

Programme for the Centennial

From 18th July to 2nd August, the young participants will thus have to talk about Olympism today, its developments and success starting from the ideas of Pierre de Coubertin and all the educators who have followed him and taken up the challenge to make the sports movement one that serves humanity. This will also be the occasion for the inauguration of the new conference centre on which building work has just been completed.

THE FLAME PAYS TRIBUTE TO CARL DIEM

As we mentioned before, the Olympic flame was lit at Olympia on 27th January last by Maria Pambouki of the Greek national theatre. The ceremony was preceded by the laying of a wreath on the stele that contains the heart of Pierre de Coubertin by Mr Lambis Nikolaou.

On its way from Olympia to Lillehammer, the Olympic flame stopped off in three German cities, Stuttgart, Düsseldorf and Hamburg. From Düsseldorf, it visited the winter sports centres in North Rhine-Westphalia and, on 27th January, the German Sports University in Cologne, where Carl Diem, who invented the torch relay, worked from 1947 until his death. Thus the first stop was the grave of Carl and Liselott Diem. In his commemorative address, Karl Lennartz, the head of the Diem Archive, laid particular stress on the importance of Carl and Liselott Diem for the Olympic Movement. Students laid flowers on the grave and placed a torch, lit from the Olympic flame, in the ground.

The Norwegian guests then went on to the sports university, where the delegation headed by the Mayor of Lillehammer, Audun Tron, were greeted by the rector. A Greek student carried the torch into the packed auditorium, and lit a fire there. In his address, the rector, Professor Mester, spoke of the role of sports science in Olympic performance sport. The Mayor of Cologne recalled the Olympic tradition of his city, which has produced many Olympic participants and which had bid in 1936 to host the Games. Minister of Science Anke Brunn talked in her speech about the centres for performance sport and the interest by athletes from North Rhine-Westphalia in the Games in Lillehammer.

The centrepiece of the celebration was a slide presentation "The History of the Olympic Torch Relay from its inception to Lillehammer", by Walter Borgers and Professor Dietrich R. Quanz. The final speaker, IOC Administrateur Délégué Raymond Gafner, emphasized the cooperation that existed between the IOC and the Diem Archive, including or the work "100 years of the IOC"...

In Olympia, Mr Lambis Nikolaou places a wreath on the stele which contains the heart of Pierre de Coubertin.

Prof. Karl Lennartz during his speech at the tomb of Carl and Liselott Diem.

For its 34th international session, the IOA will be tackling Olympism head on, by making it the main theme of its discussions this year, With the centenary this year, as the site where attention focuses each year on promoting humanism through the defence of the Olympic ideal, Olympia could not fail to choose this theme which is its *raison d'être*.

