

Our next edition will appear on November 15th 1960
and shall contain the complete results
of the Games of the XVIIth Olympiad, Rome.



The Games of the XVIIth Olympiad in Rome — 1960

Noteworthy sporting and folkloric Manifestations to be held in Rome

The people who studied the programme of the Rome Games will doubtless have noticed that the sequence of the sports events will be interrupted during two Sundays, namely that of August 28th and Sunday September 4th; a similar pause occurred on the occasion of the London Games in 1948.

In order to take advantage of these two days of 'Olympic truce', the organizers will present to the visitors and athletes present some of the most well-known folkloric spectacles typical of the Italian Peninsula.

A night entertainment will be held at the Circo Massimo (Basilica of Maxence) when the *Jeu du Pont* of Pisa will be performed, picturing an episode of the deadly fight between defenders and attacking forces engaged at forcing a passage through a narrow bridge.

The visitors will witness a match of the famous *Gioco del Calcio* from Florence at the same place in the Circo Massimo. This famous game consists in a mixture between football and Rugby and will be played by players dressed in the original costumes, the teams consisting of 28 players on each side. The statutes of this ancient game date as far back as the XVth Century and these matches are sure to raise a great interest among the sportsmen present.

The *jousts of Quintana* will probably be held at the Villa Borghese, a most suitable setting to stage the exploits of the fearless knights of the Middle Ages when a match of the famous game of chess of Marostica will be staged with live persons moving on a gigantic chess-board whereas a tournament of crossbow men which is according to tradition usually held at Gubbio, will be transferred to Rome in view of allowing it to become an international contest when foreign crossbow men will be given a chance to compete.

Mr. Francesco Cavallaro, Chief Organizer of the Popular entertainments of the City of Rome, intends to revive the famous chariot races for which the old Romans entertained an overwhelming passion, these chariot races were immortalized in *Ben Hur*.

A Swan Lake

For the past fortnight, access to the Main Stadium has been strictly forbidden to visitors, even to those who received passes from the Organizing Committee; the reason being that in the kilometres of circular passages leading to the gigantic sized arena, squads of workmen are busy laying down ribbed rubber carpet in order to deaden the sound made by the footsteps of the thousands of spectators who are expected to invade the glass cupola during the Games.

We purposely say 'invade' for, in the evening during the finals of boxing, the 'full house' quota will be reached considering that already 10,000 seats have been already booked for this event.

The gigantic glass cupola of the sports palace set on a hill, which overlooks the E.U.R. zone, completes a setting worthy of this erection. Apart from a great number of pine trees, which have been boldly planted here and there in order to ornate the hills' slopes, there will be a large artificial lake which will reflect the silhouette of the Great Palace.

This lake consists of a basin one kilometre in length by sixty metres wide, it holds 250,000 cubic metres of water. Ever since this lake was filled up, two or three families of swans have been placed there and are rapidly getting acclimatized.

Sensing their opportunity, the Roman boatmen have taken measures for supplying rowing boats for hire for people keen on that form of sport, while licences are to be granted to numerous restaurants and bars which are to be erected in this heavenly spot, these will prove a boon to the Romans who can thank the Olympic Games of 1960 for this in a way.

Accommodation and tickets still available

The Organizing Committee for the Games of the XVII Olympiad has noticed that many national and foreign newspapers have recently published alarming and unjustified news on the availability of accommodation in Rome during the period of the Olympic Games as well as on the impossibility of

finding the necessary tickets to attend the events.

In order to clarify the situation, the Committee reports as follows:

Accommodation: up to date, a regular census made by the Accommodation Bureau of the Provincial Tourist Board (Ente Provinciale per il Turismo) shows the following: in hotels or pensions of high category, 17.000 beds; in hotels or pensions of lower category, 14.000 beds; in religious or civic institutions, 20.000 beds; in private rooms of first category, 10.000 beds; in apartments, 13.000 beds; in private rooms of second category, 12.000 beds; in camping grounds, 25.000 beds. In total there are 111.000 beds.

Of the above, there are still 40.000 beds, of which 13.000 in camping grounds, still available with the Accommodation Bureau. Many others are still available with the Italian and foreign travel agencies who, for some time, have blocked and paid for accommodation, but which are still in expectation of clients. It is thought opportune, furthermore to underline the fact that the availability is constantly on the increase because the citizens of Rome, in answer to an appeal made by the Mayor, are daily placing rooms and apartments at the disposal of the Accommodation Bureau.

It is as well to remember that the Olympic Games are principally a festivity for young sportsmen and the accommodation prepared for this type of tourist is more than suitable and the prices charged reasonably convenient.

Tickets: the figure of tickets still available for sale reaches a total of 2,161,000. There is no event for which it is not possible to obtain seats which offer perfect visibility.

