





THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY  
A HISTORY OF AN OLYMPIC INSTITUTION

Copy-editor: Thetis Xanthaki  
DTP, filmset: «ANAGRAMMA»  
Printed by: Petros Ballidis & Co. Graphic Arts  
May 2011

© International Olympic Academy  
52, D. Vikelas Street,  
152 33 Halandri, Athens, Greece

ISBN: 978 - 960 - 9454 - 09 - 4

# INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY

## THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY A HISTORY OF AN OLYMPIC INSTITUTION

### Foreword

SPYROS CAPRALOS      ISIDOROS KOUVELOS  
President of the HOC      President of the IOA

† NIKOS FILARETOS  
Ex-President of the IOA



### Editors

CHRISTINA KOULOURI  
Professor of Modern History, Panteion University, Athens

KONSTANTINOS GEORGIADIS  
Professor of the History of Olympism, University of the Peloponnese



### Contributors

CHRISTOS LOUKOS  
Professor of Modern History, University of Crete

VASSILIKI TZACHRISTA  
Archaeologist, IOA

ROULA VATHI  
MA in Byzantine Studies, IOA

YIANNIS MOUTSIS  
MA in History (University of London)



### Translation

GEOFFREY COX



### Second Edition

ATHENS 2011



The 50th anniversary of the International Olympic Academy (IOA), in addition to being an important milestone in the history of the Olympic Movement, is also an opportunity for all of us to reflect, once again, on the nature, the history and activities of a cultural institution with an international presence and reputation.

The International Olympic Academy enjoys the privilege of being the first international educational Olympic Centre, whose main purpose is to study, propagate and apply the principles of Olympism and sport all over the world.

Since its inception and to this day, the Academy's significant contribution to the promotion of Olympic education has been recognized by the International Olympic Committee, National Olympic Committees, National Olympic Academies and by the sports communities in many countries.

This recognition and the fact that the International Olympic Academy is located at the Hellenic Olympic Committee's premises in Ancient Olympia, where history meets magic and where legends blend with legacy, are the foundations which should underpin its future.

In order to move into the new era, however, we need to understand what has already been achieved and learn about the IOA's work during these 50 years. The book you hold in your hands will be extremely helpful in this respect. It can be a valuable tool for discovering aspects of its activities that were not widely known, a source of ideas and information for future students of the Olympic Movement; it can bring inspiration to world youth and further promote the ideology and philosophy of the Olympic Games. We should not forget that excellent knowledge of the past opens the way to a better future.

The Hellenic Olympic Committee will continue to fund, assist and support the IOA in all its efforts to propagate the principles of Olympism and develop Olympic education.

**SPYROS CAPRALOS**

*President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee*

This new edition of the *History of the International Olympic Academy*, part of the celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, allows the Academy to affirm its scientific identity and academic expertise in the field of sports history. This book, written by Greek historians, makes full use of the Academy's abundant historical and photographic archives, whilst building on primary research sources that cover various aspects of Olympia's history as well as the social, cultural and scientific aspects of the IOA's human and geographical environment.

We owe the first edition of this book to the foresight of the late Nikos Filaretos, President of the IOA and IOC member for Greece, who understood the importance of promoting the IOA's history and showcasing its archival material, which had remained in obscurity for years. This was indeed a remarkable achievement that was only completed thanks to the support of the International Olympic Committee.

This new edition highlights my own personal obligation and responsibility to an endeavour that contributes to the pluralism of scientific thinking and recognizes the Academy's high scientific potential. The IOA's scientific publications and educational work, far from striving for self-promotion, clearly represent a contribution of great intellectual value and should be paid the respect they deserve.

In evaluating a work which first drew attention to the great historical value of the International Olympic Academy's archives, I recognize how much it has achieved and welcome this third edition of the IOA's publication, accompanying the inventory and research of the HOC and IOA archives. I hope that this book, which I commend for its thoroughness and its contribution to the promotion of the International Olympic Academy, will be loved by those who read it and win a place in the hearts of all Olympic readers rather than simply gather dust like so many other history books on some cold library shelf.



ISIDOROS KOUVELOS

*President of the International Olympic Academy  
and of the National Olympic Academy*



When, in September 1974, after the fall of the Junta, I took up the duties of General Secretary of what was then called the Olympic Games Committee (OGC), I found myself faced with a truly chaotic situation. The action which I immediately took was aimed at the restoration of the battered prestige of the OGC in international Olympic and sport circles (International Olympic Committee, International Sport Federations, National Olympic Committees, and sport authorities).

In the long term, however, I set the following aims: (a) the recording and cataloguing of the OGC archives and the publication of a book on them; (b) research and publication of a book on the 'Intermediate Olympics' of 1906 –unheard-of for many– which managed to save the institution of the Olympic Games after their ill-judged involvement with the fairs of the International Exhibitions of Paris in 1900 and Saint Louis in 1904; (c) the publication of a study of the history of the International Olympic Academy (IOA), which was founded in 1961 and has functioned

without interruption since then, spreading Olympic education to the ends of the earth.

Many years had to pass –28, to be precise– until, in 2005, the first study –*Archives and History of the Hellenic Olympic Committee*– was published, after many adversities, difficulties and questionings. Two years later, in 2004, the second study, entitled *Athens, Olympic City 1896-1906* came out. Today, at last, we have the pleasure of welcoming the publication of the third of these studies, on the history of the International Olympic Academy.

All these publications have been produced by the International Olympic Academy. But they would never have become a reality without the huge and invaluable contribution of Ms Christina Koulouri, Professor of History at the University of the Peloponnese, and her team of researchers and associates, of whom I must mention particularly the archaeologist Ms Vassiliki Tzachrista and her colleague, the historian Mr Yannis Yannitsiotis.

In spite of this, again the publication of these studies would not have been achieved without the generous sponsorship of the Olympic Solidarity Committee of the International Olympic Committee. I must at this point pay tribute to the ideal collaboration, understanding and inestimable contribution of the Director of Olympic Solidarity, Mr Pere Miró, his personal assistant, Ms Nicole Girard-Savoy, and their associates. Without these, nothing would have been done at all, because, the experience which I have acquired in these matters shows that these subjects did not particularly commend themselves to sponsors in Greece.

In the 45 years of its history, the IOA can point to a vast achievement in the field of the dissemination of Olympic education at a world level. This work enjoys immense regard and acceptance on the part of international Olympic circles, the IOC, Olympic Committees, and local National Olympic Academies which have been inspired by the work of the IOA. It is typical that, whereas in the first 25 years of the IOA's history there were only 16 National Olympic Academies in operation, in the last 20 years, 90 more have been set up, inspired by the work done on the premises of the IOA at Ancient Olympia. Sadly, the work of the IOA has been ignored by many in Greece for various reasons. This publication serves to fill this gap.

† NIKOS FILARETOS  
*Former President of the IOA*

## CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION: THE ACADEMY OF OLYMPISM . . . . .</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>CHRISTINA KOULOURI</b>	
The history of Olympism and the IOA . . . . .	18
Olympism and education: the pedagogic ‘symphony’ of Coubertin . . . . .	20
Inspirers and founders . . . . .	22
International or Greek? The IOA under the aegis of the IOC . . . . .	31
The crisis of 1968–1971 . . . . .	39
Two critical stances: the Siperco memorandum and the MacAloon research . . . . .	47
The physiognomy of the IOA: from the regulatory texts to lived experience . . . . .	50
The ‘pilgrims of history’ . . . . .	58
In the footprints of antiquity . . . . .	63
 <b>ANCIENT OLYMPIA: THE PLACE AND THE PEOPLE . . . . .</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>CHRISTOS LOUKOS – VASSILIKI TZACHRISTA</b>	
From Antiquity to the Twentieth Century . . . . .	67
The village . . . . .	83
Tourism . . . . .	89
The residents . . . . .	92
 <b>GERMANY MEETS OLYMPIA:</b>	
<b>ARCHAEOLOGY AND OLYMPISM . . . . .</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>YIANNIS MOUTSIS</b>	
The archaeological excavations . . . . .	112
Philhellenism and ‘archaeolatry’ . . . . .	112



The first excavations at Olympia in the nineteenth century . . . . .	116
The second phase of the excavations and the discovery of the ancient stadium . . . . .	123
The plans for the International Olympic Academy, the role of the Germans and the International Olympic Institute in Berlin . . . . .	129
The lighting of the flame and the torch relay for the Berlin Olympic Games of 1936	137
Conclusions . . . . .	139
<b>THE “SMALL OLYMPIC VILLAGE”:</b>	
<b>THE PREMISES OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY . . . . .</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>VASSILIKI TZACHRISTA</b>	
The site at Ancient Olympia . . . . .	143
Looking for the right place for the IOA . . . . .	147
The Academy's property . . . . .	155
Guards and labouring staff in the first phase of operation, 1961-1967 . . . . .	157
The operation of the IOA as a camping-site (1961-1966) and the transition to the first units of accommodation (1967-1971) . . . . .	160
First International Session 1961: “Between olive-groves and orange-groves” . . . . .	160
The IOA camp, 1962-1966 . . . . .	162
From tents to rooms, 1967-1971 . . . . .	165
Spatial planning and architecture of the IOA . . . . .	167
First phase, 1961-1967 . . . . .	167
Second phase, 1968-1985 . . . . .	173
Third phase, 1987-2004 . . . . .	175
The landscape of the IOA . . . . .	179
The Municipality of Ancient Olympia and the International Olympic Academy: a persisting flirtation on the epiphenomenon of a dispute . . . . .	181
<b>THE “OLYMPIC UNIVERSITY” OF THE IOA:</b>	
<b>LECTURERS AND LECTURES . . . . .</b>	<b>191</b>
<b>ROULA VATHI</b>	
Introduction . . . . .	191
‘Organisation’, ‘coming of age’ and self-determination . . . . .	193
Enduring and topical issues of the sessions . . . . .	199
Lecturers and Lectures . . . . .	206
The number of lecturers . . . . .	206
Choosing the lecturers . . . . .	212
The lecturers’ profile . . . . .	215



CONTENTS

Nationality of the lecturers . . . . .	230
Women lecturers . . . . .	232
Subjects of the lectures . . . . .	235
The IOA as subject of lectures . . . . .	245
International Postgraduate Seminar on Olympic Studies . . . . .	248
Instead of an epilogue . . . . .	252
The Master's Degree Programme "Olympic studies, Olympic education, organization and management of Olympic events"	
KONSTANTINOS GEORGIADIS . . . . .	254
THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMIES . . . . .	263
KONSTANTINOS GEORGIADIS	
REFERENCES . . . . .	283





CHRISTINA KOULOURI

## INTRODUCTION: THE ACADEMY OF OLYMPISM





*Let us make Olympia one day  
the Mecca of Olympism*

AVERY BRUNDAGE, 1967<sup>1</sup>

The International Olympic Academy (IOA) was founded in 1961, but its history starts much earlier – at the time of the revival of the Olympic Games and the creation of Olympism, a movement which reflected basic values of European society at the end of the nineteenth century. Thus an understanding of its creation and operation should inevitably be connected with the content of Olympism, a pedagogic and moral content, and with the actions of the protagonists of its dissemination in various countries (chiefly Germany and Greece), starting out, of course, from Coubertin. At the same time, however, the functioning of the IOA cannot be understood if its Greek dimension, practical and symbolic, is not included in the picture. The establishment of the IOA on the site of ancient Olympia was not merely a confirmation of the symbolic link between the modern Olympic movement and its ancient Greek roots, but has also served as a constant enactment of that symbolism. The IOA is, then, an Olympic educational institution which is unique in being revitalised through the global symbolism of Greekness. The experience of those who attend it is

not confined to the educational and sport curriculum within the bounds of the IOA, but incorporates the experience of the ancient remains and the landscape of Olympia. At the same time, the location of the Academy's premises is defined by the contemporary modern Greek town with its people, its own institutions, and, of course, its contemporary perception of its past. The residents of modern Olympia are themselves part of the history of the IOA, to the extent that they are in a relationship with it and share the same localism. Consequently, the history of the IOA is a multi-faceted composition which emerges from the study of the history of Olympism and of its institutions (International Olympic Committee, National Olympic Committees, etc.), of Olympic education at an international level, of the content of the education which the Academy itself provides (lectures and lecturers), of the discovery of ancient Olympia through archaeological excavations, of the modern history of Olympia, and, finally, of the relationship of the IOA with the place where it is established. In this volume we have endeavoured to throw light on all these aspects of the IOA's history by means of studies which have been based on primary material which has been tracked down in international archives, but above all on the use of the archive (documents and photographs) of the Hellenic Olympic Committee (HOC) and of the IOA itself.

1. Letter of the President of the IOC, Avery Brundage, to the members of the IOC, Lausanne, 12.4.1967 (in French), IOC Archive, Lausanne, file: Académie Olympique 1962-1967 (II).

ΧΑΡΤΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ



Ἐπι τῶν Ἰδρυῶν τῆς Ἑλλάδος εἰς 1:200000 Paris 1852  
ατ τῶν προσθημῶν του Καιρού, 1882

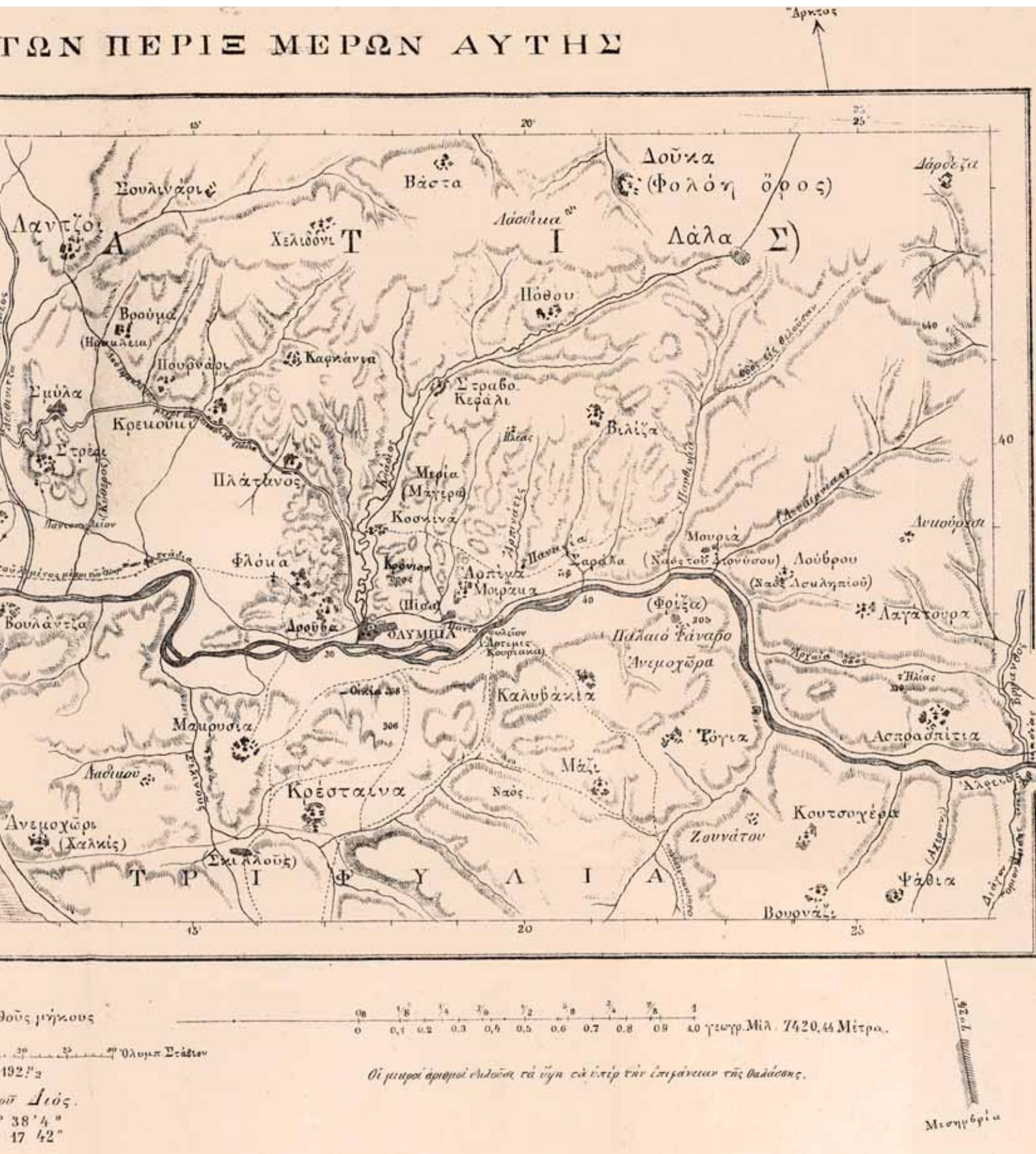
10 *Kidney Research*

Τα ειδ..... σημαίνουσε τὰς οδούς οἱ ὅστις ἀντῶν ἀριθμοὶ τὸ μῆνας  
τῶν οὐρανῶν ἐξ αρχαῖς επονομαγείς;  
Τὰ ὀργαῖα ὄνοματα σημειοῦνται ιν( ) .

1:100000 τοῦ ὀντό

Θύρων, νοτίς τ  
Γεωγρ. Ηλαζος 37°  
Μήκος 39°

ΤΩΝ ΠΕΡΙΞ ΜΕΡΩΝ ΑΥΤΗΣ



D. G. Papageorgiou, *Ολυμπία και Ολυμπιακοί Αγώνες μετά εικόνων και 4 λιθογραφικών πινάκων* [Olympia and the Olympic Games with illustrations and four lithographic plates], Athens 1890



Norbert Müller on the Pnyx, during his speech on the part of the lecturers of the 39th Session of the IOA  
[IOA Archive, K41.147]

## The history of Olympism and the IOA

The first studies of the Academy were compiled as early as the mid '70s. The first study on the subject was the doctoral thesis of Norbert Müller, which was submitted in 1975 to the University of Graz.<sup>2</sup> Making use of a wide range of sources, Müller studies the history of the IOA, starting out from the revival of the Olympic Games, and so he places it within the framework of the development of Olympism as a philosophical and educational system. The leading figures in this history are, according to Müller, Pierre de Coubertin and Carl Diem. However, he attributes the idea of the founding of the Olympic Academy to Carl Diem and places it in 1938, when Diem visited Greece on the occasion of the entombment of Coubertin's heart in the commemorative stele which had been erected in 1927 at Olympia. The founding of the IOA was, therefore, in embryonic form in Coubertin's thinking, but was brought to birth by his 'moral heir', Carl Diem. In this story, the role of the Greeks is located more in the implementation and realisation of the idea than in its conception. It is noteworthy that the name of

Ketseas is mentioned in the title of a sub-section of the fourth chapter of the thesis, a detail indicative of the underestimation of his role compared with that of Coubertin and Diem. Nevertheless, 23 years later, in the new study of the Academy which Müller published, the names of Coubertin, Diem and Ketseas are cited together and on equal terms, while from 1961 to 1998, the IOA is represented as a 'bequest' of the three men.<sup>3</sup> This is, of course, a study which deals with the period of operation of the IOA and not the period of the conception of the idea. It seems, then, in Müller's view, that although in the first period, when the Olympic Academy existed only as an idea, Coubertin and Diem played a decisive role, at the time when the idea became reality and the Academy was functioning, Ketseas's role was of equal importance. Müller's work is the most important contribution so far to the history of the IOA for many reasons: it raised the Academy to the status of an object of study within the context of the history of Olympism and of the Olympic Games, it made use of a great variety of primary sources, and his research into the IOA has been constant, extending over many years. Through this

2. N. Müller, *Die olympische Idee Pierre de Coubertins und Carl Diems in ihrer Auswirkung auf die Internationale Olympische Akademie (IOA). Eine quellengeschichtliche Untersuchung*, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, 1975.

3. N. Müller, *The International Olympic Academy (IOA) through its lectures 1961-1998* [Lausanne, IOC, 1998].

important work and because of the part he has played in the annual sessions of the IOA and the Commission of the International Olympic Committee for the IOA, Müller is now himself part of the history of the Academy.

The thesis of Nina K. Pappas was submitted in 1978, covers the period 1927-1977, and is based on archive material from the Avery Brundage Collection, which is deposited at the Illinois-Urbana University.<sup>4</sup> Pappas followed the work of the IOA in the years 1972 and 1974 and was one of the leading figures in the setting up of the National Olympic Academy of the USA. Pappas studies the history of the IOA “as a classic example of a man’s [Coubertin’s] dream becoming implanted as an institution”.<sup>5</sup> In this sense, her thesis is a reply to Müller’s, as he maintains that the original idea of founding the Academy was that of Diem. It is interesting that, in the case of the IOA, we observe an analogy with the historiography of the Olympic Games in connection with the idea of their revival: the scholarly debate focuses on who was the first to conceive the idea, while the historical conditions prevailing at the time which permitted –or, alternatively, negated– the realisation of an idea are played down.

At this point, it is worth recalling Coubertin’s words:

In certain periods, certain ideas run through the world and spread like veritable epidemics. It is very difficult for someone to monopolise them for the benefit of one individual only, and we discover that many people, without having reached any understanding or agreement among themselves, have been working simultaneously on the same task in different places.<sup>6</sup>

Thus Pappas gives precedence to the ‘dream’ of Coubertin and to the role of Ioannis Ketseas. She describes Diem as one of the ‘inspirers’, but Ketseas as the ‘founder’ of the Academy.<sup>7</sup> More specifically, Pappas assesses as follows the relative roles of the ‘founding fathers’ of the IOA:

While Coubertin dreamed of such an institution and Diem assisted in its creation, it was Ketseas who initiated the Academy and Szymczek and Paleologos who have managed its affairs and provided stability to the institution.<sup>8</sup>

4. Nina K. Pappas, *History and Development of the International Olympic Academy 1927-1977*, PhD thesis, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1978.

5. Pappas, op. cit., 136.

6. N. Müller (ed.), *Pierre de Coubertin. Textes choisis*, II: *Olympisme*, Zurich / Hildesheim / New York, Comité International Olympique, Weidmann, 1986, 80. See also Christina Koulouri (ed.), *Athens, Olympic City 1896-1906*, Athens, IOA, 2004, 18.

7. Pappas, op. cit., 28.

8. Ibid., 37.

The contribution of the IOA to the Olympic movement is assessed in entirely positive terms by Pappas, who also notes that through the IOA Greece is able to dominate Olympism intellectually. The association of Greece with the Olympic movement through the IOA is an observation which is worth stressing, since the profile of the IOA as an Olympic institution has been shaped precisely by the meeting between the Greek and the international parameter.

The book by Conrado Durantez on the IOA, published in 1988,<sup>9</sup> presents the creation of the IOA as the conclusion of a course followed by Coubertin from ‘pedagogics’ to the ‘Olympic idea’, by way of the revival of the Olympic Games and the holding of Olympic congresses. Diem, by the setting up of the Olympic Institute in Berlin and, then, by his proposal for the founding of an Olympic Academy, undertook to continue this plan of Coubertin’s. Ketseas is described as a “pioneer and co-founder together with Carl Diem” of the Academy.<sup>10</sup> Durantez gives a rather brief account of the events which led to the founding of the Academy and of its operation after 1961, in order to arrive finally at the founding, in 1968, of the Spanish Olympic Academy. The second –and longer– part of his book contains the summaries of the lectures given at the IOA from 1961 to 1988 and is a translation of the respective part of the book published by Müller.

The IOA has not constituted a self-contained subject of other studies,<sup>11</sup> except in lectures which have been given in the course of its work.<sup>12</sup> It has, however, been incorporated into other studies which deal with Olympism, Olympic education and the International Olympic Committee. In the thesis of Jean Marion Leiper, *The International Olympic Committee: the Pursuit of Olympism 1894-1970*, which was submitted in 1976,<sup>13</sup> the IOA is included in the chapter on special programmes for the international dissemination of Olympism. The history of the IOA should indeed be traced through the pathways of the thought of Coubertin, the actions of the IOC and the HOC, political developments at an international and local level, and the gradual formation of Olympic education as a distinct discipline.

9. C. Durantez, *La Academia Olímpica Internacional*, Comité Olímpico Español, 1988.

10. Ibid., 6 of the photo-supplement.

11. Apart, of course, from the book by Skiadas and Georgiadis, which provides factual and statistical data on the activity of the IOA, but does not have the character of an academic study. E.G. Skiadas – K.T. Georgiadis, *40 χρόνια Διεθνής Ολυμπιακή Ακαδημία* [40 Years of the International Olympic Academy], Athens 2004.

12. See Roula Vathi, ‘The “Olympic University” of the IOA: Lecturers and Lectures’, in this volume, 245-247.

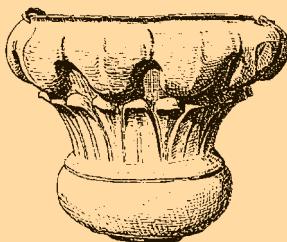
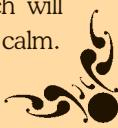
13. PhD, Department of Physical Education, The University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta.

## Olympism and education: the pedagogic ‘symphony’ of Coubertin



*Pierre de Coubertin, retiring from the presidency of the IOC, Prague 1925*

I could not consent to remaining: thirty years is a limit which it would not be prudent to go beyond. And above all I want to be able to give the time which remains to me to promoting – as far as possible – an important undertaking: the establishment of a pedagogy which will produce intellectual lucidity and critical calm.



*Decision of the Prague Congress, 1925*

The Assembly warmly recommends the re-nascence of the ‘ancient gymnasium’ in the form of a municipal institution which will be administered by the city without any involvement of an association or federation and where it will not be permitted to hold contests, but each individual will be able to exercise himself in all the sports of his choice. The institution will secure at the minimum possible cost medical supervision, the provision of material, and hydrotherapy.



When we speak today of the ‘Olympic Games’, we clearly mean those athletic contests which are held every four years in various cities throughout the world, but also a series of institutions which bear the adjective ‘Olympic’ and are associated with different aspects of an increasingly complex network which has the Olympic Games as a point of reference. As early as the Sorbonne Congress in 1894, at which the revival of the Olympic Games was decided upon, an international committee was appointed with 14 members –the International Olympic Committee (IOC)– which had as its duty the supervision and handling of the smooth celebration of the Olympic Games. In spite of the international upheavals, the conflicts and the wars, the IOC has managed to retain the role which it had undertaken from the beginning and to have control of the organisation of the Olympic Games, with powers and procedures which were determined with greater precision in the early twentieth century. Today, the IOC is a central administrative organ with world-wide prestige and a point of reference for every Olympic activity.

The International Olympic Academy is one of the institutions which were created in relation not with the athletic but with the educational and intellectual content of the Olympic Games. Coubertin conceived the idea of the revival of the ancient Olympic Games within a framework of overall renaissance in which sports would serve as a means for the physical, moral and intellectual formation of younger generations. Thus an understanding of the conception of the idea of the Academy and of its foundation and operation must be correlated to the ideological content of ‘Olympism’ – a neologism made up by Coubertin himself. According to Coubertin, Olympism has a philosophical and an educative dimension.<sup>14</sup> It makes reference to the system of values of the ‘gentleman’ and to the moral qualities contained in the ‘*religio athletae*’ while at the same time taking on the form of Olympic education.

In the years which followed his retirement from the presidency of the IOC (1925), Coubertin attempted to leave his spiritual testament as to the plan which he had served with devotion since the 1880s: the ideal education which aims at the integrated formation of a balanced human being. On his visit to Olympia in 1927, he

14. On the definition of Olympism given by Coubertin in 1917, see Koulouri, *Athens*, op. cit. (n. 6), 30.

addressed the following words to the “Young Athletes of All Nations”:

Olympism can become a school for moral nobility and purity as well as physical endurance and energy, but this can happen only if you continually raise your concept of athletic honor and impartiality to the level of your muscular ability.<sup>15</sup>

The connection of the IOA with Coubertin was, therefore, through the ideology of Olympism, which he formulated and elaborated, but also through specific actions on his part which belong within a strategy of promoting the Olympic ideal, in parallel with the celebration, every four years, of the Olympic Games. These involved, of course, the formation of the IOC, but also the holding at regular intervals from 1894 to 1925, when he retired from the Presidency of the IOC, of Olympic congresses (Sorbonne 1894, Le Havre 1897, Brussels 1905, Paris 1906, Lausanne 1913, Paris 1914, Lausanne 1921, Prague 1925).<sup>16</sup> These congresses were chiefly of a pedagogic character and concerned themselves, apart from organisational matters having to do with the Olympic Games and the standing issue of amateurism, with the educational and moral content of sport (Le Havre 1897), the relation between sport and physical education (Brussels 1905), the conception of Olympism as humanism (Paris 1906), and sport psychology (Lausanne 1913). Moreover, the Prague Congress in 1925, when Coubertin retired from the presidency of the IOC, was the ‘First International Pedagogic Congress’. At this Congress, Coubertin indeed placed emphasis on the educational content of sport in a final attempt to give direction to an Olympic universe which he did not control. The issues which were discussed were “the excesses of exhibitions, boxing contests, restrictions during adolescence, the participation of women, the renascence of the ‘ancient gymnasium’, the development of fair play and the spirit of chivalry, the collaboration between universities, the therapy through sport, and the struggle against alleged *sports-men*”.<sup>17</sup> In these topics we discover the features of Coubertin’s pedagogic plan, which can be summed up in the function of sport as a means towards an overall reform of education and which he attempted to continue after Prague. He himself set out his aims as follows:



Olympism represents only a part of my enterprise – about half. My pedagogic ‘symphony’ thus consists of a part which has been completed and another which has not been completed at all.<sup>18</sup>

Within the framework of his pedagogic ‘symphony’, Coubertin contributed to the creation of the Lausanne Olympic Institute in 1917 and of popular universities in 1920, while in 1926 he set up the World Pedagogical Union and the International Bureau of Sports Pedagogy. The Lausanne Olympic Institute, which was the first institution of Olympic education, took the ancient gymnasium as its model. It was, then, yet another ‘revival’ on an ancient institution, adapted to modernity. Coubertin had been elaborating this idea since the end of the nineteenth century and had given expression to it on a number of occasions at the beginning of the twentieth, following, in essence, the model of the revival of the Olympic Games. When in 1927 Coubertin visited Greece to attend the ceremony of the unveiling of the marble monument which had been erected in his honour at Olympia, he presented his plan, to be implemented by means of the activities of the Universal Pedagogical Union, at the ‘Parnassos’ literary society in Athens. The revival of the ancient Greek gymnasium was his idea for the satisfaction of the individual right to exercise in society.<sup>19</sup> The previous year, the World Pedagogical Union had proclaimed the ‘right to exercise’:

We believe that there is for each individual the right to exercise and that it is a duty of the State to provide the adult citizen, as far as possible free of charge, with the means of acquiring, and then maintaining good athletic form, without his being obliged for that reason to join any association.<sup>20</sup>

15. N. Müller (ed.), *Pierre de Coubertin 1863-1937. Olympism Selected Writings*, Lausanne, IOC, 2000, 560.

16. It is not clear which congresses can be described as ‘Olympic’. In some cases, as in 1897 and 1905, there was no clear distinction between the sessions of the IOC and of the Olympic congresses. See Müller, *Pierre de Coubertin*, op. cit. (n. 6), 254.

17. IOC, *Un siècle du Comité International Olympique 1894-1994*, vol. I par K. Lennartz (ed.), Lausanne 1994, 185.

18. Ibid., 182.

19. Extracts from the speech at the Parnassos were given by the *Messager d’Athènes*, 5.4.1927, 3 in G. Rioux (ed.), *Pierre de Coubertin. Textes choisis, Révélation*, Zurich / Hildesheim / New York 1986, 628-632.

20. N. Müller – O. Schantz (eds), *Pierre de Coubertin. Textes choisis, III: Pratique Sportive*, Comité International Olympique, Zurich / Hildesheim / New York, Weidmann, 1986, 617.



Pierre de Coubertin and Ioannis Chrysafis, 1930 [IOA Archive, K3.11]

## Inspirers and founders

The thinking of Coubertin is, without doubt, the foundation stone of the IOA and the point of reference of all the theoretical discourse referring to its foundation and operation. In the inter-War years, ideas about the role of sport in society which had been expressed at an earlier date took on an institutional existence, albeit short-lived, as in the case of the Olympic Institute at Lausanne. In Greece, moreover, at that period, views and ideas connected, on the one hand, with the revival of ancient

Greek institutions and, on the other, with the strengthening of the Olympic presence of Greece were in circulation.<sup>21</sup> Germany also, at the same period, was renewing its ancient Greek orientation and was active in the field of sport in view of the Berlin Olympiad.

---

21. The Delphic festivals of Angelos Sikelianos in 1927 and 1930 and the classical games in 1934 were typical examples.

The protagonists in the establishment of the IOA met at that time on various occasions and exchanged ideas and thoughts, as can be seen from letters and memoirs. Two of these occasions were in Athens: once in 1927, when Coubertin visited Greece and met with Ioannis Chrysafis (1872-1932), a leading influence in the development of gymnastics in Greece, and Ioannis Ketseas (1887-1965), an important figure in sport who in 1946 was also to become a member of the IOC; and again in 1934, when Carl Diem, president of the organising committee for the Berlin Olympic Games, visited Athens for the classical games and had a meeting with Ketseas – a meeting which was repeated on Diem's next visit in 1938.

In spite of all the references to the name of Coubertin, he was, nevertheless, marginalised and unable to control his own creation. After the Berlin Games, he spoke again of his sense of an unfulfilled task, and of his fears about 'deviations' in sport, in a letter to the German government on 16 March 1937:

I have not been able to carry out to the end what I wanted to perfect. I believe that a Centre of Olympic Studies (which need not necessarily be located in Berlin) would aid the preservation and progress of my work more than anything else, and would keep it from *deviations* which I fear.<sup>22</sup>

Just as Coubertin had delivered the IOC to his successors a few years previously, so now he handed over his idea for the foundation of an Olympic education institution to German initiative. In the second instance, it was Carl Diem who took up the baton; he had discussed this matter with Coubertin as early as 1934. The German government responded to Coubertin's challenge in order to exhibit, through Olympism, a peace-loving image at world level, and founded the International Olympic Institute (IOI) in Berlin with Diem as its Director and Germany's Minister of Sport as President. The founding of the IOI was approved by the IOC, which assigned to the Institute the publication of its official bulletin. The IOI functioned until the end of the War, and in 1946 it was decided that it should be relocated to Lausanne.

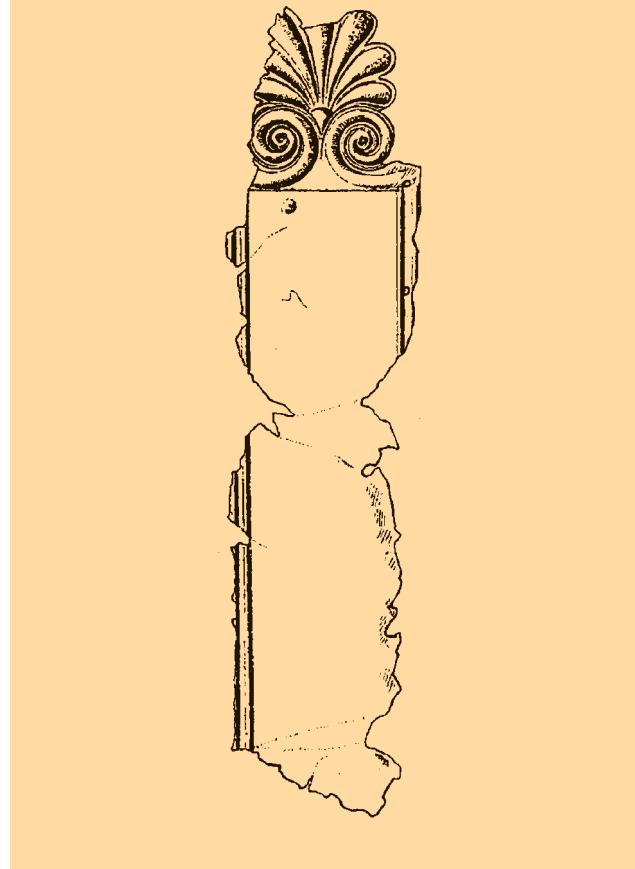
22. *Olympic Academy. A report on the Academy arranged jointly by the Hellenic Olympic Committee and the National Olympic Committee of Germany, drawn up by Carl Diem in collaboration with Karlheinz Gieseler and Franz Lotz* [1961], 5. See also Müller, *Die olympische Idee*, op. cit. (n. 2), Quellensammlung, 56.



The ancient gymnasium would, then, be more necessary in modern society than in those societies which have disappeared. But how are we to reconstitute it? This is possible, on condition that we do not follow at all the reconstitution of the framework but only of the principle, and that we remain in absolute and firm contact with the practices and the possibilities of the present. Does anyone believe that the revived Olympic Games would have survived and flourished if I had wanted to introduce chariot-races?

The ancient gymnasium will live again on the day when in urban settlements of a sufficient size or when in each district of a large city the following can be found institutionally linked in such a way that they can benefit together from the same premises and the same advantages: public lessons in world history, baths, a choir association, and a gymnastic and sport association.

Pierre de Coubertin, 1915



## CHRONOLOGY



- 1875-1881     ◎ Excavations at Olympia by the German archaeological mission.
- 1892     ◎ The railway network reaches Olympia.
- 1894     ◎ Congress at the Sorbonne which decides upon the revival of the ancient Olympic Games. Founding of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- 1896     ◎ First modern Olympic Games in Athens.
- 1915     ◎ Coubertin formulates the idea of the revival of the Ancient Gymnasium.
- 1917     ◎ Setting up of the Olympic Institute in Lausanne.
- 1925     ◎ Coubertin retires from the presidency of the IOC.  
◎ First International Olympic Pedagogic Congress in Prague.  
◎ The Prague Congress decides to ask the IOC to set up “a standing committee for the study of the culture of sport” and approves the revival of the Ancient Gymnasium.
- 1926     ◎ Founding of the Universal Pedagogical Union and the International Bureau of Sports Pedagogy by Coubertin.
- 1927     ◎ Erection of a commemorative column in honour of Pierre de Coubertin at Olympia.  
Visit of Coubertin to Athens and discussions with Ioannis Chrysafis and Ioannis Ketseas.
- 1934     ◎ Session of the IOC in Athens. Meeting of Carl Diem with Ketseas.  
◎ Classical Games.
- 1936     ◎ Olympic Games in Berlin. Introduction of the lighting of the Olympic flame and the torch relay from Olympia.  
◎ German archaeological excavations at Olympia re-started.
- 1937     ◎ Coubertin proposes to the German government the creation of a Centre for Olympic Studies.  
◎ Proposal of Platon Delendas for the founding of a New Altis and the creation of a Prytaneion at Olympia.
- 1938     ◎ Death of Coubertin and entombment of his heart in the commemorative column in his honour at Olympia.  
◎ Article by Diem in *Reichsportblatt* (12 April) on the creation of an Olympic Academy.  
◎ Founding of the International Olympic Institute in Berlin with Carl Diem as its Director.
- 1939     ◎ The Olympic Games Committee (OGC) through Angelos Volanakis, a member of the IOC, submits to the 36th Session of the IOC in London a proposal for the setting up of an Olympic Academy at Olympia. The IOC agrees to undertake the ‘patronage’ of this institution, “which corresponds to the Olympic ideal”.  
◎ By Emergency Law 2012/39, “the organisation and administration of an International Olympic Academy” is included among the tasks of the Olympic Games Committee.
- 1942     ◎ Diem visits Athens. Excavations at Olympia halted. Work of the International Olympic Institute in Berlin halted.  
◎ Olympic Games of 1944 cancelled.
- 1945     ◎ Diem proposes to the Vice-President of the IOC, Avery Brundage, the creation of an Olympic Academy in America.
- 1946     ◎ The IOC decides that the International Olympic Institute is to be transferred from Berlin to Lausanne.
- 1947     ◎ Ketseas presents the 40th Session of the IOC in Stockholm with a proposal on the founding of an Olympic Academy.



## CHRONOLOGY



- 1949 • Ketseas presents the Session of the IOC in Rome with a memorandum on the form and operation of the Olympic Academy. The final report is unanimously accepted.
- 1955 • The IOA is founded by virtue of Law 3148/55 ‘concerning the amendment and supplementation of the legislation on the Olympic Games Committee’.
- 1959 • Student sports contests at Olympia.
- 1961 • First Session of the IOA.
- The ancient stadium is handed over by the German archaeological mission.
- Founding of the Museum of the Modern Olympic Games by G. Papastefanou.
- First provisional Regulations of the IOA.
- 1962 • Setting up of the first –non-active– commission as a link between the IOA and the IOC.  
Election of the first Ephoria of the IOA, President: I. Ketseas, Dean: O. Szymiczek.
- Death of Diem.
- 1963 • Theodosios Papathanasiadis President of the IOA.
- 1964 • Georgios Papastefanou donates the Olympic Museum to the HOC.  
First opening ceremony of the Session for Young Participants of the IOA on the Pnyx hill.
- 1965 • Death of Ioannis Ketseas.
- 1966 • Prince Georg Wilhelm von Hanover President of the IOA.
- Founding of the *Kuratorium für die IOA* by the National Olympic Committee of Germany.
- 1967 • Setting up of the IOC Commission for the IOA. The Dane Ivar Wind President.
- The first permanent premises of the IOA constructed.
- Column commemorating Carl Diem and Ioannis Ketseas erected on the IOA premises.
- 1968 • Founding of the Spanish Centre for Olympic Studies in Madrid.
- 1970 • Epameinondas Petralias President of the IOA.
- 1971 • First official Regulations of the IOA.
- 1975 • Achilleas Tzartzanos President of the IOA.
- 1976 • Nikolaos Nissiotis President of the IOA.
- 1977 • The Tunisian Mohamed Mzali President of the IOC Commission for the IOA.
- Founding of the National Olympic Academy of the USA.
- 1986 • Nikos Filaretos President of the IOA.
- 1987 • N. Filaretos President of the IOC Commission for the IOA.
- 1992 • Abolition of the IOC Commission for the IOA and its amalgamation with the Commission for Olympic Education.
- 1993 • Fernardos Serpieris President of the IOA.
- First International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students at the IOA.
- 1997 • N. Filaretos President of the IOA.
- 2000 • The IOC Commission for the IOA and Olympic Education amalgamated with the IOC Commission for Culture and Olympic Education.
- 2004 • 28th Olympic Games in Athens.
- 2005 • Minos Kyriakou President of the IOA.
- 2007 • A fire destroys a large part of the IOA’s and neighbouring ancient Olympia’s forest area, including the Cronion Hill.
- 2009 • Isidoros Kouvelos President of the IOA.
- Launching of the Master’s Degree Programme “Olympic studies, Olympic education, organization and management of Olympic events” of the IOA and the University of the Peloponnese.





It would be worthwhile, rather, for us to make Olympia a centre of spiritual culture, since this site prompts us with its power of representation and its solemn aspect. An Olympic academy should be set up there, as a response to the academy of Plato. At certain times of the year, young people selected from the peoples of the whole world, with a high standard of physical and intellectual cultivation, could gather there together with young artists, in order to familiarise themselves with the eternal works of antiquity, that is, the intellectual and artistic treasures (the museum of Olympia provides an unforgettable representation of the latter), and in order to learn, at the same time, in the very place where the Olympic Games were held, the principles and the practice of a complete physical education. We could in this way, thanks to living a common life organised in very simple conditions, in tents, generate a true Olympic spirit. The governments and the great cultural institutions of the world should gather together by means of scholarships teachers and students in the form of an international academic community.

Thus we would give substance to one of the final tasks in Coubertin's life – the task of international pedagogics. The ten-branched candlestick of learning –to refer to the division into fields of education– would burn where once Thales, Herodotus, Thucydides, Gorgias, Plato, Demosthenes, and so many others taught. The Olympic flame would shine for the new hosts and their work would bear the great seal: next to the heart of Coubertin.

Carl Diem, 1938



Ever since the nineteenth century the Germans had shown a special interest in Ancient Olympia which was rekindled when they undertook the holding of the Olympic Games in 1936. The archaeological excavations at Olympia were started by the German archaeological mission in 1877, and had brought to light the Temple of Zeus, the buildings of the Altis, and the *Nike* of Paeanius. They were interrupted in 1881 and resumed in 1936. The lighting of the Olympic flame and its relaying to Berlin, in the same year, symbolically united modern Germany with the historic cradle of the Olympic Games and of ancient Hellenic culture in general. Carl Diem undertook a leading role in the establishment of the torch relay as a new Olympic institution – a factor which must be examined together with his plans for an institution of Olympic education. Yiannis Moutsis, in his article in the present volume entitled 'Germany meets Olympia: archaeology and Olympism', examines the various parameters of an encounter which affected progress towards the founding of the IOA. And it is true that the German archaeological interest in Ancient Olympia, the references to ancient Greece in the Berlin Olympic Games and the introduction of the torch relay, the founding of the IOI, and particularly the central role played by Carl Diem in all the relevant initiatives are aspects of the close relation between Germany and Olympia, which was also imprinted upon the founding of the IOA. It is, of course, no accident that the first session of the IOA, in the summer of 1961, coincided with the handing over of the ancient stadium by the German Archaeological Mission nor that a large number of the lecturers at the IOA, particularly during the first period, came from Germany.<sup>23</sup>

The activation of the Greek factor came simultaneously with the German plans for an Olympic educational foundation. A first plan for the operation of an Olympic Academy was sent by Diem to Ketseas in 1938. In his accompanying letter, he states that his idea simply gave expression to "what was already in the air", and what was frequently discussed in Greece.<sup>24</sup> In 1939, the HOC, through Angelos Volanakis, a member of the IOC, submitted to the IOC Session a proposal for the foundation of an Olympic Academy at Olympia. At its 36th Session, the IOC undertook the 'patronage' of this institution, "which corresponds to the Olympic ideal" (London, 9 June 1939). At the same time, by Emergency Law 2013/39, "the organisation and administration of an International Olympic Academy" was included among the tasks of the HOC.

23. See Vathi, "Olympic university", op. cit. (n. 12).

24. Müller, op. cit., 60-61.



Ioannis Ketseas at the 21st Session of the IOA, 1962 [IOA Archive, K1.11]

Through the turmoil of war, no action was taken on this idea, in spite of the fact that those who had been involved in the relevant discussions and proposals do not appear to have abandoned it. Diem proposed in 1945 the setting up of an Olympic Academy in the USA, whereas in 1947, Ioannis Ketseas, then a member of the IOC, lodged a proposal for the founding of an Olympic Academy in Greece. In 1949, the Hellenic Olympic Committee (at that time the Olympic Games Committee) lodged an official proposal with the IOC on the foundation of an Olympic Academy. In the "memorandum for the foundation of an Olympic Academy in Greece", lodged by Ketseas in 1949 with the IOC, it is determined that it would function on an annual basis, in the vacation months of each summer and that senior officials of the Olympic institutions and experts and students from all over the world would be invited. The subjects of the curriculum are classified in the memorandum in three categories: the history of the Olympic Games, the theory of sport and physical education, and the "scholastic foundation of physical education" (philosophy, arts, etc.), in conjunction with practical sport exercise.<sup>25</sup> Ketseas further proposed the Academy should be established in Ancient Olympia, where "teachers, lecturers and students

will live in simple conditions in the appropriate natural environment and in the same training camp, in a life in harmony with their lofty mission".<sup>26</sup>

In the thinking of Ketseas, the role of the Academy was defined rather as a place of education for a sporting elite, a new "generation of sports leaders" who would save the values of Olympism from the danger of "materialism".<sup>27</sup> Ketseas's aristocratic ideology is apparent in the profile of the IOA which he envisaged. As Alexander Kitroeff writes, "as a royalist, [Ketseas] personified the committee's ties with the palace and had a very traditionalist and conservative view of the classical heritage".<sup>28</sup> Thus his attitude stressed the antiquarian rather than the modernising version of Olympism. At this point he was probably closer to German thought and Diem than to Coubertin. This ideological affinity probably played an important role in the two men's collaboration. In any event, in a letter to Diem in 1961, Ketseas recalled their meeting in Athens in 1934, when they "realized that they shared the same ideas on what

25. J. Ketseas, 'Memorandum for the foundation of an Olympic Academy in Greece', Athens, January 1949, IOA Archive.

26. J. Ketseas, "Mémoire pour la fondation d'une Académie Olympique en Grèce" in Müller, op. cit., 84-85.

27. Pappas, *History and Development*, op. cit. (n. 4), 29.

28. A. Kitroeff, *Wrestling with the Ancients. Modern Greek Identity and the Olympics*, New York, Greekworks.com, 2004, 121.



The President of the German Olympic Committee, Willi Daume, presents Ioannis Ketseas with an amphora containing the spiritual testament of Carl Diem, 1964 [IOA Archive, K1.88]

was going wrong on the evolution of the International Olympic Games and on the growing neglect of the moral and paedagogic principles of the institution of the Olympic Games".<sup>29</sup>

Diem and Ketseas also shared, it seems, the idea of 'missionaries' of the Olympic ideal. The Academy was designed from the very beginning as a place for training

propagandists of Olympism who would take the spiritual fire of Olympia and would spread it to the rest of the world. We can, in fact, identify many analogies in Diem's conception of the Academy with the Olympic flame and with ideological propaganda.<sup>30</sup>

The Academy, in the thinking of the Greeks, was not a self-sufficient institution, but belonged within a wider role which they wanted Greece to play in the

29. Letter of Ketseas to Diem, 15.12.1961 in Müller, *Die olympische Idee*, op. cit. (n. 2), Quellsammlung, 130.

30. See Pappas, op. cit.



# SPORTHOCHSCHULE KÖLN



KÖLN-MÜNGERSDORF, DEN 1st. 2. 1961  
STADION - TEL. 391251, 391874

Mr.  
Jean Th. Ketsens  
Dion. Areopagitou 27  
Athens/Greece

Dear Mr. Ketsens,

Mr. Daume and I we find, that there remains not too much time for the invitations to the inauguration and the Olympic Academy at Olympia. At the latest they had to be dispatched during February, perhaps only as first announcement. Can we write them with pointing out that we are acting in agreement with the National Olympic Committee of Greece? Later on the official invitations will be send with the signature of your Olympic Committee and the German one.

Mr. Halt and I we will arrive at Athens appr. 20th March for discussing all problems.

I myself have to leave for East-Asia on 26th March. So we have one week time.

I am of the hope, that the members of the Olympic Committee of Greece are able to stay with us this week. We intend furthermore a travel to Olympia by bus.

Prof. Kunze, who stays also at Athens during this time, is prepared to accompany us for Olympia.

Paleologos informed me that the tent-round now is planned at Platanos.

I am asking for the agreement of yourself and your olympic friends for our meeting in the days of 20th - 26th March.

In fact it is not easy for us to find the time for such a travel.

Mr. Halt and I we intend to ask for reservation at the Hotel Grand Bretagne.

The treasurer of the German Olympic Committee, Mr. Dr. Jannsen, manager of the Frankfurter Bank wants also to accompany us. He is acquainted with the Royal family.

Looking forward with pleasure to your soon reply

I am yours

*Heim*

Postcheck-Konto Köln 122080 - Giro-Konto Stadtparkasse Köln 12434

[IOA Archive, K52]

Olympic movement. Antiquity was a point of reference, and the location of ancient Olympia undoubtedly carried the necessary symbolic weight for the relevant initiatives. In post-War Greece and in the context of the Cold War, the political and ideological dominance of the victors in the Greek Civil War favoured initiatives which emphasised links with antiquity and the tradition of the classical heritage. The 'return to the Olympic roots'<sup>31</sup>

was, consequently, a desideratum with a double orientation – towards the interior and towards the exterior of the country. In the interior, it was being incorporated into the educational system, the dominant ideology and political rhetoric, while abroad it was being made a tool for the international activation of Greece in a field plagued by commercialisation, professionalism and political divisions.

31. Kitroeff, op. cit., 123.

**TABLE 1**  
**Meetings of the IOC Commission for the IOA**

	YEAR	DATE	PLACE
1.	1967	4 May	Tehran
2.	1967	3 October	Lausanne
3.	1968	22 August	Olympia
4.	1968	6 October	Camino Real
5.	1969	12 September	Olympia
6.	1970	9 May	Amsterdam
7.	1970	25 August	Lausanne
8.	1971	12 September	Luxembourg
9.	1971	3 December	Lausanne
10.	1972	28 May	Lausanne
11.	1972	17 August	Munich
12.	1973	2 May	Lausanne
13.	1973	1 October	Varna
14.	1974	17 October	Vienna
15.	1975	15 January	Château de Vidy
16.	1975	18 May	Lausanne
17.	1976	31 January	Innsbruck
18.	1976	20 July	Montreal
19.	1976	1 December	Lausanne
20.	1977	3 December	Lausanne
21.	1978	24 January	Tunis
22.	1978	8 July	Olympia
23.	1978	24 October	Lausanne
24.	1979	23 July	Olympia
25.	1979	26 November	Lausanne
26.	1980	25 August	Lausanne
27.	1981	23 November	Lausanne
28.	1982	15 November	Lausanne
29.	1983	8 July	Olympia
30.	1984	2 August	Los Angeles
31.	1985	6 July	Olympia
32.	1985	26 November	Lausanne
33.	1986	4 July	Athens
34.	1987	2 July	Athens
35.	1988	30 June	Athens
36.	1989	28 June	Athens
37.	1990	20 June	Athens
38.	1991	11 June	Birmingham
39.	1992	16 July	Barcelona



## International or Greek? The IOA under the aegis of the IOC

The operation of an international Olympic institution on Greek soil would not have been possible without the co-operation of the central organ of Olympism, the International Olympic Committee. The IOC's moral support did in fact contribute considerably to the success of the IOA as an international centre for the study of the Olympic Games and the Olympic movement. This support took on a specific form on two occasions: first, on 9 June 1939, when the IOC, at its 36th Session, agreed to undertake the 'patronage' of this institution "which corresponds to the Olympic ideal"; and, second, in April 1949, at the IOC's Session in Rome, when the proposal of Ioannis Ketseas was unanimously accepted.

The most official linkage of the IOC with the IOA was, however, achieved after the founding of the Academy, when, in 1962, a special commission was set up to serve as a link between the two.<sup>32</sup> There is, however, no record of this commission being active, and if it ever functioned, it is most likely that it functioned only spasmodically. A new commission to serve as a link was created five years later. On 12 April 1967,<sup>33</sup> by a special circular, the IOC set up a 'Commission for the IOA' with seven members,<sup>34</sup> to whom the two Greek members of the IOC, the then King of Greece Constantine and Pyrrhos Lappas, were added. Ivar Emil Vind from Denmark, 46 at the time, a high-jump champion, and a member of the IOC since 1959, was appointed President of the Commission. At its first meeting on 4 May 1967, in Tehran, Vind made it clear that its role was "the co-ordination of the actions of the IOC and the IOA and the provision of advice and assistance for the even better achievement of the objectives of the IOA".<sup>35</sup>

---

32. Ketseas was appointed president of this commission, and its members were: Armand Massard from France, first Vice-President of the IOC; the Marquis of Exeter from the UK, second Vice-President of the IOC; Ivar Emil Vind, and Giorgio de Stefani, members of the IOC for Denmark and Italy, respectively. See Pappas, *op. cit.*, 67.

33. According to Ketseas's report on 23 September 1964, the IOA operated "under the aegis of the IOC, which has appointed a Commission relative to its affairs", *Report to the International Olympic Committee on the Fourth Session of the International Olympic Academy*, Olympia 8-23.8.1964, 2, IOA Archive.

34. The first members of the Commission were: Sir Ade Ademola from Nigeria; Dr Ryotaro Azuma from Japan; Jean Have lange from Brazil, Juan Antonio Samaranch from Spain; Alexandru Siperco from Romania; Giorgio de Stefani from Italy, and Ivar Emil Vind from Denmark.

35. *Minutes of the Meeting of the IOC Commission on the*

The IOC Commission functioned continuously from 1967 to 1992<sup>36</sup> and met between one and three times a year, usually in Lausanne and Olympia (when the IOA was in operation), but also in other cities of the world (see Table 1). Vind remained President of the Commission until his death, in 1977, when Mohamed Mzali from Tunisia, a professor of philosophy who had studied in Paris and had been a minister a number of times between 1968 and 1980, and Prime Minister from 1980 to 1986, became President. He was also President of the National Olympic Committee of Tunisia (1962-1986), a member of the IOC from 1965, and its Vice-President from 1976 to 1980. He remained President of the Commission until July 1987, when he resigned and was succeeded by the then Vice-President, Nikos Filaratos (who had been elected President of the IOA the previous year).

The Commission, originally composed of nine members, had its membership reduced to five in 1970. At the 9th Session (3 December 1971), the then King Constantine proposed the expansion of the Commission by the addition of new members and that the President of the IOA should be a full member. The proposal was accepted, and at the next meeting, Epa meinondas Petralias, President of the IOA since 1970, took part in his capacity as a member and not as an invited observer. With the change of President in 1975, when Achilleas Tzartzanos took office, Petralias ceased to be a regular member of the Commission (but nor did the then President, Tzartzanos, become one, though he was present at the meetings); he returned to being a regular member in 1976, after having been elected a member of the IOC a year before. The rapid replacement of Tzartzanos by Nikolaos Nissiotis as President of the IOA (1976) did not allow the former time to serve on the Commission. Pyrrhos Lappas, a member of the IOC from 1965, was the only Greek who was continuously a regular member of the Commission – from 1967 to his death in 1980.

---

*International Olympic Academy*, Tehran, 4 May 1967, 1, IOA Archive: K694β.

36. At that time, the IOC Commission was amalgamated with the Commission for Olympic Education; this was followed by another amalgamation in 2000, with the Commission for Culture. Today, the Committee for Culture and Olympic Education functions.

first time in 1976, in the capacity of General Secretary of the HOC; as has already been noted, he was appointed its President in 1987 and remained in office until its abolition in 1992.

The members of the Commission were drawn from every continent, thus ensuring representativeness and giving expression to the range of the Olympic movement. It is, nevertheless, interesting that representatives of the major powers in sport and of the powerful countries generally did not serve on the Commission. There are no members, for example, from the USA, Britain, France, Germany, or Russia. Furthermore, some of the members were active and conscientious in their attendance at meetings, whereas others rarely put in an appearance. Thus a small group was created which was the real link between the IOC and the Academy, and, by extension, between the IOC and Greece. Apart from the two successive Presidents of the Commission, the Romanian Alexandru Siperco, member of the Commission from 1967 to 1980, and the Italian Giorgio de Stefani, member from 1967 to 1989, belonged to this group. Siperco was born in 1920, and was President of the Romanian National Olympic Committee from 1952 to 1959, and a member of the IOC from 1955. A tennis champion and President of the Italian Tennis Federation, de Stefani was born in Verona in 1904, and was a member of the IOC from 1951 and a member of its Executive Committee from 1964 to 1968.

From 1976, the meetings were attended by Monique Berlioux, Director of the IOC, a strong personality who played a central role on the IOC for many years, and who was the first woman to deliver a speech on the Pnyx at the opening ceremony of the IOA Session in 1983. The presence of members of the IOC in the summers at Olympia may be regarded as an indication of the importance for the Olympic movement which the IOA gradually took on.<sup>37</sup> Moreover, Samaranch, in his capacity as President of the IOC, was present at two meetings of the Commission in Athens, in 1987 and 1988. This was the first time that a President of the IOC had attended the meetings, a fact which again confirms the importance which the IOA had now acquired for the IOC, as well as Samaranch's personal interest, of course. In any event, the regular subsidisation of the IOA by Olympic Solidarity began in 1987. For many years, the IOC's support for the Academy had been of an exclusively moral character and without any kind of financial assistance.



Nikos Filaretos, President of the IOA (1986-1993, 1997-2005)  
[IOA Archive, K41.153]

In 1978, Nikolaos Nissiotis became a member of the IOC in place of Petralias, who had died in 1977. Nissiotis was a Professor of the Philosophy of Religion at the University of Athens and, from 1965, Director of the Research Centre of the World Council of Churches in Geneva. From that point until his death in 1986, Nissiotis was a regular member of the Commission, and in his capacity as President of the IOA. Nikos Filaretos attended the meetings of the Commission for the

37. Cf. Vathi, "Olympic university", op. cit. (n. 12).



Joint session of the Ephoria of the IOA and the IOC Commission for the IOA (1972). From left to right: E. Panas, General Director of the IOA, A. Siperco, Lord Killanin, First Vice-President of the IOC, I. Vind, President of the IOC Commission for the IOA  
[IOA Archive, K3.79]



Session of the IOC Commission for the IOA, Olympia 1982, presided over by M. Mzali, flanked by Monique Berlioux, N. Nissiotis, O. Szymiczek, G. de Stefani and the secretary of the session [IOA Archive, K7.62]

**TABLE 2**  
**IOC Commission for the IOA**

MEMBERS	COUNTRY	YEARS	SESSIONS ATTENDED*
ADEMOLA Sir Adetokunbo	Nigeria	1967-1969	1, 4
AHMAD Abdul-Muttaleb	Kuwait	1986-1992	33, 35, 36, 39
AZUMA Ryotaro	Japan	1967-1970	1, 4
BELLO Fernando F. Lima	Portugal	1990	37
CONSTANTINE former King of Greece	Greece	1967-1973	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
DIBOS Ivan	Peru	1988-1992	35, 36, 37
FILARETOS Nikos	Greece	1987-1992	18, 21, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39
FORD Michelle	Australia	1987	34
GNECCHI-RUSCONE Francesco	Italy	1981	27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36
GEORGE Prince of Hanover	Greece	1968-1970	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
HAVELANGE Jean	Brazil	1967-1969	1
ISAVA-FONSECA Flor	Venezuela	1981-1991	29, 30, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37
KEMPA Heinz	Germany	1990	39
LAPPAS Pyrrhos	Greece	1967-1979	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 16, 19
LOPEZ Anselmo	Spain	1988-1992	35, 36, 37, 39
MENDOZA CARRASQUILLA Fidel	Colombia	1989-1990	
MONTGOMERY Peter	Australia	1990	37, 39
MZALI Mohamed	Tunisia	1977-1988	20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 32, 33
NISSIOTIS Nikolaos	Greece	1978-1986	20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 30, 32, 33
NYANGWESO Francis Major General	Uganda	1988-1990	

\* The numbers of the meetings refer to the numbering in Table 1. The attendances of the members of the Commission at the meetings are derived from the printed minutes. However, in those instances where the minutes have not been located (sessions nos 14, 26, 28, 31 and 38), or where only the manuscript version of them has been preserved, there is no list of those present. Nevertheless, in spite of the omissions in the archival sources, the information is sufficient for us to have a picture of the part played by each member in the activities of the Commission, on the basis of the last column in Table 2.

**TABLE 2 (continued)**  
**IOC Commission for the IOA**

MEMBERS	COUNTRY	YEARS	SESSIONS ATTENDED*
PALEOLOGOS Cleanthis	Greece	1969, 1978	5, 22
PEPER Roberto Guillermo	Argentina	1983-1988	29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35
PETRALIAS Epameinondas	Greece	1972-1976	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 17, 18, 19
RECZEK Wladzimierz	Poland	1980-1996	27, 29, 32, 34, 36
READ Ken	Canada	1989	36
RENKE Marian	Poland	1983	29
RIECKEHOFF German	Puerto Rico	1990	37
SAMARANCH Juan **	Spain	1967-1970, 1988, 1989, 1992	1, 4, 5
Antonio			
SIMEONI Sara	Italy	1986	33
SIPERCO Alexandru	Romania	1967-1980	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25
STEFANI Giorgio de	Italy	1967-1989	1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35
SZYMICZEK Otto ***	Greece	1972-1986	1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 30, 32, 33
TALLBERG Peter	Finland	1988	35
TOUNY Ahmed Eldemerdash	Egypt	1980-1988	27, 30, 32
TZARTZANOS Achilleas	Greece	1975-1976	15, 16, 17, 19
VIND Ivar Emil	Denmark	1967-1976	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
WU Ching-Kuo	Chinese Taipei	1989-1991	36, 37
ZERGUINI Mohamed	Algeria	1986-1992	29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37

\* See above, 34.

\*\* Samaranch was a member of the Commission only during the period 1967-1970.

\*\*\* Szymiczek was not a member of the Commission but was present at its meetings.



[IOA Archive, K3]



[IOA Archive K3]

At the meetings of the Commission, a basic subject of discussion was the IOA's programme in the summer months. The Ephoria of the IOA submitted to the Commission the programme for each year and the list of speakers for approval. The subjects of the sessions were decided upon at the meetings of the Committee and were submitted to the current President of the IOC for his approval. There was an extensive discussion of the content of the lectures and of the standard of the participants. There was a wish for greater control over the content of the lectures, but at the same time it was noted that a drift into censorship would be dangerous. A standing concern, and the subject of many discussions, was the educational orientation of the IOA in relation to the Olympic movement. The view was expressed that the IOA could contribute to the study and elaboration of new concepts in the field of Olympism. Siperco, moreover, considered this task of elaborating an Olympic doctrine exceptionally important, because "although Olympism is a movement which is expanding, it lacks a doctrinal basis".<sup>38</sup> Another constant subject of discussion was the criteria for selection of the participants. It was reiterated that there should be strict limitations on age –that the participants should not be older than 35– and on the level of academic attainments and knowledge of languages.

In the early years, 1967 and 1968, probably because of the political situation in Greece, complaints appear in the minutes of the IOC Commission about the limited response of National Olympic Committees to the invitations of the IOA. For example, at the meeting of 22 August 1968, Prince George of Hanover, then President of the IOA, stated that of the 127 National Olympic Committees, only 40 had responded, and of these, 20 had declined,<sup>39</sup> in spite of the fact that five free places had been offered to each National Olympic Committee.<sup>40</sup>

In general, it appears that the operation of the Commission went through different phases. In the 1970s, it took the form of a small group of four or five people. It was more dependent upon the IOC and, probably because of the political situation in Greece, the Greek side did not play any regulatory role. Nor is it any accident that at that point a crisis arose in the relations between the IOC and the IOA, as will be explained.

38. CIO, *Procès-verbal de la réunion de la commission pour l'Académie Olympique Internationale*, Olympie, le 23 juillet 1979, 5.

<sup>39</sup> CIO, *Procès-verbal de la Commission pour l'Académie Olympique*, 22 août 1968, 3, IOA Archive: K6943.

40. Minutes of the Meeting of the IOC Commission for the International Olympic Academy, Camino Real, 6 October 1968, 3, IOA Archive: K694a. According to Vind, 43 National Olympic Committees replied, but only 18 sent students in 1968.



Mohamed Mzali, President of the IOC Commission for the IOA, 1977-1987  
[IOA Archive, K4.68]

in the next section. In the 1980s, the Commission expanded to include more members, as well as representatives of international federations, National Olympic Committees and sportsmen and women, as well as of Olympic Solidarity, while acquiring greater geographical representativeness. At the same time, the first woman member, the Venezuelan Flor Isava-Fonseca, was appointed. It seems, moreover, at that time that the IOA was increasingly being identified with Greece, given that the meetings of the Commission now took place regularly in Athens.<sup>41</sup> Greek representation on the Commission was also stronger because the presidency had now

been entrusted to the President of the IOA, Nikos Filaratos. It is observable, however, that after 1981, newly-elected, rather than old, members of the IOC were appointed members of the Commission.

In 1978, when Mzali was President, the question arose of the use at the IOA –apart from French, English, and Greek– of Arabic. This language was, in fact, used in summer 1978, with an interpretation service funded by Arab countries. But the possibility of Arabic being established permanently as a fourth language was viewed with scepticism by Berlioux and the IOC, in spite of the promotion of the issue by Mzali.<sup>42</sup>

41. At Ancient Olympia, on the sidelines of the IOA sessions, joint meetings of the Ephoria of the IOA and the IOC/IOA Commission were held and minutes were kept, of which I have located those for the years 1968-1975.

