

Mexico and Olympism

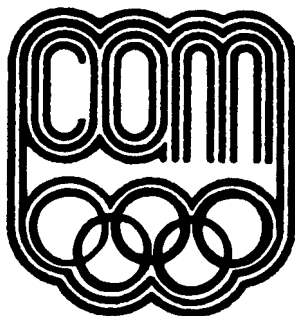
"On the path of Olympic sport, we have to fight against all war-like feelings in order to obtain Peace."

Marte R. Gomez, 1971

MEXICO

1,972,544 square kilometres.

52,000,000 inhabitants.



COMITE OLIMPICO MEXICANO (COM)

Founded on 23rd April 1923.

Recognised by the IOC in November 1923.

President in office: Mario Vazquez Raña*.

Secretary General in office: Prof. Marco Antonio Escalante*.

Address: Anillo Periférico y Av. del Conscripto, Mexico 10, D.F., P.O. Box 36-24.

Telephone: 5-57.45.44.

Cable: OLIMPIMEX.

Telex: 01772785.

* See biographical notes

Role of the COM

- To develop and protect the Olympic movement and amateur sports;
 - To take on the responsibility for carrying out instructions issued by the International Olympic Committee;
 - To assist the Mexican Sports Confederation with all international questions;
 - To maintain close contact with all the national and international sports federations;
- To act as a permanent counselling body for all the country's athletes.

Creation and history of the NOC

Although Miguel de Beistegui* was elected an IOC member for Mexico in 1901, the Mexican nation showed little or no interest in the Olympic movement until the celebration of the VIIIth Olympiad in Paris. However, stimulated by the visit of Count de Baillet-Latour and the nominations of the Marquess of Guadalupe and Jorge Gomez de Parada to the IOC in 1924, Mexican sportsmen became increasingly interested in the revived Olympism.

"Mexico is deprived of all sports organisation, to such an extent that I had to assemble a few dedicated men, who will be the founders of the National Committee and whose first task will be to ascertain that each sports group is directed by a Management Committee", we read in a report presented by the future President of

the IOC, Count de Baillet-Latour, on his return to Europe.

Thus, on 23rd April 1923, gathered in their common hope of sending Mexican sportsmen to the VIIth Olympic Games, several leading figures created the Mexican Olympic Committee.

Among its founders, we would mention: Carlos B. de Zetina, who was President until his death, Rosendo Arnaiz, José F. Escobar, Manuel Aguilar Herrera, Juan Snyder, an efficient Secretary General, Emilio Ahumada, Eduardo Rodriguez and Tirso Hernández*, who took over from C. B. Zetina and led Mexican Olympic life for nearly twenty-five years.

1923 - First Mexican Olympic Committee

PT: Carlos B. Zetina; **VPT:** Colonel Tirso Hernández*; **SG:** Prof. Alfonso Rojo de la Vega; **T:** Alfredo B. Cuéllar; **Ms:** Enrique C. Aguirre, Prof. Manuel Aguilar Herrera, Prof. Rosendo Arnaiz, General Joaquín Amaro, Jorge de Parada, Prof. Roberto Lara y López, Eduardo Gabucio, Prof. Alberto Alvarez Gayou, Dr. Francisco Contreras.

The first Central American and Caribbean Games were held in 1926 in Mexico. Historically, they are the oldest Regional Games under the IOC's patronage. Whereas the idea was Count de Baillet-Latour's, it was the young Mexican NOC that put it into effect.

In 1951, the President of the IOC, J. Sigfrid Edstrom, went to Mexico. There he was welcomed by Marte R. Gomez*, his IOC colleague since 1934, and a spirited, enthusiastic and ambitious sports leader, General José de J. Clark* who had recently succeeded General Tirso Hernández* as President of the COM. A man both of ideas and of action, the latter made Mexico one of the most important Olympic nations, whilst trying to spread Olympism and an "Olympic solidarity" over the whole continent. In 1954, Mexico hosted the



Carlos B. de Zetina



Général Tirso Hernández

VIIth Central American and Caribbean Games which the President of the IOC, Avery Brundage, attended. He wrote in the "Olympic Review": "These Games were the first great international event held in the beautiful new stadium in Mexico City, one of the finest in the world. It is located in the wonderful University City just built to house the oldest university in the western hemisphere." The following year, the Mexican organisation of the IInd Pan American Games deserved high praises yet again.

