

OLYMPIC DAYS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Holding fast to tradition, many countries have, this year celebrated the Olympic Day. We are very pleased to publish the articles received and of which we thank the authors.

* In GREECE

Mr. Epaminondas PETRALIAS, Secretary-General of the Hellenic Olympic Committee writes:

In the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens, which is entirely made out of white marble and where the first Olympic Games were held in 1896, 50,000 Athenian spectators applauded on 6th April Bill Adcocks (England) winner of the 8th International Classical Marathon.

With a time of 2h. 11' 07" he established a new record for this distance (46,161 yds.). Spyros Louis who won the Marathon at the first Olympic Games in Athens, had covered a distance of 43,760 yds. in 2h. 58' 50". Since then, to this has been added a distance of 2,401 yds. as far as the Marathon Warriors' grave.

The classical Marathon was part of the programme of the Olympic Day*. Many foreign runners participated in the Marathon, the first five of which were winners at the Olympic Games in Mexico.

With the assistance of 200 umpires, the organisation of the Marathon was perfect. The road was closed to all traffic. The competition was excellent and the day sunny and cool. Therefore, the first seven runners beat the record and covered the distance in less than 2h. 20'.

Among the events on the programme, was also a parade of athletes from every Olympic sport, a short speech about the aims of the Olympic Movement, as well as athletics, basketball, volleyball, fencing, wrestling, boxing and weightlifting contests.

* See page 414

* In the IVORY COAST

*Mr. Louis GUIRANDOU-N'DIAYE,
President of the Olympic Com-
mittee of the Ivory Coast and
member of the International
Olympic Committee writes:*

"Like last year, the Olympic Committee of the Ivory Coast celebrated from 29th April to 5th May 1969 its Olympic week.

On this occasion, I thought I should make an appeal to all athletes for fair play. This appeal was broadcast by radio, television and in the local press.

"Ivory Coast Athletes"

Within a few days the third Ivory Coast-Ghana Games will be held.

On 29th April 1969, an important Ghanaian delegation lead by Mr. Deku, Minister for Cultural Affairs, Youth and Sports, will arrive in the Ivory Coast.

No doubt that, in accordance with the tradition of hospitality which exists in our country, they will be warmly and enthusiastically received by Ivory Coast athletes. In any case, we urge you to do your best to make our visitors feel really welcome.

Other African and foreign delegations are expected to arrive for the Abidjan International Athletics Meeting which will start on 3rd May, 1969.

During these third Ivory Coast-Ghana Games and all through the A.I.A.M. days, one essential rule should guide each athlete in his behaviour:

- self-discipline stemming from loyalty, which should command good conduct towards an opponent.*
- determination which spurs on the athlete who is fit and throws him like an arrow towards victory.*

- team spirit which demands solidarity, initiative and imagination from all athletes in the same side, these giving a clear sight of the tactics to be adopted and the intelligence necessary to bring the tactics into operation. All this should bring a team closer to victory.

But if I do underline the importance of team work in sport, it must be clearly understood that the result which puts a team ahead of all competitors is brought about by good individual performances.

Therefore, each athlete should give his best, bearing in mind that his opponent is equally determined. But, at the same time, each athlete from the Ivory Coast must banish from his mind any thoughts of violence, pride or any attitude which would be contrary to fair play.

Under these conditions only, can you uphold all the principles of the Olympic Charter and can you hope to attract the admiration of our visitors so that they may retain the best possible memories of the Ivory Coast, its leaders and its athletes.

Citius-Altius-Fortius and good luck to you all.

During this week, the Olympic flag flew over the Houphouët-Boigny Stadium where the events took place.

The programme was as follows:

Ivory Coast-Ghana 'Friendly' Games (Football, Boxing Volleyball)

Grand International Meeting in Abidjan with participants from Russia, France, Finland, Senegal and Kenya such as:

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| - Jourkatham Kaliou | U.S.S.R. | 100 m. hurdles |
| - Gaoussou Koné | Ivory Coast | 100 m. and 200 m. |
| - Ben Chipeho | Kenya | 1500 m. |
| - Biwott | Kenya | 3000 m. steeple |
- (Olympic champion in Mexico who defeated in this distance the world champion Jouko of Finland).

In the 5,000 m. international, Chipeho of Kenya, after having won the 1,500 m. one hour earlier, defeated his compatriot Temu.

