

A HISTORICAL LOOK AT THE APPEARANCE OF FIRST SPORTS CLUBS IN TEUTÔNIA CITY AT THE STATE OF RIO GRANDE DO SUL

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Abstract

We aimed at identifying how was organised the first sports associations in Teutônia city at the State of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil). In order to do so, we used historical documents on the clubs. A context of war enabled a group of German immigrants creating the first sports club to practise shooting, and other traditional practices were included into associations—e.g. bowling, gymnastic, track and field, and cycling. When the territorial wars finished, clubs kept the German custom, but the German immigrants were chased during the Second World War and the Estado Novo (New State) in Brazil. It impacted on clubs, weakening the traditional German sports and including other practices—e.g. football, volleyball and basketball.

Keywords: Clubs - History of Sport - Ethnic Identities

Introduction

In this study, we deal with how to build a sports association movement in the Teutônia city, located in the State of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil). From the 19th century, colonised by German immigrants, such city preserves until today some sports practices from German culture. The sports clubs, thus, arose as a special space to celebrate the German custom.

The sports association movement includes clubs, societies, guilds, leagues and all forms of sports organisation. According to Mazo (2004, p. 24), further, a sports association includes a 'wide repertoire of symbols, values, rules, behaviours and other forms of acting. In this wise, one can see it as a working to state the cultural identity of

Teutônia city'. The sports clubs allowed German immigrants to preserve their cultural and ethnic identities; keeping their traditions and customs.

Clubs and societies are mentioned in sundry studies (LANDO; BARROS, 1980; SILVA, 2006; MAZO, 2004) as a space to build leadership, establish commercial contacts, people socialise themselves and practise germanism¹.

Based on such facts, we aimed at identifying how occurred the organisation of the first sports clubs in Teutônia city in the late 19th century and early 20th century. Also, it was supported by theoretical and methodological materials of Cultural History authors (PESAVENTO, 2004; BURKE, 2005), who consider that the social reality is build culturally.

This study² is relevant since it contributes to build and make public the way sports association movement in Rio Grande do Sul is constituted.

DEUTSCHLAND-IMMIGRATION UND DIE KOLONIE TEUTÔNIA: German immigrants and Teutônia colony

Brazil, at the beginning of 19th century, did not offer opportunities to the German immigrants, since it already had labour. The unoccupied zones by the time, however, was occupied and peopled by the Brazilian government. It focused on 'increasing to provide material and human resources to imperial armies when the intrigues with its neighbour from such region reach more intensity'. (MOURE, 1980, p. 93).

The foreign colonisation, when introduced into Rio Grande do Sul, was not from historical and spontaneous factors, but from agrarian policy to establish small rural properties. Therefore, it would be possible occupy and protect royal lands from potential Spanish incursions

1-The word 'germanism', from German language *deutschtum*, refers to the ideology spread among Teutônia people to preserve their ethnic identity, culture, language, loyalty to the country of origin. Such ideology was present in almost always all cultural and sports organisations (GERTZ, 1980, p. 207).

2-This study is from a bigger project named *Memórias do Esporte e da Educação Física no Rio Grande do Sul: estudos históricos* (Memories of Sport and Physical Education in Rio Grande do Sul: historic studies), coordinated by Prof Dr Janice Zarpellon Mazo.

into desert regions of Rio Grande do Sul due to political limits not established yet.

The southern border of Brazil dealt with changes in the current territory of Rio Grande do Sul and its limits were only established when the Germans started to immigrate in 1824 to the Real Feitoria do Linho Cânhamo, in São Leopoldo city. The State, limited to the regions Serra do Sudeste, Depressão Central and superior part of Planalto Setentrional, suffered attacks and became vulnerable to violent territorial wars (ROCHE, 1969).

In such war period, both the German colonisation and population of São Leopoldo city grew fast. According to Lang (1995), the people from Teutônia city³ pertaining to Colônia de São Leopoldo (and other old colonies) made appear the need to grow the initial colony area, in 1853, even during the military assaults.

One created two more colonies Estrela and Teutônia, among others existent.

The Estrela colony was founded on 20 May 1856 by German immigrants from the region of Hunzrück (Germany). The Teutônia colony, by contrast, was founded in 1858 and also by Brazilian people from Teutônia city; afterwards, by people from Westfalen⁴ who were in Rio de Janeiro on 20 August 1868. Both colonies constituted the municipality of Taquari until 1876 (LANG, 1995).

The Provincial Law No 1,044, 20 May 1876, established the municipality of Estrela, including the area of the current municipalities of Estrela, Lajeado, Encantado, Muçum, Guaporé, Teutônia, Westfália, and Imigrante. Another Provincial Law in 1886 No 160 established the new municipality of Estrela, which started to include both cities: Estrela and Teutônia (LANG, 1995).

