

Greece and Olympism

"I was particularly surprised to find a Greece that was so alive, that had remained so true to herself, at the same time both very old and very modern. Henceforth I had confidence in her future. I would continue to have great faith in the renewed destiny awaiting her..."

Pierre de Coubertin, 1894
"Olympic Memoirs", p. 26

GREECE

131,944 square kilometres.

9,000,000 inhabitants (approximately in 1977).



HELLENIC OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (HOC)

(in Greek : Epitropi Olympiakon Agonon - EOA).

Founded on 13th June 1895.

President in office : George Athanassiadis *.

Secretary General in office : Nikos Filaretos *.

Address : 4 Kapsali Street, Athens 138.

Telephone : 710.031, 712.313, 719.217, 726.731.

Telex : 219 494 HOC.

Cable : OLYMPAG.

Role of the HOC

The Hellenic Olympic Committee endeavours to contribute to the development of Olympic sports. Elected every four years, it directs and coordinates Olympic preparation. In the last year of each Olympiad, assistance is mostly accorded to sportsmen who are closest to international level.

The HOC pays special attention to the Olympic movement. The International Olympic Academy (IOA) was thus founded in 1948 under the auspices of the HOC in order to become a real university at which promoters of Olympism are formed every year.

Besides these tasks deriving from the Olympic principles, the HOC is currently pursuing two main objectives :

- the construction of a sports complex, 8 km. from the centre of Athens, on a 945,000 square metre site. The facilities will permit the organisation of major international sports competitions.

It is even envisaged that the European athletic championships may possibly be staged there in 1982.

- the demolition of the old building in Kapsali Street, present headquarters of the HOC, and the reconstruction of a modern building on the same site.

* See biographical notes.



An athlete of ancient times throwing the discus - portrayed on a Panathenaic vase.

Origin

"Coubertin's idea was a most virile and dynamic one with its roots extending back 2,500 years to the days when the foundation of modern civilisation was being laid in ancient Hellas. In that ancient era, so aptly called the Golden Age, culture was both physical and mental", declared Avery Brundage on 1st July 1970. In fact, a very long period in ancient Greece, stretching over more than ten centuries, was dominated by

the feeling that is known today as the Olympic spirit. Sports competition was an integral part of life and the Olympic Games constituted the most important Pan-Hellenic festival, from both the religious and cultural standpoints.

In 392 AD, after a progressive degeneration, the Olympic Games were banned by an edict of the Christian Emperor Theodosius. But as Coubertin recalled : *"Even though the Olympic Games were prohibited, Olympia and Olympism continued to remain alive in men's hearts, for "Olympia" represented something that had survived, which continued to live and would live again throughout the course of history..."*

Creation

At the turn of this century, Timoleon Philemon, former Mayor of Athens, put his name to the following invitation as Secretary General of the Greek Committee of the Olympic Games :

"The International Athletics Congress, meeting on 16th June 1894 at the Sorbonne in Paris, under the chairmanship of Baron de Courcel, Senator of the French Republic, has decided to re-establish the Olympic Games and to hold their first celebration in 1896 at Athens.

Following this decision which has been accepted willingly by Greece, the Hellenic Committee, formed in Athens under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness the Prince Royal of Greece, has pleasure in inviting you to take part in the 1896 Olympic Games which will be celebrated at Athens from 5th to 15th April 1896, the programme and conditions of which are attached.

We request you kindly to reply to this invitation which is extended with the prior agreement of the International Committee of the Olympic Games whose seat is in Paris."

HRH the Prince of the Hellenes had accepted to be present among the



D. Bikelas

First Board of the HOC

1895

PT : Crown Prince Constantine ; **SG** : Timoleon Philemon **T** : Paul Skouzes ; **Ms** : N. Delyiannis, L. Deligiorgis, A. Zaimis, K. Karapanos, T. Manes, N. Metaxas, K. Mavromihalis, A. Skouzes, G. Tiplados Kozakos, G. Romas, A. Soutsos, Th. Retsinas ; **Ss** : G. Melas, G. Streit, K. Manos, A. Mercati, N. Zaharias.

honorary members of the 1894 Congress which declared the revival of the Games. The delegates included Demetrius Bikelas *, representing the Pan-Hellenic Gymnastics Society presided by Jean Phokianos.