In the javelin we were fortunate enough to have among the participants, Nevala, the champion from Finland.

The local press reported these events in numerous articles.

"Never before", wrote the daily paper Fraternité-Matin, "was an athletic event so successful. For the first time in our country five to six thousand people gathered to watch an athletic event. I must stress that the journey was worth it. The events were worthy of an Olympic meeting. The presence of world, Olympic and national champions gave a very special atmosphere to this meeting".

* In TUNISIA *Mr. Mohamed MZALI, President of the Tunisian Olympic Committee and member of the International Olympic Committee, has forwarded us the following programme and report of the Olympic Days which were held all over Tunisia. The following are local press releases.*

As it does every year, faithful to its loyal principles and conception of sport, Tunisia celebrated the Olympic Days on 17th and 18th May.

In this connection, various sports demonstrations and competitions were held throughout the Republic, which apart from their official nature, were marked by a certain grandeur which the commemoration of these Olympic Days helped to enhance.

On Sunday 18th May in Tunis, after the hoisting of the Olympic colours by the Olympic champion Mohamed Gamoudi, Mr. Slaheddine Baly, Secretary-General of the Tunisian Olympic Committee welcomed the representatives of the International Federations at the headquarters of the Tunisian Olympic Committee. This ceremony was enhanced by the presence of Mr. Hassi Ben Ammar, Governor of Tunis, and

Mr. Habib Bourguiba, Secretary-General of the Regional Youth Union of Tunis and its region.

The programme for these two days was:

17th May - In Tunis

Athletics: walk from Tunis to La Coulette and back

Swimming: Olympic pool of El Menzah

18th May - in Tunis

Athletics: 1,000 m. and 3,000 m.

Cycling: individual races

Football: finals of national competitions for young and very young footballers;
Matches between representative teams from Tunis and suburbs

Fencing: national championships, all categories, foil (women) and sword (individuals)

Gymnastics: boys and girls demonstration

Handball: competitions for juniors, seniors and women

Volleyball: competitions for juniors and women

Basketball: competitions for children, juniors, seniors and women

Lawn tennis: finals of the second division series and finals of the men's doubles in the Tunisian championships

Wrestling: in Sousse demonstration and Tunis v. Sousse match

Judo: in Sfax demonstration
Weightlifting: a Tunisian team against one from Sfax

in Kef bowls and pétanque.

* In the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Dr. Schöbel, President of the German Democratic Republic Olympic Committee, has sent us through the intermediary of Mr. Erhard Höhne, Administrative Manager, a text on the Olympic Week which we are happy to publish. The illustrations on the opposite page represent the stamps issued at this time to mark both Olympic Week and to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the creation of the International Olympic Committee.

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the modern Olympic movement by Baron Pierre de Coubertin and his fellow idealists, an Olympic Week was celebrated in the German Democratic Republic. The highlights of this occasion were the international VIIth Olympic Day of Athletics held on 18th June; a memorial session of the National Olympic Committee of the German Democratic Republic in the Pergamon Museum in Berlin on 20th June; and the XVIIth National Olympic Committee Festival of Swimming on 21st and 22nd June.

Athletes from thirteen European and overseas countries, including six Olympic champions, made the VIIth Olympic Day a most memorable occasion both for themselves and for the crowds of spectators. The outstanding performances included a new women's world discus record of 62.70 metres set up by the technically brilliant Liesel Westermann (Federal Republic of Germany); Lynn Davies' (Great Britain) long jump of 8.14 m.; a remarkable 1.83 m. in the women's high jump by Nina Okorokova-Lasaryeva (U.S.S.R.); a women's 1500-metre national record by Regine Kleinau (German Democratic Republic) in 4:16.0 min., only 0.4 sec. outside the world record; an international season's best time in the men's 800 metres from Manfred Matuschewski (G.D.R.) of 1:46.0 min.; and the results in the men's discus (Lothar Milde/G.D.R. 61.12 m.) and shot events. Our shot-putters are so far this year ranked second, fourth, fifth and sixth in the world.

Before the competitions our National Olympic Committee gave a reception for the heads of the international delegations.

During a memorial session in the appropriately

decorated Alter Schlütersaal of the Pergamon Museum in Berlin, NOC President Dr. Heinz Schöbel, member of the IOC, addressed the guests of honour and members of the NOC, outlining Coubertin's life work, his aspirations and achievements, and the historical development of modern Olympism.

