

The idea

The idea to establish an Olympic Academy is of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, "to safeguard the spirit and ideals of the Olympic Games... that are always in danger of being misused".

The late Dr. Carl Diem arranged it in such a way that the first session started when the German Archaeological School in Greece handed the newly excavated ancient Stadium of Olympia to the Greek Authorities in 1961. The inauguration took place in the presence of the International Olympic Committee's members whose 58th annual meeting had been convened in Athens.

Since then six sessions have been held by the Hellenic Olympic Committee that has entrusted a special Committee "the Committee for the International Olympic Academy" of which I have been asked to be president, to run the organisation of the academy.

During the first six sessions, five hundred twenty-one participants from forty-six countries took part and fifty lecturers from seventeen countries delivered lectures in Olympia.

Not being a Greek myself, I think I may say something that my Greek friends would never express. The realisation of the International Olympic Academy is a generous gift of Greece to the world. Beautiful Olympia is the heart of Hellenic Olympic History and the young Greeks, led by their gold medal winning King want to share its future with the sport-loving people of the world.

Aims of the academy

The academy has for its aims :

- to quicken the conscience of the young athletes when they strive for records ;
- to further the Olympic Ideology ;
- to study and exchange experience on the modern sports movements ;
- to exchange modern training methods ;
- to exchange medical achievement and results of research, to give every athlete the same chances for success ;
- to study the relationship of physiology, psychology and brain work. (Here we might help to persuade educationists in various countries to believe in the positive influence of sports on the progress of brainwork of school children.)

In the same way as athletes and spectators of the Ancient Games listened at Olympia to the lectures of wise men like Socrates, Plato, Aristoteles and others, the young participants of the Olympic Academy will have the opportunity to hear lectures of various faculties like history, archeology, philosophy, medicine, education, etc., held by professors, doctors, artists, trainers or olympic champions from those countries which have the qualified personalities and are prepared to co-operate. Seminars and discussions will sti-

The International Olympic Academy

by H. R. H. Prince George of Hanover, President of the I.O.A.



In February this year, President Brundage visited the constructions at Olympia with H. M. King Constantine, member of the I.O.C. for Greece.
(Photo S. M. Trevizaki, Athens.)

mulate the students to study and accomplish their knowledge in various fields.

The participants

The academy is not an international sports institute, but more than that. It is an academy with an academic standard.

Participants must not necessarily be sports students. They can be representatives of different faculties or active athletes. The main condition for their participation is that they have proved ability and interest in sport and that their character enables them to pass on what they have learned and may serve as an example to their younger comrades with regard to the spirit.

Financial problems and prospects

The total expenditure for the organization and operation of the I.O.A. from 1961 to 1966 has been \$680 000.—, out of which \$450 000.— were used for the improvement of the ground and for construction of permanent installations of Olympia. The expenditure was met by a subsidy from the Greek State budget (\$133 000.—) while the Hellenic Olympic Committee contributed a total of over \$530 000.—. Donations reached the sum of...

\$504.—, a figure which, it is hoped, will be improved in the next balance sheet of the academy. The intention is to appeal to all National Olympic Committees for donations and grants which should help to secure the funds needed for the completion of the constructions of housing, meeting and sports facilities at the seat of the academy. The International Olympic Committee will co-operate and the Hellenic Olympic Committee is prepared to cover \$800 000.— of a budget of almost 2 million dollars for four years.

The 7th session of the I.O.A.

The 7th session of the I.O.A. was held this year from 29th July to 14th August. The general theme of the conferences was "The Athlete" and the students heard lectures on such subjects as "The Spirit of the Athlete", "The Penathlete as an Ideal in the Ancient World and the Modern Times", "Motivation for Athletes", "The Influence of Different Types of Training on the Human Organism", "The Athlete afterwards", etc. The lectures will be published in the report on the 7th session issued by the International Olympic Academy later this year.