Demetrius Bikelas * had a small apartment at the Rue de Babylone in Paris, and it is there, Pierre de Coubertin tells us, that the edifice of the IOC was consolidated. In spite of his reluctance, Bikelas * accepted the IOC presidency, a responsibility he held until 1896. His



A.C. Bolanaki

role as mediator was vital in the organisation and success of the first Olympic Games, as was that of Th. Delyiannis and Coubertin's friends, George Melas, son of the Mayor of Athens, and Alexander Mercati *, childhood companion of the Prince Royal. Supported by the King and the Prince Royal, the organisers were in a position to ensure the brilliant revival of the Olympic idea.

"Just like the gay and charming spring fills the human soul with expectation



J. Ketseas

and joy, the decision taken by the international Athletics Congress in Paris fills all Hellenes with enthusiasm, expectation and joy. We consider the inauguration of the Olympic Games in Athens a great honour which bears hope, like a springtime of the physical development of Hellenism", stated Mercati * at the time.

The first HOC was founded on 13th June 1895 under the presidency of Crown Prince Constantine. The HOC is therefore the oldest National Olympic Committee.

Development

From then on, the Greek people remained loyal to Olympism, and periodically a ceremony recalls that this country which saw its birth ever remains traditionally steeped in the Olympic ideal.



E. Pétraliás



P. Lappas



*Crown Prince
Constantine (1896)*



Georges Athanassiadis

Successive Presidents of the HOC

- 1894-1912 : Crown Prince Constantine.
- 1913 : King Constantine.
- 1914-1917 : Prince George.
- 1918-1920 : Miltiadis Negreponitis.
- 1921-1923 : Prince George.
- 1924-1930 : George Averoff *.
- 1930-1936 : Jean Drossopoulos.
- 1936-1947 : Crown Prince Paul.
- 1947-1954 : King Paul.
- 1954-1955 : Kostas Georgakopoulos.
- 1955-1964 : Crown Prince Constantine.
- 1964-1968 : Princess Irene.
- 1968-1973 : Theodose Papathanassiadis.
- 1973-1974 : Spyridon Vellianitis.
- 1974-1976 : Apostolos Nikolaidis *.
- Since 1977 : George Athanassiadis *.

IOC members In Greece

1. Demetrius Bikelas *, from 1894 to 1897, first President of the IOC from 1894 to 1896, died in 1908.
2. Count Alexander Mercati *, from 1897 to 1925.
3. Angelo C. Bolanaki *, from 1933 to 1963, member in Egypt from 1910 to 1933.
4. George Averoff *, from 1926 to 1930.
5. Nicolas Politis *, from 1930 to 1933.
6. Jean Ketseas *, from 1946 to 1965.
7. HM Constantine *, from 1963 to 1974, honorary member since 1974.
8. Vice-Admiral Pyrros Lappas *, since 1965.
9. Epaminondas Petralias *, from 1975 until his death in 1977.



Olympia - 17 July 1975 : Lord Killanin surrounded, from right to left, by Mr. Otto Szymiczek, Dean of the IOA, Mr. George Papastefanou, Director of the Olympic Museum at Olympia, Mr. Epaminondas Petralias, IOC member in Greece and former President of the IOA, protector of the IOA, Mr. Cleanthis Paleologos, Deputy Rector of the IOA, and Mr. Nikos Filaretos, Secretary General of the Hellenic Olympic Committee.

GREECE

GREECE AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

1972 - *The Greek delegation in Munich*

● Date of first participation : 1896.

Since then, Greek sportsmen have been present at the celebration of each Olympiad. The IOC sends only a symbolic delegation to the Winter Games, as the practice of winter sports in Greece is hindered by weather conditions.

● Greek cities which have applied to stage the Olympic Games

Athens, organising city of the first Olympic Games celebrating the 1st Olympiad of the modern era in 1896.

Athens, candidate city for the organisation of the 1940, 1944, 1952 and 1960 Olympic Games.

Moreover, the first set of competitions known as the *Intermediary Games* took place at Athens in 1906. These Games were to be held in Greece every four years between two Olympiad celebrations, but were never able to be presented again.

"Olympic Games" at Athens in 1877 !