42. Cf. CIO, *Procès-verbal de la réunion de la commission pour l'Académie Olympique Internationale*, Lausanne, le 24 octobre 1978, annexe 3; CIO, *Procès-verbal...*, le 23 juillet 1979, op. cit., 4; CIO, *Procès-verbal de la réunion de la commission pour l'Académie Olympique Internationale*, Athènes, le 2 juillet 1987, 7.



Lecturers and participants of the 6th Session at the Pierre de Coubertin monument, 1966 [IOA Archive, K2.110]



Commemorative photograph of lecturers and participants of the 9th Session, 1969 [IOA Archive, K2.133]

## The crisis of 1968-1971

The crisis in the relations between the IOC and the IOA arose from an internal conflict which manifested itself in 1968, approximately a year after the imposition, by coup d'état, of dictatorship in Greece. This was a conflict between the President of the IOA, Prince George of Hanover, on the one hand, and the Greek government and the HOC, on the other. The fact that George was the uncle of the King of Greece naturally further complicated the issue, since Constantine who, with all the royal family, had fled abroad in December 1967, after the failure of a royal counter-coup, continued, in spite of his exile and his conflict with the regime, to maintain friendships and close relations with figures in Greek sport. He had, in any event, been a member of the IOC since 1963. There can be no doubt, however, that in the political situation of the time, George was an unwanted 'inheritance' from the pre-dictatorship period of which the Greek government wished to rid itself. At the same time, the military regime in Greece at the international level was viewed with ambivalence and reserve, if not with outright rejection. In spite of the fact that American policy supported the regime of 21 April 1967 –as emerges from historical research<sup>43</sup>– Western Europe isolated it, the decision on the expulsion of Greece from the Council of Europe in January 1969 being an action typical of this attitude. Consequently, the crisis in the relations between the IOC and the IOA at that period should be interpreted within the framework of the international relations of the Greek dictatorial regime.

The wish of the dictatorship to control completely the whole of the state institutions conflicted with the stance of George, who, as President of the IOA and because of this capacity *ex officio* member of the IOC since 1966, followed a personal strategy, expressing views which provoked a strong reaction on the part of the leaders of Greek sport. George was of German nationality; he was born in 1915 in Braunschweig and in 1946 married Princess Sophia of Greece. During his presidency at the IOA, he submitted two proposals which were illustrative of his positions on sport, and of the fact that he was out of touch with –or was simply indifferent to– the realities of the situation in Greece. More specifically, in 1968, he put

forward a proposal for the omission of the national anthem and the abolition of the national flag at the Olympic Games, while in 1971, he proposed the setting up of a Coubertin Institute for modern Olympic education.<sup>44</sup>

George's first proposal was based on his conviction that the Olympic Games were in danger of losing "their smoothing and uniting effect on humanity through the growing influence of political trends" and because of "false national ambition". Instead, then, of the playing of the national anthem and the raising of the flag of the Olympic victors' country, he proposed, at the medal-awarding ceremony, that each victor should be saluted on a purely individual basis, and not as a representative of a particular nation.<sup>45</sup> This proposal called forth many objections world-wide, as well as in Greece, as was to be expected. It was felt that such a proposal would harm Greece's interests, because with the abolition of the national flags, Greece would lose the privilege of its team parading first at the Olympic Games opening ceremony.

George's second proposal, on the setting up of an institute for modern Olympic education without doubt antagonised the IOA. In its justification, the inadequacy of the IOA in the field of Olympic education was alleged, while the duties of the proposed foundation clearly overlapped with the activities of the Academy. This fact did not, of course, escape the notice of the Greek officials, who drew up a note of reply, in which they asserted the following (*verbatim*):

Adaptation, by the International Olympic Committee, of the proposal of Prince of Hanover, will cause dispersion of efforts because a foundation of such an Institute is obvious that will confuse, for not saying overshadow, the purpose of the Academy which then will be of minor significance and reduced authority.<sup>46</sup>

The main ideological polarisation in the quarrel between George and the HOC was between internationalism and nationalism. In a regime with extreme nationalistic views such as the dictatorship of the Colonels,

44. 'Establishment of a Department of Education by the IOC', 25 February 1971: IOC Archive, Lausanne, file: Hanover, Georges Wilhelm.

45. Jean Marion Leiper, *The International Olympic Committee: the Pursuit of Olympism 1894-1970*, PhD thesis, Department of Physical Education, The University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta 1976, 389-390.

46. Anonymous note in English which accompanies the 'Proposal of Prince George of Hanover', 25 February 1971, IOA Archive. This proposal was, however, withdrawn by George himself. See CIO, *Procès-verbal de la réunion de la commission pour l'Académie Olympique Internationale*, Luxembourg, le 12 septembre 1971, 8.



*Proposal of George of Hanover, 1968*

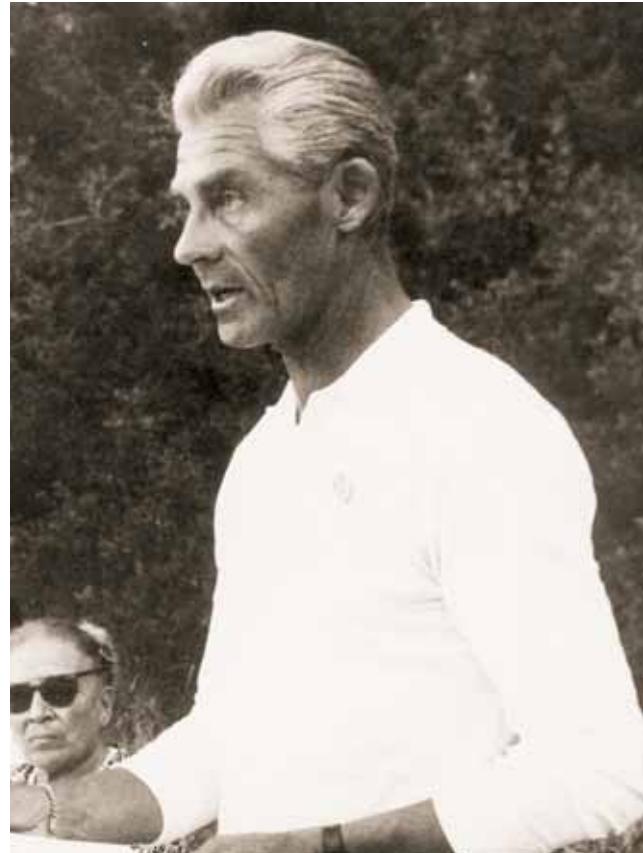
The Olympic Games are in great danger of losing their soothing and uniting effect on humanity through the growing influence of political trends. [...]

I should like to underline my opinion by relating a few Olympic events which indicate that thinking in terms of national prestige threatens again to confuse the objectives of the Games:

- when governments make entering a team dependant upon the absence of another nation;
- when government representatives at the parade of nations rise from their seats only when their own national flag is shown;
- when a country's government takes the defence of its athletes who were eliminated for offending the rules against the international jury;
- when members of the jury give unusually high votes to their fellow countrymen, i.e. particularly low ones to the other competitors;

then the reasons are:

- abuse of the Olympic movement towards national and political ends and false national ambition.



George of Hanover, President of the IOA (1966-1970)

there was obviously no room for toleration of internationalist positions.<sup>47</sup> At the meetings of the Plenum of the HOC, George was accused of presenting his personal views to the IOC as views of the IOA and the HOC and that he lived permanently abroad, which caused problems in the operation of the Academy and confusion as to where its headquarters were (since the President of the IOA used the address of his home in Germany in correspondence). The words of Konstantinos Aslanidis, General Secretary for Sport, are typical:

As a Greek, my thought has been that we must make every effort for the IOA to be Greek and to remain Greek, thus helping Greece, in its turn, by projecting it internationally. If the Prince remains as President of the IOA, this will be damaging for Greece if he does not adapt himself to the Greek spirit [...]. The Prince administers the IOA as a German,

47. George was expressly accused of holding views which included "points of internationalism which come into conflict with those prevailing as to sport in Greece" (Konstantinos Aslanidis), Minutes of the Plenum of the HOC, 71st Meeting, 3 December 1968, *Book of Minutes of the HOC*, vol. 11, 106-107.



Theodosios Papathanasiadis, President of the HOC, 1972  
[IOA Archive, K3.78]

thinking like a German, and I fear that in such circumstances we shall arrive one day at the point where the Olympic spirit will disappear from the place where it was first born.<sup>48</sup>

The relations between the President of the IOA, George of Hanover, and the Greek government reached their most serious crisis in 1969. Articles against George in Greek newspapers claimed that he was a “foreigner” and that his views on the Olympic Games were damaging to Greece.<sup>49</sup> At the meeting of the Commission of the IOC for the IOA, also attended by members of the Ephoria of the IOA, at Olympia on 12 September 1969, the collision between George and Aslanidis, General Secretary for Sport, became apparent.<sup>50</sup> The conflict

48. Minutes of the Plenum of the HOC, 10th Meeting, 26 August 1969, *Book of Minutes*, op. cit., 180.

49. N. Baltatzis-Mavrokordatos, ‘Sports professionalism’, *Estia* newspaper, 26.7.1969, IOA Archive: K318.

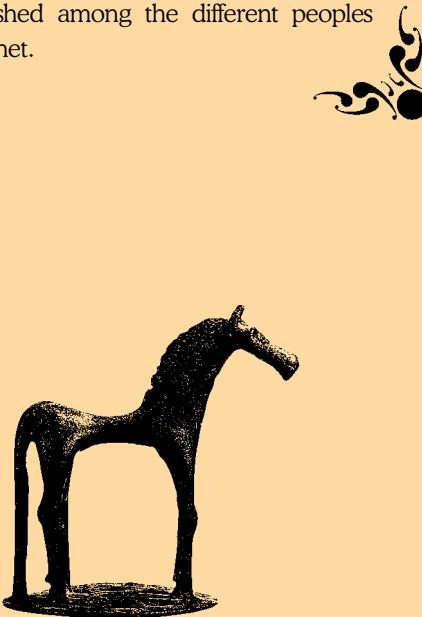
50. *Minutes of the meeting of the Commission of the International Olympic Committee for the International Olympic Academy held in Olympia-Greece on the 12th of September 1969 at 5 p.m.*, IOA Archive: K694β. Apart from the Greeks, Vind and Samaranch were present at this meeting.

*The view of the President of the HOC, Theodosios Papathanasiadis, on George's proposal*

No Greek should even think of the abolition of the National colours. Because thanks to these colours, Greece has the place of honour among all the states on earth and its flag parades first at the opening and closing of the International Olympic Games, it is raised at the conclusion of the Games and our National Anthem is discreetly played.

In any event, the retention of the National colours gives rise to rivalry between the different Nationalities, and I do not consider that the raising of the flag and the playing of the National Anthem of the country to which the Olympic gold medallist belongs is contrary to the Ancient Olympic Spirit, because in those days also the independent Cities took part in the contests as separate States and honoured their Olympic victors by the demolition of the walls of the city to which they belonged.

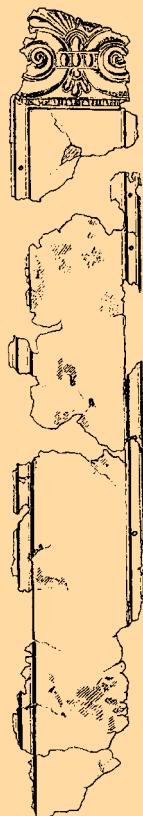
Merely to watch the International Olympic Games witnesses to the fact that there is a very fervent National spirit among the contestants and friendly competition is created which is not contrary to the purpose of the games – that a spirit of brotherhood should prevail among the Nations and that peace should be established among the different peoples of our planet.





*Resignation of George of Hanover,  
24 April 1970*

I was elected a member *ex officio* of the IOC in my capacity as President of the IOA. After, in January 1969, my term of office as President of the IOA had been renewed for four years, the Greek government decided, in November of the same year, that the Constitution did not permit an alien to hold the position of President of the IOA, that the state of affairs would no longer be tolerated, and that the new 'Special Law on the IOA' will not permit an alien to have this position. The HOC, in implementing this decision, has declared my election null and void and has proceeded to the election of a new President. Given the above, the legal reasons for my election as an *ex officio* member of the IOC have ceased to exist. I hereby, and without any intention of influencing the decision of the Executive Committee on this, submit my resignation as a member of the IOC.



concerned issues of the power of the then President of the IOA, with two salient points: first, the information booklet on the IOA, in editing which George had ignored –in the view of the General Secretary for Sport–Aslanidis's proposals, and, second, the separation of powers between the President and the Dean of the IOA – as Pyrrhos Lappas allowed it to be understood. Thus the first obvious front of the crisis was between George and the HOC. This crisis, however, very soon also drew into it the relations between the HOC and the IOC.<sup>51</sup>

The new Constitution which was imposed by the dictatorship in September 1968 and ratified by a referendum of dubious validity laid down, *inter alia*, that members of the royal family were not permitted to hold positions in organisations. According, furthermore, to Greek legislation, no alien could take part in the administration of a Greek institution. By virtue of the constitutional regulation, the Plenum of the HOC decided upon the replacement of George at its meeting on 30 September 1969. The possibility of consequences for relations with the IOC was also examined at this meeting, but Aslanidis's argument was that the HOC decided for the IOA, since only Greece bore the financial cost of the operation of the IOA.<sup>52</sup> The HOC therefore proceeded to the election to the position of President of the IOA of its then second Vice-President, Epameinondas Petralias. In a letter addressed to the President of the IOC (signed by the President, Theodosios Papathanasiadis, and the General Secretary, Epameinondas Petralias), it described the new state of affairs, attributing the change of President "exclusively to legal considerations".<sup>53</sup> The exiled King Constantine had also tried to intervene in developments, without success, as can be seen from a letter addressed to him by Lieutenant-General Theodosios Papathanasiadis, President of the HOC, on 16 November 1969. Papathanasiadis, in this letter, though acknowledging "the very best of intentions" on the part of George, imputed to him the fact that collaboration of the Greeks responsible

51. Many episodes of lesser or greater significance demonstrate the tension and distrust which existed between the parties involved. Typical of the existing climate was the episode which arose over an article in the Italian newspaper *Il Giornale d'Italia*, on 2-3 January 1970, according to which the next session of the IOA would be held in Düsseldorf. This article provoked an official demarche of the IOA to the IOC, in which George was accused of aiming at the "dissolution of the IOA". This was followed by a denial by George and correspondence between the three parties involved – the IOC, the IOA, and George. On the issue, see IOC Archive, Lausanne, file: Hanover, Georges Wilhelm von.

52. Minutes of the Plenum of the HOC, 12th meeting, 30 September 1969, *Book of Minutes*, op. cit., 212.

53. Müller, *Die olympische Idee*, op. cit. (n. 2), Quellsammlung, 159-160.

for Olympism with him had not been easy because, among other reasons, he had differing "philosophical approaches" to the aim of the Academy, which raised questions of "national honour".<sup>54</sup>

These events forced George to submit his resignation (20 February 1970). The fact that neither the IOC nor its Commission responsible had been informed in good time of these changes gave rise to great displeasure and a crisis in the relations between the IOC and Greece. At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the IOC in Lausanne (19-20 February 1970), attended by George and Vind, it was resolved that "a way should be found to ensure that the IOC has systematic influence upon the Academy", and the HOC was asked to clarify the position of the Greek government.<sup>55</sup> The issue remained pending, awaiting action on the Greek side, while George's resignation was not accepted by the IOC.<sup>56</sup>

At the next meeting of the Commission, in Amsterdam (9 May 1970), Ivar Vind gave an account of the situation so far which concerned the President of the IOA and, above all, he described the complications in the co-operation between the IOC and the HOC, centring upon the administration of the IOA. The meeting in Amsterdam was crucial, because it coincided with the 69th Session of the IOC, at which the issue of the IOA was also discussed, while Ivar Vind appeared determined to give up his mandate as President of the Commission and its members to resign. This was the culmination of the crisis.

Present at the meeting on the Greek side were Constantine, George, Lappas, Petralias, and the Dean of the IOA, Otto Szymczek. Constantine, elected in 1963, and Pyrrhos Lappas, elected in 1965, were members of the IOC representing Greece. Petralias's statement, at the beginning of the meeting, set the tone of the Greek stance:

I wish, on behalf of the Olympic Committee of Greece, as President of the IOA, to declare the complete devotion and loyalty of the IOA to the initial mandate of the IOC. The sole aim of the IOA is the study and further dissemination of the Olympic Principles as those were established by Baron de Coubertin, his associates and successors. Never has there been the slightest intention to do otherwise, and it is regrettable that such an impression has arisen. I would like to confirm our

54. Letter of Papathanasiadis to Constantine, 16.11.1969, IOA Archive: K318.

55. *Minutes of a meeting of the Commission for the International Olympic Academy, Amsterdam, 9th May 1970*, 4.

56. Letter of Avery Brundage to Prince George of Hanover, 6.3.1970, IOC Archive, Lausanne, file: Hanover, Georges Wilhelm von.

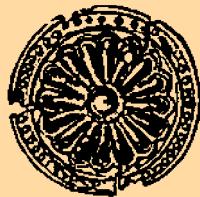


*Letter of Ivar Vind to Epameinondas Petralias, 24 March 1970*

It must have occurred to you and Mr. Szymczek after the meeting in Lausanne that the IOC Executive Board was not very happy about the situation which has arisen after the 21st November, 1969. It was clearly stated that unfortunately a wall has been built up between the Academy and the IOC, and it was up to you and your Greek colleagues to find a way out of this very unfortunate and disagreeable situation.

If this splendid Academy of yours shall develop to be the educational center of the Olympic Movement its functioning must be based on international recognition and the moral support of the IOC. As the situation is now I deeply regret that the IOC can be of rather limited help as its only rights according to your views are to decide if a new President will be elected a member ex officio.

I have both said and written that the IOC never intended to rule the Academy, however, the patronage of the IOC is not given for the sake of formality, it should at least inspire and develop mutual understanding and good will between the IOC and the IOA. For this endeavour I am sure you will understand that friendly co-operation is needed in true respect to everybody concerned, and in my opinion it will be advisable for you one way or the other to re-establish the confidence between the IOA and the IOC.





From the IOA premises [photograph: Vassiliki Tzachrista]

belief that the IOA serves the objectives of the IOC for the benefit and development of the Olympic movement.<sup>57</sup>

Discussions and contacts which apparently took place on the sidelines and which, for obvious reasons, have not been recorded in the minutes induced the IOC to await developments. Its Executive Committee decided on 14 May 1970 to give its “provisional patronage” to the 10th Session of the IOA and that the whole situation should be reviewed after the summer. In the meantime, George’s resignation remained pending as did the Academy’s entitlement to be known as the International Olympic Academy.<sup>58</sup> At the same meeting, the IOC appointed a new committee with a few members for

the next session of the IOA; of the old members, Vind, de Stefani, Siperco, and Lappas were included, together with Constantine. The new President of the IOA would belong to it as a rapporteur and without voting rights.<sup>59</sup> By this decision, the functioning of the IOC Commission for the IOA was obviously suspended. The new committee met on 15 May.

The climate in relations between the IOC and Greece, after Amsterdam, was cool. As early as 20 May, Vind sent a letter to Petralias seeking:

- 1) Copy of the exact wording (in English) of the existing Greek Law which does not provide for an alien to participate in the administration of any Greek Institution.

57. ‘Έκθεσις διά την 69ην Σύνοδον της Διεθνούς Ολυμπιακής Επιτροπής [Report on the 69th Session of the International Olympic Committee]’, Athens, 29 May 1970, 3, IOA Archive, K318.

58. The IOC decision: IOC Archive, Lausanne, file: Vind, Ivar. See also Müller, op. cit., 162.

59. Nevertheless, Vind disputed whether such a decision had been taken and in a letter to the President of the IOC, Avery Brundage, he asked to be informed whether any such oral promise had been given to Petralias: letter of Vind to Brundage, 29.6.1970: IOC Archive, Lausanne, file: Vind, Ivar.

- 2) Copy of the law (in English) which was drafted in the early spring 1969 by the Hellenic Olympic Committee anticipating that an alien –by exception– could be elected President of the International Olympic Academy.
- 3) Copy (in English) of the official rejection of this application (2) by the “Preparatory Committee of Laws” in Greece.
- 4) The law in its final form which [...] has been published shortly after the 21st November, 1969.<sup>60</sup>

Petralias's reply, in an irritable manner, directly raised an issue of trust:

I can really find no explanation as to the reasons of your request, satisfactory to my colleagues in the HOC so as to convince them that there is actually no question of a re-examination of a subject considered by all as already settled.

My colleagues in the Hellenic Olympic Committee feel specifically that the contents of your letter casts a doubt on our sincerity in assuring the existence of the requested data, i.e. copies of laws etc, a fact which was furthermore categorically and officially confirmed in Amsterdam by H. M. the King of the Hellens, member of the IOC for Greece and Honorary President of the IOA and by Admiral Lappas, also member of the IOC.<sup>61</sup>

Nevertheless, Petralias was mistaken as to the settling of the issue. For the IOC the matter was not closed and Lausanne was determined not to cede to the Greek side the unchecked management of the IOA.

On 25 August 1970, the next meeting of the new Commission was held in Lausanne; on the agenda were “recommendations for the regulations of the IOA”, which the HOC had worked out after the developments in Amsterdam. At the meeting, attended by all five members of the committee and the President of the IOA, Petralias, Vind laid down the framework for the relations between the IOC and the IOA:

The management of the Academy was entirely in the hands of the Hellenic Olympic Committee. However, the IOA had the privilege of the IOC patronage, therefore the IOC had to know what was going on at the Academy. Consultation should take place and approval should be given by the IOC concerning the yearly programme and the contents of the Sessions.<sup>62</sup>

60. Letter of Vind to Petralias, 20.5.1970, IOA Archive: K694.

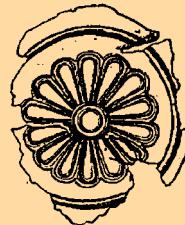
61. Letter of Petralias to Vind, 4.6.1970, IOA Archive. See also Minutes of the 28th meeting of the HOC, 26 May 1970, *Book of Minutes*, op. cit. (n. 47), 429-430.

62. *Minutes of the meeting of the Commission for the International Olympic Academy*, Lausanne, 25th August 1970, 2.



It is not possible for the IOA to lay down the law on matters which concern the IOC. The IOA must follow the line of the IOC and teach in accordance with its doctrines. It is not possible for views to be taught at the IOA which are not in agreement with the teachings of the IOC. The IOA, however, may propose issues to the IOC for the taking of decisions.

Pyrrhos Lappas, 1972



In a conciliatory move, Petralias gave medals of ‘appreciation’ to the members of the Commission (except for Lappas, of course) and to Berlioux. The changes to the Regulations which had been worked out by the HOC, proposed by Vind, were also approved at Lausanne. Precisely the same changes were incorporated into the Regulations which were voted by the Plenum of the HOC on 22 September 1970.<sup>63</sup> Vind’s recommendations, though relatively limited, delineated the role of the IOC and the powers of the President of the IOA while guarding against arbitrary changes to the Regulations. More specifically, the sentence referring to the *ex officio* election of the President of the IOA as a member of the

63. ‘Corrections to the Regulations of the IOA decided upon at the meeting of the IOC Commission on the IOA at its Session in Lausanne on 25 August 1970’, Minutes of the Plenum of the HOC, 35th meeting, 22 September 1970, *Book of Minutes*, op. cit., 494-499. In fact, whereas the new Regulations seem to have been voted on 22 September 1970, there was an exchange of letters between Petralias and Vind in connection with certain objections of the HOC to specific articles. The Ephoria of the IOA was convened on 26 November 1970, with Vind present, and there was a lengthy discussion of the changes without, however, a final solution being found. But, faced with the firm stance of Vind and the IOC, the HOC completely waived its claims, as can be seen from a letter of Petralias to Vind, 2.12.1970, IOA Archive: K694.



The IOA swimming-pool and, in the background, the Alpheios, 1968  
[Report on the 8th Summer Session of the IOA, Athens 1969, 149]

IOC was removed.<sup>64</sup> It is obvious that the IOC did not wish to have on its strength a member whom it had not itself elected, or, in the specific circumstances, to strengthen Greek representation. At the same time, a provision was included by virtue of which the annual programming and the subjects for the main Session were submitted for “the approval of the IOC Commission for the IOA”, while it was laid down that “the patronage of the IOC is given on the basis of the present Regulations as regards the relations between the IOA and the IOC”. These two regulations were a reminder that the patronage of the IOC was not given in just any circumstances, but provided that the Greek side observed the Regulations of the IOA which had been jointly decided upon. Moreover, the programme of the IOA was to be subject to the close inspection of the IOC, since the approval of the Commission of the IOC for the IOA had to be given. The new Regulations were published by a ministerial decision in the *Government Gazette* on 3 March 1971 (Issue B, GG 165).

After its concession, the Greek side maintained its

64. The change in the specific provision was not accepted at the meeting of the HOC. The General Secretary for Sport, Aslanidis, stressed that “Greece spends on the IOA considerable sums, both for its operation and for its premises and it is natural that it should have a right to the *ex officio* election of the President of the IOA as a member of the IOC”. *Book of Minutes*, op. cit., 489.

demand that the President of the IOA should be elected *ex officio* as a member of the IOC. Its aim was that Greece should have three votes on the IOC and, consequently, that its position should be strengthened in an important international organisation. A second demand which was put forward from time to time was that the headquarters of the IOC should be transferred to Greece.<sup>65</sup> However, by the end of 1970, relations between the IOC and the HOC had been normalised.<sup>66</sup>

In spite of the defusing of the crisis, some months later, in March 1971, the IOC Executive Committee was examining the possibility of setting up a new Commission which “seemed would cover the future aims of the IOA”. This news was disturbing to the Greek side.<sup>67</sup> At the same time, however, the IOC now accepted George’s resignation from membership, a year after its submission.<sup>68</sup>

The question of the ‘Greekness’ or ‘internationalism’ of the Academy recurred at the meetings of the IOC Commission for the IOA. In the 1970s, after the previous crisis, the foreign members of the Commission proposed that foreigners should be included as members of the Ephoria, a move which would reinforce the international standing of the IOA.<sup>69</sup> Greek legislation, however, did not permit anything of the sort. Petralias proposed as a compromise solution the election of honorary members. In general, in the 1970s, a shift in the position of the Greek side in favour of the international character of the Academy is observable.<sup>70</sup> In essence, the period of the dictatorship was one of introspection, which came to the end with the restoration of democracy. Characteristic of this change are the words of Nissiotis in 1979: “The Academy’s teaching should be international. The Greeks must serve this ideal, rather than direct it”.<sup>71</sup>

65. See Minutes of the Plenum of the HOC, 36th meeting, 8 October 1970, *Book of Minutes of the HOC*, vol. 12.

66. Letter of Brundage to Vind, 7.11.1970: IOC Archive, Lausanne, file: Vind, Ivar.

67. Letter of Vind to Brundage, 2.8.1971, IOC Archive: K695.

68. Letter of George, Prince of Hanover, to Avery Brundage, 6.4.1971, IOC Archive, Lausanne, file: Hanover, Georges Wilhelm von.

69. *Minutes of the meeting of the Commission for the International Olympic Academy*, Lausanne, 28th May, 1972, 6, IOC Archive: K695.

70. Under the dictatorship of the Colonels, the political attitude of other countries towards the regime then in power in Greece inevitably also affected relations with the Academy. For example, Siperco remarked in a conversation in 1970 with an employee of the HOC that “the Russians don’t take part because of the political situation in Greece”. Letter to E. Petralias, ‘Report on impressions of lecturers and audiences at the 10th Session of the IOA’, 21 August 1970, IOA Archive: K318.

71. IOC, *Minutes of the meeting of the Commission for*



Lecture of A. Siperco at the 8th Session (1968). Seated from the left: I. Vind, Th. Papathanasiadis, George of Hanover  
[Report on the 8th Summer Session of the IOA, Athens 1969, 52]

## Two critical stances: the Siperco memorandum and the MacAloon research

Siperco, one of the longer-serving members of the IOC Commission for the IOA, lodged a memorandum in 1971 on “the role and activity of the IOA in the promotion of the Olympic movement”. This memorandum, which was fairly critical of the operation of the IOA, was probably the last act in the crisis which preceded it, even though it was not connected with it. It therefore reflects the intention of the IOC of exercising more effective and closer control over the functioning of the IOA. Nor is it any accident that the relation between the IOA and IOC is the object of criticism in the memorandum in question, where it identifies “a very weak and formal contact”. More specifically, Siperco writes:

On one hand, the IOC appears not to be aware of the importance not of the potentialities of the IOA. On the other, the Academy carries out its activities disregarding the actual and most urgent needs of the World Olympic Movement and of the IOC. The reports submitted by the IOA to the IOC have a

decided administrative character, and are less programmatic and conceptualistic.

The activity of the IOC Commission for the IOA is restricted to supervising the general work and the programmes of the sessions instead of the works of the sessions and the promotion of Olympism with the help of the IOA on an international plane.<sup>72</sup>

According to the memorandum, weaknesses were detected which were due to a “lack of continuity” and to the sporadic nature of the IOA’s activities and also to the “inadequate use of the existing facilities”.

Siperco’s memorandum produced mild reactions on the Greek side and various memoranda in reply were drawn up;<sup>73</sup> of these, the text of the HOC-IOA signed by

72. [A. Siperco], “The Role and the Activity of the International Olympic Academy (IOA) in Support of the Olympic movement” [12.9.1971]. IOA Archive: K695. Siperco reverted to the subject with a new memorandum, which was tabled at the meeting of the IOC Commission for the IOA in 1979. See IOC, *Minutes of the meeting of the Commission for the International Olympic Academy*, Lausanne, 26 November 1979, annex 5, 16-18.

73. E. Panas (General Director of the IOA), ‘Report with



The archaeological site under snow, c. early 1960s [Apostolis Kosmopoulos archive]

Epameinondas Petralias was registered as the official reply.<sup>74</sup> In this text, a positive assessment of the work of the IOA up to that point is given, while it was considered that any problems which may have occurred were not its fault. For example, an argument which also recurs in other texts on the subject as to the level of briefing of the participants is that the participants were selected by the National Olympic Committees of the various countries and, consequently, the responsibility for the quality of their representatives was theirs. The memorandum of

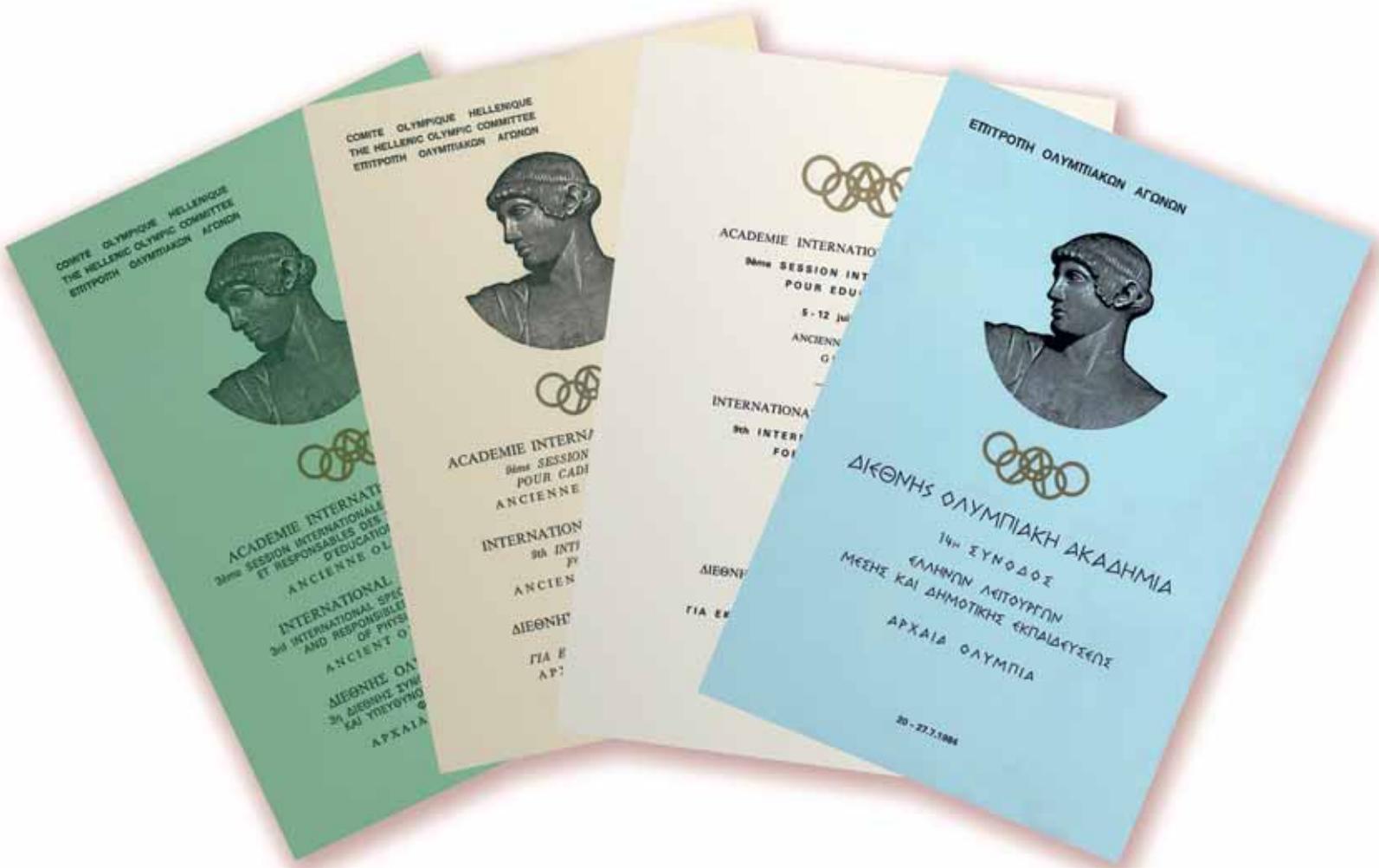
reply of the HOC also makes specific proposals for extending the activities of the IOA, but lays down as a condition for their realisation its financial support with a considerable sum by the IOC. As it was burdened in full with the cost of maintaining the Academy, the HOC's reply was, reading between the lines, that criticism of the manner of operation and the effectiveness of the IOA should be accompanied by proposals on financial support for the Academy. In other words, decisions on the IOA could only belong to those who funded it.

John MacAloon went to Ancient Olympia in the summer of 1977 and carried out anthropological field research on the residents of the village, investigating their relation with the Olympic movement and the ideals of Olympism. He reported his findings in a letter to the IOC, in which he sought the taking of measures to prevent a local crisis –imperilling the Olympic movement– which, in his opinion, would inevitably break out in the near future. The conversations which he had with

---

proposals on the memorandum of Mr Siperco on the role and activity of the IOA in the promotion of the Olympic movement, 9.12.1971; 'Opinion of Vice-Admiral Mr P. Lappas in connection with the proposals of Mr Siperco', IOA Archive: K695.

74. Memorandum of the HOC-IOA to the Commission of the IOC for the IOA, May 1972, *Minutes of the meeting of the Commission for the International Olympic Academy*, Lausanne, 28th May 1972, annex 3, 15-22.



local people led him to the conclusion that a significant portion of the population was unhappy with the IOA, and by extension with the IOC. Their complaints centred on their exclusion both from the Academy's facilities and from all the Olympic activities which related to their locality, such as the lighting of the flame. The residents "regard the Academy as the symbol of the lost heritage and the dreams which have flown far away from the village". For MacAloon, the complaints of the villagers were entirely justified, because they could have used the sports facilities of the IOA during the winter months when it was not operating, and at the ceremony of the lighting of the flame they could have been provided with some places, and some of the young people could have been invited as auditors to the IOA Sessions. These measures would have improved the relations of the local people with the Olympic movement and would have prevented unwelcome developments. As he notes, "an 'Olympism' which would be good for humanity but bad for the

residents of Ancient Olympia would be unthinkable".<sup>75</sup>

MacAloon's report to the IOC provoked, naturally enough, a reply from the IOA, which, through the then President, Nikolaos Nissiotis, disagreed with the conclusions of the research, noting that the present-day village was not descended from antiquity, but was created in the late nineteenth century. Nissiotis rated relations between the IOA and the local community as exceptionally good, as he replied to all the points of MacAloon's critique.<sup>76</sup>

75. 'Lettre de John J. MacAloon adressée à Mme Monique Berlioux, Directeur du CIO, datée du 22 septembre 1977', COM/AIO/Lausanne/3.12.1977, IOA Archive: K697. Cf. also the negative comments on the letter by Siperco: Lettre de Siperco à Mme Berlioux, 4.11.1977, IOC Archive, Lausanne, file: Siperco correspondence.

76. 'Lettre de M. Nikolaos Nissiotis à Mme Monique Berlioux, 1.12.1977', *Procès-verbal de la réunion de la commission pour l'Académie Internationale Olympique*, Lausanne, le 3 décembre 1977, annexe 3, 14.



Lesson in the open-air amphitheatre, 5th International Session for Young Participants, 1965  
[IOA Archive, K2.58]

## The physiognomy of the IOA: from the regulatory texts to lived experience

The physiognomy of the Academy has been delineated by the objectives set by its inspirers and founders, by its operation and by the regulatory texts which have defined it, by the people who have taken part in its activities as lecturers or audiences, and, of course, by its very name. The word 'Academy' itself lent a special character to this institution of Olympic education which made it discrete and recognisable. It was, in any event, on the basis of the IOA that the National Olympic Academies were founded, thus continuing and multiplying its work. The term 'Academy' has been discussed very rarely in terms of its content. The discussion on the subject has been concerned with how the content of such a term is perceived in the different languages and with the risk of

misunderstandings and confusion, given that an 'Academy' might suggest an institution for elites.<sup>77</sup> These objections, however, remained in the margin and the Academy was firmly established on the basis of this name, to which practice itself has given content.

77. Berlioux and Nissiotis at the meeting of 23 July 1979 at Olympia raised the question of 'Is the Academy really an academy?', CIO, *Procès-verbal de la réunion de la commission pour l'Académie Olympique Internationale, Olympie, le 23 juillet 1979*, 6. The term 'Academy' came up for discussion again in 1990, at one of the meetings of the Commission, as to the content which could be attributed to it. See *Minutes of the meeting of the Commission for the International Olympic Academy, Athens, 20th June 1990*, IOA Archive: K700.

From the time that the Academy was founded, the framework which would determine its aims and manner of operation was planned. A series of regulations and statutes demonstrates how those who undertook its administration –more specifically, the HOC and IOC– perceived the physiognomy of the Academy and its place within the Olympic movement. The first provisional Regulations of the IOA were drawn up in October 1961, and, in Article 1, described its aims as follows:

The Olympic Academy shall be an international cultural centre in the sacred place where the idea of athletic contests was born and developed. Its aim shall be to maintain and spread the Olympic idea and its ideals, thus contributing to the education and exercise of youth through the study and application of the pedagogic and social principles of sport; furthermore, a scholastic foundation for the Olympic idea in accordance with the principles laid down by the ancient Greeks and the revivers of the modern Olympic movement, on the initiative of Baron de Coubertin.<sup>78</sup>

In this formulation, ancient athleticism, the modern Olympism of Coubertin and the location of ancient Olympia were linked together in an undertaking which could be described as “an academic corollary to the Olympic Games”.<sup>79</sup> These first provisional regulations repeated basic points in the thinking of Diem and Ketseas. Diem expected from the IOA “a scholastic foundation for the Olympic idea”,<sup>80</sup> while Ketseas wrote that “the IOA should become a universal university on behalf of the universal Olympic spirit”.<sup>81</sup> Furthermore, Article 5 of the Regulations, which lays down that “the teachers, the lecturers and the students shall live in simplicity, in a natural environment which is entirely suitable, so that their way of life corresponds to their mission”, is reminiscent of the similar proposals of Diem in 1938 and of Ketseas in 1949.<sup>82</sup>

In the same provisional Regulations, the curriculum of the lessons and the lectures which would be provided by the Academy, the manner of selection of rapporteurs and students, the living conditions, and administrative and financial matters are also determined. The financial burden of the maintenance of the Academy was undertaken

78. Académie Olympique. *Règlement provisoire*. IOC Archive, Lausanne, file: Académie Olympique 1949-1966 (1).

79. Pappas, *History and Development*, op. cit. (n. 4), 136.

80. C. Diem, ‘An “Elis” of our Times, Meaning and Purpose of an Olympic Academy’, *Report on the 1st Session of the International Olympic Academy, 16th-23rd June 1961, Olympia*, Athens, HOC, 1973<sup>2</sup>, 18.

81. Pappas, op. cit., 30.

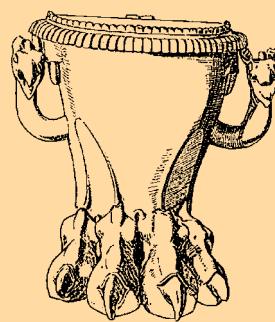
82. See, here, n. 24. Cf. Müller, *Die olympische Idee*, op. cit. (n. 2), Quellsammlung, 150.

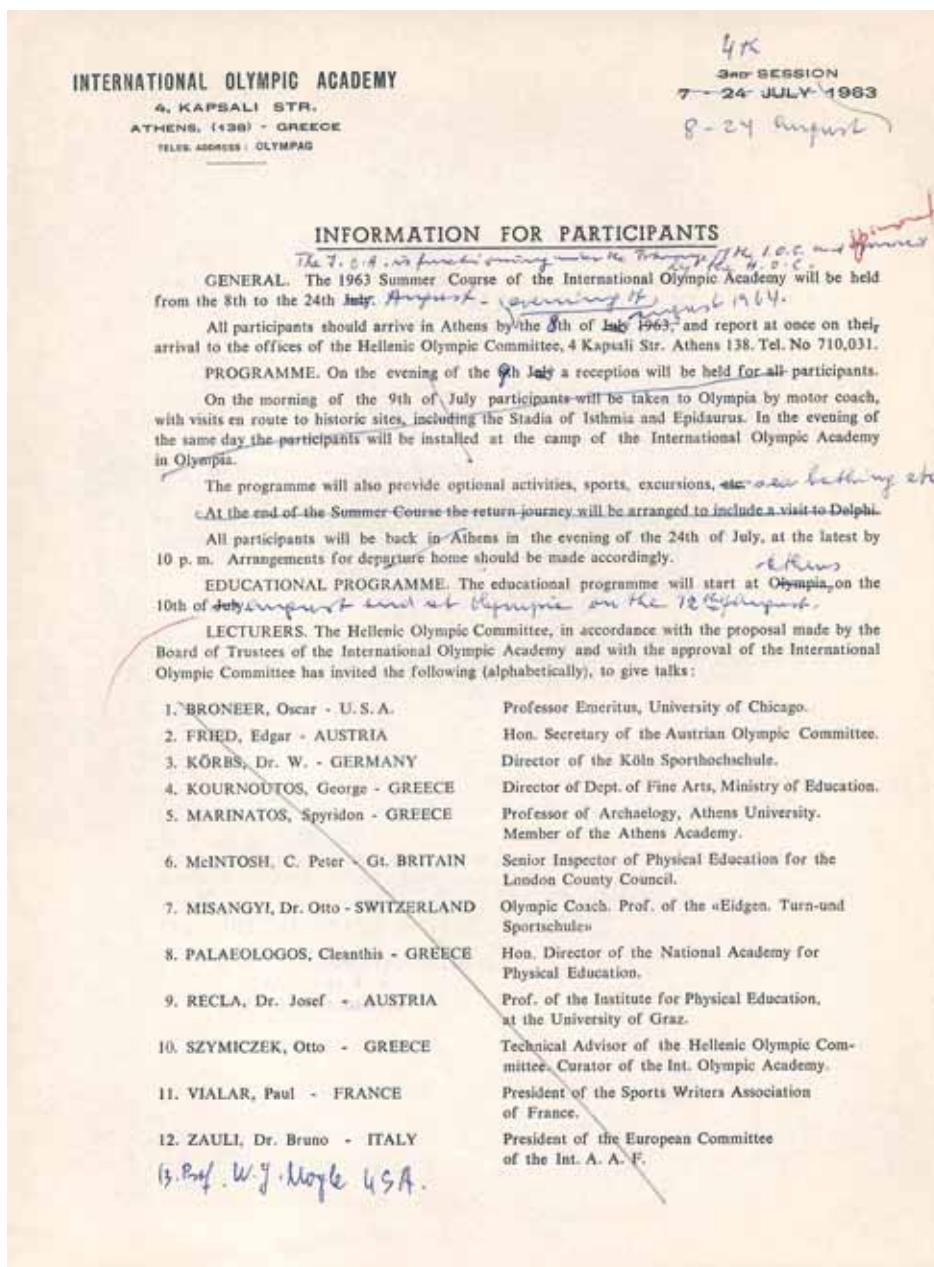


### *At the first Session of the IOA*

I look upon this course as an experiment in another respect, too, and I appeal to your youthful strength. We want you to consider the Spartan way of life to which we have «sentenced» you as a romantic charm. We don't want you to find it an inconvenience to sleep in tents, wash in fountains and eat in the open air. Sportsmen may accept the amenities of our age as agreeable, but should be noble-minded enough –the Greeks call this virtue Megalopsychia– to renounce them when the world «Olympia» rings out. Otherwise the victors of those days –Koroibos, Pantakles, Chionis, Arrachion, Milon, Theagenes, Ladas, Leonidas, Melankomas, Varazdates, and whatever other names they bore would laugh at us from the grave. For we have found everything in our excavations at Olympia, warm and cold baths, a house for the Hellanodics and priests, a hotel for guests of honour, but none for the competitors. They lived in tents and ate from the roasting spit.

Carl Diem, 1961





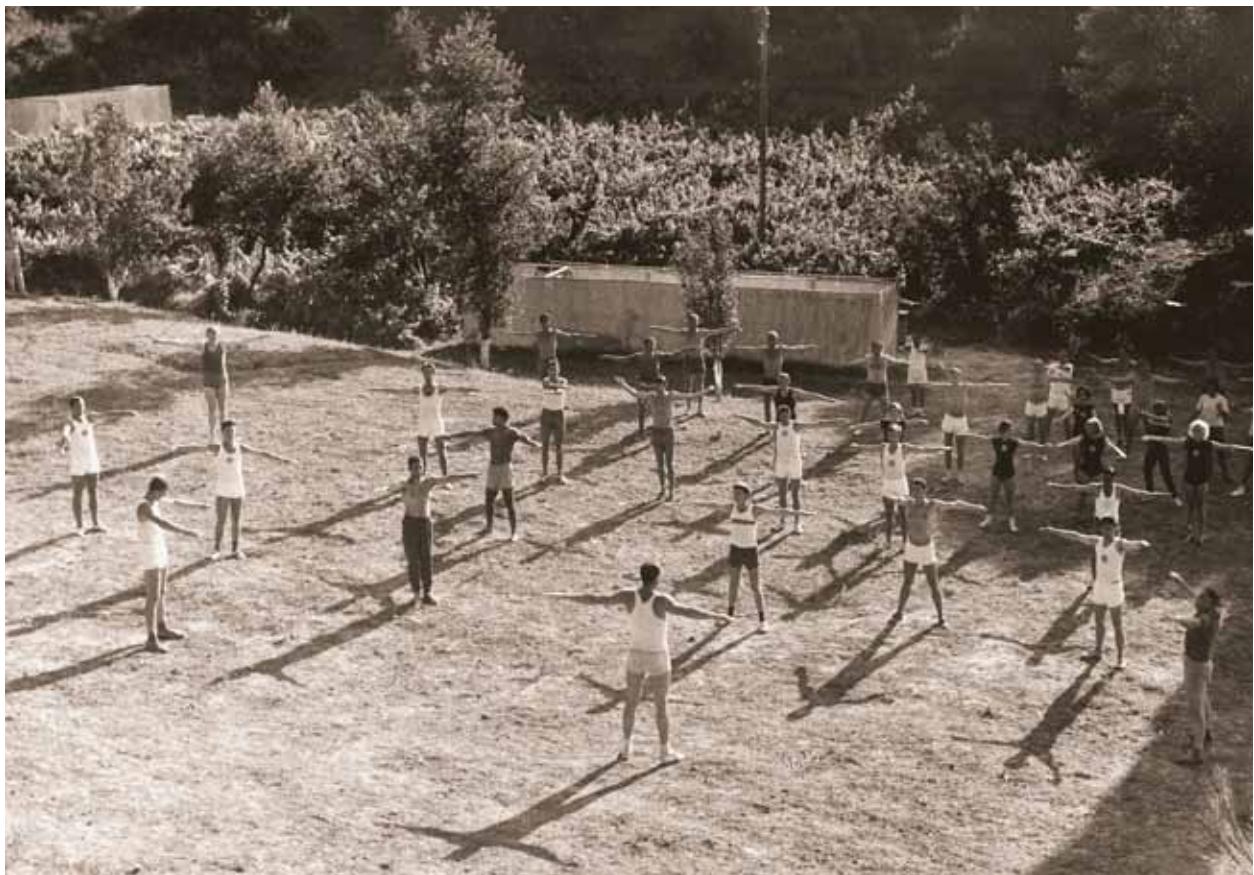
[IOA Archive, K63]

in full by the HOC, which also chose the speakers “with the consent of the IOC Bureau” (Article 7). The students, who could be of either gender and were not to be above 30 years of age, were required to be responsible for meeting the cost of travel to Olympia (that is, through the National Olympic Committees or their governments).

A year later, in October 1962, the HOC approved a second set of provisional Regulations, which contained very few differences from the previous ones. The most significant difference is that the adjective ‘international’ is added to the title of the Academy, while the committee

which administered it is called the ‘Ephoria’.<sup>83</sup> These provisional Regulations were amended at the meeting of the Plenum of the HOC on 22 September 1966 to include the “Commission for the International Olympic Academy”, which had just been set up, while it is specified that the President of the Ephoria “may be a non-Greek” – in order to legitimate the presidency of George of Hanover. By the same amendment, it was also laid

83. Ibid., 136-139.



Morning exercises on the IOA premises, 1963 [IOA Archive, K1.77]



Participants of the 5th International Session return from the Peristeria acropolis at Mycenae, 1965  
[IOA Archive, K2.86]



The ceremony of the lighting of the flame for the Munich Olympic Games in the Pierre de Coubertin grove at Ancient Olympia, 1972  
[IOA Archive, K3.100]

down that the President of the IOA was to be elected a member of the IOC.<sup>84</sup>

The establishment of the IOC Commission for the IOA resulted in the partial amendment of the provisional Regulations in October 1967. The amendments concerned the formulation of the aims (but without their substance changing) and the financial management of the IOA. From then on, subsidies or gifts from abroad were to be effected through a bank in Switzerland, with the management of the General Secretary of the IOC.<sup>85</sup>

The IOA continued to function on the basis of provisional Regulations until, because of the crisis in its relations with the IOC in the years 1968-1970, definitive regulations were drawn up. These first official Regulations, of 12 January 1971,<sup>86</sup> which had the ap-

proval of the IOC Commission, describe in the greatest detail the manner of operation of the IOA, introduce the office of Dean, set the age-limit for auditors at 35, and determine the emblem of the IOA as "consisting of a circle of a diameter of 2.5 centimetres surrounding the letter A". This is the IOA's first emblem, which was to change in 1979. The new Regulations did not revise the physiognomy of the IOA or its aims, which, however, were made more concise, while the references to antiquity and to Coubertin were now omitted (Article 2):

The International Olympic Academy has as its purpose the setting up and operation at Ancient Olympia of an International Intellectual Centre which will concern itself with the maintenance and dissemination of the Olympic Spirit, the study and application of the pedagogic and social principles of the games, and the scholastic foundation of the Olympic Idea.

In parallel with the Regulations, information pamphlets on the IOA, addressed to participants and at

84. Minutes of the Plenum of the HOC, 27th meeting, 22 September 1966, *Book of Minutes of the HOC*, vol. 9, 38-40. See also *International Academy. Regulations*: IOC Archive, file: Académie Olympique 1949-1966 (1).

85. IOC, *Commission for the International Olympic Academy. Minutes. Mon Repos, Lausanne, 3rd October 1967*, Annex II, IOA Archive: K695.

86. GG B' 165, 3 March 1971. See also *Book of Minutes of the HOC*, vol. 12, 64 ff., and vol. 11, 464-474. The next Regulations, virtually identical, were approved by the HOC on 24 November

1973. See Pappas, *History and Development*, op. cit. (n. 4), 168-182.

the same time making known the educational character of the institution to the general public, were produced. In these pamphlets, the position of the IOA within the Olympic movement and its connection with the principles of Olympism are set out with greater clarity than in the Regulations. In a proposal tabled by Siperco for an information pamphlet on the Academy in 1976, the theoretical framework is made up of a description of Olympism, of the Olympic movement (to which the IOC, the HOC, the National and International Sport Federations belong) and of the Olympic Games.<sup>87</sup> However, the information pamphlets which the IOA itself issued give greater emphasis to the ancient Greek heritage of the Games, a feature which, in any event, also stresses the symbolic links with the location of Ancient Olympia.

As an institution of Olympic education, then, the IOA gradually shaped its physiognomy on the basis of the theoretical framework of Olympism, the academic contributions to its annual sessions, and its own experience of a community formed each year on its premises. According to the writings of Coubertin, Olympic education may be regarded as including five basic features:<sup>88</sup>

- The concept of a harmonious development of the whole human being.
- The idea of striving for human perfection through high performance.
- Sporting activity voluntarily linked to ethical principles such as fair play and equality of opportunity, and the determination to fulfil those obligations.
- The concept of peace and goodwill between nations, reflected by respect and tolerance in relations between individuals.
- The promotion of moves towards emancipation in and through sport.

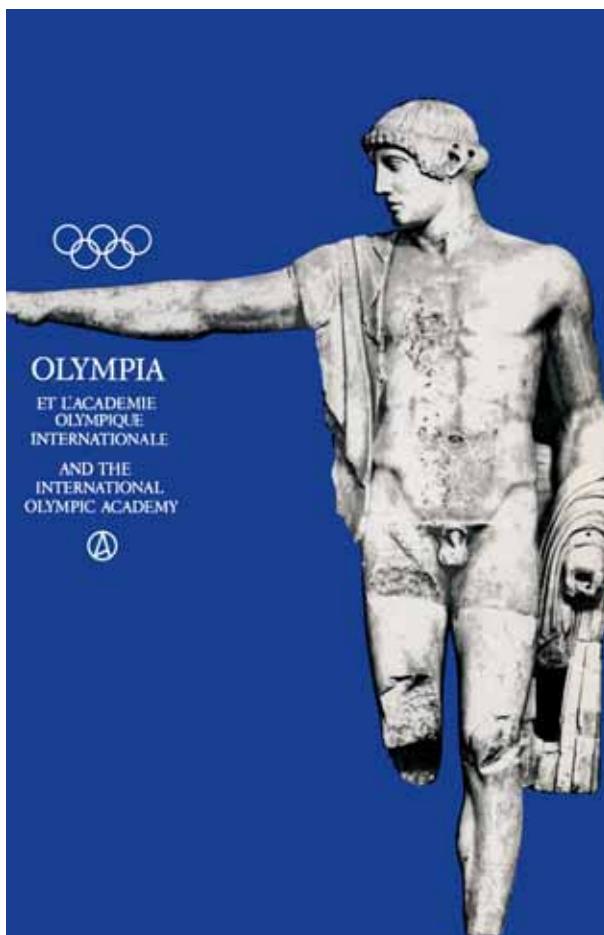
Nevertheless, over and above the theoretical framework, what has chiefly defined the Academy has been its activity itself. Its physiognomy has been formed in practice through the selection of the subject discussed at its sessions and, in addition, through the selection of the people who have made their appearance there from the time of its foundation to the present day. The article by Roula Vathi entitled ‘The “Olympic University” of the IOA: lecturers and lectures’ in the present volume provides exactly that data which enable us to understand the

87. IOC, *Minutes of the Meeting of the IOC Commission for the International Olympic Academy*, Montreal, 20th July 1976, annex 5.

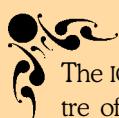
88. N. Müller (ed.), *Pierre de Coubertin 1863-1937. Olympism. Selected Writings*, Lausanne, IOC, 2000, 528-529.



The two emblems of the IOA, 1971 and 1979, respectively



Information booklet about the IOA (1972), IOA Library



The IOA's aim is to become the Spiritual Centre of the Olympic Movement, the home of new inspired teachers, adepts and preachers of the Olympic Movement and to contribute to the definition of a uniform conception and interpretation of Olympic principles in the whole world, so as to avoid misinterpretations or dogmatic divergences.

Epameinondas Petralias, 1972



The teaching of Olympism as a philosophical concept means the verification of the ideas we adopt, noting their identity or their contrasts. All this helps us to understand what, in fact, Olympism is and what it means, avoiding naive commonplaces which, by being repeated, take on the dimensions of a dogma. Thus resistance develops to the impairment of the authenticity of sport, and a revelation of the non sequitur which exists in the idealisation or demythologising of the past is achieved. These states are capable of discouraging and incriminating the Modern Olympic Movement or of idealising the present by incriminating the past.

[...]

Above all, however, Olympism is an experience: what is felt by thousands of athletes who take part every four years in the Olympic Games, but also by those who participate in the annual International Sessions of the IOA – to a lesser degree, of course – since they are able, albeit for only 15 days, to get to know, to exchange ideas, and to form friendships with young men and women from a great many countries on our planet.

Nikos Filaretos, 2004



academic options and the educational orientation of an institution unique in its conception. University professors, teachers of physical education, athletes, members of the IOC and the National Olympic Committees, officials of sport federations, journalists, and others, from all the continents of the world have made up the team of speakers who, through their lectures, have given shape to the concept of the Olympic education provided by the IOA. The speakers, together with the audiences, have, moreover, created a community whose character goes beyond that of an ordinary academic community and incorporates the experience of co-existence inside and outside the lecture-hall. Here the words of Norbert Müller are instructive:

The great value of the IOA is due more to the human relations which have been created and not so much to its specialist work. In no other sport event, not even in the Olympic Games, do the participants, together with the organisers and speakers, present a picture of such a harmonious community.<sup>89</sup>

With the evolution of the Olympic movement and the spread to all the continents of Olympism through a variety of institutions, the demand for Olympic education also expanded. The creation of institutions with Olympic culture as their object –National Olympic Academies, the De Coubertin Institute in New Zealand, the Olympic Studies Centre in Lausanne– responded precisely to this increased demand. Thus a new reality came into being, in which the IOA is no longer the sole institution with Olympic education as its object. As Konstantinos Georgiadis explains in his article in the present volume, the National Olympic Academies, which started to be founded in the 1970s and now number 133 throughout the world, serve as the “academic network of the Olympic movement”.

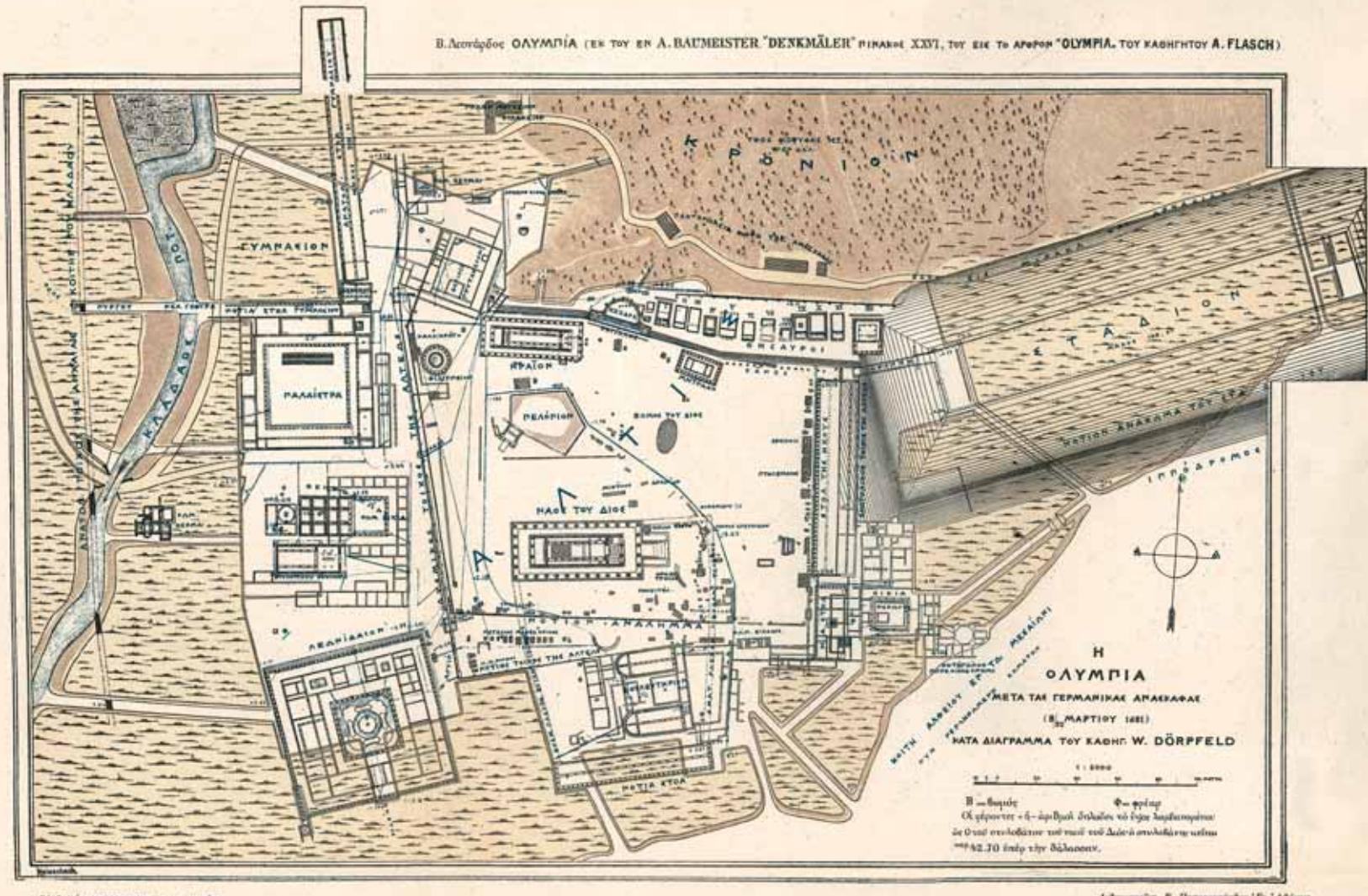
Nevertheless, in spite of the multiplication of such institutions, the IOA continues to retain its uniqueness: on the one hand, for historical reasons, since it was the first institution of this kind and has served as a model for those which came after, and, on the other, because of the particularity of the place where it is established. Indeed, those who take part in the sessions of the IOA become first and foremost ‘pilgrims of history’.<sup>90</sup>

89. Müller, *Die olympische Idee*, op. cit. (n. 2), Quellsammlung, 12.

90. Pierre de Coubertin, *Mémoires olympiques*, Lausanne, CIO, 1997, 225 (1st edition 1931).



The IOA's facilities after the destructive fire of August 2007  
(photographs: above by Panagiotis Giannaras, below by Konstantinos Karadimas)



Topographical plan of the excavations at ancient Olympia, 1881, in V. Leonardos, *H Ολυμπία* [Olympia], 1901

## The ‘pilgrims of history’

Olympia was rediscovered as one of the loci of ancient Greek civilisation within the trend of antiquarianism and of philhellenism of the early nineteenth century. As a destination for travelling intellectuals, who were in search of exotic experiences and the roots of Western civilisation in modern rural Greece, Olympia was described in travellers' memoirs and later in tourist guides. Through its connection with the revived Olympic Games, Olympia acquired a new content which integrated it into the

modern Western civilisation of the twentieth century. The first pilgrim of the Olympic ideal, Coubertin, wrote that in the ruins of Ancient Olympia he discovered a “moral architecture of which he had to gather the teachings”.<sup>91</sup> For the representatives of the Olympic movement, then, the location of ancient Olympia was invested

91. Ibid.

with sanctity; it became an object of pilgrimage and supplied inspiration.

The investigation of the symbolism of the space and of its relations with the IOA is undoubtedly a constituent part of a study of the history of the Academy. The article by Christos Loukos and Vassiliki Tzachrista in the present volume entitled 'Ancient Olympia: the place and the people' attempts precisely this task of locating the IOA in the space and of presenting the development of the settlement which shares the same symbolisms. The modern village was created in the late nineteenth century, with a small population of a few hundred; today it is engaged chiefly in tourism and the management of the heritage of the name of Olympia. The archaeological excavations and the German archaeological mission, the archaeological museum, the IOA, the lighting of the flame every four years, various sport events, the "Olympia" Theatre at Floka, local cultural associations, the flow of tourists from Greece and abroad are parameters which define the relation of the local residents with antiquity and which, in the end, shape their identity. The tables registering the frequency of ancient Greek names of parents and children at Ancient Olympia given in the article by Loukos and Tzachrista aid in investigating the ultimate 'particularity' of the relation with antiquity.

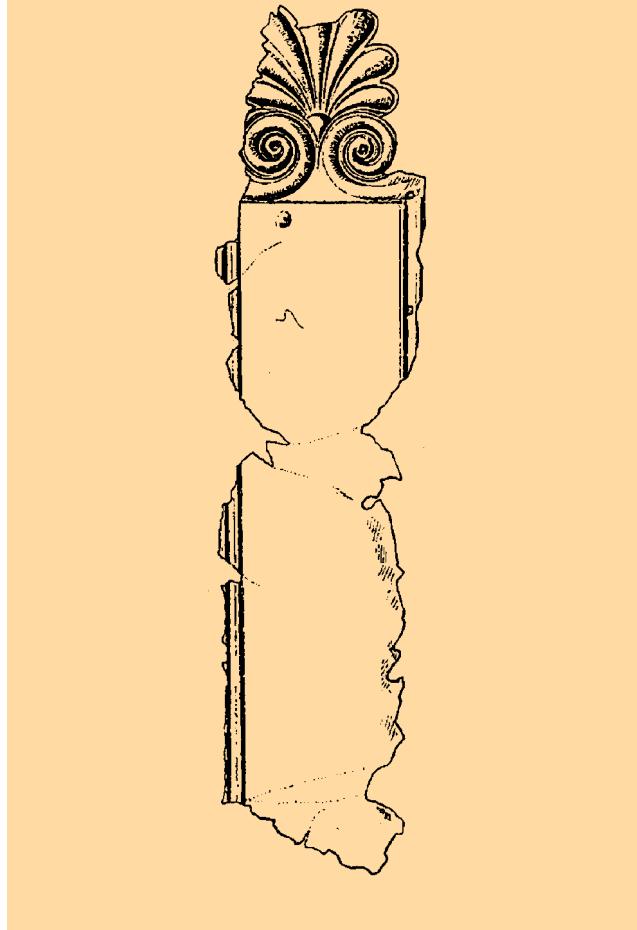
Vassiliki Tzachrista also deals with the relation of the local community with the IOA in her article 'The "little Olympic Village": the premises of the International Olympic Academy'. The establishment of the IOA in this particular place meant, to begin with, the purchase of properties from the local landowners, spatial planning and architectural options which also determined the individual profile of the IOA, the subsequent change in the landscape, and the redetermination of the local signifiers through the co-existence of the ancient ruins, the modern village and the facilities of the IOA (which makes reference to the modern Olympic Games). At the same time, the premises of the IOA, both during the period of their construction and later, gave work to local people as labourers, attendants and as ancillary staff in general. The proximity of the IOA to the small tourist town resulted in conflicts, on a smaller or larger scale, with the role of the Municipality of Ancient Olympia in the activities of the Academy, and, by extension, in the international Olympic movement basically at stake. The Municipality of Ancient Olympia, on the basis of strong symbolisms rather than objective facts, has sought – through the Academy and the Olympic ceremonies – a leading position in a world institution whose connection with the ancient stadium and the valley of the Kladeos is limited.

