

MEMBERS FORUM

Dr. Carl Diem

One of the things in Olympic history that puzzled me for a long time is the following question.

Excellent German academics and researchers have written marvellous studies on almost all aspects of the Olympic movement. I always enjoy reading them. But why, I repeat why, did not one of them ever try to write a good critical biography of that Olympic 'tycoon' Dr. Carl Diem, among

many other things the organizer of the 1936 Olympic Games and inventor of the Olympic Torch relay?

No doubt we all agree that the life of this man must produce a fascinating story. He found his way, seemingly effortless, as famous official and organizer in Imperial Germany, in the Republic of Weimar, in Nazi Germany and in the Bundes Republic Germany.

We have studies on Theodor Lewald, on Von Tschammer und Osten and many others, men who could not even stand in the shadow of Dr. Diem, but as far as I know, no German Olympic historian ever tried his hand on Dr. Diem.

Last year a German social scientist told me in Berlin that even now, nobody can "touch" Dr. Diem in Germany, the man is still some kind of a hero. "Everybody knows that there are black spots in Diem's life, but some important archives would not be opened for a critical biography".

I refuse to believe that.

But the question remains: "Why is there no good biography of Dr. Carl Diem?"

Allow me to ask such eminent researchers as Dr. Karl Lennartz from the Carl und Liselott Diem-Archiv in Cologne and/or Prof. Dr. Norbert Müller from the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz for an answer in this *Journal of Olympic History*.

Sent by Ruud D. Paauw, Leiden, Netherlands

LETTERS AND QUERIES

Dear Editor,

As a member of the International Badminton Federation I have been producing for some years (with Arthur Jones who is at present our member of "Citius, Altius, Fortius"), a catalogue of all artistic references to the game of badminton and, as it was known as a children's' game for many centuries, "battledore and shuttlecock." This catalogue now runs to more than 60 pages and tries to identify the whereabouts of famous paintings that keen collectors can view if they are in that part of the world. Alternatively, it allows them to contact museums/art galleries and purchase prints,

It has not been possible to give a photocopy of each item within the catalogue but through our Federation it is possible to obtain catalogues at \$10 plus postage.

As badminton has a long history all over the world perhaps it would be possible through your magazine to obtain more information on its history, pre 1870, when it was still the children's' game of "battledore and shuttlecock." We do know that various types of foot shuttlecock have been played all over the world for many centuries using a variety of "shuttles" and any information your readers may

have will be greatly appreciated and should be addressed to:

International Badminton Archivist, Mrs. Heather Nielsen, "Quintas", Reigate Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 8QY, UK

Mrs. Heather Nielsen, Archivist and Council Member of the International Badminton Federation

Dear Editor,

I am about to commence on my Masters' thesis for an M.Sc. in the Sociology of Sport and Sports Management at the University of Leicester, and the topic I have chosen is factors affecting the rise and fall of the National Olympian Games in nineteenth century Britain. I would, therefore, be very grateful if you could include in the next edition a request for information and reference sources regarding the National Olympian Association, National Olympian Games and any other areas such as the setting up of the Amateur Athletic Club that members think might be of interest to me when writing my thesis. My address is:

40 St. Lawrence Way,
Gnosall,
Staffordshire ST20 0HZ, England

Ian Brittain

To Dr. Karl Lennartz
ISOH Editorial Offices

Dear Colleague:

I am sending you these lines through ISOH in connection with your "Biographies of IOC Members requested in the Spring 1997 *Journal of Olympic History*, where you state several doubts, and demand help.

With number 25, you state request about a certain Count Fernando Suárez de Vallengane (ESP) 1886-1964?

Fernando Suárez de Tangil y Angulo (Count of Vallengane) was born in Madrid on 3 August 1886 and died in the same city on 6 September 1964. He was an IOC member from 1931 until 1952, probably nominated two times without re-avance. He was vice president of the National Sports Delegation. Among other appointments, he was minister of Public Works and a sportsman, 1906-1931, in fencing, riding, shooting and alpinism.

Juan Fauria Garcia
Carrer Mas Padrosa, 12
08960 Sant Just Desvern (Barcelona)
Spain

Editor's Note: Michael WIGGS from England wrote the

editor, asking to be informed by the readers of the *Journal* about Golf at the Olympic Games. If possible Michael would like to be informed about all details, like complete lists of competitors, scores, courses, where events were played, profiles of the medalists, etc. How it started and why it was dropped? Anyone who can shed light, upon these questions can contact Michael at his address: Bradenham, Moor Lane, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 1LH, England.