Coubertin often repeated that it was not he who had the first idea to renovate the Olympic Games, but that he had given it a concrete form. Already in 1858, a rich Greek by the name of Zappas had offered a substantial sum to revive the Olympic Games in his country. The result was not a sports event, but an art and crafts exhibition. Under the reign of King George II, the Panathenian stadium, which for centuries had served as an arena, had started to be cleared. To this end, it was necessary to demolish the walls that the knights had erected in the hemisphere of the Sphendane in order to hold their tournaments. An eccentric Englishman, Dr. Brooks of Much-Wenlock, instituted a special prize for a running race, whose champion would bear the title of "Olympic winner". By chance we have just discovered a gazette of 1877 reporting on the "Olympic Games at Athens". The beautiful collection of historical engravings in the possession of Dr. H. Handke, Berlin, contains a reproduction of an engraving donated on 21st April 1877 by the English magazine "The Graphic". Lieutenant Morgan, serving aboard the vessel H.M.S. Research, writes in connection with this engraving that on Easter Monday the vessel's crew offered the Athenian population, gathered on a square in the neighbourhood of the Phaleron, a programme of Olympic games, comprising the usual athletics events, then a few amusements like a sack race. The King of Greece attended this occasion.

"Olympic Review", 1939, p. 18.

Representation of Greece at the Olympic Games from 1896 to 1976¹

	Athletics	Rowing	Basketball	Boxing	Canoeing	Cycling	Equestrian Events	Fencing	Football	Gymnastics	Weightlifting
1896	29	x	●	●	●	8	x	9	●	6	2
1900	2		●	●	●			2	0 ²		●
1904	1		0 ²		●		●		●		1
1908	12		●		●	1	●				●
1912	5		●	●	●			11			●
1920	11		●		●			4	11		
1924	12		●	1	●			6			
1928	15		●	2	●			5			
1932	7		●	1	a						
1936	16(1)			1				8			
1948	15(1)	8				3		6			
1952	10	3	12						16		
1956	6	1									
1960	20	6		2							1
1964	5										
1968	8			3							2
1972	12			4				3			4
1976	11(2)			3		1					4

¹ The figures in brackets represent the number of women included in the first figure.

● Not included on the programme.



Representation of Greece at the Winter Games from 1924 to 1976

Skiing : 1 in 1936, 3 in 1952, 3 in 1956, 3 in 1964, 3 in 1968, 3 in 1972 and 4 in 1976.

	Handball	Hockey	Judo	Wrestling	Swimming	Modern Pentathlon	Shooting	Archery	Volleyball	Yachting	Total
1896	●	●	●	2	8	●	10	●	●	X	74
1900	●	●	●	●		●			●		4
1904	●	●	●			●	●		●	●	2
1908	●		●			●	6		●		19
1912	●	●	●	1	1		8	●	●		26
1920	●		●	2	8		8		●		44
1924	●	●	●	2	7		7	●	●		35
1928	●		●	3			●	●	●		25
1932	●		●	2				●	●		10
1936	0 ²		●	4	5	1	8	●	●		43(1)
1948	●		●	5	9		7	●	●	4	57(1)
1952	●		●	3			6	●	●	4	54
1956	●		●	2			2	●	●	2	13
1960	●		●	3	2		7	●	●	8	49
1964	●			5			4	●		5	19
1968	●		●	8	11		7	●		8	47
1972				9	16(2)		5			7	60
1976				4	1		4			7	35(2)

x Sport included in the programme but in which no event was contested.

² Demonstration sport.

The Greek Olympic Champions

I. Titles obtained at the Olympic Games

Name	Christian Name	sport	Event
Louys	Spiridon	Athletics	Marathon
Konstantinidis	Aristidis	Cycling	Individual road
Georgiadis	Jean	Fencing	Sabre
Pirgos	Leonidas	—	Fencing masters (épée)
Mijtropoulos	Ioannis	Gymnastics	Rings
Andriakopoulos	Nicoalos	—	Rope climbing
Malokinis	Ioannis	Swimming	100 m. reserved for Greek sailors
Karasevdas	Pantelis	Shooting	Military rifle (200 m.)
Frangoudis	Jean	—	Duelling pistol
Orphanidis	Giorgios	—	Military arm (300 m.)
Kakousis	Perides	Weightlifting	Single-handed lift
Tsiklitis	Constantine	Athletics	Standing long jump
Crown Prince	Constantine	Yachting	Dragon
Zaimis	Georgios	—	—
Eskidjoglou	Odysseus	—	—

II. Titles obtained in the Art competitions

Dimitriadis Constantine Sculpture

* The names in heavy print indicate that the champion in question will be mentioned again later on.
* We would like to thank in advance all readers able to help us complete this table and give us news of all the champions.



