
The Games of the XVIII Olympiad

The Olympic Flame was lighted on August 21st 1964, at Olympia

For the sixth time in the history of the summer Olympic Games of the Modern Era, the sacred flame of Olympia was lighted from the rays of the sun. This was the first official ceremony of the Games of the XVIII Olympiad. It took place in the presence of His Majesty King Constantine of the Hellenes, himself an Olympic champion in the Yachting events in the Olympic Games of

1960. The ceremony was simple and worthy of the splendid traditions of the past. It took place in the unique setting, unequalled in the world, in the heart of the Altis, that vast sanctuary situated on the right bank of the Alpheus. This was on Friday August 21st 1964. Previous to this ceremony, King Constantine paid homage to Baron de Coubertin, the reviver of the Modern Games, by laying a wreath at the foot of the monument containing de Coubertin's heart. From then onwards the ceremony unfolded according to the ancient rite. A High Priestess, Aleka Katselis — one of the great actresses

of the Greek National Theatre — surrounded by 14 vestals, prayed to Zeus to grant his blessing and his light to the Olympic Games at Tokyo, and then lighted an amphora by means of a concave mirror reflecting the rays of the sun. The High Priestess then lighted the torch from the flame of the amphora, holding it out to the King in the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Irene and some hundred personalities in the world of sport and of politics. Two speeches were made by Mr. Daigoro Yusakawa, president of the Organizing Committee of the Tokyo Games, and by Admiral Lappas, Secretary General of the Greek Olympic Committee. The torch was entrusted to the first runner of the relay, George Marcellos, champion of Greece for the 110-metre hurdles, who, before starting on his way to Athens, boxed before the marble monument containing the heart of de Coubertin.

About 320 relay runners, each covering 1000 metres, carried the flame as far as the stadium of Athens. From this city, the sacred flame was taken by air, escorted by members of the Japanese Committee as far as Tokyo, and, in passing, they stopped at 14 towns in the Middle and Far East. It arrived at Tokyo at the very moment of the opening of the Games. It should be noted that the Olympic flag was hoisted for the first time that same Friday morning, August 21st, at the Kishi Memorial Hall, the seat of the International Olympic Committee in the Japanese capital, so as to commemorate the ceremony which was taking place at the same moment at Olympia.

O. M.

Itinerary of the Olympic Flame, Olympia to Tokyo

August 21st	Lighting of the flame at Olympia (10 a.m.). Departure of the relay at 11 a.m. (day and night)
August 22nd	Arrival of the flame in Athens. Ceremony at the stadium of that city at 9 p.m. The torch was given to the Japanese delegation at 11.30 p.m. at Athens airport.
August 23rd	Departure from Athens at 3.15 p.m. Arrival at Istanbul.
August 24th	Beirut (Lebanon)
August 26th	Teheran (Iran)
August 27th	Lahore (Pakistan)
August 28th	New Delhi (India)
August 29th	Calcutta (India)
August 30th	Rangoon (Burma)
August 31st	Bangkok (Thailand)
Sept. 2nd	Kuala Lumpur (Malaya)
Sept. 3rd	Manila (Philippines)
Sept. 4th	Hong Kong
Sept. 5th	Taipei (Formosa)
Sept. 6th	Okinawa (Japan)
Sept. 7th	Kaposhima - Miyazaki - Chitose (Japan)

From there the flame, split up into several torches, travelled through Japan in relays to converge on Tokyo on the day of the opening of the Games of the XVIII Olympiad.