

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Tribute to Dr. Ferenc Mezö

(Member of the International Olympic Committee for Hungary since 1948.)

A few years ago, four years to be precise. the International Olympic Committee asked its most eminent and fervent pro-hellenic historiographer, Dr. Ferenc Mezö, to write a history on "The sixty years of Olympism." Nobody could be better qualified to undertake this long and arduous task which calls for an extensive knowledge of Ancient and

Modern Olympism. This work is the outcome of ten strenuous years of intensive research strewn with pitfalls and difficulties. Dr. Mezö began his first study on the subject of the Olympic Games forty-five years ago. The first World War prevented him from carrying on with his work, but he knew that some day, he would be able to produce his

greatest work on a subject which he had set his heart. This work has just been published under the form of an elegant well-produced book published by the editor "Pannonia of Budapest". It consists of 408 pages of reading matter and it contains numerous and most interesting illustrations, some of which date from the time of the original Games. The preface for this book has been written by the actual President of the International Olympic Committee, Mr. Avery Brundage who, shortly after his election to the presidency, strongly encouraged the author to pursue his work and he also assured him of the members of the Committee's moral support. His research and study begin with the Ancient times, go on to the renascent Games and end up with the Cortina Winter Olympics. It is followed, and this is where the practical utility of this work strikes us, by a complete and detailed account of all past events concerning olympic sports from 1896 to 1956 (Melbourne excepted of course). The first three winners of all the Olympics are recorded in this book, alone, with their names and surnames, also the name of the country under which colours they competed, as well as a detailed list of all the results. Such a stupendous long and exacting work could only be undertaken by Dr. Mezö who is so conscientious and well-informed on all matters concerned with Olympism.

As admitted frankly by the author in his foreword, errors exist which are handed down from one generation to the others and which are passed on from one book to the next. These errors, apparently, appeared in works published previously, some of which are strewn with mistakes concerning the lists of results. The author hopes that these errors have been rectified but, he modestly conceives the possibility of some of these errors having: been left in the lists, but he philosophically shares the views of Gøthe when the latter says: "Es irrt der Mensch, solang er strebt".

Today it is our pleasant duty to thank Dr. Mezö for his untiring devotion to the Olympic cause, and as well as the expression of our gratitude, we wish to congratulate him on having given us such a comprehensive and so interesting a work that we consider it should be in all Olympic libraries, and all the more so that it has just been published in three distinct versions: German, French, and English. In conclusion, we do not want to omit recalling that Dr. Ferenc Mezö won the gold medal in the Art Competitions at the Amsterdam Games in 1928, in the literature competition on the subject of *Epic Works* with his first *History of the Olympic Games*.

(In the French text page 14 we give the addresses where those books can be ordered.)