The IOC therefore took few risks when it awarded the celebration of the XIXth Olympiad to Mexico. The Organising Committee was capable of facing its heavy responsibilities for the great reputation of the Games. The President of this Organising Committee, Mr. Pedro Ramírez Vázquez*, entered the IOC in 1972. Dr. Eduardo Hay*, who had for a long time been an influential member of the IOC Medical Commission, joined him two years later. The experience acquired by these leaders, the installations and hospitality of the Mexican people enabled Mexico to be entrusted at the last minute with the organisation of the 1975 Pan American Games, initially planned in Santiago (Chile) and then in Sao Paulo. These Games will be staged under the direction of the new COM President, Mr. Mario Vázquez Raña*.

* See biographical notes.



Général J. de J. Clark Pedro Ramirez Vázquez

Successive Presidents of the COM

1923-1927: Carlos B. de Zetina.

1927-1951: General Tirso Hernández*.

1951-1955: General José de J. Clark Flores*.

1955-1959: Marte R. Gómez*.

1959-1966: General José de J. Clark Flores*.

1966-1972: Josué Sáenz*.

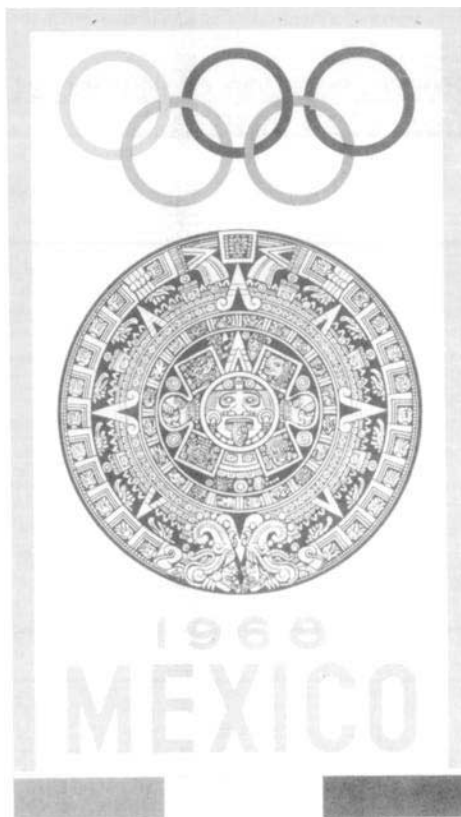
1972-1974: Pedro Ramirez Vázquez*.

Since 1974: Mario Vázquez Raña*.

IOC members for Mexico

1. Miguel de Béistegui*, from 1901 until his death in 1931.
2. Carlos Rincón Gallardo, Marquess of Guadalupe*, from 1923 until his resignation in 1924.
3. Jorge Gómez de Parada, from 1924 until his resignation in 1927.
4. Dr. Moisés Sáenz*, from 1928 until his resignation in 1932.
5. Marte Rodolfo Gómez*, from 1934 until his death in 1973.
6. General José de Jesus Clark Flores*, from 1952 until his death in 1971, member of the Executive Board from 1963 to 1971, Vice-President of the IOC from 1966 to 1970.
7. Pedro Ramirez Vázquez*, since 1972.
8. Dr. Eduardo Hay*, since 1974.

* See biographical notes.



MEXICO AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

● **Mexican cities which have applied to stage the Olympic Games**

Mexico, candidate city to stage the 1960 Olympic Games.

Mexico, organising city for the 1968 Olympic Games, celebrating the XIXth Olympiad.

● **Date of first participation: 1924.**

Since then, a Mexican delegation has taken part in all the Olympic celebrations. However, with the exception of five bobsleigh competitors in 1928 and in 1932, no Mexicans have been registered in the Winter Games.

