

Olympian International

We have received from Mr. S.N. Gerson, Honorary Secretary-Treasurer of the Olympian International, the following letter which is addressed to whom it may concern:

Dear Olympian:

Of the 40,000 Olympians-men and women who represented over 70 or more nations in the world, very few know that they were organized in Rome, Italy, in September 1960.

During the Rome Games, a group of past participants, including some members of the International Olymnic Committee met in a series of exploratory meetings, and, as a result of this, on September 8, 1960, Edgar S. Tanner of Australia was selected as President, and S.N. Gerson of Philadelphia, U.S.A. was chosen as Secretary and Treasurer, to promote the organization of all the 40,000 Olympians the world over.

Edgar S. Tanner and his Secretary, Gerson, met and wrote up a tentative and By-Laws, and planned a series of organizational procedures to allow any one nation to form their own Association of all past participants and Olympians in their country.

In the world today as far as we know, United States stands out as a fully formed Olympian Organization with 8 groups in Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, Boston,

Los Angeles, San Francisco, Hawaii and a National Supervising Chapter, Helms Athletic Foundation recognized your secretary as the Founder of U.S.A. groups. Emil Breitreutz, Jesse Owens and Leon Butler are the officers in United States. Emil Breitreutz is the President of the 8 chapters in United States. Avery Brundage strongly approved the formation of these groups and was the President of the Chicago Midwest Chapter in 1950.

Ednar S. Tanner is the head and Chancellor of the Australian group. In 1956 during the Australian Olymnic Games, this organization promoted a series of very warm-hearted festive banquets for the visiting Olympians. Dr. Azuma of Japan remembers this fine hospitality and is interested to promote the same in Japan.

Officially, only Bulgaria organized as a result of the Rome meeting. Many others from Argentina, Finland, France, Ceylon, British Guiana, Czechoslovakia have made an attempt to organize and inquired as to the details of formation, constitution, membership, etc. There are groups in Europe as France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg, who have organizations of medal winners. In Finland, there is one which is made up of

Champions only. But the ones encouraged by the Olympian International allows anyone who was named to the team by the Olympic Committee and who actually participated as an active member. It also permits Olympic Committeemen, coaches and past officers, etc., who were at the site of the Olympic Games, to join as Associate Members.

At the Rome Olympic Games, many Olympians as Jesse Owens (1936), Emil Zatopek, Ralph Craig (1912), and many famous Olympic participants come to the Olympic Games unknown and unheralded stayed in Rome, and went back without being noticed.

But with the present Olympian organizations we will prompt the host Olympic Country Japan to acknowledge all revisiting Olympians to be recognized at all events. They will gather, talk, recount past glories, attend meetings of their own world organization to elect officers, and listen to the plans of events at the site of the present Games and also at future Olympic Arenas, to be held in the coming years.

Japan will have its fullest opportunity to record the influx of all Olympians and to organize their own Olympian Groups, as was done in the United States and Australia, and show the world how really hospitable, kind and warmhearted they could be to the famous past participants.

In fact, the officers of the Olympian International will embark upon a project to ask

the heads of every country to send one or two of the outstanding Olympians of their land to this Olympian conclave at the site of the current Olympic Games, such as Jesse Owens or Bob Mathias in the U.S.A., and Czechoslovakia should send the Emil Zatopek; U.S.S.R. to send Kusnetzov's or Australia its outstanding Olympic hero.

The names should be decided by the top four or five officers of the National Olympic organization existing in every one of the 100 or so nations today.

Another result of the Olympian International is the Olympic Japanese Tour to Tokyo in October 1964 for the Olympians of North and South America, Northwest Airlines and a reputable General Agent is conducting this tour with your secretary and treasurer.

For a brochure, please contact your Secretary-Treasurer:

Sincerely
S.N. Gerson
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EDITOR'S NOTE: *On our request, Mr. Armand Massard, President and Founder in France of the Association des Médailleurs Olympiques, kindly confirmed that, in his Association, only those athletes having won one of the 3 medals (or more) at the Games may be members, while in U.S.A. all those having taken part in the Olympic Games may be members.*