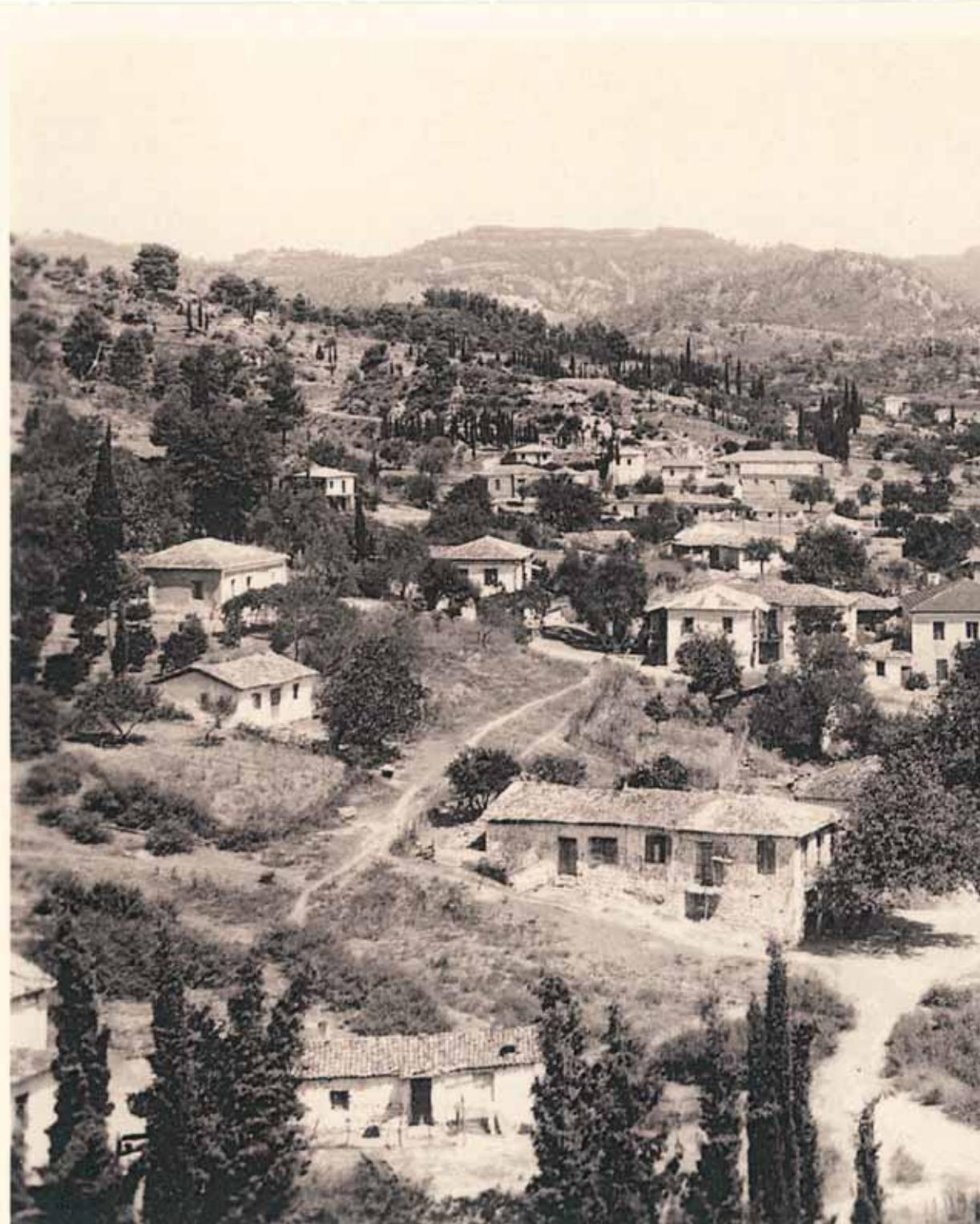


*On the handing over of the ancient stadium  
by the German Archaeological Mission*

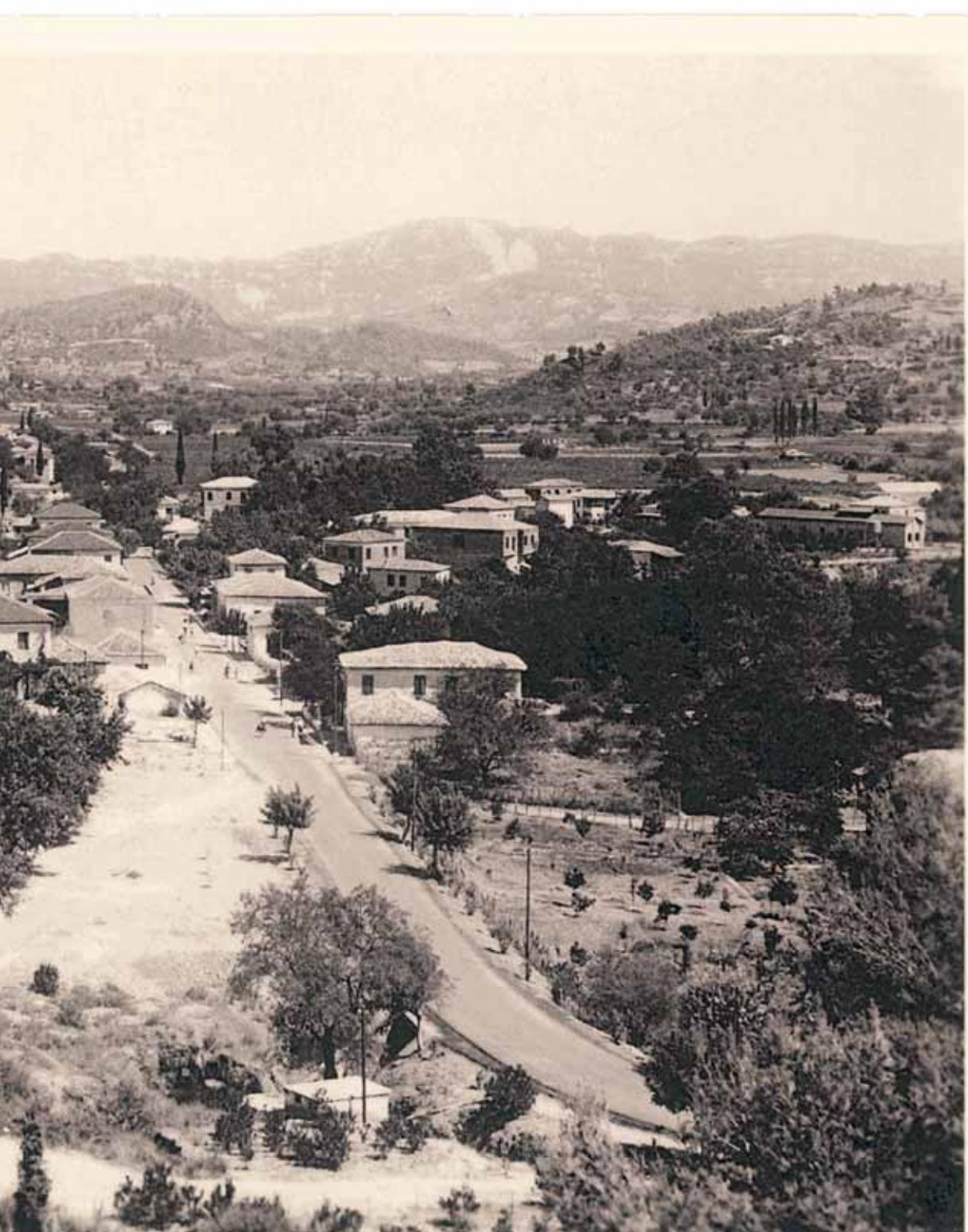
The millennial silence of these ruins, the mystery of the sacred grove, and the brooding outlines of the serried hills, speak so great a speech that man's word seems all too feeble in their presence. Upon all that we here perceive there flows a happy light, such as our eye has never taken in elsewhere. This light lets all that is to be seen appear in strict precision, and yet it remains always tender; it imparts to every details its full meaning, and at the same time lends to all a noble distance. As a poet expressed it «Nothing is comparable to this light, unless it be the mind itself». [...] In this incomparable light arose the vision of their genius, whose marks are moderation, the rhythm of true proportions, and a symphonic sense endowed, with the gift of harmony.

Carl Burckhardt, 1961



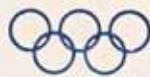


ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑ. Ζ



Απόψη 1950

View of Olympia, 1950 [Yorgos Acheimastos archive]



INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY

HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES  
ANCIENT OLYMPIA - GREECE



No 3477b Nat. Arch. Museum.

**Kind of Hockey.** Six youths, symmetrically arranged, are playing with a ball by means of long curved sticks. Decorative relief from the decoration of a base which had originally supported the statue of a Kouros. This base was found in 1922, fitted in the Themistoclean wall of 478 B. C. (Acropolis of Athens). Archaic art. About 490 B. C.

Post card of the Museum of the Modern Olympic Games, 1967 [IOA Archive, K4]

### ΙΠΝΑΞ ΕΠΙΣΚΕΨΑΜΕΝΟΝ ΤΟ ΜΟΥΣΕΙΟΝ

Τάξη αριθ.	Ε Ε ν ι κ & ν	Ι Η Η Η	Ι Η Η Η	Ι Η Η Η	Ι Η Η Η	Ι Η Η Η	Ι Η Η Η	Ι Η Η Η	Ι Η Η Η	Ι Η Η Η	Ι Η Η Η	Ι Η Η Η	Ι Η Η Η	Ι Η Η Η	Ι Η Η Η	Γ Α Δ Λ Ο
1	Αγγίας	.72	.42	.167	.206	.172	.238	.303	.311	.325	.216	.320	.321	.120	.382	.3182
2	Αντρικον	.28	.24	.96	.147	.154	.180	.167	.203	.228	.135	.135	.203	.419	.359	.3350
3	Γερμηνοί	.26	.64	.56	.119	.146	.110	.169	.171	.125	.32	.135	.161	.114	.160	.1674
4	Γαλλοί	.32	.24	.43	.74	.48	.62	.729	.73	.340	.26	.410	.97	.84	.79	.1522
5	Ανδρικον και Ούτροι	.71	.49	.24	.27	.22	.71	.54	.21	.47	.42	.89	.18	.28	.72	.675
6	Βρετανοί	.1	.2	.2	.2	.2	.3	.1	.1	.1	.8	.8	.9	.1	.282	.3117
7	Ρώσοι	.3	.3	.10	.11	.25	.14	.16	.33	.21	.2	.26	.25	.35	.31	.292
8	Τηνικοί	.3	.5	.22	.22	.16	.29	.27	.22	.14	.6	.11	.20	.15	.19	.222
9	Βέγκυοι	.7	.1	.12	.4	.4	.6	.5	.10	.12	.19	.8	.13	.17	.169	
10	Ελληνοί	.1	.6	.6	.15	.7	.6	.15	.9	.2	.2	.5	.5	.8	.21	.164
11	Δυνατοί	.1	.3	.4	.6	.12	.2	.6	.14	.3	.5	.1	.2	.9	.72	
12	Οίλλανδοι	.1	.2	.7	.5	.1	.2	.2	.3	.6	.3	.8	.7	.8	.6	.110
13	Σουηδοί	.2	.3	.1	.1	.1	.1	.11	.1	.4	.2	.1	.9	.2	.37	
14	Νορβηγοί	.4	.4	.4	.1	.1	.1	.1	.3	.1	.6	.9	.3	.3	.38	
15	Ισπανοί	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.5	.5	.4	.4	.29	
16	Πολωνοί	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.0	.2	.2	.2	.198	
17	Σερβοί	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.2	.15	
18	Τούρκοι	.4	.8	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.10	
19	Ιδανοίς	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.9	
20	Βούλγαροι	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.2	.6	
21	Αρμένοι	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	
22	Τιβρί	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.3	
23	Μαυροβούνιος	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	
24	Παρτυγάλοι	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	
25	*Ολοι	.201	.226	.100	.646	.589	.725	.899	.954	.1013	.528	.1204	.1157	.391	.1147	.1172
26	Έλληνες	.212	.256	.604	.1069	.1679	.2120	.1518	.1536	.1179	.656	.1329	.950	.619	.1008	.1158
	· εν εὐρωπαϊς	.	.	.	.1209	.1999	.2490	.1900	.3580	.2740	.	.1829	.3529	.1150	.12090	.3180
	To Slov.	.113	.482	.1104	.2915	.3168	.5215	.4315	.5169	.5072	.1110	.4314	.5327	.2660	.14455	.57660

**H. Novakovic**

Picture of visitors to the Olympia Archaeological Museum in the period 1888-1901, by P. Voulismas (Assistant Ephor of Olympia):  
V. Leonards, *H Olvynia* [Olympia], 1901



## In the footprints of antiquity

By analogy with the Olympic Games, which are intended to refer to their ancestral relation with antiquity, the International Olympic Academy, a modern Olympic institution, was established in the space of Ancient Olympia. Thus the concept of continuity – a concept of particular importance to modern Greeks – is reinforced through the symbolism of space. The landscape of ancient Olympia, with its olive trees, pines and cypresses, becomes a link between past and present. On the other hand, the co-existence of the ancient stadium with the modern facilities of the IOA and the provincial town of Ancient Olympia gives a picture of historical change and the successive and subordinate uses of the space. The ‘taming’ of the space by people combines elements of the ephemeral and the diachronic. Tourists lacking a classical education, or, alternatively, devotees of antiquity, Greek day-trippers, visitors to the IOA in the capacity of teachers or students, athletes and officials of the Olympic movement converge on Ancient Olympia in the summer months. For those who already carry Olympia within

themselves, their fleeting relation with the space is inscribed within an endurance through time, that defined by the values of Western civilisation. At the same time, the presence of the visitors, ephemeral and periodical, finds its counterweight in the permanent residents of the Greek town, who apprehend their local identity within a universality which does not characterise other places. The lighting of the Olympic flame is the most important link with the rest of the world, as it lends to the small town in the Peloponnese the kudos which all origins possess.

Planted in the footprints of antiquity, the International Olympic Academy retains at the same time the memory of its own individual historicity. Monuments erected within the space of the IOA facilities honour its three inspirers and founders – Coubertin, Diem and Ketsseas. The aura of the ancient Olympic Games and of the ancient stadium there touch upon the modern Olympic ideal, providing it with that moral legitimisation which it continues to seek.

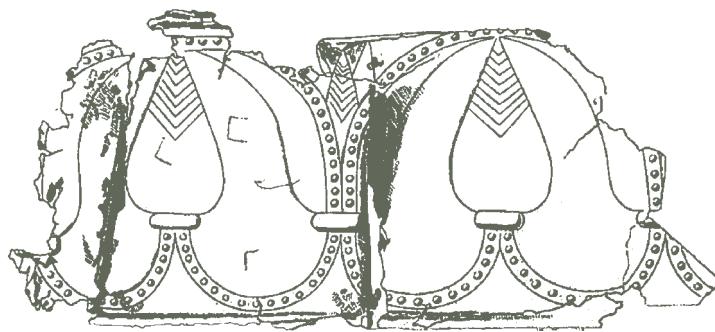




CHRISTOS LOUKOS – VASSILIKI TZACHRISTA

ANCIENT OLYMPIA: THE PLACE AND THE PEOPLE





*And on the metopes, the carved horses,  
taking their matter in their stride, leapt and galloped  
outside time.*

NIKIPHOROS VRETTAKOS, *Liturgy below the Acropolis*

## From Antiquity to the Twentieth Century

Olympia was never a city; it was never, that is, inhabited by a permanent population. It was a sacred place. The conjunction of myths with archaeological data suggests that it was a cult centre from the tenth century BC, while there is documentation based on the finds from excavations that the beginning of the Games should be dated to the eighth century BC.<sup>1</sup> It was in 776 BC, in any event, that the ancients put the starting-point of the Olympic Games. The splendour of the Classical, Hellenistic and Roman periods was followed by decline in the early Christian centuries. The various raids of the Goths, Heruli and others were catastrophic for the sanctuaries, while the Decree of Theodosius I in 393 AD, which banned pagan practices, stroke a blow at one of the remaining

centres of resistance to the new religion. A major earthquake in the sixth century, perhaps in 522 AD, caused the collapse of those buildings which had not already been destroyed. In addition to this, major landslides and movements of masses of earth transposed the beds of the rivers and caused changes in the layout of the terrain. The ruins were covered with earth and the sacred place passed for centuries into oblivion.<sup>2</sup>

During the Middle Ages, even the name of Olympia was forgotten. The village which was situated on its ruins was called Servia or Serviana (14th cent.), later Antilalos and Angonas (= *agones* = ‘games’), and it was only towards the end of the seventeenth century that the site of ancient Olympia, “commonly referred to as Langanico (perhaps *Langadion*) in the *Topographia*

1. V. Leonardos, *H Ολυμπία (μετά τοπογραφικού πίνακος)* [Olympia (with a topographical chart)], Athens, P.D. Sakelariou, 1901, 6-10; P. Valavanis, *Ολυμπιακοί Αγώνες και αθλητισμός στην αρχαία Ελλάδα, ἀθλα-αθλητές και ἐπαθλα* [Olympic Games and athleticism in ancient Greece, contests, athletes and prizes], Athens, Erevnites, 1996, 22-27; idem, *Ιερά και Αγώνες στην αρχαία Ελλάδα. Ολύμπια, Πύθια, Ισθμια, Νέμεα, Παναθηναϊα* [Sanctuaries and games in ancient Greece. The Olympic, Pythian, Isthmian, Nemean, Panathenaic Games], Athens, Kapon, 2003, 34-44; N. Yalouris, “Το Ιερό της Ολυμπίας” [The Sanctuary of Olympia], in N. Yalouris (general editor), *H Ιστορία των Ολυμπιακών Αγώνων* [The history of the Olympic Games], Athens, Ekdotike Athenon, 1982, 88-103.

2. A. and N. Yalouris, *Ολυμπία, Οδηγός των Μονεμένων και των Ιερού* [Olympia, a guide to the museum and sanctuary], Athens, Ekdotike Athenon, 1993, 27; Ismini Trianti – P. Valavanis, *Ολυμπία και Ολυμπιακοί Αγώνες, τα μνημεία τότε και τώρα* [Olympia and the Olympic Games, the monuments then and now], Athens, Politistikes Ekdoseis, 2004, 7-14; Jane Ellen Harrison – Francis MacDonald Cornford, *A study of the social origins of Greek religion*, Greek trans. Th. Siafarikas, Athens, Iamblichos, 1996, 96-97; Xeni Arapoyanni, *Ολυμπία, η κοτύδια των Ολυμπιακών Αγώνων* [Olympia, the cradle of the Olympic Games], Athens, Miletos [2004], 17-29.



The museum of the ancient Olympic Games and the museum of the excavations at Olympia, 2006.  
[photograph: Vassiliki Tzachrista]

*Italiae* of 1688”, was recognised again.<sup>3</sup> From the eighteenth century onwards there was a lively interest in excavations on the part of travellers and admirers of antiquity, but without any substantive result. The picture which we have of Olympia at this period is reflected in the travellers’ literature, its chief representative being the Frenchman François Pouqueville,<sup>4</sup> who toured Ileia in 1815 and 1816 and stayed for a number of days in the vicinity of Pyrgos and Olympia, the sacred site of which was covered with vines, wild figs and corn:

3. G. Papandreou, *H Ηλεία διά μέσον των αιώνων* [Ileia through the ages], photocopy reprint of the first edition of 1924, Lechaina, Ek Paradromis, 1990, 325-326; Leonards, *H Ολυμπία*, 137; K. Lennartz, “Η Ολυμπία από του 393-1896” [Olympia from 393 to 1896], *Report of the 15th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 1975*, Athens, HOC, 1976, 131-144.

4. Georgios Papandreou, speaking of Pouqueville, described him as “rather sympathetic towards our race”, as compared with a number of travellers who visited Greece and who “superficially examining our country, indifferent to the enslavement of our race [...], take a malicious pleasure in sarcasm and mockery [...] but from an archaeological point of view examine Greece with the greatest superficiality [...]. Pouqueville, although “he too speculates very superficially as to antiquity [...] nevertheless provides us with many statistics and varied information about that period in Ileia...”. See Papandreou, op. cit., 348.

There where once the various peoples competed with one another, crowned with flowers and preceded by their singers, now you saw only here and there groups of harvesters piling up the ricks. And the echo which in antiquity repeated the dithyrambs of Pindar, responded now only to the barbarous ditties of the Albanian sheep and goatherds and to the gentle chant of the cicadas [...] When I remembered Olympia, I felt myself possessed by a religious awe. I had been put down on the left bank of the Cladeus, and I advanced in search of those monuments which had remained of those which once made this country resplendent [...] I saw nothing else amid the corn ears apart from some fragments of antiquities worn by all weathers [...] An Albanian, seated on the downward slope from the flat piece of ground, informed me that we were before the Palaestra or track... The voice of some hellanodikes issuing from the tomb would not have caused me any stronger emotion than the voice of the Skypetaris of Pisatis, who offered to be our guide to the ruins of the old country of the Greeks.<sup>5</sup>

The first exploratory dig was carried out in April 1829 by scholars and artists who followed the French expeditionary corps in the Peloponnese under General N.J. Maison. The excavations lasted six weeks and were

5. F. Pouqueville, *Ταξίδι στην Ελλάδα-Πελοπόννησος* [Journey in Greece-Peloponnesian], Athens, Tolidis, 1997, 213, 215-216.

suspended on the orders of Capodistrias. There had been time to discover the Temple of Zeus and three metopes, which were taken to Paris (they are in the Louvre).<sup>6</sup> The French novelist Gustave Flaubert, who visited Olympia in February 1851, noted:

In two openings, excavations of the French mission: traces of enormous walls, large stones very disordered, a column base with flutings, vast in thickness – that's what remains of Olympia. A little further off, on the right, on the plain, remains of a Roman wall [...] the Alpheios river would have brought, in its very eccentric course, lots of earth, the silttings can be recognised at every step; sometimes on the side of the road we see pieces of earth full of pebbles, like a pudding with currants, with more currants than pudding. Two villagers caught up with us and offered us a small coin of the princes of the Morea for us to buy.<sup>7</sup>

During the reign of Otto, attempts on the part of Prussia to arrange excavations for its archaeologists were unsuccessful.<sup>8</sup> Nevertheless, two decades later, in 1874, on the initiative of the historian Ernst Curtius,<sup>9</sup> a contract was signed by which the right of systematic excavations at Olympia was ceded by Greece to Germany. Delicate diplomatic efforts at a high governmental level were required to circumvent hostile reactions, particularly on the part of France and of Greek archaeologists.<sup>10</sup> The excavations

began on 22 September 1875 under unfavourable climatic conditions and with rudimentary means of technical support.<sup>11</sup> They lasted until 8 March 1881. This was the first systematic excavation of an ancient site and it influenced similar undertakings of the archaeologists. Leading German archaeologists and architects of the Prussian Academy of Sciences, such as Adolf Furtwängler, father of the famous conductor, Georg True, Friedrich Adler, Adolf Boetticher, and Wilhelm Dörpfeld, worked together with Curtius. Ephors of antiquities at Olympia during the excavations –and afterwards– were the brothers Athanasios (until 1878) and Konstantinos Dimitriadis. The finds were astonishing and attracted the interest not only of Hellenists but also of crowned heads.<sup>12</sup>

King George I, accompanied by Princes Constantine and George, arrived in 1879 by ship at Katakolo and, the same day, visited Olympia. An address of welcome was delivered by the ephor of antiquities P. Kavvadias. The King toured the excavations and saw the statue of Hermes which had been discovered in 1877 and adorned the makeshift museum of Olympia.<sup>13</sup> The building of a more organised museum began in 1883, originating with a donation from the national benefactor Andreas Syngros.<sup>14</sup>

6. *Μεγάλη Ελληνική Εγκυροπαίδεια* [Great Greek Encyclopedia], XVIII, Athens, Pyrros, 1932, 828-830; J. Schilbach, "Η Ιστορία των ανασκαφών της Ολυμπίας" [The history of the excavations at Olympia], *Αρχαία Ολυμπία-Ανασκαφές, Μυθολογία, Αθλητισμός, Τεχνολογία* [Ancient Olympia-excavations, mythology, athleticism, technology], Germany, Association for the Study and Dissemination of Greek History, 2004, 33-40; Despina Koutsoumba, "Η αρχαιολογική έρευνα στην Ολυμπία" [Archaeological research at Olympia], in P. Valavanis (ed.), *Ολυμπία-Ιστορία, αρχαιολογικός χώρος, μουσείο, Ολυμπιακοί Αγώνες* [Olympia-History, archaeological site, museum, Olympic Games], Athens, Explorer, 2004, 182-184.

7. G. Flaubert, *Oeuvres complètes illustrées. Voyage en Orient (1849-1851)*, Greek trans. P.A. Zannas, Athens, Olkos, 2000, 122.

8. Th. Bochotis, "Αρχαιολογία και Πολιτική. Η αποτυχημένη απόπειρα της Πρωσίας για ανασκαφή της Ολυμπίας 1852-1856" [Archaeology and politics. The unsuccessful attempt of Prussia as to excavation at Olympia 1852-1856], article in press.

9. Curtius was the 'architect of the triumph' of the excavations at Olympia and founder of the German Archaeological Institute in Athens. In 1844, as a professor at the University of Berlin, in a lecture, he clearly showed the importance which Olympia had for him as a symbol of the natural and spiritual perfection of man: "The little pebbles and the sand of the Alpheios roll on again on the sacred soil of art, and we ask with boundless yearning: When will this womb open again, to bring to the light of day the works of the ancients? [...] Olympia remains for us sacred soil...". See R. Stoneman, *Land of lost Gods. The search for classical Greece*, Greek trans. Eleni Angelomati-Tsougaraki, ed. Antigone Philippopoulou, Athens, MIET, 1996, 377-390.

10. *Μεγάλη Ελληνική Εγκυροπαίδεια*, 830; Suzanne L.

Marchand, "The excavations at Olympia, 1868-1881: An episode in Greco-German cultural relations", in Ph. Carabott (ed.), *Greek Society in the Making, 1863-1913: Realities, Symbols and Visions*, Variorum, Ashgate Publishing Ltd, London 1997, 73-85.

11. "A martyrdom" was how the newspaper *Patris* described in an article the stay of the archaeologists at the village of Drouva because of the mosquitoes and malaria. See V. Davos, *Στον Πύργο και στην Ηλεία τον 1821-1930* [In the Pyrgos and Ileia of 1821-1930], reprint from the *Patris* newspaper, Pyrgos, 1985, 101.

12. *Μεγάλη Ελληνική Εγκυροπαίδεια*, op. cit. (n. 6), 830; Leonardos, *Η Ολυμπία*, op. cit. (n. 1), 144-145, in which the terms of the contract signed between the two countries are quoted in detail. On the significance of the excavations and the sanctuaries of Olympia see also G. Gruben, *Heiligtümer und Tempel der Griechen*, Greek trans. Dimitra Aktseli, Athens, Kardamitsa, 2000, 57-78.

13. Davos, op. cit., 117. Later, maintenance and repair work on the museum was required; this was finished in 1915 (*ibid.*, 320).

14. The museum was built to plans by Dörpfeld and Adler with money provided by Andreas Syngros. In the course of time, however, the museum was judged inadequate to house the ever-increasing number of finds from the excavations and, furthermore, sustained serious damage as a result of an earthquake in 1954. Thus the building of a new museum was planned, north-west of the Kronios Hill. Its construction was completed in 1975 and it was officially opened in 1982 by the Minister of Culture, Melina Mercouri. The Syngros Museum, after years of disuse and neglect, was renovated and converted into a Museum of the Ancient Olympic Games on the occasion of the 2004 Olympic Games; today it houses objects from Olympia and other athletic centres of antiquity which are connected with the Olympic and other games of ancient times. See Davos, op. cit., 117-118; A. and N. Yalouris, *Ολυμπία, Οδηγός*, op. cit. (n. 2), 33; Trianti – Valavanis, *Ολυμπία*, op. cit. (n. 2), 103; *I Avgi Pyrgou* newspaper, 8.2.1982.

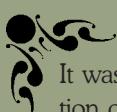
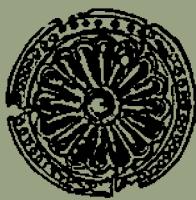


Today I visited Olympia. Believe me, for this alone it is worth coming to Greece. There antiquity is present before you more vividly, more majestically than on the Acropolis itself.

When from the Hill of Kronos you see the ruins of the temples, the wrestling-grounds, the votive monuments, spread out beneath your feet as on a giant map, you think that everything great and beautiful that there was in ancient Greece has come to life again before you. [...] The whole of ancient Greece is encapsulated, as it were, and summed up within this little valley. [...]

We had the good fortune to visit the ruins under the guidance of Mr Demetriadis, who is also the ephor of the excavations, which continue after the departure of the Germans, and of the invaluable collections here.

Dimitrios Vikelas, 1884



It was almost night when I arrived at the station of Ancient Olympia. [...]

The hotel I am staying at is called the Company Hotel and is very close to the railway station. [...]

On my right, as if greeting me from time to time, are the flickering lights of the very few houses, which are like lamps in the boundless silence of a temple which has the heavens as its vault. [...]

I have the feeling that I am in some fairytale world where time is unknown and where my soul takes its rest by its passage through the history of the place. [...]

[...] every corner, every inch of Olympia has its own secret history.

Pierre de Coubertin, 1927



At this period, Olympia in its excavated state was also visited by the man of letters Dimitrios Vikelas, who arrived there in April 1884. Fate had in store for him that ten years later he should attend the International Athletics Congress at the Sorbonne, where, together with Baron Pierre de Coubertin, he was to support the revival of the Olympic Games and the candidacy of Athens for holding the Games of 1896.<sup>15</sup>

In spring of 1914, after lengthy preparations, the German Emperor visited Olympia. A year earlier, the local Press reported that 150 German visitors (men, women, children) had knelt before the statue of Hermes, greatly moved. In July 1919, King Alexander toured the sacred spot and the ephor of antiquities N. Kyparissis entertained him to a meal in the railway restaurant. Eight years later, in April 1927, the unveiling of the bust of Coubertin took place. Coubertin himself with his daughter and other high-ranking foreign guests arrived in specially laid-on railway carriage. One hundred and fifty British travellers arrived in another carriage.<sup>16</sup>

From the turn of the twentieth century onwards the flow of visitors increased – a phenomenon due to the construction of the Pyrgos-Ancient Olympia railway line, the improvement in general of access to the archaeological site, and the building of the first hotels. In June 1890, after the completion of the Patra-Pyrgos line, the extension of the Pyrgos-Ancient Olympia and Kavassila-Kyllini and Litzi line was laid for the exploitation of the spa waters there. These extensions were undertaken by the Serpieris and Piskas company. These lines came into use in stages by early 1892. Up to then, visitors had arrived at Olympia in carts and carriages from the Pyrgos-Olympia public road, a journey which was “terrible, particularly in winter because the road was full of potholes and water”.<sup>17</sup>

15. His visit to Drouva, the village closest to Olympia, is pictured in his description: “Drouva is the name of the small village [...] The Germans have built a house here [...] The villagers have given the name of Palati to this house. Nearby, another house has been converted into a hotel for those wishing to extend their stay at Olympia. The employees and labourers spend the night at Drouva, since after sunset it is not possible to remain with impunity below in the valley. The vapours arising as if from the excavations, added to the otherwise unhealthiness of the place, cause fevers, and the only protection against these is considered to be to spend the night on the hill”. D. Vikelas, *Από Νικοπόλεως εις Ολυμπίαν* [From Nicopolis to Olympia], Athens, Ekati, 1991, 154-155.

16. Davos, op. cit., 302, 310-311, 347, 395.

17. Ibid., 144, 155; L. Papayannakis, *Οι ελληνικοί σιδηρόδρομοι 1882-1910, γεωπολιτικές, οικονομικές και κοινωνικές διαστάσεις* [The Greek railways 1882-1910, geopolitical, economic and social dimensions], Athens, MIET, 1990, 101-102.

ΜΟΥΣΕΙΟΝ ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑΣ

ΤΑ

ΕΝ ΤΩΙ ΜΟΥΣΕΙΩΙ

ΑΡΧΑΙΑ

ΥΠΟ

Β. ΛΕΟΝΑΡΔΟΥ Δ. Φ.

ΦΩΤΟΥ ΑΡΚΑΙΟΤΗΤΩΝ

ΕΝ ΑΘΗΝΑΙΣ

ΕΚ ΤΟΥ ΤΥΠΟΓΡΑΦΕΙΟΥ ΤΩΝ ΚΑΤΑΣΤΗΜΑΤΩΝ

ΑΝΕΣΤΗ ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΙΔΟΥ

1895

V. Leonardos, *Ta εν τω Μουσείω αρχαία* [The Museum antiquities], Athens 1895 [ΙΟΑ Library]



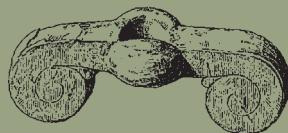
The usual way of visiting Olympia is either to come from Pyrgos, as already mentioned, or to approach it from the south in the regulation tour through the Peloponnesus. In the former case the tourist is marched through the museum, walked over the ruins, lunched at the Hotel d'Olympie, and returned by the two o'clock train. In the latter his dragoman takes him to an empty house, which has been swept and garnished for the occasion, in the village of Drouva, which stands upon a hill high above the Xenodochion, and from which coign of advantage a splendid view is obtained of the valleys of the two rivers, the Alpheios and the Kladeos. The dragoman furnishes the house with the contents of the tents, and whilst in Greece we were very much amused by having Olympia quoted to us as the place for comfortable quarters. [...]

In spite of the beauty of the situation, this first view of Olympia almost strikes terror to the heart. The vastness of the ruins, the terrible destruction that has been bared to sight... [...] At Olympia man and nature seem to have vied the one with the other to destroy the sacred city of the gods. [...]

The advantage of staying at Olympia is that you have the ruins and the Museum to yourself to wander in and out of them at will.

[...] At Olympia men in fustanella were constantly coming to the Greek inn at which we put up, even sometimes sitting down to our table, and the blacksmith's shed outside—as in England—was the local club, more than half of whose members wore the national dress.

Isabel Armstrong, 1892



The Piraeus-Athens-Peloponnese Railway company (Greek initials: SPAP), in order to serve the increased flow of visitors and tourists to Olympia, constructed there the hotel of that name, which was bound up with the history of the place. From early 1980, the neo-Classical SPAP building ceased to function as a hotel. As the years passed, it declined into a ruined and unguarded building, without doors and windows, its valuable traditional equipment (dinner services more than 100 years old, furniture, utensils, a piano, pictures, machinery, etc.) literally looted. Even the handrails of the traditional-style internal wooden staircase of the new east entrance were stolen or sold. Nothing was left unscathed of the historic hotel which had entertained kings, princes and a host of famous figures from all over the world. It was only in 2004 that it was converted into a conference centre, with additions which altered its architectural character and gave rise to many objections in the local community.<sup>18</sup>

A detailed visit to the ruins and the museum required, according to an estimate of 1925-1926, at least two days.<sup>19</sup> At that period the following hotels operated in the vicinity: 'The Pension of England' (an annex of the 'England' Hotel in Patra), 'The Great Hotel of the Peloponnesian Railway Company' and the 'New Grand Hôtel à Olympie' (an annex of the 'Patrai' and 'Olympia' Hotels).<sup>20</sup>

In 1936, on the occasion of the Berlin Olympic Games, new excavations were undertaken by the Germans; these lasted until 1942, under the supervision of the archaeologists E. Kunze and H. Schleif. The excavations were interrupted because of the Second World War, and were resumed in 1952-1966. From then on they have continued down to the present with interruptions.<sup>21</sup>

For the modern world, there can be no doubt that the most enduring and familiar legacy of the German excavation has remained the revival of the Olympic Games in 1894 by Coubertin. This revival brought Olympia to the forefront of attention in 1936 in a way which was decisive for its subsequent history. This was the year in which the German Olympic Games Organising Committee introduced the lighting of the Olympic

18. "Ξενοδοχείο ΣΠΑΠ. Αυτό το κτίριο ποιος θα το πάρει;" [SPAP Hotel. Who will buy this establishment?] *Patris* newspaper, 13.7.1994. Th. Kosmopoulos, "Στον απόγου της διένεξης για το κτίριο του παλαιού ξενοδοχείου ΣΠΑΠ" [In the reverberations of the dispute over the building of the old SPAP Hotel], *Proini* newspaper, 22.9.2003.

19. N. G. Inglesis, *Οδηγός της Ελλάδος* [Guide to Greece], year X, 1925-1926, [Athens 1926], 105.

20. Ibid.

21. Arapoyanni, *Oλυμπία, η κοινίδα*, op. cit. (n. 2), 29.

ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ ΚΥΠΑΡΙΣΣΗ

ΚΑΘΗΓΗΤΟΥ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ  
ΤΟΥ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟΥ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΣ ΟΔΗΓΟΣ  
ΤΗΣ  
**ΑΡΧΑΙΑΣ ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑΣ**  
ΕΙΚΟΝΟΓΡΑΦΗΜΕΝΟΣ

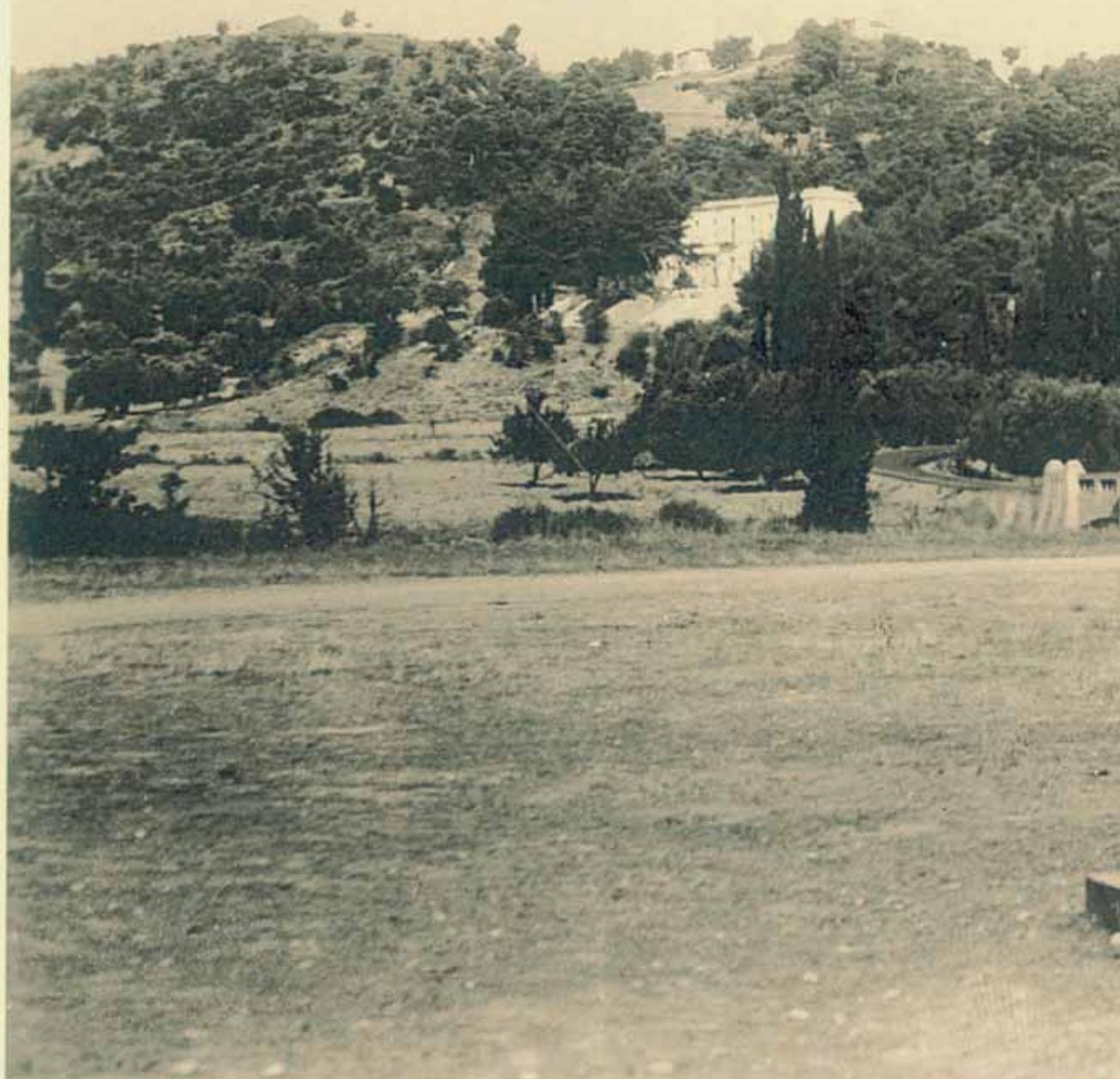
ΠΕΡΙΓΡΑΦΗ ΤΩΝ ΕΝΤΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΚΤΟΣ ΤΗΣ  
ΑΛΤΕΩΣ ΝΑΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΟΙΚΟΔΟΜΗΜΑΤΩΝ ΚΑΙ  
ΚΑΤΑΛΟΓΟΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΡΧΑΙΩΝ ΤΟΥ ΜΟΥΣΕΙΟΥ  
ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑΣ ΜΕΤΑ ΙΣΤΟΡΙΚΗΣ ΕΙΣΑΓΩΓΗΣ



ΕΚΔΟΣΕΙΣ Γ. ΣΕΡΒΑΝΤΕΑ

ΕΝ ΑΘΗΝΑΙΣ

N. Kyparissis, *Σύντομος οδηγός της Αρχαίας Ολυμπίας, εικονογραφημένος*  
[A short guide to Ancient Olympia, illustrated], Athens [Yorgos Acheimastos archive]



ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑ. Ο βωμός του



Ολυμπιακού Φωτός 1936

Olympia. The altar of Olympic light, 1936 [Yorgos Acheimastos archive]



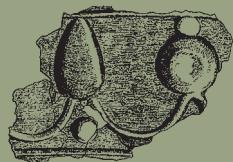
So then, at 9 o'clock we jumped out at Olympia, found Thoby & Adrian, heard our own tongue once more, & drove up to the Hotel.

But of Olympia it is difficult to write.

Baedeker [sic] will count the statues; a dozen archaeologists will arrange them in a dozen different ways; but the final work must be done by each fresh mind that sees them. The pediments of the temple line the two sides of the museum; [...] but we wont write guide book – There is the Apollo. He is straight & serene but there he has a human mouth & chin, ready to quiver or to smile. So might a Greek boy have looked, stripped, in the sun. And there are other noble fragments, somewhat broadly chiselled, because they stood on a height; the hair is a smooth band of stone; the drapery graved in rigid lines. Ah but the beauty!

Then you come to the separate temple, where the Hermes stands still, so lightly & with such a spring in his step that you expect him to turn & go.

Virginia Woolf, 1906



The day we spent at Olympia (April 22) the weather was hot and dull, and we found the ruins more painfully archaeological than ever. The sight of these gigantic prone temples had the same depressing effect on me as the like spectacle at earthquake-ravaged Selinonte... But why had no one ever told us that until you have seen the Hermes of Praxiteles you do not know what Greek sculpture must have been?... Seen as he really is, the marble so marvellously preserved by the soft black mud of Alpheos as to be more like transcendental human flesh than marble, it produced in us – and I feel sure this must be a common experience – a passion of admiration and wonder such as no manifestation of art has ever produced in me except in the realm of music.

Ethel Smyth, c. 1915



flame at Ancient Olympia and its journey in the hands of relay runners to the organising city (then Berlin). This event took on an international dimension and permanently established Olympia as a cradle of values for the whole world. Some years later, in 1961, after many years of work, the ancient stadium was revealed and in the summer of the same year the opening ceremony took place.<sup>22</sup>

According to the testimony of the residents, the presence of the German archaeologists and scholars at Olympia made itself felt overall by a careful policy of rapprochement, sympathy and concern for the local population, a large part of which was employed on the excavations as a workforce (approximately 200 at that period). As evidence of this, they speak of the “mild” attitude of the Hitlerite authorities during the course of the German occupation at Olympia, as a result of the positive intervention of the German archaeologists, who wished to avoid the subjugation of German archaeology to the Nazi ideology.

Nevertheless, during the Occupation the residents engaged in resistance activities against the Germans, who, as explained above, continued the excavations from 1936 to 1942. On 1 August 1941, the German flag was stolen from the house where the German archaeological mission was residing at Olympia, to the north of the site of the Sacred Altis. The news caused great consternation, and 20 residents of Olympia were arrested, not as suspects, but as hostages until those guilty –probably “local communists”– were discovered. The hostages were released almost immediately thanks to the mediation of Kunze, who was director of the German Archaeological Service, and has gone down in history as “a real philhellene and a good man”, in contrast with his assistant, the archaeologist Wagner, a former colonel in the Gestapo and a “hard-core fascist”. The file on the case was closed very quickly, on 8 August, and was ‘shelved’. However, although it is certain that the flag disappeared, there is considerable doubt as to who dared to carry out this act. In spite of this, the Municipal Council of Ancient Olympia, by a decision of February 2001, recognised as the culprits two individuals from the area, but the professionalism of the committee which carried out the investigation is in dispute and the mystery which envelops this case for many remains unresolved.<sup>23</sup>

22. *Patris Pyrgou* newspaper, 6.9.1959, 8.12.1960, 11.3.1961, 13.5.1961, 23.6.1961, 30.7.1961.

23. *Proini* newspaper, 1.8.2001, “Ποιος έκλεψε την γερμανική σημαία στην Αρχαία Ολυμπία;” [Who stole the German flag at Ancient Olympia?], and in the same issue, Y. Argyropoulos, “Ποιος είναι ο Γλέζος της Ολυμπίας;” [Who is the Glezos of Olympia?]. The event is also dealt with by G. Farakos in his book *H μάχη των*

A number of years later and with the distance from the events of the war provided by time, in an article in the local Press, the address of Athanasios Kosmopoulos to Kunze, in the course of the official opening of the Heuss Clinic at Olympia, on 29 March 1961, recorded the same familiar feeling:<sup>24</sup>

The official celebrations are over; we have stayed behind by ourselves, a family environment. And like a family that we are, we have a father. Our father is our wise teacher Kunze [...] For 30 years, our wise teacher with his pickaxe, his spade, his hoe, his penknife and his little brush –but never without his pipe, which gives him such charm, in his mouth— continuing the work of the other teachers, also wise, Curtius and Dörpfeld, has constantly revealed to us the Olympic spirit and the universality of the Greek teaching of *mens sana in corpore sano*. This he has understood and taken to heart [...]. Kunze, our spiritual father, completed his perfection at Olympia and it is from Olympia that today also he delivers to us this foundation for the healing of the body, of the material, after the bulk of his 30-year-long intellectual, archaeological work. He is an Olympic victor.”<sup>25</sup>

In another article in the local Press, a professor of the University of Tübingen is hailed as “a great German philanthropist”.<sup>26</sup>

---

*συμβόλων* [The battle of the symbols]. See also the article in the *O Mentor Olympias* newspaper, 2.3.1996, “Η ‘ίκλοπ’ της Χιτλερικής σημαίας την 1η Αυγούστου 1941 στην Ολυμπία” [The theft of the Hitlerite flag on 1 August 1941 at Olympia]: this deals with the relevant detailed article by Farakos in the periodical *Alpheios*, issue 5, 6. See also an unsigned manuscript “Η Εθνική Αντίσταση της Αριστεράς στην Ολυμπία 1941-1944” [The National Resistance of the Left at Olympia 1941-1944], archive of Thoukyidis Kosmopoulos, December 1999.

24. The Heuss Health Centre was set up in 1961 following a donation from the former President of West Germany Theodore Heuss, who provided 1,200,000 drachmas, by the co-ordinated efforts of the Mayor, Asimakis Karapanayiotis and the German archaeologist Kunze. The site was donated by the Olympia resident A. Anastasopoulos. The building was based on plans by the German architect Alfred Malewitz. On the day of the official laying of the foundation stone (29.3.1961), the Municipal Council of Olympia by a resolution proclaimed Heuss “a great benefactor of Olympia”. *Patris Pyrgou* newspaper, 25.8.1960, 15.10.1960, 30.4.1961. Today, the Health Centre of Olympia is housed on the same site and in the same building as the Heuss Health Centre.

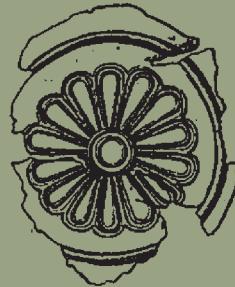
25. *Patris* newspaper, 3.5.1961.

26. “Professor Dr Carl Wiemer has arrived here with his family, as leader of a group of German intellectuals. Dr Wiemer has from time to time been a generous benefactor to the indigent Drouva family of the shepherd Emmanouil Galanis, to whose 12th daughter, Ioanna, they are showing particular favour and whose studies in Germany they are to undertake.” *Patris* newspaper, 5.5.1962.



I remember the torch race in 1936. Such a thing had never happened before. It passed through my village. It was without precedent [...] The Germans were way out in front. We here were a bit like Abyssinia. They had tactics, strictness, greatness [...] When I came here to the school, the ‘Archaeology’ proposed me for extra curator of antiquities. Because if the director was away, I would stand in for him. They never needed to use me. It was a formality. In 1954 this happened, and it was for as long as I stayed here. Kontis was in charge then. And I remember well that with the document they issued me with, when I went to Athens to the Archaeological Museum, they gave me a guide and took me on a tour of the museum for two days. And in Crete, when I went there, again the same thing [...] The German archaeologists were liked here. Yes. And I’d probably go so far as to say that Olympia escaped from the Germans in the war thanks to the Germans who were here. Thanks to the German archaeologists, the German occupation was more gentle. And I’ve heard that one of the archaeologists was a spy. But he was a good archaeologist, and it’s said that he saved the village when the German flag was stolen and there was a tremendous fuss.

Angelos Kabras, retired teacher, 2005





The railway at Olympia has a direct connection with the shaping of the space and of the town itself as such. The existence of the railway made the very few people come down from Drouva to Olympia. And not only those who were at Drouva came down, but they were joined by others, from other places.

[...]

I have heard a very nice story involving my mother. I don't know whether I've told you it. One evening, in that basement down there, when my grandfather told his fellow-diners that it was his treat that evening, because a little girl had been born, there was an archaeologist there who said that he wanted to be the god-father. Well, that archaeologist was called Schliemann, and when the time came for the baptism, he was at the excavations at Mycenae and called her Mykena. So she has this historical reference and that's a fine thing. My mother was born in 1893. A little later Schliemann died...

[...]

The Germans looked upon Olympia rather differently because of the antiquities. Of course, there was the astonishing event, that the first evening when the Germans entered Olympia and raised the German flag with the swastika at the so-called Germanika –where the new museum is, that was the so-called Germanika, the dormitories of the archaeologists– it was stolen

the same evening. Farakos quotes this to show that the event in Athens was not unique. Well then, there was pandemonium. They made arrests, but, you understand now, they arrested Mitsos, Babis, Kostas, Yorgos – all these were friends of the German archaeologists. These people were put in a very difficult position. And, of course, because they weren't fascists. They were some scholars there doing their job and one fine day there was Hitler's army.

And from what I can vaguely remember, they were very concerned to rescue these people and take them from the German Kommandatur. Among those who wanted to do something was my uncle Thanasis Kosmopoulos, my mother's brother, the one who lived in the little house which you know, because he knew Italian and started to go round the police stations to try to get these people out of there. Down there in the basement I was telling you about, the Italians used to come to eat during the occupation, because there was somebody who knew Italian; this wasn't to the discredit of my uncle Thanasis, Thanasis had a great sense of humour and sometimes sang Rigoletto. And the Italians went wild, and he used to sort out some problems, because anybody who wanted to communicate with the Italians about a problem put uncle Thanasis on to the job. Anyway...

Angelos Antonopoulos, actor, 2005





Let me tell you something from my own personal history. In the German occupation at Olympia, there where the stone building is, was the German garrison headquarters. In the little house, where we live, on the external staircase was the vat where we trod the grapes, and my father was sitting with his back towards below and was cutting tobacco. And an aeroplane passed over high overhead; this it was proved later was British and from below, from the main road, a German soldier saw that a proclamation was being dropped. He had been in a car, further down where there's a cookshop; he took a false step, fell down, and wasn't able to make out where the proclamation was dropping because he lost visual contact. He went up there, grabbed hold of my father and said: "What happened to the piece of paper?"

My father didn't know what he was talking about. He got hold of him, and took him to the Kommandatur, because he said that was where the proclamation had been dropped and he took it. I –I was a young child– saw the German grab my father. My poor mother had pleurisy and was in bed with a temperature, and I went into the house and told her: "Mamma, the Germans have taken my father". "Oh, we're in trouble now", she said. "Go to the German house of the archaeologists" – where the new museum is now was where the German archaeologists lived and at that time there were two or three Germans there, one of whom had the same name as a famous German composer –Wagner– "and tell them that they've taken your father".

I went by a little pathway, crossed the stream barefoot, knocked at the door and found Wagner. I was a little boy of five. "What

are you doing here?" he asked me. "The Germans have taken my father", and I said it as though he wasn't a German. But for me, Wagner wasn't a German, because he used to give me chocolate. The man lost no time, he took me by the hand, I told him my mother was ill, we went to the German house, but as it proved afterwards he was also a member of the Wehrmacht – although he was an archaeologist, he played a certain other role. He told me: "Go to your mother and tell her that your dad will be back home in ten minutes' time". I went home overjoyed. And in fact in about ten minutes the man assured them that my father was peaceable and he got hold of that German soldier and they went to where the proclamation had fallen. Behind the place where my father was sitting, we kept a pig and he saw the proclamation floating in the place where the pig ate. They took him, they went down there and the matter was closed, because my father hadn't seen anything at all. It was pure chance that the proclamation was dropped there...

You're talking about people's feelings about the Germans? Here nobody came to any harm. They took down the German flag from the German house and nobody was punished. You know, when Kunze used to come –he's dead now– the public all paid their respects. Barba-Yannis Dimitanitis used to wait for him at the station to take his bags and it was like a fair with him. "How's your wife, Yannis, your son?" "Well, Professor". "How's your donkey?" "Not so good, Professor". "Why?" "I've nothing to feed it on." "Don't worry, I'll give you some money to go and get it something to eat."

Yorgos Kosmopoulos, former Mayor, lawyer, 2005





ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑ. Ο σιδηροδρόμος



ορμικός σταθμός 1937

Olympia. The railway station, 1937 [Yorgos Acheimastos archive]



"The Torch of Peace". Work by the Georgian sculptor Georgi Shvatsabaya, with the support of the National Olympic Games Committee of Georgia, 1992  
[photograph: Vassiliki Tzachrista]

Even today the view of the local residents that the German Archaeological School by its work contributed to the better employment of the more general region and to the development of a lively interest in everything that has to do with Olympia has remained commonly held. For the local community this has been translated, on the one hand, into economic security for those who worked on the excavations, but also for those who have

made their living from the tourist development which followed; and, on the other, into a product of particular emotional, aesthetic and ideological value. And naturally no one overlooks the important contribution of the Germans to the lighting of the flame, the ceremony of which is a major communications event which permits the highlighting of their area and its significance in modern times.

## The village

"In the area of Olympia in pre-Revolution times there was nothing but the silence of the solitude of the ancient ruins."<sup>27</sup> The region was controlled by the Turco-Albanians who had settled at Lala. It had not been inhabited because it was exposed to malaria. The villages around Olympia belonged chiefly to Turks, who abandoned them as soon as the Revolution began in 1821 to take refuge in fortified Lala. When this capitulated after a siege by the revolutionaries and the inhabitants of Lala departed (June 1821), Christian families from the mountain regions of Ileia, Gortynia and the areas around Pyrgos began gradually to settle in the Muslims' villages. Many of the Turkish and Albanian village names, such as Kriekouki, were retained.<sup>28</sup>

When, in 1834, 22 municipalities of the second class were formed in the province of Ileia, no mention of the name of Olympia is encountered.<sup>29</sup> In 1840, these 22 municipalities were amalgamated into eight: among them was the Municipality of Olympia, after the amalgamation of the Municipalities of Kladea, Pisa and Kythereans. The inhabitants of the new municipality numbered 5,201, and its capital was Doukas.<sup>30</sup> In 1861, the Municipality of Olympia was shared between Doukas (summer) and Kriekouki (winter). There were other administrative changes in the nineteenth century, the result of the party political support which each village ensured. In 1906, the Municipality of Olympia was divided, and a second municipality with the name of Pisatis and with the town of Doukas as its capital was created. The Municipality of Olympia retained the same name, with what had up to then been the town of Kriekouki as its headquarters. The former municipality included the mountain villages of the once united Municipality of Olympia and the latter the villages of the plain region.<sup>31</sup> When in 1912 all municipalities which had below 10,000 inhabitants were abolished and those groups of villages with more than 300 residents were called communes, the Municipality of Olympia was converted into the Commune of Ancient Olympia with Kriekouti as its headquarters.<sup>32</sup>

27. Davos, *Στον Πύργο*, op. cit. (n. 11), 46.

28. Ibid., 46-47.

29. *Government Gazette* 3/10.1.1834 "Concerning the formation and division of Municipalities".

30. *Government Gazette*, 22/18.12.1840.

31. Davos, op. cit., 245.

32. *Government Gazette* A 256/28.8.1912 "Concerning recognition of the municipalities and communes of the prefecture of Achaea and Elis". See also Davos, op. cit., 295.



### *Occupations of the residents of Ancient Olympia around 1930*

*Priest:* I. Kyriazis

*Teachers:* I. Kyriazis, Chr. Kolios, Chr. Salfaris, Nik. Barounis

*Tradesmen:*

*Flour merchants:* Th. Damaskos, I. Katsandreas

*Bakeries:* Chr. Bakapanos

*Bookshops:* K. Karapanayotis, A. Koutras

*Olive presses:* G. Kondylis, G. Papapanagos

*Restaurants:* A. Kosmopoulos, N. Lolos, P. Tzifas

*Tobacco (representative of Karavas):* G. Georgiadis

*Coffee shops:* Ch. Kondylis, P. Matsoukas, D. Papavasileiou

*Butchers:* V. Varelas, G. Nezeris

*Monopoly:* I. Seferlis (manager)

*Hotels (inns):* Ch. Koumopoulos, K. Maniatis, Z. Bartzis

*Timber (merchant):* G. Georgiadis

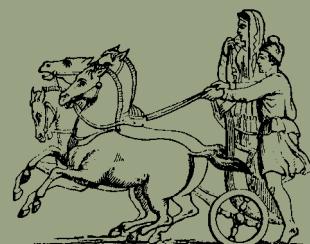
*Grocers:* Amalia Liakopoulou, widow of Chr. Liakopoulos

*Tailors:* A. Kosmopoulos

*currant merchants:* E. Karahalios, G. Bitsas, Ch. Panagopoulos

*Blacksmiths:* V. Papavasileiou

*Shoemakers:* I. Kountouris, A. Papavasileiou, P. Paraskevopoulos





The funeral of the Mayor of Olympia Apostolis Kosmopoulos, 1957  
[Apostolis Kosmopoulos archive]

Kriekouki was later hellenised into Pelopion.<sup>33</sup> Gradually, above all from the third decade of the twentieth century, Ancient Olympia, exploiting the economic prospects opened up by an increase in the number of visitors to the antiquities, detached itself from Kriekouki, increased its population, and generally acquired an autonomous entity. During the inter-War years, wine, olive oil, currants, cereals and livestock were produced at Olympia. An annual trade fair was held at Drouva between 8 and 15 September, which seems to have also attracted residents from the surrounding area. The commune had an agricultural credit co-operative, a forestry and police station, a post and telegraph office, a mixed elementary school and a junior high school. There were three hotels to cater for the visitors of antiquities. A local railway ran a service from Olympia to Pyrgos three times

a day.<sup>34</sup> The commune became a municipality again in 1942.<sup>35</sup> The table which follows shows the development of the population of Ancient Olympia from 1920 to 1991: a gradual increase with small regressions, until the 1950s, when a significant drop in the population is observable, obviously because of the more general drift at that time to the urban centres; there was recovery from the 1970s and rapid development in the two decades which followed. In the column alongside, the corresponding population of Drouva, the principal village after Olympia, is noted.

33. Davos, op. cit., 401.

34. *Ελληνικός Οδηγός* [Greek Guide] 1920, 543-544; Inglesi, *Οδηγός της Ελλάδος*, op. cit. (n. 19), 104-105; *Μεγάλη Ελληνική Εγκυροπαίδεια*, op. cit. (n. 6), entry on Olympia.

35. Legislative Decree 1726/17.8.1942 "Concerning recognition in Municipalities and Communes of Delphi, Ancient Olympia and Ptolemais", *Government Gazette A* 228/1942.

**TABLE 1**  
**Development of the population of Ancient Olympia**

YEAR	OLYMPIA RESIDENTS	DROUVA RESIDENTS	SOURCE
1920	334	139	KEDKE* (publ.), <i>Data on the Constitution and Development of Municipalities and Communes 14: Prefecture of Ileia</i> , Athens 1962, 13 [in Greek]
1920	356	89	<i>Greek Guide</i> [in Greek], 1920, 543-544
1925-26	473	139	Inglesis (ed.), <i>Guide to Greece 1925-1926</i> , 104 [in Greek]
1928	427	134	KEDKE (publ.), op. cit.
1930	427	134	Inglesis (ed.), <i>Guide to Greece</i> , Athens, Pyrsos, 1930, 949 [in Greek]
1940	546	98	KEDKE (publ.), op. cit.
1949-50	644		Inglesis (ed.), <i>Guide to Greece 1949-1950</i> , Athens 1950, 1265 [in Greek]
1951	437	107	KEDKE (publ.), op. cit.
1961	771	108	ESYE**, <i>Population of Greece at the census of 19 March 1961...</i> , Athens 1962*** [in Greek]
1971	707	72	ESYE, <i>Concerning the ratification of the results of the actual population of the general census of the population carried out on 14 March 1971...</i> , Athens 1972 [in Greek]
1981	1.063	62	ESYE, <i>Actual population of Greece according to the census of 5 April 1981...</i> , Athens 1982 [in Greek]
1991	1.742	70	ESYE, <i>Actual population of Greece according to the census of 17 March 1991...</i> , Athens 1994 [in Greek]
2001	1.286	189	ESYE, <i>Actual population of Greece according to the census of 18 March 2001...</i> , Athens 2003 [in Greek]

\* Central Union of Municipalities and Communes of Greece.

\*\* National Statistical Service of Greece.

\*\*\* See also ESYE, *Λεξικόν των Δήμων, Κοινοτήτων και Οικισμών της Ελλάδος...*, Επί τη βάσει της απογραφής των πληθυσμού του έτους 1961, περιέχον εν παραρτήματι τας επελθόντας διοικητικά μεταβολάς και εγκριθείσας μετονομασίας μέχρι της 31.12.1962 [Lexicon of the municipalities, communes and settlements of Greece ... On the basis of the census of the population of the year 1961, containing as an appendix the impending administrative changes and approved renamings up to 31.12.1962], Athens 1963.

The change in population of 2001 is clearly a result of the new administrative divisions of Greece known as ‘Capodistrias’.<sup>36</sup> In 2001, the following settlements belonged to the Municipality:

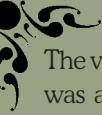
**TABLE 2**  
**Municipality of Ancient Olympia**  
**(settlements belonging to it), 2001**

SETTLEMENT	RESIDENTS	NOTES
Ancient Olympia	1.286	
Drouva	189	
Ancient Pisa	330	formerly Moiraka
International Olympic Academy	63	
Aspro Spitia	316	
Vasilakio	450	
Ypsilo	146	
Irakleia	388	
Kamena	192	
Nea Kamena	63	
Kafkonia	194	
Kladeos	183	

SOURCE: National Statistical Service of Greece, *Actual population of Greece at the census of 18 March 2001. By prefectures, municipalities, communes, municipal communal departments and settlements...* [in Greek], Athens 2003, 88.

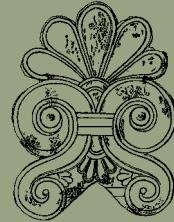
The introduction in 1936 of the lighting of the flame at Olympia, the establishment there in 1961 of the International Olympic Academy (IOA) and the various activities connected with it, the creation of a modern archaeological museum and the more systematic highlighting of the archaeological finds, the increase in the post-War years in tourism in general, the setting up of the ‘Olympia’ theatre in the village of Floka, and the holding of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens are among the factors which, each with its own significance, have promoted the place and its importance for culture.

36. ‘Capodistrias’ has today divided Olympia. The greater part of the local community wants the Municipality to revert to its original form. An association has been formed by a group of residents with the view to making Olympia independent of ‘Capodistrias’, so that it remains a historic municipality as it was before. The association’s principal aim, according to its Article 2, is the protection and highlighting of the environment of the historical, cultural and social heritage and character of Ancient Olympia. See Articles of the ‘Friends of Ancient Olympia’ Association, archive of Thoukydides Kosmopoulos. See also idem, “Ο καποδιστριακός Δήμος Αρχαίας Ολυμπίας, ένα στρεβλό διοικητικό κατασκεύασμα” [The Capodistrian Municipality of Ancient Olympia, a distorted administrative confection] (unpublished).



The village of Olympia was still tiny. Its museum was an amazing study in Bavarian neoclassic stucco, painted deep yellow. So was its railway station. Its only hotel, which at that time I was too ragged to enter, was the SPAP, an oasis of the pre-war calm with a mature, luxuriating garden, and one of the most impressive and harmonious views of the world. It was the only Greek railway hotel. Higher up on the same hill stands an abandoned country house of one of the early Queens of Greece. It was her ding that the whole of the ancient site of Olympia is overshadowed by enormous pine trees. It is also a fine place for wild flowers in their season and a refuge for sing birds and for hares.

Peter Levi, 1963



Since 1926 Odyssey Cruises (except for the war years) has come annually to Greece and the Near-Middle East bringing more than 2600 Americans to see and appreciate the glories of the ancient world. Highlights are: Petra in Arabia, Palmyra in the mid-desert (Syria), Babylon, Delphi, Athens of the violet crown, the islands of the wine-dark sea – and Olympia. Having grown up in the classic manner, I put Olympia at the top. Thanks to Marshall Plan, hotels in the Greek countryside are modern, clean, well run. My hope is that the hordes of tourists will not spoil the sweet hospitality and simplicity of Old Greece – the Peloponnesos. To my friend, long-standing, Mr. Costas Baritakis I extend thanks for more than services rendered. Two days here are not enough. Next year it will be three. Zito!!!

Visitors' book of the "SPAP" Hotel, 1955





Dionysios Kosmopoulos at the entrance to his coffee-shop, 1950s  
[Yorgos Kosmosopoulos archive]



Yorgos Acheimastos in front of one of the first petrol stations at Olympia, c. 1955  
[Yorgos Acheimastos archive]

## Tourism



The custodians Theodoros Liangouras and Kostas Georgakopoulos at the entrance to the archaeological site, c. 1965  
[Theodoros Liangouras archive]

It has been pointed out that the area around Ancient Olympia is a typical example of a local economy which depends directly on the tourism services sector, on tourist inflows.<sup>37</sup> It can be seen from the Greek State Tourism Organisation data for 1992 that in the Municipality of Ancient Olympia there were 23 hotel units of all categories, of a total capacity of 840 rooms and 1,575 beds.<sup>38</sup> Nevertheless, an infrastructure of tourist services which would have as its aim that visitors should stay for longer than a simple visit to the archaeological sites and museum has not been set up. Accommodation tourism could diffuse benefits to the wider area.<sup>39</sup>

The area also lacks luxury hotels and hotels in the top category and suitable trained personnel, as well as any great variety of recreational facilities to attract tour-

ists in a high income bracket.<sup>40</sup> Ancient Olympia, moreover, in spite of its importance, has not been an exception to the way in which private interests use tourist to profiteer: thus an ekistic complex has taken shape with “overlapping uses and functions, over-exploitation of land, and aesthetic, social and cultural degradation”.<sup>41</sup> The flow of tourists to Ancient Olympia is estimated, in the summer months, at 700 a day.<sup>42</sup>

Tables 3 and 4 show arrivals and overnight stays of non-Greek and Greek tourists in the period 1990-1992 in the area of Ancient Olympia. The fact that there is little difference between the two tables proves what has been said above: that tourists stay in the area for a short space of time, as long as is needed to visit the archaeological sites.

