

## THE OLYMPIC FAMILY

† *The Olympic poet Raniero Nicolai  
has died*

Professor Raniero Nicolai died in Rome at the age of 65, on April the 2nd.

At a very early age, Raniero Nicolai made a name for himself as a man of letters and became an ardent sportlover, winning the first prize in literature : the gold medal for his *Olympic Poems* ; he won this distinction

at the Games of the VIIth Olympiad at Antwerp in 1920.

He was thus officially introduced to the world of sport which he never forsook, and he found there plenty of opportunity to assert himself and command attention especially in the matter of cultural problems connected with sporting activity. From 1933 to 1939, he assumed the direction and management of the Press Bureau of the Italian Olympic

Committee, when he fulfilled his tasks with great efficiency and keen enthusiasm. Later, he went to the Propaganda Office where he showed great activity till 1945. Throughout this period he took an active part in supporting the candidature of Rome for the staging of the future Olympics, by writing the first publication on *Olympic Rome*. Among his numerous undertakings and achievements, let us recall the first 'Art Exhibition' he organized in Rome in 1935 which drew its inspiration from sport and proved an outstanding success.

For his literary work, he almost always was inspired by events connected with sport, as

is the case for instance with the book *Elogio della vita* (1923), *Sport e diporto* (1928) and *Ispirazione sportiva ed arti plastiche* (1947). In the last few years, his literary activity was less intensive but he never ceased to lend his support to the cause of sport either by means of writing articles to sport magazines or sports reviews or by collaborating, with cultural institutions.

The Italian Olympic Committee did not fail to pay homage to the memory of Raniero Nicolai, Olympic poet, at the funeral ceremony which took place in Rome on the 3rd of April 1958.

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† **RANIERO NICOLAI**