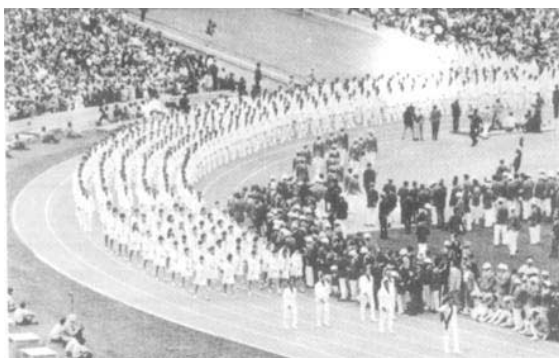
Representation of Mexico at the Olympic Games from 1924 to 1972 ¹

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

² Demonstration Sport.

● Not included on the programme.

	Athletics	Rowing	Basketball	Boxing	Canoeing	Cycling	Equestrian Events	Fencing	Football	Gymnastics	Weightlifting
1924	11		●		●						
1928	11		●	4	●			2	11		
1932	26(1)		●	6	●	3	6	10(1)		3	
1936	3		11	4				2			
1948	4		13	2		5	6	9(3)	11	5	3
1952	2(1)		13	3		4	4	4			2
1956	1	1				4		3(1)			1
1960	5	2	12	3		10		8(1)		1	1
1964	5(1)	3	10	5		9	7		14		1
1968	26(4)	25	12	11	12(2)	12	9	14(5)	15	12(6)	3
1972	14	13		10	11	9	12(1)	7	21	9(8)	3



1968 - The Mexican delegation

	Handball	Hockey	Judo	Wrestling	Swimming	Modern Pentathlon	Shooting	Archery	Volleyball	Yachting	Total
1924	●	●	●				2	●	●		13
1928	●		●		1		●	●	●		29
1932	●		●	2	8	3	5	●	●		72(2)
1936	0 ²		●		1	2	5	●	●		28
1948	●		●	4	15(4)	2	9	●	●		88(7)
1952	●		●	5	20(2)	3	4	●	●		64(3)
1956	●		●	1	7(2)	3	3	●	●		24(3)
1960	●		●	3	15(5)	3	6	●	●	2	71(6)
1964	●		3	4	14(3)	3	5	●		11	94(4)
1968	●	17	●	12	44(12)	3	15(1)	●	24(12)	11	277(42)
1972		19	4	13	42(12)	5	11(1)			8	212(22)

The Mexican Olympic Champions



Name	Christian Name	Sport	Event
<i>Mariles Cortes</i>	<i>Humberto</i>	Equestrian	Show jumping
Mariles Cortes	Humberto	Equestrian	Team show jumping
Uriza	Ruben	Equestrian	Team show jumping
Valdes	Alberto	Equestrian	Team show jumping
Capilla	Joaquim Perez	Diving	Platform
Delgado	Ricardo	Boxing	Flyweight
Róldan	Antonio	Boxing	Featherweight
Munoz	Felipe	Swimming	200 m. breast-stroke

* 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.

Humberto Mariles Cortes



Year	Birth	Death	Notes
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1948	1913	1972	Also 3rd in team three-day event.
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1948	1913	1972	<i>Joaquim Perez Capilla</i>
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1948	1920		
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1948	?		
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1956	1928		
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Highlight of a dazzling career extending over three Olympiads: 2nd in 1952 and 3rd in 1948 in platform; 3rd in 1956 and 4th in 1948 and 1952 in springboard.

1968	1947		
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Antonio Roldan

Felipe Muñoz

1968	1946		
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1968	1951		
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Ricardo Delgado

● Mexican Olympic medallists

A finalist in 1932, the flyweight boxer Francisco Cabanas won the first Mexican Olympic medal. He shared this honour with the marksman Gustavo Huet, who also came second in Los Angeles. Mexican boxing was often rewarded: in 1936, the bantamweight Fidel Ortiz came third; another bantamweight Juan Facila Mendoza brought back a bronze medal from Tokyo, the only one in the Mexican delegation. In 1968, Ricardo Delgado, Antonio Roldán, Joaquín Rocha and Agustín Zaragoza won a medal, and in Munich the bronze medal of the bantamweight boxer, Alfonso Zamora, completes the list.

Pilar Roldan, who came second in the 1968 women's individual foil event, can pride herself on being the only non-European woman to succeed in mounting the podium for this sport. Another Mexican woman to win fame was María Teresa Ramirez by coming third in the 800 m. freestyle swimming event in 1968.