37. Y. Angelidis and associates, *Μελέτη αξιοποίησης τουριστικών πόρων Αναπτυξιακού Συνδέσμου Περιοχής Αρχαίας Ολυμπίας, Α' φάσην* [Study of the utilisation of tourist resources, Development Association of the Ancient Olympia Region, 1st phase], Ancient Olympia, Development Association of the Municipalities and Communes of the Ancient Olympia Region, 1995, typewritten, 20. On tourism at Ancient Olympia see also Polyxenie Kotretsov, “Le renaissance d’Olympie, Sport et Tourisme, Horizon ‘2000’, Université de Nice-Sophia Antipolis, Faculté de Sciences du Sport, 1993 (unpublished).

38. Angelidis, op. cit., 34. In 1994, the hotel units of all categories numbered 21, with a total capacity of 836 rooms and 1,546 beds.

39. Ibid., 35. Apart from accommodation tourism, by the exploitation of the rich natural resources of the area and of the ancient sites and old buildings, agrotourism, ecotourism, cultural tourism, etc. could be developed – “forms which would have much

stronger positive impacts on the economy of the region and more marked diffusion results”. See in this connection Y. Angelidis and associates, *Μελέτη αξιοποίησης τουριστικών πόρων Αναπτυξιακού Συνδέσμου Περιοχής Αρχαίας Ολυμπίας, Β' φάσην* [Study of the utilisation of tourist resources, Development Association of the Ancient Olympia Region, 2nd phase], Ancient Olympia, Development Association of the Municipalities and Communes of the Ancient Olympia Region, 1996, typewritten, 21 and *passim*.

40. Angelidis, op. cit., 25. See idem, *passim*, comments on the deficiencies of the tourist infrastructure in the Olympia area and proposals on overcoming these problems.

41. Ibid., 50 and 51-54, for decisions, in 1992, of the Ministry of Culture to deal with certain problems and the promotion of the area.

42. Idem, *Μελέτη, Α' φάσην*, op. cit. (n. 38), 18-19.

**TABLE 3**  
**Arrivals of tourists in the Ancient Olympia area (1990-1992)**

YEAR	ARRIVALS OF NON-GREEKS	% (of the whole of the Prefecture of Ilia)	ARRIVALS OF GREEKS	% (of the whole of the Prefecture of Ilia)	TOTAL ARRIVALS
1990	148.010	89,10	18.062	10,90	166.127 [=166.072]
1991	88.440	83,60	17.376	16,40	105.841 [=105.816]
1992	135.582	87,20	20.001	12,80	155.583
TOTAL	372.032		55.439		427.551 [=427.471]

SOURCE: Y. Angelidis and associates, *Study of the utilisation of tourist resources, Development Association of the Ancient Olympia Region, 1st phase*, Ancient Olympia, Development Association of the Municipalities and Communes of the Ancient Olympia Region, 1995, typewritten, 71 (data from the Greek State Tourism Organisation - Greek initials EOT). See *ibid.*, 73, arrivals of the above tourists by month.

**TABLE 4**  
**Overnight stays of tourists in the Ancient Olympia area (1990-1992)**

YEAR	OVERNIGHT STAYS OF NON-GREEKS	% (of the whole of the Prefecture of Ilia)	OVERNIGHT STAYS OF GREEKS	% (of the whole of the Prefecture of Ilia)	TOTAL OVERNIGHT STAYS
1990	158.201	86,80	23.905	13,20	182.106
1991	94.959	78,40	26.091	21,60	121.050
1992	150.932	80,90	35.658	19,10	186.590
TOTAL	404.092		85.654		489.746

SOURCE: Angelidis, op. cit., 75 (data from EOT). See *ibid.*, 76 ff., the arrivals of tourists by month, their average length of stay and arrivals of cruise ships at the port of Katakolo (1990-1993).

As to visits to the museum, Table 5 is indicative of their increasing number – with small fluctuations:

**TABLE 5**  
**Ancient Olympia Museum (tickets - sums received, 1965-1979)**

YEAR	NO. OF TICKETS	SUMS RECEIVED IN DRACHMAS
1965	91.879	828.980
1966	98.007	888.850
1967	93.080	863.545
1968	84.057	775.380
1969	110.936	1.016.685
1970	56.494	543.485



**TABLE 5 (continued)**  
**Ancient Olympia Museum (tickets - sums received, 1965-1979)**

YEAR	NO. OF TICKETS	NO. OF TICKETS
1971	154.696	1.457.090
1972	187.728	1.750.255
1973	131.172	3.323.170
1974	141.188	3.502.440
1975	220.181	5.530.480
1976	317.169	8.030.220
1977	277.331	11.989.015
1978	348.732	15.678.330
1979	372.385	17.468.350

SOURCE: *Statistical Yearbook of Greece 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980* [in Greek].

From a table which was drawn up by P. Voulismas, assistant ephor of Olympia, and published in 1901, we know how many foreigners (11,172) and how many Greeks on their own (14,658) or in the context of an organised visit (31,830) visited the Museum of Olympia from 1888 to 1901.

**TABLE 6**  
**Visitors to the Museum of Ancient Olympia (1888-1901)**

YEAR	FOREIGNERS	GREEKS (INDIVIDUAL VISITORS)	GREEKS (ON ORGANISED VISITS)	TOTAL
1888	201	212	-	413
1889	226	256	-	482
1890	500	604	-	1.104
1891	646	1.069	1.200	2.915
1892	589	1.679	1.900	4.168
1893	725	2.120	2.400	5.245
1894	899	1.516	1.900	4.315
1895	954	1.536	3.500	5.990
1896	1.213	1.119	2.740	5.072
1897	520	650	-	1.170
1898	1.204	1.320	1.820	4.344
1899	1.157	950	3.220	5.327
1900	891	619	1.150	2.660
1901	1.447	1.008	12.000	14.455
TOTAL	11.172	14.658	31.830	57.660

SOURCE: V. Leonardos, *Olympia (with a topographical chart)*, Athens, P. D. Sakelariou, 1901, independent table at the end of the book.



Custodians of antiquities: on the left, Nikos Diamantakos and, on the right, Theodoros Liangouras, 1950s  
[Theodoros Liangouras archive]

## The residents

Table 1 showed the development of the population of Ancient Olympia: 334 residents in 1920, 1,742 in 1991. Around the latter date, 63% of the population were over 35 years old, while the tertiary sector, tourism chiefly, employed the larger part of the active population (only 13% were engaged in agriculture). Services to tourists involve almost all households, so that it seems that unemployment is non-existent.<sup>43</sup> Most hotels and shops of the village bear ancient names.<sup>44</sup>

The question is, however, how far the vicinity of the ancient finds, the presence of hundreds of thousands of

visitors to the archaeological site, the installations and activities of the IOA, the Olympic Games and the involvement of Olympia in these have affected the relation of the modern residents of Olympia with antiquity: whether, that is, this relation is particularly strong in comparison with the average which could emerge from research throughout the country, given that the weight carried by the educational system, with its well-known adulation of antiquity, has played a decisive role. By way of indication, given below is the frequency of male and female ancient-sounding names on the electoral roll of Ancient Olympia of 2002. It is obvious that these appear with greater frequency in the older generation. What is still lacking, naturally, is a comparison with the corresponding electoral rolls of other villages, to see whether or not an 'individuality' as to ancient names on the part of the residents of Olympia emerges.

43. Kotretou, "Le renaissance", op. cit. (n. 38), 57-58.

44. See in this connection the typewritten list "Τουριστικά καταστήματα - Είδη λαϊκής τέχνης & κοσμηματοπολεία" [Tourist shops - Folk art goods & jewellers' shops], Union of Traders of the Municipality of Olympia, August 2005.

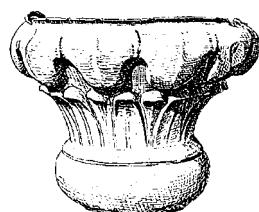
**TABLE 7**  
**Male ancient Greek names (father, son)**

NAME	FATHER	SON
Achilles	6	3
Agamemnon	1	1
Alcibiades	2	3
Alexander	8	9
Aristides	6	2
Aristomenes	1	-
Aristotle	3	1
Cleanthes	1	-
Demosthenes	3	2
Epameinondas	3	1
Heracles	2	-
Leander	1	1
Leonidas	4	1
Lysander	1	-
Menelaus	1	-
Neocles	1	1
Odysseus	1	1
Pericles	1	-
Philip	1	3
Praxiteles	-	1
Socrates	2	1
Solon	1	-
Spartacus	-	1
Telemachus	-	1
Themistocles	3	-
Thrasybulus	1	-
Thucydides	-	1
Xenophon	1	-
TOTAL	55 (of a total of 1,087, i.e., 5.06%)	34 (of a total of 679 male children, i.e., 5%)

The decisions of the authorities of Ancient Olympia, the local Press, the literati and other figures, by their demands and interventions, permit a first sketching of the attitude of the local community towards antiquity and its weighty heritage. The primary objective is that modern Olympia should be a substantive factor in the shaping of the Olympic ideal, in the preparation for and the holding of the Olympic Games, and not merely a reference when the lighting of the Olympic torch takes place or sport executives from all over the world gather on the IOA premises.

These objectives, which have been voiced repeatedly, were vividly put forward in the address of greeting delivered by the Mayor of Ancient Olympia, Yannis Skoularikis, at the opening of the work of the session of the IOA on 2 August 2003. He listed the changes which the Municipality regards as absolutely necessary for the enhancement of the role of Olympia in the context of the Olympic Games, in order to make it "a world nodal point of values, a world city":

1. The participatory role of Olympia in the holding of the Olympic Games, which today is non-existent, should be enhanced generally.
2. The selection of the candidate city for the holding of the Olympic Games should take place at Olympia.
3. The election of the President of the IOC should be held at Olympia.
4. The Participation of the Ancient Olympia Municipality in the Hellenic Olympic Committee and the International Olympic Academy should be introduced.
5. The lighting of the Olympic torch should be established as an institution, as provided for by the relevant law, and be the culmination of the parallel events which would have preceded it at Olympia. The imitation of the lighting of the torch which has been observed during the holding of various athletic contests should be prohibited. All that this act achieves is to give rise to confusion, and to devalue progressively through time the prestige and significance of the lighting of the real Olympic torch.
6. Events should be held at Olympia on the eve of the Olympic Games which should have semiotic significance and a function of linkage with them.
7. Each city organising the Olympic Games should be required to construct, on a specially chosen site at Olympia, a dedication to give expression to its country and its culture.



SOURCE: Electoral roll of Ancient Olympia for 2002.



From the left: Yorgos Dionysopoulos, Yorgos Acheimastos and Kostas Dionysopoulos, c. 1960  
[Yorgos Acheimastos archive]

**TABLE 8**  
**Female ancient Greek names (daughter, mother)**

NAME	MOTHER	DAUGHTER
Alexandra	12	4
Andromache	3	1
Antigone	3	2
Aphrodite	8	6
Ariadne	-	1
Aspasia	2	3
Athena	7	3
Calliope	5	7
Callirhoe	3	3
Calypso	-	1
Cleonica	2	2
Crystallia	2	1
Dorothea	1	-
Electra	1	1
Eurydice	2	1
Evanthia	3	1
Ismene	2	1
Julia	-	1
Nausica	2	2
Olympia	3	4
Olympias	1	-
Penelope	3	4
Polyxena	3	1
Rhea	1	-
Terpsithea	1	-
Thalia	1	-
Urania	2	2
TOTAL	73 (of a total of 972, i.e., 7.51%)	52 (of a total of 671 female children, i.e., 7.75%)

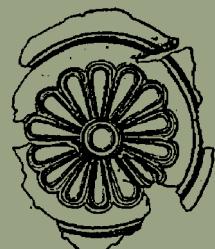
SOURCE: Electoral roll of Ancient Olympia for 2002.



As to the sense of historicity of Olympia, I don't know whether I could say that we, the present-day residents, could be regarded as trustees one hundred per cent of the antiquities. And this is because the village where we live has only existed for about a hundred years. Our grandfathers lived at Drouva and in the area round about. There were fields here. And so I wouldn't say that we are trustees. Continuators in a way, perhaps. I have a particular feeling as an Olympia resident for these matters because we grew up on the archaeological site and the museum. We grew up with these things on our mind and certainly we feel an awe, a pride, something special.

It is one thing to have a tourist shop on Rhodes and another to have one here, for example. And we feel an obligation, perhaps as far as possible to keep and safeguard these things, but again I have to say that we're not obsessed with antiquity. Here there was nothing after the end of the ancient games. There was no village in antiquity, so that there could be a continuity. We turned up here in the early 1900s. And so most of us have been imported. My own father came from Asia Minor and my mother is from Platanos. But I was born here. Very well. But I think we should respect the historicity of the place in which we find ourselves.

Christos Heliotis, trader, 2005





The Olympia railway station, 2006 [photograph: Vassiliki Tzachrista]

The proposals of previous Mayors, of the Prefecture of Ileia and of elements in the local community have tended in the same direction. The basic demands, without significant deviations, can be summed up in the establishment as an institution and the upgrading of the ceremony of the lighting of the Olympic torch, in the foundation of university schools, and the implementation of educational programmes whose basic content is sport, gymnastic and philosophical studies, in the establishment also as an institution of the proclamation of the truce at Olympia, regardless of the position of the International Truce Centre –although by some it is regarded as important that the Centre should be at Olympia– in the institution of the International Olympic Festival for Young People in the period intervening between

Olympic Games, and in the setting up of an up-to-date conference centre and the construction of a modern Olympic stadium.<sup>45</sup>

At the same time, the Municipality is attempting, in collaboration with other bodies, to make Olympia a centre for academic and artistic activities. Since, in the end, the efforts to set up at Olympia an International University for Hellenic Studies failed, in spite of the readiness

---

45. These details are derived from interviews, in summer 2005, with the former Mayors of Olympia Spyros Photeinos, Yorgos Aidonis, Yorgos Kosmopoulos and Yorgos Deves, the Deputy Prefect of Ileia, Antonis Karambelas, and Leonidas Varouxis, owner of the *Patris* newspaper and member of the Ephoria of the IOA.

of the late shipowner Yannis Latsis to meet the cost involved,<sup>46</sup> the 'Olympic Centre for Ancient Greek Studies' was founded in 2001. This is a non-profit association, of which the founding members are the University of Patra and the Municipality of Ancient Olympia.

In July 2002, an international conference was held on the premises of the IOA at Olympia on 'Ancient Greece and the Modern World'.<sup>47</sup> During the course of its work, the Deputy Mayor, Thoukyidis Kosmopoulos, spoke of the personality and work of the late prominent Greek philosopher of our time Panayiotis Kondylis, who was born at Olympia in 1943. He recalled how honoured he had been for his achievements by the Germans (Goethe and Alexander Humboldt Prizes) and how ignored he had been by the Greeks. Moreover, at the event organised (1999) by the Goethe

46. A hundred MPs from all parties signed an amendment (inspired by the MP Yannis Zafeiropoulos, a devotee of Olympia) on the creation at Olympia of an International University for Hellenic Studies. The President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Education, the leaders of the political parties, etc. were in agreement. The financial aspect remained. Ten years previously, in 1986, Yannis Latsis had offered to meet the cost of this project. Adverse circumstances did not permit this to be realised. See Th. Kosmopoulos's manuscript of 21.4.1994 in his archive. See also the *Patris* newspaper, 13.3.1986: At the reception given at the Petrola premises in Elefsina to mark the raising of the Greek flag on the largest merchant vessel, the 'Hellas - Phos', the shipowner Yannis Latsis proposed in the presence of the Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou the financing of an international university at Ancient Olympia. The Prime Minister "embraced, kissed and thanked the shipowner –his fellow-citizen– for his generous offer".

47. A postgraduate seminar of 6-7 weeks on the same subject was scheduled for the months of July-August 2002, to be attended by 30 graduates or students of Harvard University. The seminars, for which the fees were high, was to take place in the classrooms, suitably adapted, of the Ancient Olympia high school and were to be financed with 50 million drachmas by the Kokkalis Foundation. In addition, on the initiative this time of the Prefect of Ileia, the setting up of an International Institute of Ancient Greek History, with its headquarters on the "Olympic soil of Ileia", was also planned. Th. Kosmopoulos, in an article in the *Proini* newspaper, 18.4.2002, notes that these two undertakings converge to a large extent and that the co-operation between those who took the initiatives would be desirable. See also the articles of the 'Friends of Ancient Olympia' association, ibid. See details of the postgraduate seminar in the article by Sophia Photopoulou, "Πλανηγυρική τελετή έναρξης του 'Summer School' στην Αρχαία Ολυμπία - Ο 'καρπός' της λαμπτρής εκπαίδευσης" [Gala opening ceremony of the 'Summer School' at Ancient Olympia - The 'fruit' of fine education], *Patris* newspaper, 18.7.2002. The opening ceremony was held on 17 July. The main speaker was the Minister of Education, Petros Efthymiou. Speeches of greeting on the beginning of the programme were delivered by the American Ambassador, Thomas Miller, and the Mayor of Olympia, Yorgos Aidonis. Also present were the Rector of the University of Patra, Nikolaos Zoumbos, Eleni Kokkali, member of the Board of Management of the Kokkalis Foundation and many academics, politicians and representatives of the world of letters.

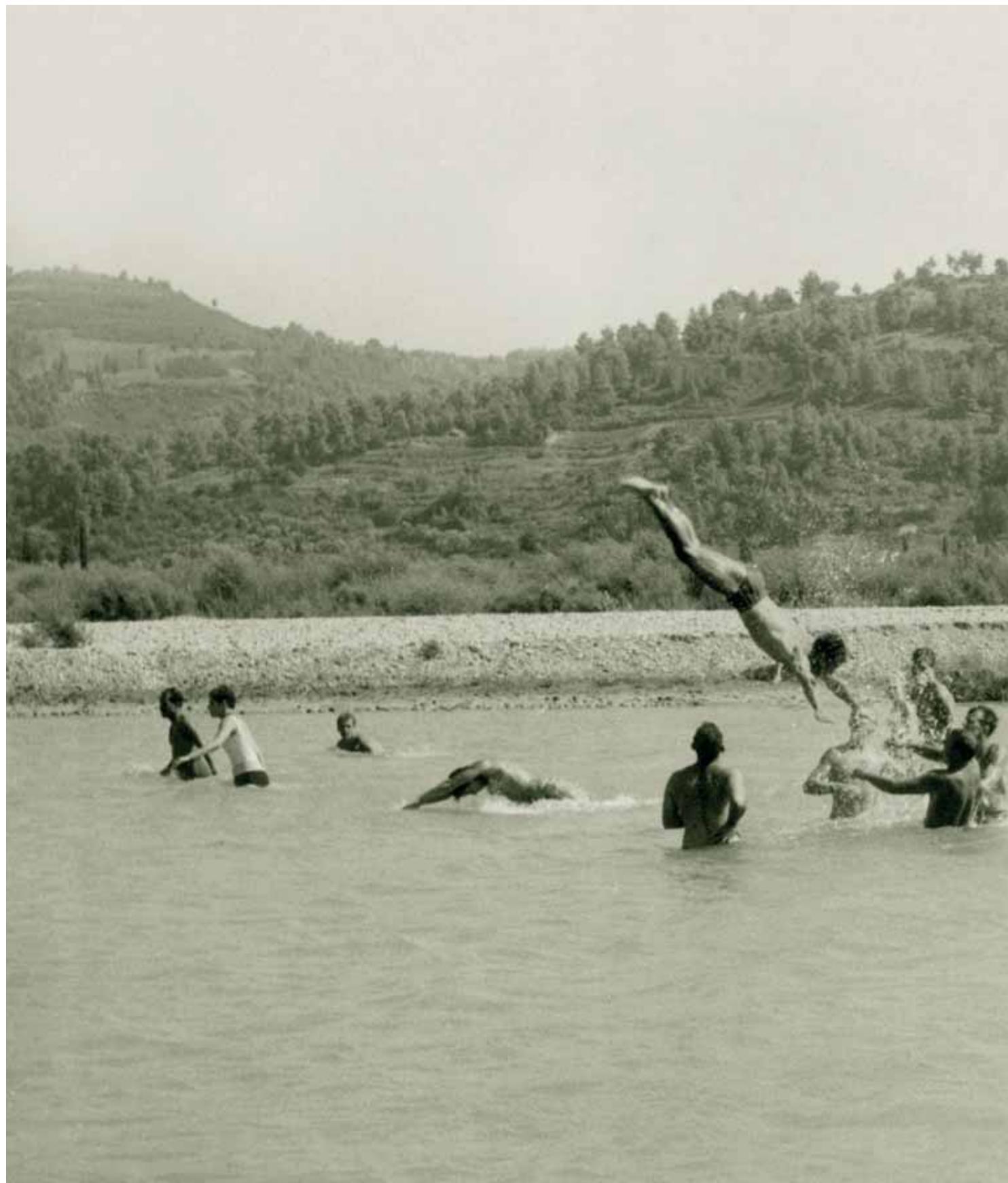


Ancient Olympia has not been looked after. Olympia is a drudgery. We have to go and light the flame every four years and no more than that. [...]

The ceremony of lighting the flame means a lot to us here. For other people, no. They look upon it as a drudgery to have to travel here, as I said. As an opportunity for printing a historic photograph. You go to the lighting of the flame as an ordinary citizen, you sit in the stadium and you see young people, not only Greeks but foreigners as well, being scorched by the sun and standing in dead silence watching all this procedure. This feeling is remarkable. You have no idea what it's possible to feel.

Leonidas Varouxis, owner of the *Patris* newspaper, 2005







Bathing in the Alpheios, c. 1957 [Apostolis Kosmopoulos archive]



House of the Kosmopoulos heirs opposite the railway station, 2006.  
In the basement was the "Voronoff" taverna, where the railway employees used to eat  
[photograph: Vassiliki Tzachrista]

Institute in Athens and the German Embassy, there were no representatives of the Greek State present, but only of the Municipality of Ancient Olympia, which resolved on the establishment of a Panayiotis Kondylis prize for philosophy and the erection of his bust in the forecourt of the local high school.<sup>48</sup>

The efforts to form an extended identity for the Municipality through ‘twinning’ with cities abroad, with a view to developing and cultivating cultural, sport, tourist and economic relations, belongs within the context of a quest for a world role for Olympia in the modern age. The institution of twinning had its beginnings when Spyros Photeinos was Mayor (1983-1990), in an attempt to organise a conference of the Olympic cities of the summer and winter Olympic Games in a non-Olympic year at Ancient Olympia. This ambitious proposal was included in the pre-election manifesto of the mayoral candidate in 1986. A parallel aim of the holding of the conference was that Olympia should be twinned with all these Olympic cities, regardless of whether other twinning took place in the meantime. The proposal did not meet with the appropriate response and this, in conjunction with the inability to find the necessary funding, meant that it was never implemented.

However, during his term as Mayor, two other twinnings, with non-Olympic cities, took place. The first was with the Japanese city of Inazava, on 22 August 1987, and the second with the American city of Olympia, Washington, on 7 May 1988. What prompted the twinning with Inazava was the strong spiritual bond of the Japanese professor of Greek philosophy Keizi Koku-bu with Olympia, which he visited each summer for many years. After his death, and in accordance with his wishes, a part of his ashes was brought and placed in a column outside the Town Hall of Olympia together with his bust.

In 1996, when Yorgos Deves was Mayor, twinning with Atlanta, the city where the Olympic Games were held, took place. Thus Atlanta became the first Olympic

48. *Proini* newspaper, 14.7.2000 and *Paratiritis* newspaper, 17.7.2000. See also the communication of the Municipality of Olympia to the Goethe Institute which was read at the ceremony, 15.3.1999. In 1991, when the philosopher was honoured in this way, various articles appeared: Th. Kosmopoulos, “Η Γερμανία τιμά και βραβεύει τον Έλληνα φιλόσοφο Παναγιώτη Δημήτρη Κονδύλη που γεννήθηκε στην Ολυμπία” [Germany honours and awards a prize to the Greek philosopher Panayiotis D. Kondylis, who was born at Olympia], *Patris* newspaper, 24.3.1991; Amanda Michalopoulou, ‘Η Γερμανία τιμά με δύο βραβεία Έλληνα φιλόσοφο. Μετάλλιο ‘Τκαΐτε’ και βραβείο Χούμπολτ για το έργο του Παναγιώτη Κονδύλη’ [Germany honours a Greek philosopher with two prizes. ‘Goethe’ Medal and Humboldt prize for the work of Panayiotis Kondylis], *I Kathimerini* newspaper, 7.3.1991.

### *Mayors of Ancient Olympia from 1951 to the present*

ASIMAKIS KARAPANAYOTIS  
1951 - April 1963

ATHANASIOS KOSMOPoulos  
April 1963 - May 1964

EFSTATHIOS SPILIOPOULOS  
June 1964 - September 1974

ALEXIOS MICHOS (civil servant performing the duties of Mayor):  
15.9.1974 - 4.10.1974

DIMITRIOS TSAKALOS  
October 1974 - May 1975

ANGELOS KOUTRAS  
June 1975 - December 1982

SPYROS PHOTEINOS  
January 1983 - December 1990

GEORGIOS KOSMOPoulos  
January 1991 - December 1994

GEORGIOS DEVVES  
January 1995 - December 1998

GEOGRIOS AÏDONIS  
January 1999 - December 2002

IOANNIS SKOULARIKIS  
December 2002 to the present

city to be twinned with Olympia.<sup>49</sup> This act was criticised on the argument that “Olympia is ONE AND UNIQUE and literally ‘without a twin’. The city and the region which gave birth to the Olympic idea and the ideal of peace and of the “ancient, immortal spirit...” could not for reasons of history and symbolism be twinned with any other city – let alone the city of Coca Cola and CNN.<sup>50</sup> The tradition of twinnings was continued in 2001 with the German city of Grassostheim when Yorgos Aidonis was Mayor, and in 2004 with Camisano in Italy and Antibes (the ancient Antipolis) in France, during the term of office of Mayor Yannis Skoularikis.

These initiatives of the Municipality of Olympia met on occasion with the objections of the Church, which refused to give its consent to events of a ‘pagan’ character. Germanos, Metropolitan Bishop of Ileia, for example, refused to attend the twinning of Olympia with the German city of Grassostheim because the ceremony was to be held at the temple of Hera. In his communication addressed to the Mayor of Ancient Olympia, Yorgos Aidonis, he was emphatic: “[...] Very curious this decision of yours, Mr Mayor – ill-considered and incompatible with today’s realities. At an earlier date, another Mayor of Ancient Olympia, did the same in the case of another twinning with a city in Japan. But he, on the one hand, declared himself an atheist, and, on the other, on that occasion it was a matter of non-Christians. But we and the Germans are Christians. Is it

to an idolatrous temple that we shall go to do the twinning?...”<sup>51</sup>

Thoukydidis Kosmopoulos reacted in another article: “Our monuments, our spiritual treasures of Antiquity, what we call today ‘Our Cultural Heritage’ and our Orthodox Christian faith make up an unbroken historical unity. It is the Greatness of the Hellenic Nation”. As he points out, the twinning ceremony in front of the temple of Hera was not a religious act, “but constitutes a social event of a cultural character”.<sup>52</sup>

In late June 2003, the Municipality of Ancient Olympia and the Municipal Undertaking for the Cultural and Tourist Development of Ancient Olympia (Greek initials: DEPTA) for the promotion of the cultural heritage and the preservation of Olympic ideals decided upon the setting up of a civil company of a non-profit character under the name of ‘Ancient Olympia Cultural Society’. The Society is administered by a five-member board of management: three members are drawn from the Municipality and two from DEPTA. The term of office of the board of management is two years. The emblem of the Society is a representation of the ‘Olympia’ theatre with a white dove. According to Article 7 of its articles of association, the basic aim of the Society “is to promote Ancient Olympia as an International Cultural Centre and to disseminate world-wide all the Olympic ideals, on the basic axes of the protection and preservation of the idea of Olympism, the Olympic Truce and of the true, unadulterated Spirit and Aim of the Olympic Games, both Athletic and Intellectual, in the modern age”.

It further states that the activity of the Society consists in the holding of cultural events (artistic, musical, theatrical, such as a festival of dance and music), in collaboration with academic and cultural bodies and with local government agencies which seek the highlighting of the cultural heritage and wish to contribute to the preservation of Olympic ideals, as well as in the undertaking of initiatives and action which have as their aim peace and the Olympic truce, in collaboration with representatives of the world of the intellect, universities, schools, etc.<sup>53</sup>

The principal location for the cultural events of the Ancient Olympia Cultural Society is the ‘Olympia’ theatre at Floka. The theatre has served as the headquarters and permanent site for the events of the Ancient Olympia Festival, which was regarded as one of the most

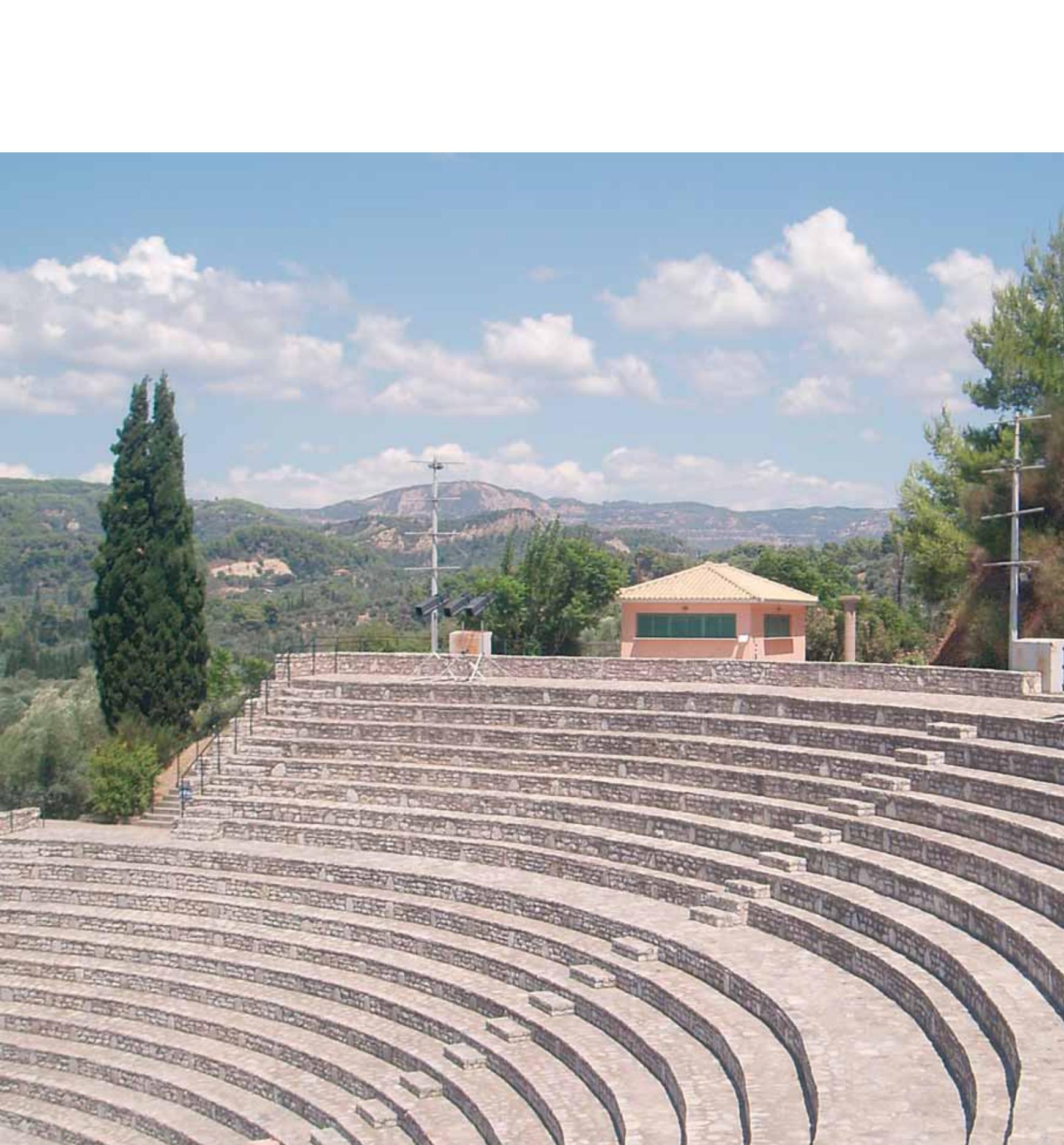
49. The twinning ceremony took place a little before the beginning of the Olympic Games at the Atlanta Town Hall in the presence of the Archbishop of North and South America, Iakovos, a host of Greek-Americans, and official guests. The ceremony was accompanied by the unveiling of *Victory*, a sculpture by Nikos Kouyoumtzis, which the Municipality of Athens donated to the city holding the Games. The twinning with Atlanta stirred up objections among Greek-American elements who considered the act “immoral, bordering upon sacrilege...”. They submitted a letter of protest to the Mayor and Municipal Council of Ancient Olympia asking them not to go ahead with the ‘twinning’ and that the Municipality should undertake to replace it with some other word (e.g., friendship, union or friendly association of cities of Olympism). This movement was headed by Angelos Sophos, a member of AHEPANS of Houston, founder and president of the international cultural movement for the ‘Lost Golden Olympiad of 1996’, together with the newly-elected first president of the World Council of Hellene Abroad, Andrew Athens. See <http://archive.enet.gr/1995/12/30/on line/keime-na/Greece/greece5.htm>.

50. Reaction of the *Ependytis* newspaper, “Μίας γκάφας μύριες έπονται...” [One gaffe is followed by ten thousand others ...]. This article was forwarded for publication to the local newspaper *Proini* by the municipal councillor of Ancient Olympia Th. Kosmopoulos (see his communication, 7.8.1996, archive of Thoukydidis Kosmopoulos).

51. *Patris* newspaper, 13.4.2001.

52. *Proini* newspaper, 16.5.2001.

53. Articles of association of a non-profit civil company under the name of ‘Ancient Olympia Cultural Society’, archive of Thoukydidis Kosmopoulos.



The “Olympia” Theatre at Floka, 2006 [photograph: Vassiliki Tzachrista]

important festivals after those of Athens and Epidaurus. It stands 800 metres from the archaeological site of Ancient Olympia, in the Commune of Floka. The village of Floka, almost contiguous with Ancient Olympia, operates virtually independently of it and to some degree tending to be in competition with it.<sup>54</sup> The theatre was constructed on the initiative of Nikos Karyotis, President for 20 years of the Commune, and was named ‘Olympia’. Ten-day cultural events were held in this commune from 1979 to 1983. Because of the extent of the public response, the idea of a large theatre was born. The site was found on a low hill near the Commune with a view of the plain of the Alpheios river. The residents who had their fields there ceded them to the Commune for the theatre to be built there.

The work on landscaping the site began in 1984 and from 1986 the theatre began to be built in stone. This stone was extracted and brought from Andritsaina by the President with the residents, while help was given by individual friends with their lorries. The building was carried out by craftsmen who were descendants of the famous Langada masons. From 1989 to 1992, work was suspended because of a shortage of funds. In order to complete the project in architectural terms, the architect and actress Georgia Zoi gave her assistance. In June 1996, the Commune Council decided to continue the work with commune revenues and the help of residents and friends of the enterprise. Following this, the Ileia Prefectural Local Government was sensitised and supported the project with funding.

In this way the theatre –with a capacity of 3,700– was constructed, with two tiers. It is equipped with state-of-the-art electrical and lighting installations, its own sub-station, a collapsible stage, stone-built dressing-rooms, two entrances for the public, paved walkways, modern toilet facilities, including those for persons with special needs, a stone-built refreshment bar, a ticket office, a first-aid post, and parking space for 300 vehicles.

The Ancient Olympia Festival, a regional festival, has succeeded in gaining by its performances, some of which have been exclusive and some world premieres, a great response in Greece and abroad. It has become a point of cultural reference and a pole of attraction for foreign audiences and for those from Greece, who have been drawn not only from Ileia, but also from Achaea, Kalamata, Corinth and Athens. The Festival lasted originally approximately two months. The events of 1997 (19 July–6 September) were attended by audiences of 32,000, a record number for a newly-established festival

and a new theatre. In that period, top names from the international artistic world have made appearances.

The premiere of the operation of the theatre with a performance by the great Russian dancer Barisnikov before a packed audience on 19 July 1997 was considered unique. It is striking that during the first year of the theatre’s operation, the programme included 23 events: nine performances of ancient drama, one performance by the National Theatre, ballet with the principal dancers of the Paris Opera, the 15-member State Academic Russian Folk Choir with 14 dancers and a seven-member orchestra, flamenco with the leading soloist Paco Pena and his musicians, Latin music with the Apurimac orchestra, and seven concerts by leading Greek artists and musicians. The artistic director was Dinos Tavridis. After this, the functioning of the theatre flagged and the number of performances declined. This phase in the theatre’s history coincided with its management passing to the Municipality of Olympia under the ‘Capodistrias’ plan.<sup>55</sup>

In 2004, on the occasion of the holding of the Olympic Games in Greece, Olympia hosted the shot put event in the ancient stadium. As in the case of all the Olympic cities, it was transformed both in function and appearance by the application of the so-called ‘Look of the Games’, which called for the decoration of the city on the responsibility of the Games organising committee. The Municipality of Olympia welcomed visitors with an enormous banner in the colours of ATHENS 2004 and a branch of wild olive hanging at the entrance to the town at the new Platanos junction and the greeting: “Welcome to the birthplace of the Olympic Games”.<sup>56</sup>

The return of the Olympic Games to their birthplace after some 1,500 years and, moreover, for the first time with women taking part, took on a symbolic and moral significance. The attempt to maintain the myth of Olympia to a large degree foundered, however, in the earth arena of the ancient stadium when Irina Korzhenko, Olympic gold-medallist in the shot put, was found to have been doped. This event had emotional impacts and harmed the manufactured image of idealised participation in the Games on the ancient site where in antiquity the athletes competed for a sprig of wild olive. On the contrary, it reinforced the image of the commercialisation of the modern Olympic Games, with doping predominating.<sup>57</sup>

55. The details are taken from the programmes of the ‘Olympia’ Festival Theatre, archive of Nikos Karyotis, and from an interview with him, on 27.5.2005, at Floka.

56. *Patris* newspaper, 3.8.2004, 14.8.2004, 17.8.2004, 18.8.2004, 19.8.2004.

57. Two days after the end of the contest, a cartoon by Dimitris Kordalis in the *Patris* newspaper, showing two characters con-

54. Angelidis, *Mελέτη, Α' φάση*, op. cit. (n. 38), 55.



The “SPAP” Hotel, Olympia 2006 [photograph: Vassiliki Tzachrista]

But be that as it may: a permanent comparative advantage of Ancient Olympia remains always its myth and spanning of time, in conjunction with the modern experience which it provides for those who visit it. It is the partaking of these that the Municipality of Olympia

and its residents capitalise upon, relying on its historical particularity, that is, the Olympic ideal. Olympia, in any event, as the reviver of the modern Olympic Games observed, “a name with three syllables and seven poor letters, is one of the most boundless names in history”.<sup>58</sup>

---

versing, caught very aptly the feeling of 18 August 2004: “Once upon a time they ran for an olive branch! Whereas now they run for money! - If the idea of money bothers you, think of them as running for a few hectares of olive trees!”. *Patris* newspaper, 20.8.2004.

58. Pierre de Coubertin, “Olympie”, Conférence donnée à Paris dans la salle des Fêtes de la Mairie du XVI<sup>e</sup> arrondissement (1929), *Pierre de Coubertin Textes Choisis*, II: *Olympisme*, N. Möller (ed.), Zurich 1986, 414.





YIANNIS MOUTSIS

## GERMANY MEETS OLYMPIA: ARCHAEOLOGY AND OLYMPISM





The German presence at Olympia has been marked and multifarious. To begin with, it manifested itself with the undertaking of excavations on the archaeological site in 1873 and 1936, while excavations by the German archaeological schools are still being carried out today. In 1936, as the idea of the leading German sportsman Carl Diem, the ceremony of the lighting of the Olympic torch took place on the site of Ancient Olympia for the first time and it was borne in relay to the German capital, on the occasion of the Berlin Olympic Games. From 1938 to 1945, Diem was President of the International Olympic Institute in Berlin. The contribution of the leadership of German sport to the setting up of the International Olympic Academy (IOA) in 1961 and the major part played by German academics and students in its work up to the present are proof of the importance of Ancient Olympia for Germany.

As early as the late eighteenth century, German intellectuals voiced the need for excavations to be carried out in the Olympia area in order to bring to light the monuments which had been described in the works of Pausanias. In 1873, the contract was signed with the German state on the undertaking of excavations. Coubertin's vision of the holding of the modern Olympic Games in 1896 in Athens kindled the interest of historians and archaeologists in the region. Some decades later, Olympia again came to the forefront with the exploitation of sport on the part of Nazi Germany for propaganda

purposes. The Berlin Olympic Games in 1936 marked the return of Germany to Olympia, on the one hand, with the restarting of the excavations and, on the other, with the holding of the first lighting of the Olympic flame and its relaying to the German capital.

At the same period, Diem took action together with the General Secretary of the HOC, Ioannis Ketseas, to promote an idea which had repeatedly preoccupied the Olympic movement: the setting up of an international institution to project the Olympic ideal at Olympia. At the same time, the German political and sport leadership moved vigorously in the direction of the foundation of a similar institution in Berlin. This was the International Olympic Institute (IOI), which was founded in 1938 and functioned until the end of the War with its headquarters in Berlin. The IOI represented an attempt by Nazi Germany to use the Olympic movement to promote its 'peace-loving' image on the international scene. Its operation, however, under the aegis of the Nazi state as well as the beginning of the war cancelled out its objectivity and restricted its range. After the end of the War, the International Olympic Committee suspended the operations of the IOI.

The fall of Nazi Germany forced Carl Diem to concentrate on the objective of the foundation of the IOA at Olympia in collaboration with the Hellenic Olympic Committee.



Poster of the Olympic Games, Berlin 1936  
[HOC Archive, K3.69]



Official telegram from Berlin, 1936  
[HOC Archive, K66-Φ3-E69]





Excavation work at the stadium at Olympia, 1960 [German Archaeological Institute]

## The archaeological excavations

### Philhellenism and ‘archaeolatry’

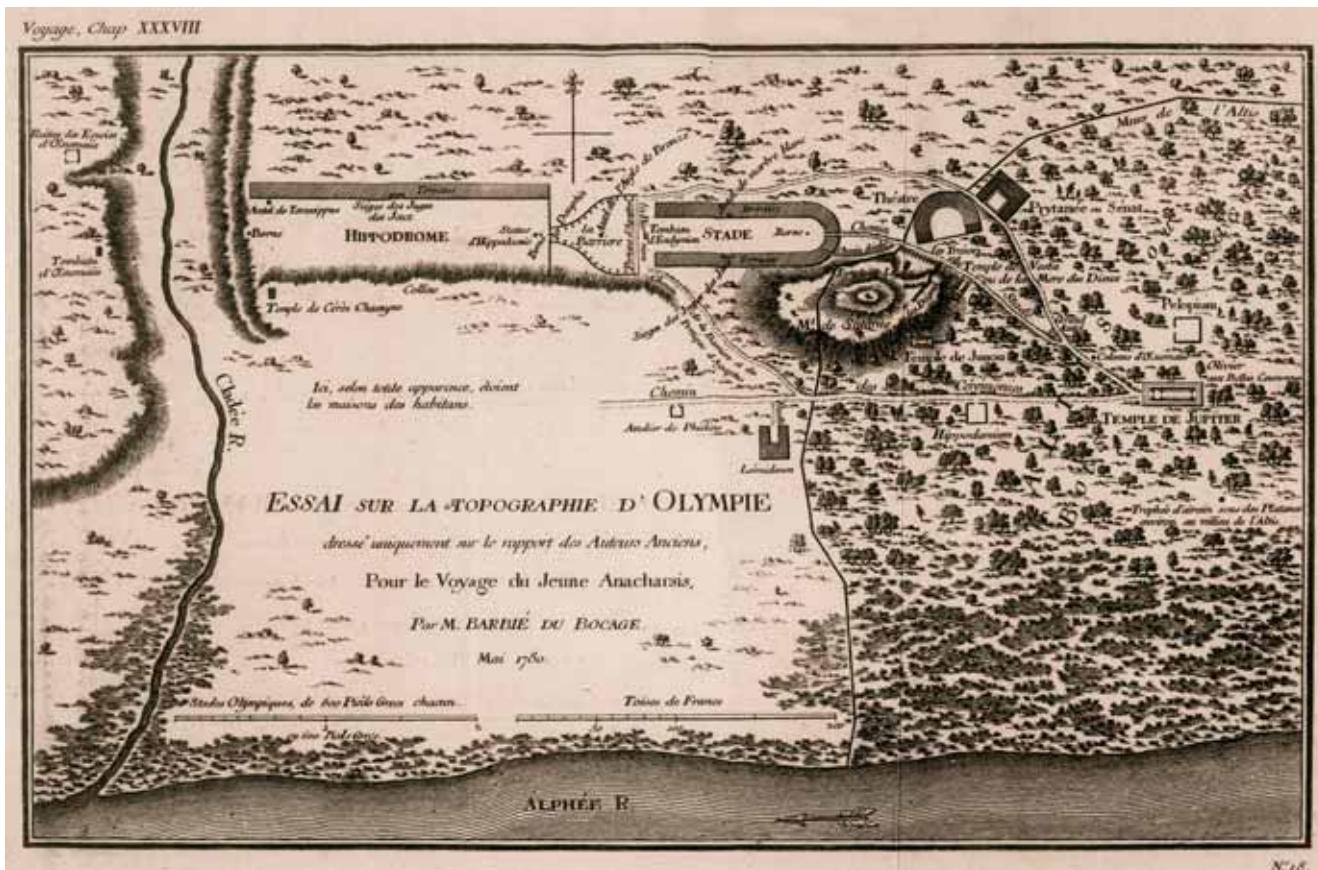
Ancient Greek civilisation was already central to European thought in the seventeenth century. Because of the importance of the ancient Greek world for the European Enlightenment, the interest of European academics and intellectuals in the various aspects of ancient Greece became increasingly marked. It is within this context that we must see the zeal shown by European archaeologists and art lovers for the discovery and study of works of art.<sup>1</sup> The interest of the Western European

states in the archaeological treasures of the broader Greek world rapidly took on a political character and was even one of the areas of competition between the major powers of the age in confirming their cultural superiority.<sup>2</sup> Naturally, the Romantic movement, which drew its ideals of freedom and democracy from ancient Greek art, contributed to this. It was from the systematic study of ancient Greek civilisation and the Romantic movement that the movement of Philhellenism –a particularly pop-

1. Th. E. Kalpaxis, *Αρχαιολογία και Πολιτική 1, Σαμιακά*

*Αρχαιολογικά 1850-1914* [Archaeology and politics 1, Samian archaeology 1850-1914], Rethymno 1990, 17.

2. Ibid., 19.



Reconstruction of the ancient Altis, J.J. Barthélemy, 1791  
[German Archaeological Institute]

ular trend among intellectuals in Europe in the eighteenth and nineteenth century – arose.

Philhellenism had particular resonance in Germany, more than in any other European country. As early as the middle of the eighteenth century, intellectuals such as Johann Joachim Winckelmann, Friedrich August Wolf and Wilhelm von Humboldt undertook – through the authorship of books on ancient Greek art, the translation of ancient Greek works and, above all, through their efforts as senior office-holders in educational and cultural affairs – to reform the German educational system by the introduction of the study of ancient Greek civilisation at a secondary and tertiary level.<sup>3</sup> Wolf's travels in the Peloponnese stirred interest in ancient Greece. In his work *Darstellung der Altertumswissenschaft* (1795) he linked ancient Greek civilisation with the humanist movement.<sup>4</sup> The Napoleonic Wars and the defeat at the battle of Jena speeded up the development of an early national consciousness among German

intellectuals. The developments on the field of battle also accelerated the reform of the German educational system, in which an important role was played by Wilhelm von Humboldt. With his background of having been responsible for educational and ecclesiastical affairs in the Prussian Ministry of the Interior, he believed that Prussia should be transformed into an intellectual force of the German nation.<sup>5</sup> In his time, a knowledge of Ancient Greek and Latin became a condition for admission to higher educational institutions, and in this way the study of ancient Greek civilisation became firmly established within German bureaucracy, particularly after 1830, when high school graduates came to dominate the public administration.<sup>6</sup>

It is in this light that we can better understand the spirit of philhellenism which imbued the German states in the first half of the nineteenth century. Moreover, the beginning of the Greek revolutionary struggle prompted a recrudescence of the interest of German philhellenes in

3. Suzanne Marchand, *Down from Olympus – Archaeology and Philhellenism in Germany 1750-1970*, Princeton 1996, 6-7.

4. Ibid., 22.

5. Ibid., 27.

6. Ibid., 35.



Field of excavation with workmen and archaeologists at the Temple of Zeus, 1875-1876  
[German Archaeological Institute]

Greece. The ideals of freedom and independence which inspired the Greeks in their uprising were a commonplace for German intellectuals. In spite of the fact that the German states did not facilitate the provision of assistance to revolutionary Greece, since the ideals of the revolution constituted a danger for their leaders, academic interest in the ancient Greek world was not under any constraint.

At the same period, political and economic competition between the European states also extended into the academic field, with archaeology, both at the level of excavations and at that of collecting, as the main area of competition.<sup>7</sup> The interest of the German bureau-

cacy in the emergence of Germany as a cultural force capable of competing with Britain and France finds expression in the speech delivered by Friedrich Kapp, a deputy of the ruling party, in the Reichstag in 1872: "Germany has so far done nothing as a political power for the study of classical antiquity. The French and the English have far outstripped us in this field and, above all, they have been the first to lay the foundations for the study of the Greek monuments."<sup>8</sup> Thus, the economic and political support given by the German state to the plan for excavation at Olympia and in other regions of the Eastern Mediterranean should be seen as a part of the broader cultural foreign policy of the Reich.<sup>9</sup>

7. R. Vom Bruch, "Internationale Forschung, Staatsinteresse und Parteipolitik, Die Olympia-Ausgrabungen als frühe Phase deutscher auswärtiger Kulturpolitik", H. Kyrieleis (ed.), *Olympia 1875-2000, 125 Jahre deutsche Ausgrabungen, Internationales*

Symposion, Berlin 9-11 November 2000, Mainz am Rhein 2002, 10.

8. Ibid., 9.

9. Ibid., 10.



The German architect Friedrich Adler who worked on the excavations at Olympia from 1874 to 1881  
[German Archaeological Institute]

## The first excavations at Olympia in the nineteenth century

Let us examine the problems which the excavation faced. The house in which the excavators lived and worked had been built in the village of Drouva, high above the Olympia basin, since at that time malaria was still rampant in the marshy area. There was no electricity, water or heating, apart from the open fire. Because of the risk of malaria, work took place only during the cold, rainy months of winter, for six years.

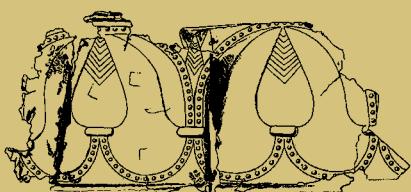
During the first cycle of work, in winter of 1875/76, only two experts were present, an archaeologist and an architect. The archaeologist who was directing the excavations kept a work journal in which he recorded the detailed reports which were sent to Berlin [...]. The architect directed the technical side of the excavation. He engaged the labourers, to begin with, some 150 of them, later as many as 300. As the area was thinly populated, labourers were also brought from Arcadia. The architect also supervised the tools: pick-axes and spades which came by ship from Germany. The baskets and the handcarts which were used to carry earth were gradually replaced in the second phase of the excavations, in 1876/77, with carts which were drawn by horses brought from Zakynthos [...].

In these conditions, it is hardly to be wondered at that the two experts fell ill with malaria at the end of the first phase, and were taken to Corfu, where they remained for weeks for treatment.

Jürgen Schilbach, 2004

German academic interest in the organisation of archaeological excavations in the area dates from the eighteenth century. More specifically, in 1767, Winckelmann expressed a wish to go to Olympia "in order to bring to light works of art".<sup>10</sup> A year later, in a letter to the archaeologist Christian Gottlob Heyne, he expressed a desire to carry out excavations in Elis.<sup>11</sup> His death, in the summer of the same year, put an end to these plans. Pausanias' references to the existence of numerous works of art stirred the interest of many European archaeologists. At the very beginning of the nineteenth century, British and French archaeologists and art-lovers expressed an intention to carry out excavations at Olympia.<sup>12</sup> A passion for art and an ambition to discover archaeological treasures were strong motives for Winckelmann's successors.

A little before the outbreak of the Revolution, the architect Leo von Klenze reverted to the plan for excavation, giving emphasis "to the wealth of the finds which could come to light".<sup>13</sup> At the same period, German art-lovers endeavoured to amass the necessary funds to carry out the excavation, proposing the holding a lottery, but without any marked success.<sup>14</sup> In spite of the German interest, the first excavations at Olympia took place under the auspices of a French scientific mission. Following a French military corps which took part in the naval battle of Navarino in 1829, the French carried out excavations at the Temple of Zeus. For political reasons, these excavations were halted after six weeks. The issue rapidly took on major dimensions, since it was linked with France's political support for the Greeks in their revolution. The Greek Governor Capodistrias looked favourably upon the ceding of antiquities if that could secure international support for the Struggle, though anything of the sort would have been contrary to the decisions of the Third National Assembly on antiquities. In the end, Capodistrias succeeded in having an amendment passed to the specific provision, putting the ceding of archaeological finds to foreign missions at the discretion of the government.<sup>15</sup> The reactions to this decision



10. H. Volkmar-Hermann, "Die Ausgrabung von Olympia, Idee und Wirklichkeit", *Studion* VI (1980), 40.

11. Ibid., 40.

12. Ibid., 41.

13. L. Klinkhammer, "Großgrabung und große Politik: Der Olympia-Vertrag als Epochewende", *Olympia 1875-2000*, op. cit. (n. 7), 32.

14. Ibid., 33.

15. Th. Kalpaxis, "Die Vorgeschichte und die Nachwirkun-

were to lead the Greek authorities some years later to vote a law on antiquities which banned the exporting of archaeological finds completely.

The politic and economic difficulties of the early years of the rule of the Bavarians did not favour the plans of Ludwig Ross, conservator of Greek antiquities under the King Otto of Greece, to collect money in order to carry out the planned excavation.<sup>16</sup> In spite of the obstacles, Winckelmann's idea continued to fascinate German devotees of antiquity. In 1836, Prince Pückler-Muskau voiced the proposal that the Greek government should cede the archaeological site of Olympia to him so that he could carry out excavations and set up a museum at his own expense.<sup>17</sup> Since Olympia had already been declared a protected monument, the request was rejected. In 1838, the archaeologist Ernst Curtius visited Olympia, but seems to have been disillusioned by the state of the archaeological site. The greater part of Olympia was covered by vines and the antiquities were buried under tons of soil. Curtius understood the difficulties of the undertaking but did not give up the idea of organising extensive excavations. Important for the success of his plans were his good relations with Prince Friedrich Wilhelm, later the Emperor Friedrich III.

A few years later, in 1852, Curtius delivered a lecture in Berlin which was considered a milestone for the rekindling of German interest in excavations at Olympia.<sup>18</sup> In the presence of King Friedrich Wilhelm IV, and of his son Friedrich Wilhelm, Curtius described Olympia as a sacred place and stressed its importance for art. At the same time, he represented the carrying out of excavations as a sacred obligation of Germany towards civilisation, adopting the view that the state should undertake an active role in cultural affairs.<sup>19</sup> A year later, Curtius visited King Friedrich Wilhelm, accompanied by the geographer Carl Ritter and the architect Adolf Bötticher, with a view to submitting the initial plans, aims and methods of the excavation. In the plan, which was submitted to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Education of Prussia, the benefits to the nation and to scholarship which Germany would derive from the realisation of the excavations were pointed out.<sup>20</sup>

Negotiations with the Greek government started in late 1853, but were soon broken off because of the

gen des Olympia-Vertrages aus griechischer Sicht”, *Olympia 1875-2000*, op. cit., 21.

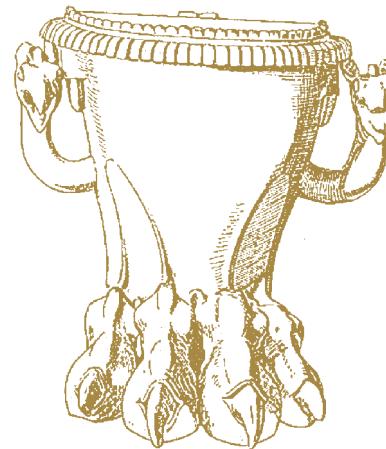
16. Klinkhammer, op. cit., 33.

17. Kalpaxis, op. cit., 21.

18. Volkmar-Hermann, “Die Ausgrabung von Olympia”, op. cit. (n. 10), 45.

19. Marchand, *Down from Olympus*, op. cit. (n. 3), 80-81.

20. Ibid., 81.



domestic political situation and the Crimean War. The military conflicts of the 1860s further delayed the beginning of the excavations. Nevertheless, Curtius, who in 1868 had been appointed Professor of Classical Archaeology in Berlin and at the same time Director of Antiquities at the imperial museum, continued to work on his plans. In his efforts he found himself opposed by the Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck. The Prussian politician was against the undertaking of the enterprise, since he knew that the Greek law on antiquities prohibited their exportation and he considered that the cost for the state would be disproportionate to the benefits. Furthermore, he wished to avoid involvement with the internal affairs of Greece.<sup>21</sup> The solution was found by the successor to the throne, Friedrich Wilhelm, who negotiated the issue directly with King George I of Greece. For the German monarch, who had been initiated into ancient Greek civilisation by Curtius, Germany would be content with the glory which the excavation would bring it. The initial plan provided that the excavation would be carried out by Prussian soldiers and for the purchase of the finds by Germany at the end of it.<sup>22</sup> The victorious outcome of the Franco-German War and the subsequent unification of the German states in 1871 speeded up the procedures for the beginning of the excavations. The climate of euphoria which prevailed in Germany after the end of the war and the realisation of national unity, as well as the huge French reparations which filled the coffers of the newly-constituted state permitted the Emperor

21. Ibid., 82.

22. Kalpaxis, op. cit. (n. 15), 23.

Wilhelm I to elevate the matter of Olympia into an national issue for the German state.

In 1873, the German ambassador in Athens contacted the Greek government. However, the signing of the contract was delayed, since in June of the same year Heinrich Schliemann submitted a request to the Greek government in which he sought to undertake the excavations at Olympia himself.<sup>23</sup> His plan, moreover, provided for the building of a museum at his own expense on the site of the excavation. To begin with, the Greek government took Schliemann's side, but following the personal intervention of Prince Friedrich Wilhelm, King George signed the contract and promised in addition that new roads would be constructed to facilitate access to the archaeological site.<sup>24</sup> On 25 April 1874, the contract with the Greek state was signed and the German parliament approved a grant of 171,000 marks. The Helleno-German contract of 1874 was regarded as an innovation in the field of archaeological excavations in regions of southern Europe. According to the contract, the German state would undertake all the expenses and Greece would keep all the finds. The supply of Germany with copies of the antiquities discovered, as a memento of the mission jointly undertaken and to honour the sacrifices of the German state, was at the discretion of Greece.<sup>25</sup> The making of casts and the taking of these to German museums was also permitted. In the event, some finds were later taken to museums in Berlin. These provisions of the contract were viewed with suspicion in Greece, since they were contrary to the laws on antiquities. The unlawful removal of antiquities by foreign researchers and collectors in earlier times had contributed to Greek doubts about the good intentions of the German mission.<sup>26</sup> For these reasons, objections to the contract were voiced. *Inter alia*, the view was expressed that Greece ought to undertake the excavations with its own resources.<sup>27</sup> There were, of course, also voices raised in favour of the contract. The Athens newspaper *Proinos Kiryx* commented as follows on the casts:<sup>28</sup>

If these casts are taken to European museums, they are like heralds inviting lovers of antiquity to Greece for the sake of the originals.

23. Volkmar-Hermann, op. cit., 48.

24. Marchand, op. cit., 84.

25. Volkmar-Hermann, "Die Ausgrabung von Olympia", op. cit. (n. 10), 48.

26. A. Bötticher, *Olympia: Das Fest und seine Stätte*, Berlin 1883, 67.

27. Ibid., 68.

28. *Proinos Kiryx* newspaper, 14.5.1874.

On the matter of copies, it noted:

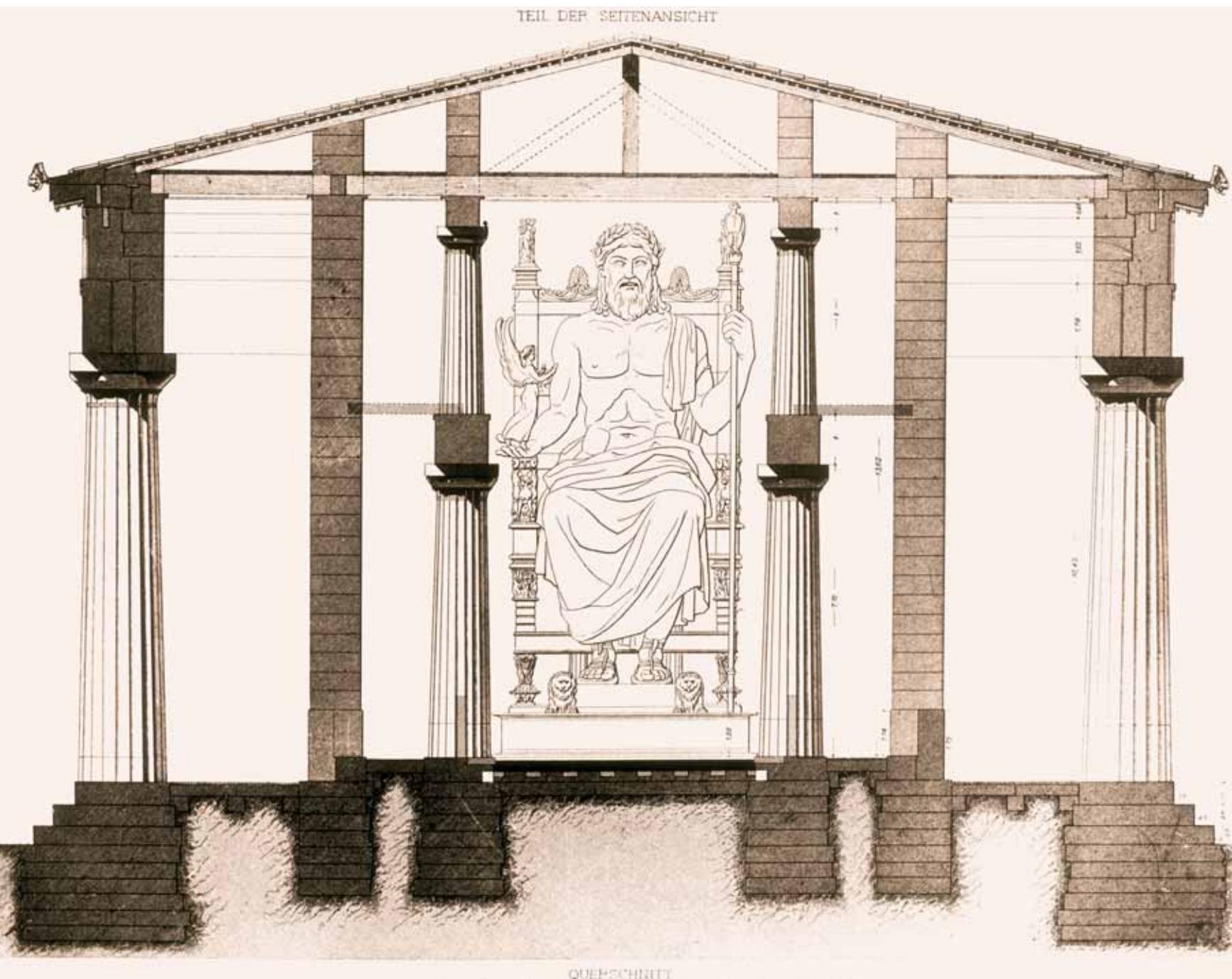
As regards the ceding of duplicates of the antiquities to be found, this is in a manner of speaking rather an empty gesture; duplicate and identical objects are unlikely to be found.

In spite of the reactions, the contract was approved by the Greek parliament in April 1875. At the same time, Germany was permitted to open an office of its archaeological service in Athens.

