

The National Olympic Committees

(continuation VII)

(see our Bulletins 59 to 65)

EGYPT (1910)

(Egyptian Olympic Committee)

In 1910, at the instance of Mr. Angelo Bolanaki (the present senior member of the International Olympic Committee), the Egyptian Olympic Committee was founded under the gracious patronage of the Khedive Abbas Hilmy II. Its President was His Highness Prince Omar Toussoun, and Mr. Bolanaki filled the function of Secretary. In 1914, the Committee organized a large sporting event on the sports ground of Chatby (3rd to 5th of April) to mark the celebration in Alexandria of the twentieth anniversary of the inauguration of the Olympic Games of the Modern Era. It was on this occasion that the first Olympic flag, designed by Baron de Coubertin, was executed in 1913 by the 'Au Bon Marché' a large Paris concern, and it made its first appearance over a stadium. (This flag has just been presented to the Museum of the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne, on the 28th of August 1958 by Mr. Bolanaki, in whose possession it had been preserved until now. *Ed.*)

In October 1921, the work of terracing the stadium in Alexandria was commenced and was completed by 1928.

Egypt first took part in the Olympic Games of 1912 (at Stockholm), where she was represented by a single athlete who competed in the fencing events.

In 1951, the first Mediterranean Games were celebrated as a result of the efforts of the president of the Egyptian Olympic Committee, then H.E. Mohammed Taher Pasha (who is still an active member of the International Olympic Committee. *Ed.*), with the assistance of his Secretary Mr. A.D.Touny. (Extracted from the book *A History of Sport in Egypt* by Angelo Bolanaki.)

NEW ZEALAND (1911)

(The New Zealand Olympic Association)

New Zealand was first represented at the Olympic Games at London, in 1908, competing with Australia as 'Australasia'.

In 1911, following a suggestion from Australia, a meeting of sports representatives formed themselves into an Olympic Games Committee for New Zealand. The constitution of The Olympic Council for New Zealand was adopted towards the end of that year.

There was representation at Stockholm (1912), also with Australia under the heading of 'Australasia'.

At Antwerp, in 1920, New Zealand was first represented as 'New Zealand'.

In order to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort the Olympic Association amalgamated with the British Empire Games Committee towards the end of 1930.

Count Baillet-Latour, the second president of the International Olympic Committee, visited New Zealand in 1932 reinvigorating the Olympic Movement.

At Helsinki, in 1952, the Olympic Diploma was awarded to Mr. Harry Amos who was chairman from 1928 to 1934 and honorary secretary-treasurer from 1934 until 1950.

Possible subdivision of the association into two bodies – one to handle Olympic matters and the other those of British Empire Games – was considered in 1952 but it was decided unanimously to continue as one with finances shown separately.

In 1956, at the conclusion of the Melbourne Olympic Games, the country was honoured with a short visit from President Avery Brundage.

The association now has a membership of twenty national associations.

PORTUGAL (1912)

(The Portuguese Olympic Committee)

In 1909, a Physical Training Organization was founded in Lisbon in collaboration with various sports institutions and the Portuguese Olympic Committee originates from this Organization.

From 1906 to 1912, the International Olympic Committee was represented in that country by Dr. Antonio de Lancastre, when his successor was Count de Penha Garcia

who held this office till 1940. The first president of the Portuguese Olympic Committee was Dr. Mauperrin dos Santos. All activity of this Committee ceased as the direct outcome of the 1914 war. but the Committee was reorganized in 1919 and resumed its activity under the new presidency of Cdt. Presles Salgueiro).

In 1923, the Committee underwent a new reorganization in the hands of Dr. José Pontès who held the charge of General-Secretary in the original Committee and assumed the duties of presidency. From that date, the Committee was renewed every fourth year by way of an election carried out by the members of the national federations.

In 1939, the war brought to a standstill the activity displayed by the Portuguese Olympic Committee and the latter was set on its feet again after the London Games in 1948. In 1940, Dr. José Pontès was appointed chargé d'affaires of the International Olympic Committee in Portugal and became a member of this committee in 1946, thus cumulating this function with that of president of the Portuguese Olympic Committee. The recent elections of 1952 and those of 1957 were based on the Olympic regulations, namely rule No 25. At that date, Dr. Pontès handed his resignation as president of the Portuguese Olympic Committee as well as that of member of the International Olympic Committee, he became an honorary member of the latter. His successor as president of the Portuguese Committee was Mr. Nobre Guedes who formerly was General Secretary from 1919 to 1948 and Vice-president from 1948 to 1953. In 1957,

Mr. Saul Ferreira Pires was appointed member of the International Olympic Committee for Portugal.

Portugal participated in the Olympics of 1912, for the first time, and was represented at all the subsequent Games.

The International Olympic Committee held its Session in Lisbon, in 1926. In the year 1951, the Olympic Committee for Portugal created an Olympic Trophy which is bestowed every fourth year on the most deserving Portuguese Sports Club. Since 1948, an Olympic Medal offered by the president in office, is bestowed on the best Portuguese Amateur athlete of the year.

In 1952, the Fearnley Cup was attributed by the International Olympic Committee to the Ginasio Portuguese Club.