

# MRS. INGER FRITH

*Mrs. Inger K. FRITH, the only lady President of an International Sports Federation, will be very happy to see archery representatives competing at the Munich Olympic Games. This sport has not figured on the Olympic Games' Programme since 1920 in Antwerp.*

*She has very kindly written the article, which we are publishing here, especially for the "Olympic Review" and for which we thank her very sincerely.*

*But who is Mrs. FRITH?*

*Mrs. Inger K. FRITH is in her third four-year term of office as President of the Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc, being initially elected in 1961; therefore, along with her Federation's 40th Anniversary, she celebrates her 10th as its President (1961 - 1971).*



*Previously she was Vice-President of the Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc from 1953 to 1961.*

*Mrs. FRITH has herself competed in World Archery Championships and was British Team Manager for 10 years.*

*In 1957, she was awarded the Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc's Silver Plaque and in 1961 its Gilt Plaque for her services to International archery.*

*Since becoming its President in 1961, Mrs. FRITH has been the Federation's delegate at the meetings of the International Olympic Committee and International Sports Federations.*

*She attended the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 1964 and in Mexico in 1968.*

# AND ARCHERY

The *Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc* will celebrate its 40th Anniversary this year in the City of York in England; the City is, in its turn, celebrating its 1900th Anniversary (71 A.D. - 1971).

Against this background Archery may look young, but the 40th Anniversary (1931-1971), rich as it is in its own Federation history, does not cover Archery's long traditions as a sport. There are today famous Archery Societies and Clubs, such as the 'Scorton Arrow' in the county of York, with preparations in hand for the 300th Anniversary in 1973 of the competition for this arrow shot for annually at 100 yards.

'The Royal Toxophilite Society', founded in 1781, is very much alive today with a Country Club House and its own shooting ground just outside London. It holds a unique collection of trophies, as well as a good library. The Society enjoys the honour of Royal patronage. The object of the Society, as stated in its Constitution, is not only the practice of archery but also the maintenance of traditions.

'The Royal Company of Archers', founded in 1676 (the Queen's body guard in Scotland) and the 'Woodmen of Arden' have both been granted the freedom of the Royal Toxophilite Society.

In the United States of America, we have 'The United Bowmen of Philadelphia', founded in 1828, which in 1969 during the XXVth World Archery Championship in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, played hosts to the world's archers. It was the first Archery Club to be organized in the Continent of America. Its records and trophies are entrusted to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania for safekeeping. A fascinating book was published in 1953 commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the United Bowmen of Philadelphia. Their motto "*Plena Fidelibus*" is held to mean "*Filled by the Faithful*" - symbolized by a quiver of arrows representing the Club and the bowmen.

'*Le Grand Serment Royal des Archers de St. Sebastien de Bruxelles*' was founded in 1381 and granted Royal patronage in 1856; it has its own Club House in the City of Brussels with an indoor shooting range. This Society is rich in traditions also and has an outstanding collection of treasured trophies and a 'Golden Book' presented by King Leopold II as

Duke of Brabant. The book contains many signatures and photographs of Royal visitors from several countries.

The above are but a few examples to indicate the long tradition of Archery as a sport. Although traditions may differ from present day international shooting rules, the enjoyment does not differ.

The City of York, this year's venue for the XXVIth World Championship, has a very special place in British Archery in that in 1844 the first National British Championship took place there on the Knavesmire - and today, 127 years later, it looks very much the same (it is a race course and polo ground).

It is fitting that the *Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc's* 40th Anniversary should be steeped in history. Archery is history. Associated with the Congress of the *Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc* and the XXVIth World Championship in York in July will be an Archery exhibition promoted by the Simon Archery Foundation and presented at the University of York. Most items will be on loan from Manchester University Museum (Simon Archery Collection). Assisting with this exhibition and also presenting their own exhibits will be the Society of Archer Antiquaries, a Society formed for those interested in the history and development of the bow.

Another important milestone is that the International Olympic Committee has included Archery on the programme for the 1972 Games of the XXth Olympiad in Munich.

Archery has been on the Olympic Programme before - at the IInd Olympic Games, Paris in 1900, Archery was one of the 15 sports; the IIIRD Olympic Games, St. Louis in 1904, Archery was again part of the Games but only Americans competed; the IVth Olympic Games, London in 1908, had 22 sports including Archery; and the VIIth Olympic Games, Antwerp in 1920, had 23 sports and again included Archery.

