

## Are our members sportsmen ?

During its Tokyo meeting just before the Games, the International Olympic Committee gained five new members. Before learning who they are, it would perhaps be of interest to recall that it was Pierre de Coubertin who gave birth to the self-recruiting system that governs the election of members of the I.O.C., and who defended it ardently all his life. "If the modern Olympic Movement has flourished", he wrote in 1925, "it is because it is led by a council which enjoys absolute independence, which no-one has ever subsidized and which, as it chooses its own members, avoids all interference in its elections and is influenced neither by nationalistic feelings nor by the consideration of corporate interests". This is confirmed by the rule which requires members of the I.O.C. to be the Committee's ambassadors in their respective countries and not their countries' delegates on the Committee. As well as being morally independent they are also financially independent. The public generally does not know — and has sometimes been told the contrary — that on accepting to serve on the I.O.C., our members engage to pay their own expenses wherever they travel in the world, whether to attend the meetings of the Committee or to see the Olympic Games. The desire to travel therefore does not — as it has been claimed — enter into the choice of one city rather than another for the holding of the Games. Moreover, members contribute to the administrative costs of the I.O.C. through the payment of an annual subscription.

Most of the members of the I.O.C. have a brilliant sporting record. We know that the two vice-presidents, Mr. Armand Massard and the Marquess of Exeter were both Olympic champions, the former in fencing in 1920 and the latter in the 400 metres hurdles in 1928. General Gustav Dyrssen also won a gold medal in the pentathlon in 1920, while more recently, in 1960, at Rome, H. M. Constantin King of the Hellenes, was placed first with his team in the «dragon » class sailing event. Count Paolo Thaon di Revel, gold medalist with the sabre in 1920, and General C.-F. Pahud de Mortanges, the eminent horseman, whose team won a gold medal in 1924 and who won individual gold medals twice, in 1928 and 1932, were elected honorary members of the I.O.C. in Tokyo last October. A Winter Olympic champion was Major Albert Mayer who won a gold medal in bobsleigh in 1932.

Eight other active members have been Olympic competitors: Mr. Ditlev-Simonsen, silver medal in yachting in 1936 ; Sir Arthur Porritt, bronze medal in the 100 m. in 1924; Mr. Bo Ekelund, bronze medal in the high jump in 1920 ; Mr. Lewis Luxton who stroked the British eight-oared crew who finished fourth in 1932 ; Mr. Avery Brundage, president of the I.O.C., fifth in the decathlon in

1912 ; Dr. Manfred Mautner Ritter von Markhof, in shooting, in 1924 ; General Stoitchev, in dressage and military, in 1924 and 1928 ; and Mr. Willi Daume, in basketball, in 1936.

Thus the Executive Board of the I.O.C. has sometimes, as, for example, from May 1958 to September 1960, been composed only of olympic champions, medalists and competitors (the late Dr. Karl Flitter von Halt, at that time member of the Executive Board, was eighth in the decathlon, in the 1912 Games).

One can be a sportsman without having taken part in the Olympic Games. It has been proved during recent years through the evocation of the sporting activities of the I.O.C.'s members who were often national champions in one event or another, or who distinguished themselves in the organization of sport in their countries.

Today, we meet the five new members of the I.O.C. (see also pages 40 and 41).

### Mr. Sang Beck Lee

Mr. Sang Beck Lee, member of the I.O.C. for Korea, was born on 5th August 1903 in Taegu (Korea). He is now professor of sociology at Seoul National University. He studied at Taegu High School, where he became school tennis and baseball champion, then in Tokyo, at Waseda University, where he became a member of the basketball team that won the Japanese national tournament in 1927-1928. Mr. Sang Beck Lee is a striking example of the art-sport synthesis advocated by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, as he is at the same time — and among other titles — a member of the Korean National Academy of sciences, a member of the Society for preservation of Korean national treasures, curator of the Seoul National University Museum, president of the Korean Art Society, member of the Institute for Oriental Thought of Waseda University on the one hand and, on the other, president of the Korean Amateur Athletic Association and, since 1960, president of the Korean Olympic Committee which he founded in 1946, after having been manager in 1932 and general manager in 1936 of the Japanese Olympic Team at the Games, then manager, chef de mission and finally member of the Korean delegation to the 1952, 1956, 1960 and 1964 Olympic Games.

