

THE OLYMPIC FAMILY

Death of H.M. King Paul I, of the Hellenes

It was at the end of the 37th Session held in Cairo, (March 13th - 18th 1938) that the members of the International Olympic Committee went to Athens to take part in the ceremony of the burial of de Coubertin's heart at Olympia, in accordance with his wishes.

In Athens, the members were received at the Court, where they held long conversations with H. M. King George II, the Princesses and the heir to the throne. Prince Paul, who was to succeed his brother when he died on April 1st 1947. It was Prince Paul, President of Honour of the Greek Olympic Committee, who, as Diadoque, placed the urn in the base of monument erected to the honour of Baron Pierre de Coubertin. That ceremony took place on March 26th 1938 at Olympia.

The King ist Dead, Long Live the King !

This ritual phrase was pronounced on the very day of King Paul's death on the occasion of the taking of the oath by his

successor, King Constantine II on March 6th 1964.

For the first time in its history, the International Olympic Committee will have a king among its members. He was elected at the Baden-Baden Session in October 1963 under the title of the Duke of Sparta. Born June 2nd 1940, he was the youngest member of the Committee. A keen sportsman, he had had the opportunity, in spite of his mere 23 years, to be prominent on more than one occasion.

From an early age, he had been a member of athletic and football teams, but above all he specialized in sailing, for which sport he carried off a Gold Medal in the Rome Games of 1960.

In conformity with an old tradition, the Athenians made a small opening in the walls of their city to welcome the young champion on his return. As Chief Scout of Greece, his face had become familiar to thousands of Scouts throughout the world, when, in August 1963, he took part in the great Jamboree at Marathon.

The International Olympic Committee, proud to count H. M. King Constantine II among the ardent supporters of the Olympic ideal and movement, offer hint their heartfelt good wishes.

✦ J. SIGFRID EDSTRÖM

President of the International Olympic Committee from 1946 to 1952



The former President of the International Olympic Committee died peacefully in his sleep at his home in Stockholm on March 18th 1964. The President and members of the International Olympic Committee offer to his family their most sincere sympathy and express their gratitude for the man who directed the destinies of the Committee during a particularly difficult period. He was in effect President from 1946 to 1952. He had been elected to this delicate position at the first post-war Session which was held in Lausanne in September 1946.

J. Sigfrid Edström, born on November 21, 1870, was one of the best known personalities in the world of sport. While a student at Gothenburg, Mr. Edström practised athletics and was a very good runner. In 1891, he broke the Swedish record in the 150 m. in 16.4 secs and ran 100 m. in 11 secs. After some years in Zurich (Switzerland), where he attended the Polytechnicum, he was entrusted with important tasks in the sports movement of Sweden. In 1901, with General V. Balck, he united the different branches of Swedish athletics and gymnastics into a single association, of which he was head until 1940.

But it is in the International field that Mr. Edström, showed the full measure of his qualities. He was one of the organizers of the Olympic Games of Stockholm in 1912, and also participated in the Los Angeles Games in 1932 as head of the Swedish delegation. At the Olympic Games in 1912 he took the lead in funding the International Amateur Athletic Federation and was elected its first President, an office which he held until 1946.

He was appointed a member of the International Olympic Committee to Sweden in 1920. He had already attended meetings of the International Olympic Committee in 1910 and 1911, in preparation for the Stockholm Games of 1912. He presided over the two Olympic Congresses, at Lausanne in 1921, and at Prague in 1925. In 1921 he was elected a member of the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee, and in 1931 its Vice-President.

In his capacity of Vice-President he became the head of the International Olympic Committee in 1942, on the death of President Count de Baillet-Latour. All through the hostilities of the Second World War, since he lived in a neutral country, he kept contact with the members, and in 1945 he summoned the first post war meeting of the Executive Board. This led to the acceptance of the invitation from London to stage the Games of the XIV Olympiad.

In 1946, he was elected President by acclamation at the first post war meeting of the Committee, which took place in Lausanne.

The International Olympic Committee was fortunate to have a man of his ability and great experience in athletic affairs available as a leader. Not only had Mr. Edström been active in the International Olympic Committee for over thirty years, he had also been President of the important International Amateur Athletic Federation since its inception. As a neutral he was able to handle effectively all the complicated problems which arose after the Second World War. When he retired in 1952, at the age of 82, he carried with him the affection and respect of the Olympic world, and the title of Honorary President of the International Olympic Committee.