1896 - *Spiridon Louys*

Year	Birth	Death	Notes
1896	1872	1940	His compatriot Charilaos Vassilikos finished second.
1896			
1896	1874		Distinguished himself 10 years later at the Intermediary Games in Athens.
1896			
1896	1874		
1896	1878		
1896			
1896	1877		
1896			
1896			Distinguished himself 10 years later at the Intermediary Games in Athens.
1904			
1912	1888	1913	Silver medallist in 1908.
1960	1940		Crown Prince, acceding to the throne in 1964. IOC member from 1963 to 1974, honorary member since 1974.
1960	1937		
1960	1932		



1960 - *Crown Prince Constantine*



1896 - *Leonidas Pirgos*

1924 For his "Finnish discus thrower"

PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE HOC

● *The present statutes* came into force in 1955 and were modified in 1976 with regard to the election of members and the representation of the national sports federations. This reform ensured the NOC's greater independence with respect to the State authorities.

● *Composition*

Besides the IOC members in Greece, who are permanent members, the HOC comprises 11 members elected for four years, representing the affiliated federations and the body of physical education teachers ; these members elect four extra delegates from representative figures of Greek sport.

● *Meetings*

These members hold an ordinary session at least once a month and an extraordinary meeting when considered necessary.

● *The Executive Board* is composed of the President, the 1st Vice-President, the Secretary General and three members, to whom some of the HOC's tasks are delegated.

● *The HOC Assembly*, made up of the delegates of the national sports federations, governs the HOC and holds four-yearly elections. It appoints the President, the 1st and 2nd Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General and the Treasurer of the HOC, as well as the President and members of the Eligibility Commission and the IOA Ephoria.

● Present members of the HOC

PT : Mr. George Athanassiadis *; *1st VPT* : Mr. Nikolaos Nissiotis *, President of the IOA ; *2nd VPT*: Mr. Angelos Lembessis ; *SG* : Mr. Nikos Filaretos *; *T* : Mr. Emmanuel Lombardos ; *Ms* : Vice-Admiral Pyrros Lappas *, IOC member, Messrs. Vassilios Fikioris, Menelaos Gratzios, Antonios Kanellopoulos, Dimitrios Leontidis, Michail Mastrandreas, Achille Pappas, Christos Raptis, Antonio Tzikas, Marc Tzoumaras, Nikolaos Vlangalis.

● Financing of the HOC

The State makes an annual grant of approximately 5,000,000 drachmas (SF. 250,000) to the HOC. To this subsidy are added 3% of the profits from the football pools (in 1977 : 72,000,000 drachmas - SF. 3,600,000).

● Federations affiliated to the HOC

Olympic	Creation	IF affiliation	Members in 1972
Athletics ¹	1897	1923	25 000
Rowing	1927	1930	3 329
Basketball	1970	1932	12 000
Boxing	1954	1948	500
Cycling	1914	before 68	300
Fencing	1972	before 39	500
Football	1926	1927	81 732
Weightlifting	1970	1958	400
Wrestling	1927	1936	480
Swimming	1935	before 62	2 000
Winter sports	1927	1927	12 424
Skiing and mountaineering	1930	1936	
Shooting	1932	1907	700
Yachting	1943	1951	1 620
Volleyball	1970	1951	3 200
Non-olympic...			
Tennis	1938		
Table tennis	1956		

¹ This federation also governs equestrian, gymnastics, handball, judo and modern pentathlon.



THE HOC AND OLYMPISM

1967 Olympic day in the Olympic stadium at Athens

● IOC Sessions held in Greece

1896 : Session in Athens.

1906 : Session in Athens.

1934 : Session in Athens.

1954 : Session in Athens.

1961 : Session in Athens and inauguration of the first IOA Session.

1978 : 80th IOC Session in Athens.

