

## Aim and conditions of admission at the Olympic Academy at Olympia

In order to reply to several queries which have been put to us, we propose to give a few particulars concerning the aim of this Academy. Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who cherished the dream of founding this Academy, will not have the privilege of seeing

its realization since the Opening Ceremony took place in June 1961, as related in our last Bulletin.

The Academy's headquarters is in Olympia and it was founded by the Hellenic Olympic Committee with the unanimous approv-

al of the International Olympic Committee. It will provide an international cultural centre situated in the sacred spot which saw the birth and expansion of the idea of athletic Games. Its purpose will be to maintain and expand the Olympic Movement and its ideals, linking them with the education and training of youth through study and through the application to sports of pedagogical and social concepts. This Academy will be the technical institution serving Olympism according to the fundamental principles laid down by the Ancient Greeks and by the Renovator of Modern Olympism as conceived by Baron de Coubertin.

A plan of action has been laid down by which a set programme is to be established. To this end, the Olympic Academy proposes to organize each year in Olympia, a series of courses of lectures of 3 to 4 weeks duration for the benefit of young students selected by the Olympic National Committees of the various nations in order to train these students to become worthy propagators of the ideals of the Olympic Movement.

In agreement with the International Olympic Committee, the Hellenic Olympic Committee proposes to invite every year a number of well-known lecturers recommended by the Executive Board of the Academy. They will give a course of lectures. The curriculum of these lectures and debates will fall within the framework of the following subjects:

1. History of the Ancient Olympic Games.
2. The spiritual values of the Olympic ideal.
3. The value of sports and the Games in the education of youth; the philosophy of the Games, the Fine-Arts and the social sciences and their evolution.
4. The part played by Baron de Coubertin as well as by other personalities in the renovation of the Olympic Games. The History and evolution of modern types of sports.
5. The basic moral principle of the practice of sport and its influence on the development of moral qualities, such as 'fair-play' (nobility of heart and behaviour in the practice of sport).
6. Evolution of theoretical principles and the techniques of training in the various sports.
7. Scientific subjects with a bearing on athletics (psychology, pedagogy, medicine, biology and biophysics).

During these annual courses, it will be possible to invite through the medium of the National Olympic Committees, personalities interested in the Olympic Movement and qualified in other subjects which will eventually be incorporated in the programme

of these courses. It is even proposed to hold debates dealing with various subjects concerning Olympism.

In order to foster feelings of brotherhood and to stimulate the Olympic spirit among young students, the most appropriate methods will be applied to this end during their communal living when training together. To achieve this, teachers, lecturers and students will live in conditions of deliberate simplicity and in a natural atmosphere in which their ways of life will be most suited to their spiritual mission. Thus a programme will be established for their general activities, their hours of tuition, their physical training and their periods of recreation and of rest.

The general programme proposed for the following year will be sent to the National Olympic Committees in November. The subjects prepared by the teaching staff or by the lecturers will be submitted beforehand to the Secretarial Bureau of the Academy in February of each year, written in French or English. The lecturers who will be teaching in these courses will receive the title of 'Fellow of the Olympic Academy'.

In conclusion, the persons appointed to teach in these courses must be authorities in branches of science, specialists in history, philosophy, physical Education, pedagogues or Fine-Arts professors, or specialists in athletics or physical culture, or qualified coaches in athletics.

Concerning the qualifications of the students of both sexes, in order to be admitted to participate in the Academy's lectures and courses, they must satisfy the following conditions:

- a) Not to exceed thirty years of age except in special cases.
- b) To be in preference students or graduates of a University, High-school or College of Physical Training, Litterature, Pedagogy or Medecine, or else trainers in athletics or doctors in Physiotherapy or, finally, champions of sports or sport officials.

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The Olympic Academy sponsored by the International Olympic Committee is placed under the management of a committee of three members, one of whom must be member of the International Olympic Committee for Greece, while the responsibility of administration is under the supervision of a Principal and the organization of the courses is in the hands of a superintendent.

All the running expenses and salaries of the personnel are the responsibility of the Hellenic Olympic Committee.

Although for the time being the installations are only temporary, there is a project afoot for the erection of buildings conforming to a general architectural plan for the

site of the Academy. We would also mention that the ground has already been chosen and purchased. In the general scheme, provision will be made for playing fields, museums and 'Treasures' similar to the original type of ancient monuments. The professors and the students will be housed in the projected buildings. Whereas the travelling and living expense of the professors will be covered by the Hellenic Olympic Committee, the students will be travelling at their own expenses and their living expense while staying at Olympia, will be fixed every year by the Greek Committee. It stands to reason that these outlays will certainly be covered by the Olympic Committees of the countries to which the students belong.

The Academy will also be at liberty to concede facilities of a financial or alternating kind (Board to University groups or to stu-

dents belonging to Physical Training Colleges, either Greek or foreign, as well as to trainers, pedagogues, athletes etc. to enable them to pay short visits to the ancient monuments and the sports installations of Greek antiquity. These visits will have to take place during the period when the Academy is in recess.

All the participants in the training courses will receive a diploma and a commemorative badge.

This in brief explains the nature of the Olympic Academy whose administrative arrangements were sanctioned by the Hellenic Olympic Committee on October 2nd 1961. We wish this magnificent Institution all the success which it plainly deserves and we would like to express to the Hellenic Olympic Committee the sincere gratitude of all who are inspired by the Olympic ideal.