According to Lang (1995), the Westfalen people were important by their creation of associations for culture, recreation, sport and religion in the countryside of the colonies. Remaining such group in hilly area with slopes helped to create a homogeneous group, and the geographic isolation made possible keeping the customs and habits of such group. their descendents continued to keep elements from the ancest-

3-‘Teutônia people’ (teuto-brasileiros in Brazilian Portuguese) means children of the Germans born in Brazil.

4-Westfalianos are Germans from Westfalen, Rhineland region at the North of Germany, next to Netherland.

ors' culture; was possible to keep the dialect Plattdüütsch⁵ ; people were worry on their children education; and one made community bodies important (LANG, 1998).

SPORTS VEREIN UND IHR SPORTPRAXIS: sports associations and its practices

The German association movement in lands of Rio Grande do Sul lasted from 1850 to 1942. Such period was marked by the economic rise of tradespeople and action of bummers⁶ who rose the germanism within Teutônia people by using the associations. It meant that the associations were closed, in which just the Germans and their descendants were accepted as partners. German was the language spoken and they practised the German values (FLORES, 2004). Besides such expression, there was commemoration of civil dates based on its source date which paid tribute to Wilhelm II⁷, Otto von Bismarck⁸, and Friedrisch Ludwig Jahn⁹.

Sport practices in the German clubs were dependent on place of association establishment. The gymnastic societies were created in commercial centres of colonies, e.g. in Estrela city. In these places occurred more movement of persons from other cities and countries, bringing from such places new both knowledge and sports practices. The cities, in addition, with major economic rise had a port, and the

5-The dialect Plattdüütsch came to Brazil along with the Westfalen Germans and it is part of Saxon language, being similar to Netherlands language. Due to such fact, the other Germans who were here did not understand well the dialect, known as sapato-de-pau (wood shoes)—shoes used and brought along with such population due to the cold at their native land (http://www.westfalia.rs.gov.br/municipio/cultura_lazer.html).

6-Brummers were the mercenaries of the Government. The name refers to 'grumbler'; they used to complain saying the wage was not in gold or silver, as one promised to them (OLIVEIRA, 1987).

7-Wilhelm II was the last German emperor and the last king of Prussia from 1888 to 1918 (http://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilhelm_II).

8-Otto von Bismarck was the symbol of the Unification of German and he became the prime minister of Prussia (1862–1890). From 1871 to 1890 was known as 'chancellor of iron' in the function of first chancellor of the German Empire (http://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otto_von_Bismarck).

9-Friedrich Ludwig Christoph Jahn was the creator of the German Gymnastic Method and, hence, considered 'Father of the Gymnastics' (TESCHE, 1996).

navigation was essential at that time for large transport and commerce. The economic growth enabled important merchants' children to study in Europe, and when they return back, they brought the knowledge on new sports practices.

In the countryside colonies, e.g. in Teutônia city, the sport practices were different from the practices have occurred in urban centres. Shooting, bowling and bocce, for instance, were more ordinary sports and more available to be inserted in small colonies. The sports practices were developed within the period the colonies reached a stage of growth with the aid of suppliers of trading houses (warehouses) with some novelty.

The first sports association in Rio Grande do Sul was the Deutscher Turnverein (German Gymnastic Society), founded in 1867 in Porto Alegre city. Nevertheless, it is from the end of 1870s and beginning of 1880s that one could realise sharp economic rise of German groups in industry and market in the capital of the State, a colonial centre. Creating sports associations, however, came from the German fast economic rise in Porto Alegre city, which also kept communication with Germany by means of German newspapers, magazines and books sent by German relatives. Also, there were visits of instructors for gymnastics and other sports performed in sports clubs (MAZO, 2004).

The methods for German gymnastics (Turn) were the first practice recorded by the Teutônia people in their associations, which appeared in Porto Alegre city. Soon after, one organised the first shooting gallery of Rio Grande do Sul in 1869, when the Turnerbund (SOGIPA) founded the Shooting Department, also in Porto Alegre city (TESCHE, 1996, p. 63). Such practice, however, was more accepted by the countryside colonies of the State; the first shooting associations created arose from settlers' need to use weapons to chase and defend their homes near to the forest (OLIVEIRA, 1987).

