

## THE OLYMPIC FAMILY

### † H.R.H. Prince Axel of Denmark

*(Member of the International Olympic Committee since 1932 and Honorary Member.)*

His Royal Highness Prince Axel of Denmark died on 14th July, 1964 at the age of 75. His passing was the cause of much regret in many circles, and in particular among his friends and colleagues of the International Olympic Committee, of which he was most deservedly an honorary member, having been awarded unanimously the Olympic Diploma of Merit in 1963.

Everybody appreciated the qualities of this great man and praised his efforts to improve the development of international amateurism.

Since his earliest youth he had manifested a lively interest in sport, especially as an element of education and recreation. He himself was an ardent, enthusiastic sportsman, going in for sailing, swimming and boxing. Later he took up flying and motoring. He found stimulation in the joy of sport and fair play, which he never ceased to encourage. It is not without importance to mention that he carried these principles, which were so much a part of his character, into his many other activities in different spheres.

His widespread international contacts, his powers of observation, his respect for his fellow men of whatever station in life or background, were valued by everyone. His well known diplomacy, coupled with dignity and simplicity, earned him the respect of all those he came in contact with the world over. In his own country and abroad his tall, distinguished figure was to be seen at numerous sports meetings. Those responsible for the organization of these meetings and the sportsmen themselves will remember his frankness and wise counsel.

H. R. H. Prince Axel was one of the most valued members of the International Olympic Committee. He adopted wholeheartedly the Olympic principles which, in his mind, was sport regardless of national frontiers, politics and racial and religious prejudices — yes indeed, these were his prime considerations. For him to be a member of the International Olympic Committee was a great honour, and he was deeply conscious of the duties implicit in his membership. Since his election in 1932, he travelled over 160,000 kilometres in order to be present at the International Olympic Committee Sessions. Once only on one occasion was he unable to attend.

Following changes in the statutes of the Danish Olympic Committee, H. R. H. Prince Axel was nominated as the first honorary member in 1963. In his brief speech of thanks, he stressed that nothing had ever given him greater pleasure or a richer experience than his work and his collaboration with the very centre of the Olympic Family. Those who worked with him will remember his great friendship and devotion for the common cause. The memory of H.R.H. Prince Axel will remain, inspired by grateful feelings for all he achieved in the world of Olympics.

### † Dr. Karl Ritter von Halt

*(Member of the International Olympic Committee since 1929)*

Last August, the sudden and tragic news of the death of Dr. Karl Ritter von Halt reached us. He was the doyen of the International Olympic Committee to which he had been elected in 1929. We knew that his health was precarious, but even at Innsbruck we never imagined that his end was so near. After many weeks in hospital in Munich he was obliged to undergo a serious operation, (the amputation of a leg), and in spite of his strong constitution, he was unable to survive the shock and he died the same evening.

The late Doctor had a very varied life in the realm of sport. At the age of 17, he took up athletics and, in 1911, carried off the German Decathlon title which he held until 1921. At putting the shot and the stone, he held the German record in 1912 and 1913 and established a record for his country in putting the stone. In the Decathlon, he was the winner in an entry of about 300, not only in Germany but also in Austria and Norway.

In 1921, Dr. Ritter von Halt retired from active sport in order to devote himself to his new role of sports leader, in which capacity he occupied many positions which we briefly set out below :

Technical Director of the German Athletic Federation (1924).

Member of the Commission of the rules and records of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (I.A.A.F.) (1926-1945).

President of the German Athletic Federation (1931-1945).

President of the International Amateur Handball Federation (1931-1938).

President of the Organizing Committee of the IV Olympic Winter Games at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, in 1936.

Member of the Organizing Committee of the Berlin Olympic Games, in 1956.

Member of the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee from 1937 to 1945 and then again from 1958 to 1963.

Holder of the honorary title of Chief of German sport, in 1944, and he was named as President of the German Olympic Committee in 1950, which position he occupied for almost twelve years.

Within the International Olympic Committee, Dr. Ritter von Halt played an important part and actively participated in its operations. With his colleague Willi Daume, he directed and then took part in negotiations which were often both delicate and difficult with East Germany in order to create a

united German representation at the Olympic Games.

With the death of Ritter von Halt, the International Olympic Committee loses a member who was ever faithful to the Olympic ideal, a man who was straight, loyal and sincere. He will be sorely missed by all his colleagues, among whom he had many friends. In saying this, we are thinking particularly of Mr. Avery Brundage whose opponent he was in the Stockholm Games in 1912. On this occasion, both took part in the Decathlon, one for Germany and one for the United States. From that time onwards, a firm friendship existed between them.

To his widow and his son, we offer our deepest sympathy.

*O.M.*

✝ **S.A.R. le Prince Axel de Danemark**



*who was honourable member of the International  
Olympic Committee (See our necrological article)*

✝ **Le Docteur Karl Ritter von Halt**

