

Géo Charles



Géo CHARLES, copper engraving
by FOUJITA

Sportsmen and artists will certainly remember Géo CHARLES, who, in 1924, won the first prize for literature at the Art Competition of the Paris Olympic Games. His book "Olympic Games" also has the sub-title of "First Open-Air Theatre Performance" and in the introduction, the author explains his intentions:

"In this 'ideal version', different elements interpenetrate, without one being especially 'dominating': musicality of the verse, recitating voices, figures, dancing, sports movement.

Stage games, human bodies, bright-coloured jerseys, bathed in light, form a moving fresco.

This performance is more aimed at 'nature-interpretation': open-air theatres, stadiums, cycle racing tracks, public parks, arenas, the countryside."

Written in blank verse, this book covers a boxing fight in three parts: prologue, training day, the fight and on stage uses athletes, officials and spectators, who form a ring of action whose commentaries go beyond the fight and include sport and the Olympic Games in general. Géo CHARLES tried to include visual elements (the bright coloured jerseys of the fighters), sounds (loud-speakers, which were a technical revelation of the 1924 Olympic Games) and to re-create the "dignified movement of the Olympic Games" so as to make a complete performance.

"Olympic Games was published in 1925 by the French New Review, with a portrait of the author by FOUJITA, which we are printing here. Géo CHARLES would have been 80 years old on 22nd March and on this occasion, Mrs. Géo CHARLES has been kind enough to send us this book. We would like to express our sincere thanks.

