

THE VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF SPORTS IN THE COUNTIES IN GIRONA THROUGH PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTIONS HELD BY INSPAI, IMAGE CENTRE OF THE DIPUTACIÓ DE GIRONA.

The Diputació de Girona is an institution that is part of the local administration and is endowed with certain administrative powers for the government and administration of the province of Girona.

Through its management centre, INSPAI, Image Centre, the Diputació de Girona has gathered a set of photographic collections from various sources, which show how sport has been practiced in the Girona counties from approximately 1900 to the current day, both in families and society, and institutions and government, to promote local sport.

In this reflection, accompanied by a visual tour, the aim is to bring out and highlight the focus on the world of sports by the photographers (amateurs or professionals) in the Girona regions, based on the photographic collections kept by INSPAI, Image Centre of the Diputació de Girona.

The way the practice of sport throughout the territory of the Girona counties has been captured visually, can be analysed from several aspects. According to the origin of the collections, that is, if they belong to a private or institutional sector, and among the collections belonging to the private area, if they have been produced by individuals or families, according to the particular functions of each specific producer. It is also possible to analyse them according to the content of the photographs, the date they were taken or the purpose for which they were generated (for example, if they were produced for private use, for dissemination or with a aesthetic or pedagogical aim). And, finally, according to the social and geographical context in which they were taken.

THE ORIGIN OF THE COLLECTIONS

The private collections related to sport and held at INSPAI can be mainly divided into family and personal collections.

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS: FAMILY COLLECTIONS

In the case of family collections, we have observed that they have a common pattern: they come from families with a certain level of financial well-being. This allows them to bear the financial expenses involved in producing the photographs. It also means it is possible for them to obtain the minimum technical and chemical knowledge necessary to specialise, and this has made it easy for one of the members to become an enthusiast.

Years 1940-1970

It is also common for one of the members, at least, or the whole family, to do some form of sport, to the extent that they can enjoy periodic periods of leisure, depending on the time of year. The fact that the photographs were produced between the years 1940 and 1970, a period that coincides with the stage of the Francoist dictatorship in Spain, also gives them a particular and uniform aesthetic.

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS: THE PERSONAL COLLECTIONS

As for the personal collections, those before 1940 come from photographers with a commercial shop and own studio, where they took the photographs. For this reason, the visual representations of sports practice are created separately from how the sport is actually practised. They are motion-less photographs which, technically, mean that the image can be captured better, using clothes that suggest practising sport, or a costume, for example during carnivals, a very popular party in many municipalities of the Girona counties that has lasted until today.



Portrait of a woman with skiing equipment, first quarter of the 20th century. (Photo: UNKNOWN AUTHOR. EMILI MASSANAS I BURCET COLLECTION. INSPAI, IMAGE CENTRE OF THE DIPUTACIÓ DE GIRONA.)

The personal collections of the graphic reporters

On the other hand, we do find a large number of images related to the world of sports in the photographic collections of graphic reporters, whatever the era. Capturing movement is another challenge faced by professional photographers.

Years 1940-1970

With the consolidation of the Franco regime, a new stage begins in which only those who have a photographer's card, provided by the government at the time, can work in this profession. In this sense, it remains clear that the image itself has the ability to transmit

values, ideas, propaganda and pedagogy and that, consequently, it is advisable to control it. INSPAI keeps collections by graphic reporters from this period. Comparison with photographs from previous stages would be an interesting line of work.

The Pablito Collection shows the changes that occurred with the arrival of tourism and artists on the Costa Brava, and the evolution experienced by the society in Girona's counties. It also shows the institutional acts by the main authorities, as well as the social and sporting events at that time.

From 1978 to the present day

INSPAI, Image Centre of the Diputació de Girona, keeps a large number of collections by press photographers from the Girona counties, who emerged with the arrival of democracy, after the death of the dictator, alongside the new media of local level communication. Some of these photographers are still working professionally today. A current situation that has also evolved with the production of images, which are now digital and generated en masse compared to previous times; they have great professionalism and technical quality, and a photographic and technological industry behind them aimed at dissemination and consumption in social media networks and the media of both the images themselves and the events that have generated them.



Barça's defeat at Santiago Bernabéu stadium, Madrid, 22 October 2006. (Photo: DANI DUCH. DANI DUCH COLLECTION. INSPAI, IMAGE CENTRE OF THE DIPUTACIÓ DE GIRONA.)

ADMINISTRATION COLLECTION: THE DIPUTACIÓ DE GIRONA COLLECTION

The Diputació de Girona, in performing its functions, has generated a good set of images produced by photographers hired by the institution to cover important events, inaugurations and sporting events in the Girona counties, promoted by the institution.

Also, the institutional group of the Diputació de Girona includes autonomous and dependent organizations that work specifically to promote sport and health, such as the Girona Greenways Consortium or the Costa Brava Girona Tourism Board, in the specialties of cycle tourism, active tourism or sports tourism, among others. The photographs produced by these bodies are also periodically transferred to INSPAI to safeguard them and make them available to citizens.

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