

# editorial

*While the International Olympic Committee has just been dealing in Rome with a particularly full agenda bristling with those practical and technical questions sown in the path of Olympism by men and events, it is worthwhile pausing, in one's mind at least, in that peaceful Olympia, that "mistress of truth" as Pindar called it, where human genius and the perfection of nature went hand in hand for our enrichment.*

*"There exists an Olympism, that is to say a doctrine", wrote Coubertin to explain this much needed neologism, for which he was criticized by the linguists. "Any philosophical and religious doctrine like this one (he used the word religion in its broad sense of "adherence to an ideal of a higher life, of aspiration towards perfection") needs a name to evoke it and to describe it". He went on, "The essence of Olympism differentiates it, from athleticism pure and simple which it includes but surpasses. The worship of effort, the indifference to danger, love of one's country, generosity, a spirit of chivalry and contact with the world of art and letters, are the fundamental essence of Olympism".*

*The International Olympic Academy, founded by the Hellenic Olympic Committee in 1961 at the instigation of the late Jean Ketseas, himself assisted by the late Carl Diem, has set itself the aim of preserving this essence, of getting back to its origins, and studying its development, an educational Olympic action reinforcing the combative Olympic action.*

*Every year young men and women come from the four corners of the earth to the gathering of youth — still missed by too many of their kind — a rendezvous with an Olympism about which, to paraphrase Jacques Chardonne and with Coubertin, we shall merely say that it is much more than just olympism...*

*These unknown young people, both smiling and serious, who share for a fortnight camp life with study and games, effort and relaxation, a respect for a gallant past and the desire to be its worthy heirs, how Coubertin would have loved these true advocates of his philosophical and pedagogical conceptions! And how pleased he would have been at the noble initiative of the Hellenic Olympic Committee who make this meeting possible !*

*The International Olympic Committee, which has never ceased to give its encouragement to those responsible for the Academy, harbour further projects for it in keeping with their aims. The members of the I.O.C. for Greece and President Brundage are backing them to the hilt and the day will come perhaps, will surely come in fact, when the Academy will become that radiant centre of perfect Olympism, that place of meeting and exchanges on a world scale, and that source of moral inspiration of which Coubertin dreamed, which tempers the mind all the better to temper the body.*

*Olympia had a history. Its present gives it a future.*

Editor.