Besides the legendary Joachim Perez Capilla, other Mexican divers distinguished themselves at the Games: Juan Botella came third in 1960 for springboard diving, and Alvaro Gaxiola won a silver medal in 1968 for platform diving.

In team sports, the basketball players came third in 1936, whilst in 1948 Brazil forced them back one place in

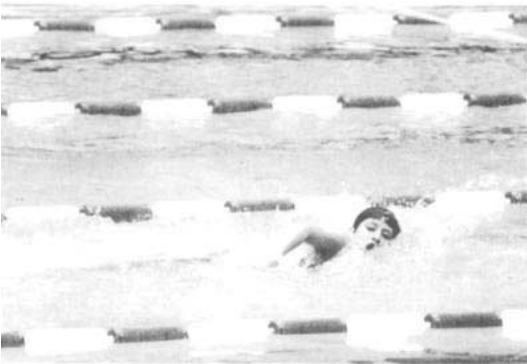


Pilar Roldan (on the right)

José Pedrazza



María Teresa Ramirez



the classification, thus preventing them from reaching the podium. In the demonstration sports, the polo team came third at Berlin in 1936.

Finally, everyone remembers the moving finish of the 20 km. walk in 1968 when, in front of his fellow countrymen, Jose Pedrazza was beaten fractionally by the veteran Soviet Golubnichiy.

PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE COM



Mario Vázquez Raña



Dr Eduardo Hay



Marco Antonio Escalante

- **Composition:** the COM comprises the IOC members for Mexico (ex officio), permanent members elected by the General Assembly, temporary members delegated by the national federations, and honorary and Emeritus members.

- **The General Assembly:** supreme authority, assembles all the members of the NOC. It meets once a year and can be convened in extraordinary assembly.

- **The Executive Committee:** elected by the General Assembly for four years in the six months following the close of the Olympic Games. It is composed of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Treasurer and three members.

- **Financing of the COM:** comes from various sources, including a subsidy from the federal government.

● Members of the present Executive Committee:

PT: Mr. Mario Vázquez Raña*; *VPTs:* Mr. Alejandro Ortega San Vicente and General Manuel Valle Alvarado; *SG:* Prof. Marco Antonio Escalante*; *Asst. S.:* Mr. Joaquín Badillo; *T:* Mrs. Pilar Roldán de Giffening; *Ms:* Mr. Guillermo Montoya, Mr. Gastón Barahona and Mr. Guillermo Lacy López; *Ms ex officio:* Mr. Pedro Ramírez Vázquez* and Dr. Eduardo Hay*, IOC members.