For the athletic events in the afternoon, there are still 30,000 tickets a day available, of which half are seated.

There is also a availability of tickets for swimming, equestrian sports, gymnastics, football, boxing, cycling, etc.

For the Opening Ceremony, numbered seats are practically sold out, but there is still an availability of 10,000 seated and 15,000 standing places. The tickets are still today on sale with the 101 official foreign agencies and in the main agencies of the C.I.T., in Italy.

Omega time-keeping service

The complex service of timing in the Rome Games has been entrusted, for that which concerns the technical organization sector, to a Director, in the person of Mr. Giovanni Romagna, President of the Italian Federation of Time-keepers, assisted by a Technical Delegate, in the person of Mr. Lucio di Paola, Secretary of the same Federation.

For the timing operations for the various sports, the Directors of this service, in agreement with the respective Sports Federations, has selected one hundred and eighty proven timekeepers who will be used in the following sports on the Olympic Programme; athletics, swimming, rowing and canoeing, cycling, equestrian, gymnastics, modern pentathlon, target shooting, boxing, fencing, wrestling, weightlifting and yachting; sports in which timing is the essential factor.

The time-keeping in the greater part of the above mentioned competitions will be effected by hand, use being made of stop watches bearing a first-class certificate. In certain sports use will be made, in addition to the above hand stop-watches, of electrical apparatus with quartz clock and time registration incorporated, or other mechanical apparatus. In fact, not all the International Sports Federations agree to the ratification of times taken by electrical apparatus.

Athletics and swimming are particularly worthy of note from a point of view of time-keeping technicality.

In the past Olympic Games, the regulations established that in the sprint competitions of athletics, three separate timings were to be taken for each competitor up to the third only, whereas in the Rome Games the three timings will be taken for each competitor irrespective of placing.

This innovation will make it possible for eventual national records that are beaten by the participants in the Olympic Games to be ratified.

What can be taken to be a complete novelty will be the electronic apparatus, recently passed for acceptance by the FINA and which will be used for the first time in Olympic swimming competitions. This apparatus is produced by the Omega Company.

Italy presents

Under this title appeared in Rome a review of international topics whose four editions, which will be published from June to October 1960, are devoted to the Games of the XVIIth Olympiad in Rome. The first edition just appeared and the texts are printed in four languages: French, English, German and Spanish. *This review is edited by 'Studio Editoriale', Via Piemonte 39 A in Rome, where subscriptions may be sent. Price for the four editions is 3,600 Liras or 6 dollars.* Excellent presentation and well illustrated, the first edition contains 120 pages. We are giving here an extract of its 'introduction':

The Olympic Games, 1960. The attention of the world is centred on this important manifestation. The interest and expectation of millions of people from every Continent are fixed on this great spectacular and sporting event, which will take place under

Italian direction on the banks of the Tiber this summer. Rome and Italy are the order of the day.

The celebration of the sporting contests is not an isolated fact and an end in itself; it is not merely a series of athletic encounters, and a comparison of muscular energy, in a technical frame composed of measures and time-records, under the cold control of the chronometer. The Olympic Games are above all of spiritual importance, a rite of brotherhood, the forging together of human warmth and feeling expressed by the triumphant assembly of representatives of the Youth of all Nations of the world.

For the country in which the Olympic Games are to take place, they represent a spiritual attainment and a confirmation of achievement. They are the point of arrival of an organized maturity. This is above all a solemn undertaking which touches our national pride and which implies great responsibility and engages our good name and national prestige in the face of the world. For this reason, Italy has mobilized its entire energy and all its forces towards the perfect organization of this event: hospitality, tourism, communications, transport, public services, culture, art, industry, commerce and craftsmanship: all these different elements are concentrated, with all their vital coefficients of animation and success, on this theme which is the topic of the moment — the Olympics.

Our series of editions for the Olympic Games, which are engendering such an atmosphere of enthusiasm, opens with this number. It is promoted and patronized by an important group of national organizations and offices, which are at the head of the periodic press and the operative sectors of tourism and Italian economy.

The Chili invited to Rome

The Italian National Olympic Committee decided to invite at its own expense all the Chilean athletes and officials who were selected to participate in the Olympics of Rome.

It is generally known that in consequence of the terrible cataclysm that befell that country recently, the Olympic Committee for Chili came to the decision not to send their athletes to Rome. This decision deeply affected Italian sportsmen who deplored the absence of the Chilean team. They will therefore appreciate all the more the decision taken by Italian National Olympic Committee, the latter made the following statement:

CHILI HAS ALWAYS COMPETED IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES. THE ABSENCE OF THE CHILEAN FLAG IN ROME WOULD BE DEPLORED ALL THE MORE THAT A CLOSE FRIENDSHIP EXISTS BETWEEN ITALIAN PEOPLE AND CHILEANS.