According to Vogt (2003), the shooters associations in Germany did not focused on sports. When the Germans settled in Rio Grande do Sul, nevertheless, they founded associations focus on sports, and disconsidering fighting styles. Such speech, by contrast, was not predominant. For Roche (1969), the shooting associations of Rio Grande do Sul wanted to prepare themselves militarily due to almost all instructors, members and students being from Germany. Sommer (1984) & Flores (2004), similarly, believe that the immigrants made themselves

ready to defend their homes against looting and battle atrocities, creating the Selbstschutz (self-defence). Such organisations became recreative associations after wars.

Furthermore, to understand how was created the shooting associations we have to relate, even briefly, the history of brummers, essential characters to appearance of the sports associations in general. The general Sebastião de Rego Barros in 1851 brought to Brazil military efforts—brummers—from Rhineland (Germany) who fought in the war against Denmark. Considering the brummers brought, only 80 fought in the war against Argentina in 1852. This was the main reason which brought them to Brazil. After the war, they were demobilised, some of them returned to Europe and other died. The brummers who remained, spread in the colonies (OLIVEIRA, 1987; FLORES, 2004). Considering their academic and military education, they aid to speed up the development of colonies, acting as teachers, merchants, geometricians or directors, similar to the case of Lothar De La Rue, who founded Teutônia city along with Carlos Schilling (LANG, 1995, p. 18).

At the Linha Clara neighbourhood, in Teutônia city, arose the first sports association, exclusively to practise shooting in 1874: the Kriegerverein (Society of Fighters). Afterwards, such association became Schützenverein (Society of Shooters) of Linha Clara in 1910 (LANG, 1995, p. 47). This sports association was founded by German ex-servicemen from wars against Austria and Denmark, according to Magedanz (2004, p. 28), who perhaps were brummers who remained in Rio Grande do Sul during the Teutônia city colonisation, since they also came from Rhineland region.

Unfortunately, the collection of such sports association was lost during the political period known as Estado Novo [New State] (1937–1945), in Brazil, and the WW II (1939–1945). It is, thus, hard to state clearly how one created it, since its foundation occurred more than one century ago without any information. Nevertheless, to keep the German customs until the present time made Teutônia Schützenverein one of the more relevant sports associations from Vale do Taquari, central part of Rio Grande do Sul.

Still in 19th century, we can realise the practice of bowling (Kegel-spiel) from trading houses (warehouses) of that time. Based on Jesus (2001, p. 3), bowling is practised since the beginning of the colonisation of Rio Grande do Sul, and is always known as a sport typical of

Teutônia people. Becker (1987, p. 49) stress that only at the beginning of 19th century, such sport was recognised in Germany, considering that it has three divisions based on its appearance chronology: *Kegelbahnen* (bowling alleys), *Kegelgruppen* (bowling groups) and *Kegelvereine* (bowling clubs).

Firstly, such sports practice was developed in the bowling alleys built by owners of commercial warehouses, which focused on profit selling products to participants. It is important to say that in this way the bowling in Teutônia city was developed. As Becker (1987, p. 52) stated, in 1875 there was two bowling alleys in Teutônia city, both installed in trading houses. In addition to such two bowling alleys, one installed several of them in the other trading houses of Teutônia city from such date on, since such practice started to include many players.

Secondly, since 1880, Becker (1987, p. 58) showed the appearance of bowling groups. The elder group from Rio Grande do Sul is *Separat*, founded in 1883 and affiliated to the *Sociedade Orfeu*, from São Leopoldo city. In this wise, Kreling (1984, p. 58) stress the elder feminine group, i.e. *Grupo de Bolão Violeta Arco-íris*, from *Associação Leopoldina Juvenil de Porto Alegre*, founded in 1914.

The partners who practised bowling claimed the for building bowling alleys appropriated to the practice in clubs. Nevertheless, several times such clubs refused the undertaking for the facilities required, since they wanted the main practice defined during the club foundation (BECKER, 1987). However, the *Teutônia Schützenverein*, for instance, had a bowling alley until 1925 (MAGEDANZ, 2004, p. 13). Due to the collection lost of such association, however, there is not any information on its inauguration, not even the name of the groups which played there.

The bowling grew and became popular since 1920s only, and had its highlights from 1920 to 1937. Many groups were formed and kept its bowling alleys within societies and even in trading houses. Few societies, however, recorded the year of foundation of such groups. According to Schierholt (2002, p. 333), there is records of the foundation of *Club Unicum* of bowling on 25 December 1921, in Estrela city. Nevertheless, it was one of the few specific clubs of such sport founded in that region.

In this context, before the creation of bowling groups and societies, horse racing and gymnastics were implanted in the great Colony centre: Estrela city. The horse racing appeared first, with the building

of racecourse da Vila de Esrela, inaugurated on 24 December 1887, in the country home of Felisberto Fagundes Mena Barreto¹⁰.

