El feminismo oculto entre el músculo y la vida social: los inicios del deporte femenino en España (1911–1915),” *Journal of Sports and Health Research* 12, suppl. 2 (2020): 145–158.

⁴⁶ Xavier Torrebaddella, “La educación física comparada en España (1806–1936),” *Historia Social y de la Educación* 4, no. 1 (2014): 25–53.

Fig. 6.5: *El Explorador*, December 13, 1913. Municipal Newspaper Archive of Madrid (Hemeroteca Municipal de Madrid).

receptive to discussions on PE (both masculine and feminine).⁴⁷ The Conference had different sections including one called “the women’s group;” led by Mrs. Georges Coulon, that was experimenting with the globalization of fitness culture and an initial outreach to women. The repercussions of this foray were felt in the social imaginaries directly, and indirectly linked to new forms of training and civic education.

El Explorador, and thus the backers and coordinators of the Spanish Scouts, recognized that women were knocking on the conceptual door of the Scouts, as illustrated by these two articles. They likely published the articles for two reasons. First, because the issue was on the docket at the International Conference on Physical Education in Paris; second, because women’s PE appeared as an alternative to a more rigid, muscular, militaristic education. Doctor Joaquín Decref Ruiz, as Spanish representative at the Conference, participated in discussions on women, PE and the medical effects of gymnastics, wherein he supported Swedish gymnastics.⁴⁸ It is highly likely that, by that time, he was already involved with the Spanish Scouts. Throughout the 1920s, he actually served as the organization’s General Commissioner. However, his support for women’s PE did not turn into any real movement toward establishing a female branch of scouts in Spain. At that time, traditional gender roles were too entrenched in Spanish conservatism. The scarcity of photographs showing female sport in the Scouts’ official magazine indicates the lack of interest in modernizing the situation of Spanish women.

The representation of women and sport is summed up in the two aforementioned articles, which report on an event that took place outside of Spain. While troops insisted on playing the Spanish Hidalgo role and treating women like their mothers or sisters, a small gender revolution was sweeping the globe. The suppression of this phenomenon in the magazine is yet another example of the association’s traditional point of view.

Conclusions

The many articles dedicated to PE and sport, the repeated presence of a section dedicated to sports, and the large number of photographs covering related matters shows that the Spanish Scouts, as an organization, had significant interest in promoting PE and sport. We should note that this interest came at a time when concern for both

⁴⁷ Joaquín Decref Ruiz, *Congreso de educación física de París*, (Madrid, 1913); Augusto Condo, *Congreso Internacional de Educación Física: celebrado en París en marzo de 1913*. (Madrid: Imp. y Enc. de Valentín Tordesillas, 1913).

⁴⁸ Xavier Torreadella Flix, “La influencia de la profesión médica en la educación física española del siglo XIX y principios del XX: Análisis social del manual popular de gimnasia de sala médica e higiénica del Dr. Schreber,” *Cultura, Ciencia y Deporte* 9, no. 26 (2014): 162–176.

early childhood and adolescent care was increasing, and when there was growing interest in Spain to regenerate the race, overcome the crisis of 1898, and get closer to a seemingly ever-more distant Europe. Nevertheless, a careful consideration of photographs and their accompanying texts, and a knowledge of the sociopolitical beliefs of the leaders of the Spanish Scouts, has allowed us to shed light on how their politically biased standpoint influenced *El Explorador* magazine, and the image of PE and sport. To influence the image of PE and sport, those responsible for the magazine put images into circulation mediated by their traditionalist worldview. This circulation of photographs was aimed at shaping opinions and building a certain type of national identity.

We have seen that most of the photos in *El Explorador* show that sport could have militaristic applications. They also serve to bring up contentious issues such as adopting foreign vocabulary and customs, and underrepresenting women's sports. Ultimately, we have shown how the efforts of the leading class of politicians, servicemen, and powerful, wealthy landowners to modernize the country and become more European were present in the sports texts and photographs of *El Explorador*; as well as how these efforts were at odds with some of their long established beliefs, leaving them fearful of losing touch with one of the ways they understood the country with which they identified.

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