

A call to ancient Olympians

We have received from Mr. Samuel N. Gerson the following self-explanatory circular-letter for publication

Dear Olympian:

64 years elapsed since the first Olympiad in Athens in the revival of ancient Olympic Games. Many thousands of athletes competed in these Games from all the countries of the world. The Olympic Committees of every land did splendidly well to assemble and transport these athletes to the Arena of Olympic Games. Many of these Olympic gladiators are scattered in every corner of our earth but were never reunited. Several attempts have been made in the last forty years. To the City of Philadelphia goes the honor of having Olympic men determined to start an association to reunite these past Olympians all over the world.

Eight groups have been formed in United States and one in Paris, France. It is hoped that the rest of the World Olympic Family will follow.

The International organizing Member has been formed officially May 5, 1948 with the late Gustavus T. Kirby as President U.S. Member only and Samuel N. Gerson as Historian, who served from 1948 to 1955 and is acknowledged as Founder of the United States Groups.

The formation of the Paris Chapter in 1948 gave the movement an international aspect and the aim now is to organize Olympic men and women the world over. We plan to hold our first International Reunion in Rome,

Italy. All Olympians who participated in the past Olympiades will be notified and informed to plan and prepare to attend this International Reunion in Rome.

It was a singular honor to represent your country and your participation created goodwill through sportsmanlike competition with athletes throughout the world.

The principal purpose of our organization, in addition to its many social and moral aims, is the practice and extension of the Coubertin idea. We desire to bring together all former participants to work in the common cause of sportsmanship and world understanding.

This is an urgent request to the secretaries and interested leaders of the Olympic committees of the many members of the World's Olympic Family to send promptly to the Historian a list of all Past Participants from 1896 to 1956, their address, and if possible, history connected with the former competitors and arrangement to attend the Rome Reunion.

Your co-operation will help towards the success of this worthwhile undertaking.

Sincerely,

SAMUEL N. GERSON
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(*Ed.*: Mr. Gerson was member of the U.S.A. Olympic Wrestling team 1920.)