In the by-laws, the racecourse would be prepared for horseraces and cycling (HESSEL, 1983, p. 76).

The studies of Hessel (1983, p. 76) reveal that in 1888 there already were bicycles in Estrela city in the same measure, since cycling was practised. The Racecourse and straight alleys, thus, were also established as places to practise such activity. In a time the horseraces were quite appreciated, the races on straight alleys were constituted years later only in Teutônia city.

Still in the early 20th century, other sports practice was remarkable the gymnastics. One inserted such practice into the sports culture of Estrela city based on foundation of the Turnverein Estrella (Estrela Gymnastics Society) on 28 May 1907. According to Hessel (1998, p. 52), the members were almost small bourgeois among industry, its most senior officers, banking, hospitality, religious and teachers. Besides the social part, the association main focus was sports practice, as well as athletics and other sports and, similarly, created social, cultural and leisure events.

The oldest gymnastics association of Rio Grande do Sul was the Gymnastics Society (Gymnastikverein) which began its activities on 6 November 1867, named Deutscher Turnverein Tesche (1996, p. 63). Such sports association, along with the Gymnastics Club (Gymnastikkklub) in 1887, resulted in the creation of Turnerbund (SOGIPA) on 11 April 1892 (MAZO; REPPOLD FILHO, 2005, p. 87). This was the main sports and social association of Teutônia elite from Porto Alegre and was a society which worked hard for German culture (SILVA, 2006).

Since 1896, one organised official competition for gymnastics on the ground and by using apparatus for Gymnastics Leagues (Turnerschaft), created in 1895. Such League used to perform the Gauturnfeste (regional festivals for gymnastics) all years, and all gymnastics association of Rio Grande do Sul took part in it including its athletes. The first Gymnastics Festival people know took place in Porto Alegre city in April 1896. The sports events were aided by opening rituals, in-

10-Felisberto Fagundes Mena Barreto was son of Antônio Vítor de Sampaio Mena Barreto, founder of Estrela city, colonel of the National Guard and owner of the Vapor Estrela navigation company (SCHIERHOLT, 2002).

cluding parade with flags, and playing anthems, everything by using German language, showing in public the German culture of Teutônia people (TESCHE, 1996).

The gymnastic societies roughly in 1920 included sundry modern sports—e.g. basketball, volleyball and football. The basketball and volleyball were introduced in 1926 in SOGIPA. By contrast, the Estrela Gymnastics Society established its team in the next decade. Still in 1920s, arose the Grêmio Esportivo Estrelense (a guild's name), founded on 10 June 1921, and it was the first club of Estrela city recorded by Schierholt (2002, p. 319). In the same year, arose the Sport Club Oriental on 23 October. In such period, the teams were organised by companies, groups or neighbourhoods, and, with the same focus on organising, other football clubs appeared in Teutônia city and Estrela city.

At the beginning, the Basquetball Estrela team of SOGES was a group created for recreative practice. Schierholt (2002, p. 333) draw attention to the records of a match against the basketball team of Gymnastics Society from Santa Cruz do Sul city, in 23 January 1933. The basketball team of SOGIPA in that same year came to Estrela city to face the team of SOGES. The focus on such matter was to sponsor the new team and first court in the Vale do Taquari region regarding such sport (TESCHE, 1996, p. 67). On 2 April 1933, one inaugurated the Grêmio Esportivo Estrelense court (SCHIERHOLT, 2002, p. 333).

Less remarkable sports in Teutônia city also had been arisen and offering a more sports practices in the colony. Long time before the foundation of Tênis Clube Estrela (a club), on 21 April 1933, tennis was already practised, but without association link. Apart from tennis, practising swimming, rowing boat and canoeing. The first regatta occurred on 20 February 1932, but all participants did not represent any club (SCHIERHOLT, 2002, p. 329).

In the 1930s, the collective sports were noticeable in the Vale do Taquari region. One of such sports, however, has a peculiarity for its appearance in Rio Grande do Sul. Such sport was the football. A sports practice that, based on Jesus (2001, p. 5), was born on 19 July 1900 in the Rio Grande city with the Sport Club Rio Grande (a club). Soon after, in Porto Alegre city was born the Grêmio Foot Ball Porto Alegrense (a guild) on 15 September 1903. Even counting on such great teams which consist of the sports association movement in Rio Grande do Sul, the football just became popular roughly in 1930

(MAZO; REPPOLD FILHO, 2005, p. 87).