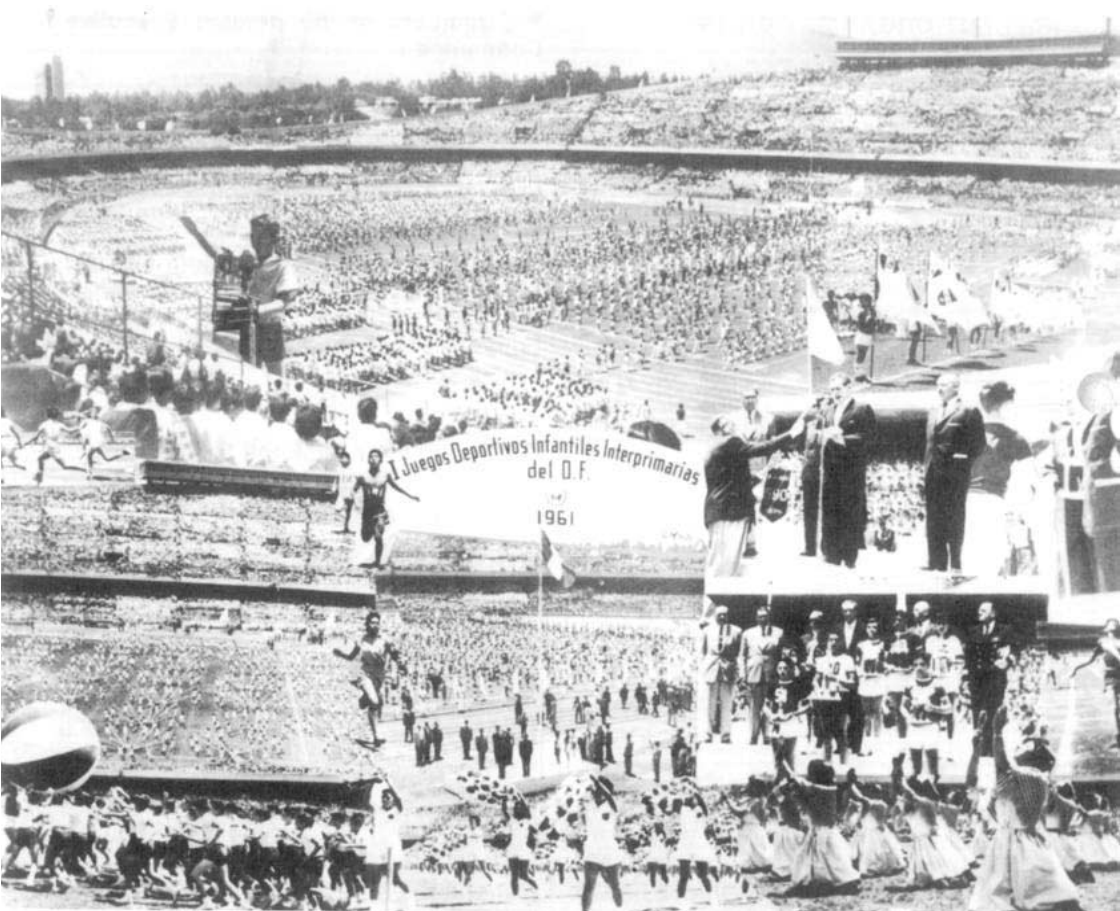
● Federations affiliated to the COM

21 Olympic federations...

	Year of affiliation to the NOC	Recognised by the IF	Members in 1972
Archery	1950	1950	480
Athletics	1923	1913	3 000
Basketball	1926	1936	50 000
Boxing	1948	1948	4 500
Canoeing	1966	1964	200
Cycling	1948	—	2 500
Equestrian	1938	1938	535
Fencing	1930	—	1 660
Football	1929	1929	500 000
Gymnastics	1926	1946	250
Handball	1965	1970	6 000
Hockey	1966	1966	580
Judo	1952	—	390
Modern pentathlon	1940	—	28
Rowing	1932	1951	3 464
Shooting	1952	—	2 260
Swimming	1926	1920	2 087
Volleyball	1934	1955	50 000
Weightlifting	1948	—	400
Wrestling	1930	—	2 118
Yachting	1948	—	432

... and six other federations, the sports of which do not appear on the Olympic programme: baseball, pelota, softball, table tennis, tennis and water skiing.

* See biographical notes.



THE COM AND OLYMPISM

● IOC Sessions held in Mexico

1953: Session in Mexico, the first held in Latin America.

1968: Session in Mexico.

● Olympic Day

It has never yet been organised in Mexico. However, the COM organises various propaganda festivities such as the Olympic Dinner, given for the first time in December 1974.

● Protection of the Olympic emblems

A government decree dated 16th December 1966 legally controls and protects the use of the Olympic emblems and denominations.

● International Olympic Academy

In 1975 for the first time a Mexican representative, Mr. Gabriel Roldán, attended the Session of the Academy.



1968 - *The Olympic Stadium: the Opening Ceremony*

- **Olympic Awards obtained**

Olympic Cup

1928 - by the *Mexican Sports Federation* for its excellent organisation of the first Central American and Caribbean Games held in Mexico in 1926, and the resulting propaganda for the Olympic idea.

1955 - by the *Organising Committees for the VIIIth Central American and Caribbean Games and for the IIInd Pan American Games*. These Games strengthened considerably the position of the Mexican Olympic Committee.

1968 - by the *population of Mexico City* for its outstanding participation in the Olympic Games and its knowledge of the ideal which animates the Games.

Count Alberto Bonacossa Trophy

1962 - by the *Mexican Olympic Committee*.

