

# A GREAT SPORTING KING IS DEAD

## *TRIBUTE TO HIS LATE MAJESTY KING GUSTAVE V OF SWEDEN*

A king beloved by the sporting world passed away on October 29th 1950 at the venerable age of 92. He died in his romantic Castle of Drottningholm, overlooking the grey waters of a fjord whose shores are surrounded by thick pine forests. Beloved by his large family it was there that the King used to spend his Christmas holidays.

With the death of King Gustave V, the direct descendant of the French Marshall Bernadotte, disappears one of the most popular international personalities of our time as well as one of the last links binding our contemporary world to a distant past.

Ever since his early youth, the man who later became known as the oldest living Sovereign in the world, took up sport with great enthusiasm. He excelled in swimming, skiing and shooting, but it is specially in the tennis world that he established himself as a brilliant and prominent player, known to all Europe as Mr. G. Here there was full scope for his vitality and impressive stature.

In 1896 he was one of the founders of the Royal Swedish Tennis Club and up to the last months of his life he remained an ardent supporter of this institution.

Early in this century Mr. G. was looked upon as the best tennis player of his own country. In 1906, partnered by Gunnar Setterwall, he won the national title of the Men's Doubles in the covered courts of the International Tennis Championship in Sweden. Up to the beginning of the second world war the late King of Sweden played in numerous International Tournaments, chiefly in Sweden and on the French Riviera. In 1936 he founded the Royal Tennis Cup, an open contest played on the same terms

as the Davis Cup. This event was contested right on till 1939.

His late Majesty honoured with his presence most of the best-known tennis courts in the world. A born democrat, the royal sportsman used gladly to play tennis with all who shared his love for this game. To his people Gustave V will always remain the symbol of the real « sporting gentleman ». It is partly due to him that Sweden soared to so much heights in the sporting world as well as is attaining her present magnificent standard of national fitness. Scornful of luxury and ostentation he opened the way for his people to achieve complete physical and mental wellbeing. Thanks to his good example of sobriety and levelheadedness he helped to direct the whole nation towards the open air stadiums where the Swedish flag has several times been hoisted on the Olympic mast. The most successful Olympic Games were held in Stockholm in 1912 under his patronage. The late King handed on to his son King Gustave VI the burning torch of his faith and belief in the value of sport and the importance of physical education. The International Olympic Committee wishes to pay its last tribute and respects to the memory of a great sovereign and a keen lover of sport. It wishes to send the expression of its deepest sympathy to his Majesty King Gustave VI who honoured the I. O. C. by presiding at the solemn opening of the Session at Stockholm in 1947.

It also wishes to convey to the Swedish Olympic Committee and more particularly to their distinguished president Prince Bertil, also to all Swedish sportsmen, its respectful sympathy.