

The IOA in the service of modern Olympism

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The International Olympic Academy held its first Session in June 1961 in the imposing and serene site of ancient Olympia, near to the historic Altis where, every year since then, the modern world of science and technology draws closer to the glorious sports heritage.

It was due to the energetic initiative of Jean Ketseas, IOC member in Greece, and of the German sports expert Carl Diem that this first Session took place with the approval of the International Olympic Committee. The Hellenic Olympic Committee willingly assumed the costs of installations for this cultural centre of Olympism. Equally it took on the responsibility of its annual operation.

The creation of the IOA answered a fundamental need and a wish expressed by Baron Pierre de Coubertin—a wish that a special centre for the world Olympic movement be created which would not only be the guardian and propagator of the principles of Olympic philosophy, taking into account the necessary adaptation to the development of ideas, but would also be concerned with curbing all types of material greed which would destroy its purity that had not been

sullied in almost thirty centuries of existence.

In compliance with this philosophy, the IOA is today the universal headquarters from which the most eminent specialists pass on their knowledge and experience to the young people living around them. Not only do they discuss with and inspire the young but they also take an interest in their present hopes and dreams.

Thus during the seventeen years of the IOA's operation thousands of young people have been initiated in the pure principles that Olympia teaches us and have become the apostles of the Olympic spirit in their respective countries. Thousands of others have had the chance to study these principles in the special publications of the IOA which are distributed every year in all countries.

The International Olympic Academy remains the source of light which radiates beams of Olympic ideas throughout the world.

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