



The Games of the XVIIIth Olympiad in Rome - 1960

(Continuation at our Bulletins 62, 63 and 64.)

ACCOMMODATION IN ROME

The local High Commissioner for the Tourist and Travel Association has already begun to study the accommodation problem in view of the 1960 Olympic Games.

From what it has been seen the daily available seat capacity throughout the Stadiums should average over 200,000 people. However, it is thought that a percentage of them will be covered by residents here in Rome and their guests, so that the Tourist Board Association reckons a daily average ranging between 120,000 to 130,000 visitors.

As regards the usual number of travellers, the Board can rely on the following class of accommodation : 1) hotels ; 2) institutes ; 3) private lodgings ; 4) campings ; 5) other arrangements for groups or parties.

The present accommodating capacity in the Commune of Rome (that is including Ostia and Fregene, along the coastline, easily reached) is of about 24,500 beds. Taking into account that new buildings and the refitting of others are being planned, we may gather that by 1960 an accommodation capacity of about 30,000 beds in hotels and boarding-houses could be easily attained. Besides, in an emergency, another 1,500 beds could be available in the neighbouring places or environs of this City.

As for the large mass of visitors they could be lodged, besides the already existing hotels and those under construction, throughout the various Institutes and it is figured out that a minimum number of 10,000 beds could be of use.

This kind of hospitality has normally been given at the time of previous Olympiads and his reception takes place everytime here are remarkable events.

Moreover by making use of private lodgings? it will mean a kind way of entertaining foreign visitors and, of attending together the forthcoming Olympic event.

Therefore it is estimated that another 20,000 beds could in this be available.

As far as the Camping-grounds concern, the present ones in the Rome area will consequently be enlarged and better located. It is hoped that through grants of Governmental lands to proper organizations like, for example, the Italian Touring Club, the Campers Association, etc., and possibly in co-operation with other private enterprising firms who might feel ready to take over the execution and the management of these camping-grounds, a whole camping organization could be operating by the time of the Olympiads.

The Town Council of the Commune of Rome has already granted a new ground in the area of Castelfusano. It is most likely that another ground will be allotted in the area of Forte Antenne. Other smaller camping-grounds should be open along the Aurelia Route and perhaps even within the bounds of the Villa Ada.

It is therefore figured out that more than 20,000 campers could be accommodated. By summing up hotels, institutes, private lodgings, and camping-grounds it is anticipated a total figure of roughly 100,000 bed-seats, to which, in an emergency case, prior accurate checking, additional accommodation could at last be arranged in school-buildings, thus having another 15 to 20,000 bed-seats available.

The Italian Tourist and Travel Association here at 47, Via Barberini - Rome (Italy) has taken over the whole problem of accommodation facilities and of the control

of rooms or premises available for lodgings. As a matter of fact they have set up an appropriate Office charged with the Accommodation arrangements, who will personally classify and control all the lodgings available and see that they are properly assigned in accordance with the requests that will reach from the various Travel Offices, Associations and private families.

To this effect a particular record-sheet for advanced bookings will be printed and made known throughout all the participating Countries.

This Office for Accommodations will be assisted by the local Information Office of the Provincial Tourist Association (E. P.T.. Ente Provinciale per il Turismo), and the Commune of Rome Offices.

Their activity will aim at speeding up and smoothening out all difficulties which might occur.

(We think that the daily average of 120,000 visitors, as foreseen above, will not be sufficient comparing to the number of Olympic visitors who will take this opportunity to pay a visit to Rome, without counting the usual tourists coming to Rome at that time of the year. *The Ed.*)

THE WINNERS' MEDAL

For the IX. Olympiad which was celebrated in Amsterdam in 1928. the original medal by Prof. Cassioli of Florence was adopted.

In succeeding Olympiads, namely, Los Angeles (1932) Berlin (1936), London (1948), Helsinki (1952) and Melbourne (1956), the same effigy was used, thus creating that tradition which led the International Olympic Committee to pass a resolution, during the 54th Session which was held last May in Tokyo, that the same theme should be repeated on the winner's medals for the Games of 1960.