● Commemoration of the revival of the Olympic Games

40th anniversary : 1934 in Athens.

60th anniversary : 1954 in Athens.

● Olympic day is celebrated every year on 6th April, to mark the anniversary of the opening of the first Olympic Games of the modern era. The main ceremony takes place in the capital, in the white marble stadium that was restored for the 1896 Games. There, the Athenians acclaim the winner of the international classical marathon race in

which a great many foreign athletes participate.

The programme then features a parade of the representatives of the various Olympic sports, a speech on the aims of the Olympic movement, as well as various competitions. The celebration terminates with regional dances and the presentation of the Olympic flag to the strains of the Olympic hymn. This day is also commemorated throughout the country by various events staged by the national sports federations.

● Olympic awards obtained

— *Olympic Order*

1977 : bronze medal attributed to *Cleanthis Paleologos* *, for his work as an Olympic promoter and writer.

— *Olympic Diploma of Merit*

By *Angelo C. Boltanaki* *, 18th holder in 1949, for his activity as a pioneer of Olympism.

By *Epaminondas Petralias* *, 54th holder in 1973, for his outstanding leadership of the IOA.

— *Olympic Cup*

1936 - By the *Union of Hellenic Gymnastics and Athletics Associations*.

— *Sir Thomas Fearnley Cup*

1960 - By the *Tennis Club of Athens*.

— *Count Alberto Bonacossa Trophy*

1961 - By the *Greek NOC*, in recognition of its foundation of the IOA.

1971 - By the *Greek NOC*, for its contribution to the IOA's development and the realisation and distribution of an excellent film on this Academy.

● *The Olympic flame*, both for the Olympic Games and the Winter Games, is lit by the sun at Olympia every four years. The HOC takes charge of the ceremonies which have become traditional.

● *Protection of the Olympic emblems* is ensured by decree 1808 of 1971, which was modified and strengthened by law 423 of 1976.

International Olympic Academy



Mr. N. Nissiotis
President of the IOA

● *The International Olympic Academy*, a real centre of Olympic thought and research, is financed and managed by the HOC which nominates the Ephoria (Board of Directors). Mr. Nikolaos Nissiotis*, 1st Vice-President of the HOC, is its President, whilst Mr. Otto Szymiczek * has held the post of Dean since 1962.

Why the IOA ?

"The Greek Olympic Committee thought of organising an intellectual centre with the object of completing the institution of the Olympic Games in its teaching mission. Young people from universities in all countries will come to be initiated in

"Olympia was a very important centre in the ancient world, like Delphi was a major religious centre. Here, the simple man, weak and fearful, feeling awed by their power, came to beseech his gods. It was to Olympia that the simple mortal, free and happy, went to enjoy beauty and virtue in all its glory.

In this unsurpassed countryside, blessed with all the harmony that nature could offer, in this wood of the sacred Altis with its superb monuments and immortal statues, he could gaze upon the living beauty of these glorious athletes, these statuesque young men, those proud fleet-footed horses.

It was at Olympia that beauty associated with virtue was discovered and there that the spirit of contest and supremacy was glorified."

Cleanthis Paleologos
Vice-President of the IOA
Holder of the bronze medal
in the Olympic Order

the Olympic principles under the direction of persons well known for their competence.

These young people, convinced of the accuracy of these principles, by their masters' teaching, or by the influence of the climate in which the principles of harmony and ability were given birth and flourished, will become the apostles of these ideas in their countries.

Later they will become the officials directing sport and will sponsor the continuation of the healthy Olympic conception."

These were the words used by Mr. Jean Ketteas* in the explanatory memorandum presented in 1949 on the proposed foundation of an Olympic Academy in Greece.

It is for this reason that every summer since 1961, hundreds of students from all over the world stay at Olympia. There they participate in the work of the International Olympic Academy (IOA) for some weeks, following the tracks of the champions of Antiquity.

Olympia, fief of the Academy

The institute has the benefit of 25 hectares of ground, situated to the east of the Kronion hill on which the Temple of Cronos, the oldest in Greek Antiquity, was erected. It dominates the ancient stadium, "Mecca of the Olympic movement" and the sacred precincts, the Altis.

The foundation of the International Olympic Academy

The idea originated in Greece in 1927. Pierre de Coubertin had come to attend the inauguration of the stèle, erected at Olympia to commemorate the re-establishment of the Games.