Archery, it should be noted, had been included each time at the request of the National Archery Associations of the countries where the Games took place as our International Archery Federation was founded later in 1931; it is therefore not surprising that on every occasion it was in countries where Archery was well established.

It may be mentioned that the Games were not as glorious in the early part of the century as they are today, nor were the Archery competitions measured against today's World Championship Tournaments. International rules did not exist and clearly defined rules are essential for success in international competitions. National rules were used, but they

differed greatly - on the Continent metres and short distances were favoured rather than rounds, as in Great Britain and the United States, with distances measured in yards and longer distances of up to 100 yards (or 90 metres) were shot.

The *Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc* was founded in 1931 on Poland's initiative. Eight countries were founder members. Today the Federation counts 46 affiliated National Archery Associations in five Continents and has additional applications to table at the 1971 Congress meeting later this year.

In the very first year of the history of the *Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc* a Polish delegation was authorised to approach the International Olympic Committee requesting consideration that Archery be included on the Olympic Programme; this was followed up in 1932, but at the Federation's Congress in 1934 it was reported that the request to be on the 1936 Olympic Programme in Berlin had not met with success. In 1937 at the Congress of the *Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc* it was reported that the International Olympic Committee, at their meetings both in Berlin and later in Warsaw, had made it clear that if any new sports were added to the Olympic Programme they would be those widely popular in the whole world.

Congress therefore decided not to make a further immediate request to be admitted as refusal was certain but to devote all efforts towards making Archery more popular in countries affiliated and get other countries interested. Propaganda was what all should aim at.

World War II (1939-1945) caused the XIIth and XIIIth Olympic Games not to take place.


The *Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc* made a new approach in 1948 in London for the XIVth Olympiad, but the International Olympic Committee was firm in deciding that no new sports were to be added. Helsinki 1952 and Melbourne 1956 went by with the *Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc* keeping in touch with the International Olympic Committee and then in 1957, at the I.O.C. Session in Sophia, Archery was accepted as an optional sport. This was received by archers everywhere with great joy, to be followed by the great disappointment that Archery was not included in the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo. (By vote of the International Olympic Committee only 20 of the then 22 Olympic sports would be on the programme).

In October 1963, Archery narrowly missed being accepted for 1968 in Mexico.

At the XVIIIth Olympiad in 1964 in Tokyo, an official demonstration, organised by the Japanese Archery Association, was given of Kyoda, Japan's traditional Archery.

Then, in October 1965, the International Olympic Committee accepted Archery on the programme of the XXth Olympiad in 1972 and we are now preparing for this big event with both enthusiasm and determination. Archers will have to qualify at a high standard set by Congress in 1969 in Valley Forge to be reviewed at the 1971 Congress in York. We have, over the last couple of years in particular, benefitted greatly in that in many countries aid towards coaching and training is now available, because it is a sport on the Olympic programme. Enquiries from many countries not affiliated are now received, caused, we believe and without belittle our own efforts, because Archery is now an Olympic sport.

The promotion of Archery in this the 40th Anniversary of the *Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc* round the whole world is the greatest encouragement we could receive - so we shall celebrate in the City of York in July when our Congress meets and our XXVith World Championship is staged, which, we believe, to be the largest ever.

We shall spare no effort and we hope we shall prove in Munich at the XXth Olympiad that Archery will be as attractive a spectator sport as many and add colour and grace to watch and prove worthy of the honour of a permanent place on the Olympic Programme. 

I. K. F.



CONGRESS 1969, HOLIDAY INN, VALLEY FORGE, U.S.A.

*The President, Mrs. I.K. FRITH, with members of the Administrative Council of the Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc -*

*From left to right: Dr. A.G. CAVALCHINI (Italy); Mr. K.H. LEHMANN (German Democratic Republic); Mr. D.M. THOMSON, General Secretary (Great Britain); Dr. G.R. WOTTON (Great Britain); Mr. C.B. SHENK (U.S.A.); Mr. P. PRIEELS, Vice-President (Belgium); Mrs. I.K. FRITH, the President; Mr. H. HONNE, Vice-President (Norway); Mr. A.R. HARVEY, Treasurer (Great Britain); Major J.P. BOOYSON (South Africa); Mr. F.M. SPOOR (Holland); Mr. R. SIMON (France).*

*Vice-Presidents, Messrs. V. ANSALA (Finland) and J. BASTAR (Czechoslovakia) were not present at Valley Forge.*