

Notes on the Games in Rome

The problem of regulating the traffic during the Games in Rome will be far from simple. The Italian National Olympic Committee has given it full consideration and intends to ask the municipal authorities to adopt drastic measures to this effect during the Games. It is possible that only cars bearing Rome registration plates and official vehicles will be allowed to circulate during the Games. There is also a possibility that certain main arteries will be exclusively reserved for official cars. As, for foreign tourists, they will be asked to leave their cars at the gates of the city, where gigantic car-parks are envisaged.

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Alitalia has announced the construction of a new airport situated about fourteen miles from Rome, which will cost the mere trifle of 30 milliards of lire. Its two runways, two and a half miles in length, will be suitable for the most up to date aircraft.

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The hills surrounding the Olympic stadium have been replanted with young trees to enhance the view – both pine trees and wild olives, the latter being planted out of respect for hellenic tradition, which will be much in evidence in Rome. Furthermore, the swimming pool known as ‘The Roses’ will prove that its name is not merely symbolic, since it will be surrounded by a thousand rose trees, which are at present being reared in greenhouses.

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Nothing will be neglected in order to make the 1960 Games a fervent homage to both antique and modern civilisation. The Eurovision TV network will meet the occasion with the immortal proofs of the Hellenic and Etruscan eras. The remains of ancient Rome will harmonize with the modern architecture, of which Rome has such wonderful examples to offer.

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The Italian National Olympic Committee’s anxiety and concern that they should not neglect the slightest detail is carried so far that the design of a new torch is even being considered which will find its inspiration in Etruscan art. To reach Rome, this torch will follow the old mythological legend, according to which the river Alpheiros, which flows through Olympia, having fallen in love with the nymph Arethusa, chased

her across the sea and joined her at Ortygia, a small islet of Syracuse. This is the way that the Olympic torch will follow, and from Ortygia it will be carried to Rome along the route once followed by the Greeks when they came to Italy.

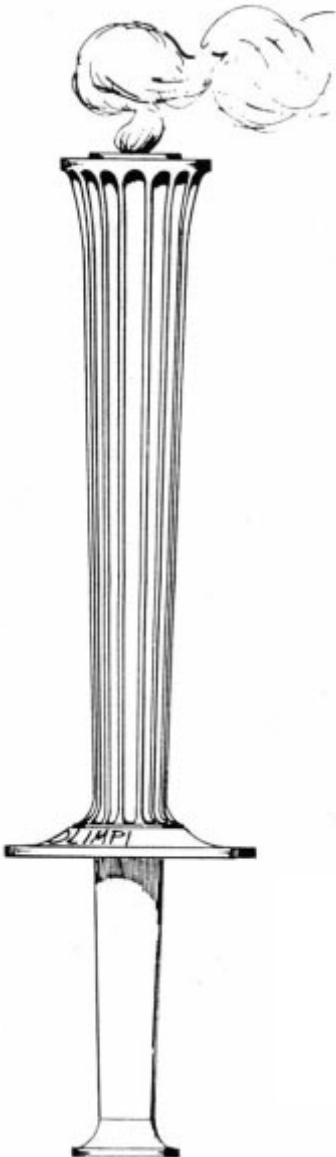
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A hundred young girls have already been appointed as interpreters during the Games. Of this number it is estimated that thirty may have married by then, and that it will be necessary to replace them !

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The Italian Committee held a rehearsal in order to determine the time required to communicate to the 1,000 journalists the exact times and finishing order of the six finalists of the hundred metres. The result of this rehearsal has been more than satisfactory, since it only took 5 mins 30 secs. This shows the speed realized by the personnel responsible for the printing and distribution of the final results. As human resistance has its limits, two teams have been proposed, who will work in relays.

As can be seen from this account, the Italian Committee is doing things with the utmost thoroughness right down to the last detail.



Rome 1960

The new Olympic Torch

Our illustration shows the new Olympic Torch which will be used for the Games of the XVIIth Olympiad for transporting the Olympic Flame from Olympia to Rome. The model, which was designed by Professor Maiuri, was inspired by examples from ancient monuments; it is classical in line, the slim and slightly conical fluting adding to the elegance of the slender form of the stem.