Two members of the International Olympic Committee, the German Professor, the late Carl Diem, and the representative of Greece, the late Mr. Jean Ketteas, defended the project with enthusiasm. In 1947 collaboration resulted in the presentation of a plan for the foundation. Two years later the envisaged action was unanimously accepted at the 43rd Session of the International Olympic Committee, which became patron of the Academy. The direction was entrusted to Greece, and the Greek Olympic Committee ensured the guardianship of the new organisation.

Some years of effort were necessary for the Greek Olympic Committee to establish the basic materials for the functioning of the institution. It was not until 1961 that they could even organise the first Session. The "Carl Diem" Foundation of the Deutsche Olympische Gesellschaft insured the expenses of the organisation of a trial Session at the Academy.

Objectives of the IOA

The rules and statutes, altered in 1967, define the objectives of the International Olympic Academy in these terms :

"To create a cultural international centre in ancient Olympia where the idea of athletic games was conceived and realised for the first time. It must keep alive and also maintain the Olympic spirit, study the educational and social principles of competitive sports and their organisation, revive the modern Olympic movement in the spirit of the ancient Greeks, as well as that of the Baron de Coubertin."



In 1975 at the IOA : in the first row Lord Killanin, President of the IOC, surrounded by Mr. James Worrall on the right and Mr. Epaminondas Petralias and Mr. Nikos Filaretos on the left.

● **Publications of the HOC**

The HOC has published since 1977 an information bulletin written in Greek, which from 1978 is due to appear four times per year. its translation into either French or English is planned.

● **Greek Olympic bibliography**

Official reports

— 1896 : Athens.

Official report of the first Olympic Games. Published by Charles Beck, 14 Hermes Street, Athens.

— Since 1961, *the IOA* has been publishing a report every year on the work of the Academy's Session.

General works

1. Jean Chrysafis : "The modern Olympic Games". Published in 1930, 489 pages, in Greek.
2. Jean Chrysafis : "Gymnastics in antiquity". Published by E.A.S.A., 528 pages, in Greek.
3. Cleanthis Paleologos : "Legends of Olympia". Published in 1972, 156 pages (gold medal of the International Lutèce Academy, Paris, 1974, and "Olympic Review" from No. 64-65 to No. 99-100).
4. Bastias Christopoulos : "The Olympic Games". Published by Ekdotiki Athinon in 1976, 520 pages, illustrated, in Greek, French and English.

SPORT IN GREECE

● *The Secretariat for Youth and Sport*, a State body, governs extra-scholastic sport. It subsidises the HOC as well as the national sports federations.

The amount of the national budget allocated to sports activities is in the region of 1,200,000,000 drachmas, ie. SF. 60,000,000. This sum, for the most part, derives from the profits of the football pools. Top competition athletes are granted scholarships ; they are assisted to continue their studies and to find a professional situation.

● Sport at school

Sports activities have had to feature in school timetables since 1976.

Unfortunately, facilities are still insufficient in quantity to fulfil national requirements, but a great effort is being made to improve this situation. It has moreover been laid down that all new schools will have to be equipped with their own sports grounds.

● Sports installations

- 30 Outdoor swimming pools.
- 0 Indoor 50m. swimming pools.
- 10 Indoor 25m. swimming pools.
- 10 Other swimming pools.
- 1 Sports complex.
- 2119 Stadia and gymnasia.
- 12 Shooting ranges.

- 1 Velodrome.
- 76 Sports and youth centres.
- 38 Aquatic sports centres.
- 29 Mountaineering and ski centres.
- 109 Secondary sports grounds.

● Number of club members

The latest statistics show that 225,000 Greeks, that is 2.5% of the population, practise a sports activity.

● Sports which draw the biggest crowds

Football, athletics, basketball, water polo, volleyball.

● Sports experiencing the greatest development

Basketball, water polo, volleyball.

GREEKS AND THE INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS



G. Vichos

Since the 1976 Congress of the Union Internationale de Tir (UIT - shooting), Mr. George Vichos* holds the presidency of this federation. Other leaders belong to the Management Committees of the International Federations : for instance, Mr. Vassilios Fikioris in the FILA (wrestling), Mr. Antonios Kanellopoulos in the FIFA, and Mr. E. Mihail, Council member of the European Athletics Association.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

George Athanassiadis

President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee since 1977, having been its 1st Vice-President since 1974.