The board of management consisted of Curtius, Adler, and Busch, and its headquarters were in Berlin. However, the handling of the excavation at Olympia had been entrusted to young scholars. The board visited the site of the excavation after the completion of each phase of the work in order to examine progress and to decide upon its future course. The task started out with the Temple of Zeus, where it continued in the second phase, in which other buildings in the Altis were discovered. During the third and fourth stages of the excavations, almost all the buildings of the Altis, with the exception of the Leonidaion, were revealed. Around the end of 1879, the first financial problems arose, since the initial capital of 661,000 marks had been absorbed. In the face of the threat that the work would stop, a further credit of 90,000 marks was approved, but the objections of Chancellor Bismarck to the necessity of continuing the excavations forced the Emperor Wilhelm I to make available 80,000 marks from his own pocket for the completion of the excavations. The archaeologists were under pressure, since the wealth and importance of the finds failed to convince people of the need to continue the excavations. The reactions in Germany over the law on antiquities which prohibited their exportation, and disappointment with the finds put those responsible for the excavation in a difficult position. The discovery of the *Nike* of Paeanius in December 1875 provided the occasion for the supporters of the excavation to seek a grant of further funds. The archaeologists' memorandum which was read in the Reichstag claimed that the excavations at Olympia were a project of national importance for the German nation and provided an opportunity for Germany to combine victory in the war against France with an equally important peacetime achievement.<sup>29</sup>

The work finally continued until 21 March 1881. Those responsible did not undertake excavations in the ancient stadium and gymnasium, because the finds expected did not justify the cost. On general lines, the German archaeologists were not impressed by the finds. The descriptions of Pausanias had raised hopes of a host

29. Marchand, *Down from Olympus*, op. cit. (n. 3), 85.

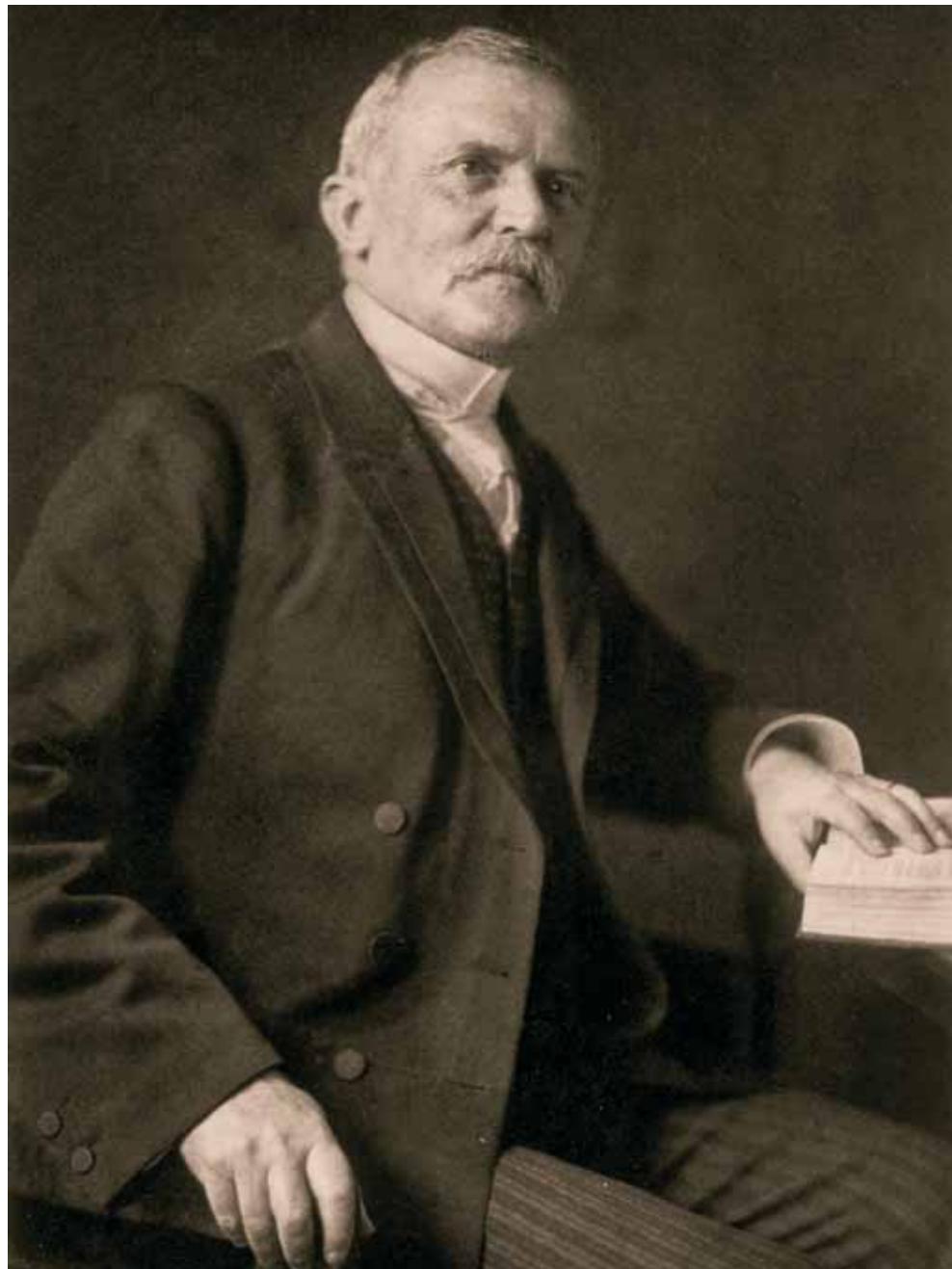


Cross-section of the Temple of Zeus. In the middle of the sekos the chryselephantine (gold and ivory) statue of Zeus is represented  
 [German Archaeological Institute]

of statues and other discoveries, but the results of this phase of the excavations did not fulfil these expectations. In spite of this, the excavations at Olympia equipped German archaeology with important experience, as a large number of archaeologists concerned themselves with a study of these finds. The significance attributed by the German state to Olympia finds expression in the

words of the Minister of Education Gustav Gossler: "The greatest importance lies in the knowledge of the most ancient steps in the evolution of architecture, sculpture and the Greek language".<sup>30</sup>

30. Ibid., 90.



The German architect Wilhelm Dörpfeld. Dörpfeld worked on the excavations at Olympia from 1877 to 1881 and from 1906 to 1909 [German Archaeological Institute]

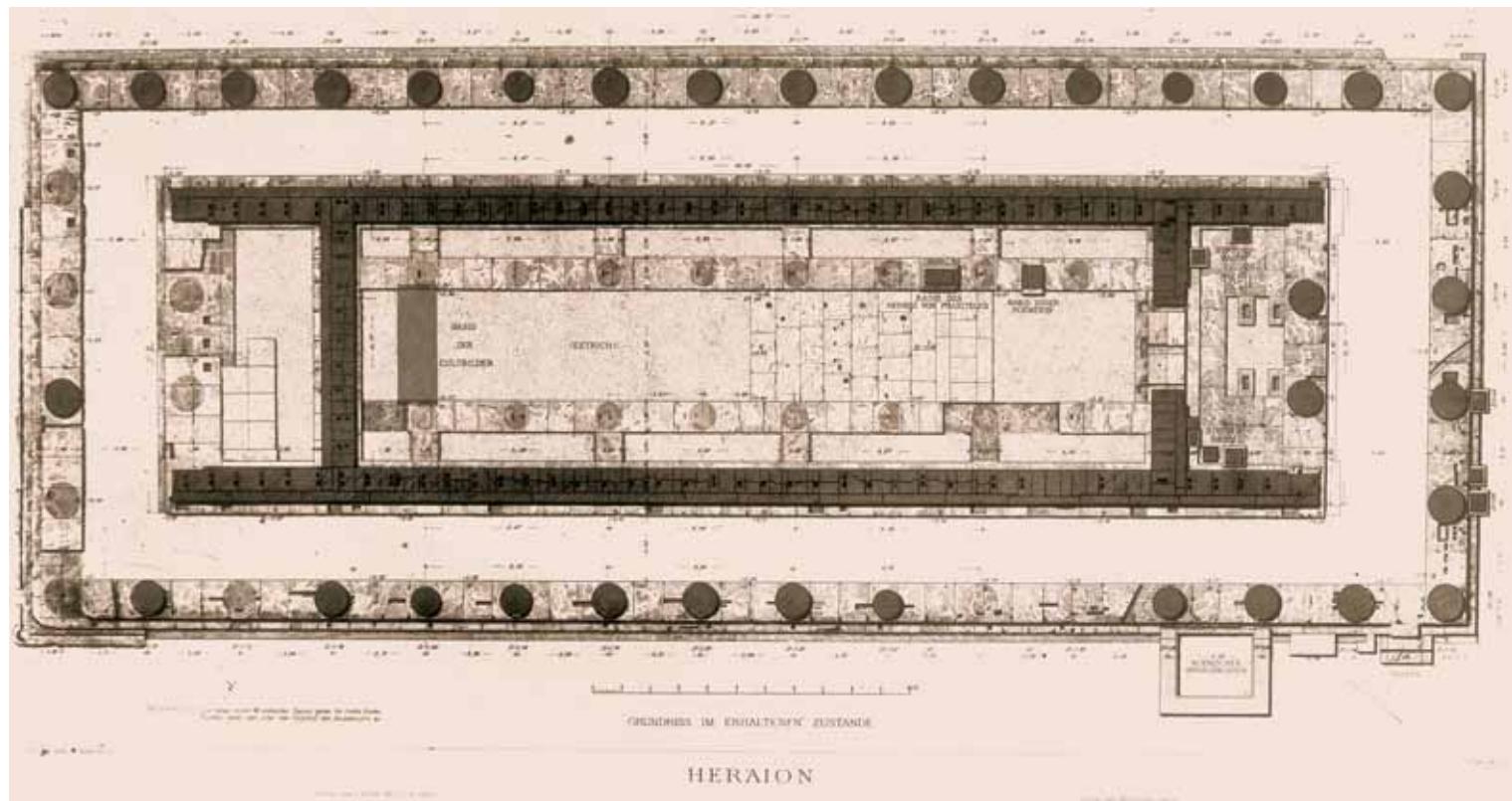
The partial discovery of Ancient Olympia could not leave unmoved the visionary who dreamt of the modern Olympic Games, Baron Pierre de Coubertin. In his memoirs, *Une campagne de vingt et un ans*, he writes:

In ancient history nothing fired my imagination more than Ancient Olympia. My youthful thoughts wandered ceaselessly in this dream world, in its porticoes and peristyles ... Long before I thought of staging in its ruins the beginning of the revitalisation, I had reflected upon reconstructing and restoring its outline once again. Germany dug up the remains of

Olympia; why should France not succeed in renewing its former splendour? From these thoughts to the less resplendent but fruitful plan for the revival of the Games the distance was not great, particularly when the time came when sport, which unites peoples, began once again to play its world role.<sup>31</sup>

---

31. Ibid., 52. From the translation from the German of *Die Wiedergewinnung Olympias als Stätte und Idee*, Baden Baden, 1949, 131.



Reconstruction of the ground plan of the Heraion  
[German Archaeological Institute]

The carrying out of excavations at Olympia and Pergamos and in Egypt under the auspices of the German state belonged within the framework of the cultural diplomacy of a rising political and economic power. In a period of tension in the competition between states, Olympia provided a model in which ideals such as patriotism, friendly rivalry and the ancient Greek measure were combined.<sup>32</sup> For German bureaucracy, the excavations at Olympia were the beginning of state involvement in cultural affairs.

The Helleno-German contract of 1875 caused many bitter feelings among Greek archaeologists. It was not only the fact that the role of the Greek commissioner was restricted by the presence of a German commissioner. Opposition was provoked by the ceding of 876 of the total of 2,200 finds to the German state, as well as by the fact that, despite the Greek state's share in

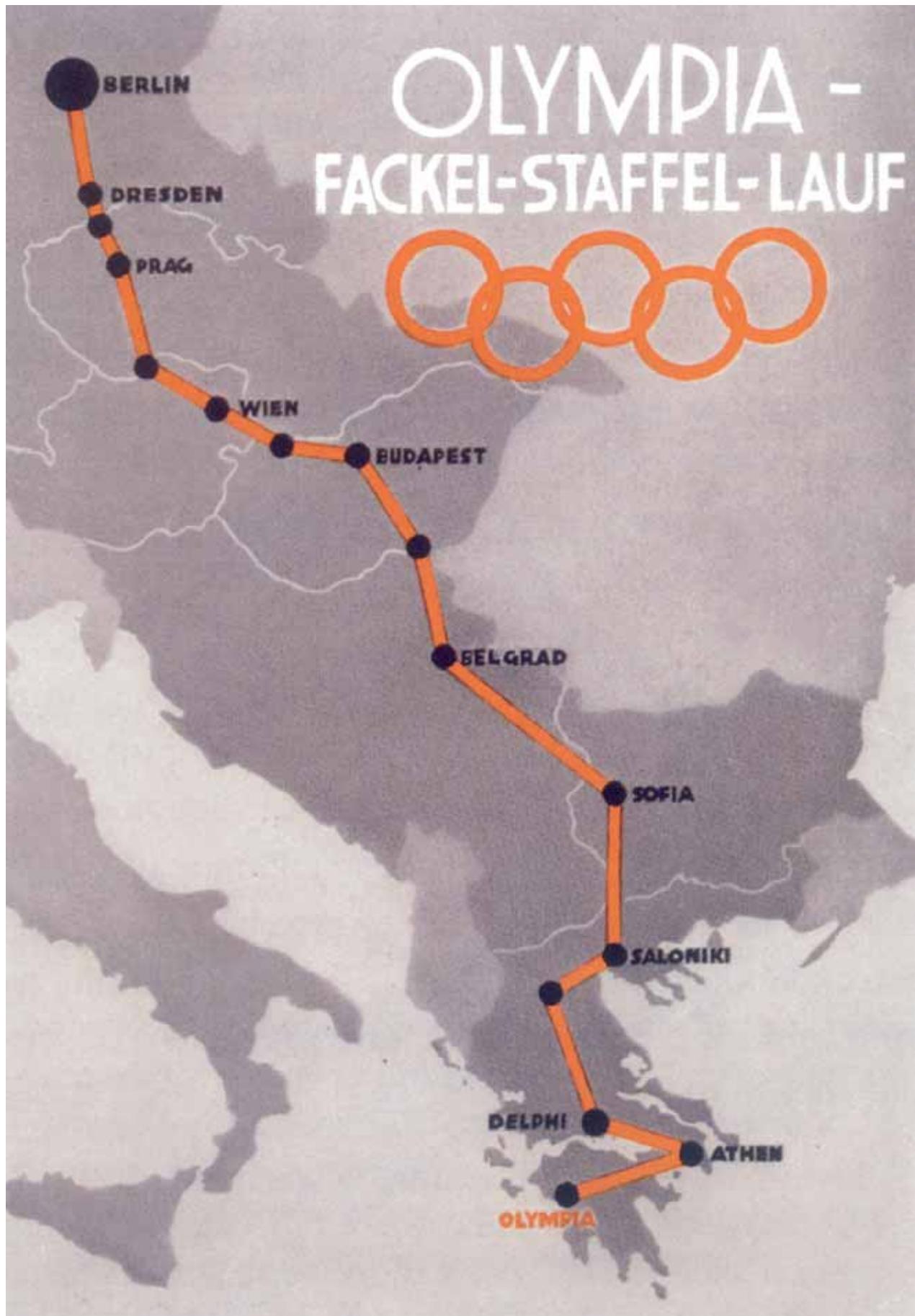
the expenses of the excavation, Germany was officially represented as having exclusively taken on the cost –and the glory– of the enterprise.<sup>33</sup>

After the end of the work, in 1881, the mission was regarded as completed. Nevertheless, there were still unanswered questions, mainly in connection with the dating of the archaeological site of Olympia.<sup>34</sup> At the same time, a large part of Olympia remained still buried, since work on its revelation had been regarded, as we have seen, as unprofitable. In order to answer the question as to the dating of the archaeological site, Wilhelm Dörpfeld, who headed the first phase of the excavation, from 1877 to 1881, repeated the digs on a smaller scale in 1906, 1921 and 1927. The most important discovery of these missions involved the broader area of Ancient Olympia; more specifically, between the Heraion, the Metrōon and the Pelopion, Dörpfeld discovered a prehistoric settlement.

32. Klinkhammer, "Großgrabung", op. cit. (n. 13), 32.

33. Kalpaxis, "Die Vorgeschichte", op. cit. (n. 15), 28.

34. Ibid., 53.

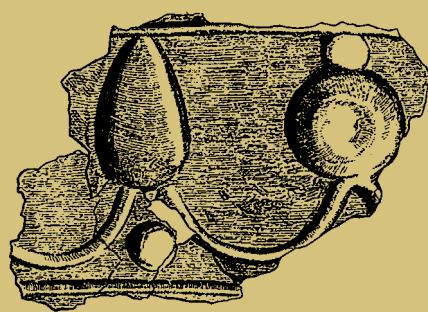


The route of the Olympic flame from Olympia to Berlin, 1936  
[HOC Archive]



The Second Reich (Kaiserreich) excavated Olympia after 1870, and the Third Reich is complementing that duty and, moreover, ceaseless excavations are being carried out of the whole site as far as the Alpheios, the western side of the Hill of Kronos, excavations in shifts in the Altis and the restoration of one or two columns insofar as they are being restored without substitute pieces. The expenses are being met as follows: the German government supplies the Greek government with machinery and ships which it needs and also with materials which need to be bought, and the value of the wages for the excavation. In this way both peoples undertake the project and the machinery will be paid for out of the revenues of the Olympiad. The Greeks are acquiring a further more important sight for the gradually increasing tourist traffic to Olympia. Germany benefits from another major scholarly project and, moreover, at a period when accusations are launched against it on a moral level. A project which will turn the attention of the civilised world towards us.

Carl Diem, 18 October 1935



### The second phase of the excavations and the discovery of the ancient stadium

The occasion for the recommencement of the excavations was provided by the holding of the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. The protagonist in this phase of the excavations was a figure in the world of sport who played an important role before and during the excavations. This was Carl Diem, general secretary of the organising committee of the Berlin Olympic Games, who had been a presence in German sport for many years. Diem, who is to be credited with the idea of the Olympic torch relay, which was held for the first time on the occasion of the 1936 Olympics, envisioned the discovery of the ancient stadium as a means of lending appeal to the events in Berlin.<sup>35</sup> This was judged to be a favourable juncture by the Nazi leadership in Berlin, which was seeking ways of reassuring world public opinion, which took a critical view of the absolutism of the German regime. In any event, ancient Greece served as a model for Nazi propaganda on the subject of the Aryan race.<sup>36</sup> Thus it was thought that the undertaking on the part of Germany of a new archaeological mission, with a view this time to revealing the ancient stadium, would improve the image of Germany and would contribute to the presentation of an embellished picture of its leadership.<sup>37</sup>

Diem had already visited Ancient Olympia in 1935 in the company of the German Minister for Sport Hans von Tschammer und Osten, so that he could brief him on the plans for the excavation. Although he had not studied archaeology, Diem had prepared a detailed plan for excavations and had obtained the approval of Professor Karo, Director of the German Archaeological School in Athens.<sup>38</sup> Tschammer considered the plan a very good opportunity for the promotion of Germany and on his return there, obtained the agreement of Hitler. The leader of Nazi Germany felt that the excavations provided an opportunity for Germany to present itself as a peaceful power. Moreover, he himself financed the plan with 300,000 marks. The announcement of the undertaking of the excavations on the part of Germany was made with every formality by Hitler himself before the members of the IOC on 1 August 1936, the date of the opening of the Games.<sup>39</sup>

35. Ibid., 54.

36. Marchand, *Down from Olympus*, op. cit. (n. 3), 347.

37. A. Laude – W. Bausch, *Der Sport-Führer: die Legende um Carl Diem*, Göttingen 2000, 113.

38. Ibid., 114.

39. H. Bennett, *Sportpolitik im Dritten Reich*, Stuttgart, 1971, 69.



The German archaeologist Emil Kunze with the German architect Alfred Mallwitz  
[German Archaeological Institute]

Work unofficially started in autumn 1936. The uncovering of the ancient stadium was not the only objective of the plan. It was thought useful that excavations should be carried out in a large radius, so that other buildings should also be revealed, and that Dörpfeld's research should be continued in order to verify the prehistoric character of Olympia.<sup>40</sup> The directing of the excavations was undertaken in early 1937 by the archaeologists Emil Kunze and Hans Schleif. The presence of a number of German official guests, including the Minister of Education, at the official opening of the excavation in April 1937 demonstrates the importance which the Nazi

regime attached to the mission.<sup>41</sup> The work finally started to its full extent in autumn of the same year. The digs were not confined only to the ancient stadium. A very large number of bronze objects of the prehistoric, but also of the Geometric and early Classical periods, resulted from the excavation in the Altis. Because of the large number of the finds, there were delays in the time schedule, resulting in the original aim, the restoration of the stadium, taking second place. Work continued, with a short interruption because of the German forces' invasion of Greece, and was finally halted in 1942 because of the war.

---

40. Volkmar-Hermann, "Die Ausgrabung von Olympia", op. cit. (n. 10), 55.

---

41. Bericht über die Ausgrabungen in Olympia, Herbst 1936-Frühjahr 1973, 2.

Ten years later, in autumn of 1952, the excavations were resumed on the initiative of Emil Kunze. He directed the operations, which started from the point where they had left off, that is, from the west wall of the stadium, in collaboration with Alfred Mallwitz.<sup>42</sup> The full restoration of the ancient stadium is again due to Carl Diem. Having, in 1940, been appointed a member of the German Archaeological Institute,<sup>43</sup> he had to face the hesitancy of the archaeologists, who did not share his enthusiasm for the restoration of the stadium, as well as the financial problem which arose from lack of funding.

In 1955, the financing of the excavations was placed under the auspices of the German Scientific Society (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft).<sup>44</sup> But the available funds were insufficient for the complete restoration of the stadium. Thanks to Diem's intervention in mobilising the German Olympic Committee and the German Sport Federation, the necessary resources were amassed for the beginning of the work.

Operations began in 1957, and in 1961, on the occasion of the beginning of operations of the IOA, the opening ceremony was held on the ancient stadium site, even though it was the following year when the work was completed and only in 1966 that it was officially deemed to be at an end. This was followed by a ten-year pause in excavating activity, necessary for the recording and assessment of the finds. In 1977 work was resumed under the direction of Alfred Mallwitz.

The presence of the German archaeological missions at Olympia affected the local community in a variety of ways. The discovery of the archaeological sites made Olympia a tourist destination and contributed to the development of the local economy. The carrying out of the excavation during the Occupation could not have passed without comment by the local population. It is generally agreed that the presence of the German archaeologists in the area contributed to making the treatment of the residents by the occupying authorities milder. Nevertheless, there were acts of resistance, culminating in the stealing of the German flag from the residence of the German Archaeological Mission on 1 August 1941.<sup>45</sup>

42. Volkmar-Hermann, op. cit., 59.

43. K. Lennartz, *Dokumente zum Aufbau des deutschen Sports, Das Wirken von Karl Diem*, Sankt Augustin 1984, 98.

44. Volkmar-Hermann, op. cit., 59.

45. For more information on the interaction between the local population and the German archaeological missions see the text by Christos Loukos-Vassiliki Tzachrista "Ancient Olympia: The place and the people".

### Olympia is excavated

The thunderbolt of war has fallen again and this time is directed against a people of whom a cultivated Frenchman once said that they are not like the French "grandchildren of the Latins", but "brothers of the Greeks". The war is directed against Germany. It will be ruinous and will affect the future politically. Certainly it will cause an interruption of trade and hunger for women and children. But this same people, which with mathematical precision is being led to this fate, has sent in the meantime its men of the intellect to Olympia and is excavating this sacred place again. A mission which was the first cultural project of the then recently united German Reich in 1870, and which is now being completed by the Chancellor Adolf Hitler *ad perpetuam memoriam* during the holding of the 11th Olympiad in Berlin in 1936.

It is certain that Germany is not neglecting its military obligations and that it is concerned with the matter of feeding its women and children. But it also demonstrates such inner dedication to cultural projects and learning that it does not give up this scholarly work even in time of war.

On 15 October 1936, the pickaxes and spades began their work again in the sacred grove of Olympia and from then on the work has continued under the supervision of German experts. The work was entrusted to the German Archaeological School in Athens, whose secretary is the representative of the NSDAP (National Socialist Workers' Party of Germany), Dr Wrede. For the conduct [of the excavations], a special committee has been appointed. The work has been directed by Professor Von Gerkan, at present secretary of the German Archaeological School in Rome, and later by Professor Kunze. Professor Schleif has been appointed chief architect.

Carl Diem, 1940



The lighting of the flame of 1936 was a revolution. I saw it at the ceremony. I remember Pratsika. The whole spectacle was impressive for me. It was a revolution, I tell you. That is to say, this idea of the Germans also influenced their attitude in the war. I don't know if you know this: when the front collapsed and the Germans came in, at Roupel, it was only the resistance which the Greeks put up which surprised the Germans, because at that time no power was able to stand up to the Germans; Hitler's order was that no Greek was to be taken prisoner. Because they skirted round Beles and Roupel, they weren't able to pass and entered from Gevgeli. And there was no prisoner – something unprecedented in history. And this stemmed from the admiration and regard which Hitler and his entourage had for the Greek spirit, for Olympia and the flame. Nor was any Greek prisoner captured after the collapse of the front. Very significant, that. That is, in military realities and in the history of war, for no defeated soldier to be taken prisoner was remarkable...

When I was a child, of course I didn't understand the significance of the antiquities, I wasn't able to grasp the greatness of them. Of course, we were proud of the antiquities, but there was poverty here. You could see chickens on the earth road, the main road, and, if a car went past and hit a chicken, my mother, my grandmother would rush to take it and slaughter it, for the blood to run so we could eat it. That was the situation ... We went to the SPAP barefoot, the entrance was on the other side. At that time the place was more or less bare, from the fires and the sheep. We couldn't go in, we were ashamed to go in. It must have been 1936, when Dörpfeld, the professor, had come; he'd worked with my granddad, Old Angelis, if you've heard of him, who wore the *foustanelia*, and Uncle Yorghis, his son, they were foremen. I was 13-14 years old, a youngster, and I remember when Dörpfeld honoured Angelis from Magoulaina and crowned his head with an olive wreath. And Dörpfeld said: "I wouldn't have done what I've done in my life if I hadn't had this fellow-worker at my side". And his son, Yorghis, married an American woman, a professor of archaeology who had had very high regard for him. He was a mountain-dweller, pure in heart, honest, and she married him and took him to America. She was very well-to-do. She had a No. 3 car at that time.

There was a bond between my family and the Germans, and my brother knew German. So they said to me, you'll present Dörpfeld with a little bunch

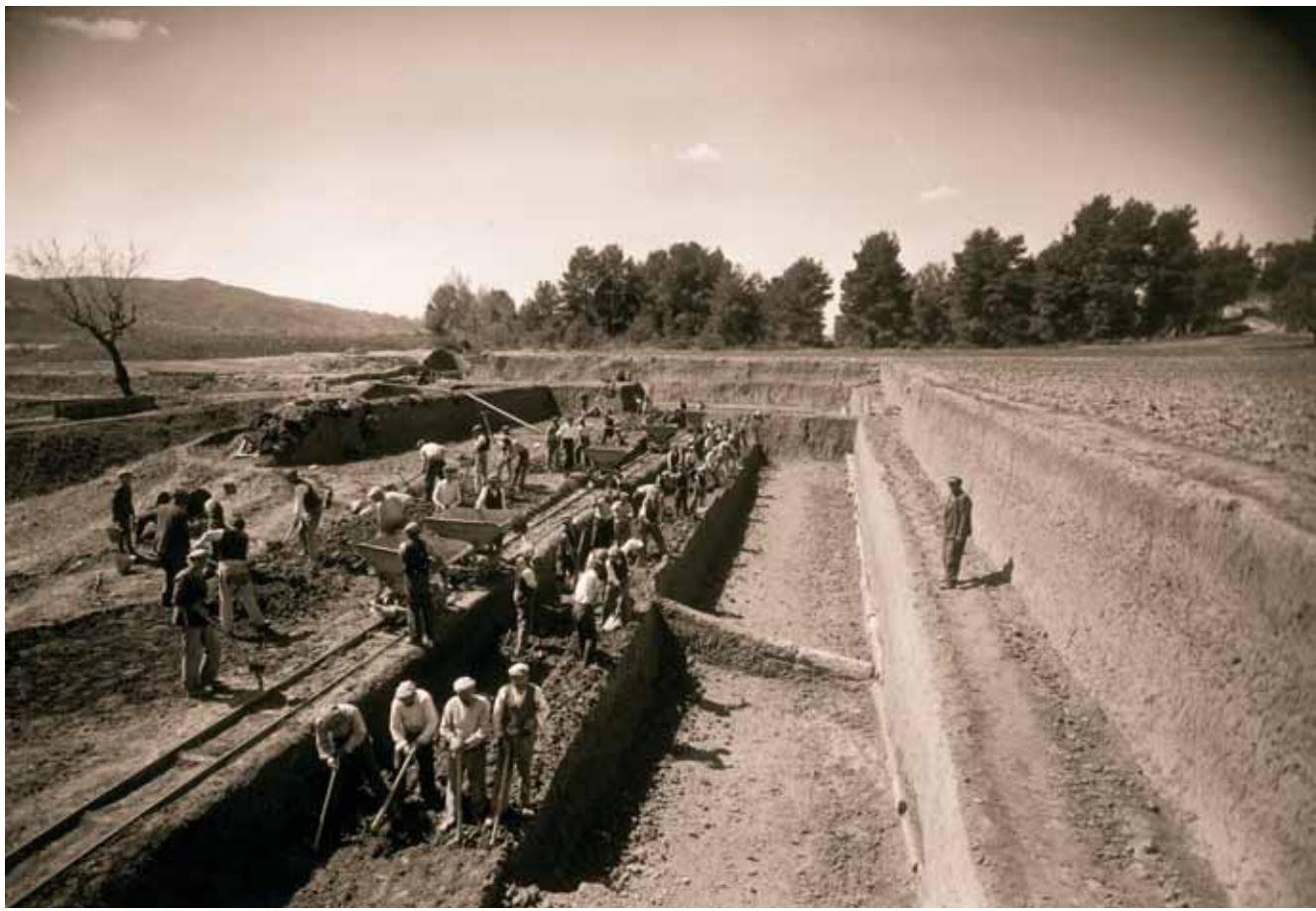
of flowers and make a speech to him. I, in the meantime, had a sore throat. They'd put me in a room at the SPAP and gave me cough sweets, and I was dressed in short trousers. I still remember that little speech and the little bunch of poppies which I was holding. The speech on behalf of the Kosmopoulos family went: "Revered Herr Professor Dörpfeld, the Kosmopoulos family, in memory of this day and of its sacred bond, presents you with this humble bunch of flowers, made from the blooms of your beloved Olympia" [weeps]. They had me in cotton wool when I was to make that speech.

Later, I remember on the Kronos Hill, back in '36, when the second excavations had begun and Roust, the Minister of Culture, I think, had come. As we take the turn at the Kronos Hill to the Academy on the right, below there wasn't the stadium then, there was an altar, which isn't there any more, an altar of a reddish colour. This altar doesn't exist any more. It was lost; perhaps it was of minor importance. It was exactly below the road... It must have been the opening of the new excavations at that time. And so I remember that hulking German who had a pickaxe and with that German accent of his and he was digging – scratch, scratch – I don't remember what he was saying, but he seemed to be very inspired and charmed by Olympia and this was clear from the digging with the pickaxe when he was giving the signal for the beginning of the excavations. In 1936, I also have a clear memory of the priestesses in their super-miniskirts and we kids were there, with our eyes out on stalks, rushing to have a look – and the older ones were the same. The high priestess, I remember, was a woman and a half!...

A lot of local people worked on the excavations. And not only from here but from all the villages. People were taken care of. A lot of labourers. And do you know how they used to work then? There were the trucks there on the rails to carry the earth and baskets. The labourers dug, filled the basket and then it was on the shoulder to empty it in the Kla-deos. They dumped the earth there and we went and jumped and had fun. All that earth was a lot of fun. What were we supposed to do? We didn't have any other recreation. That's what happened then... If I could start my life over again, I would be an archaeologist.

Thoukydidis Kosmopoulos, former Deputy Mayor, 2005

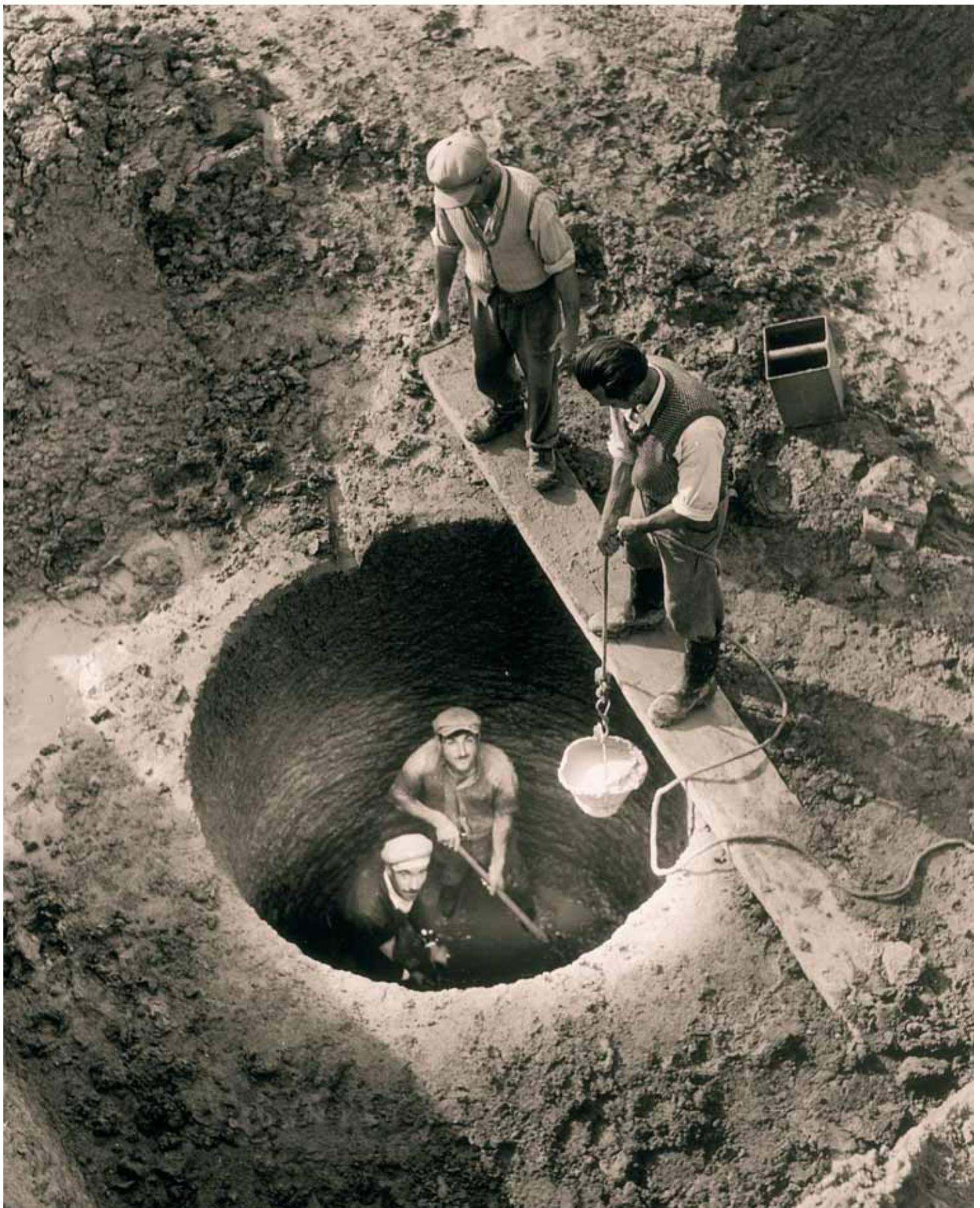




Excavation work at the stadium of Olympia, 1937  
[German Archaeological Institute]



Excavation work at the stadium of Olympia, 1958  
[German Archaeological Institute]



Well on the eastern side of the stadium of Olympia during the excavations, 1960  
[German Archaeological Institute]

## The plans for the International Olympic Academy, the role of the Germans and the International Olympic Institute in Berlin

The idea of the founding of an international centre for the promotion of Olympism was put forward by Pierre de Coubertin in a speech in Athens in 1927.<sup>46</sup> The Baron's vision was of an international foundation which would function as a place for study and thought on matters having to do with the Olympic ideal. In parallel with Coubertin, who maintained communications with figures in the Greek world of sport in the interests of promoting his idea, Carl Diem, who was actively involved in many ways in the world of German sport and was Chairman of the Organising Committee for the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games, when Coubertin's heart was laid to rest at Ancient Olympia in 1938, spoke in an article in the *Reichssportblatt* newspaper of Berlin of the creation of an Olympic Academy where lectures would be given on subjects relating to Olympism for young people from all over the world.<sup>47</sup> In his correspondence with Ioannis Ketseas, General Secretary of the Olympic Games Committee, Diem sent a description of the curriculum of the Olympic Academy, those responsible for which would be the Greek Ministry of Education and the Hellenic Olympic Committee.<sup>48</sup> On 30 August 1938, Ketseas, in his letter of reply, reported, *inter alia*, that Diem's proposals had claimed the interest of the Committee's President, Crown Prince Paul. He added, however, that the financing of such an endeavour would involve considerable difficulties.<sup>49</sup> The financial problems of such an undertaking and the outbreak of the war froze any attempt to set up an international institution for the study of Olympism in Greece.

In Germany, the holding of the Olympic Games in Berlin had brought Olympism to the forefront of attention. In parallel with the beginning of excavations at Ancient Olympia, the Nazi government was elaborating a plan for the founding of an International Olympic Institute in Berlin. It seems that this initiative was again prompted by Pierre de Coubertin. The visionary of the modern Olympic Games was not satisfied with the way in which Olympic issues were approached by international sport bodies.<sup>50</sup> Furthermore, he wished to ensure

the continuation of his work, a part of which had been the *Revue Olympique* periodical, which had come out until the First World War. Also included among his plans was the opening of an Olympic museum in Berlin, the equivalent of the one in Lausanne.<sup>51</sup> In his autobiography, Diem states that Coubertin first approached him over the matter in 1934.<sup>52</sup> The impression made on the now ageing Coubertin by the Berlin Olympic Games contributed to the formation of the conviction that Germany was the appropriate country to undertake the continuation of his work.

For Nazi Germany this was one more opportunity for it to put on a mask of peace before the international community and for this reason Hitler himself sent his trusted Hermann Esser to Geneva to assure Coubertin of Germany's interest in his plan.<sup>53</sup> The visit of the German official brought results, as a few days later Coubertin sent a personal letter to Hitler in which he officially proposed to the German government the setting up of the International Olympic Institute (IOI).<sup>54</sup> An important part was played by the mediation of Diem himself, who visited Coubertin in May and August of the same year, bearing a letter of reply from the Minister of Sport (Reichssportführer) Hans von Tschammer, in which the German government's commitment to the setting up of the Institute was confirmed and Diem was proposed for the post of director. In this letter, the duties of the Institute are also described:

(a) Scientific description of all the basic issues of Olympism and exchange of views with the mediators of the Olympic ideal throughout the world; (b) creation of an Olympic archive as an international information base on the Olympic movement and Olympic art; (c) publication of the three-monthly periodical *Olympische Rundschau* (Olympic Review), as the successor of *Revue Olympique*.<sup>55</sup>

The choice of Diem for this post was not made only because of his experience in the field of sport. The fact that he was not a member of the National Socialist Party contributed to Nazi propaganda, as it was wished to dispel

46. Lennartz, *Dokumente*, op. cit. (n. 43), 287.

47. C. Diem, *Olympische Flamme, Das Buch vom Sport*, Berlin 1942, 263.

48. Ibid., 317-318.

49. Lennartz, op. cit., 289.

50. M. Grundmann, *Das internationale Olympische Institut* (Diplomarbeit), Cologne 1982, 4.

51. C. Diem, *Ein Leben für den Sport. Erinnerungen aus dem Nachlass*, Ratingen 1974, 205.

52. Ibid., 204.

53. Laude – Bausch, *Der Sport-Führer*, op. cit. (n. 37), 115.

54. A. Laude, *Leben und Wirken Carl Diems in der Zeit des zweiten Weltkriegs* (Diplomarbeit), Cologne 1999, 15.

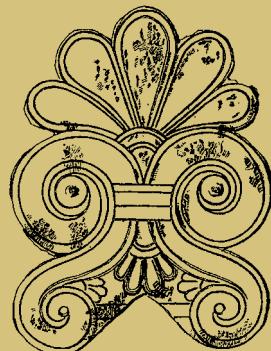
55. Ibid., 16.



*In connection with the excavations  
at Olympia*

Self-praise may be permitted for once: it is noteworthy that the International Olympic Institute, which was founded by the German government, in accordance with Coubertin's wishes, for the cultivation of Olympic thought, is continuing its work, even during the war, without change. It is also noteworthy that the excavations at Olympia, to the carrying out of which the Führer and Chancellor of the Reich, Adolf Hitler, contributed at his own personal expense, *ad perpetuam memoriam*, during the celebrations of the Olympic Games in Berlin in 1936, have also continued during the war. This fact has called forth admiration in the Mediterranean region, because other excavations, even on the part of neutral countries, have halted. Thus even the excavations of the Americans at Corinth stopped immediately that they had discovered the ancient Corinthian Stadium, something which concerns us particularly. At Olympia, the clang of the spades can be heard and the wheelbarrows come and go. About a hundred people are working on the south wall of the stadium and almost every day new finds emerge in the foot-hills of the Hill of Kronos.

Carl Diem, 1940



unfavourable impressions in the world community. In this way, the Institute was represented as a peaceful body for the promotion of Olympism. Influenced by the glamour of the Berlin Games, Coubertin did not view the Nazi regime with scepticism. In his work 'My Life for Sport', Diem states that Coubertin chose Germany as the home of the Institute because this country "understood his thoughts and could make them reality".<sup>56</sup>

In February 1938, Diem was in charge of the removal of part of Coubertin's archive to Berlin,<sup>57</sup> and in the same month the founding deed of the IOI was signed by the Minister of Sport. At a meeting of the IOC in Cairo in March of the same year, the founding of the IOI was approved and it was decided that from now on the *Bulletin Officiel* of the IOC should be issued through the *Olympische Rundschau*.<sup>58</sup> According to the articles of association of the IOI, which were published in April 1938, the President was the Minister of Sport, Hans und Tschauder von Osten, and its Director Carl Diem. The registered office of the Institute, and of the archive, was stated to be the House of German Sport (Haus des deutschen Sports) in the Olympic Stadium premises in Berlin.

In its early years of operation, the IOI had ensured funding from the German government. During the War, the cutting back of expenditure had its effects on the Institute.<sup>59</sup> Financial dependence on the Nazi government and the fact that the head of the Institute was the Minister of Sport conflicted with the image of an independent organisation which it was attempted to make current abroad.<sup>60</sup>

In Diem's view, the IOI should become an information base for the history and organisation of sport in all the countries which had taken part in the Olympic Games. Furthermore, it should collect information on regulations and methodology in matters of physical education.<sup>61</sup> It should also concentrate on issues of pedagogy and the psychology of sport – in accordance with Coubertin's wishes.

Diem was very active as Director of the Institute. The objects of his research included equestrian contests in Asiatic countries, physical education issues, and subjects having to do with the Coubertin archive. The creation of an archive on the modern Olympic Games was also one of Diem's priorities.<sup>62</sup> At the same time, Fritz

56. Diem, op. cit., 205.

57. Laude – Bausch, op. cit., 118.

58. Grundmann, *Das internationale*, op. cit. (n. 50), 8.

59. Ibid., 11.

60. Laude – Bausch, *Der Sport-Führer*, op. cit. (n. 37), 119.

61. Diem, *Ein Leben*, op. cit. (n. 51), 205.

62. Grundmann, op. cit., 24.



The President of the IOC, Avery Brundage (left), with Carl Diem in the Temple of Zeus, 1961  
[Report on the 1st Session of the IOA at Olympia, Athens 1961, 7]

Wasner, an academic associate of the Institute, compiled a six-language Lexicon of the Olympic Games (*Olympia-Lexikon*), which included information on the Olympic Games of modern times, information on the Olympic committees, and a synopsis of Olympic events, the participants and the results.<sup>63</sup>

Also of importance was Diem's authorship of articles in the periodical *Olympische Rundschau*, which was the official organ of the IOI. That it should be published was the wish of Coubertin, who envisioned the continuation of the *Revue Olympique*, which was published up to 1914. The first issue of the *Olympische*

*Rundschau* came out in April 1938. It was a three-monthly publication with articles in German, French and English. On the proposal of François Pietri, a member of the IOC, at the meeting in Cairo in March 1938, the publication of the official bulletin of the IOC was entrusted to the International Olympic Institute.<sup>64</sup> Until October 1944, when the last issue came out, the *Olympische Rundschau* was the official organ of the IOI. As it was accompanied by the official bulletin of the IOC, it was sent to all the member-countries of the Olympic Committee. It included articles by Diem on the results of his research and publications by foreign writers chiefly

63. C. Diem, *Ausgewählte Schriften*, Bd 2, Sankt Augustin 1982, 289.

64. Grundmann, *Das Internationale*, op. cit. (n. 50), 25.



*From the journal of Carl Diem*

Athens, Embassy, Guesthouse

Friday, 27 March 1942

Woke at 1 a.m., because I'd had a bad dream with Lilo. I got up at 6.30. Breakfast, tea, slices of bread, a little jam. I wandered about, first in the direction of the Acropolis. Already on that route, the contrasts: people with sunken cheeks, greyish yellow skin, tottering, particularly people between 18 and 25 seem no different; the office girls elegant and plump.

[...]

In the brightness of the morning sun, I go up to the Propylaea and in front of the temple of Athena Nike say a silent prayer. I think of my wife and children, and that I would be fortunate if I were here with them. [...] I walk around the temple. The museum is now an Italian guard-post and an Italian soldier stands on the eastern rampart to guard the flag. German soldiers everywhere, strolling around, filled with awe. One has a notebook and is sketching the Erechtheum. I wandered round the area and look at the sun, enjoying the beauty. While I was walking on the western side, a German bomber was heard approaching overhead, so I saw it as a shadow among the columns.

Olympia,

Sunday 29 March 1942

Vakalopoulos meets an engineer, also German-speaking. As soon as he sees me, he cries out in delight, oh dear, he's bent like an old man, his long grey hair thinning, his face brown and wrinkled, his hands lined, shaking, but he's full of fire and savage hate. He still works there and the Italians treat him like garbage, as one of the excavators, Dr Weber, told me. When the Italians asked him whether the Germans were involved in the excavations as well, he replied: "No, they're fighting on the eastern front and in North Africa". He talked to me incessantly. Mainly that the [German] detachments during their 40 days there had not harassed a single girl or stolen even a button. It was moving to hear him praising the German soldiers.

[...]

I went once again to the excavation house, I looked at the plans of the baths, I strolled around the Altis again, I sat on the inner south-western columns until night fell. Then thinking of my loved ones, I went home. Twice, once in front of the Drouva hills and once in front of the temple of Zeus, I sent them greetings. Again a plentiful supper, red wine [in Siphon] and then, at 11.00, to bed.



on practical sport issues. The beginning of the Second World War restricted not only the subject-matter of the articles but also the frequency of publication.<sup>65</sup> During the course of the war, fewer issues were published, on an occasional basis, because of financial difficulties. The bombing of the IOI premises in September 1943 resulted in a reduction of the number of issues to two per annum, and finally, in October of the next year, its circulation was finally halted. After the end of the war, as a result of efforts on Diem's part, the last issue, dated April 1945, was brought out.<sup>66</sup>

As Director of the IOI, Diem travelled in Germany and in various European countries with the purpose of giving lectures on the Olympic ideal.<sup>67</sup> Moreover, in March 1942, he visited Greece. During the course of his stay, he visited, among other places, Olympia and Delphi, and delivered a lecture in the building of the Hellenic Olympic Committee.<sup>68</sup> In an article in the *Mittag* newspaper of Düsseldorf, in which he describes his impressions of his tour of occupied Greece, Diem mentions again his idea of the founding of an Olympic Academy at Olympia, which could be realised after the revealing of the ancient stadium.<sup>69</sup>

As has already been noted, during an air bombardment on 3-4 September 1943, the IOI premises in Berlin were destroyed. Together with them, a large part of the Coubertin archive, the library and the publications of the Institute were, *inter alia*, lost.<sup>70</sup> The work of the IOI was resumed in October of the next year, but came to a final end with the ending of the war. In spite of the unfavourable international climate, Diem did not abandon his efforts to ensure the continuation of the work of the IOI. In August 1945, in correspondence with the Vice-President of the IOC, Avery Brundage, he asked to attend a session of the IOC as Director of the IOI.<sup>71</sup> But the post-War atmosphere in the world of the Olympic movement did not favour Germany. At a meeting of the IOC on 5 September 1946, it was decided to transfer the IOI to the premises of the IOC. It was also resolved that the *Bulletin* of the IOC should thereafter be published in Lausanne.<sup>72</sup>

In spite of these unfavourable decisions of the IOC,

Diem reverted to the subject in December 1946 in a letter to the President of the IOC, Sigfrid Edström, in which, as a reaction to the IOC's decision, he explained that the IOI was an independent foundation which had been set up and financed entirely by the German government and operated with the consent of the IOC.<sup>73</sup> He added that he himself was not in a position to finance the resumption of operations of the IOI, but he did not preclude his contributing to it in the future. Edström's reply, however, left no scope for a resumption of operations by the IOI. The President of the IOC's answer was that the Olympic Institute in Lausanne was sufficient for the needs of the Committee and there was no reason for setting up another.<sup>74</sup>

In the early post-War years, Diem continued his involvement in the world of sport. In 1947, he was appointed Rector of the newly-founded Sport University of Cologne (Sporthochschule Köln – from 1965 Deutsche Sporthochschule Köln), a position which he held until his death, in 1962. At the same time, he began to concern himself actively with the setting up of an Olympic Academy. In 1945, two years before the lodging of a proposal for the founding of an International Olympic Academy at the 40th Session of the IOC by Ioannis Ketseas, member of the IOC,<sup>75</sup> Diem proposed the founding of an Olympic Academy in the United States. More specifically, in a letter to the President of the American Olympic Committee and Vice-President of the IOC, Avery Brundage, he proposed the creation of an Academy with the aim of spreading the Olympic ideal, to be attended by young people from all over the world.<sup>76</sup> He spoke in his letter of the economic capability of the USA to undertake such an enterprise. Brundage, in his letter of reply on 10 August 1946, expressed doubts as to the interest of the USA in such a plan.<sup>77</sup> Diem probably thought that Greece was not in a position to undertake the setting up of the Academy.

In 1949, the HOC, in a memorandum lodged with the IOC, presented the plan for the Olympic Academy.<sup>78</sup> The proposals submitted were put before Diem, who until the beginning of the operations of the IOA in

65. Ibid., 26.

66. Ibid., 28.

67. Diem, *Ein Leben*, op. cit. (n. 51), 220.

68. C. Diem, *Budapest-Sofia-Athen, Olympia-Rom. Vortrags und Urlaubsreise, Tagebücher Carl Diem*, Bd 14, Carl Diem-Institut, Cologne, 16-32.

69. Lennartz, *Dokumente*, op. cit. (n. 43), 210.

70. Grundmann, op. cit., 33.

71. Ibid., 36.

72. Ibid., 39.

73. Letter of Diem to Edström, 29.12.1946, Carl Diem-Institut, fol. 333.

74. Letter of Edström to Diem, n.d., Carl Diem-Institut, fol. 333.

75. E. Skiadas – K. G. Georgiadis, *Διεθνής Ολυμπιακή Ακαδημία* [The International Olympic Academy], Athens 2002, 50.

76. Letter of Diem to Brundage, n.d., Carl Diem-Institut, fol. 136.

77. Letter of Brundage to Diem, 10.8.1946, Carl Diem-Institut, fol. 136.

78. Skiadas – Georgiadis, op. cit., 55.





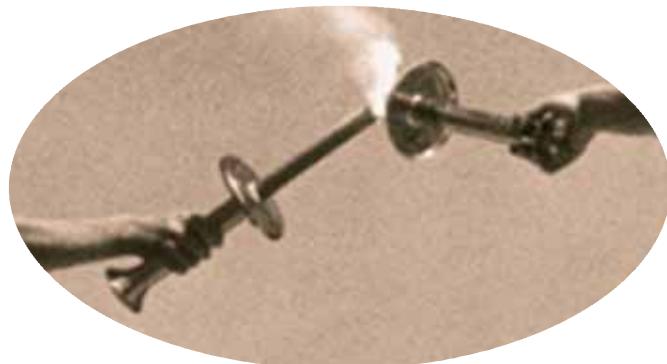
Participants of the 3rd Session of the IOA on a guided tour of the archaeological site [IOA Archive, K1.66]

1961 worked closely with Ioannis Ketseas on the organisation, curriculum and structure of the Academy.<sup>79</sup>

As a result of the joint efforts of the Hellenic and the German Olympic Committees, the 1st session of the IOA was held in summer 1961. The beginning of its work coincided with the handing over of the ancient stadium by the German Archaeological School of Athens. The ceremony was organised jointly by the Hellenic and the German Olympic Committees, while we learn from Diem's memorandum on the content of the celebrations that the German side took an active part in their organisation.<sup>80</sup> The German Olympic Committee undertook the cost of the accommodation and of a guided tour in areas of historical interest for one student from each of the countries which maintained an Olympic Committee, while students from the Sport University of Cologne took part in the ceremony of the handing over of the stadium together with their colleagues from the Physical Education College of the University of Athens. The leadership of the world of sport in Germany, moreover, gave a banquet in honour of those taking part.

Diem, who was one of the speakers at the first session, was appointed an honorary member of the IOA by a unanimous decision of the HOC "in recognition of his contribution to the promotion of the Olympic ideal and particularly to the advancement of the aims of the IOA and to its smooth operation".<sup>81</sup> In 1994, the HOC decided to give his name to one of the halls of the new conference centre of IOA at Ancient Olympia,<sup>82</sup> and on 31 July 1967, after the death of Ioannis Ketseas, a memorial column, bearing the names of the "inspirers and pioneers of the IOA", was erected on the IOA premises.<sup>83</sup>

The German presence at the IOA continued by means of the German academics and students who have taken part in the sessions each year. This is evidenced by the 100 or so lectures which have been given by 21 German academics and students since the founding of the IOA. It is instructive that Germany is the second country after Greece in terms of numbers of lecturers.<sup>84</sup> It is worth noting in conclusion that Prince George of Hanover, cousin of the then King Constantine of Greece, was President of the Academy from 1966 to 1970.



81. Ibid., 296.

82. See above, page 176.

83. Ibid., 299. Before the opening ceremony each year, a wreath is laid on the Diem-Ketseas column.

84. For more information on the number and nationality of the speakers, see the text of Roula Vathi: "The 'Olympic university' of the IOA: Lecturers and lectures".

79. Letter of Ketseas to Diem, 17.11.1948, and of Diem to Ketseas, 9.8.1960, Carl Diem-Institut, fol. 699.

80. Lennartz, *Dokumente*, op. cit. (n. 43), 291.

## The lighting of the flame and the torch relay for the Berlin Olympic Games of 1936



The priestesses during the lighting of the Olympic flame at Olympia, 1936  
[HOC Archive, K4.5]

The paternity of the idea of the lighting of the flame and the holding of the torch relay on the occasion of the Berlin Olympic Games of 1936 has been claimed on many sides. But the idea did not suddenly spring from the Berlin Olympic Games. Apart from the first Olympic Games in Athens in 1896 and the Mid-Olympiad of 1906, when torch processions took place, the Olympic flame was lit for the first time at the Amsterdam Games of 1928 and four years later in Los Angeles.<sup>85</sup> In 1934, within the framework of a visit of the members of the IOC to Olympia, Angelos Volanakis, a member for Greece of the IOC, is said to have proposed that the flame

should be lit at Olympia and that it should be taken by relay to the stadium where the Games were being held on each occasion,<sup>86</sup> whereas the idea of the lighting of the Olympic flame directly from the rays of the sun seems to have been that of the archaeologist Alexandros Philadelphias.<sup>87</sup> Ioannis Ketseas, according to his personal archive, also contributed to the formation of the final idea of the lighting of the flame and of the torch relay.<sup>88</sup>

The contribution of figures from the world of sport and politics in Germany was again important for the realisation of the idea. According to the official report on the Berlin Olympic Games, which was presented on 8 February 1934, the plan for the torch relay was based on the proposal of Wilhelm Haegert, who was on the staff of the Ministry of Propaganda.<sup>89</sup> However, this

85. E. G. Skiadas, *Ολυμπιακή Φλόγα-Η δάδα των αιώνων* [The Olympic flame: the torch of the centuries], Athens 1997, 20-21. See also Christina Koulouri, “Η ‘αλήθεια’ της ολυμπιακής φλόγας” [The ‘truth’ of the Olympic flame], *To Vima* newspaper, 25.3.2004; Vassiliki Tzachrista, “Η λαμπαδηδρομία” [The torch relay], in Christina Koulouri (ed.), *Αρχεία και Ιστορία της Επιτροπής Ολυμπιακών Αγώνων* [Archives and history of the Olympic Games Committee], Athens, International Olympic Academy, 2002, 105-116.

86. Ibid., 31-32.

87. Ibid., 35.

88. Ibid., 36.

89. W. Borgers, *Olympic Torch Relays*, Kassel 1996, 17-18.



The relay of the Olympic flame, 1936 [HOC Archive, K3.82]

statement is somewhat unclear. Carl Diem, as President of the Organising Committee for the Berlin Games, made a decisive contribution to the organisation of the ceremony of lighting the flame and of the relay. Inspired by the references of Pierre de Coubertin to the “Olympic torch” in the Stockholm Olympic Games in 1912<sup>90</sup> and of the Hellenist Werner Jaeger on the symbolism of the torch as a link between ancient Greek civilisation and modern Germany,<sup>91</sup> Diem elaborated the plan for the lighting of the flame on the archaeological site of Ancient Olympia and the holding of the relay to the German capital. The plan was presented at the session of the IOC in Athens in 1934 by Theodore Lewald, a member of the IOC for Germany, and was approved.<sup>92</sup>

90. Ibid., 12.

91. Ibid., 10.

92. H. Pouret, “Η Ολυμπιακή Φλόξ” [The Olympic flame],

The ceremony of the lighting of the flame was prepared by the Olympic Games Organising Committee of Berlin. Infrastructure works were carried out in the broader Olympia area – new roads were built,<sup>93</sup> while the public transport infrastructures were modernised.<sup>94</sup> The organisers secured the gift of a vehicle from the Daimler-Benz company, whereas the torch and the mirror were manufactured by the German companies Krups and Karl Zeiss-Jena, respectively.

Λεύκωμα της 15ης Συνόδου της Διεθνούς Ολυμπιακής Ακαδημίας, Ολυμπία [Report on the 15th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Olympia], Athens 1976, 124.

93. Borgers, op. cit., 25.

94. E. Skiadas, *100 χρόνια Νεώτερη Ολυμπιακή Ιστορία, Επιτροπή Ολυμπιακών Αγώνων 1906-1996* [100 years of modern Olympic history, the Olympic Games Committee 1906-1996], Athens 1996, 207.



## Conclusions

The German presence at Ancient Olympia started out with the archaeological excavations and continued with the wide-ranging activities of Carl Diem and other German office-holders with a variety of objectives, which included the holding of the lighting of the flame and the torch relay for the Berlin Olympic Games of 1936, and, of course, the founding of the IOA.

Olympia was a source of inspiration for the German intellectual world long before the active presence of Germany on the site. Many German archaeologists and intellectuals expressed a desire to carry out excavations there. In the meantime, the competition between the states of Europe in the eighteenth and nineteenth century for the foremost place in the field of archaeological research was sharp. The high standards of German researchers in conjunction with the economic prosperity of the unified German world in the second half of the nineteenth century put Germany in a superior position in the competition in Europe. An important role in the acceptance of the German proposal by the Greek state was also undoubtedly played by the German origins of the Greek royal family.

From the arrival of the first archaeological mission to the present day, German interest in Ancient Olympia has remained undiminished. On the occasion of the Berlin Olympic Games in 1936, the German presence reached its culmination with the resumption of the

excavations and with the lighting of the Olympic flame and the torch relay, held for the first time on the archaeological site. None of this would have been possible without the contribution of Carl Diem. His interest in archaeology and his zeal for everything to do with sport persuaded the government of Nazi Germany to fund the excavations aimed at bringing to light the ancient stadium. The fascination exerted by Olympia was such that Diem's proposal on the lighting of the flame and the torch relay found enthusiastic supporters in the regime.

The role of Diem in the years of Nazi Germany has raised questions as to his activities at Olympia even before the Occupation, but above all during its course. The concern which he showed for the setting up of the International Olympic Institute, of which he was President, at the very time when he was working for the founding of the IOA, was probably due to the role which his country wished to play in the field of sport on a world scale. Nevertheless, there can be no doubt that after the war he worked hard for the founding and operation of the IOA. The many years of endeavour of the German archaeologists, moreover, bore fruit, and in 1961 the founding of the IOA coincided with the handing over of the ancient stadium by the German Archaeological Mission.

It would be no exaggeration, therefore, to say that without the German presence, Ancient Olympia today would perhaps be a totally different place.

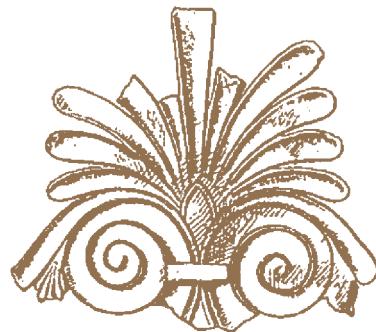




VASSILIKI TZACHRISTA

THE “SMALL OLYMPIC VILLAGE”:  
THE PREMISES OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC ACADEMY





## The site at Ancient Olympia

In 1949 in Rome, after the decision to set up the International Olympic Academy (IOA) had been taken, the ‘Special Committee for an Olympic Academy and Classical Games’, presided over by Ioannis Ketseas and with Georgios Ikonomou, Constantinos Georgakopoulos and Christos Zalokostas as its members, undertook the responsibility for implementing the decision, in consultation with the foreign Olympic Committees and the Hellenic Olympic Committee (HOC).<sup>1</sup>

The Rome decision was followed by a period of inactivity over the founding of the Academy of approximately ten years, due to the indifference shown by the Olympic Committees of the various states. Up to 1956, the only hint made in the minutes of the HOC about the setting up of the IOA concerns the budget, in which there is provision for expenses “for premises and organisation of an Olympic Academy”, without this being accompanied by any other action in this direction. In late 1956, at a session of the HOC, Ketseas brought up the issue of the “Committee for a Collection for the Accommodation of Students at Ancient Olympia”, which at its first meeting proposed that it should be incorporated into the aims of the HOC, “for the founding of the Olympic Academy”, that is, that it should undertake by means of a collection the construction of housing at Olympia for the accom-

modation of students which could be used by the HOC during the period of operation of the Olympic Academy at Olympia.<sup>2</sup>

On the motion of its President (Crown Prince Constantine), the HOC rejected this proposal and disagreed with the involvement of the Committee for a Collection for Student Accommodation in the construction of the International Olympic Academy, because this would mean a dividing of its efforts. Instead of this he proposed that the HOC should seek the expropriation of suitable areas at Ancient Olympia and that there should be an on-the-spot inspection in which representatives of the HOC and the Ministry of Education would take part; on the site to be chosen the premises for the operation of the Academy would be built by the HOC; these could also be used by the Collection Committee for its purposes. This proposal of the President was accepted.<sup>3</sup>

In October 1957, on the proposal of Ketseas, the HOC decided on the planning of actions for the expropriation of the necessary area at Ancient Olympia at its own expense for the setting up of the IOA.<sup>4</sup> In 1958 it asked the Army Geographical Service to undertake the surveying and determination of ownership of the site to be selected at Olympia, of an area of 25 hectares, for expropriation. At the same time, it addressed itself to the Ministry of Education to obtain the issuing of a law on compulsory purchase, which the Ministry judged was probably not

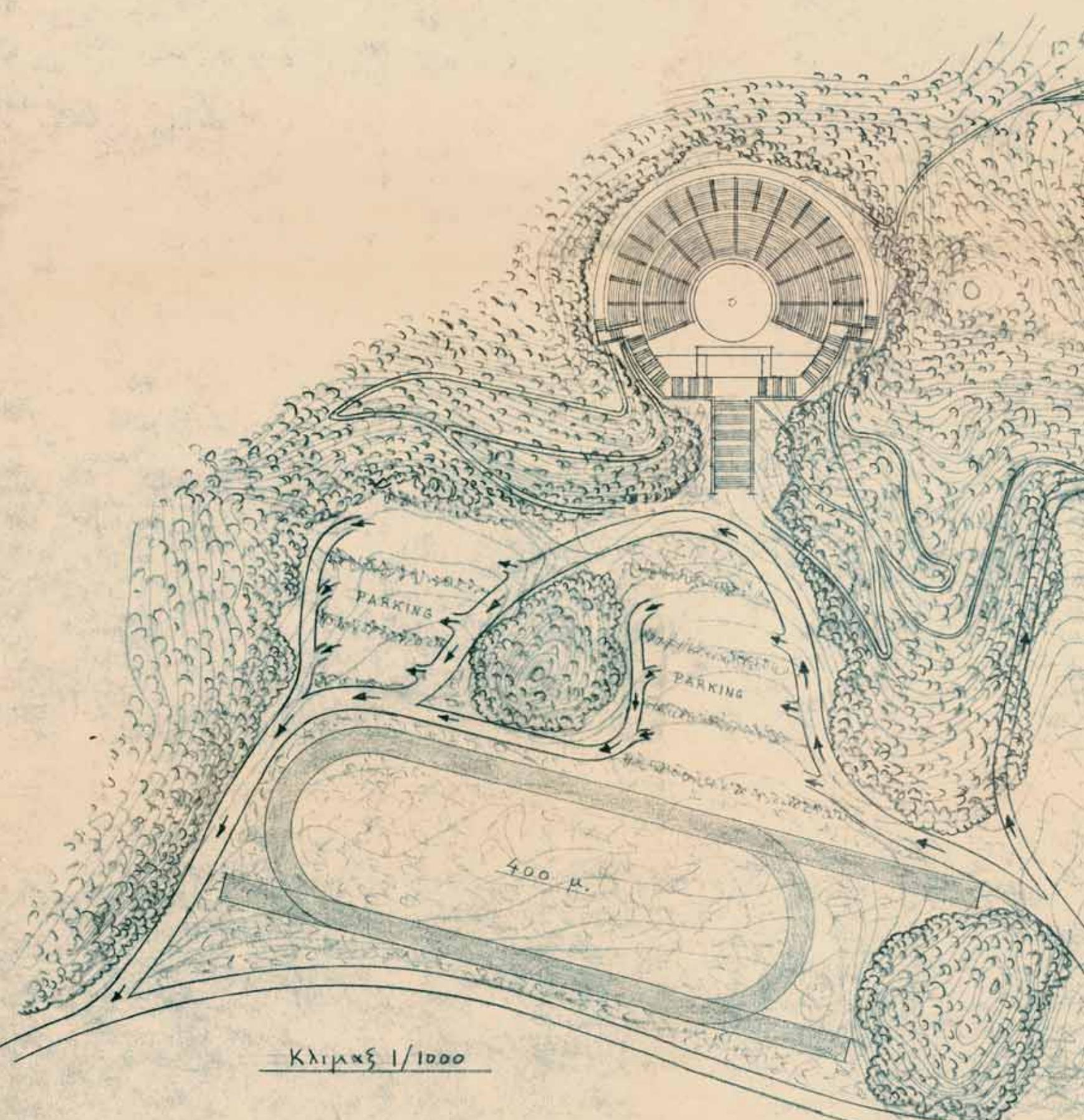
1. Minutes of the 2nd Session of the HOC, 12.4.1949, 3rd Session, 31.5.1949, and of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Session, 10.12.1949, 17.12.1949, and 22.12.1949, *Book of Minutes of the HOC, 1949-1952*, 6, 9-10, 34, 36-37, 39. The decision on the founding of the IOA in Greece, in conjunction with the creation of the new Olympic Stadium and the impending meeting of the International Olympic Committee in 1954 in Athens, has been seen as serving as support for the Greek candidacy for holding the 1960 Olympic Games. See Minutes of the 21st Session of the HOC, 30.12.1952, *ibid.*, 122.

2. Minutes of the 20th Session of the HOC, 28.12.1956, *Book of Minutes of the HOC, 19.5.1953-30.8.1957*, 124.

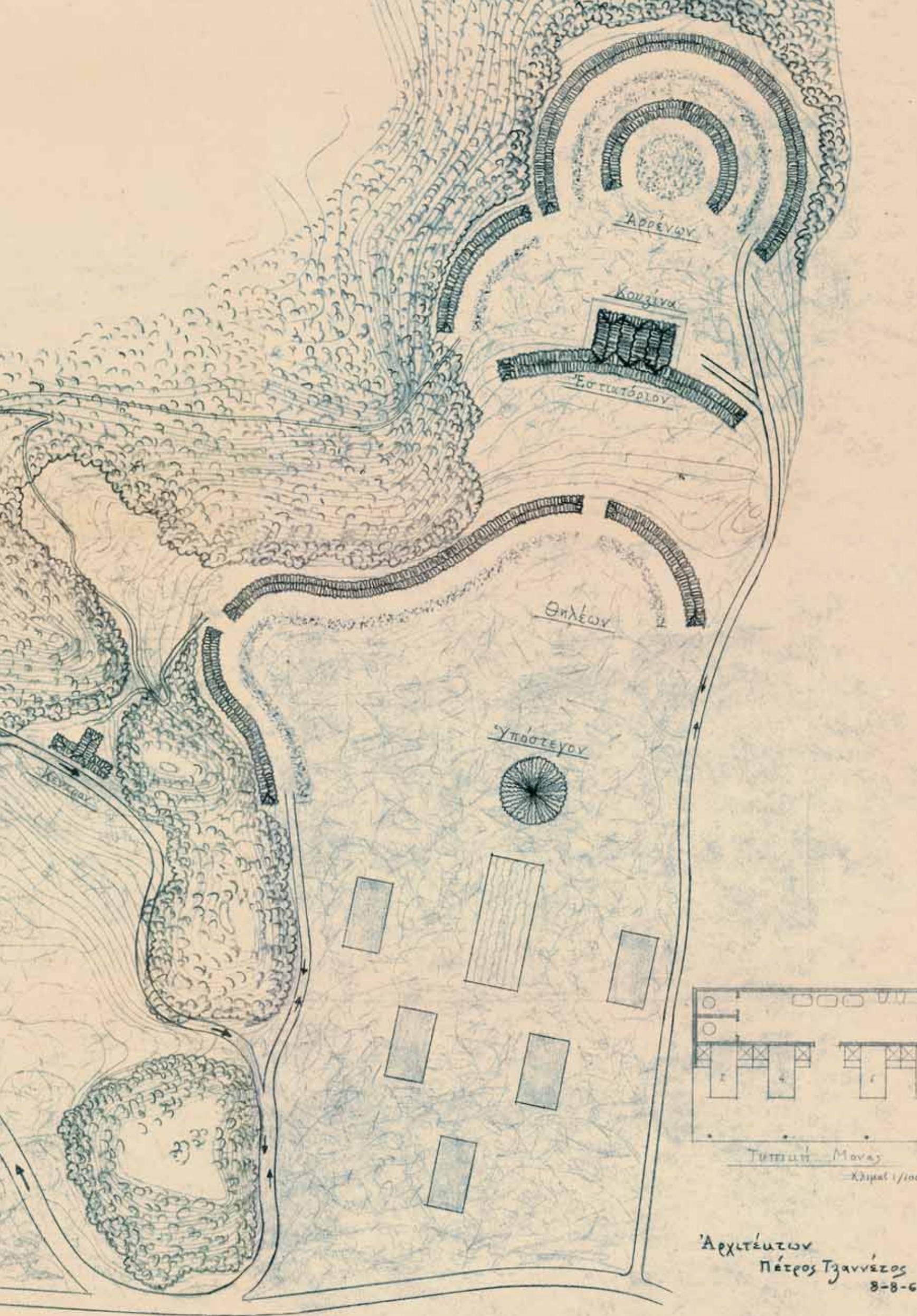
3. Minutes of the 21st Session of the HOC, 7.3.1957, *ibid.*, 132-133.

