

Recovery and dissemination of the memory of the Barcelona '92 Olympic Games in the Olympic venue of La Seu d'Urgell

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Summary

Between 2014 and 2016, at the Alt Urgell County Archives, they deposited the fonds that belonging to the two institutions directly involved in the planning and execution of the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games at the Seu d'Urgell Olympic venue: the Club Cadí Canoe-Kayak and the Segre Olympic Park collections. The two collections are catalogued and their contents allow us to reconstruct the planning work, the execution and the sports life surrounding the Olympic Games. Bear in mind that, unlike other Olympic venues around the world, both the Club Cadí (with more than fifty years of history) and Segre Park have kept their facilities opened and activities going after the Olympic events, and currently, they are well-known around the world for canoeing.

In addition to the records from these two institutions, the County Archives houses other fonds that can help teach about the 1992 Olympic events from an audiovisual standpoint, being of special importance the fonds belonging to the Seu d'Urgell Town Hall, Ràdio Seu and Artur Carné, one of the accredited photographers who officially covered the competitions.

The Olympic Games resulted in a major transformation of the city in various aspects, including urbanization, infrastructures and sports. From a social standpoint, the event was a very powerful experience, as evidenced by the thousands of photographs that were taken by the people involved—from those who were directly responsible for planning the events to the collaborators, volunteers and the residents themselves. Their experience will be preserved, mainly through the collections of photographs that were deposited into the County Archives, which were identified, analyzed and contextualized.

Finally, the Games will be remembered for years to come thanks to the local newspaper, which gave special coverage to the progression of events from 1986, the year in which Barcelona was named the Olympic Games host city, until closing ceremony, and beyond.

The Alt Urgell County Archives has done a remarkable job of disseminating the contents of the fonds, both in organizing expositions (for the 50th anniversary of Club Cadí Canoe-Kayak, in 2014, and primarily, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the 1992 Olympics, which took place in 2017), and in supporting different publications and dissemination articles. Prior to this, the County Archives carried out various projects to gather both private and institutional collections, to contextualize the images, and to conduct an exhaustive search for press material. This included indexing local newspaper headlines, as well as integrating and computerizing publications gathered by public institutions in the area, with coverage at the regional, national and international levels. The campaign to recover dissemination material did not stop with the 25th anniversary in 2017, but remains active today with the goal of creating specific events-based time capsules, which are immersive and multi-sensory, including sounds, static images, dynamic images, interviews, documents and objects.