Born at Constantinople in 1912. He played basketball between 1928 and 1931 for the renowned Olympiakos Sports Club and won many rowing events in 1931 and 1932.

His high professional responsibilities—he is Editor of the political daily paper "Vradyni" and the financial daily "Naftemboriki"—have never kept him from the sports world. He was one of the founders of the General Secretariat for Sport in 1958 and of the football pools organisation in 1959, of which he was government commissioner, then President. He headed the Sports Council from 1961 to 1963 and the Panhellenios Club from 1960 to 1964.

George Averoff

IOC member from 1926 to 1936.

Born at Halkis, George Averoff like his uncle, the great donor and benefactor of the marble stadium in Athens, took part in the national sports life with dedication and generosity.

Demetrius Bikelas

First President of the IOC from 1894 to 1896, IOC member from 1894 to 1897.

Born on the island of Syra in 1835. At an early age he was drawn to literature. In 1851 he translated "Esther" by Racine into verse. In 1876, he retired from business to devote himself completely to the arts.

Member of the Pan-Hellenic Gymnastics Society, he represented Greece at the 1894 Congress in Paris, which decided on the revival of the Olympic

He was the first President of the International Olympic Committee, appointed by the Baron de Coubertin himself. According to the renovator of the Games, he acted with "charm and enthusiasm". Settling in Athens, he was an active member of the first Hellenic Olympic Committee until his death in 1908.

Angelo Bolanaki

IOC member in Greece from 1933 to 1963.

Born at Alexandria. He had been a member in Egypt from 1910 (see "Olympic Review", No. 121, p. 702). In 1960, he gave to the Olympic Museum

in Lausanne the first Olympic flag designed by Pierre de Coubertin and which the latter had had made in Paris in 1913. Mr. Bolanaki had been its trustee and wanted this flag, which he had raised for the first time in the history of Olympism on 5th April 1914 in the Chatby Stadium at Alexandria to be preserved in the Olympic Museum of the International Olympic Committee. Let us note that in 50 years, until 1960, he had missed only one IOC Session.

HM Constantine

IOC member from 1963 to 1974, then honorary member.

Born on 2nd June 1940. Sport (basketball, equestrian, hockey, shooting) formed an integral part of his education as Crown Prince. He took part in yachting competitions for the first time in 1959 and won the Pan-Hellenic championships. In February 1960, he also tried his hand at the Dragon class and participated in international competitions at Genoa, Naples, Kiel Week and the Amsterdam Gold Cup, in each of which he obtained satisfactory results. At the end of August in the same year, he participated in the Games of the XVIIIth Olympiad, representing Greece in the Dragon class where he won the gold medal, the only one to be obtained by Greece in these Games.

President of the HOC from 1957 to 1964, he withdrew from all active Olympic functions in 1974.

Nikos Filaretos

Secretary General of the Hellenic Olympic Committee since 1974.

Born in 1925. His economics studies led to top positions in foreign relations at the Athens Credit Bank and membership of several business managements. Whilst practising rowing, basketball and tennis, he turned to sports administration and was a Board member of the Greek Automobile and Touring Club and of the Panathinaikos and Panhellenios Sports Club, and the Athens Tennis Club.

Jean Ketseas

IOC member from 1946 to 1965.

Born in 1887. Pioneer of modern sport, he was selected to compete in the high jump for the Greek team participating in the 1906 Intermediary Games, a renowned tennis player and an esteemed oarsman before becoming one of the most outstanding IOC members. Member of the HOC from 1927, he presided the national athletics federation from 1929 to 1932 and the tennis federation from 1939 to 1946. He was Secretary General of the HOC from 1934 and will go down in history as the co-founder of the International Olympic Academy which he presided until his death. Mrs. Dora Ketseas, his wife, has not ceased to follow the course of the Olympic movement with the dedication transmitted by her husband.

Vice-Admiral Pyrros Lappas

IOC member since 1965.

