

IOC FEATURES

What are the characteristics of this 71-man assembly, on which the attention of the sports world is focussed ?

The mechanism of elections was explained in our No 4 Newsletter, We shall not come back on that point. Let us simply recall that the IOC is an independent institution and selects its members by co-optation, and that no country is to have more than two representatives. Today, we propose to give you a few statistics.

Age first of all.

The IOC has often reproachfully been called a cénacle of old people. The average age of members is exactly 59 years. The IOC's senior member is Mr. Armand Massard (France, 83), followed by Mr. Reginald Honey (South Africa), who is two years and three days younger is King Constantine of Greece (27), preceded by Prince Alexandre de Mérode Another reminder: members elected from 1966 shall resign at the age of 72.

We now come to the professions of IOC members.

In day-to-day life, IOC members occupy the most various posts, Another frequent reproach made to the IOC is that it was composed of dilettantes and rich idlers. Here now, is a list of the professions practiced by the "71":

3 heads of state, 8 career officers (still active or retired), 3 bankers, 13 lawyers or barristers, 4 deputies, 4 civil servants, 3 editors and writers, 7 company managers, 4 manufacturers 2 businessmen, 2 contractors, 3 farmers or landowners, 1 cinema director and producer, 1 university professor, 1 professor of physical education, 5 tradesmen, 7 stockholders.

Let us now have a look at geographical, e.g. national origins. By continents, we obtain the following distribution:

Europe: 40, America: 16, Africa: 7, Asia: 6, Oceania: 2.

A further look at the nations of the "71" gives us the following picture:

40 members are from republics of the traditional type (including the UAR), 21 are from monarchies, 10 from democratic popular republics,

Finally, we came to sports titles.

All members of the IOC have been active sportsmen and have known various distinctions. Some have experienced brilliant success in their special fields, e.g., Dr. Giorgio de Stefani who was, for a long time, one of the best tennis players in the world. We have mentioned only the 12 participants in the Olympic Games.

Four of them attained a gold medal:

Mr. Armand Massard (fencing, 1920), Mr. Gustav Dyrssen (pentathlon, 1920), the Marquess of Exeter under the name of Lord Burghley (400 m hurdles, 1928), Constantine of Greece (yachting - Dragon - 1960).

Other participants were:

Mr. Avery Brundage (athletics, 1912), General Stoytchev (dressage, 1924 and 1928), Count Jean de Beaumont and Mr. Manfred Mautner Ritter von Markhof (shooting, 1924), Mr. Lewis Luxton (rowing, Major Silvio Magalhaes Padilha (athletics, 1932 and 1936), Mr. James Worrall (athletics, 1936), Mr. Willy Daume (basketball, 1936).

Mr. Massard also obtained a silver medal in 1928 (team fencing).

The Marquess of Exeter not only participated in the 1928 Games but took part in the 400 m hurdles race at the 1924 Paris Games and the Los Angeles Games in 1932.

One finally arrives at the conclusion that this assembly is not so particularly kaleidoscopic. You certainly do not expect me to inform you on the personal income of members. It is evident? however, that they dispose of no great fortunes. The truth is that in many respects and in various fields, they are very influential personalities in their own countries.

This is what Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the Olympic Movement, had in mind when selecting from all over the world the ambassadors of the revival of the Games, placed under the emblem of the five rings of five colours.

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