



# The XVIIIth Olympiad to Asia

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The history of sport is as long in Asia as it is elsewhere in the world for ever since the dawn of history men have found the need to play. Again, just as elsewhere, it is really only in modern times that the people of Asia have taken to competitive sport beyond the confines of their own countries. For this reason, the impact of the 1964 Olympic Games on emerging Asia must be great and lasting. The Games were held at a time when the peoples of this continent had won independence and were busy developing their respective societies both according to their own time-honoured customs and traditions and in keeping with the technological progress that had taken place throughout the world.

Changing circumstances may make for changing values. As general standards of living rise so will human aspirations. Inevitably, in the new circumstances, the attitude towards competitive sport will also undergo a change. The practice of sport must surely assume far greater importance in the years to come. And so, as progress is made in improving the lot of the masses, physical education will find its proper place in the upbringing of the young.

All in all, when it was decided to hold the Olympic Games in Tokyo, the stage was set for the proper projection of the true value and abiding significance of the Olympic Movement.

Japan organized the Games brilliantly and gave to them for the first time a new, Oriental splendour. A whole nation rose to the occasion ; no task was too great, no work too hard. Proof was given in every possible way of the complete dedication of Asia's most advanced society to the cause of this supreme festival of sport. Its primacy could not have failed to impress the rest of Asia. The practice of sport for sports sake was shown to have found its rightful place in the way of life of a proud Asian people. To

be sure, in other Asian countries too, there will be growing appreciation of the value of sport. There will ensue even more pride in the successful performance of their teams and competitors ; but, if such pride instigates the improvement of standards, not only physical but moral, so much an integral part of amateur sport, then the very purpose of the modern Olympic Games will have been attained.

From the time the flame was lit at Olympia and relayed through the vast distances of Asia, the curtain rose for the greatest festival of sport ever celebrated in this ancient continent. Long months of meticulous preparation guaranteed the success of its passage through many countries, varying in creed and development, differing in culture and achievement, yet all bound together by the sense of belonging to a movement dedicated to the betterment of mankind through the medium of sport which with goodwill can be made to transcend all boundaries and surmount all obstacles. Each country welcomed the passage of the olympic flame in its own way ; each lent to the event the dignity that comes from a long cultural heritage ; each spurred the torch on with the assurance of a future in which Asia would play an

increasingly important role in human affairs for the good of common humanity.

All Asia hosted the Olympic Games, in truth. For the chance was given to a far greater number of Asian countries to take part than ever before. Participating in itself seemed to many to identify a people with the aim and purpose of the Olympic Movement. They lived to the full the exciting moments when the frontiers of physical human achievement were pushed back by the ever better performance of youth. To the youth of Asia was given the opportunity of living in common with the youth of the world and so to come and know one another better. By this means they shared the meaning of the Olympic Games. A memorable experience it was, for sure ;

impress the authorities in Asia. For its timeless and universal appeal to youth met so enthusiastic a response in these parts. It must have set more mature minds thinking of the imperative need for sport to play a more important role in the training of youth since the education of man is not complete without it. It must also have prompted new plans to be drawn up for more and better physical facilities for the recreation of the masses everywhere. So, whatever the immediate and spectacular success might have been, the impact of the Olympic Games on the lives of succeeding generations in Asia will be even more significant without doubt. To Asia, then, this is the true and lasting measure of the success of XVIIIth Olympiad.



The olympic flame in Hong Kong.

brief though it was, yet it enriched their lives. The message of peace and goodwill became real. The Olympic Games belong to all nations and, wherever they may be held, there are always young men and women who will come forward and in a supreme effort set new standards for others to better. But new achievements no matter how great serve only as a spur to even greater exertions in the years that follow for, so it seems, there is yet no physical limit which cannot in time be surpassed by youth if they accept the moral and physical discipline which competitive sport requires. Celebrating the olympiad in Tokyo could not have failed to

