

History of Alexandria's Stadium

In 1910, at the request of Mr. Angelo Bolanaki, Member of the I. O. C. (actually Mr. Bolanaki is member of the I. O. C. for Greece) the town Council of Alexandria allotted a piece of land in the very centre of the town for the purpose of building a Stadium.

In 1918, following an important sporting manifestation held in honour of the King of Egypt, His Majesty Fouad Ist., who always showed a keen interest in the development of sports, and expressed the wish to see the town of Alexandria endowed with a stadium, a worthy setting for the celebrating of the Games of a modern Olympiad.

A public subscription was launched and the works started in 1922. A committee was duly elected which presided to the supervision of the scheme which was entrusted to an architect, Mr. Nichosoff Bey, who worked in conformity with the preliminary designs and the specifications supplied by Mr. A. Bolanaki.

The Stadium in Alexandria is of Greco-Roman style, it is built practically on the same spot to where stood the Olympic Stadium erected long ago by the Ptolemies. Its area extends to 60 000 m² it can accommodate 25 000 spectators.

Its erection was completed in 1927 when Mr. A. Bolanaki obtained for the town Alexandria the organization of the First African Games which were to be held from April 5th. to 19th. 1929. For various reasons these Games were cancelled while all the organization had been set afoot and had actually worked in every detail of the scheme.

The Egyptian organizers did not give in and though they abandoned the idea of celebrating the African Games they launched a new scheme of the Mediterranean Games. After endless struggles and years of arduous work the plan at last came to fruition and it is thus that these Games could actually be held with such success in Alexandria last October.

We congratulate heartily for this splendid achievement Mr. Angelo Bolanaki, the un-contested promoter of the Stadium in 1910 as well, as the genial organizer of the First Mediterranean Games of 1951, H. E. Taher Pacha.