Sir Thomas Fearnley Cup

1953 - by the *Chapultepec Sports Centre* in Mexico.

- **Mexican Olympic Bibliography**

Official Report of the Olympic Games celebrating the XIXth Olympiad, in four volumes. Published by the Organising Committee.

- **Publications of the COM**

In addition to many technical books (the principles of volleyball, technical cycling handbook, official rules of wrestling, football, etc.), the COM issues a handbook on Olympic sport.

SPORT IN MEXICO

- **Other sports governing bodies**

Mexican Sports Confederation

Its chief function is to establish co-operative relations with the state or federal organisations responsible for physical education, to encourage unity in national sport (its rules governing sports activity in the country), to support the organisation of all the competitions authorised by the federations, to authorise the participation of Mexican athletes in international competitions, to study and select the most appropriate ways of improving the physical, moral and cultural state of every individual and encouraging his participation in sports activities.

● Other state organisations

The Federal Government's secretariats and departments of state foresee the practice of sports activities for their own employees. Similarly, institutes such as the National Institute for Mexican Youth, the Mexican Institute of Social Associations, and the Social Services Institute for Civil Servants stipulate internal regulations to develop sport.

● State aid for the sports movement

The Mexican state has always been interested in the development of sport at all levels, both from the economic and politico-social points of view. For this reason it encourages the practice of sport throughout the country in the interest of the physical and spiritual health of young people. It gives financial help to all sports events through the organisations concerned.

● Sport at school

At least two hours per week.

● Sports which draw the biggest crowds

Football, basketball and baseball.

● Sports experiencing the greatest developments

Football, basketball and baseball.

MEXICANS AND THE INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS



Javier M. Ostos

To date, only one Mexican has acceded to the presidency of an international Olympic federation, Mr. Javier M. Ostos, President of the FINA (swimming) from 1968 to 1972.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Miguel de Béistegui

IOC member from 1901 until his death in 1931.

First Secretary to the Mexican delegation in Brussels, he made friends with Pierre de Coubertin who counted on him to establish Olympism in Latin America. Alas, so far from his country, he failed in this mission. He died in Brussels on 6th November 1931.

General José de J. Clark Flores

IOC member from 1952 until his death in 1971, Vice-President of the IOC from 1966 to 1970, member of the IOC Executive Board from 1963 to 1971.

Born on 28th November 1908, he had two consuming passions: his country and sport. Civil engineer and soldier, the highest ranking officer in the Mexican Army, Chairman of many industrial and construction companies, General Clark enjoyed practising fencing and basketball before devoting himself to sports administration. In turn, and often simultaneously, he was President of the Mexican Basketball Association, the Mexican Sports Confederation, the Mexican Olympic Committee, the Organising Committee for the VIIIth Central American and Caribbean Games and the Pan American Sports Organisation, and ardent supporter of the celebration of the XIXth Olympiad in Mexico. He greatly contributed to the development of Olympism in his country, on the continent and throughout the world.

Prof. Marco Antonio Escalante

Secretary General of the Mexican Olympic Committee since 1969, after being member since 1962. Head of the Mexican Olympic delegations in 1968 and 1972.

Born at Mérida, Yucatán, on 24th July 1917. Co-ordinator General of the Mexican delegation at the 7th Pan American Games. Permanent member of the COM since 1969.



Marte Rodolfo Gómez



Josué Sáenz

Marte Rodolfo Gómez

IOC member from 1934 until his death in 1973.

Born on 4th July 1896, he became a hydro-agricultural engineer and a statesman: governor, Secretary of State for Agriculture, then Secretary of State at the Treasury, he devoted most of his life to studying and trying to resolve the agricultural problems of modern Mexico. This preoccupation led him quite naturally to dealing with health problems, and therefore with sport. Elected to the IOC in 1934, he was particularly interested in the problems of spreading Olympism around the world and joined the IOC Culture Commission. He directed the work of the Organising Committee for the VIth Central American and Caribbean Games (1954) and presided the Mexican Olympic Committee from 1951 to 1955. Appointed Emeritus President of the Mexican Olympic Committee, he was one of the architects of the choice of Mexico for the Games of the XIXth Olympiad in 1968.