4. Minutes of the 2nd Session of the HOC, 24.10.1957, *Book of Minutes of the HOC, 26.9.1957-21.12.1960*, 11.

Χωροταξικόν Διάγραμμα  
Ολυμπιακῆς Ακαδημίας  
εν  
Ολυμπίᾳ



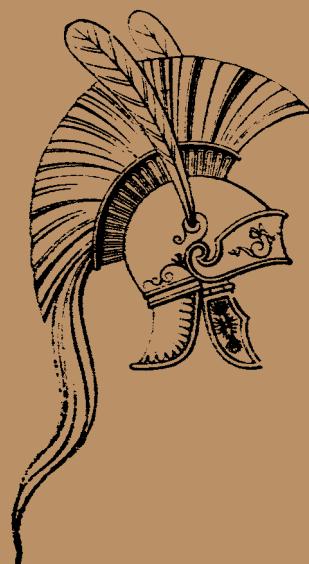
Κλίμαξ 1/1000





The existence of the IOA at modern Olympia has played a role in the field of drawing attention to the broader region, in the dissemination of the Olympic values, and in the economic enhancement of the Municipality. In the economic field, from the time that the Academy came, we had a restaurant, a cafeteria here. The kids came every evening and drank. And King Constantine came with them; he was only a young lad at the time. He came to the joint, and my father, who was a royalist, kept the chair where he sat and the old man wrote a 'C' on the back of it. But we had an immediacy in those days. These people got together and sang, and we sang along with them, or it was the Greek meeting in there, and the Greeks sang 'Uncle Yannis with his Jug', let's say, the Bulgarians sang their own songs – and so on. On a table, everybody sang his own local songs. It was something very fine which doesn't happen nowadays. The human elements which existed in the old days don't exist now.

Yorgos Acheimastos, President of the Olympia Association of Commerce, 2005



necessary if the owners were willing to sell their property. If there were "owners who were recalcitrant or demanding excessive prices", then expropriation would be justified, if the HOC had already become the owner of the greater part and the current price had been determined by the purchase of the properties. The HOC accepted this view and decided, in the budget for the financial year 1960, on a credit of 2,500,000 drachmas for the above purchase.<sup>5</sup>

In 1959, on the occasion of the student games which were held at Olympia, the HOC publicised the issue of the founding of the Academy to the broader political and university community. The games were held on 8 March on the initiative of the Minister of Education, the rectors of the institutions of higher education, and the HOC, which subsidised them with the sum of 15,000 drs. After the games were successfully concluded, at a dinner given on the occasion, the first Vice-President of the HOC, Konstantinos Georgakopoulos, explained the matter of the founding of an International Olympic Academy at Olympia and proposed the holding of classical games—national to begin with and then international— which would not have any connection with the holding every four years of the Olympic Games.<sup>6</sup>

The decision on the setting up of the Academy was seen as particularly important for the tourist and economic development of the area by the local community of Olympia. But in early 1960, an article in the local press spoke of the probable cancellation of this decision by the HOC, some of whose members proposed the relocation of the Academy to Athens. The reasons invoked, according to the article, had to do with ease of access and visiting

5. Minutes of the 18th Session of the HOC, 19.11.1959, *ibid.*, 128.

6. Minutes of the 13th Session of the HOC, 27.3.1959, op. cit., 96-97. See also the *Patris* newspaper: 'Towards a revival of the Olympiads. The first Classical Olympic Games for University-level Institutions were held the day before yesterday at Ancient Olympia', 10.3.1959; 'Meeting on Ancient Olympia-The organisation of special games', 14.3.1959; 'The founding of the International Olympic Academy at Ancient Olympia, the actions of the Olympic Committee. Announcement of Mr Georgakopoulos', 21.4.1959. The events which were held: 3,000 metres cross-country race, in which 12-member teams from the Universities of Athens and Thessaloniki, the National Metsovian Polytechnic, the College of Economic and Commercial Sciences, the Panteion University, and the National Physical Training College took part. V. Zervoudakis of the College of Economic and Commercial Sciences came first, and was proclaimed first Olympic victor of the academic year. This was followed by the discus, in which Antonis Kounadis (Polytechnic) came first, the shot-put, in which the winner was G. Tsakanikas (College of Economic and Commercial Sciences), and the pole-vault, in which A. Diamantis (National Physical Training College) came first. The points awarded by institution were: University of Thessaloniki, 55; College of Economic and Commercial Sciences, 78; University of Athens, 86; National Physical Training College, 98; Panteion University, 153; Polytechnic, 196.



Ancient Olympia, c. 1965 [Apostolis Kosmopoulos archive]

offered by Athens, as opposed to the public transport obstacles and difficulties in the case of Olympia.<sup>7</sup> This news caused strong displeasure, and the Mayor of Olympia, Asimakis Karapanayiotis, in a letter to the HOC, sought confirmation of the information. The HOC denied the truth of it and stated that “the abandonment of the decision on the founding of the Academy at Ancient Olympia has never crossed our minds”.<sup>8</sup>

At the end of the same year, a decision of the Plenum fixed the commencement of operations of the International Olympic Academy for the summer of 1961, so that it would coincide with the ceremony of the handing over of the recently discovered ancient stadium and the meeting of the International Olympic Committee in Athens.<sup>9</sup>

7. *Patris* newspaper, ‘The building of an International Olympic Academy at Ancient Olympia is torpedoed’, 10.1.1960.

8. Letter of the Mayor of Olympia to the HOC, 14.1.1960, and reply of the HOC, 26.1.1960, *IOA Interior Correspondence, 1960-1961*, no. 1, IOA Archive.

9. Minutes of the 33rd Session of the HOC, 7.12.1960, *Book of Minutes*, op. cit. (n. 4), 213-214.

### Looking for the right place for the IOA

From the beginning of 1960, the HOC set as a fundamental priority a reading of the natural and man-made environment of the Olympia area, so as to choose the position for the designing of the Academy, giving emphasis to access, water-supply and proximity to the village of Olympia. The body of the relevant correspondence from and to the HOC provides us with information on the agricultural areas offered by Olympia’s neighbouring communities and by private landowners, who responded immediately to the request of the Committee for the sale of plots.

From the region of the town of Platanos, two bids are recorded. The first involves the lawyer Alexios Varnotsos, at Aghios Georgios, and includes property in the ownership of Dimitrios Gotsis, Antonis Bisas, Dimitra Papadionysiou, and himself. The agricultural land offered was close to the railway line to Ancient Olympia, halfway between Platanos and Olympia. Electricity had reached that point and the water-supply was adequate. The second bid came from Andreas Papadimitriou, also



The choice of a site for the IOA was a mistake. We are speaking now of the period 1959-1961. The initial proposal was the Drouva site. And the Drouva site would have been ideal. The site beyond the Kladeos towards the Alpheios was one which had fulfilled its destiny in ancient times. We should have left it intact. There was no reason for putting up buildings next to the stadium, to fix up a thousand and one things – or the Academy. It should have remained a virgin spot. What were they thinking of in putting it there? It was the same reasoning as in 1890, when the railway line was planned. At that time Drouva was a plateau. A hill. Access was difficult. Roads would have had to be made, a thousand and one things should have been done. There were none at that time. There the situation was ready and waiting. There were olive groves, vines, it was easy for them to put up tents. It's here that we should start from the beginning [...]

Spyros Photeinos,  
former Mayor of Olympia, 2005



a resident of Platanos, involving a “privileged” and “model” site situated in a conspicuous position, hence it bears the name of Dombitsi or Pilalistra (=racing ground), because in antiquity it was used for runners in races. In his continuing correspondence with the HOC, he sends a detailed table of value per kind of agricultural property with the current prices, taking into account houses, plots (20 hectares) and wells. The price amounts to 1,336,000 drs. In the table based on the law on expropriation, the total price does not exceed 960,000 drs. The properties offered by Varotsos and Papadimitriou consisted of a vineyard for currants, a vineyard, olive-trees, fruit-trees, areas planted with pines, wells, and some buildings.<sup>10</sup>

As a culmination to the above bids of private individuals comes the resolution of support of the Commune Council of Platanos for the HOC, passed at an extra-ordinary meeting and in the light of “extra-judicial information” about the probable siting of the Academy in the commune in question, which is put forward as “a unique antechamber to the neighbouring Ancient Olympia”.<sup>11</sup>

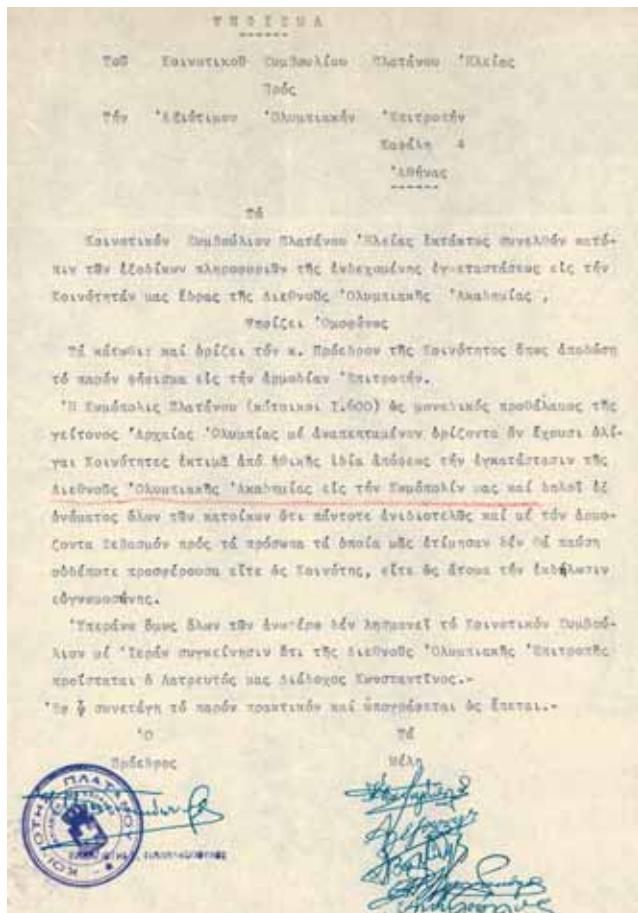
In the same year, two other bids –from the neighbouring communes of Miraka and Floka– reached the HOC simultaneously. The President of the former, Panayiotis Lagios, in an open letter to the press, made known the offer of his commune of 50 hectares of land in the relevant locations. The first was in the spot known as Samakia, 500 metres from the ancient stadium, and included 20 hectares planted with currant vines and a few olive-trees. The second was at Halikia, near the Alpheios, four kilometres from Olympia and included 30 hectares with fields and olive-trees. The locations also stood out for their historical importance, since the former was believed to be the site of ancient Pisa and the latter of the palace of King Oenomaus.<sup>12</sup>

A little later, the President of the Commune of Floka, citing information to the effect that the discussions on the founding of the Academy, “there being no suitable site”, were at an impasse, informed the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs that a similar piece of

10. See the relevant correspondence of the landowners in the Commune of Platanos with the HOC (property diagram by Varotsos, report ‘on the Papadimitriou agricultural property’, a detailed table of value by kind of property for Papadimitriou at the current prices and the prices on the basis of the law on expropriation, etc.), which runs through the year 1960 and is contained in the *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit.

11. Resolution of the Commune Council of Platanos, Ileia, 17.12.1960, *ibid.*

12. P. Lagios, ‘The Commune of Miraka offers sites for the International Olympic Academy’, *Patris* newspaper, 24.2.1960. Application of the Commune of Miraka, Ileia, to the HOC, 20.2.1961, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit.



[IOA Archive, K.1]

land, which fulfilled all the necessary conditions, was on offer; he noted: "We too seek, as countrypeople, to make some advance, because we live here and are ignorant of culture, and so we shall exhaust all our moral and material powers".<sup>13</sup>

The orientation of the HOC, however, had from the beginning turned more towards the area south-west of the settlement of Drouva, in the location known as Koukena. Following an inspection of the site, the HOC commissioned K. Galanis from Olympia to sound out the intentions of the residents as to the offer of sites. For an on-the-spot investigation of the matter, Ketseas visited Olympia in early April 1960 and, after reaching an understanding with the Mayor of Olympia, invited the residents of Drouva to the town hall for an exchange of views on the compensation for their plots. The discussion was held in a tense atmosphere and ended in a dispute, because the residents, in the opinion of the Mayor, incited by various "ill-disposed persons", considered the

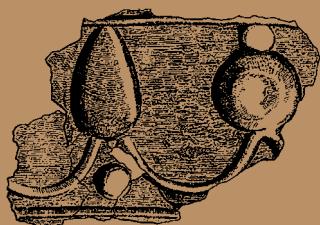
13. Letter of the President of the Commune of Floka to the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, with a copy to the HOC, 23.2.1960, ibid.

### *Letter to the General Secretary of the HOC, Vice-Admiral Pyrros Lappas*

For ten years now, I've worked without pay for the OGC and have followed at first hand, as a citizen of Olympia, all the discussions, all the concerns, and all the toil which the OGC has engaged in for the founding of the International Olympic Academy. All the experts, all the officials who in the space of these ten years have passed through Olympia, after carrying out so many surveys, have recommended the right angle which the Kladeos forms with the Alpheios river on the right as the most suitable, as the most appropriate site. It's needless for me to quote the arguments in favour of this angle, because it is a truth which is self-evident. It is mathematical axiom.

This location was also acknowledged by Yourself, together with the other members of the OGC, and, as I am in a position to know, You also determined the position of the Monument to the late lamented Coubertin. Now... you are about to put the Academy in a furnace, where in summer not even the snakes can stand the heat, and you have abandoned that location which so many have indicated as suitable and which is in a certain balance with the old Altis, because the compensation for this site is more expensive than for the one You propose. My dear Admiral, 'Some things are non-negotiable'. The Honour, Worth and Contribution of Olympia in its world-wide mission cannot be meted out in drachmas, but by the application of the doctrine of *Mens sana in corpore sano...* My dear Admiral, there is still time to avoid a world-wide outcry.

Athanasi Kosmopoulos,  
owner of 'Altis' Hotel, former Mayor, 1961



[IOA Archive K 1]

price offered for their houses and plots of land low to contemptible.<sup>14</sup>

In October 1960, the HOC, by an intervention of Ketseas through the Prefecture of Ileia, attempted a new approach to the residents of the village of Drouva, to urge them to accept a compromise solution on the ceding of their property. In order to speed things up, the residents were invited to a meeting at the town hall of Olympia, attended by the Prefecture Engineer of Ileia, Christos Georgopoulos and Panayiotis Lakkakis on behalf of the Prefecture. However, the case of the Drouva settlement was much discussed, as can be seen from the

14. The residents agreed to provide the site and at a first estimate of the data, sale prices amounted to 60,000 to 70,000 drs for stone-built houses and 30,000 drs for those built of brick. For large olive-trees the price was 700 drs, and for small ones 300; fields were priced at 1,500 drs per stremma (1,000 sq. m.). See letter of K. Galanis to the HOC on the Drouva locality, 24.2.1960, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit. (n. 8), no. 1; letter of the Mayor, 9.5.1960, ibid. See also *Patris* newspaper, 'The founding at Ancient Olympia of the Olympic Academy-Arrival of members of the Olympic Committee', 30.1.1960.

archive and the local press, but it is certain that in the final decision on the selection of a site, the difficulty of access to this village played a negative role.<sup>15</sup>

To all the above topographical options, an area near the Alpheios was added. On 7 February 1960, 45 inhabitants of the area, owners of vineyards, olive-presses, fields and houses, assembled in a meeting at the Olympia town hall. Following discussion, and after the task which the Academy was going to accomplish had been praised, they arrived at the best possible prices for the HOC, "which should never forget that the owners have often sustained a blow from compulsory purchases and 'National land'".<sup>16</sup>

15. Letter of the HOC to the Prefecture of Ileia, 17.6.1960, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit. See also *Patris* newspaper, the relevant articles: 'It has been decided to erect the International Olympic Academy at Drouva', 21.6.1960, and 'On the International Olympic Academy', 25.10.1961. In late January 1961, an article stated that in the procedure for the selection of a site by the HOC in the last two years, the most important consideration was that the site for the premises was determined with the area known as Ekkli-soula and the village of Drouva as the most favoured, 25.1.1961.

16. Handwritten agreement with the HOC, signed by 44 re-

In early 1961, the issue of the final choice of sites was considered particularly urgent, in view of the fact that the Academy was to come into operation the same summer. Ketseas and the General Secretary of the HOC, Pyrrhos Lappas, were again commissioned to investigate, chiefly, the sites on offer in the Drouva and Platanos areas.<sup>17</sup> After the on-the-spot inspection, these areas were precluded with finality, and the interest of the HOC centred on a choice between two locations in the Miraka area which had been preselected as suitable: (a) the area immediately to the east of the Hill of Kronos and north north-east of the public road to Tripoli, of an area of up to 20-25 hectares, that is, the three valleys immediately to the east of the Hill of Kronos, and (b) the area to the west of the Hill of Oenomaus as far as the bank of the Alpheios, which had been surveyed under the codename "area on the right-hand bank of the Alpheios". The HOC informed the Mayor of Olympia and told him that it wished to buy the properties directly if the owners were not unreasonable, otherwise it would go ahead with expropriation.<sup>18</sup>

In a first approach with the residents, the prices asked were judged to be excessive by the Mayor, who "threatened" them with compulsory purchase. The second meeting was set for 24 March 1961 at the town hall. Those present were the Mayor, members of the HOC and the owners from the area of Samakia at Miraka. In a mood of understanding on both sides, an agreement was achieved on the prices of the properties, the olive-trees and the other trees. They arrived at a general agreement and the signing of the relevant contract.<sup>19</sup>

On the choice of the Samakia location, an area with many reeds because of its great dampness (*samaki* means 'reed'), there were conflicting views in the local community, resulting in tensions. The location was considered unsuitable, in the face of others with "serious advantages". It was held that the decision had been taken in haste and probably the urgent need for the handing over of the

ancient stadium contributed to this. These reactions and objections were summed up in two letters published by Athanasios Kosmopoulos in the local press and supported by the publisher of the *Patris* newspaper.<sup>20</sup>

The final selection of a location then followed the practice of the lawful procedures for registration and acquisition of the properties. The HOC, taking cognisance of the minutes drawn up at Ancient Olympia on 24 March 1961 by those represented as owners of the area finally chosen, by virtue of which each declared his ownership and the prices sought per hectare, decided on the purchase of the properties and approved the expenditure on compensation of 2,200,000 drs.<sup>21</sup>

The HOC then commissioned and empowered the first and second Vice-President to purchase or to draw up preliminary agreements for the purchase of properties situated in the area of Ancient Olympia and Miraka in the name of the HOC and to appoint by a notary public Nikolaos Yalouris, resident of Ancient Olympia, who would purchase the properties, attorney and agent of the HOC.<sup>22</sup> On the orders of the HOC, the engineer of the Prefecture of Pyrgos K. Sardelis undertook the topographical survey of the whole area on the topographical diagram to be drawn up and the surveying of the properties of each owner, in order to render possible both the exact determination of the extent of each property and a check on ownership and the examination of the relevant title deeds. This was followed by the concluding of preliminary agreements in order to commit the vendors, and then a check on the titles to ownership by the Pyrgos lawyer Ioannis Mylonopoulos. On 24 May 1961, the Notarial Preliminary Agreement was drawn up for 17 properties. No preliminary agreement was drawn up on: (a) properties which in the opinion of the Archaeological Service were subject to it; (b) the property of Panayiotis Asteris; (c) the properties of Themistoklis Hardavellas and his wife; (d) the property of the Georgiadis brothers; (e) the property of Athina Touri.<sup>23</sup>

---

sidents of Olympia and endorsed by the Mayor, in which the prices of their properties are stated, 29.2.1960. Table "of expropriation of an area between the Alpheios river and the Drouva plateau for the founding of an Olympic Academy", with details of the area to be expropriated, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit.

17. Minutes of the 1st Session of the HOC, 10.2.1962, *Book of Minutes of the HOC, 10.2.1961-6.4.1964*, 7.

18. Letters of the HOC to and from the Mayor of Olympia, 2.3.1961, 7.3.1961 and 14.3.1961, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit.

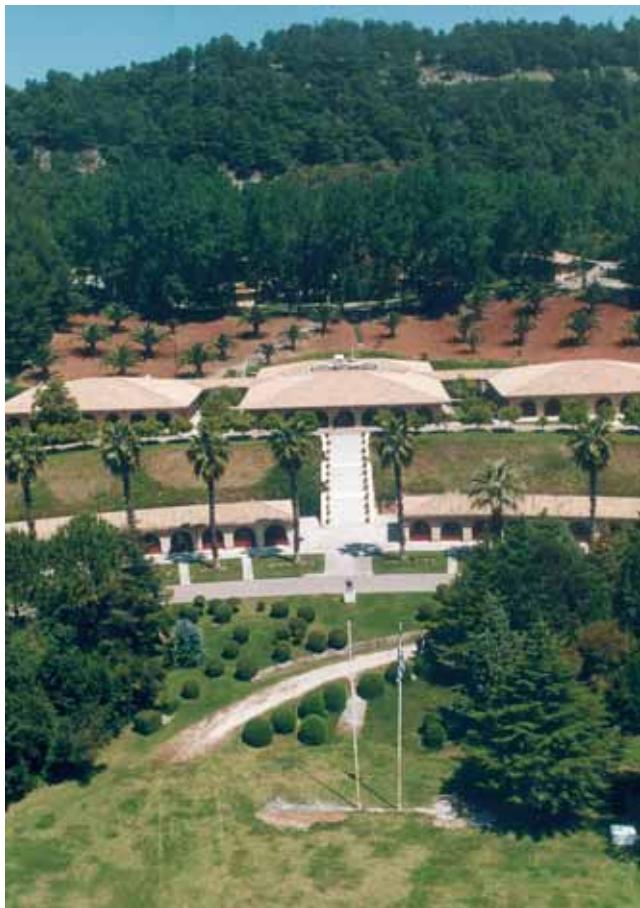
19. *Patris* newspaper: "The place for the erection of the Olympic Academy has been determined-Arrival of members of the Olympic Committee", 26.3.1961; "The site for the temporary Olympic encampments has been determined", 22.4.1961; "The founding of the International Olympic Academy has been decided upon", 16.5.1961.

20. One is addressed to the Member of Parliament for Ileia, Dimitrios Gontikas, and the other to the General Secretary of the HOC, Vice-Admiral Lappas. The letter to Gontikas casts out clear hints about political intervention on his part in the decision on the final selection of the specific Samakia location "in order to serve certain political friends", and Kosmopoulos invites him to enter into an open dialogue on the subject. The letter to Lappas, quoted above on page 11, because of their collaboration, is of a more personal character. A. Kosmopoulos, 'The site scheduled for the erection of an International Olympic Academy is unsuitable', *Patris* newspaper, 12.5.1961.

21. Property table "of the Site at Olympia of the Olympic Games Committee", Pyrgos 1961, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit. (n. 8).

22. Minutes of the 2nd Session of the HOC, 30.3.1961, and of the 4th Session, 3.7.1961, *Book of Minutes*, op. cit., 20-21 and 32.

23. The difficulty in the drafting of preliminary agreements



Part of the IOA premises  
[IOA Archive, K50.6]

However, before the drafting of the final purchase and sale contracts, other major difficulties arose during the check on the ownership title deeds. With certain exceptions, most owners invoked a title of inheritance from parents before the coming into force of the Civil Code. In order to check on and verify inheritance and in cases of irregular usucaption, Mylonopoulos was forced to seek certificates from the Mayor of Olympia or the President of the Commune of Miraka, or even sworn confirmation from witnesses. In these cases, he required the involvement in the contracts of the predecessors in title

was of a financial nature. The initial prices of the properties and the buildings which had been determined by the HOC and the owners were re-assessed by the engineer of the Pyrgos Prefecture to the detriment of certain owners, with the result that there were disagreements. Ioannis Mylonopoulos carried out an on-the-spot investigation and arrived at a more realistic determination of prices which vindicated the claims of the owners, so that their interests should not be adversely affected. The new data were sent to the HOC for final approval of the drafting of the definitive sale and purchase contracts. See the relevant correspondence between the HOC and Mylonopoulos in early 1961 and the drafting of a Notarial Preliminary Agreement with the owners on 24.5.1961, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit., no. 1.

in the contracts, and, by way of supplementation, similar certificates and sworn affidavits, so that the time required for irregular usucaption could be completed. A second problem which delayed the conclusion of the final contracts arose with the owners of olive-trees who wished first to collect the fruit and then to enter into the contracts. There were, of course, others who delayed unjustifiably. Tensions and disagreements between joint-owners of plots and heirs (the case of the heirs of Georgios Georgiadis) also occurred.<sup>24</sup>

After the completion of the necessary actions, the HOC sent the property register diagram of the area acquired to the Ministry of Education, and on 6 December 1961 the spatial planning study for the erection of the necessary buildings to the Ministry to the Prime Minister (to the General Directorate for Antiquities).<sup>25</sup> In January 1962, members of the Ephoria of the IOA, representatives of the Archaeological Service, and the architect Petros Tzannetos visited Olympia for an *in situ* inspection of the site and its architectural configuration. During this visit, the view prevailed that additional space was needed to supplement the terrain of the Academy. Furthermore, it was decided that the securing of an area of forest land of 18 hectares, which belonged to the State, within and around the site of the Academy, and of an area in the direction of the Alpheios should be studied for the creation of a suitable approach area.<sup>26</sup>

The acquisition of plots with a view to completing the property consisted in the supplementary purchase of 8.4 hectares in the Miraka and Ancient Olympia area, along the eastern side of the Academy. In early May 1962, the HOC approved the relevant expenditure (500,000 drs) and commissioned Ioannis Mylonopoulos to process the matter, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture.<sup>27</sup>

The acquisition of the plots involved a considerable number of difficulties; these are set down in a report by Mylonopoulos to the Committee: (a) the purchase was difficult or absolutely impossible because many owners put forward unrealistic claims and the price which they were asking was not even worth discussing; (b) almost none of the owners had produced ownership title deeds,

24. Letter of Mylonopoulos to the HOC in connection with the contracts of purchase and sale drafted, 2.7.1961, ibid. See also similar letters, 1.8.1961, 30.8.1961, 20.9.1961 and 29.9.1961.

25. Ibid.

26. Minutes of the 6th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (22.2.1962); *Minutes of the Ephoria of the IOA and HOC, 16.10.1961-3.10.1966*. See also a report by the topographer Omilos Merlon, 28.6.1963, *IOA Interior Correspondence, 1961-1970*, no. 2, IOA Archive.

27. Minutes of the 16th Session of the HOC, 28.5.1962, *Book of Minutes*, op. cit. (n. 17), 121.

because obviously they had the properties in their possession without title; (c) the Greek State was claiming rights, maintaining that a large part of the properties were reclaimed forestry land. What was therefore proposed was the compulsory purchase of the properties and the HOC moved in that direction, after the topographical diagram and the table of the area to be expropriated had been drawn up in late October 1962 by Dimitris Lambopoulos. The compulsory purchase was to go ahead on the basis of the plan which had been sent to the prefectoral engineer of Ileia by the HOC's duly authorised attorney.<sup>28</sup>

In early 1963, following an application of the HOC to the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture for the imposition of compulsory purchase on the area of 8.4 hectares, a three-member committee was set up by the Director of Construction Services, the Financial Ephor and the Inspector of Physical Education of Ileia to examine the suitability of the site to be compulsorily purchased.<sup>29</sup>

In May, the act of expropriation was approved by the Ministry, in accordance with Article 17 of Law 1415/1942, Article 1 of Law 3979/1959 and the Royal Decree of 29/30-4-53 'concerning the codification of the provisions in force as to compulsory expropriations', for considerations of the public benefit, for the founding of "a Gymnasium and the related facilities [...] in which athletic games will be held and sport-loving students of the University-level Schools of States which are members of the International Olympic Committee, pupils of the Primary Schools of Miraka and Ancient Olympia, as well as pupils of the Primary Schools and Secondary Schools of Pyrgos will exercise". The expropriation was determined on the basis of the property register diagram which was drawn up by the civil engineer Dimitrios Lambopoulos and endorsed by the Director of Construction Services of the Prefecture of Ileia. The cost of the compulsory purchase was paid by the HOC.<sup>30</sup>

28. Minutes of the 21st Session of the HOC, 22.10.1962, and of the 23rd Session, 14.12.1962, *ibid.*, 157-158 and 175. See also the relevant letter on an application for expropriation to the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, 7.11.1962, *IOA Interior Correspondence, 1962-1969*, no. 3, IOA Archive.

29. 'Concerning the constitution of a three-member committee to pronounce upon the suitability or otherwise of the Gymnasium to be set up with changing-rooms and the related facilities of an area of 84 stremmata at the Olympic Academy to be founded at Ancient Olympia', 4.1.1963, *ibid.*

30. 'Concerning compulsory expropriation of properties for the setting up of a Gymnasium and related facilities at the Olympic Academy to be founded at Ancient Olympia', 24.5.1963, *Interior Correspondence*, *op. cit.*, no. 4. See also 'Opinion of the Valuation Committee of Article 11 of Law 1731/39', 22.4.1963, *Interior Correspondence*, *op. cit.*, no. 3.



I used to operate the kiln, until the Academy took it. And what did they pay me for the compulsory purchase? Zero. Nothing. And I mediated for that nothing with others for us to move away from Olympia to set things up in the Moiraka direction. Because the Olympia people don't have room here, they're squeezed in. And that's why they wanted them to take the Academy to Koukena, behind Drouva. Nothing. And I mediated and what did they give us? They gave us 7,000 drachmas the hectare for currants, 5,000 the hectare for vines, they gave us 100 drachmas per olive tree, a great big one, nothing; I didn't go after anything for the kiln, nothing at all, it didn't bother me, because I had property up at Moiraka...

Themistoklis Hardavellas,  
owner of the "Oinomaos" Hotel, 2005



In October 1963, the Ministries of Education and of Finance, and the Ministry to the Prime Minister issued a joint decision on the compulsory purchase of the 8.4 hectares at 1961 prices, at which the HOC had bought the previous properties. The procedures were undertaken by Pyrgos lawyers. By late November, all the formalities had been completed and in February 1964 the HOC lodged with the Public Finance Office of Pyrgos, a branch of the Consignments and Loans Fund, the sum of 532,607 drs for the compensation of the 15 owners.<sup>31</sup>

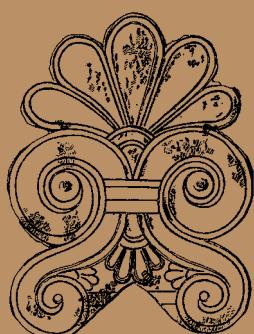
The act of expropriation was not, however, judged to be entirely 'in conformity with the law' by the Pyrgos Forestry Authority, because it adversely affected the right of resin cultivation which was exercised by the residents of Miraka and Ancient Olympia who were entitled by virtue of Decision 4633 of the Ministry of Agriculture, which had been issued in early January of 1930. Although the

31. Minutes of the 37th and 42nd Session of the HOC, 7.10.1963, and 24.2.1964, *Book of Minutes*, *op. cit.*, 309 and 366-369. Minutes of the 22nd Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (22.11.1963), *Minutes of the Ephoria*, *op. cit.* (n. 26). See also the Certificate of the Mortgage Registry of Olympia 'concerning compulsory expropriation of properties at Moiraka', 16.4.1964, and annexed manuscript list with the names of the owners and the detailed compensation prices, *Interior Correspondence*, *op. cit.*, no. 4.



From 1962 I worked at the Academy as a labourer on the property and on the works. After the buildings were put up, I joined the permanent staff. First, before I came to the Academy I worked on the excavation from 1957 to about 1961. I worked on the wells. Then, I remember, I found a bird. If you look at the shining sun, that was how that poor thing shone. It was that beautiful. The German archaeologists arrived, embraces, kisses. They were very happy, but they were anxious to find another one. Because if they had found one, they would have taken it, that was the contract. But they didn't find one ... I was very fond of the Academy as a place. There are times when my heart is so full I want to weep. I swear it on my life. Because in here it's been a harsh master to us. We found it a wolf and we tamed it. Really. Here, at the monument to Ketseas and Diem are the friends who set up the Academy, the fighters. Here, first of all, we labourers, as we then were, used to get up, come here, cross ourselves and kiss the letters on the monument. Not a day passed when we didn't come. That's why I didn't want to come here today. I feel sad. For us these men were saints, because they gave us bread ... They gave bread to the whole of Olympia and to Ileia.

Yorgos Matzavinos,  
labourer-custodian of the IOA, 2006



HOC gave a commitment that the fictitious rights of the residents would not be affected by this assignment, it did not succeed in the expropriation of the right of resin-collection. The refusal of the Ministry to consent to the HOC's application led it to the purchase of the right from the residents themselves for the sum of 62,000 drs for 1,900 pine-trees, 80% of which were of a large size. The costs for the re-registration and transfer of the right of resin-collection were charged to the Committee.<sup>32</sup>

The final purchase took place in October 1966 and, by a decision of the HOC, its legal adviser undertook action with the Ministry of Agriculture for the acquisition of the above area of forest land, which was supplemented with a further 18 hectares in 1967. In 1968, the Forestry Director of the North-Western Peloponnese sought from the Ministry of Agriculture the determination and delimitation of the area of public land which had been ceded for the use of the Olympic Games Committee.<sup>33</sup>

During the purchase of the properties, the HOC was faced with the problem of the unlawful sale of plots by certain owners (four from Olympia and one from Miraka according to a Pyrgos Forestry Authority document) who had illegally occupied areas of forest land belonging to the State and had sold fields, hectares or olive-presses without having a real right of ownership. The illegally occupied land belonged the Stena and Ammoudera areas.<sup>34</sup>

The territory of the Academy was also supplemented by the purchase of three further pieces of agricultural land for the alignment of its northern part in 1966.<sup>35</sup> In

32. Minutes of the 19th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (11.3.1963) and of the 20th Session (1.4.1963), *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit. See also the letter of the Chief Forester of Pyrgos to the HOC, 2.5.1963, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit. (n. 28), no. 3. During the counting of the pine-trees, the purchase of an agricultural plot of approximately seven stremmata, in the ownership of Achilleas Georgiadis of Olympia and Themistoklis Hardavellas of Miraka, on the left-hand side of the third valley, was judged necessary. See also the letter of the HOC to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, 4.6.1964, ibid.

33. Minutes of the 25th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (20.7.1964), 3rd Session (20.9.1965), 6th Session (28.2.1966), 9th Session (3.10.1966), *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit. See also the letter of Ioannis Kyriakis in connection with the 'Easement of resin-collection from pines and purchase of a plot of agricultural land', 25.5.1965, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit., no. 2, the letter of the Forestry Director to the Ministry of Agriculture, 17.7.1968, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit., no. 3. See also the correspondence of HOC with the Ministry of Agriculture, 6.5.1964 and 10.7.1964, ibid.

34. Letter of the Chief Forester of Pyrgos to the HOC, 31.7.1967, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit.

35. These were plots of 0.5 hectares approximately in the ownership of Dimosthenis Anastasopoulos with trees and cypress-trees of a value of 35,000 drs, 0.2 hectares in the ownership of the Devves brothers of a value of 8,000 drs, and 0.2 hectares in the ownership of the Galanis brothers with olive-trees and cypress-trees of a value of



Entrance to the IOA premises, 1964  
[IOA Archive, K1.82]

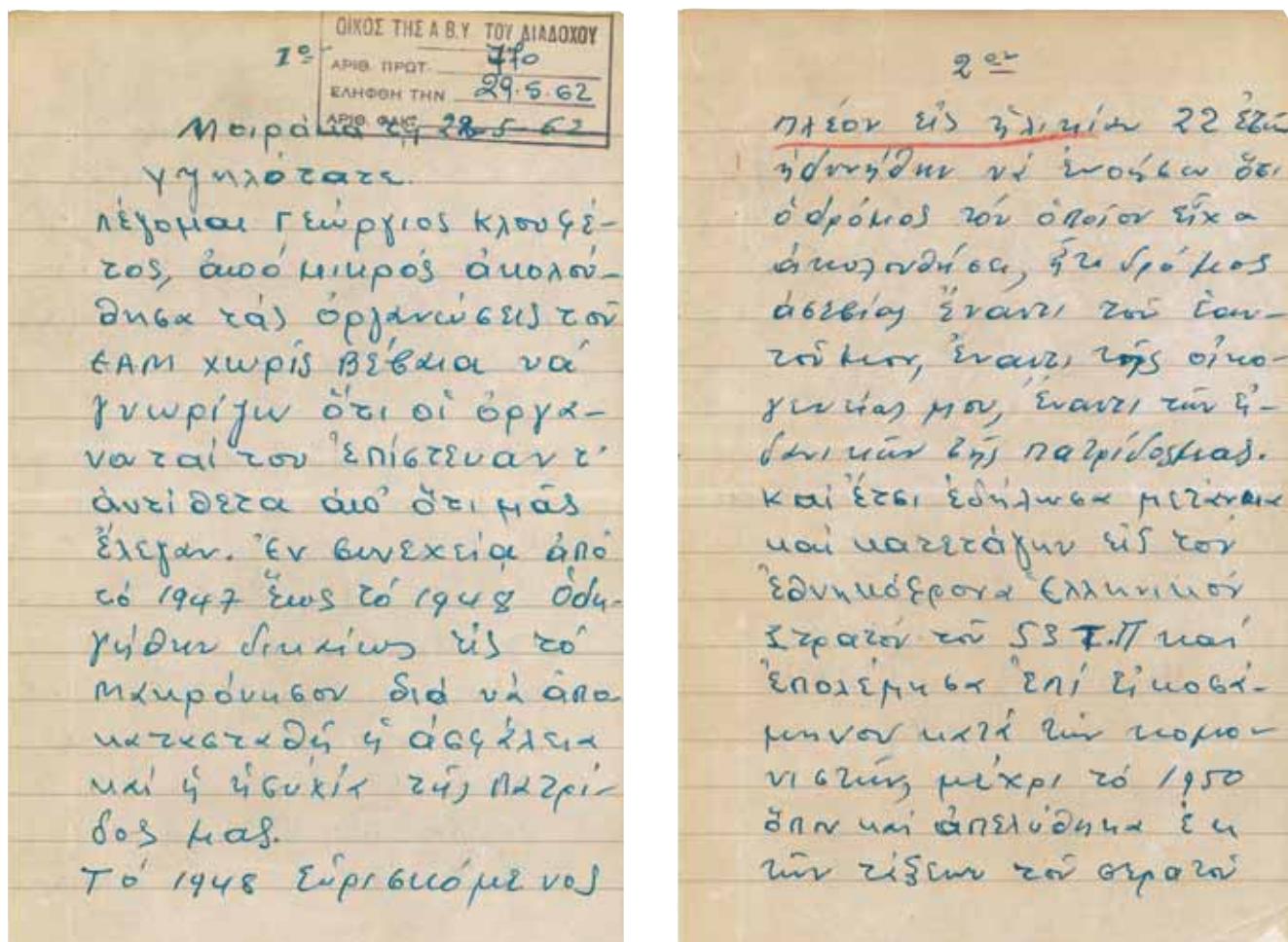
1968, there was an additional purchase (for 130,000 drs) of a strip of land in front of the premises and on the right, towards the Tripoli-Pyrgos road, in the position where the access road to the pumping-station is situated, of a total area of 2,266.50 square metres, for the construction of a ditch to carry off rainwater, which was causing damage to the above approach road.<sup>36</sup>

10,500 drs. Minutes of the 27th Session of the HOC, 22.9.1966, *Book of Minutes of the HOC, 29.8.1966-11.8.1967*, 41-42.

36. Minutes of the 68th and 2nd Session of the HOC, 4.11.1968, and 4.2.1969, *Book of Minutes of the HOC, 16.9.1968-22.9.1970*, 57 and 110-111.

### The Academy's property

A large part of the area which was bought was made up of properties with vines, olives and fruit-trees, which the HOC cultivated until the first buildings began to be constructed. Usually it leased them to the previous owners or cultivated them at its own expense when it could not find lessees. Currants remained the chief product; these were sold to the Autonomous Currant Organisation, while it sold the grapes for wine-production to the Patra wine-making firm of Achaoa Klauss, as well as to residents of Miraka and Olympia. The citrus and other fruit was sold to producers of the wider area as far as Tripoli. Olive oil,



[IOA Archive, K.2]

another basic annual product, it kept in its warehouses for its own use during sessions and, when it was not all used up on these occasions, sold it to the olive-presses of the area or shared it out among its employees.

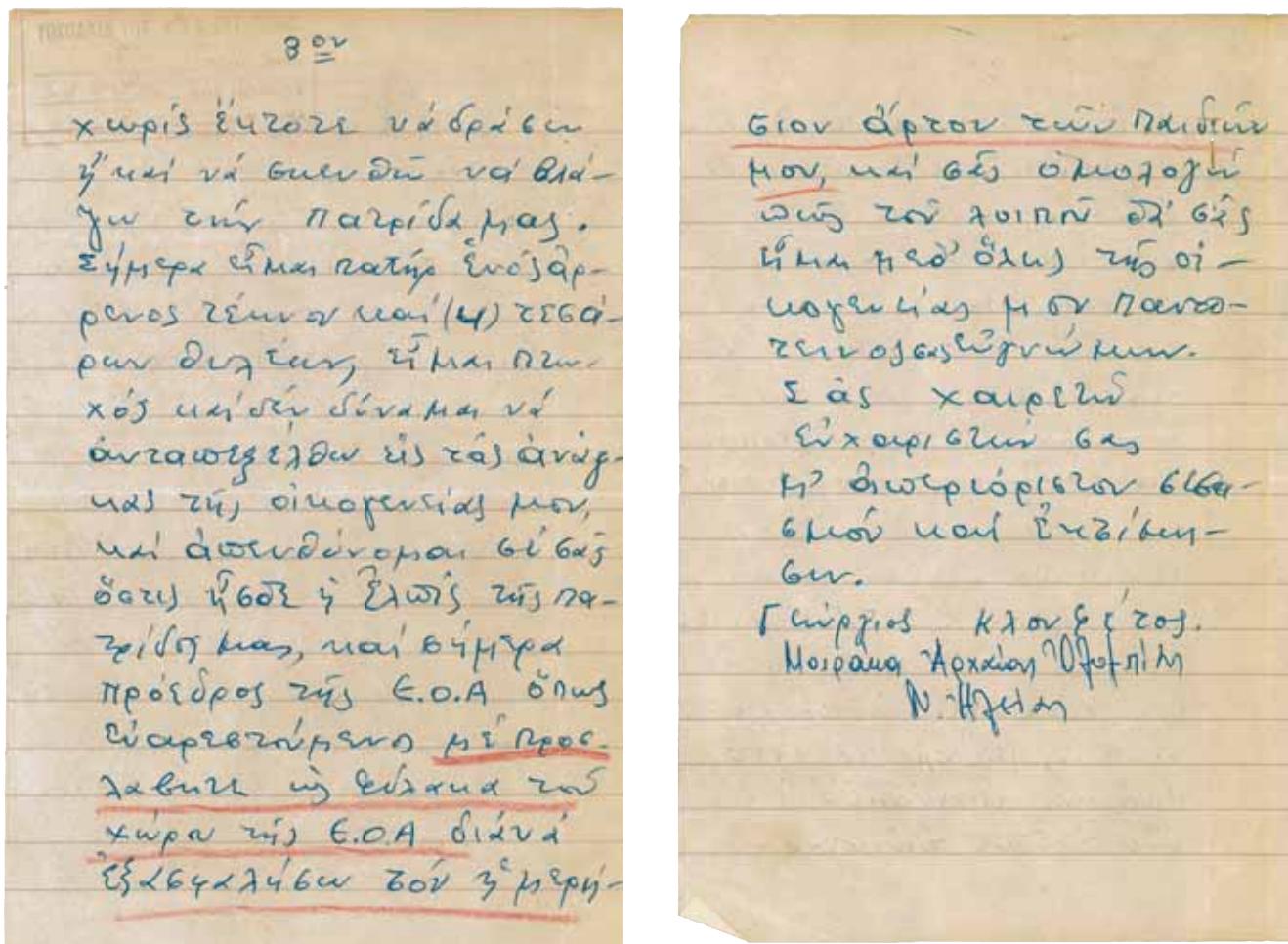
It was, therefore, to be expected that in the early years the work on the Academy site was mainly agricultural and concentrated on the cultivation of vines, the pruning and care of the trees, planting trees in and around the property with the erection of fencing to separate it from neighbouring properties, the obtaining of plants from the area's nurseries, the creation of a *cordon sanitaire* to prevent fires, the building of linking roadways within the property, and the digging of drainage ditches. Staff were employed throughout the year, either working on the building-sites or attending to the vines and properties of the Academy.<sup>37</sup>

From 1963 onwards, because of the impending work on the building of the facilities on the site in the third valley, where most of the vines were, it was decided to stop spending money on the crops, as, with the progress of the works, the greater part of the vines was uprooted, and the harvest diminished in size – together with the revenues. Thus only the first valley and a part of the third were cultivated. So that the site should not look abandoned, after the uprooting of the vines it was ploughed and grass was sown. The expenditure on doing this was much smaller than that on the cultivation of the vines. Furthermore, trees gradually started to be planted from saplings which were supplied by the Municipality of Patra, the Patra Agricultural School and the Pyrgos Forestry Authority or were bought from private nurseries in Patra.<sup>38</sup>

In an effort to shape a Greek landscape, "in keeping

37. See the relevant documents, the report of Ioannis Kyriakis, 'Camping-Site-Agricultural Work of the Olympic Academy', 20.2.1963 and similar, 16.3.1963, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit. (n. 28), no. 2.

38. See the relevant documents in the *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit., no. 3. See also a report by Kyriakis, 'Various agricultural works at the Olympic Academy', 30.9.1966, 'Cultivation of a property of the Olympic Academy by private individuals following a competition', 15.2.1967, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit., no. 2.



[IOA Archive, K.2]

with the archaeological environment in general", the HOC initially sought the support of the Ministry of Agriculture and then of the agronomist Aris Michalopoulos, who was working on the Karaoskakis Stadium in Athens. Michalopoulos, who was responsible for laying the turf at the Karaoskakis Stadium, went to Olympia in October 1967 and drew up a planting plan for the whole area of the Academy in an organised manner. He undertook the periodical monitoring of the task, which included the selection of plants, supervision and laying out of the locations where they would be planted and the monitoring of the manner of planting and the period of development.

The first phase of planting took place in 1967 and the second in 1968, following the approval by the HOC of a special plan for the planting with trees and the laying of a turf carpet on the IOA site. For the lawn to cover the slopes, the ornamental plant lepia was chosen, and on the rest of the area cypresses, olive-trees, large numbers of

oleanders and of blue-leaved acacias, eucalyptuses, Italian poplars, wild olives, a large number of pines on the hills, various other trees and bushes (privet, pyracanthus, angelica, etc.) were mainly planted on hills and slopes, while there were 180 graftings of wild with domestic trees.<sup>39</sup> Thus, with the passage of time, the variety and individual character of the flora of the Academy's landscape gradually took shape.

#### Guards and labouring staff in the first phase of operation, 1961-1967

When the site was bought and the Academy first came into operation, the engagement of guards for the protection of

39. Letter of the HOC to the Ministry of Agriculture, 3.5.1962, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit., no. 3. Minutes of the 23rd Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (15.11.1967), *Minutes of the Ephoria of the IOA, Nov. 1966-1967*. Minutes of the 50th Session of the HOC, 16.10.1967, *Book of Minutes of the HOC, 31.8.1967-2.9.1968*, 53-54. Minutes of the 31st Session of the HOC, 11.3.1969, *Book of Minutes of the HOC, 16.9.1968-22.9.1979*, 118.

Minutes of the 17th Session of the HOC, 7.2.1966, *Book of Minutes of the HOC, 18.5.1964-25.7.1966*, 290.



The Mayor of Ancient Olympia, Asimakis Karapanaghiotis, with workmen on the archaeological site, c. 1950  
[Apostolis Kosmopoulos archive]

the HOC's property was judged necessary. Thus on 1 July 1961, the first guard, Yorgos A. Panayiotopoulos, was engaged as an employee of the HOC, at a salary of 500 drs for the "careful guarding of the properties". On 15 September 1961, Antonis Roumeliotis was engaged as second guard. Both were from Miraka.

The position of guard, as a job, was attractive for the residents of the area, but at the same time it was unsatis-

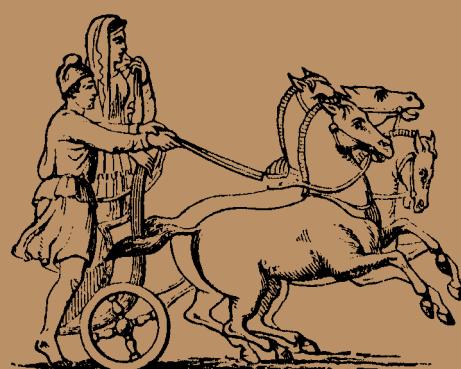


Your Excellency,

My name is Georgios Kloufetos, from an early age I followed the EAM organisations without of course knowing that its organisers believed the opposite of what they told us. After that from 1947 to 1948 I was taken justly to Makronisos [place of internal exile] so that the security and peace of our homeland could be restored.

In 1948 having reached the age of 22 years I was able to realise that the path which I had followed was a path of impiety... and so I declared repentance and was inducted into the nationalist Hellenic Army... and I fought for 20 months against the communists, until 1950 when I was discharged... Today I am the father of one male child and four females, I am poor and unable to answer to the needs of my family, and I address myself to you, the Hope of our homeland and today president of the HOC that you would be graciously pleased to engage me as guard on the site of the HOC so that I can secure the daily bread of my children...

Letter of Georgios Kloufetos to the HOC,  
22.5.1962



factory in financial terms, because of the low monthly remuneration. For this reason, guards asked to also be used on agricultural jobs on the property and so to receive an additional wage. At other times they sought the engagement of members of their families. This was the main reason for constant and major tensions during the Academy's first phase with Ioannis Kyriakis, who was responsible for the premises, as can be seen from the correspondence of the period. Naturally, there were also political interventions with the HOC to obtain the appointment of guards on the part of political party offices in Ileia, but also that of the Local Council for the Protection of those Discharged from the Ranks of the Army in the Prefecture of Ileia.<sup>40</sup>

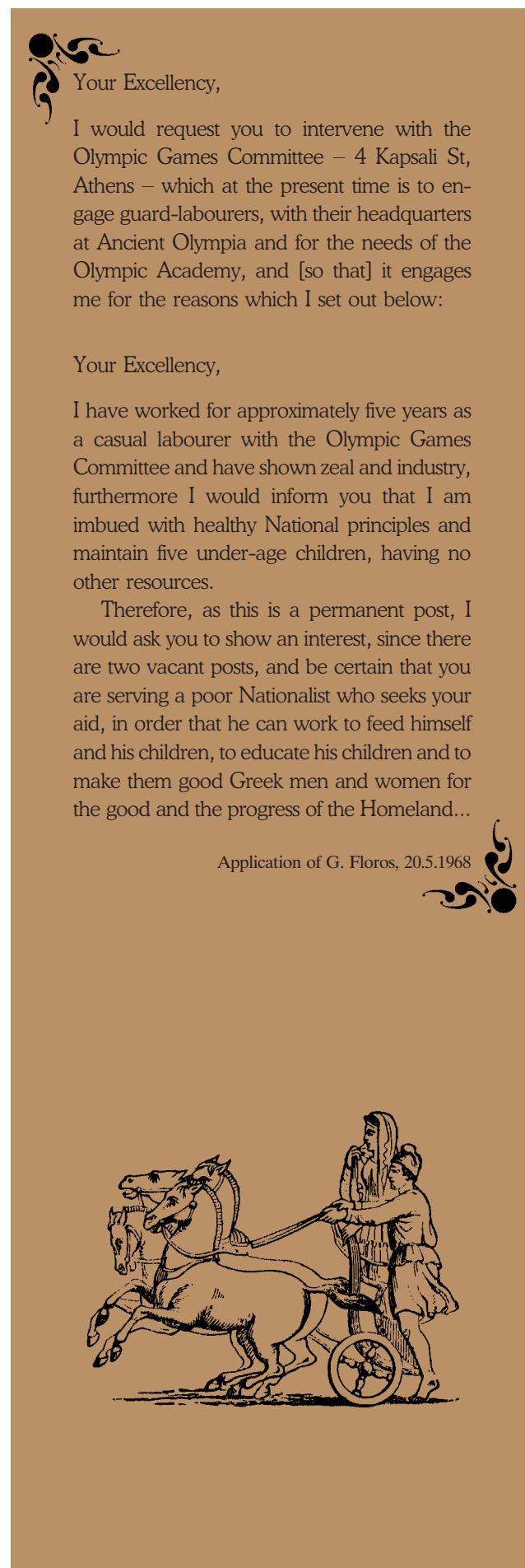
With the gradual increase in the total area of the Academy, the working hours of the guards were converted into a full day's timetable with full pay. The guards also worked on the Academy's farming jobs, as part of the economy drive implemented by the HOC, while two additional workmen were employed. Thus, in 1967, after the purchase of the plots of forestry land around the area of the Academy, four permanent workmen were employed, because of the larger area and the absence of fencing of the property.<sup>41</sup>

The overall responsibility for the Academy from 1961 to 1967 was that of Ioannis Kyriakis, an employee of the HOC who lived at Olympia and performed the unofficial duties of foreman. His contribution in this first phase of operation was regarded as particularly important because of the major technical difficulties which were encountered as regards finding and engaging labouring staff to carry out various jobs, the organisation and holding of meetings, and, until 1964, the supervision of the work on the landscaping of the site of the permanent premises. As Georgios Vichos, a member of the HOC, said: "The Academy lives thanks to Mr Kyriakis...". In autumn 1967, the post of foreman of the premises was taken over by Alexandros Antypas.<sup>42</sup>

40. Private Agreement on the engagement of the guards Roumeliotis and Panayopoulos, 30.9.1961. See also the letters of Ioannis Kyriakis to the HOC from July 1961 to the end of 1967 on subjects to do with the Academy's labouring staff, dismissals and engagements of guards, assessments of applications of potential employees for appointment, letters / *curricula vitae* of individuals from the surrounding villages interested in obtaining jobs, etc., *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit. (n. 26), no. 2 and ibid. no. 3.

41. A. Emmanouil, 'Various observations on the functioning of the IOA', 8.12.1967, *IOA Interior Correspondence, 1962-1968*, no. 5, IOA Archive.

42. Minutes of the 9th Session of the HOC, 6.9.1965, *Book of Minutes of the HOC, 18.5.1964-25.7.1966*, 214.



## The operation of the IOA as a camping-site (1961-1966) and the transition to the first units of accommodation (1967-1971)

### First International Session 1961: “Between olive-groves and orange-groves”<sup>43</sup>

April and May of 1961 were months of anxiety for those involved in the preparation of the Academy. Carl Diem came to Athens twice, while members of the HOC with Otto Szymczek, Cleanthes Palaiologos and other officials visited Olympia many times in order to determine and organise the site where the encampment would be set up to welcome the 250 young people of the Academy's first session.

After the purchase of the 25 hectares on the thickly planted Hill of Kronos, the digging began for the installation of a water-supply and drainage works, tents, provided by the Greek Red Cross, were set up, beds, mattresses, bedclothes, tables, chairs, benches, supplied by the National Physical Education College, were put in place and the camp was ready at the end of June to receive the participants. The difficult task of installing the encampment was accomplished by Adrianos Gazianis, professor of Physical Education, who was made available by the Ministry to the HOC for this purpose and who performed the duties of camp leader. The installation of the open-air electric lighting was undertaken by the Air Force General Staff, which possessed the necessary electrical equipment and suitable technical staff. Two military vehicles were also made available with drivers by the Ministry of Defence to meet various needs.

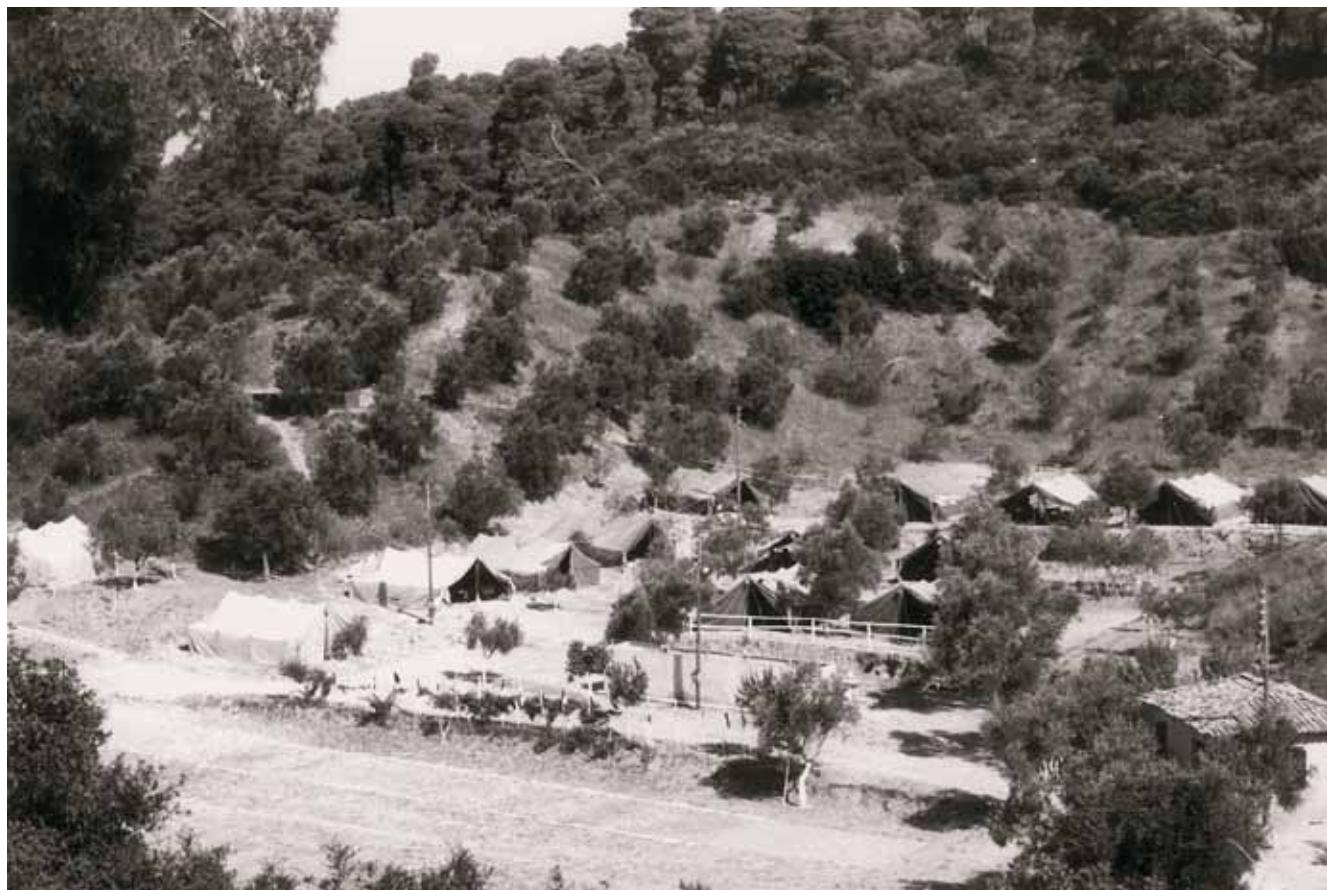
43. Sources for the information: Cleanthes Palaiologos, ‘Report on the organisation and operation at Olympia of the Olympic Academy from 15-24 June 1961’, 22.7.1961; Adrianos Gazianis, ‘Report’ on the preparation and operation of the camp, 18.7.1961; correspondence with the Prefecture of Eleia and the Army General Staff, April-May 1961; list of necessary facilities for the encampment 1961; budget for the Olympic Academy camp 1961; correspondence with the EASA, May 1961; programme for the handing over of the stadium discovered at Ancient Olympia; Georgios Panayotopoulos-Adrianos Gazianis, ‘Protocol of delivery of encampment and its material’, 30.6.1961; programme of the Olympic Academy 1961, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit. (n. 26), nos 2 and 3. See also the relevant articles in the *Patris* newspaper: ‘International Olympic Ceremony in the Stadium of Ancient Olympia’, 11.3.1961; ‘The site for the temporary Olympic encampments has been determined’, 22.4.1961; ‘The celebrations at Ancient Olympia on the handing over of the Ancient Stadium’, 13.5.1961; ‘The Camp of the International Olympic Academy’, 16.6.1961; ‘The Olympic Camp’, 11.6.1961; ‘The handing of the Olympic Stadium which has been discovered held in the Museum’, 23.6.1961; ‘The postponed celebrations at Ancient Olympia took place yesterday’, 24.6.1961.

A total of 29 tents was erected (three 70-person, two 40-person, four 10-person, and 20 15-person). Each of the two encampments had a leader, a deputy leader, a manager, a storekeeper, a secretary, an interpreter, and assistants. In the event of spending the night in the tents not being possible because of weather conditions, provision had been made for the transfer of the participants to the Olympia Primary School in two coaches which were waiting parked in front of the camp for any emergency. The supply of food to the campers and the installation of an auxiliary kitchen were undertaken by Athanasios Kosmopoulos from Olympia.

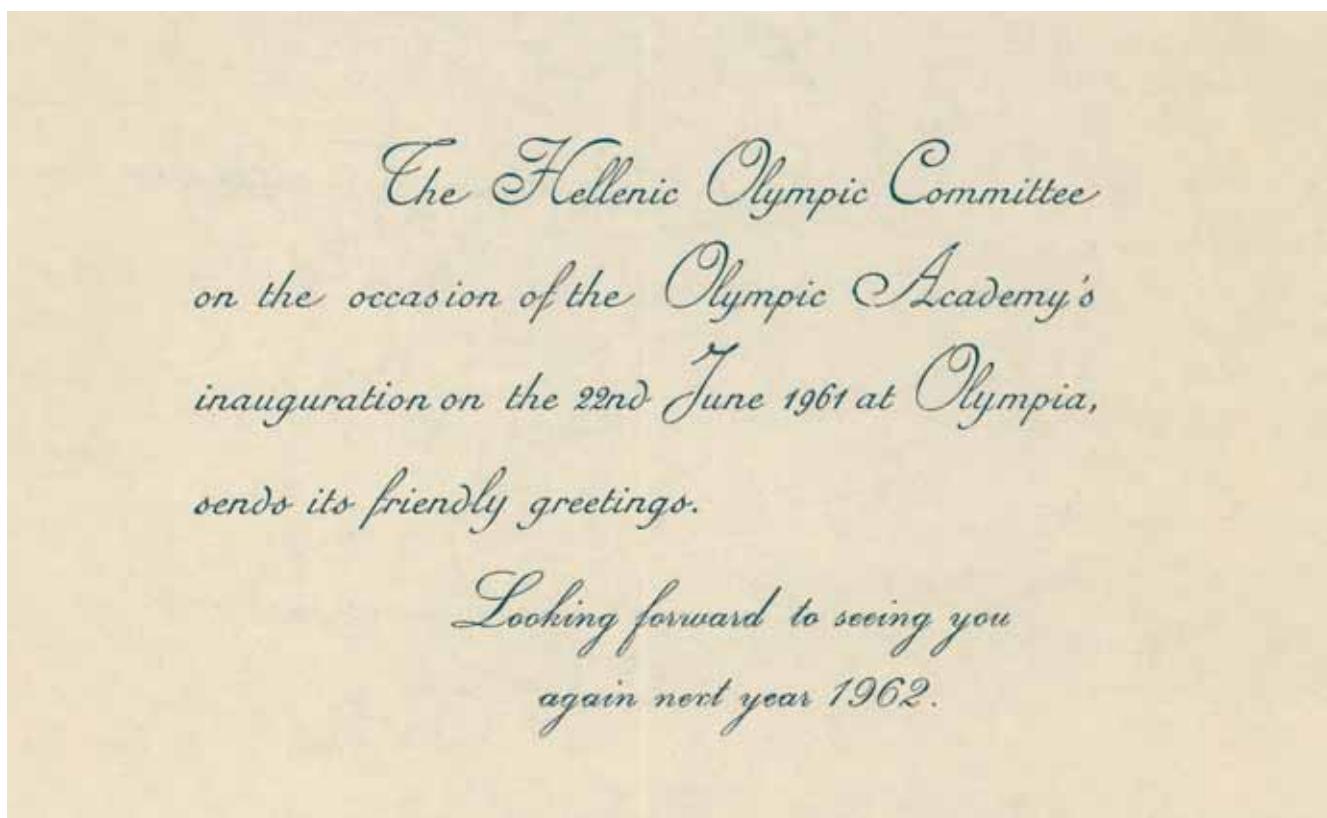
The session opened in the morning of 16 June. The foreign guests had gathered in the evening of the previous day. Fifty women students and three women professors from the Cologne Sport College and 40 women students and a woman professor from the National Physical Education College (Greek initials: EASA) were staying in the encampment. In the men's camp there were 50 students and four professors from the Cologne Sport College and 40 students and six professors from the EASA, 23 young representatives of the Olympic Committees, with some distinguished athletes among them.

The Deans of the IOA, Franz Lotz and Cleanthes Palaiologos, the doctors and other professors from the EASA who were attending the session of the IOA and were supervising the men and women students of the EASA stayed in separate tents. The non-Greek university teachers stayed at the Altis Hotel in Olympia. The lectures, attended by an audience of more than 250, were held in an improvised lecture theatre on a low hill planted with pine-trees. The first address was given by Carl Diem, on ‘The meaning and aim of the International Olympic Academy’.

