



## "Amor y gimnástica" en Italia 1892 [

Foro para la Educación Física Recreativa y el Deporte en Castilla y León :

Valor Educativo de la Motricidad,  
2011

text (article)

Analítica

In this article I analyse the content of Edmondo de Amicis' novel 'Love and Gymnastics', published in 1892, whose plot focusses upon the field of Physical Education (PE). First, I argue that it is pertinent to explore this romantic fiction because it describes the problems surrounding PE in Italy (and Europe) during the last third of the nineteenth century. In this sense, I think that the author wrote this and other popular novels (ie, 'Heart') to propose solutions to the problems of his country and to spread a new culture in order to strengthen, after the Italian unification, the sense of collective identity. From this perspective, second, I summarize the dilemmas and messages about PE that the author puts into the mouth of the various characters of the fiction. Those include the following: a) The existence of propagandists of a new body culture, committed to persuade society of the need of PE as a compulsory school subject. b) The crystallization, as a result of such endeavour, of specific legislation and institutions (ie, colleges for the training of PE teachers). c) The recurrent motifs in the justification of the 'raison d'être' of PE. Here, the issue of health and/or degeneration of the race, seen from the perspective of the wealth or the poverty of the nation, has a special relevance. From this point of view, PE has a dual nature: it's both a preventive measure (medicine) and an educational intervention. d) The discourse with which the apostles of the new culture distance themselves from other types of body practices: the scientific nature of PE based on anatomy, physiology, hygiene, pedagogy, history and theory of gymnastics, design of gyms, etc. e) The internal conflicts and disagreements between schools and/or currents of PE. In the fiction, the main characters are divided between the followers of Oberman and those of Bauman, where the 'baumanists' would be the more advanced. f) Finally, this novel can be seen as a declaration in favour of feminine PE: firstly

In this article I analyse the content of Edmondo de Amicis' novel 'Love and Gymnastics', published in 1892, whose plot focusses upon the field of Physical Education (PE). First, I argue that it is pertinent to explore this romantic fiction because it describes the problems surrounding PE in Italy (and Europe) during the last third of the nineteenth century. In this sense, I think that the author wrote this and other popular novels (ie, 'Heart') to propose solutions to the problems of his country and to spread a new culture in order to strengthen, after the Italian unification, the sense of collective identity. From this perspective, second, I summarize the dilemmas and messages about PE that the author puts into the mouth of the various characters of the fiction. Those include the following: a) The existence of propagandists of a new body culture, committed to persuade society of the need of PE as a compulsory school subject. b) The crystallization, as a result of such endeavour, of specific legislation and institutions (ie, colleges for the training of PE teachers). c) The recurrent motifs in the justification of the 'raison d'être' of PE. Here, the issue of health and/or degeneration of the race, seen from the perspective of the wealth or the poverty of the nation, has a special relevance. From this point of view, PE has a

dual nature: it's both a preventive measure (medicine) and an educational intervention. d) The discourse with which the apostles of the new culture distance themselves from other types of body practices: the scientific nature of PE based on anatomy, physiology, hygiene, pedagogy, history and theory of gymnastics, design of gyms, etc. e) The internal conflicts and disagreements between schools and/or currents of PE. In the fiction, the main characters are divided between the followers of Oberman and those of Bauman, where the 'baumanists' would be the more advanced. f) Finally, this novel can be seen as a declaration in favour of feminine PE: firstly

<https://rebiunoda.pro.baratznet.cloud:28443/OpacDiscovery/public/catalog/detail/b2FpOmNlbGVicmF0aW9uOmVzLmJhcmF0ei5yZW4vMzExOTE3MzY>

---

**Título:** "Amor y gimnástica" en Italia 1892 electronic resource]

**Editorial:** Foro para la Educación Física Recreativa y el Deporte en Castilla y León Valor Educativo de la Motricidad 2011

**Tipo Audiovisual:** 'Amor y gimnástica' novela Edmundo de Amicis 1892 Italia necesidad y razón de ser de la Educación Física EF científica EF femenina apostolado propaganda 'Love and gymnastics' novel Edmondo de Amicis 1892 Italy need and raison d'être of Physical Education scientific PE feminine PE apostles propaganda

**Documento fuente:** Agora para la educación física y el deporte, ISSN 1578-2174, Vol. 13, Nº. 2, 2011, pags. 229-243

**Nota general:** application/pdf

**Restricciones de acceso:** Open access content. Open access content star

**Condiciones de uso y reproducción:** LICENCIA DE USO: Los documentos a texto completo incluidos en Dialnet son de acceso libre y propiedad de sus autores y/o editores. Por tanto, cualquier acto de reproducción, distribución, comunicación pública y/o transformación total o parcial requiere el consentimiento expreso y escrito de aquéllos. Cualquier enlace al texto completo de estos documentos deberá hacerse a través de la URL oficial de éstos en Dialnet. Más información: <http://dialnet.unirioja.es/info/derechosOAI> | INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS STATEMENT: Full text documents hosted by Dialnet are protected by copyright and/or related rights. This digital object is accessible without charge, but its use is subject to the licensing conditions set by its authors or editors. Unless expressly stated otherwise in the licensing conditions, you are free to linking, browsing, printing and making a copy for your own personal purposes. All other acts of reproduction and communication to the public are subject to the licensing conditions expressed by editors and authors and require consent from them. Any link to this document should be made using its official URL in Dialnet. More info: <http://dialnet.unirioja.es/info/derechosOAI>

**Lengua:** Spanish

**Enlace a fuente de información:** Agora para la educación física y el deporte, ISSN 1578-2174, Vol. 13, Nº. 2, 2011, pags. 229-243

---

## Baratz Innovación Documental

- Gran Vía, 59 28013 Madrid
- (+34) 91 456 03 60
- [informa@baratz.es](mailto:informa@baratz.es)