Carlos Rincón Gallardo, Marquess of Guadalupe

IOC member for Mexico from 1923 until his resignation in 1924.

A sincere man and an outstanding athlete, he remained the symbol of the Mexican Equestrian School for many years. He died in Mexico City in 1950.

Dr. Eduardo Hay

IOC member for Mexico since 1974.

Born on 19th February 1915 in Mexico City, medical doctor, professor at Mexico University, former national fencing champion, and several times an international, Dr. Hay acquired a reputation as a keen supporter of Olympism within the IOC Medical Commission on which he has worked since 1967. A sports leader in various fields, he has been a permanent member since 1962 and Vice-President of the Mexican Olympic Committee. He was Co-ordinator of International Congresses and Chief of Protocol for the Games of the XIXth Olympiad. Director of the Mexican Olympic Sports Centre (1965-1972), President of the Mexican Fencing Federation (1950-1955), President of the Pan American Fencing Federation (1955-1957) and organiser of the fencing competitions at the world modern pentathlon championships (1962).

General Tirso Hernández

President of the Mexican Olympic Committee from 1927 to 1951.

Born on 13th August 1893. Central American shooting champion in 1927. Took part in the 1928 world shooting championships. Head of the autonomous physical education department in General Lazaro Cardenas' government. Founder of the physical education college. At present national defence attaché.

Pedro Ramírez Vázquez

IOC member since 1972.

Born on 16th April 1919 in Mexico City. Graduated as an architect in 1943, he has become an internationally well-known and esteemed architect and town-planner. His innumerable works and achievements speak for him: nearly 35,000 schools in Mexico, many others in Latin America, India, Yugoslavia and Italy; various buildings in Mexico, including Lagunilla, Tepito, Coyoacan, Azcapotzalco, San Pedro de los pinos, Colonia, Anahuac, Balbuena; the Mexican pavilion at the Brussels Exhibition (gold star); the history gallery at Chapultepec; the Mexican pavilion at Seattle; the museums of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Chapultepec, the National Anthropological Museum, grand prix of the VIIIth Art Exhibition in Sao Paulo, the African Art Museum in Dakar; the Aztec football stadium for 100,000 spectators in Mexico, the Cuauhtemoc football stadium for 30,000 spectators in Puebla; hospitals and many other constructions, the list of which is too long to set out here. He was appointed permanent member of the Mexican Olympic Committee in 1969, after being Vice-President and then President of Constructions at the Organising Committee for the XIXth Olympiad. In 1972, he was elected President of the Mexican Olympic Committee, a position he had to renounce in order to devote himself to the management of Mexico University. At the IOC, he takes part in the work of the Culture Commission.

Josué Sáenz

President of the Mexican Olympic Committee from 1966 to 1972.

Head of delegation and member of the Organising Committee of the Mexico Olympic Games (1968). Founder and first President of the Mexican Tennis Federation (1951). Member of the Organising Committees of the

Central American and Pan American Games in Mexico (1954, 1955). Head of delegation at the Pan American Games in Winnipeg (1967), Cali (1971), and the Central American Games in Panama (1970).

Dr. Moisés Sáenz

IOC member for Mexico from 1927 until his resignation in 1932.

Minister of Education, then ambassador to Peru, Ecuador and Denmark. Founder of the Central American Games (1926). Organised Mexico's first participation in the Olympic Games (1924).

Mario Vázquez Raña

President of the Mexican Olympic Committee since 1974 and of the Organising Committee for the 1975 Pan American Games.

Born on 7th June 1932 in Mexico City. A marksman of international success, he started his sports administration career in this sport. In 1969, he founded the Mexican International and Olympic Shooting Federation, of which he remains the President. In 1972, he visited all countries on the continent in order to set up the American Shooting Confederation. The following year, he organised the constitutive congress of the American confederation, of which he became the first President. Mexico then staged the first American championships. Nominated the best sports official of 1973 by the Association of Sports Journalists, Mr. Vázquez Raña also occupies the vice-presidency of the Mexican Sports Confederation and works on the Executive Committee of the Union Internationale de Tir (shooting). The American continent will be indebted to him that the 1975 Games can be contested on Mexican soil and everything indicates that has a brilliant future ahead.