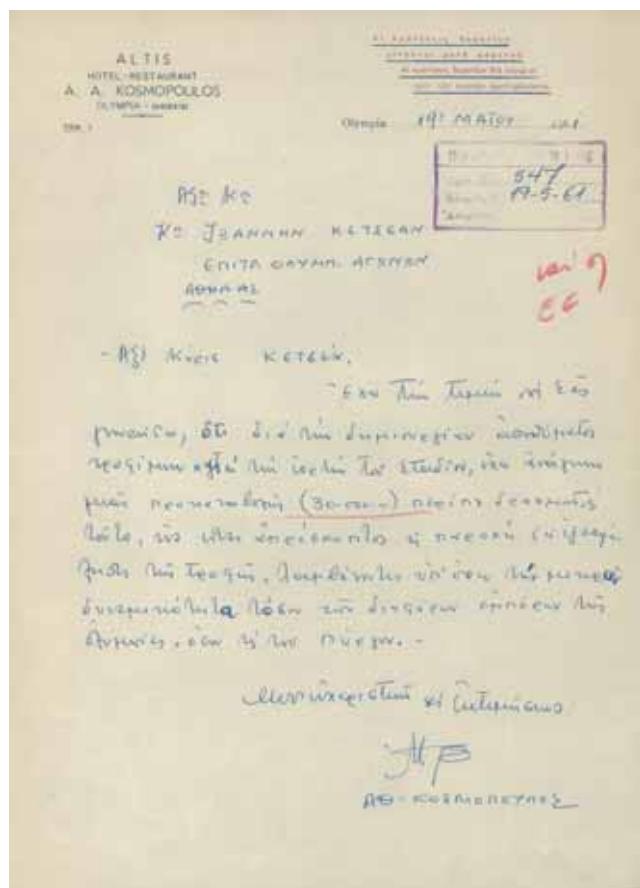
The conclusion of the session was combined with imposing celebrations organised by the two university-level colleges of physical education of Greece and Germany, with gymnastic exercises, dances and songs in the ancient stadium, on the day after it was handed over, on 23 June. In the evening of the same day, the German sports teams held a celebration to honour Carl Diem which included a torch-lit procession from the Sacred Altis to the Academy encampment, thus marking his birthday and his more general contribution to Olympia. A traditional public meal was then given, attended by many of the Germans, men and women athletes, and residents of Olympia. The merrymaking went on until late. The Academy's first session was clearly a purely Helleno-Germanic affair.



The IOA encampment, 1962 [IOA Archive, K1.8]



[IOA Archive, K.1]



[IOA Archive, K.1]



[IOA Archive, K.3]

## The IOA camp, 1962-1966<sup>44</sup>

The manner in which the Academy technically operated until the beginning of the gradual delivery of the buildings was roughly as follows: at each session, the familiar difficulties were encountered, because there were no permanent premises. A little before each session began, the camp was set up in the first and second valleys of the Hill of Kronos, in the area of the Coubertin grove. Apart from the landscaping for the setting up of the tents, there were alterations made for the venues for the open-air gymnastics and exercises, while for swimming the Alpheios was used. There were two shower complexes and two toilet complexes with ten compartments each with a wooden frame and sacking. There were also two open-air lecture theatres on the Romantza hill with benches and seats. The water was supplied by two artesian wells on the Academy property, with the construction of a plumbing network. The camp's main roads were strewn with sand and at specified points special signposts of natural wood were erected for orientation and for the identification of the various premises.

The technical support for the summertime operation of the IOA included a tape-recorder, a film projector, a loudspeaker system, a duplicator, typewriters and films of the Olympic Games. For the operation of the camp, the permanent and seasonal staff of men and women were used on various jobs (cleaning of tents, carrying chairs and materials, making up beds, washing, etc.). The tents and the camping material were supplied to the HOC by the Greek Red Cross and the Army General Staff, while part of the equipment was bought by the

44. Sources: *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit. (n. 28), nos 3 and 4, for details of food supply, correspondence with ministries, protocols of delivery of camping equipment and tents, correspondence with the General Secretariat for Sport, the Army General Staff, and the 'Aghios Kosmas' Youth Sport Centre, etc. See also the following reports of Ioannis Kyriakis, the person responsible for the camp, in *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit., no. 2: 'Camp-Agricultural tasks at the Olympic Academy', 20.2.1963; 'Preparation of camp 1963', 16.3.1963; 'Storing of Olympic Academy materials', 3.5.1963; 'Works-construction of the Olympic Academy', 6.5.1963; 'Expenditure on the organisation, operation and striking of the IOA camp', 9.5.1963; 'Organisation of the IOA camp', 10.7.1963; 'Private agreement on the leasing of storerooms at Olympia by the HOC', 1.9.1964; 'Various works of the Olympic Academy', 28.4.1965; 'Organisation-operation of an Olympic Academy camp', 18.5.1965; 'Budget of expenses for the organisation, operation, maintenance and striking of the IOA camp 1966 and of other expenses', 23.4.1966. In the *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit. (n. 26), see the reports of Otto Szymczek on the 5th and 6th sessions of the IOA and the report of Prince George of Hannover 'Comments on the 6th session of the IOA', and *ibid.*, 'Financial report on the organisation and operation of the IOA from 1961 to 1966'.



The open-air restaurant of the IOA, 1964 [IOA Archive, K1.108]

HOC in the course of time (mattresses, pillows, seats, plates, glasses and other utensils).

The most difficult phase was always the setting up of the camp because of the lack of a workforce. The labourers of the area, apart from being engaged on their own farming jobs, worked on the excavations of the German Archaeological School, on the building of the new archaeological museum and on the construction of the Alpheios dam. The situation was made worse by the low day-wage of 57 drs paid by the HOC. Ioannis Kyriakis, who was responsible for the camp, was driven to despair in some years when he was not only unable to find workers in the Olympia area but also in the distant villages, because those there had the extra cost of travel to set against their wage. In addition, contractors on building sites gave a higher day-wage, so that those already working for the Academy left. In order to deal with the problem, a wage increase was sought for the period when the camp was being organised and held of 25-30 drs for the men (basic day-wage 75 drs) and of 10-35 drs for the women (basic day-wage 60 drs).

Of importance for the running of the camp was the

assistance given by public services and organisations which contributed to the task of the IOA: the Ministry of Education by supplying educational films; the Ministry of Social Welfare by disinfecting the site by spraying every ten days within the context of an anti-malaria programme two months before the session started; the Ministry of Communications and Public Transport by setting up a post office on the site; the Ministry of Defence, through the Navy General Staff, by making seamen and warrant officers available as stewards and waiters some years; the National Tourist Organisation by providing guides and advertising material, and the Athens-Patra American Information Service by supplying films. The Municipality of Olympia, the Prefecture, and the Commander of the Ileia gendarmerie took responsibility for the protection and security of the camp.

Life in the tents –sometimes well organised and sometimes not so well– raised some unsolved problems, the chief of which was the catering, given that the food was prepared in the village, which resulted sometimes in delays and in it being served cold, while there were complaints from time to time about a “monotonous



The entrance to the 'Altis' Hotel of Thanasis Kosmopoulos, 1960s  
[Apostolis Kosmopoulos archive]

and inadequate diet". The daily cost of catering was around 60 drs. The open-air restaurant consisted of a metal frame roofed with reeds, ferns or tar-paper. From 1961 to 1963, Athanasios Kosmopoulos, owner of the 'Altis' Hotel, and from 1964 to 1967, D. Seferlis, owner of the Apollon Hotel, undertook the catering.

In 1963, it was decided that a makeshift library, with publications of an Olympic content which many members of the audiences brought with them, in response to a request from the Ephoria of the IOA, should operate. These publications were afterwards donated to the permanent library which was being organised. On Sundays, the participants could attend a church service, the Orthodox at the church at Olympia, and Roman Catholics and Protestants in the open air at the IOA, conducted by the clergy who were among the foreign students. Throughout the session, medical treatment was provided by the Greek Red Cross. The medical personnel included a doctor, a Samaritan, and a nursing sister.

During their stay in Athens before and after the session at Olympia, the participants stayed mainly in the hostels of the Aghios Kosmas Sport Centre and sometimes in the Aghios Pavlos National Foundation and in the Students' Hostel of the University of Athens. Guest academics and lecturers usually stayed at the Grande Bretagne Hotel.

The programme for those taking part in the sessions included talks, seminars, discussions, film shows, visits to and guided tours of archaeological sites and museums, sport, and social evenings, while sometimes large bonfires were lit under the watchful eye of the foreign missions. The observance of the programme was strict and great emphasis was placed on attendance at lectures and the daily exercise which was conducted every morning by a different country.

This strictness was commented upon by Prince George of Hannover, who made a counter-proposal for more free time for the participants, so that they could act more on their own, get to know one another and follow up their own individual interests. He also had his reservations about the orientation of the lectures exclusively towards ideological issues, because "excessive discussion and hearing about 'ideology' can be harmful". He proposed that greater emphasis should be placed on history, archaeology and sport, remarking that "an International Olympic Academy without sport is like a chemistry institution without laboratories". The budget for expenditure on the operation of the IOA camp from 1961 to 1966 amounted to the sum of 2,671,754 drs. The first session cost 142,900 and the sixth 641,726 drs.



## From tents to rooms, 1967-1971<sup>45</sup>

On the delivery of the first accommodation units in 1967, open-air living was gradually abandoned; this may, nevertheless, have been romantic and 'fun' for many participants. In 1967, the first dormitories were opened and the swimming-pool functioned for the first time. Eight rooms accommodating eight persons each and 18 rooms for academics (four to a room) were constructed. Eight of these rooms were devoted to the use of the management. For King Constantine and Prince George's rooms, furniture, clothing, utensils and air-conditioning were brought for the Royal Palace at Tatoo, to be returned at the end of the session.

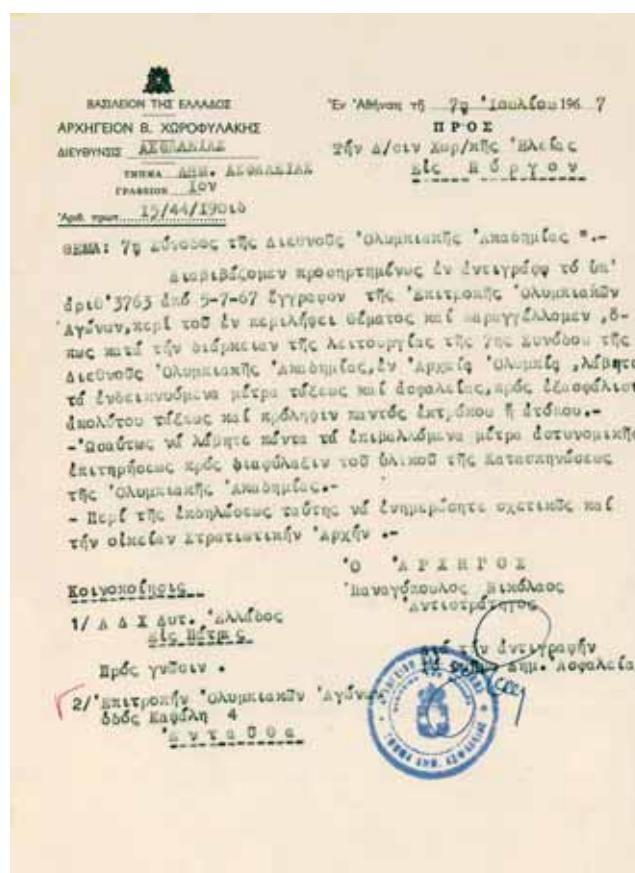
The King always stayed in room No. 1, which had been specially designed with an underground emergency exit. The Prince stayed in the second room. These residence units in this phase did not fully meet the accommodation needs. For the complete housing of the participants (30-40 people) and of the ancillary staff (11 individuals – camp guards, serving staff, waiters, photographers, a cook, gendarmerie guardpost, a secretary) and the other needs of the session (library, storeroom for materials, etc.), 23 large tents, erected in the second valley, were used.

In 1969, the construction of the lecture hall, the offices, the library and the restaurant was completed. Life for the participants at the Academy was described as simple, "without impressive luxury", and comfortable. In 1970, the tenth anniversary of the IOA was celebrated and the permanent library came into operation.

45. Sources: 'Budget for work and expenditure on the preparation of the IOA camp, for the year 1967', 7.3.1967; 'International Olympic Academy: Work and materials for the organisation and operation of the 7th session', 7.3.1967, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit. (n. 26), no. 2. In the *Minutes of the Ephoria of the IOA, 1970*, see 'Reports and observations' on the sessions of 1970 and 1971 by Georgios Panas. In 1971, the permanent staff consisted of 8 workmen, 3 women cleaners, the supervisor of the facilities, a workman for the museum who also worked at the IOA, a civil engineer for the supervision of construction works and an electrician on a contract who attended once a week to check the electrical machinery. During the sessions, the following temporary staff were engaged: 12 waiters, 1 head waitress, 3 cooks, 6-8 dishwashers, 2 kitchen cleaners, 2 night cleaners, 2 maids for lecturers, 1 head cleaner, 4-6 administrative assistants. Apart from the above permanent and seasonal staff, a driver of the HOC, 4 military drivers, 2 bar attendants, 2 photographers, 3 medical staff (doctor, Samaritan, and nurse), 3-4 secretaries and typists of the HOC, 2 employees maintaining simultaneous translation machines, 1 librarian, 1 electrician on a contract, and one engineer were boarded at the IOA. In total: 19-21 individuals forming the permanent staff, 33-37 seasonal staff, and 20-21 other persons receiving board, total 72-79, *ibid.*



[IOA Archive, K.4]



[OA Archive, K.4]

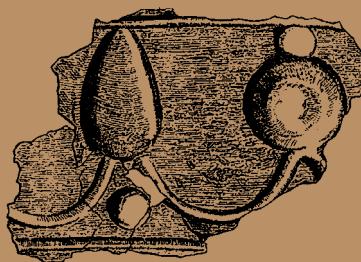


What does the IOA mean for me? Look, I was born here and I know the IOA very well indeed. I mean the area and the idea of the Academy, given that my mother and father had worked at the old Academy before the premises were built. I have photographs. They worked as waiters in the camps. There the conferands used to eat in the tents and my parents worked inside as waiters. That was where their job was. I have all these images in my brain, because when I was a child I went there as well.

When the new premises were built, my mother went on providing her services as a cleaner, and she can say that she enjoyed their absolute trust and was the personal cleaner to the former King. They knew her, they trusted her. She worked there for a good many years. When Constantine came, only my mother was allowed to enter the special room which they had for him and which was guarded by the police – to clean it and to change the sheets for him. She was fond of boasting about it. She worked as extra staff for a number of years during the sessions.

And so I had a happy memory, but one which developed into a bad one. Because – I don't know how this happened – but there were other people, other philosophies and other theories; instead of being an open and hospitable place for us and the foreigners, it became a ghetto. What do I mean? Nobody can come in here, given that it was us, with our own contribution and at our own cost, with whatever that entails, who have had it as our guest for years. The IOA isn't doing us a favour by being here. We are doing it a favour. So you'll say to me 'And what are you?' Trustees of the ancients? For better or worse, we aren't that, because we're new, we've been a village for 100 years, but, albeit for 100 years, we've been here. I, as a resident of Olympia, cannot tolerate people behaving here as though it's a ghetto. In a way we are seen as interlopers. We have no contact in this space. OK, you'll say to me, it's a private space. And nobody enters your house unless you want them to. But the Academy is not a home. It's not the home of any one person. It's everybody's home.

Christos Heliotis, trader, 2005



for the first time. A total of 1,072 participants, from 55 National Olympic Committees, and 87 lecturers from 22 National Olympic Committees took part. However, the problem of the accommodation of the lecturers and guests within the Academy remained unresolved.

In order to save on rooms for the participants, the

lecturers continued to stay at Olympia's hotels: the "SPAP", the "Neda", and the "Xenios Zeus", until 1971. In 1971, with the addition of rooms, the lecturers for the first time, with very few exceptions, stayed within the Academy's facilities, while a large number of their audiences used the newly-constructed buildings for the ancillary staff as their accommodation.

## Spatial planning and architecture of the IOA

### First phase, 1961-1967

By a decision of the Plenum of the Olympic Games Committee and of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, in October 1961, a ‘Special Committee for the study of matters relating to the Olympic Academy’ was set up and the Operating Regulations of the Academy were approved. At the first meeting of this committee, on 16 October 1961, the members present were briefed by Ioannis Ketseas and Ioannis Papadimitriou, General Director of Antiquities, on the interest which the HOC had developed in the Ancient Olympia area and thoughts were voiced on the construction of the future facilities of the Academy and the form that these should take.<sup>46</sup>

For the drafting of the architectural design the HOC commissioned a preliminary study from three architects, Petros Tzannetos, Dimitrios Tripodakis, and Ioannis Lygizos. On 20 November 1961, Tzannetos’s spatial plan was selected, so that the works could begin on time in 1962. Tzannetos divided his time for his professional activities between Athens and New York, a fact which caused a number of difficulties in the understanding and implementation of his plans, delays in the execution of the work and, in the course of time, conflicts with the HOC. His design was based on the principle that “a carefully worked-out design does not require changes; on the

contrary, changes do nothing more than break up the original logical organisation and composition and make the project look like a headless mosaic confection, the function and appearance of which suffer accordingly”.<sup>47</sup>

After the approval of the architectural design, it was decided to submit it to the Archaeological Service for an opinion as regards the feasibility of the erection of the buildings in question in the light of the provisions in force on archaeological sites. The plan for constructing the buildings of the IOA between the Hill of Kronos and Miraka, near the ancient stadium, was rejected by the Archaeological Council on 12.12.1961, “because it bears no resemblance to the preliminary work carried out in consultation with the Director of Antiquities Mr I. Kontis, empowered to this end, and an engineer appointed by the committee”, who would regulate only details relating to it. On the contrary, the design submitted was judged to be basically impracticable from the point of view of the law on archaeology, “because if it is implemented, it will very gravely harm the ancient objects”.<sup>48</sup>

This first rupture with the Archaeological Service resulted in members of the Academy’s Ephoria going to Olympia together with the architect himself in early 1962 for an on-site examination of the plan. Ioannis Kontis, Manolis Hatzidakis and Nikos Yalouris attended as representatives of the Archaeological Service for “[the achievement of] an identity of opinions between the Archaeological Service, on the one hand, and, on the other, the author of the architectural plans”.<sup>49</sup> At the meeting at Olympia, “an understanding was in principle achieved”, on the basis of which the terms were laid down for the precise siting of the facilities; in accordance with these, the amendment of the architectural plan was decided upon, so that it could receive the approval of the Archaeological Service.<sup>50</sup> Tzannetos’s architectural plans were approved, on re-submission, by the Archaeological

46. Minutes of the 7th and 8th Session of the HOC, 2.10.1961 and 30.10.1961, *Book of Minutes of the HOC, 10.2.1961-6.4.1964*, 46 and 50-51. Minutes of the 1st session of the Special Committee for the study of matters relating to the Olympic Academy, etc., 16.10.1961, *Minutes of the Ephoria of the IOA and HOC*, op. cit. This committee was set up by Decision No. 103771 / 1992 of 28 September 1961 of the Ministry of Education. It consisted of: P. Lappas, Vice-Admiral and General Secretary of the HOC, I. Ketseas, member of the IOC, E. Kalfarentzos, educational consultant and director of Physical Education, I. Papadimitriou, General Director of Antiquities, G. Kornoutos, Director for Literature-Theatre, and O. Szymiczek. At its 2nd session (27.10.1961), on Lappas’s proposal, this Special Committee, “in order to expedite the achievement of the aim pursued”, was to be combined with the Ephoria of the Academy set up by the Plenum of the HOC (8th Session). The proposal was unanimously accepted and from then on the session had the nature of a session of the Ephoria with the members of the Special Committee taking part. At the 3rd Session of the Ephoria (20.11.1961), the 11 lecturers when it first came into operation, two Greeks (Nikos Yalouris and Cleanthes Palaiologos) and nine non-Greeks, were appointed honorary associates of the IOA. On the proposal of the HOC, Konstantinos Georgakopoulos, President of the Greek Red Cross, was nominated an honorary member. At this session, Szymiczek is described with the title of “Dean of the IOA”. After the death of Papadimitriou, in April 1963, Yalouris was elected a member of the IOA in the capacity of Ephor for Antiquities at Olympia (21st Session of the Ephoria, 14.6.1963).

47. Minutes of the 9th Session of the HOC, 20.11.1961, *Book of Minutes*, op. cit., 58-59. Minutes of the 3rd Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (20.11.1961), *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit. Petros Tzannetos, ‘Preliminary Study for the Facilities of the Olympic Academy’, New York, 10.10.1961, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit. (n. 8), no. 1.

48. Letter of the General Director of Antiquities Ioannis Papadimitriou to the HOC, 22.12.1961, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit.

49. Minutes of the 3rd Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (20.11.1961), 4th Session (21.12.1961), 5th Session (15.1.1962), *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit.

50. Minutes of the 6th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (22.2.1962), *ibid.*



Model of the IOA premises, 1962 [IOA Archive, K1.65]

Service at their meeting of 23 January 1962, with observations whose purpose was to protect the archaeological site from the new constructions.<sup>51</sup>

Before the lodging of the plans, the Ephoria of the Academy decided upon certain amendments, chiefly concerning the order in which the works would be carried out. On this basis of the amendment, work was to be concentrated on the construction of the Coubertin grove, with a view to its completion by the beginning of December 1962. The matter was regarded as urgent because the HOC wanted to combine the project with the celebrations for the centenary of Coubertin's birth, which was to be observed at Olympia on 15 December, and the laying of the foundation stone of the Academy's premises.<sup>52</sup>

At the beginning of November 1962, the HOC submitted the final spatial plan and concurred with the views of the Antiquities Directorate on the construction. Thus the buildings were to be erected in the third valley in such a way as not to impair the character of the landscape as a whole. The front part of the valley was to be

51. Letter of Ioannis Kontis to the HOC, with copies to the Inspectorate of Antiquities of Ancient Olympia and the Directorate of Antiquities, 16.3.1962, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit. (n. 30), no. 4.

52. The project was commissioned from the public works contractor Trianaphyllos Rachaniotis of Patra. Minutes of the 14th and 23rd Session of the HOC, 26.3.1962, and 14.12.1962, *Book of Minutes*, op. cit. (n. 46), 96 and 175. Minutes of the 11th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (13.8.1962), *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit.

landscaped with trees and gardens. The Coubertin grove was to be laid out in the second valley, with the column, which would be brought from the front of the Sacred Altis, where it had been up till then, at a central point. Around the column there was to be a small circular open space which would emerge through a curtain of a few cypress trees and would be visible at a distance from the whole of the approach route to the area.<sup>53</sup>

On 10 December 1962, it was decided to postpone the centenary celebrations because it was foreseen that the construction of the grove would not have been completed by the appointed date because of the weather conditions, which prevented the main earthworks from being carried out. Furthermore, during the landscaping work on the area to the east of the Hill of Kronos where the Coubertin memorial was to be set up, a section of an ancient Roman aqueduct was discovered.<sup>54</sup>

In early March 1963, the beginning of the annual earthworks for the landscaping of the area was followed by a correspondence between the HOC and the Archaeological Service in which new points of conflict and misunderstanding in connection with the plans for the grove and the area of the premises more generally became apparent. The result was the prohibition and interruption of any work on the Academy, and even of the surface landscaping of the terrain, by an order via the Olympia Police Station. Following a second intervention, the Antiquities Service announced the setting up of a special committee which would visit Olympia for an on-the-spot examination of the pending issues of the Academy. The visit took place on 22 March.<sup>55</sup>

The situation was now redetermined by a new decision of the Archaeological Council which laid down the following: it approved the siting of the Coubertin memorial in the intended position, but it did not approve the construction of a public road to the monument as provided for in the plan. It approved the construction of a theatre-like structure in the position stipulated in the design and of the rest of the buildings at the back of the third valley, but it did not approve of the construction of the roads provided for in the plan. These would have to be planned with a natural alignment and not with the recti-

53. Letter of the HOC to the Directorate for Antiquities of the Ministry to the Prime Minister, 8.11.1961, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit.

54. Letter of the Inspectorate of Antiquities of Olympia to the HOC, 20.12.1962, ibid. Minutes of the 13th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (17.9.1962), 14th Session (22.10.1962), 15th Session (19.11.1962), 16th Session (10.12.1962), *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit.

55. Minutes of the 19th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (11.3.1963), 20th Session (1.4.1963), *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit.

linear and star-shaped alignment. It insisted that large trees should be kept near the public road and that the plantings should be supplemented so that the premises would not be visible from the road. It did not approve the construction of a track on the southern site in the valley and proposed that another site be found. It reserved its position on final approval after the revision of the plans. A month later, by another decision, the Archaeological Council finally gave the green light for the construction of the track south of the valley, on condition that all the work should be supervised and directed by the competent inspector of antiquities, Nikos Yalouris, so that there should be no damage to the landscape.<sup>56</sup>

In mid June 1963, Tzannetos was summoned to attend the meetings of the Ephoria of the Academy and of the HOC and to submit a report on the progress of the work. When the Archaeological Service had approved the amended spatial planning design and the police ban had been lifted, the execution and speeding up of the necessary works was decided upon. The commissioning of the work from a second contractor, Yorgos Lambopoulos, an Olympia resident, and the engagement of the assistant engineer, Konstantinos Papavramopoulos, resident of Pyrgos, as assistant to the HOC engineer responsible, Athanasios Emmanouil, were also judged necessary.<sup>57</sup>

In late November 1963, on the completion of the earthworks, the foundations were laid for the building of the restaurant and accommodation units for men and women in the third valley, and in late December the Coubertin grove was completed. The marble column and the altar were transferred, with the approval of the Archaeological Service, to within the grove.<sup>58</sup>

56. Letter of the Directorate of Antiquities, Section for Archaeological Sites and Excavations, to the HOC, 25.4.1963, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit. (n. 30), no. 4.

57. Minutes of the 21st Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (14.6.1963), *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit. Minutes of the 34th and 35th Session of the HOC, 18.6.1963, and 22.7.1963, *Book of Minutes*, op. cit. (n. 46), 273-274 and 287-288.

58. Minutes of the 39th Session of the HOC, 3.12.1963, *Book of Minutes*, op. cit., 322. Minutes of the 22nd Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (22.11.1963), *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit. I. Kyriakis, 'Work on the Coubertin Grove', 13.12.1963, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit. (n. 26), no. 2. The earthworks of the year 1963 had the diversion of the discovery of a new-born chameleon of a length of 20 cm. during excavations in the month of August. This rare reptile was of intense scientific interest because of its likeness to the related species of the dinosaur family of the Palaeolithic Age. The small chameleon was handed over to the Tourist Police and then to the Mayor, who was responsible for its safe delivery for study to the zoology-palaeontology laboratories of the University of Athens. In the estimation of the University, it was an interesting find, similar to that of 1861 at Itylos. See the relevant articles in the *Patris* newspaper: 'Rare reptile like a chameleon found at a depth of 3 m. at

In early April of the following year, 1964, the compilation of the plans for execution, on the basis of which the continuation of the work, in spite of the limited credits, would be possible was commissioned from the HOC engineer in charge, Athanasios Emmanouil. Speed in completing the permanent premises, which had been delayed because of a lack of credits and the non-fulfilment of the execution plans, was judged to be absolutely essential. Given that the IOA "has established itself internationally, it is impermissible for it to continue its operation in tents, because this greatly impedes the works and reduces its future development and prestige".<sup>59</sup>

In a quest for credits, the General Secretary of the HOC, Pyrrhos Lappas, visited, in early November, the Deputy Prime Minister. Stephanos Stephanopoulos, on the occasion of the lighting of the flame (1964), had expressed interest in the works at the IOA and asked for the budget for the permanent premises to be submitted to him, with a view to their completion in two years.<sup>60</sup>

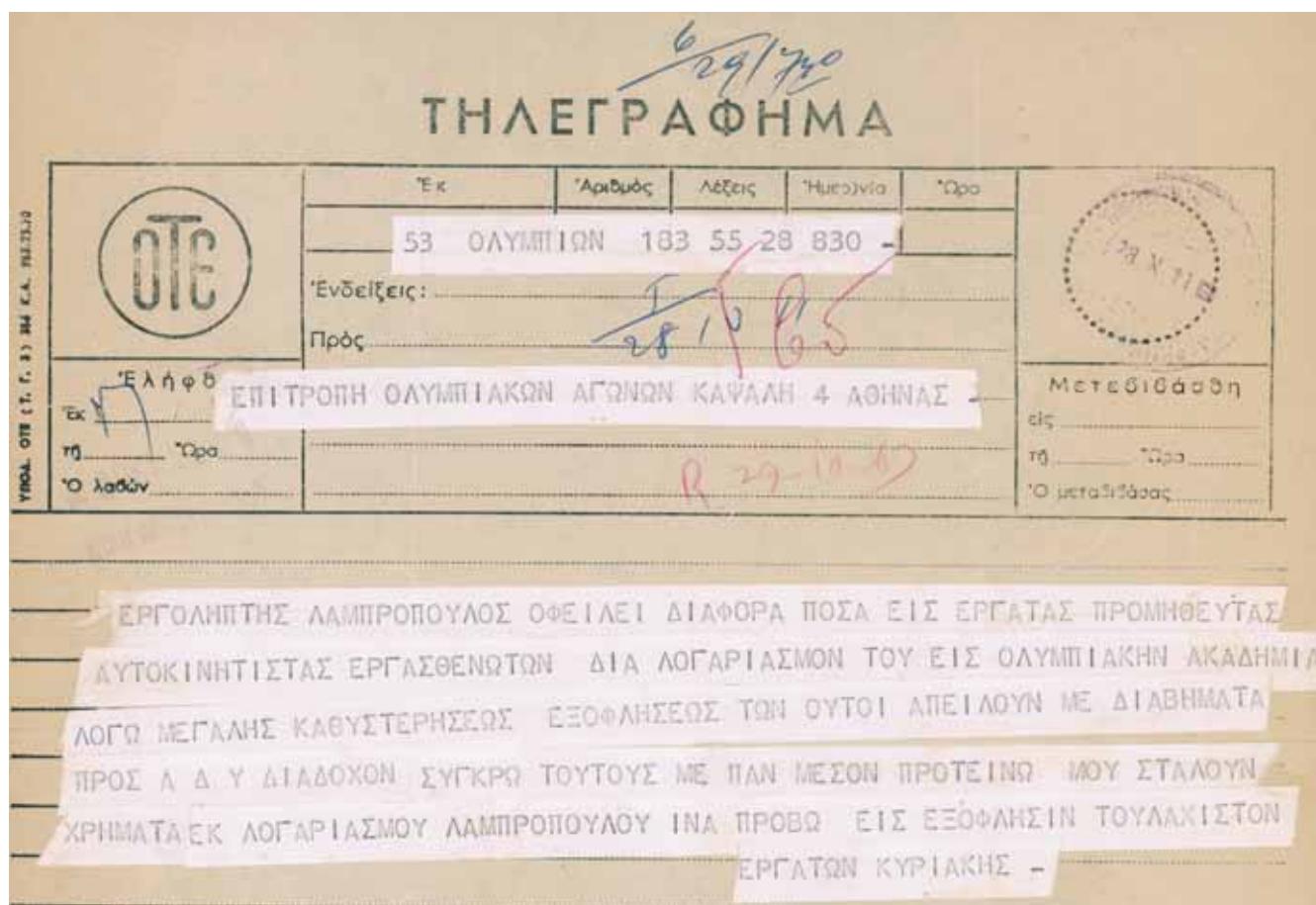
At the end of November, Tzannetos submitted a report to the Ephoria of the IOA in which he explained that the proximity to the Sacred Altis made it necessary for the buildings to be adapted as far as possible to the morphology of the terrain and to have simple forms and soft colours. Thus, all the facades of the buildings would be of the local limestone with a relief surface and a neutral colour and would have low roofs, to be covered with village-style tiles of a faded colour. The limestone and the village-style tiles were among the features which would contribute to the integration of the buildings into the landscape. According to Tzannetos, there was no reason why these efforts should prevent the project from being monumental, and, in fact, it was to be, not because of the appearance of the buildings but because of the general layout, which was arranged in the manner of an amphitheatre on different levels in such a way as to permit an unimpeded view from each building to the valley of the Alpheios, and on geometrical axes or symmetrically along their length so that the buildings would be harmoniously linked and present longitudinal perspectives.

According to the architectural plan, when the works were completed, the Academy would include the

Ancient Olympia', 7.8.1963; 'Rare reptile', 8.8.1963; 'Congratulatory communication of the University of Athens', 14.8.1963; 'There are other chameleons', 22.8. 1963.

59. Minutes of the 24th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (10.4.1964), *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit.

60. Minutes of the 26th Session of the IOA (10.11.1964) and 'Meeting on 12 November 1964 on the completion of the works at the Olympic Academy, in accordance with the orders of the Deputy Prime Minister', ibid.



[IOA Archive, K.2]

following: the Coubertin grove, the central complex with the offices of the Ephoria and a large hall for meetings, a museum of the Olympic Games of 1896, a library of classical publications and publications concerned with the Olympic movement, with a reading-room, 20 rooms for the accommodation of academics and distinguished foreign guests, accommodation units for 500, a sport facilities complex, an artistic centre with pavilions for sculpture, music, and dance and a pavilion of the Muses, an indoor theatre with a capacity of 250 in the area of the artistic pavilions and an amphitheatre for 1,500, a restaurant-kitchen, a roofed restaurant for 600, a hall for 200, a health centre for 24, an office building for the management, staff houses, a laundry and linen-store, a workshop and storeroom for material and the pole for the Olympic flag.<sup>61</sup>

In spring of 1965, the topographer Omiros Merlon signed an agreement with the HOC for the execution of works in the newly-expropriated part of the third valley: a tachymetric survey of the new area, marking out on the ground of the stadium, marking out of the ground of the

buildings of the administration centre, and related topographical tasks. As to the whole of the IOA works, both on construction and operational matters, the architect Petros Tzannetos's opinion was to prevail.<sup>62</sup> At the same time, at its meeting on 19 April 1965, the HOC decided upon the auctioning of the works on the construction of premises on the IOA site on 15 June 1965 before its committee appointed at this meeting. The first auction was annulled because no contractor presented himself.<sup>63</sup>

On 29 November 1965, the General Secretary of the HOC presented the King with the final spatial planning design for the permanent premises of the IOA. It proposed the carrying out of the necessary construction works, which consisted of earthworks for the landscaping of the sites of the premises and for the alignment of the approach roads, as well as the construction of the buttressing walls, a water-supply, drainage and rainwater removal network, a cistern for the storage of water, a

61. P. Tzannetos, 'Report concerning the Olympic Academy', 26.11.1964, *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit.

62. 'Agreement', 15.4.1965, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit., no. 5.

63. Minutes of the 6th and 7th Session of the HOC, 24.5.1965 and 28.6.1965, *Book of Minutes of the HOC*, 18.5.1964-25.7.1966, 187-190 and 192-193.

well for the pumping of water from the Alpheios, a sub-station building, a complete restaurant and at least 20 accommodation units. The total expenditure amounted to ten million drachmas, and it was decided to announce an auction as soon as possible.<sup>64</sup>

At the beginning of February 1966, by a written announcement of the Ministry to the Prime Minister (Antiquities and Restoration Service) and of the prefectoral engineer of Ileia, the design for the permanent constructions of the IOA was approved. The HOC decided upon a competition with the award to the lowest bidder with sealed bids for the execution of all the earthworks for the landscaping of the sites of the buildings and approach roads and the building of ten accommodation units, four for academics and six for students. The auction was set for 11 March before a committee which consisted of the members Pyrrhos Lappas and Nikolaos Goumas and the HOC engineer Athanasios Emmanouil.<sup>65</sup>

On 5 April 1966, the HOC announced a public auction with the award to the lowest bidder for the construction of the Olympic Academy. Gerasimos Terzos, a civil engineer and contractor for public works, emerged as the lowest bidder and contractor for the project. The HOC, however, at its meeting on 9 April 1966 decided on the award of the auction to another contractor who had made a higher bid than Terzos, on the grounds that he had not provided the securities for the "skilled and timely construction of the project", which led to objections both from the interested party and from the press, who denounced the affair as a "scandal".<sup>66</sup>

Before the beginning of this new contract, that is, up till May 1966, the works which were carried out were of a preparatory nature: spatial planning and topographical studies and earthworks for the rudimentary landscaping of the site. Together with the sum which was given for the compulsory purchases of the properties, seven million drachmas was spent on the whole of the

preparatory jobs. In total, the cost to the IOA, according to the forecast, would be 50 million drachmas, of which seven had already been spent, 12 had been budgeted for the period 1966-1967, and 31 would be required for the work that was to follow.<sup>67</sup>

The new period of the works, during the course of 1966, could be called a phase of crucial concern for the quality of the project, since the upheavals which took place put to the test the architectural design itself and the relations between those who were involved in its implementation. The problems began when, during the course of the excavations in the centre of the units under construction, the existence of an aquiferous sub-stratum was discovered; because of this, the shifting of some struts was caused and the construction of drainage works was deemed necessary. Whereas the construction and delivery of the restaurant had been expected by June 1967, these earth movements observed during the laying of its foundations gave rise to a new delay, interruption of the work, and major overspending on the project as a whole.<sup>68</sup>

This created great displeasure at the HOC and was discussed at length at its meeting on 19 December 1966. Theodosios Papathanasiadis, first Vice-President of the HOC, speaking of the picture he had formed when he visited, together with the members of the Academy, the engineers and the architect, Olympia, commented that it was a picture of disaster.

The OCG engineer Athanasios Emmanouil, in discussing the issue, stated that these first works had been carried out "in conditions of haste" and on oral orders from the architect Tzannetos from America to Ioannis Kyriakis, who was responsible for the premises. He further noted that the architectural design had been drawn up on the basis of an erroneous topographical diagram which did not correspond to the real facts. The fact that the buildings were of a single storey with minimal loads, and borings to any depth by the architect who produced the design were not required was a contributory factor. Although he had no direct responsibility

64. Minutes of the 12th Session of the HOC, 29.11.1965, *ibid.*, 242-243. Minutes of the 4th (29.11.1965) and 5th (13.12.1965) Session of the Ephoria of the IOA, *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit.

65. Minutes of the 17th and 18th Session of the HOC, 7.2.1966, and 14.3.1966, *Book of Minutes*, op. cit., 283, 297-303. See also *Minutes of the 6th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA* (28.2.1966), op. cit.

66. Minutes of the 19th and 20th Session of the HOC, 9.4.1966 and 19.4.1966, *Book of Minutes*, op. cit., 305-306 and 307-308. See also *I Avghi* newspaper: 'Scandal at Olympia denounced by experts –three auctions– for the project to be commissioned from the sixth lowest bidder', 17.4.1966. See also Terzos' letter of protest to the HOC, 14.4.1966: 'Is this not, then, a "favour" which does damage to the state and a manifestation of contempt for non-privileged contractors?', *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit. (n. 41), no. 5.

67. A. Emmanouil, 'Report on the expenditure on works in the past, the present and the future on the Olympic Academy', 16.5.1966, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit. By the end of 1966, the money spent on the IOA was derived from: (a) 4,000,000 drs from the State Tourist Organisation (the balance of 1,000,000 would be provided in early 1967); (b) 15,050,000 drs from the sale of an immovable property of the HOC in Kallithea to the School Buildings Organisation; (c) 6,800,000 drs from the ordinary budget of the HOC. These figures were given by the HOC to the Prime Minister, 27.12. 1966, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit., no. 4.

68. Minutes of the 23rd Session of the HOC, 20.6.1966, *Book of Minutes*, op. cit. (n. 63), 353-354, and Minutes of the 26th Session of the HOC, 29.8.1966, *Book of Minutes of the HOC*, 29.8.1966-11.8.1967, 4.

for what had happened, since he undertook the oversight of the works in 1964, he nevertheless proffered his resignation, but this was not accepted.

At this meeting, it was argued that the lack of a proper land survey diagram and a soil science study had misled them into a layout which would have been precluded if the soil conditions and difficulties in laying the foundations had been known. The General Secretary of the HOC therefore proposed that Tzannetos should be replaced and that the architectural design should be entrusted to another architect; with this Georgios Pantzaris, a member of the HOC and himself an architect, did not agree. It was finally decided that there should be an adjustment to the architectural design in the light of the newly-discovered facts and that the compilation of a static study by Dimitris Koronaios and Evangelos Panayiotounakos, professors at the Polytechnic, should go ahead, without this being any belittling of Tzannetos.<sup>69</sup>

Dimitris Koronaios and Evangelos Panayiotounakos travelled to Olympia with Pantzaris for an *in situ* inspection of the works, and then submitted their report to the HOC. The professors stated that the area chosen to be the site of the Academy's facilities may have had advantages in terms of location, view and orientation, but it had the disadvantage of the poor quality of the soil for the laying of foundations for permanent premises. The whole area of Ancient Olympia consisted of clayey soils and was not safe terrain for foundations. Similar problems had manifested themselves in the case of the old museum building and in houses in the village.

More particularly, however, the Academy area presented a greater problem because of the steep incline and the presence of groundwater. Furthermore, its morphology had favoured the accumulation of loose materials of poor petrographic composition carried down from the three hills which surround it, entirely unsuitable for the foundation of buildings. They proposed the immediate carrying out of supplementary borings on the site to a depth of at least 20 metres, the results of which would form a basis for judging the manner in which the foundations of the buildings would be laid.<sup>70</sup>

After the findings of this research project were arrived at, a cycle of confrontations and conflicts between the HOC engineer Emmanouil and the architect Tzannetos began. The latter was summoned to the meeting of the HOC on 26 January 1967 to provide an explanation of the situation which had arisen. Tzannetos, in his

defence, pointed out that this state of affairs was not exclusively his fault. It was due, on the one hand, to the delay in the construction of support walls after the levelling of the slopes in the foundations of the restaurant, in spite of the fact that he himself had drawn attention to the need for them, and, on the other, to the alterations which the sub-soil had undergone as a result of the presence of underground springs and the seismic shocks of 1965. In the end, it was held that the carrying out of the borings to a great depth for an investigation of the soil proposed by the professors of the Polytechnic would be paradoxical. The discussion culminated in the intervention of Petralias, who expressed his strong opposition to the views of Tzannetos. He attributed to him omissions and errors in the scarification of the site, claiming that he was responsible for the flaws in the buildings. The meeting ended with the decision that the works should go ahead in accordance with the recommendations of the Polytechnic professors in order to avoid further accidents and major expenditure.<sup>71</sup>

As to the manner of the foundation of the buildings and their static function, the engineers P. Kotzias and A. Stamatopoulos were commissioned to examine the terrain. Following soil science research, a geological study was ordered, and then carried out by the geologist G. Aronis; the relevant report was drawn up, and interesting data on the morphology of the area, its rock formations, its hydrogeology, the conditions and causes of landslips on the site –and the measures proposed to counter landslips– emerged from it.<sup>72</sup>

According to the Polytechnic's soil science research, which concerned the nature of the sub-soil and subterranean streams, in order to deal with the problem of stability, the general draining of the site, the laying of the foundations of the restaurant and of the cultural centre on a layer of gravel of a thickness of four and five metres, the construction of support walls opposite the restaurant, and the drainage of the gravel foundation were judged to be of primary importance.<sup>73</sup>

When the foundation work had been completed, the works advanced, and by 29 July 1967, had been

69. Minutes of the 31st Session of HOC, 19.12.1966, *Book of Minutes*, op. cit., 72-90.

70. Minutes of the 32nd Session of the HOC, 9.1.1967, *Book of Minutes*, op. cit., 104-120. Minutes of the 13th Session of HOC (16.1.1967), *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit. (n. 39).

71. Minutes of the 14th (26.1.1967) and 15th Session (2.2.1967) of the Ephoria of the IOA, ibid. A. Emmanouil, 'Installations of the Olympic Academy at Ancient Olympia', 2-3.3.1967, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit., no. 5. Minutes of the 38th Session of the HOC, 9.3.1967, *Book of Minutes*, op. cit., 190-191.

72. G. Aronis, 'Geotechnical report on the area of the International Olympic Academy at Olympia', 22.3.1967, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit.

73. A. Stamatopoulos, 'Conclusions of soil science research in connection with the sub-soil conditions at Olympia', 18.3.1967, ibid. Minutes of the 39th Session of the HOC, 3.4.1967, *Book of Minutes*, op. cit. (n. 68), 193-198.

constructed: 18 full accommodation units for professors, with ancillary premises, eight full accommodation units for students, with ancillary premises, a complete restaurant and kitchen hall, a wing with two storerooms, a library, a doctor's surgery, two recovery rooms, an office with bedroom, a swimming-pool 12.5 x 25 metres with engine-house, a water-supply network for all the buildings, 95% of the scheduled support walls, all the earthworks to landscape the sites and approach roads, and all the sewage installations. Furthermore, the site for the construction of the future restaurant was laid out in accordance with the recommendations of Kotzias and Stamatopoulos, basketball and volleyball grounds were established, and the electricity grid was completed with the installation of a transformer and the construction of switchboard and control panel for the current.<sup>74</sup>

From the time when the Academy began to acquire its own entity, the question of its protection by fencing was posed by the HOC engineer, who focused on three basic points: he considered fencing to be absolutely essential because the residents of the area were accustomed "by reason of particularity and character" to occupy illegally pieces of ground which did not belong to them, a fact which would create problems, since the area of the IOA was large and not controlled. Within the IOA's property there were premises at distant points, such as the water-storage cistern, which could sustain damage because of malice or sabotage. Again, the use of the swimming-pool by the public without any control, over and above days on which the IOA was operating, would create an intolerable situation.<sup>75</sup>

### Second phase, 1968-1985

After the completion and delivery of the first buildings of the Academy and in view of the erection of those which were to follow, the HOC engineer briefed the Deanship of the National Landscape and Cities<sup>76</sup> on the work done. The Executive Committee of the Deanship travelled to Olympia, and at a special meeting there, pronounced

74. A. Emmanouil, 'Report on the progress of the works and on the operation of the IOA at Ancient Olympia', 18.8.1967, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit. (n. 41), no. 5.

75. Ibid.

76. The Deanship of the National Landscape and Cities was constituted into a standing collective organ in May 1957 with King Paul as its honorary President. Its founding members were the Academy of Athens, the National Metsovan Polytechnic, the School of Fine Arts, the Art Chamber, the Archaeological Society, the Society of Greek Writers, the State Tourist Organisation, the Touring Club, and other cultural organisations and public figures of Greece. Its aim was the maintenance and preservation of historic landscapes. Its official organs were the Plenum, the Executive Committee and the local representatives of the Deanship. See *Patris* newspaper, 13.8.1968.

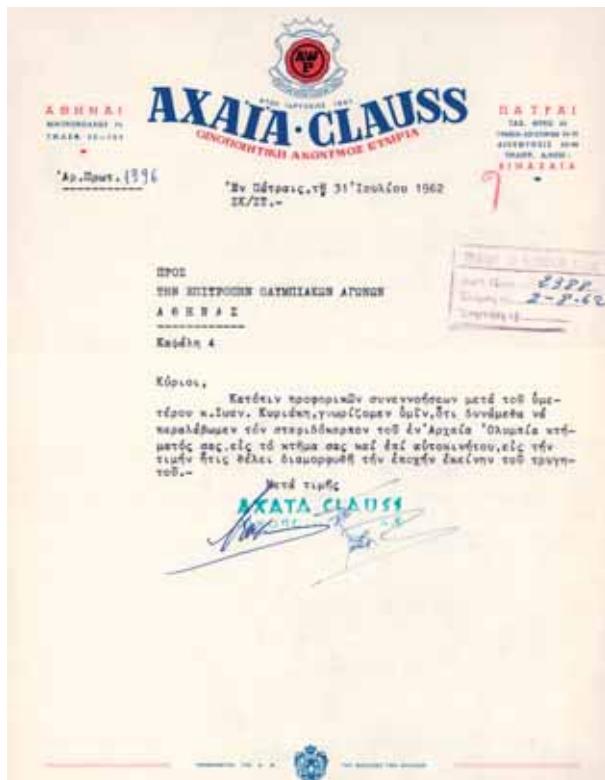
unfavourably not only on the works of the Academy but on the construction of the new archaeological museum. It described these constructions as "buildings out of control" which insulted the sacred landscape of Olympia, which was in danger of being swept away by the "avalanche of technical and material civilisation". It considered the Academy, with the bulk of its area and the form of the buildings which abutted on the ancient stadium, was "impermissible hybris" towards the landscape and the Olympic ideal. The construction of these buildings brought about a radical change in the character of the landscape, which was impaired by modern, violent interventions to a point where the religious atmosphere of the natural, artistic and historic landscape was totally lost. It was noted that on various pretexts an effort had been made to create a new Olympia on top of the old, so that in this way the sacred site was "slaughtered" and destroyed.<sup>77</sup>

Towards the end of 1968, in view of the discussion on the completion of the works of the first phase of the Academy, the president of the examining committee for the issues of the permanent premises of the IOA, Epaimeinondas Petralias, brought up again the issue of the collaboration of Tzannetos, because the expenditure on the work carried out so far had already considerably exceeded the budget, a fact which was due to him. He proposed that the "most lenient sanction" –that the HOC should cease to use him from then on– should be imposed on him. Pantzaris did not agree with the president's proposal and insisted that the order recently given to Tzannetos for the planning of the administrative centre should not be revoked, so that the rate of the whole construction in accordance with the architect's approach should not be disturbed. The members of the HOC, however, accepted Petralias' view, and Tzannetos was suspended, without, however, the mandate which had been given to him as to the designs already submitted and the plans on the basis of which the new buildings were to be constructed being cancelled.<sup>78</sup>

On 10 December 1968, an invitation to tender for the lowest bid was issued for the construction of a restaurant, an accommodation unit for women, approach roads to the pumping-station and the restaurant, and

77. Letter of the Deanship of the National Landscape and Cities to the HOC, 15.11.1968, *Interior Correspondence*, op. cit. See also the relevant articles by Athanasis Vakalopoulos in the *Patris* newspaper: 'The founding of the Olympic complex of the International Olympic Academy – around the layout of the Olympic site', 3.7.1968; 'The Deanship of the Landscape on the landscaping of the sacred Olympic site now being carried out – its published minute', 13.8.1968; 'The landscaping of the Olympic site – an area is being ceded to the Olympic Games Committee', 28.5.1968.

78. Minutes of the 69th Session of the HOC, 18.11.1968, *Book of Minutes of the HOC*, 16.9.1968-22.9.1970, 73-75.



[IOA Archive, K.2]

the support walls for the sports grounds. The project was awarded to the lowest bidder, Ioannis Athanasiadis of Athens, and the supervision to the deputy engineer Gerasismos Theotokatos. Delivery was taken of the new works in late 1969.<sup>79</sup>

In early 1970, in order to solve the problem of staff housing, it was decided to erect prefabricated houses and at the same time the landscaping of the site in front of the residential units for the construction of a gymnasium was planned. The auction for the supply and installation of this accommodation was set for 17 March and included a prefabricated doctor's surgery, storerooms and a house for the supervisor of the installations. The Deanship of the Landscape reacted anew against this decision of the HOC after the holding of a competition for the lowest bidder for the construction of these buildings, on grounds of aesthetics. The confrontations of the Deanship of the Landscape took on international dimensions, as they appeared in printed form in the periodical *Elefthera Gnomi*, which was published in translation. The result was the direct intervention of the President of the IOC, Avery Brundage, who made clear to the HOC his concern over this disagreement.

Athanasiros Tzartzanos, a member of the HOC, as well

79. Minutes of the 72nd Session of the HOC, 17.12.1968, 1st Session, 14.1.1969, 2nd Session, 4.2.1969, 11 Session, 4.9.1969, 14th Session, 14.10.1969, ibid., 85-86, 101-102, 109-110, 186-187 and 238.

as of the Executive Committee of the Deanship, undertook to smooth out the situation, although theoretically he agreed with the Deanship's original opinion: that the location of the IOA impaired the archaeological landscape, but, as he noted, "what is done cannot be undone". However, the official position of the HOC was that, since the permit had been given by the Ministry of Education and the Archaeological Service, "no infringement has been committed in the present instance". In November of 1971, delivery was taken of all the works with a protocol of final delivery by the contractor Ioannis Athanasiadis.<sup>80</sup>

In the early 1970s, the building complex of the Academy was complete and adequate for a limited number of participants at the sessions and for an audience of 140 as an upper limit. The works proposed at this stage were defined as those which were absolutely necessary and included the building of a room, behind Room 18, for the accommodation of the serving staff, with four beds, toilet facilities, a linen-cupboard, an ironing-room and a laundry, the laying of a paved path from the administrative offices to and from the area of the open-air cinema, the construction of an approach staircase to the rooms of the lecturers, the construction of a showcase for commemorative gifts, the completion of the furnishing of the speakers' rooms, the completion of the planting of trees, the supply of a lawnmower, a loudspeaker system and the construction of a coldstore for foodstuffs.<sup>81</sup>

At the end of the decade, after the visit by the Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister Achilleas Karamanlis to the premises, a decision was taken to construct additional two-bed rooms in accordance with the original spatial planning study.<sup>82</sup> In early 1979, on the orders of the Deputy Minister of Education, work began on the erection of the new buildings in the third tier, with priority going to the construction of the central section between the two building complexes, with two-bed rooms, so that the accommodation of the 40-member mission of those responsible for the Moscow torch relay would be possible.<sup>83</sup>

80. Minutes of the 20th Session of the HOC, 8.1.1970, 21nd Session, 27.1.1970, 23rd Session, 10.2.1970, 26th Session, 14.4.1970, 27th Session, 12.5.1970, op. cit., 346-374, 358-359, 378-380, 401-403 and 415-416. See also the Minutes of the 39th Session of the HOC, 17.11.1970, and the 46th Session, 23.2.1971, *Book of Minutes of the HOC*, 8.10.1970-10.1.1972, 27, 111-114, 174 and 322.

81. G. Panas, 'Comments on the Sessions of the IOA 1971 and proposals for the coming years', *Minutes of the Ephoria of the IOA, 1970 B'*.

82. Minutes of the 6th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (19.7.1977), *Minutes of the Ephoria of the IOA, 1975-1980*.

83. Minutes of the 7th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (19.7.1978), 9th Session (7.2.1979), 4th Session (15.11.1979), ibid. See also here the 'Time schedule for constructions, repairs and the supply of equipment for the premises of the IOA at Olympia', 11.11.1979.

In October 1980, the construction of the middle section of the third level, with 11 rooms –8 two-bed rooms and 3 singles– was completed. The work on finishing the accommodation units of the third and on the progress of the fourth level was completed around the mid 1980s, on the basis of Tzannetos's original architectural plan, which included nine accommodation building complexes (at total of 116 bedrooms), a central building housing a meeting-room for 200 with a system for translation into five languages, a kitchen, a restaurant, a bar and the administration offices. All these premises were complemented by the sports premises, which included two basketball courts, two volleyball courts, two tennis courts and the swimming-pool.<sup>84</sup>

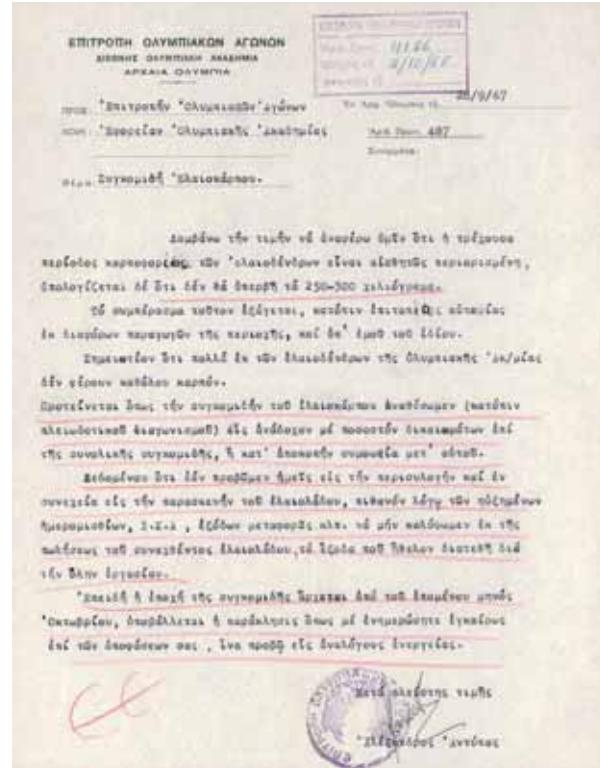
### Third phase, 1987-2004

The third phase of the works included the construction of the new conference centre, in the south-western part of the Academy's premises, by a decision of the Plenum of the HOC in January 1987. The new complex was to include, according to the original provisions, a hall holding 400, satellite halls with a capacity of 25 people each, a large area for a library, a complete up-to-date restaurant and storage areas, which the IOA was short of. Particular interest in its construction was expressed by the President of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, who offered to supply the centre with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment.

In October 1989, while the procedures for the compilation of a design and the construction of the conference centre were in progress, at a meeting of the Ephoria of the IOA, the President of the Academy and member of the IOC Nikos Filaretos expressed his doubts about and objections to the project. He considered the new conference centre a "needless luxury", and pointed out that there were other urgent needs for constructions and maintenance of the premises, as well as for the engagement of academic staff at the Academy. The Ephoria disagreed with the President, approved the project, and proposed to the Plenum of the HOC that it should press on with the centre's construction. The initiative for the creation of the conference centre belonged to the President of the HOC at the time Lambis Nikolaou.<sup>85</sup>

84. Minutes of the 8th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (15.10.1980) and of the 4th Session (18.2.1982), *Minutes of the Ephoria of the IOA, 15.10.1980-27.3.1990*. See also here A. Kritsinellis, in-service note, 'Works and improvements on the IOA-premises', 15th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA, 14.10.1987. See also S. Douros-Y. Nikolopoulos-Ioannis Krikos (engineers), 'Technical Report on the IOA premises', in the Minutes of the 73rd Session of the IOA (9.10.2001), *Minutes of the Ephoria of the IOA, 19.5.1998-9.1.2004*.

85. Minutes of the 4th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA



[IOA Archive, K.2]

According to the initial budget of the design, the expenditure on the centre amounted to 1,578,556,800 drs (including VAT). The final expenditure was 1,799,165,803 drs (including VAT). The auction for the "lump-sum design and construction" was held on 11 April 1991. The lowest bidder was the ATE Gnomon SA company, which signed the contract for the project on 10 September 1991 and for its delivery on 14 August 1993.<sup>86</sup>

The new building complex was sited between two hills, and consisted of two building masses which were linked by a diaphanous structure, so that visual continuity with the environment should not be interrupted. It could be used either in complete dependence on the other premises of the Academy or independently of them

(24.10.1989), *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit. (15.10.1980-27.3.1990).

86. These details are drawn from the report of Athanasios Kritsinellis, 'New premises at the International Olympic Academy', 4.11.1994, *File of the IOA Conference Centre, 28.9.1993-24.7.1995*, no. 647, and from the information note of Yorgos Nikolopoulos from the archives of the Construction Service of the HOC. The preliminary study for the project was drawn up by I. Liakatas-Pechlivanidou & Associates and the final design by Sythesi & Erevna Ltd – G. Albanis – N. Fontikakis & Associates. See also in this connection on the conference centre the 67th and 71st Session of the Executive Committee of the HOC, 10.12.1991 and 4.3.1992 respectively, *Book of Minutes of the Executive Committee of the HOC, 25.9.1991-7.4.1992*, 27-36 and 38.

completely, as it had two entrances, of which that on the east is the entrance from the Academy and that on the west serves those entering from the ring-road.

The southern building mass includes the amphitheatre, seating 443, with booths for the wired system of translation into eight languages. The northern building mass is on three levels. The ground floor consists of a section of the foyer containing the cloakroom, the canteen and two rooms for sub-committees with a system for translation into three languages and facilities for video linkage with the amphitheatre. The first floor contains two offices for officials, the President's office, the Dean's office, the office of the head of technical services, and a space with the machinery for the central monitoring of the building. The second floor includes the library and roof-garden.<sup>87</sup>

By a decision of the Plenum in early July 1994, it was resolved that the hall of the old conference centre should be named the 'Otto Szymczek Hall', the large amphitheatre of the new centre should be named after Dimitrios Vikelas, the two similar halls, known up to that point as 'the Blue' and 'the Red', should be called the 'Ioannis Ketsseas' and 'Carl Diem' halls, and that the library should take the name of Nikos Nissiotis.<sup>88</sup>

The conference centre was officially opened on 20 July 1994 by the Deputy Minister of Sport, Yorgos Lianis, in the presence of members of the Greek government, the HOC, local authorities and participants in the annual session. Art events were held in parallel on the premises; these included an exhibition of archive photographs of the Olympic Games of 1896, in honour of Dimitrios Vikelas, an exhibition of contemporary sculpture held by the Art Chamber of Greece, and an exhibition of photographs by the photographer Yorgos Kosmopoulos of Ileia on the subject of the 'Olympic Games-Ancient Olympia'. Two years later, in 1996, the Executive Committee of the IOC met for the first time on the same premises within the context of the centenary celebrations of the revival of the Olympic Games. This was a gala occasion, and in the new hall of the Dimitrios Vikelas Conference Centre, the unveiling of a commemorative plaque by the President of the International Olympic Committee and the opening of the new library took place. In the same year, the events in connection with the lighting of the flame for the Olympic Games in

Atlanta took place in the presence of the wife of the President of the USA, Hillary Clinton.<sup>89</sup>

The work on the new conference complex was eventually completed with the landscaping and the planting of trees in the surrounding space, and its entrance was adorned with the statue of *Victory*, a gift of the sculptor Pavlos Kouyioumtzis. The major expenditure on the erection of the new building complex and the parlous financial state which the HOC found itself in –a state which had been exacerbated by the heavy cost of building the new offices in Marousi, Athens– were seen by Nikos Filaretos (member of the Ephoria in the period 1993-1996) as reasons for the prevalence of the view which favoured the economic exploitation of the premises at Olympia. When he took over the presidency in 1997, he again brought up the issue of the terms for making the facilities available in the following remarks:

In my opinion, the IOA, as the pedagogic institution which it is, must subsidise, as a priority, any event which has as its aim to disseminate Olympic Education and Sport, and, secondarily, the events of the various sport federations, associations and other organisations. The IOA is not an economic unit which has profit as its aim. The IOA must contribute, not collect. In recent years, however, as a consequence of the great expenditure on the construction of the new building complex for Sessions of the IOA and of the poor financial state in which the HOC has found itself [...], the view favouring the economic exploitation of the IOA premises at Olympia has prevailed. This view has met, and meets, with my total opposition, and it has resulted in many people regarding the IOA as a recreation centre suitable for two and three-day trips and as a *sui generis* hotel. The confusion which prevails as to the mission of the IOA must be cleared up, while at the same time a certain income must also be secured in order to meet, albeit in part, the cost of maintaining the new complex for the Sessions."<sup>90</sup>

In a programming of projects and works dealing with the facilities in the short, medium and long term, at his own request, the head of the construction service of

87. The details come from Kritsinellis' report on the Conference Centre, op. cit. In the same report the Academy's firefighting system is dealt with in detail. See also 'Fire safety of the wood of the Olympic Academy-A pioneering system has been operating for two years now on the soil of Ileia', *Patris* newspaper, 27.7.1994.

88. Minutes of the 25th Session of the HOC, 12.7.1994, *Book of Minutes of the HOC*, 31.5.1994-4.4.1995.

89. Minutes of the 40th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (27.2.1997), *Minutes of the Ephoria of the IOA*, 17.5.1994-14.4.1998. See also the relevant articles in the local press: *Proini* newspaper, 2.7.1994, 11.7.1994, 15.7.1994, 18.7.1994, 19.7.1994, 20.7.1994 and 21.7.1994; *Patris* newspaper, 2.7.1994, 19.7.1994 and 21.7.1994; *Proini* newspaper, 1.4.1996, 5.4.1996 and 6.4.1996; *Patris* newspaper, 30.3.1996, 31.3.1996 and 6.4.1996.

90. 'Terms for the ceding of the IOA facilities. Proposal of the President, Nikos Filaretos to the Ephoria of the IOA' at the 41st Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (27.3.1997), and the terms in detail at the 46th Session (20.10.1997), *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit. See, by way of comparison, 'Financial terms for the ceding of IOA facilities for 2003', at the 78th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (10.10.2002), *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit.



The new conference centre of the IOA, c. 1996 [IOA Archive, K.50.5]

the HOC, Athanasios Krtsinellis, lodged in October 1997 a series of proposals involving the following: (1) improvements to the facilities (automation of the fire-fighting network, air-conditioning / heating of a new library, conversion of the old library into a functions room, supply of agricultural machinery, etc.); (2) regular maintenance of the accommodation unit; (3) construction of art pavilions for painting, sculpture and dance within the context of the work of the sessions near the tennis courts; (4) construction of hostels for distinguished guests to the north of the Coubertin memorial, independent of the operation of the Academy; (6) open-air lighting on the public road from the IOA to the car park of the archaeological museum, because of the danger of accidents to those participants returning on foot from Olympia at night; (7) construction of peripheral lighting; (8) construction of premises for social events and a refreshments canteen in the swimming-pool area; (9) biological purification; (10) a refuge for wild game; (11) a long-range IOA radio station as a means of advertising and promoting Olympic issues.<sup>91</sup>

Of these projects, the construction of the art pavi-

lions, the peripheral lighting and the lighting of the public road from the entrance to the Academy to the archaeological museum were completed around the end of the year 2000.<sup>92</sup> The Central Archaeological Council rejected the proposal for the building of new residence units, while leaving open the question of the construction of a theatre of a capacity of 250-300 in the area behind the swimming-pool. The President of the IOA protested strongly, arguing that the reasons for the construction of the 24 rooms were "very serious" and that by means of these "the accommodation and training of 48 more individuals –something which falls within the basic aims of the IOA– will be rendered possible". The matter remained pending.<sup>93</sup>

In late 2001, there was an important intervention by the General Secretariat of the Olympic Games at the Ministry of Culture as regards the Academy, with the approval of the sum of 500,000,000 drs for the maintenance and enhancement of the premises, through the

91. A. Krtsinellis, 'In-service Note', 24.9.1997, Minutes of the 46th Session of the IOA, 20.10.1997, *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit.

92. Minutes of the 44th, 46th and 53rd Session of the IOA (2.7.1997), (20.10.1997) and (10.7.1998), Minutes of the Ephoria, ibid. Minutes of the 53rd Session of the IOA (10.7.1998), *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit.

93. Minutes of the 74th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (6.11.2001), *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit. (n. 84).



Part of the residence units in the fourth tier  
[photograph: Vassiliki Tzachrista, 2006]

mediation of the General Secretary of the Olympic Games and member of the Academy's Ephoria Kostas Kartalis.<sup>94</sup> The year 2003 closed with the disappoint-

94. Minutes of the 76th and 78th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (11.1.2002) and (10.10.2002), *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit. This move was regarded as being the salvation of the premises, since exposure to all weathers had set its seal on the buildings. The sum was spent on changing all the tiled roofs of the buildings and individual jobs, which started in early 2003 and were completed in June 2004. Furthermore, Room 18 was converted into a room for individuals with special needs. The relevant construction and economic study was drawn up by Yorgos Nikolopoulos, head of the construction service of the HOC. The occasion for this conversion was the stay of the President of the International Paralympics Committee, Philip Craven, at the Academy, as a guest of the 43rd Session, since he is himself an individual with special needs. Minutes of the 80th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (11.12.2002), ibid. See also the relevant in-service note of the head of the Construction Service of the HOC, G. Nikolopoulos, in connection with the progress of the work, 13.10.2003, 83rd Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (14.10.2003), ibid. See also Zacharias Mantas, 'Interventions smaller than expected', *Patris* newspaper, 14.3.2004.

ment that the efforts for the building of the theatre had come to nought, even though the obstacle of the Archaeological Service had been negotiated and a subsidy of 300,000 euro had been obtained from the Bank of Greece, sponsor of the Organising Committee for the 2004 Olympic Games, with the support of its President, Yanna Angelopoulou. The persistent efforts and personal interest of the Academy's President in the matter were consumed in endless discussions, which came up against the decision of the Hellenic Olympic Committee not to accept the creation of a theatre.<sup>95</sup> In 2004, the premises of the IOA were made available to host the athletes and organisers of the shot-putting event, which was held in the ancient stadium, and were converted into a modern Olympic village.

