SMITHSONIAN

CONTENIDO

VOLUMEN 43, No. 4, JULY 2012

FEATURES

THE OLYMPICS ISSUE

Pindar was right — it's "Glad celebration" p. 39

40 Britannia Rules the Games.

As London gets set to host the XXXth Olympiad, the acclaimed sportswriter connects the modern Games to their unlikely origin — in rural England.

Frank Deford,

Illustrations by John Ritter.

46 Summer Olympics Look.

A new poem.

J. Allyn Rosser.

48 Heart and Solo.

Famed U. S. soccer goalkeeper Hope Solo drops her guard in poignant new memoir.

Nancy Hass.

50 The Rings Cycle.

A whimsical British opera celebrates the bicycle, a steel town and a forgotten Olympic great.

Franz Lidz.

Photographs by *Kieran Dodds and Stuart Freedman*.

The Science of Doping.

Behind the scenes there will be a high-tech, high-stakes competition between Olympic athletes who use banned substances and dug testers out to catch them.

Christie Aschwanden,

Photographs by Dan Winters.

62 National Treasure.

From Smithsonian Collections.

JIM THORPE'S WHEATIES BOX.

Isn't it time he be fully recognized as the best athlete ever? *Sally Jenkins*.

66 Let the Good Thames Roll.

The writer follows the stories river on foot and by boat as it flows through

locks and past quaint towns and grand castles on its way to London.

Joshua Hammer.

Photographs by Catherine Karnow.

Wish You Were Here.

This year's Photo Contest winners! *Jesse Rhodes*.

PHENOMENON

10 The Mind.

10 ESSAY.

Temple Grandin.

11 BEAUTY IB THE BRAIN.

Laura Helmuth.

12 THE PLUSES OF AGING.

Helen Fields.

13 KIDS AND PLAY.

Alison Gopnik.

14 MAN OR MACHINE?

Brian Christian.

16 WHY WE CHOKE.

Abigail Tucker.

18 PAWS FOR PTSD.

Chris Colin.

19 GRAY MATTERS.

Laura Helmuth.

COLUMNS

Profile.

SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER.

Artist Barbara Kruger has a way with words.

Ron Rossenbaum.

26 History.

WE'RE NUMBER 2!

It's not easy being Veep.

Tony Horwitz.

34 America.

GOING FOR THE GOLD.

California new forty-niners.

Abigail Tucker.

80 Books.

LINCOLN ON TRAIL.

Chloë Schama.

DEPARTMENTS

2 Contributors.

4 The Conversation.

CHICKEN CONFIDENTIAL.

7 From the Editor.

TORCH SONG.

8 From the Castle.

THE LATEST AND THE GREA TEST.

84 Around the Mall.

AMERICAN IDOL.

Woody Guthrie at 100.

85 **Playlist**. Ella Jenkins:

A life of Song.

85 This Just in. Madam Secretary's Suit.

86 Ask Smithsonian.

88 **Spotlight**. Teapot With Pop.

Fast Forward.

FACEBOOK'S FROZEN ASSET.

ON THE COVER

This summer's Games in England follow appearances there in 1908 and 1948.

Illustration by Alessandro Gottardo.

Smithsonian was ranked **Most Interesting** in the latest study of American magazines conducted by the media firm Affinity, released in 2011.

THIS PAGE.

Decathlete Ashton Eaton is preparing.

Photograph by Zach Ancell.