

## THE OLYMPIC FAMILY

### † R. W. Seeldrayers

Mr. R. W. Seeldrayers, member of the I. O. C. for Belgium since 1946, died on October 7th 1955 at the age of 78. He contracted an illness a few months ago from which he did not recover and this prevented him from attending the last Session which took place in Paris last June. The deceased retained his consciousness right to the end, comforted by the presence of his wife and daughter, the latter who had just arrived a few days before from the United States where she lives, as well as of his friend, Mr. Victor Boin, President of the International Press Association.

R. W. Seeldrayers was an accomplished sportsman. He was appointed last year, President of the F. I. F. A. (Internationale Association-Football Federation) following the resignation of Mr. Jules Rimet. With his passing away, a distinguished personality of Belgian and International sport has been lost. In 1895, he was one of the original founders of the Royal Association Football Federation, over which he presided for a period of 12 years. In 1914, he represented this Federation within the F. I. F. A., and he became Vice-President of the latter organization in 1927. He was elected member of the I. O. C. on the occasion of the first Session held immediately after the war in 1946 and acted as President of the Belgian Olympic Committee for a great number of years. He also held the position of Vice-President of the Belgian chief committee for Physical culture.

R. W. Seeldrayers practised successfully the following sports : athletics, football, rowing, cricket, field-hockey, tennis, swimming and golf. He was still playing golf regularly till a few months ago. The activity he displayed in the field of sports administration

was tremendous, and for a period of 30 years, he devoted his time to sports journalism as well as performing his numerous civil appointments. (Our Bulletin N° 4, April 1947 gave a full account of his sporting career, *Ed.*) In the course of the last few months, before his illness compelled him to interrupt his work, he defended with convincing fervour and ardent enthusiasm the cause of football, a sport threatened with suspension in his native land.

The deceased had remained remarkably young in mental outlook as well as in appearance, as he did not look his age. Within the I. O. C. he showed himself always extremely courteous, defending his arguments with the same ardour than he was accustomed to display while pleading at the Bar. His advice was sought after and his helpful offers of mediation were greatly appreciated by the members. Sincerely attached to the Olympic cause as well as to his favourite sport, Association-Football, he often acted as go-between on both their behalves when the very arduous problem of amateurism arose. In this respect, we know that he was busy preparing himself to the study of the problem of Amateurism which is to appear at the head of the list of the debates on the order of the day of the Session of the I. O. C. which, on the instance and initiative of Mr. Seeldrayers is to be held in Brussels in 1957.

The I. O. C., the F. I. F. A. and the Belgian Sport lose in Mr. Seeldrayers a faithful, loyal, devoted and staunch friend. The death of this perfect gentleman will seriously affect the world of sport. The Sessions of the I. O. C. will be deprived of this sharp and ready wit which was characteristic in him, as well as his jovial spirit, his well-timed discriminative power, his sincerity and his bondless devotion.

During the first years of his membership to the I. O. C. did he not assume the heavy task of interpreter ? Today the members of the I. O. C. mourn his death and will always recall him with heartfelt gratitude and affection.

To Mrs. Seelldrayers who never failed to accompany her husband at the Sessions, as well as to his family, we wish to send the expression of our deepest sympathy in their sad bereavement.

#### † Frederic René Coudert

Unfortunately the news of the death of Mr. Frederic René *Coudert*, reached us too late to enable us to publish it in our last issue of the Bulletin. The deceased was in office as member of the I. O. C. from 1937 to 1948, the year in which he resigned his post on account of his age. Mr. Coudert was ambassador of the I. O. C. in the United States. In the name of the President and the members of the I. O. C. we wish to send Mr. Coudert's family, the expression of our heartfelt sympathy.

#### † Clarence de Rosen

Comte *Clarence de Rosen*, honorary member of the I. O. C. passed away surrounded by his family in Sweden, on August 19th 1955.

The deceased was elected member of the I. O. C. in 1900, and was therefore the senior member of this Committee which bestowed on him the title of honorary member. Comte de Rosen proved himself an ever-active and enthusiastic member instilled by the highest olympic ideal which he spread amongst his numerous acquaintances throughout the world. He spared no effort and devoted himself entirely to the service of the I. O. C. The members of this Committee, especially the older ones, will always remember him with gratitude and the warmest of feelings.

We wish to express our heartfelt sympathy to his family in the great loss they have sustained.

The I. O. C. was represented at the funeral by its honorary President Mr. J. Sigfrid Edström, a personal friend of the deceased.

#### † Ossi Blomqvist

It is our painful duty to inform of the unexpected death of Mr. Ossi *Blomqvist* of Helsinki, substitute member of the Council of the International Skating Union. He was President since 1954 of the Finnish Skating Association and an active speed skater in his younger days. The work of this excellent sportsman was of great service to International Speed Skating of the I. S. U.

#### † Dr Walter Lang

It is with regret that we inform of the death of Dr. Walter Lang, member of the Speed Skating Committee (of which he was President from 1953 to 1955) of the International Skating Union. In' Dr. Lang the I. S. U. loses a member who rendered great services to skating.

We heard of the recent death of the wife of Prof. Dr. Gruss, member of the I. O. C. for Czechoslovakia. The President and the members of the Committee wish to express to their colleague and friend their deepest sympathy in his sad bereavement.

We heard that, at the recent elections which have taken place within the Olympic Committee of Mexico, Mr. *Marte-R. Gomez*, Civil engineer, has been unanimously appointed to the Presidency of the Executive Board which is to be in office for the period 1955 to 1959. We welcome this nomination and wish to express to our colleague our sincere congratulations.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer informs that he has been elected as first President of the Pakistan National Playing Fields Association which will be affiliated to the corresponding Body of Great Britain of which H. R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh is the President. H. R. H. the Duke sent following cable to Mr. Jaffer : "I congratulate the Pakistan Playing Fields Association and send you my best wishes for your success in the future. Philip."