

THE NINTH SESSION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY

Olympia : 29th August - 14th September 1969

This year more than 150 people - students, on-lookers and lecturers - attended the IXth Session of the International Olympic Academy at Olympia.

The Academy, which, as we know was founded by Jean KETSEAS, I.O.C. member for Greece (1) and Carl DIEM an ardent Hellenist(2), first came into being in 1961. Its aim is to bring together every year students from all corners of the earth and to teach them the Olympic philosophy so that once back in their respective countries they in turn, can inculcate there, the principles which were so dear to Baron de COUBERTIN. Lectures given by various people who are particularly familiar with Olympic problems and guided seminars are the basis of the work carried on throughout two weeks. This work is pleasantly alternated with sports, entertainments and organised excursions.

In earlier editions of our Newsletter we have given a great deal of information about the Academy which is presided over by H.R.H. Prince George of HANOVER. Let it suffice today to talk about this IXth Session which has been an unprecedented success.

The theme chosen was: "The Modern Olympic Games". Later on we show the list of those taking part.

We should add that former Olympic champions, staunch upholders of the I.O.C., and athletes of international repute were invited by the organisers. Their presence was particularly beneficial. In this way, such people as Jesse OWENS, Iolanda BALAS, Mikio ODA and Roger BANNISTER constituted striking examples for all the participants.

(1) died in 1965

(2) died in 1962

One new aspect; journalists, who are always interested in Olympic matters, were also invited to attend the Session. The interest they showed and the knowledge they acquired can surely only result in the most favourable publicity.

The opening took place on 30th August on the Pnyx hill which dominates Athens and it was an unforgettable evening. The touching simplicity of the ceremony and the magnificent setting of the bay of Athens brought tears to the eyes of the spectators.

As the work in Olympia came to an end, the participants were invited by the Hellenic Olympic Committee to attend the European Athletics Championships in Athens.

We should mention also that General PAPATHANASSIADIS, President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, Mr. Epaminondas PETRALIAS, Secretary General, Mrs. Jean KETSEAS, the founder's widow, and Admiral LAPPAS, I.O.C. member for Greece, took part in this IXth Session which was presided over and organised by H.R.H. Prince of HANOVER assisted by Admiral PANAS.

On the following pages we are reproducing for you the speeches made during the opening ceremony, in the order in which they were given.

In our next Newsletter we will come back to the lectures that were given during the Session.

Let us conclude by inviting the National Olympic Committees to send even more students next year to the Xth Session of the Academy which will take place from 31st July to 14th August, 1970.

M.B.