Born in Athens in 1900. Throughout a brilliant career in the Navy which bore him to the highest

positions as head of naval operations and head of HM the King's military household, Admiral Lappas always practised sport. An excellent swimmer, he regularly took part in international military competitions. From 1951 to 1967 he presided the Greek Rowing Federation, in which capacity he became a member of the HOC (1953-1955), then Secretary General and since 1961 Honorary Secretary. Patron of the International Olympic Academy, he was appointed Honorary Secretary.

Within the IOC, he has worked especially in the Commissions for the Protection of the Olympic Emblems (1967-1972) and for the IOA (since 1967).

Count Alexander Mercati

IOC member from 1897 to 1925.

One of Coubertin's first Greek friends, childhood companion of the Prince Royal and son of the Director of the Athens Bank. He was Secretary of the first Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (1896) and joined the IOC where he succeeded Demetrius Bikelas.

Apostolos Nikolaidis

President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee from 1974 to 1976.

Born in 1896, he was a football international, former decathlon champion and participated in the 1920 Olympic Games at Antwerp.

Secretary General, then President of the Greek Athletics Federation (1924-1967), he was also founder-President of the football federation (1928) and President of the basketball federation (1954).

Nikolaos Nissiotis

President of the International Olympic Academy since 1977.

Athenian, born on 21st May 1925, he was a brilliant student of theology and philosophy. In 1956, he became Doctor of Religious Philosophy at Athens.

He was Deputy Director (1958), then Director (1966) of the Bossey Ecumenical Institute, study centre of the Ecumenical Council of Churches, and Director of the Ecumenical Research Centre of the University of Geneva from 1966 to 1974. Since 1965 he has also been lecturing on religious philosophy at Athens University.

An all-round sportsman : participant, instructor and leader, he played basketball and volleyball for the oldest Greek club, Panhellenios, and coached the Greek national basketball team from 1954 to 1958. He works within the Supreme National Athletics Council, presides the Supreme Sports Council and became First Vice-President of the HOC in 1977.

Cleanthis Paleologos

Deputy Rector of the International Olympic Academy.

Honorary Director of the National Physical Education Academy, he is one of the most renowned authors on sport in ancient times and his lectures at the IOA since 1961 are among the most appreciated.

Epaminondas Petralias

IOC member from 1975 until his death in 1977.

Born on 25th August 1908 at Patras, he studied at the Faculty of Law in Athens University, then became a lawyer at the Athens Bar and later at the High Court and State Council.

Dedicated sportsman, captain of the Patras water polo team which was champion of Greece between 1928 and 1933, he also enjoyed athletics, basketball, volleyball, rowing, football and skiing.

His career as a sports leader began in 1938. He became Vice-President of the Hellenic Swimming Federation (1938-1968) and member of the Hellenic Olympic Committee (1938-1940, then from 1952 until his death). He was also to head the HOC General Secretariat from 1969 to 1974.

The International Olympic Academy called him to the presidency in 1970. In 1973 he received the Olympic Diploma of Merit.

He also held the position of Secretary General of the International Mediterranean Games Committee.

Nicolas Politis

IOC member from 1930 to 1933.

Diplomat and writer, born in 1872 on Corfu. After graduating as a Doctor of Laws from the University of Paris, he became a diplomat. Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1916 to 1920, he represented Greece at the League of Nations. Ambassador in Paris, he was the author of several legal works.

Otto Szymiczek

Dean of the International Olympic Academy since 1962.

Born in 1909, graduate of the Budapest Physical Education College in 1930, he devoted his attention to the development of athletics in Greece from 1930 to 1961 as a national coach. Since 1932 he has attended all the Olympic Games and presides the International Association of Athletics Coaches since 1956.

Georges Vichos

President of the Union Internationale de Tir (shooting) since 1976.

Born on 11th January 1915 at Athens. Jurist, lawyer, he was a Prefect before holding the post of State Secretary for Sport from 1958 to 1965. In 1925, he won his first national shooting title. Third world marksman in rapid-fire pistol in 1935 in Rome, he became world student champion in the same discipline in 1937. Participant in the 1936 and 1948 Olympic Games, he retired from top competition only in 1955.

Secretary General (1946-1973), then Vice-President (since 1973) of the national federation, he held important posts within the UIT Pistol Commission from 1947, acceded to the vice-presidency, of the UIT in 1952 and became its 1st Vice-President in 1960.

