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# Obituaries

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## Carol Anne Letheren



**Carol Anne Letheren**, IOC member in Canada, died suddenly during the night of 1 February in Toronto (Canada) aged 58. Born on 27 July 1942, Carol Anne Letheren held degrees from the universities of Toronto and York where she taught between 1963 and 1977. A 'Mathieu-Letheren Associate', she was also director of the commemorative services of Ontario since 1990, of the Ontario Film Development Corporation since 1994 and the Bishop Strachan School since 1993. As for her career as a sports administrator, she was the first female Canadian chef de mission at the Olympic Games, in Seoul in 1988, and one of the first women to be elected president of an NOC. An international gymnastics judge at the Olympic Games (1976 to 1984), world championships (1974 to 1987) and the Pan American Games (1975, 1979, 1983 and 1987), she was also vice-president of the Canadian Gymnastics Federation (1970-1977), a member of the women's technical commission of the International Gymnastics Federation (1976-1980) and chairwoman of the women's technical commission of PASO's gymnastics section (1975-1983). At national level, she was a member of the board of directors of the Toronto Ontario Olympic Council (1988-1990). Vice-president of the Canadian Olympic Association from

1982 to 1990, she became its president until 1994, when she was elected secretary general. Elected as an IOC member in 1990, she was a member of the following commissions: Press (1992-94), Cultural (1995-96) and Evaluation for the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in 2004 (as NOC representative, 1996-97). Vice-chairwoman of the Commission for the International Olympic Academy and Olympic Education from 1994 to 1999 (she was also a member of the new Commission for Culture and Olympic Education), a member since 1996 of the Coordination Commission for the XIX Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City in 2002. The IOC post-humously awarded the Olympic Order to Carol Anne Letheren, the highest distinction of the IOC was presented by Richard W. Pound, IOC member in Canada, to the husband of Carol Anne Letheren, Michael Murnaghan, and to her son Dan.

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## Sir David Beattie



**Sir David Beattie**, former president of the New Zealand Olympic Committee, died on 5 February this year at his home in Upper Hutt. After a brilliant career as a lawyer, a Supreme Court judge and Governor General of New Zealand, Sir David was NOC president

for 11 years before retiring in October 2000 after the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney. He was also a member of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, in which function he continues to serve the interests of international sport and the Olympic Movement. In November last year, Sir David Beattie received the NOC's highest distinction, the Olympic Order of New Zealand.



The President of the Mongolian NOC, **Shagdar Otgonbileg**, died on 14 January in a helicopter accident approximately 1,000km from the capital, Ulan Bator, which killed nine other passengers. He had been accompanying a United Nations delegation to assess the damage caused by the snowstorms. Born in 1952 in the Zavkhan province, Otgonbileg, who trained as a mining engineer, had been a member of the Mongolian Parliament since 2000. After a spell as a freestyle wrestler, he turned to sports administration and became President of the NOC in 1994. In 1995, he received the Olympic Movement Unity Trophy from the IOC, and was awarded the title of National Hero, Mongolia's highest decoration.

## Yves-Pierre Boulongne



**Yves Pierre Boulongne**, vice-president of the International Pierre de Coubertin Committee (CIPC), died in Ste Marguerite-sur-mer (France) on 25 January 2001. Born in 1921 in Normandy, he developed a passion for sport at a very early age and became an athlete and a footballer, winning national titles. He was a university champion and achieved high standard in the sprint and the long jump. Before World War II, he studied physical education and teacher training, and just managed to finish his studies before the war began. This war was a terrible experience for him, which marked him for ever. A member of the French resistance forces, he was arrested and imprisoned at the Buchenwald concentration camp from 1943 to 1945. In the fifties, he became a physical education and sports teacher, quickly developing an interest in the study of sport. His talent as a writer and poet gave him the strength to survive at the concentration camp. He was the author of a number of scientific works and of prose and poems, on the theme of mankind and modern sport. After his many different experiences, for Boulongne the most important value would always be mankind, seen both in a dominating dimension which individual freedom represented for him, and in that other dimension - the trinity of 'body, mind and soul'.

At about the same time on his educational journey he came into contact with another Frenchman, whom he had heard about when he was a child: Pierre de Coubertin. Boulongne was quick to perceive the educational value incorporated in Olympism and the opportunity they provided for building a better and more peaceful world.

In 1957 he left France to spend ten years in Tunisia as a sports education adviser, followed by two years in Côte d'Ivoire. In these two countries he set up sports academies almost from scratch to train PE teachers. When he returned to France, he was appointed in 1969 as Director of the National Institute of Public Education in Marly-le-Roy. At this time the idea of a 'sport-life' did not exist, so he began promoting it. He created, developed and demonstrated models of sport as the cultural legacy of general education.

During this period he wrote a thesis at the University of Caen entitled "La vie et l'œuvre pédagogique de Pierre de Coubertin" [The life and educational work of Pierre de Coubertin], which was the first post-war academic work in French on Coubertin. It constantly highlights and asserts the idea of sport as an educational instrument at the service of a goal: human brotherhood.

From 1969 to 1976, he expanded his activities by fighting against the threat of racial prejudices which loomed on the horizon, and created a national association against racial prejudices. In 1976 in Dakar he founded the National Institute for Youth and Public Education: he then became a cultural adviser in Yugoslavia and returned to France to the University of Paris XII where he finished his university career as emeritus professor.

Boulongne was one of those pioneers who made it possible for sports education to achieve recognition at an academic level at French universi-

ties. Since 1976, he had been a life member of the International Olympic Academy, and since 1982 an associate member of the Academy of Fine Arts in Rouen. The eighties were a decade during which, through and thanks to literature, he reconciled himself with his past by looking towards Europe's future. Between 1991 and 1995, Boulongne was one of the authors of the *Edition du Centenaire*, a history of the Olympic Movement in three volumes, published for the centenary of the IOC in 1994.

The experiences Boulongne had throughout his life culminated, with a total absence of prejudice, in observations and teachings that broke the barriers between cultures.

Boulongne, a fine self-critic, enriched Olympic research by conferring his own approach on it. Aged 75, he had the courage to agree to come and spend a few months at the University of Mainz in Germany as an associate professor. While he was there, he gave lessons not only on Olympism, but also at the Faculty of Romance Languages and Literature and the Faculty of Philosophy and Education. In January 2000 the University's Faculty of Sports Science awarded him the distinction of Doctor honoris causa.

In 1997, he co-presided the Le Havre Congress of the CIPC on the theme of "Coubertin and Olympism - Questions for the Future". In 1999, his last work "Humanisme et Pédagogie - Dix leçons sur l'Olympisme" [Humanism and education - ten lessons on Olympism] was published. In it Boulongne concluded, in his own way, a whole series of thoughts on Olympism.

His ideas and thoughts will always remain a foundation for Olympic research.

Norbert Müller