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## THE TORCH MOVES UP TO ROME

*The official report of the Melbourne Games*

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The official report of the Games of the XVIth Olympiad, Melbourne 1956, which was printed at the end of 1958, namely two years on the completion of the Games, in conformity with the Olympic Rules, has just reached us last January ; this report is richly bound. It contains 760 pages of English text and is fully illustrated. A portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

under whose patronage the Games were held' appears on the front page. The preface is written by Mr. Edward A. Doyle, Hon. editor, while the Right Hon. Robert G. Menzies, president of the Games signed the two introductory pages. The Right Hon. W. S. Kent Hughes, president of the Organizing Committee signed the page entitled : *The Torch moves up to Rome.*

This most extensive work contains, as well as the Games results, a great number of statistics. These figures speak for themselves and make us realize what it means to stage the Games successfully and what extensive organization it entails. Today we shall concern ourselves with quoting some of the most important figures.

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The Organizing Committee opened its office on June 30th 1952 with only one employee. As soon as the date of the Games came nearer, the staff was increased, thus in June 1956, there were 137 persons (men and women) employed whereas the maximum staff employed during the actual period of the Games consisted of 268 persons.

*Finances.* In round figures the total expenditure amounted to £2,060,000 (Australian Pounds) and the receipts to £1,760,000 thus showing a deficit of £300,000 (about 3 millions Swiss Francs or about 750,000 dollars).

*Participants (Countries).* 79 accepted the initial invitation to participate in the Games. Among these, six competed for the first time. Eleven of the countries which accepted the invitation at the beginning cancelled their entries at the end, and eleven nations declined. Thus 67 countries were finally represented at the Games.

*Stadium.* The Olympic Stadium offered accommodation to 104,000 spectators.

*Brochures.* As stipulated by the Olympic Rules, a technical official brochure was printed dealing with each sport. These explanatory Brochures were published in French, English and Spanish, a total of 34,000 copies were printed of which 24,369 copies were distributed.

*Programme.* 1,000,000 copies of the official programme were printed of which 86% were sold. The programme of athletics was the most popular : 448,320 copies were printed of which 431,889 were sold. The least popular programme was that of shooting (2,100 copies printed and 951 sold).

*Equipment.* It is most interesting to read the three pages dealing with the equipment necessary for the staging of all the various sports held at Melbourne. Of course we do not have enough room at our disposal to fully quote this statistic, but it can be found on page 68 and 70 of this report.

*Events.* 145 sports events figured on the programme and two Demonstrations sports were added, namely Australian football representing the national sport and baseball as foreign sport.

*Officials.* The number of officials at the Games amounted to 1,628 (345 foreigners and 1,283 Australians).

*Timing.* 232 chronographers were used and 57 special optical and electronic apparatus.

*Special services.* The Australian Navy supplied 1,009 officers and seamen for special services. The Army and Air Force took an active part in connection with the organization of 500 scouts whose collaboration contributed greatly to the smooth running of the Games.

*Medals.* 273 gold-filled medals, 273 silver medals, and 281 bronze medals were awarded (the additional bronze medals were awarded to boxing for each semi-finalist as all participants as losing semi-finalist in boxing received his medal).

*Armbands.* 3,130 official armbands were worn.

*Interpreters.* 500 persons were engaged.

*Commemorative medals.* 12,250 were ordered and 11,305 were awarded.

*Insignas.* The number of sporting badges for the officials, athletes, pressmen etc. amounted to 8,468.

*Identity cards.* 8,037 were distributed.

*Free seats.* Free passes issued to guests of honour : 4,771.

*Press.* 996 journalists were present at the Olympic Stadium.

*Choir.* A mixed choir of 1,226 choristers was performing at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Games.

*Entrance tickets.* 2,580,000 tickets were printed., 1,341,483 were sold (about 110,000 to foreigners).

*Olympic Village.* An Olympic Village had been scheduled with accommodation for 6,500 persons. The number of beds occupied (including officials, athletes and staff) : 4,388.

*Food supplies.* Total value of food and non-alcoholic drinks consumed at the Olympic Village were : 181,000 Australian Pounds (about 90,000 dollars or 1,800,000 Swiss Francs).

*Photos.* 200,000 photos were given free of charge to the press.

*Films.* A 16 mm. film of the Games has been shown in 8,000 cinemas all over the world (including 4,000 cinemas in the U.S.A.).

*Publications.* Before the Games, 2,500,000 various publications, printed in French, English and Spanish, were distributed to the press and the Olympic World. During the Games 2,311,000 various publications have been printed.

*P.T.T.* The 'Olympic' Post Offices have sent 615,827 letters and 419 parcels. The sale of stamps amounted to 36,766 Australian Pounds (about 367,000 Swiss Francs) and double this amount has been sold by the philatelic Office. The first day's emission sale of stamps amounted to £80,962 (about 800,000 Swiss Francs) and 250,000 stamps were sold. The total amount of Olympic and other stamps sold from October 31st 1956 to the end of the Games amounted to 130,911,880. The 1/- and 2/- stamps were printed in London and in Switzerland.

*Telegrams.* 2,897,357 words were sent, Great Britain heading the list with 1,451,155 words.

*Telephons.* The number of telephon apparatus put to the disposal of the press amounted to 443.

*Radio.* The number of messages sent by radio amounted to 2,046 with a total of 735 hours.

*Telephotos.* 2,110.

*Sickness and casualties.* Medical attendance and nursing given to athletes and officials amounted to 1,663 (1569 men and 94 women). In this number is included 679 casualties cases.

*Dwelling in private homes.* 15,000 billets has been provided in private houses only 8,806 were used.

*Olympic Torch itinerary.* Olympia to Athens: 350 torch bearers. Athens to Cairns (Australia)! the Torch was conveyed by aircraft in a minor's lamp. From Cairns to Sydney and Melbourne (2,830 miles) the Olympic Flame was carried by 2,830 runners during 13 days and nights with one additional hour 53 minutes. Each mile was run in 6 to 7 minutes.

*Athletes participants.* 2,813 men and 371 women = a total of 3,184. The full account of athletes per country and per sport is shown on page 260 and 261 of the report.

*Sale of tickets and receipts.* In our Bulletin N° 59, August 1957, we published a table showing the number of tickets sale (and the receipts for each event). This table was approximative but does not differ much from the official list published in the Melbourne report. It is to be found on pages 118, 119 and 120, the later must be considered the official list.

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We consider that we have published enough statistics to make the uninitiated understand what an undertaking is the organization of the Olympic Games.

Well done Melbourne !