

The Olympic Flag

*This article is in reply to a reader who asks US to publish an explanation.
This we do very gladly and it follows herewith:*

The rings which appear on the Olympic flag represent the five continents united in the Olympic Movement. In addition, there is no country which does not have one or more colours in its national flag.

The Olympic flag was designed in 1913 by Baron de Coubertin who had it made in the workshops of BON MARCHÉ in the Rue du Bac in Paris. Coubertin entrusted it in 1914 to Mr. Angelo Bolanaki, who was the

senior member of the International Olympic Committee until the time of his death in Lausanne in 1963. Mr. Bolanaki returned the original flag to the International Olympic Committee in 1959 and it is today in a show-case in the Olympic Museum in Lausanne.

The Olympic flag flew over the VII. Olympiad at Antwerp in 1920. Before this, however, it had been flown for the first time at Alexandria on the occasion of the Pan-Egyptian Games in 1914 before it had actually been flown at the Olympic Games themselves. Also on the occasion of the San Francisco Exhibition of 1915, the International Olympic Committee had been specially honoured by THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE DAY. It was the custom for these American exhibitions to devote a special day to a country or a movement. It is for this reason that, on March 18th 1915, the Olympic flag floated over the Exhibition in the Court of Honour by special permission of Baron de Coubertin.

For the third time prior to the Antwerp Games, the flag flew at Lausanne on the occasion of the 17th Session of the International Olympic Committee in the spring of 1919. The International Olympic Committee celebrated on this occasion the 25th Anniversary of the restoration of the modern Olympic Games.

It was on this occasion also that the Olympic flag saluted the arrival in Lausanne of a squadron of 14 French military aeroplanes which came from Nancy at the invitation of the Lausanne School of Civil Aviation. A letter from Clemenceau, President of the Council and Minister of War, informed Coubertin that, in sending this squadron with the consent of the Swiss Federal Government, he intended to show, on the XXV Anniversary of the revival of the Olympic Games, the high regard in which he held the International Olympic Committee and its functions.