Summing up in his speech, Dr. Schöbel said that the Olympic movement as a new social phenomenon has, because of its profoundly humanist character, found a home in this country, too, and that, thanks to specific constitutional rights and far-sighted Government decrees, the development of sport and physical culture has reached a level that Coubertin in his day could only recommend to sport-loving states and propose to the countries of all continents as the distant goal of their Olympic aspirations.

The XVIIth National Olympic Committee Festival of Swimming, to which competitors from seven foreign countries came, was held for the first time outside Berlin, in Magdeburg. A number of national records (three for Cuba, two each for Austria and Poland, and one for Hungary) at the beginning of the season were applauded by a crowd of remarkably well-informed spectators. The Bulgarian, Rumanian and Swedish delegations were unlucky enough to achieve neither victories nor records.

Rainer Hradetzky (G.D.R.) set up a new 200-metre junior breast-stroke record of 2:36.4 min. The NOC Challenge Cup for the best women's result went to Gabriele Wetzko (Leipzig DHfK Sports Club), while Roland Matthes (Turbine S.C., Erfurt) carried the men's trophy off for the third time running, and thus finally. His time in the 100-metre backstroke event was only 0.5-sec. outside his own world record.

This year's Olympic Week in the German Democratic Republic has thus again shown, both in the sporting competitions connected with it and in the National Olympic Committee memorial session, the close relationship which this country retains with Coubertin's life work and especially with his educational ideals.



This photograph was taken during the ceremony at which President Franz JONAS received the Coubertin medal.

In the first row, from right to left: the representative of the Cardinal of Vienna, the Minister of Education, Mr. Mautner von MARKHOF, former member of the International Olympic Committee for Austria, Doctor Rudolf NEMETSCHKE, the new IOC member for Austria, Mr. Edgar FRIED, Secretary-General of the Austrian Olympic Committee.

In the second row: the chief of the Vienna Police, the son and widow of the first president of the A.O.C., Doctor GERO, the president's cabinet secretary, Mr. HELLER, the new vice-president of the A.O.C., Doctor PRUCKNER, president of the A.O.C. and Doctor Theodor SCHMIDT, former member of the IOC and president of the A.O.C. up until 1938.

* In AUSTRIA

Mr. Edgar FRIED, Secretary-General of the Austrian Olympic Committee has very kindly sent us the photograph printed here as well as the following article:

On June 23rd, 1969, an important ceremony took place in the Museum of the 20th Century in Vienna. The Austrian Olympic Committee celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Modern Olympic Movement before a large and impressive audience.

The patron of the A.O.C., the Federal President Franz Jonas, was present, as well as the representative of the Cardinal of Vienna and of the Minister of Education Dr. Alois Mock, the former IOC members Dr. Schmidt and Dipl. Brau-Ing. Manfred Mautner Markhof and the new member Dr. Nemetschke. All Austrian Olympic Sports Federations and many Austrian Olympic Medal winners were present as well.

The Minister of Education recalled Coubertin's work and praised the famous work of the International Olympic Committee and of the National Olympic Committee of Austria as well.

Then the President, Dr. Drimmel, announced that the Osterreichische Olympische Committee has founded a special award for outstanding merits in the Olympic Movement, bearing the name of Pierre de Coubertin. He passed the first medal in gold to the Federal President of Austria. His Excellency expressed his sincere thanks for this great honour and delivered a fine speech praising the meaning of the Olympic Movement for the education of the youth and the peace of the world. The Pierre de Coubertin Medal in gold has also been awarded to the IOC President, Mr. Avery Brundage, the former IOC member Mautner Markhof, the Minister of Education Dr. Piffl-Percevic, the OOC President Dr. Drimmel and OOC Hon. Secretary-General Edgar Fried.

This distinction is presented in the form of a decoration with a ribbon in the Olympic colours for exceptional services rendered to the cause of the Olympic Movement for many years in the line with the fundamental principles of the Olympic Games and the ideas of Coubertin, adapted naturally to the requirements of modern sport.

The Austrian Olympic Committee will observe the work

of the Olympic officials very carefully and hopes to find many who are worthy of such a distinction.

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* In SWITZERLAND

Just as we were going to press, the Swiss Olympic Days, arranged by Mr. Raymond Gafner, President of the Swiss Olympic Committee, took place in Lausanne.

We shall be mentioning it in our next issue.