Mr. Sang Beck Lee, who, besides Korean, speaks Japanese, Chinese, German and English, is the author of innumerable articles and notes on sport and on sociology, as well as of a "Study on the Founding of the Yi Dynasty" and another on Korean cultural history.

### Jonkheer Herman A. van Karnebeek

Mr. van Karnebeek, member of the I.O.C. for the Netherlands, succeeds General C.-F. Pahud de Mortanges, elected honorary member by the

Tokyo meeting upon his resignation. Our new member was born on 11 November 1903 in The Hague. He has a degree in economy from the University of The Hague. He has spent many years in Indonesia, which is why he knows *Bahasa Indonesia* in addition to English, French and German, which he speaks fluently and of course Dutch. Besides sport, and particularly golf, tennis, football, hockey and swimming which he has practised or still does, this "out of door" man has for hobbies : agriculture, silviculture and hunting. Mr. van Karnebeek is director of a petroleum company. He has been president of the Netherlands Olympic Committee since 1961.

#### **Major Silvio de Magalhaes Padilha**

Major Padilha, member of the I.O.C. for Brazil with Mr. Jean Havelange (elected in Baden-Baden in 1963), was born on 5th June 1909 in the State of Rio de Janeiro. "An officer by profession and a sportsman by vocation" would summarize the career of this technician of concentration and effort. Major Padilha lives in Sao Paulo, where he is director general of the State of Sao Paulo's Department of physical education and sports (one knows the size of Brazilian states !) and he was president of the Organizing Committee of the IVth Pan-American Games held there in 1963. He graduated in physical education and speaks French, English and Portuguese. Before accompanying, as chef de mission, the Brazilian delegations to the Olympic Games in London, Helsinki, Melbourne, Rome and Tokyo, he himself competed as an athlete in the Games in Los Angeles (1932) and Berlin (1936), where he finished fifth in the finals of the 400 m. hurdles. He was record-beating South American champion in the 110, 200 and 400 m. hurdles, the 400 m. and the 4 x 100 and 4 x 400 m. relays, which won him the Helms Trophy in 1939 as the most noticeable athlete of the year in the whole of the South American Continent. Major Padilha also played basketball, volleyball and football and has been a fencer. He is vice-president of the Brazilian Olympic Committee and holder of a remarkable number of active and honorary sporting positions.

#### **Mr. Giulio Onesti**

The Avvocato Giulio Onesti, as he is usually called, succeeds Count Paolo Thaon di Revel on the I.O.C., the latter having been elected an honorary member by the Tokyo meeting on his resignation. Mr. Onesti now shares with Mr. Giorgio de Stefani the task of representing the I.O.C. in Italy. He was born in Turin on 4th January 1912, but he studied and graduated in law and canon law in Rome. Meanwhile he regularly practised rowing, athletics, swimming, fencing and tennis. The war and his enrolment in the resistance put an end to his legal practice. Mr. Onesti is a war invalid. From 1944 to 1946 he rallied to the C.O.N.I. (Italian National Olympic Committee) the sports organizations that had been dispersed by events. Elected president by majority vote in 1946, he has continued to be re-elected to this post ever since.

Mr. Onesti was president of the Executive Boards whose task it was to organize the Winter Olympics in Cortina d'Ampezzo in 1956 and the Games of the XVIIth Olympiad in Rome in 1960. The importance of these tasks and their outstanding success will be remembered by all.

#### **Prince Alexandre de Mérode**

The new member of the I.O.C. for Belgium shares with an illustrious cadet H. M. Constantin King of the Hellenes, the position of "Benjamin" of the Committee, since he was born on 24th May 1934, This means that his sporting career, both active and administrative, lies before him. Curiously, he practises mainly non-olympic sports: parachute-jumping (he has learnt to his cost how hard the ground is for someone hitting it from a height), skin-diving, water-skiing, tennis. He is also an excellent horseman. His classical studies backed up by a spontaneous interest in sport made him, from the start, at ease with the Olympic Movement as well as with its philosophy. At the Tokyo Games he followed attentively the most widely differing events and the Belgian olympic athletes know, from having had him at their side in victory and in defeat, that his main preoccupation is to understand human feelings and to safeguard the integrity of mankind in modern society. Baron de Coubertin would not have asked more.

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