

Twenty years have passed already... 1937-1957

Baron Pierre de Coubertin died in Geneva on September 2nd 1937

Born in Paris on January 1st 1863, the Renovator of the Olympic Games of our modern era, died suddenly while on a walk in Geneva on September 2nd 1937. In order to commemorate the twentieth Anniversary of his death, we publish herewith the text elaborated by the Pierre de Coubertin Committee in Paris appearing on the official cover of the first day issue of the stamp bearing the effigy of the Renovator, postmarked on November 24th 1956.

“Of Norman descent, Baron de Coubertin served peacefully the cause which he brought to a successful issue in Athens in 1896, in the newly restored Stadium of Pericles. To this end he called upon all the qualities handed down to him from his ancestors. A fine pedagogue, a shrewd sociologist and a passionate historian, he was one of the best exponents of the theory of direct contact on the International basis, which has become more and more frequent and a great necessity in these days when Olympism affords the opportunity to men of meeting and getting to know each other better. Despite the sixty thousand pages of recognized published matter which make the sum of his literary work, the creation of the Renascent Olympics of our modern era ranks by far as his most glorious achievement and an event of international importance. The resolution solemnly adopted at a ceremony which took place at the Sorbonne in June 23rd 1894

also marked the foundation of the International Olympic Committee of which Pierre de Coubertin remained symbolically the ‘Life President’ (an honorary title which has never been conferred on any other president).” On the occasion of this anniversary, we wish to send the expression of our most respectful remembrances and our feelings of deepest gratitude to his widow, Baroness de Coubertin who lives in the neighbourhood of Lausanne and carries lightly the burden of a great old age.