



8th May 1975: Death of Avery Brundage

Tribute by the President of the International Olympic Committee



“Avery Brundage, with Baron de Coubertin, is a name that will be remembered in Olympic history. From his days as a competitor in 1912, until he retired as President in 1972, he never ceased to take an active part in the development of the Olympic Movement.”

“For twenty years I served under his chairmanship as a member of the International Olympic Committee. During these years I was able to watch him lead with determination the Olympic Movement. He was an idealist to whom Olympism was a religion. He never wavered from his deep conviction that the Olympic Movement could be the greatest social force in the world. He never ceased in his efforts to try to keep sports above political intrigues. He continually preached that amateur sport was for the development of the individual and should be free from any profit motivation or commercial taint. Because of his unbending convictions, he was frequently criticised, but this is the lot of all who have firm and rigid beliefs.”

“During the twenty-four years in which I have known him, I learnt that he was not always the hardhearted man in which his public image may have been regarded by many, but an excellent friend, with a dry sense of humour, who enjoyed life fully, whether it was in the world of business, or creating his famous Asian art collection.”

“He will be remembered by the vast Olympic family which increased so rapidly under his presidency, both amongst his colleagues past and present in the International Olympic Committee, the International Federations, all the National Olympic Committees, and sportsmen and competitors throughout the world.”

“Our sympathy goes to his widow and friends.”

Lord Killanin