Schierholt (2002, p. 321) shows the appearance of the Estrela Futebol Clube (a club) on 17 November 1931. In such same decade, Hessel (1983, p. 77) related the foundation of the Liga de Futebol do Alto Taquari (a football league), which involved the municipalities of Estrela city (Teutônia), Corvo, Roca Sales, Muçum, Encantado, Arroio do Meio, and Lajeado.

Inside each Teutônia/Estrela colony the football teams of each region were extremely typical, considering that players knew how to differ themselves from each place. They could not, therefore, live in a region and play for other team.

The football clubs which appeared from 1930 to 1940 was known as the best ones, and it continues until today. The Grêmio Esportivo Canabarense from the Canabarro neighbourhood and founded in 1931 was one of the first; later, became the Recreativa Canabarense, keeping other practices, e.g. volleyball and bowling (KILPP, 2008, p. 48).

From such team, emerged the football teams of Sociedade Esportiva e Recreativa Gaúcho from Teutônia neighbourhood; Associação Cultural e Recreativa Boa Vista from Boa Vista neighbourhood; and Flamengo Futebol Clube from the present Westfália, founded on 24 June 1941. In this same period, along with football practice, the horseraces in straight alley reached its peak. Some of the Teutônia bowling alleys were at the Linha Hermann in the Teutônia neighbourhood; Linha Clara (current Hípica – Linha Clara) and Linha Schmidt (KILPP, 2008).

In such sports scenario, the football teams performed tournaments for weekends, as well as the bowling groups, Shützenverein and races on straight alley. This way, German custom and tradition were present considering both sports tradition of such ethnic group and by using commemoration after the tournaments. It means that even football had become a practice as national, the commemoration, music and German customs still present, as well as in traditional sports as bowling and shooting.

Final Considerations

The appearance of sport association movement in Teutônia city occurred in the final quarter of the 19th century in an environment of several wars, in particular border war, which revived the military

knowledge of German immigrants who lived in uninhabitable regions suffering frequent invasions. This allowed the association of a group of brummers who had an academic and military background. Thus, the first sports association was created to practise shooting in 1874, and most immigrants (both men and women) already knew such event.

After the war time, such associations created for military concept and protection became recreative, but they kept the German custom, preserving the German culture.

The route of Teutônia colony was a sports association which trained war activities, faith in Protestant religion and a geographic isolation, and it allowed a strong family and ethnic harmony. Such three aspects were hugely important for such immigrants strengthen the German culture, insofar as the customs habits and customs are kept until today, persisting even in wars and creating a history for many generations.

Considering the German culture strengthened, the sports practices developed in Teutônia city were the more traditional regarding German and Europeans. Apart from shooting, a sport typically from countryside, bowling was also well accepted. Since 1875, there were bowling alleys in several trading houses. Thus, such practice grew and passed from generation to generation until today.

Football was another sports practice which had its peak from 1930, period of post-war. This is due to the contrary position of Brazil in such assaults on Germany. Concerning the German culture persecution and prohibition of using German language and custom, the German traditional sports lost its strength. Hence, it gave birth to other sports, developing football, volleyball and basketball. Such sports were brought by another ethnic group; however, the German one, even without contribution to association movement exclusively used to take part in it, although not directly.

The Estrela colony was the more favourable region of the municipality, in which the trade and industry grow for the river trade and transport. Such region is near to urban characteristics of Porto Alegre, and was within such colonial centre that emerge the Estrela Gymnastics Society in 1907. In addition to such practice, as well as Porto Alegre city, arose the first bicycles used in the cycling practice in the racecourse of Estrela city, since such velocipedes were vehicles and came from Europe. The racecourse in 1887 also was typical of urban centres, considering that in the countryside races on straight alley were

performed.

The shooting associations was the first ones in the late 20th century, along with bowling groups, horseraces in the racecourse of Estrela city, and Turnverein of Estrela city in the early 20th century. Considering such practices for football, volleyball, basketball, cycling, tennis, swimming, rowing boat, rowing and canoeing such fact is complete.

There is a strong bond between Sport and economic rise of the colony. One can clearly observe it regarding the types of practices which emerge in the places—e.g. Turn in Estrela city, economic and commercial centre of region, and shooting (countryside practice). Such practices emerged from colonial centres also needed for more economic incentive, in particular appropriate places for the practices. By contrast, the sports practices inside the colonies needed for more ordinary materials for the immigrants, as the weapons of the Sociedade de Tiro (Shooting Society).

Finally, the German presence when building the sports practices in Rio Grande do Sul is tremendously important, including its symbols, custom, persistence and immigrants' ability for socialisation. All this was possible thanks to the German people adventure when they arrived in Rio Grande do Sul, including their efforts and achievements, for both the colony and new nation, which grew and developed within the society, economy and society.

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