Consequently the medals awarded to the winners of the Games of the XVII. Olympiad will have on one face the same allegory designed by Prof. Cassioli whilst, on the other will be engraved the words 'Giochi della XVII 'Olimpiade - Roma - 1960'.

PROVISIONAL CALCULATION OF ENTRIES

To date. the Organizing Committee for the Games of the XVII. Olympiad has been able to calculate the contingent of athletes who will probably be in Rome in 1960 on the basis of a further study of the entries received.

Communications from 46 National Olympic Committees out of the 89 recognized by the International Olympic Committee show that a total of 5469 athletes, 4685 of whom are men and 784 women, has already been reached.

THE ROSES SWIMMING POOL

A swimming pool, in which the water-polo tournament will be held during the Olympiad, is being built close to the Palazzo dello Sport which stands on top of the slope at the E.U.R.

This venue, which is being built under the auspices of the Italian National Olympic Committee, is also part of the building programme planned for Olympic requirements and the sporting needs of the city.

The pool, measuring 50 x 25 metres, will be built in reinforced concrete ; that part which is to be used for the water-polo competitions will be 2 metres in depth whilst the rest of the floor will rise in a gradual slope until a depth of 1 metre is reached.

Adjacent to the swimming pool will be two buildings, one of which will contain dressing-rooms for men and for women (a total of 63 cabins) together with a cloak-room and toilets. The pool will be reached from the dressing-rooms by means of an obligatory passage fitted with sprinklers on the roof and walls.

The second building will comprise living quarters for the custodian, attendants' dressing-rooms, premises for the management and judges as well as public services such as bar, cloakroom, etc.

Outside there will be a vast *solarium* : there will be a decorative arrangement of rose trees to provide a really picturesque setting for the swimming pool.

In another part of the new quarter, which is crossed by the main arterial road leading directly to the sea, work is going ahead rapidly to create a new sports zone in the two enormous parks on the left and right of the Via Cristoforo Colombo. In these two areas, which together measure a total of 10 hectares, will be built a series of sports venues.

THE ART EXHIBITION IN THE SCIENCE PALACE

The Exhibition of *Sport in History and in Art* which, at first, was to be set up in the Palazzo della Civiltà will now, instead, be held in the Palazzo delle Scienze at the E.U.R.

The Exhibition will cover the historical and iconographical record of the individual sports in Italy from antiquity until the XXth Century. The various works representing this vast historical cycle in the Exhibition will show that the artist can find in the athlete the perfect model and inspiration to the highest achievement. The Exhibition will be divided into 13 Sections and will occupy an area of nearly 7.000 square metres.

OLYMPISM AND ART

The Olympic Games have always been a source of inspiration to artists. Noteworthy works of art show that in sport, sculptors, painters and poets have discovered the symbol and manifestation of an ideal, and in the athlete, inspiration for their masterpieces. The Olympiad has, however, also inspired dramatists and composers. Among the most famous was Pietro Metastasio (1698-1782) who, in 1733, wrote a melodrama in three acts based on an episode of the Olympic Games and entitled *Olympiad* which is considered one of his most successful works. This melodrama was given in Vienna the same year with the music of Antonio Caldara (1670-1736). About the same time, Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) composed a work on the same theme which was performed in Venice a year later.

Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-1736) also set to music a work entitled *Olympiad* which is held to be the most important of those inspired by the melodramas of Metastasio. It was given in Rome in 1735, that is only one year after Vivaldi's and even today is considered the most important of Pergolesi's serious operas.

But the same Olympic theme has also inspired a great many other musicians of undisputed fame : from among these we mention those who have celebrated the Olympiad with works of considerable importance : Leonardo Leo, Johann Adolph Hasse, Nicolo Piccinni, Nicola Iommelli, Gaspare Sacchini, Christian Bach, Tommaso Traetta, Guisepe Sarti, and finally Domenico Cimarosa and Giovanni Paisiello. The works of the last two composers were given at Vicenza in 1783 and in Naples in 1786 respectively.