95. Minutes of the 79th and 83rd Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (15.12.2002) and (14.10.2003), op. cit. Minutes of the 28th Session of the Ephoria of the HOC, 30.12.2002, *Book of Minutes of the HOC, 21.10.2003-11.2.2004*.



View of the interior of the new conference centre of the IOA  
 [photograph: Vassiliki Tzachrista, 2006]

### The landscape of the IOA<sup>96</sup>

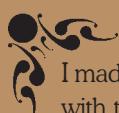
The International Olympic Academy was built on the horizon of an idealising relation with the Olympia landscape. It is an embrace which permits it to shape its own landscape at some distance from the unseen mythological topography. Where the agricultural view was once spacious and multifarious, there is now a wood which

surrounds the premises and serves as a refuge and background for the architectural composition. The old landscape has thus given place to a new one with marked human interventions. The relation of the premises with the landscape plays an important role; there is a direct dialogue between them which defines the orientation of the buildings, their form and the materials with which they were built.

The buildings were constructed in local limestone, which was available in the surrounding area. This option, apart from reducing transport costs, was of great importance for the colour of the buildings and adapted their characteristics to the more general characteristics of the landscape, thus making use of their privileged proximity to the antiquities.

The buildings which Tzannetos designed do not, perhaps, belong within any particular style of architecture. They are more reminiscent of images of buildings of colonial architecture or of 'prairie architecture', with the incorporation of traditional features in imitation of the landscape. This feature is reinforced by their marked

96. Indicative bibliography: P. N. Doukellis (ed.), *To ελληνικό τοπίο. Μελέτες ιστορικής γεωγραφίας και πρόσληψης του τόπου* [The Greek landscape, studies in historical geography and apprehension of place], Athens, Estia, 2005; L. Louloudis-N. Beopoulos-A. Troumbis (eds); *To αγροτικό τοπίο. Το παλίμψητο αιώνων γεωργικού μόχδουν* [The Greek landscape, the palimpsest of centuries of agricultural toil], Athens, Ktima Merkouri, 2005; Z. Kotionis, *H τρέλα του τόπου. Αρχιτεκτονική στο ελληνικό τοπίο* [The madness of place, architecture in the Greek landscape], Athens, Ekkremes, 2004; D. Fatouros, *Η επιμονή της αρχιτεκτονικής* [The persistence of architecture], Athens, Kastaniotis, 2003; B. Brooks Pfeiffer, *Frank Lloyd Wright, 1867-1959, Building for Democracy*, Cologne, Taschen, 2004.



I made certain efforts to reconcile the residents with the Academy. Because they told me ‘we can’t go in there’. They think that because it’s the Academy here, their children have to go to play football at the football ground... But the Academy opened up in certain events that people could go to – when I say it opened up, it opened up. That is, we did this at times over and above the established timetable, visiting hours were set for people here outside the timetable. So that they would realise that they can have access. After that, I always told them that the Academy is friendly, given that they chose your Mayor as a member of the Ephoria. It is a recognition of the fact that it really wants good collaboration with us. That it also provides jobs for so many people from Olympia and the villages round about. That it makes so much money because of the visitors who come and shop in the Olympia market, they eat in its restaurants, and this is important, and they become missionaries of Olympism to the ends of the earth. This for us is a really major issue.

Matters which we have in common which concern the relations between the Municipality and the IOA are for me culture and Olympism. These are the factors which unite these two bodies... For me, you see, the existence of the Academy within the administrative boundaries of the Municipality is the greatest of privileges. It is a great privilege because the fact that for 45 years now so many ambassadors for Olympia and Olympism have been launched to the ends of the earth is a very major matter. Because I have met people abroad who had come here as young participants, not to mention other people who had come as visitors in other capacities, but people who had come as young people. You can’t imagine how attached these people are to the place. This is something which can be a common feature shared by the Municipality and the Academy...

Yorgos Kosmopoulos,  
former Mayor, 2005



horizontality and the abundant vegetation, a part of which is made up by the scores of palm-trees which surround the buildings and give them an exotic character. They could also be regarded as a mediocre imitation of the architectural model of the great American architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

The new building complex, on the other hand, is a modern construction which does not accord with the landscape and functions aesthetically in detachment from the main body of the residence units and the administrative centre. It is tucked into the south-western side of the Academy’s property on a steeply inclined surface, which gives it an individual role. The large glass apertures of the conference centre and of the library change the manner of contact with nature, the relation between the interior and exterior, rendering the boundaries between them virtually invisible.

The open-air space of the premises is complemented with sculptures. Near the Coubertin memorial there are the commemorative marble columns of the protagonists of the founding of the International Olympic Academy, Ioannis Ketseas and Carl Diem, and in the curve of the sports ground, a series of sculptures donated by National Olympic Committees from various countries. The dominant position is occupied by the statue by the sculptor Nikolas, *The Triumph of Diagoras*, of a height of 1.5 metres, at the entrance to the staircase which links the first and second levels of the premises.

The life in the Academy and in the open air, apart from providing ample light and space, is bound up with a romantic and philosophical approach to nature which is dominant in the landscape of Olympia more generally – a gentle, imposing landscape, with an idyllic atmosphere which enchants, at the same time new and old, a landscape which crosses time undisrupted. To find oneself, then, in this landscape is an overall experience which cannot be described in words. The archetypal symbolisms of the past act as a catalyst upon the observer and the landscape itself takes him back into the depths of time. However, there is also at the same time the modern materiality of the Academy which denotes the present: the buildings, the soil, the vegetation, the people. It is its own special landscape, which is emplaced in the broader landscape of the geographical environment to which it belongs.



## The Municipality of Ancient Olympia and the International Olympic Academy: a persisting flirtation on the epiphénoménon of a dispute



From the left: Fernandos Serpieris (President of the IOA), Yorgos Kosmopoulos (Mayor of Olympia), Antonios Tzikas (President of the HOC), Spyros Kapralos (member of the HOC), and Leonidas Tyligadas (Deputy Mayor of Olympia) at the IOA premises, c. 1966  
 [Yorgos Kosmopoulos archive]

The International Olympic Academy in the collective unconscious of the local community represents a delimited space discrete from the settlement which surrounds it. Its operation, closely bound up with the Hellenic and the International Olympic Committee, influences the life of Ancient Olympia to the extent that its activity belongs within the local context. On the other hand, the local community forms its idea of, probably familiarises itself with, and certainly expresses its views on the Academy, which it perceives both as an autonomous value with particular symbolic and ideological significance and as a static concept with closed structures, on the other.

It is certain that a different significance is ascribed to the Academy through the network of international relations which it cultivates, on the one hand, and by the network of local relations in the village of Ancient Olympia and of the neighbouring area, on the other. In the question 'for whom is the space of the Academy intended' the concepts of the local and the world-wide – and the significance given to them – are involved. According to the data which emerge from research in the

archives and from interviews with residents of the area, the rules of convergence or differentiation of the local community as regards the Academy are defined to the extent to which both apprehend the ideological context which results from the joint handling of the concept of the historicity of the place to which they belong.

The Academy, for its part, is on record "as a trustee of an international regime under the control of the IOC",<sup>97</sup> towards which the public opinion of Olympia has expressed its opposition on a number of occasions. The identification of the Academy with the international interests and the policies of the International Olympic Committee, particularly when these are seen as injuring the historicity of Ancient Olympia, in the eyes of the local community is a permanent flash-point.<sup>98</sup>

97. Minutes of the 4th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (18.2.1982), *Minutes of the Ephoria of the IOA*, op. cit. (n. 84).

98. "[...] it must be stressed and pointed out that somebody, at some time and somewhere, ceded to the IOC everything to do (both economically and culturally) with Ancient Olympia. But whoever these people were, they will be found and called to account [...] who are the masters of the Historic Site: the IOC? The Greek



[Spyros Photeinos archive]

In the efforts to recover the historic past of Olympia by the Municipality and the Academy, a conflict of ideals has been created, and in this the Hellenic and the International Olympic Committees are additionally involved. This conflict takes on a specific form at the lighting of the Olympic flame, which is organised by the HOC, but is the property of the IOC. The Municipality, restricted to a tame role which extends no further than a five-minute address by the Mayor during the course of the ceremony, feels that its moral rights as regards the Olympic Ideal are infringed.

The Municipality of Olympia defines itself as a trustee of the ancient heritage. This right has also been safeguarded by legislation, by the promotion of the village to municipality status, in spite of the fact that the usual conditions for it to become one were not fulfilled. According to the Opinion of Ioannis Schinas, professor at the School of Law of the Democritus University of Thrace, "the elevation of Ancient Olympia to the status of a municipality was called for by the unique historic sanctity of the place which corresponds to the district of this munici-

Government? The Mayor of Ancient Olympia? The Citizens of Olympia?", Yorgis Doxas, interviewed by Yiouli Iliopoulos, *Proton* newspaper, 5.9.2005.

pality. The state created the Municipality of Ancient Olympia as guardian of the sacred site of Olympia. Not, of course, as guardian in the material sense: in that sense, the safeguarding of the site falls to the General Directorate for Antiquities and Restoration of the Ministry of Culture and Sciences. But in the sense of the trustee of the Olympic Ideal, of that which lends the site its sacred character."<sup>99</sup> It is, then, by the invocation of this particularity that the Municipality seeks to take part in the Hellenic Olympic Committee, the Committee for the Organisation of the Lighting and Relay of the Flame, and in the Ephoria of the International Olympic Academy.

The interventions of the Municipality reached their culmination in 1984 with a series of actions taken against the commercialisation of the flame by the organisers of the Los Angeles Games with the approval of the IOC, but also against the decision which determined the flame to be its property. The Municipality denounced these phenomena at an international level by all the means which it had at its disposal and engaged in a series of mobilisations and actions within Greece. The result was that the lighting of the flame was carried out in a makeshift manner, without the established ritual and without an audience, while a police force of 800 had sealed off the archaeological site, fearing demonstrations and reactions which would have prevented the ceremony altogether.<sup>100</sup> The relations of the Municipality with the Academy were drawn into the whirlpool of these developments and were determined by them for a number of years: they were filtered through the channel of its confrontation

99. I. Schinas, 'Expert Opinion', in connection with the rights of the Municipality of Ancient Olympia to the Olympic flame and what is the nature of these rights, 7.3.1984, archive of Spyros Photeinos.

100. In early February 1984, the Municipality in session took a unanimous decision to the effect that "the Municipality of Ancient Olympia does not recognise to anyone a right of property over symbols of peace for all mankind such as the Olympic Flame is". This decision was in reply to the articles of association of the IOC, which lay down that the flame is its property. On 17 and 18 March 1984, an international conference was held on the safeguarding of the Olympic Ideal at Ancient Olympia. The conference was organised by the International Olympic Centre for Peace and the Municipality of Ancient Olympia, under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture. Within this framework, a resolution against the commercialisation of the flame and an 'Appeal for a Truce' during the course of the Games were approved. More than 300 took part in the conference (mayors, representatives of local government, representatives of the General Confederation of Labour and other federations, university institutions, cultural and academic bodies, representatives of the HOC, of the Union of Greek Gymnastic and Athletic Associations, etc.). As to the day of the lighting of the flame, the Municipality issued a proclamation by which it summoned the Greek people on the morning of 7 May to a peaceful demonstration in front of the Olympia Town Hall, in order to express its opposition to the phenomena. These details are derived from the archive of Spyros Photeinos.



In 1983-1984, our relations with the IOA were in a way an extension of the poor relations which had been generated with the IOC and the HOC. And the starting-point and sole cause for precisely these poor relations was our objection to the Olympic flame being handed over to the Americans for commercialisation. This affair, then, gave rise to a tension in our relations; but this tension, of course, did not reach the point of cancelling out the usefulness and importance of the Olympic Academy. On the contrary, our intervention was an intervention to protect our wealth of monuments from which the Olympic flame had come forth. And neither the HOC or the IOA should have taken up the hostile attitude which they did towards the Municipality. The Municipality did its job as trustee of the ideals of the Olympic ideology [...]

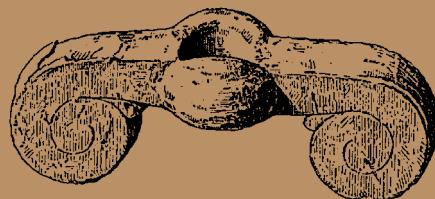
It was at that point, then, that a novel theory emerged on the part of the HOC: that the Olympic flame is our property, and the Municipality replied: the Olympic flame has no owner. The symbols which give expression to world-wide friendship, co-operation, a fraternal spirit and peace cannot be acquired or become the objects of possession. The Municipality of Olympia – we said at that time – recognises to nobody the right to be owner of the symbols of the whole of humanity. It was precisely this that was our quarrel... They were not used to interventions of this kind. They expected a submissive Municipality which would sooner or later say 'OK', 'Don't let it happen again', and so on [...]

The part played by the Municipality in the Ephoria of the IOA is a necessary one. And this was my proposal. And at that time they refused in the strongest terms precisely because I was Mayor and had played my part in the movement over the flame. They were really in a difficult position, because what I and the Municipality had done they ought to have done

themselves. The Municipality should have played a part *ex officio*. This never happened because certain elements interfered who wished to benefit, for their own reasons, from the position which belonged by right to the Mayor of Olympia... Over and above this, each Mayor should also be a member of the HOC – not to say the IOC as well. What's supposed to happen? Are the balances to be upset?... Of course, in no circumstances in saying all this are we taking away from the valuable role played by the IOA in an international environment, and we're prepared to say this and write it [...]

The IOA has played an important role in the area and in the spread of Olympic values. I consider it a very important institution. And I am willing to set that down in writing. But with a definitive observation. That the efforts of the HOC were exhausted in the Academy. It didn't advance any further. Whereas it could have done a thousand and one other things alongside the instance of the IOA – in order to lay the foundations for and to promote even better the world-wide role of the place, which – there's no need for us to repeat this – is a place with great resonance. The IOA has also played a very important role in the field of culture. Suddenly, from being known as a factor in sport, it has become known also as a place. Not only from history. Because since 1961, if you sit down and count the visits which have been made to the IOA, you find some thousands of personnel from sport from all over the world. This thing is in the end a diffusion of ideas which contains the specific space. In the end, the image of the IOA has entered into the consciousness of hundreds of thousands of people. That is of the greatest importance.

Spyros Photeinos,  
former Mayor of Olympia, 2005





I consider it important that the Municipality should participate in the administration of the IOA. Why this has not happened I've no idea. What I see is that no one wants someone under his feet who is going to be a bad boy... Issues which we have in common which concern the relation between the Municipality and Olympia are, to begin with, the exploitation at a level of public relations and on a world scale of the role of ancient Olympia. Because I believe that the predominant thing, apart from anything else, is the highlighting of the region... Everything is done by the HOC and the IOC. The Municipality is absent, apart from the ten minutes when the Mayor speaks – from that point on, all the rest do nothing.

Sotiris Davettas, former President of the village of Strephi and now Deputy Mayor, 2005



As far as the participation of the Municipality in the IOA is concerned, we have always thought it very important and on many occasions we have made efforts in this direction. The reason why the Mayor doesn't serve on the Ephoria is, I would say, institutional more than anything else. Put like that, this is a gentle answer. We think that it is important that the Mayor should participate in its composition, not in the sense that at some point the Mayor of Olympia will have one more title, but I think that the presence of the Mayor will enhance the Board of Management and the role of the Ephoria. And, of course, the participation of the local community in the operation of a body must be there. The Academy is alien to the place, to the community, I mean. You can go a little further away and nobody knows what the Olympic Academy is, what its role is, and I don't think that is right. That is to say, if we except that fine initiative that the children should go every summer to the Academy, there has been no other initiative involving the local community.

Yorgos Deves, former Mayor of Olympia and now Deputy Mayor, 2005



with the centres of power which the IOC and the HOC constituted.

However, over and above the imperilling of the values of antiquity and of revival, which is judged at a level of multiple confrontations, there have been and there are demands which are not charged with historical significance and which seem at first sight to be more routine and to stem from the residents of the area and not always necessarily from the Municipality. It could be added that the institutional character of the Municipality simply underlines them. These claims have to do chiefly with the use of the Academy's facilities for purposes of sport, since Olympia completely lacks a sports infrastructure, and participation in and attendance at the sessions. They have also, however, sometimes involved the making available of the conference centre for the holding of one-day conferences or meetings by the Municipality and the Prefecture, to whom this is granted, insofar as this use is specific and limited.

The request, however, for the opening up of the sports facilities of the Academy and participation in the sessions has been met with greater reserve on the part of the Ephoria of the IOA and, in effect, has never been satisfied, in spite of having been formulated repeatedly. Such a proposal was made for what was perhaps the first time officially by the members of the 'Cultural Centre' association of Ancient Olympia in 1982, at a meeting with the General Secretary of the HOC, Nikos Filaretos. At the same time, they expressed to him their resentment of the fact that the young people of Olympia had never been invited to take part in the sessions of the IOA.<sup>101</sup> Their claim was regarded as "entirely justified" and was forwarded for discussion to the Ephoria of the Academy, which consented to the ceding of the grounds in return for a commitment that the young people would always be accompanied by a responsible physical education teacher on specific days and at certain times. As to their participation in the sessions, it was judged that they were not yet ready to respond at the level of these.

Instead, Filaretos proposed the holding of an annual two or three-day session for the young people of Olympia, in the belief that "the teaching of Olympism will help to raise the intellectual and cultural standards of the young people of Olympia and will contribute to wiping out the unfavourable effects of the exploitation for tourism of this historic site". This position was also adopted by the other members of the Ephoria, with the restriction that the use of the IOA's facilities and the holding of a seminar for the young people of Olympia

101. See also the Memorandum of the Cultural Association of Ancient Olympia to the Ephoria of the IOA, 6.2.1982, *IOA Interior Correspondence, 1982*, no. 13, IOA Archive.

should be on terms within the framework of the aims and task of the IOA and should not extend beyond these.<sup>102</sup>

Whereas the foundations were laid for an opening up of the Academy to the local community, the events which intervened in 1984 postponed the realisation of the promises until 1989.<sup>103</sup> The reaction of the Municipality to the commercialisation of the Olympic flame was accompanied by a series of actions which gave rise to introversion on the part of the Academy. At its first meeting in 1985, the new members of the Ephoria of the IOA were informed of current developments, which constituted a “danger” and a “threat” of the IOA being turned into a political platform by local elements in Olympia, on the argument that such a public institution should not remain closed to the popular masses. This demand was perceived as an attempt at ‘conquest’ of the Academy site. For this reason, members of the Ephoria contacted influential local figures in order to obtain assurances that there would be no difficulties and obstacles raised by the state authorities and local government. The meeting was held in a climate of co-operation and good will on the part both of the Prefecture of Ileia and the Municipality, which left open the prospect of future collaboration.<sup>104</sup>

There were, as has been noted, always problems in one form or another, in spite of the good intentions of the IOA and the HOC, who attempted by every means to avoid conflicts with figures in the Olympia community. To the consistent demand of Olympia’s young people to be allowed the use of the IOA sports facilities, the reply of the Ephoria and the Plenum was always affirmative, on condition that they should always be used under the

supervision of a responsible person (physical education teacher, president of an association, or others). This never happened – the demand was for the unconditional use of the facilities.<sup>105</sup>

The period of confrontations between the IOA and the Municipality was associated chiefly with the term of office as Mayor of Spyros Photeinos. In early 1991, Photeinos lost the elections and Yorgos Kosmopoulos took over as the new Mayor. Kosmopoulos was elected a member of the Ephoria of the Academy for the period 1993-1996 – not, however, in the official capacity of Mayor, but as a lawyer. This event was a turning-point in the relations of the Municipality and the Academy. His election was considered important because it vindicated to a degree the standing demand for the participation of the Municipality in the administration of the Ephoria. The ‘Cold War’ tactics which had been adopted in the past yielded to a policy of co-operation at a local and an international level. From then on a tradition was created which called for someone from the Ileia region to be included in the composition of the Ephoria as a member with voting rights.

Epameinondas Kyriazis, lawyer, and Leonidas Varnouxis, owner of the *Patris* newspaper, were the next members, the former from 1997 to 2000, and the latter from 2001 to the present. This decision of the IOA –that figures from the local community should be included in its composition– can perhaps be interpreted as an attempt to cool off the conflicts and to acquire allies in its task from among the local people. It can also be seen as a measure of democratisation, in contrast with the conservative structures of the past, but this is a subject for a more specialised approach and research.

In spite of the official representation of the local community in the management of the IOA, public feelings seem to have continued to be offended by the policies of exclusion which have been implemented and which prevent the satisfaction of the demand for participation, even in the events of a cultural and social nature. Thus, in 1994, on the occasion of the opening of the Academy’s new conference centre, an article by Thouskydis Kosmopoulos in the local press set out to re-examine at a theoretical level the issue of the relations of a community with a space which is autonomous and detached from it, and how this is defined within a specific framework of human actions, feelings, thoughts, attitudes and intentions.

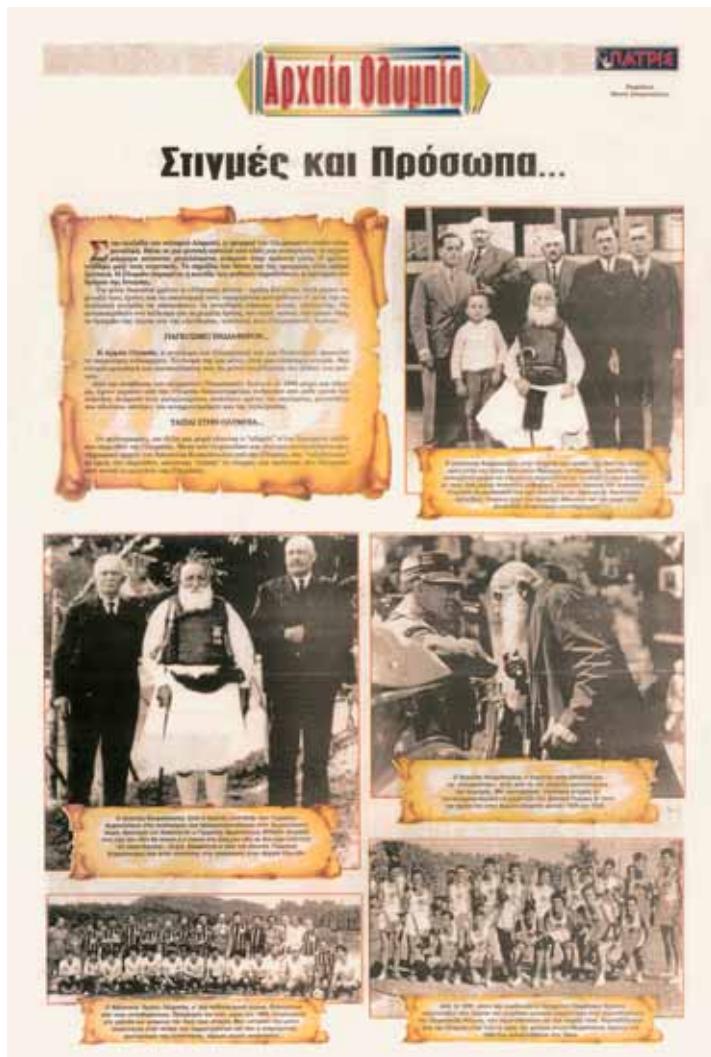
---

102. Minutes of the 4th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (18.2.1982), *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit. (n. 84).

103. In that year, the Academy, in collaboration with the Directorate of Secondary Education of the Prefecture of Ileia and the Prefecture of Ileia, embarked with selected school students on a programme of Olympic education on the premises of the IOA. During the course of these seminars approximately a hundred young people aged between 14 and 16 took part, and the cost was defrayed by the IOA. The specific course was frequently combined with the environmental education programme.

104. Minutes of the 1st Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (Jan. 1985), *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit. Demands similar to the politicised demands of the Municipality were formulated by the majority of those taking part in the Session of Greek Educational Functionaries in 1984. As stated in the minutes, this majority “had the objective aim of manipulating the session to get it to pass what were in its judgment political slogans of the type ‘Open up the IOA to the people. The Greek people’s money should not be spent as the few of the IOA wish. The grey-beard liars should get out of the IOA and make way for new blood’ – and much else”. In view of this attitude of the participants, Cleanthes Palaiologos submitted his resignation from the Ephoria, which, however, was not accepted. Minutes of the 20th Session of the Ephoria of the IOA (10.9.1984), *Minutes of the Ephoria*, op. cit.

105. Some members of the Ephoria considered that the IOA had been very “tolerant and conciliatory”, thus creating a bad precedent, while Tzartzanos proposed that, in order to tone down the confrontations, the local authorities should be made aware of the fact that “the Academy is not a Greek institution but an international space”, ibid.



Patris newspaper [Apostolis Kosmopoulos archive]

It is true that the Conference Centre at the IOA premises [...] is truly an ornament for our locality, which honours and projects not only Olympia but also Greece world-wide. And, in any event, we have argued that the marvellous premises of the Olympic Academy facilities should be accessible to all its visitors, for them to enjoy them, and *a fortiori* they should be free and accessible to the residents of the city of Olympia. Because it would be well for the fact *inter alia* not to escape our attention that these sites –fields and properties before they were expropriated some years ago– are watered with the sweat and blood of our fathers [...]. Entry to the opening ceremony was permitted only with invitations, which meant that the number of people who could attend it was strictly limited [...]. But the lack of free access and participation in this fine event for the residents of the broader area, or at least the electors and residents of Olympia, does not meet with our agreement in the slightest. And we would say that the best solution is the avoidance of the creation of ‘no-go areas’, which are a sign of bygone eras [...]. For this reason, it would be well

for the President [...] to see to it that the creation of situations which give the impression of social exclusion, and which, as we all know, militate against public feeling, is avoided.”<sup>106</sup>

In 1996, the refusal of the President of the IOC, Juan Antonio Samaranch, to accept the official invitation of the Municipality to visit the town hall while he was next-door, on the Academy site, drew unfavourable comment in the press and was seen as manifesting an insulting attitude towards Greek citizens and the citizens of Olympia.<sup>107</sup>

Nevertheless, over and above the conflicts, public opinion at Olympia is favourably disposed towards the work of the Academy. Its pedagogic and cultural role is recognised and noted without animosity or regard for private interest. Its social role is also stressed by that fact that every summer the participants in the sessions are incorporated into the local community. The human resources of the IOA come into contact not only with the ancient history of the place, but also with the modern. And this finds expression through sociability, commercial transactions and friendship with local people. The ‘children of the Academy’, as they are called, are much-liked and are treated on terms of Greek hospitality and not as mere tourists. Some of these ‘children’ return as scholars to Olympia, to teach and to redefine their relations with the place, the landscape and the people. This relationship is perhaps the most substantive point of contact between the IOA and the local world of Olympia.

The international session of the Academy, in which young people between the age of 20 and 35 from all over the world take part, is welcomed each year by the Mayor of Olympia and the Prefect of Ileia. The official discourse of local government is calm and stereotyped and does not diverge from the official discourse of the Academy. At the commencement of the international session the platform is not used for confrontations. The session has a purely pedagogic character – as does the Academy, for that matter. The Academy, through its own purpose and through the mission which it has undertaken, is the organisation which *par excellence* is competent to pose the question as to what kind of relations it wishes in practice to develop with the place in which it is situated, to vindicate it, to work upon it, and to deduce the practical lessons to be learnt from this process.

106. Thoukydidis Kosmopoulos (municipal councillor), ‘Ancient Olympia (ο tempora, ο mores), the doors closed to the people at the opening of the new Conference Centre’, *Patris* newspaper, 11.7.1994.

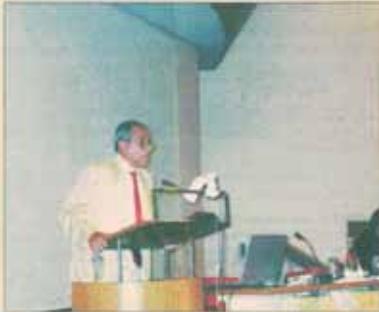
107. Thoukydidis Kosmopoulos, ‘Works and days of Mr Samaranch’, *Proini* newspaper, 9.4.1996.

**Ξεκίνησε το Σάββατο στις εγκαταστάσεις της ΔΟΑ στην Αρχαία Ολυμπία  
η 45η Διεθνής Σύνοδος για νέους μετέχοντες**

## 215 σύνεδροι από 99 χώρες

**M**ε την συμμετοχή 215 συνέδρων, την πολυπλούσητη όλων των ετών, από 99 συνολικά χώρες, ξεκίνησε το Σάββατο το απόγευμα στο συνεδριακό κέντρο της ΔΟΑ, στην Αρχαία Ολυμπία, η 45η Διεθνής Σύνοδος για νέους μετέχοντες.

Στον κώρο σπου γεννηθήσαντις οι μέσες της Ολυμπιαρχίας, νέοι από διαιρετικές χώρες και πολιτικούς κολοτούρις, θα επικεντρωθούν μέσα της διενέργειας: τριγενής στην επικοροποίηση όλων αιώνων των ίδιων και το ρόλο που μπο-



Την επορεύτηκαν εργούμενοι ο πρόεδρος της ΔΟΑ κ. Νίκος Φιλαρέτος



Με την συμμετοχή 215 συνέδρων από 99 συνολικά χώρες, ξεκίνησε το Σάββατο το απόγευμα στο συνεδριακό κέντρο της ΔΟΑ, στην Αρχαία Ολυμπία, η 45η Διεθνής Σύνοδος για νέους μετέχοντες.

ρούν αυτές να διαδραματίσουν στην εποικία μας.  
Η επόμενη έναρξη των εργασιών της σύνοδου πραγματοποιήθηκε με την καθηρωτήν ανάρτηση του Ολυμπιακού Ιδρύματος. Έκ μέρους της διορταστικής Αρχαίας Ολυμπίας, ο υπουργός Αθλητισμού και Θεραπείας κ. Γιάννης Δαβός, αναφέρθηκε στην κρίση που διέρκειται στην εποικία μας: ακούμα και ο Ολυμπιακός Ιδρύμας, επιμερισμόντας εργασίες στην πόλη της Αρχαίας Ολυμπίας εξόπλωντει ακόμα και απότολει κάτια τη δι-

πικοτό, ένα γεγονός, στο οποίο θα πρέπει να επικεντρωθεί η Ολυμπιακή Οικογένεια και να αναδειχθεί ο υπόλοιπος προτεραιότητας, προκερδούμενος μια εκτενή ανανεώρη στην ιστορία την Ολυμπιακών Αρώνων κατά την προσποτασία.

Στην συνέπεια στο διάρμα

το πρόεδρο της ΤΕΦΑΑ του Πανεπιστημίου Θεοφαλούκης κ. Νίκος Μητραρίδης, ο οποίος πραγματεύθηκε μια εκτενή ανανεώρη στην ιστορία την Ολυμπιακών Αρώνων κατά την προσποτασία.

Στην συνέπεια άλλοι οι μετέχοντες κατεύθυνθηκαν

προς μετέλιτη ανέψευτη η κατάσταση

Νίκος Αιδαίος

Proti newspaper [Press Archive of the Pyrgos Library]

## Thanks

For the writing of the articles ‘Ancient Olympia: The place and the people’ and ‘The “Small Olympic Village”: The premises of the International Olympic Academy’, two months of on-the-spot research were carried out at Ancient Olympia for the collection of archive material and the holding of interviews in summer 2005. This research, completed in the summer of 2006, would not have been realised in so short a time without the help of Thourkydidas Kosmopoulos, former Deputy Mayor, for 20 years councillor of the Municipality of Ancient Olympia, and owner of the ‘Diana’ camping-site. I would also like to thank him for making available to me the free use of his personal archive, and for the two interviews which I had with him. Special thanks also go to Panayotis Skouras, for making available an excellent study of the utilisation of tourist resources of the development association for the Ancient Olympia area, from which we have drawn important data; to the former Mayor of Olympia Spyros Photeinos for making available part of his archive and to Apostolis Kosmopoulos, owner of the ‘Orpheas’ gallery, Yorgos Acheimastos and Yorgos Kosmopoulos, for supplying photographic material from their own archives.

Without doubt an important part of the material was obtained through interviews with influential figures in local government and the Olympia community. I would like to thank them all by name: Yannis Skouilarikis, former Mayor of Ancient Olympia; Yorgos Devves, former Mayor and Deputy Mayor; Sotiris Davetas, former Deputy Mayor; Xeni Arapoyannis, ephor of antiqui-

ties; Antonis Karambelas, Deputy Prefect; Panayotis Skouras, former General Secretary of the Region of Western Greece; Spyros Photeinos, former Mayor; Yorgos Kosmopoulos, former Mayor; Yorgos Aodonis, Mayor; Leonidas Varouxis, owner of the *Patris* newspaper and of the ORT radio and television station; Yorgos Acheimastos, President of the Traders’ Union; Nikos Kondylis, former Vice-President of the Floka Festival – teacher; Angelos Kabras, retired teacher at Olympia; Angelos Antonopoulos, actor; Christos Heliotis, trader; Nikos Karyotis, former President of the Commune of Floka and inspirer of the theatre of the same name; Themistoklis Hardavellas, hotelier; Yorgos Kosmopoulos, photographer, owner of the ‘Sokratis’ taverna; Yorgos Matzavinos, retired employee of the HOC, who worked on the premises as guard and labourer.

In conclusion, I would like to thank particularly the Associate Professor of Political Sciences at the University of the Peloponnese Takis Kafetzis for his assistance in drawing up the questionnaire for the interviews, Phani Karachaliou, Director of the Pyrgos Municipal Library and its staff for facilities provided for research into the press archives of the *Patris* newspaper and other local newspapers in its possession, Eleni Velisari, civil engineer with the Construction Service of the Municipality of Olympia for making available topographical plans of the settlement, and my friend Themis Laïnis, Librarian of the IOA, for permission to reproduce photographic material from the archive of the Library.

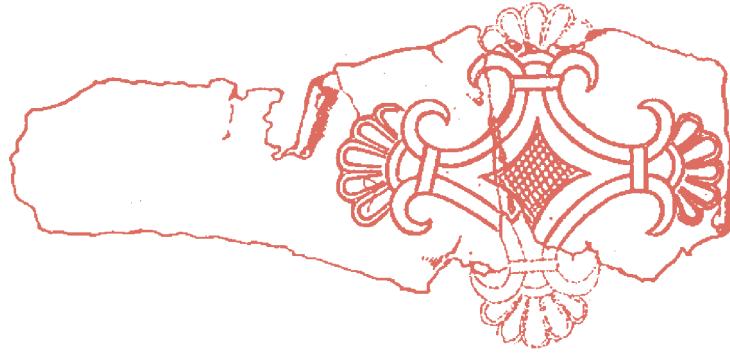




ROULA VATHI

## THE “OLYMPIC UNIVERSITY” OF THE IOA: LECTURERS AND LECTURES





## Introduction<sup>1</sup>

The main educational work of the International Olympic Academy is carried out by means of the sessions which it holds every year at Ancient Olympia, and the lecturers who are invited play a pre-eminent role in the success of these sessions. The lecturers of the IOA are usually something more than mere visitors who give a lecture and go away. They are invited not simply to give a lecture within the framework of a session of the IOA, but to pass on in a variety of ways their knowledge and experience by taking part in the discussion groups and by living together with the participants and associating with them. There are often those lecturers who become co-workers with the IOA by their constant attendance at sessions, part of its human resources and comrades in its task. It is also worth noting that the participation of the lecturers in the IOA sessions has always been without fee – although there have been certain claims made by lecturers, which, however, have not been accepted by the IOA. This is because, on the one hand, it is an inviolable principle of the Academy that lecturers should not be paid except to meet their travelling and accommodation expenses; and on the other, because the lecturers themselves have a sense of the honour done to them and their own value in contributing to Olympic education by handing on their knowledge and experience, and, moreover, in the place where the Olympic Games were born.

Given, then, the importance which the lecturers have for the Academy and the role which they take on

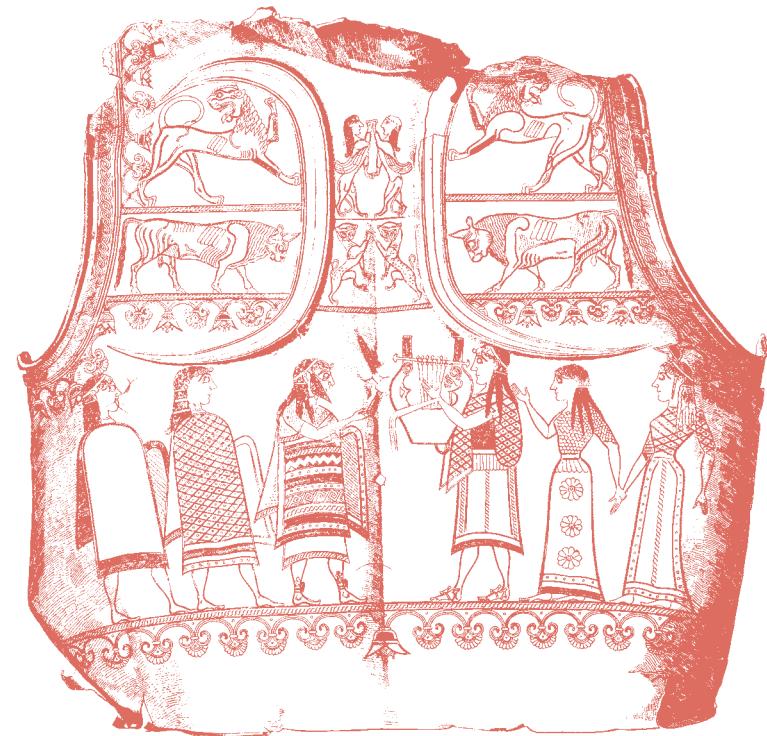
during the course of the sessions, various questions arise as to how they are chosen, by whom and on what criteria. However, over and above the importance which these individuals have in themselves, the observation of certain features, such as the subject of the lecture, the gender of the lecturer, their nationality or capacity in which they have been invited and the body which they represent, can lead to interesting conclusions and can, above all, reconstruct aspects of the history of the IOA. For this reason, after the collection of the bulky material,<sup>2</sup> there has been a codification of the subjects of the lectures and the identities of the lecturers for a better exploration, organisation and use of the evidence. The horizontal axis on which the whole arrangement of the material has been carried out has been the conventional division of the functioning of the Academy into decades, so that we can follow these features always in relation to the history of the IOA, its leadership at the time, and the broader developments in the Olympic movement.

---

2. Most of the features of the overall picture have been drawn from the Proceedings (Reports) of the International Sessions of the IOA and have been verified by combining them with data from the IOA Archive. In spite of the excellent planning of the sessions, sometimes, because of unforeseen events, certain lecturers have not attended at the last moment, sometimes participants or official guests may have been invited in the course of the session to speak briefly on some matter connected with their capacity; or sometimes lecturers may have given their speech, but its text has not survived, in which case there is some doubt –particularly in the early years– as to whether the talk was actually given, sometimes the archaeologists or directors of museums who give the guided tours are taken to have been lecturers, and often, if the proceedings of the sessions are not published, the verification of all this is based on details and in certain cases is erroneous. Furthermore, a part of the statistics is derived from the work of various officials of the IOA who at various times recorded statistics from the sessions under the guidance of the Dean of the IOA, Konstantinos Georgiadis.

---

1. In the completion of the present study an important role has been played by the personal testimonies of the former President of the IOA, Nikos Filaretos, the guidance of Professor Christina Koulouri, the advice of the Honorary Dean of the IOA, Professor Konstantinos Georgiadis, and of the archaeologist of the IOA, Vassiliki Tzachrista, and the help of the librarian Themis Lainis, to whom I would like to express my warmest thanks.



In the present study we have chosen to concern ourselves with the five basic categories of sessions of the IOA of an international character,<sup>3</sup> which on general lines are the following: (a) the Session for Young Participants – the so-called ‘main session’; (b) the Session for Educationists; (c) the Session for officials of the National Olympic Committees and National Olympic Academies; (d) the Seminar for Sports Journalists; and (e) the Olympic Studies Seminar for Postgraduate Students. Within these categories we shall encounter many small differentiations

as to the names of the sessions, variations and, from time to time, unifications of some of these, without, however, their basic thematic axis being lost. Of these five categories, four have been examined in conjunction through a single consolidated list of lectures, whereas the Postgraduate Seminar is examined separately, since it has a character different from the rest of the IOA sessions: The IOA determines the basic guidelines of subject-matter and the university teachers involved define themselves the special subjects in accordance with their academic interests.

---

3. If a quick review is made of the work and gatherings of the IOA, the breadth and variety of its activities, particularly in certain periods, are easily appreciated, and for this reason it was necessary to delineate the field of the research. In the present study, then, we have chosen to concern ourselves only with the international sessions of the IOA, which were addressed to a wider and more varied public and which had a continuity in time, and with those which were organised exclusively by the IOA, so that we can follow its activity in depth of time and draw conclusions from a conjunction of information. That is to say, we have not included conferences, symposia, and sessions, international or otherwise, which may have taken place on the IOA premises at Ancient Olympia, but which were self-contained or short and jointly organised by the IOA and other agencies. By way of

indication, we would cite: The Session of Greek Educationists, the Session for Representatives and Officials of Olympic Committees of Arab States, International Conferences of Track Coaches, the Special Session of Educationists of the USA, International Seminars for Coaches, International Seminars of the International Physical Education Federation, Seminars for School Students, International Seminars for Jurists, for Sports Physicians, etc. Nor have we taken into account the large numbers of visits of various institutions to the premises at Ancient Olympia, so that they could organise their events autonomously there without the involvement of the IOA; these are National Olympic Academies, federations, schools, various organisations, bodies, etc. which use the facilities of Ancient Olympia to hold their conferences or simply for their sessions.

## 'Organisation', 'coming of age' and self-determination

The work of the IOA was in the early years of its operation carried out in the open air; the talks were given in the shade of the trees and the participants slept in tents. In the 1960s, the first critical and decisive decade for the physiognomy of the IOA, things were in flux and it was then that most efforts were made to have the character of the newly-constituted foundation crystallised. In 1964 a tradition was established which has been continued to the present day: this was the first time that the opening ceremony for the Session for Young Participants took place on the Pnyx hill, just below the Acropolis in Athens, lending a clear symbolism and particular gravity to this ceremony. In this decade, three presidents alternated in the Ephoria of the IOA: Ioannis Ketseas (1961-1965), Theodosios Papathanasiadis (1965-1966) and Prince George of Hannover (1966-1969), while the pioneers of its foundation, Carl Diem (1962), and Ioannis Ketseas (1965), died.

The first and longest-lived session of the IOA (1961-the present) is the Session for Young Participants, which has a clear-cut and cohesive character. It is the chief and best-attended event of the IOA, an integral part of it and the session through which essentially the character of the IOA has been formed. This session is addressed to young people from all over the world who are selected by the National Olympic Committees or Academies on strict criteria to receive advanced education on Olympic matters. The duration of the session is approximately two weeks in total, during which, apart from the lectures, discussion groups, educational trips, guided tours, art workshops, sports activities and social events are held, with the presentation of their individual cultural features by the participants.

As is eloquently stated in the foreword to the *Proceedings of the 11th Session* of 1971: "The first decade of the IOA's activities was the period of organisation and coming of age. It was the laborious period of the laying of foundations and building [...] combined the enthusiasm of pioneers to the dedication of missionaries, to the study and research efforts of inspired searchers and to the difficulties and frustration of ignorants (sic). Nevertheless, work goes on and at the end of the first decade it has been proved that the aims for which the Academy was founded have been fulfilled. The way has now been opened and paved for the new decade...".<sup>4</sup>

---

4. "Foreword", probably delivered by O. Szymczek, *Report*

For 12 years, from 1961 to 1973, the years of self-determination and struggle for survival for the IOA, the International Session for Young Participants was the IOA's only international event. Of course, from 1969 onwards the IOA also hosted other events, for which, however, either it did not itself have the main responsibility or these were self-contained and without any sequel. In the 1970s, the IOA expanded its activities and significantly broadened the public to which it addressed itself.

More specifically, in 1970, under the Presidency of Epameinondas Petralias (1970-1974), a new session at national level was inaugurated, addressed to Greek educationists. This was the first step towards the organisation, just three years later, in 1973, of a new session which was also addressed to educationists, but at an international level this time.<sup>5</sup> This new session demonstrated the orientation of the IOA towards the world of education, as it realised that the dissemination of Olympism on a large scale and on sound bases could only be ensured through the in-service training of teachers, who would channel their knowledge to their pupils and students.<sup>6</sup> In addition, in 1978, a session was held for the first time for officials of National Olympic Committees and International Federations for the chief, that is, sports executives from around the world.

In the second decade of the IOA's operation, again

---

*on the 11th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 16th July-2nd August 1971, Athens, HOC, 1971, 11-12.*

5. Otto Szymczek, speaking of the planning of the forthcoming sessions at the meeting of the Commission of the IOC for the IOA on 2 May 1973, attributed the institution of the International Session for Educationists to the success of the Sessions for Greek Educationists. See IOC, *Minutes of the Commission for the International Olympic Academy, Lausanne, 2nd May 1973, 3: IOA Archive, K696.*

6. Initially, teachers, chiefly in secondary education, were invited to this session –of all disciplines apart from physical education– given that this specialisation could participate in the Session for Young Participants, with a view to Olympism being spread into areas of education which do not necessarily have any connection with physical education but can incorporate Olympism as a philosophical theory and a pedagogic teaching. On this matter, see "Foreword", IOA, *Report on the International Sessions for Educationists, Ancient Olympia 1973-1977-1979, Athens, HOC, 1980, 11-12.* Subsequently, however, it became the practice for the educationists who took part in the session to be drawn for the most part from the field of physical education.

three men alternated in the office of President: apart from Epameinondas Petralias, Athanasios Tzartzanos (1974-1977) and Nikolaos Nissiotis (1977-1986). When Professor Nikolaos Nissiotis took over the presidency in 1977, a more theoretical, philosophical and, generally, humanitarian orientation was given to the work of the IOA. Furthermore, from the beginning of the 1970s and with the progress of the building works, the lecturers started to stay on the premises, an arrangement which ensured the development of closer bonds between lecturers and participants, something on which the IOA had always been keen.

During the IOA's third decade of operation, three basic new events were introduced into its educational programme, the International Session for Directors of National Olympic Academies, the International Seminar for Sports Journalists, and the session addressed to directors of higher institutions of Physical Education.

More specifically, 1986 was a year of innovations; faced with the new facts of the foundation of the first National Olympic Academies,<sup>7</sup> the IOA held at that time the first Session for those responsible for National Olympic Academies within the context of the 7th International Session for Educationists. During the course of this session, the representatives of the National Olympic Academies gave an account of the educational activities, the Olympic programmes and the aims of their Academies. This session was an international forum for the exchange of views between representatives of the Academies, the encouragement of their collaboration, and the promotion of the setting up of more throughout the world.

The dominating new factor in this decade was the distinct increase in the number of National Olympic Academies all over the world, a fact which redetermined the aims and orientation of the IOA.<sup>8</sup> Already under the presidency of Nikolaos Nissiotis strong interest had developed, while from the second half of the 1980s, when Nikos Filaretos –the longest-serving President of the IOA (late 1986-1992 and 1997-2005)<sup>9</sup>– took over the presidency, the promotion of the foundation and of the work of the National Olympic Academies was one of the primary aims of the IOA.

In 1986, also for the first time, a seminar was orga-

nised that was addressed to sports journalists, initially each year and then every two years.<sup>10</sup> This initiative of the IOA belongs within its firm intention of extending its activities into as many areas as possible, with a view to the broader dissemination of the Olympic ideal.<sup>11</sup> In the same year, within the framework of the Session for Educationists, and alternating with it, a session was started addressed to directors of physical education institutes in an attempt to provide senior educational executives with in-service training in Olympic matters. Until 1990, the two sessions co-existed, but from 1993, they were amalgamated into a joint session now addressed, on the one hand, to those responsible for higher institutes of physical education, and, on the other, to educationists in general. This session has been held up to the present every two years.

Regardless of the sessions, under the presidency of Nikos Filaretos the archives of the HOC and the IOA were organised and intense publishing activity was developed.<sup>12</sup> Free discussion after each speech was introduced, as well as the selection of the co-ordinators of the discussion from among the participants themselves. The co-ordinators undertake the co-ordination of the discussion groups and the organisation of the workshops, the art events and the social evenings.

This was the period when the Academy focused its attention on higher education and the National Olympic Academies. In 1992, to the Session for the Officials of the National Olympic Committees and International Federations were added, within the framework of a joint session, the directors of the National Olympic Academies, in an effort to achieve closer rapprochement and collaboration between these bodies. Faced, moreover, with the fact of the constant founding of National Olympic Academies, the co-existence of the Session for the Presidents of National Olympic Academies with the joint session was decided upon,<sup>13</sup> and that they should

7. Up to 1986, not counting that year itself, 28 National Olympic Academies had been founded, of which 21 were set up in the 1980s.

8. Typical is the interest of the IOC Commission for the IOA. See, for example, IOC, *Minutes of the Commission for the International Olympic Academy*, Athens, 4th July 1986, item 9: IOA Archive, K698.

9. Freddy Serpieris was President of the IOA between 1993 and 1996.

10. In 1999, the 10th Seminar for Sports Journalists was held; thereafter it has been temporarily suspended.

11. O. Szymczek, "Objectives, aims and achievements of the International Olympic Academy", *Report on the 21st Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 5th-20th July 1981*, Athens, HOC, 1982, 78.

12. Christina Koulouri (edition-introduction), *Athens, Olympic city 1896-1906*, Athens, IOA, 2004; eadem (edition-introduction), *Archives and History of the Hellenic Olympic Committee*, Athens, IOA, 2002; Vassiliki Tzachrista, *Modern Olympic Games Museum. The history of the Olympic Games reflected in the exhibits of the Museum at Ancient Olympia*, Heraklion, HOC/IOA, 2000.

13. See E. Skiadas – K. Georgiadis, *40 χρόνια Διεθνής Ολυμπιακή Ακαδημία* [40 years International Olympic Academy], Athens, «Athens 2004», 2002, 120-121.



B. Zauli, lecturer at the 3rd International Session of the IOA (1963). On the right: I. Ketseas, X. Messinezis, O. Szymiczek, Cl. Palaeologos, E. Fried, and J. Recla [IOA Archive, K1.52]



Participants in the 1st International Session of the IOA (1961) in the open-air amphitheatre [IOA Archive, K1.3]



Carl Diem gives a lecture at the 1st International Session of the IOA (1961); on his right is the Session's Director of Studies, Cl. Palaeologos. In the background, the Alpheios river and the ancient stadium [IOA Archive, K1.2]

be held alternatively; the difference, however, being that now the International Federations have the right to take part in the joint session, but are no longer referred to in its title.

In 1993, an International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students was held for the first time, thus demonstrating the intention of the IOA to extend its activity into the field of higher education and to approach young scholars to whom the opportunity is offered of attending seminar courses of an aca-

demic level taught by recognised university teachers from all over the world.<sup>14</sup>

Finally, in 2007, after a ten-year interval, the Session for Sports Journalists was held once more while the Session for Olympic Medallists was inaugurated.

14. In the specific unit, a brief profile of each category of sessions is given, so that the analysis of the relevant features can be better followed. For a more comprehensive description and picture of the International Sessions of the IOA, see Skiadas – Georgiadis, op. cit., 97-133.



X. Messinezis and R. Frost give a lecture. On their right, other lecturers at the 5th International Session of the IOA (1965), among whom Cl. Palaeologos, Sara Jernigan, J. Recla, O. Szymiczek can be seen, together with Liselott Diem (sixth from the left), H. Pouret (eighth from the left), and J. Durry (standing) [IOA Archive, K2.50]



Works of the 49th International Session for Young Participants (2009) [IOA Archive, unclassified]



Nikolaos Nissiotis, President of the IOA (1986)  
[IOA Archive, K50.89]

## Enduring and topical issues of the sessions

The issues of the sessions of each year centre on a first level on Olympism, the history of the Olympic Games and the ideas of Pierre de Coubertin and, on a second, on a special subject, on the various aspects of which each session endeavours to throw light, depending upon its style and the public to which it is addressed.<sup>15</sup> Apart from the lectures on the main and the special subject, short presentations, independent of the central topic of the particular session, are also given by Olympic medalists, representatives of Organising Committees for the Olympic Games, etc.

The basic question which arises in connection with the choice of the special subjects of the sessions is to what extent this selection is related to, affected by and dependent upon the current situation, domestic or international, in sport and politics. In other words, does the IOA listen to the concerns of the time, does it go along with them, or does it barricade itself behind stereotyped issues? Does it make use of the stimuli which it receives from all over the world or does it distance itself from the current reality in order to safeguard the Olympic ideal and keep it untouched by external problems? And in all this process, to what extent is it affected by the line of the IOC, by its options and priorities?

The first Session for Young Participants, held in 1961, had as its main subject a technical issue, in conjunction always with Olympism: 'Olympism and Track and Field Coaching'. The next year, the subject-matter of the session was multifarious and included antiquity, the ideas of Coubertin, the modern Olympic Games, and the psychology of athletes. It attempted to cover many areas, betraying a thirst for knowledge, for research, or perhaps also an inability to set a clear-cut subject.

A determining factor in the choice of subject-matter for the sessions was the undertaking of the presidency of the IOA in 1977 by an important university teacher of the Philosophy of Religion in the Theology Faculty of the University of Athens, Nikolaos Nissiotis, whose influence generally on the character and orientation of the IOA was apparent from the very beginning of his presidency; his term of office coincided with the undertaking

15. The Postgraduate Seminar always has the same subject as the Session for Young Participants. More general, the special subject of the Session for Young Participants is of particular weight and importance, since the session is addressed to a broad public of young people, while the rest of the sessions are addressed to a specialist audience and, in the nature of things, have a more restricted range of subject-matter.

of the presidency of the IOC Commission for the IOA by Mohamed Mzali (1977-1987), a high-ranking sport executive as well as a prominent political figure in Tunisia who had studied philosophy and had a profound faith in the value of sport as a means of education. Until 1977, the special subjects of the sessions centred on the history of the Olympic Games or the problems of the modern Olympic movement. As early as 1978, 'Olympic Games in contemporary society' was set as the special topic for the Session for Young Participants, while in the year immediately following the special subject of the session was 'Olympism and Civilisation',<sup>16</sup> whereas in 1982 the subject was 'The ethics of the Olympic athlete'. Nikolaos Nissiotis gave priority to subjects which fell more within the fields of philosophy, sociology and the humanities more generally and brought out mainly the philosophical dimension of Olympism.

The fact that the IOA, in spite of being an international institution, has its headquarters in Greece raises a question as to how far its Greek character, and, more specifically, the various domestic problems or the international claims of Greece in the world of sport have influenced the functioning of the IOA and, by extension, the subject-matter of its sessions. For example, the International Session for Young Participants of the year 1974 could not be held because of the imminent fall of the seven-year dictatorship in Greece.<sup>17</sup> In spite of this, it was decided that the subject and the programme which had been set for the 1974 Session would hold good for the session of the following year. The reasons were mainly practical, since the speeches had already been translated and the planning had already been carried out, but it is also clear that the aim was that the political situation in Greece should affect the functioning of the IOA as little as possible. Furthermore, when, in 1976 and 1980, Greece raised the question of the Olympic Games being held permanently in their birthplace, no attempt was made to exert pressure or create a favourable climate

16. This subject, to be accurate, was proposed by Mohamed Mzali, see IOC, *Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission for the International Olympic Academy*, Ancient Olympia, 6th July 1978, 2-3: IOA Archive, K698.

17. In fact, the participants had already arrived in Athens when, at midday on 20 July 1974, all activity came to a halt because of general mobilisation in Greece in view of the Turkish invasion in Cyprus. The participants remained in Athens for seven days, until they were able to travel back to their own countries. See *Minutes of the 2nd Session of the Ephoria of the IOA* (7.10.1974): IOA Archive, K693. In spite of this, the numbering of the sessions was not interrupted and the cancelled Session of 1974 is the 14th.

by means of the Academy's Sessions.<sup>18</sup> Even when Greece's candidacy for undertaking the Olympic Games of 1996 was being judged, the Ephoria of the IOA decided, a little before the session of the IOC members in Tokyo and the issuing of the decision on the matter, to observe a discreet stance and to set as a special subject for the Session for Young Participants an unconnected, non-propagandist topic, although, admittedly, the temptation at that particular moment was great.<sup>19</sup>

During the period after the restoration of democracy, and more specifically in 1977, the 'Problems of Modern Olympism' was set as the special subject for the Session for Young Participants. This was the first time that the Academy concerned itself openly with the thinking on the problems of the modern Olympic movement, thus daring to touch upon more topical, as well as political, issues. This was the period at which Greece was again under a democratic regime, after the seven years of the dictatorship, while the IOC Commission for the IOA encouraged the IOA in the direction of more topical subjects.<sup>20</sup>

The aim of the IOA was to remain unaffected by unwelcome events which took place during the Olympic Games and to safeguard the Olympic ideal by holding its

events without interruption, to a point which sometimes created the impression of its 'silence' in the face of important events –at the level, chiefly, of the subject-matter of the Session— such as the terrorist attack of Palestinians on the Israeli delegation to the Olympic Games in Munich in 1972. Of course, in 1972 Greece was still under a dictatorship and perhaps the subject of terrorism was still a particularly delicate one to be aired within the context of a session of the IOA, but it continued to be the constant practice of the IOA not to involve itself in the problems of the times. The question was, however, touched upon at the level of individual addresses,<sup>21</sup> but was not chosen as a special subject for a session, at least until 1983, when the special topic for the Session for Young Participants was 'Olympism against violence'.

Similarly, when at the Olympic Games of Moscow in 1980 and of Los Angeles in 1984 the Olympic movement was put to the test by the boycott of many states, the IOA chose and managed not to be involved in the Cold War climate of the time.<sup>22</sup> It is typical, moreover, that the special subjects at the Sessions for Young Participants both in 1981 and in 1985 centred upon Olympism and its contribution to international understanding. In a discreet way, on the one hand, the IOA attempted to serve as a counterweight to intransigent and pointless behaviours,<sup>23</sup> and, on the other, took care that both sides should be represented in the ranks of the lecturers during this controversial period, as it promoted the participation of lecturers from the Soviet Union during the 1980s.

It is demonstrated that the IOA perceived it as its mission to safeguard Olympic principles without becoming involved in domestic and international confrontations. Within the same framework, the special subject for the 33rd International Session for Young Participants in 1993 was: 'The different applications of Olympism in the major cultural zones of the world', a topic obviously influenced by the historic changes brought about by the fall of socialism in practice in Europe,<sup>24</sup> but with the necessary balances always being kept. The same tactics of

18. Nikolaos Nissiotis contented himself, only at the end of his address on the "Cultural value of Olympism and the future of the Olympic Games", with describing in brief the time scale and the logic of the proposal which had been lodged for the first time in 1976 and then again in 1980 by the then Prime Minister of Greece, Konstantinos Karamanlis, on the permanent holding of the Games on neutral soil in the Western Peloponnese by the IOC; in any event, he was a member of the four-member committee appointed by the IOC to study the proposal: N. Nissiotis, "The cultural value of Olympism and the future of the Olympic Games", *Report on the 21st Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 5th-20th July 1981*, Athens, HOC, 1982, 101-103. On the proposal itself and its political content, see A. Kitroeff, *Wrestling with the Ancients. Modern Greek Identity and the Olympics*, New York, Greekworks.com, 2004, 141-159, with the relevant bibliography, and idem, "Modern Greece and the Olympics: Politics and Sport", *Report on the 45th International Session for Young Participants of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 27th July-11th August 2005*, Athens, IOA/IOC, 2006, 213-223.

19. In spite of the proposals of members of the Ephoria on the exertion of pressure by means of the special subject of the session – which could have been the suggested "Giantism of the Olympic Games" – at the forthcoming meeting in Tokyo, the view finally prevailed that the topic should be distanced and non-provocative. See *Minutes of the 2nd Session of the Ephoria of the IOA* (16.3.1989): IOA Archive. See also IOC, *Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission for the International Olympic Academy*, Athens, 28th June 1989, 4: IOA Archive, K700.

20. See IOC, *Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission for the International Olympic Academy*, Lausanne, 1st December 1976, 1-2: IOA Archive, K697.

21. See, for example, the speech by W. Tröger, "The Olympic Games of Munich", *Report on the 13th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 13th-29th July 1973*, Athens, HOC, 1973, 113-122, esp. 116-119. Tröger refers to the terrorist strike against Israel.

22. Typical of this is the extract from the "Foreword" in the *Report on the 20th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 15th June-1st July 1980*, Athens, HOC, [1981], 11.

23. See N. Müller, *International Olympic Academy (IOA). Thirty-eight years of lectures 1961-1998*, Lausanne, IOC, 1998, 15.

24. Ibid., 18.



Lecturers at the 17th International Session for Young Participants (1977). In the centre: M. Mzali; on the left: W. Tröger, Nadia Lekarska, O. Szymczek, A. Csanadi; on the right: E. Petralias, Cl. Palaeologos, Nina Pappas, and P. Pilsl [IOA Archive, K4.67]



Participants in the 50th International Session For Young Participants (2010) [IOA Archive, unclassified]



discretion were also followed by the IOA on matters arising with its participants. When, for example, in 1975, a representative of the Olympic Committee of South Africa asked to attend the 15th International Session for Young Participants, in spite of the fact that the South Africa Olympic Committee had been expelled from the ranks of the IOC because of the racial discrimination regime, his request was granted.<sup>25</sup>

On the other hand, the choice of the special subject of the sessions of the IOA was frequently linked with explorations on the part of the IOC, with which the IOA went along on many issues, with the IOC Commission for the IOA as a channel of communication. For example, through the special subject of the 26th International Session for Young Participants in 1986 'Olympism and arts', there was, *inter alia*, a sounding out of the views of young people on the incorporation or not of art competitions into the programme of the Olympic Games.<sup>26</sup> The IOC –particularly under the presidency of Juan Antonio Samaranch– was keen to take the pulse of the mood and concerns of young people world-wide by means of IOA events. It is no accident, moreover, that the subject of the following year at the International Session for Young Participants was 'Youth and the future of Olympism'.<sup>27</sup>

Moreover, when in 1994 the 12th Olympic Congress was held in Paris within the context of the celebrations for the centenary since the foundation of the IOC, at the Olympic Congress of 1894 in Paris, the special subject of the 34th Session of the IOA for Young Participants was '100 years from the foundation of the IOC – Commitments of the International Olympic movement towards the modern society of the 21st century'. By means of the session at Ancient Olympia, many issues of the day were touched upon, with the basic thematic units of the forthcoming Olympic Congress in Paris as a point of reference,<sup>28</sup> a fact which demonstrates yet again the disposition of the two bodies to go hand-in-hand.

25. Similarly, the IOA did not succumb to pressure from the Chinese side not to accept representatives of the Olympic Committee of Taiwan at the same session. See IOC, *Minutes of the Joint Committee of the IOC Commission for the International Olympic Academy with the Ephoria of the International Olympic Academy*, Ancient Olympia, 23rd July 1975, 3-4: IOA Archive, K696.

26. See IOC, *Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission for the International Olympic Academy*, Athens, 4th July 1986, 4-5: IOA Archive, K698.

27. See IOC, *Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission for the International Olympic Academy*, Lausanne, 26th November 1985, 10-11: IOA Archive K698.

28. See "Foreword", *Report on the 34th Session of the*

In harmony with the scholarly explorations in the world of sport at an international level, the IOA set as a special subject for the 31th International Session for Young Participants in 1991 'Sport for all and the Olympic philosophy', while in 1990 the third international congress was held on the subject of 'Sport for all', under the auspices of the IOC.<sup>29</sup> More generally, however, if one looks at the special subjects for the Sessions for Young Participants from the late 1980s onwards, it will be seen that the IOA now dared to table current issues of the Olympic movement and to renew its programme. The following were successively set as special subjects: 'The Olympic movement after the Calgary and Seoul Games. The concept of the IOC on doping as a counterpoint of the Olympic spirit' (1989), 'Women in the Olympic movement' (1990) –with particular emphasis on high-ranking administrative positions– 'Commercialisation in sport and the Olympic Games' (1992) and so on. At this period, the Ephoria of the IOA concerned itself particularly with the need for a renewal of the teaching programme of the sessions through the participation of young lecturers and an approach to more topical issues, a need which was also pointed out by the IOC.<sup>30</sup> Furthermore, the IOC had in the past drawn attention to the more theoretical and not sufficiently practical orientation of the subjects and the work of the IOA.<sup>31</sup>

It can be seen, then, that the IOA had concerned itself with the issue of doping as early as 1989, making it the main subject of the Session for Young Participants. It was then just one year after the Seoul Olympic Games of 1988, when there had been a particularly large number

*International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 18th July-2nd August 1994*, Lausanne, IOC/IOA, 1995, 7-8.

29. See the Report of the President of the IOC Commission for the IOA, Mr N. Filaretos, to be presented at the 95th IOC Session in San Juan-Puerto Rico in August 1989: IOA Archive; IOC, *Minutes of the Meeting for the International Olympic Academy*, Athens, 28th June 1989, 3: IOA Archive, K700.

30. See the Report of Mr N. Filaretos on IOA to the IOC Executive Board, Lausanne 11/12/1987: IOA Archive, K699 and *Minutes of the 16th Session of the IOA Ephoria* (9.11.1987), 2-4: IOA Archive, K693, where it can be seen that the Executive Committee of the IOC speaks of the need for renewal in the educational programme of the IOA and proposes that more topical subjects should be dealt with.

31. See J. Powell, "Olympism and Science", *Report on the 24th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 4th-19th July 1984*, IOC in collaboration with O. Szymczek, Lausanne [1985], 223, while in his letter to the President of the IOA, Nikolaos Nissiotis, Lord Killanin proposed that there should be a balance between philosophical and practical subjects in the lectures. See IOC, *Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission for the International Olympic Academy*, Lausanne, 28th October 1978, 5 and 18: IOA Archive, K697.



The President of the IOC, J. A. Samaranch, delivers an address at an event to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the IOA.

On the left is O. Szymczek and on the right N. Nissiotis (1981) [IOA Archive, K6.74]



Epameinondas Petralias, President of the IOA (1970)

[IOA Archive, K3.5]





Carl Diem (1882-1962)

of cases of doping, and it was then that one of the blackest pages in the history of the Olympic Games was written with the revelation that the star athlete Ben Johnson, a gold medallist in the 100 metres, who, had, moreover, established a world record, had made use of anabolics. In him, for many, the romantic idea of sport which they had had collapsed; the problem of doping took on flesh and blood, and the need for substantive measures to be taken to deal with it now became imperative. The IOA once again showed itself a sensitive recipient of messages from what was going on in the Olympic movement. Moreover, yet again the IOA kept in step with the IOC: in his opening lecture at the 93rd Session of the IOC, its President spoke chiefly on the subject of doping.<sup>32</sup>

32. See IOC, *Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission*

Furthermore, in 1999, the contribution of the Press to the fight against anabolics was chosen as a special subject for the International Session for Sports Journalists. In February 1999, the first international conference on doping in sport had already been held in Lausanne. At that conference, it was decided to convene an independent international body which would carry on the fight against doping, and so in November of 1999, on the initiative of the IOC, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) was set up. A variation on the Olympic Oath, to include a commitment of the athletes to games free of doping was also decided upon at the same conference.<sup>33</sup>

*for the International Olympic Academy*, Athens, 30th June 1988,  
5: IOA Archive, K699.

33. See C. Manzur, "Olympic Games of Athens 2004: Ethical and Legal Parameters of Doping", *Report on the 45th Interna-*



Otto Szymczek,  
Dean of the IOA for nearly 30 years (1962-1990)

It seems, then, that there was an immediate response to the interest and mobilisation of the IOC over doping at a special Session of the IOA which was addressed to a special public consisting of sports journalists, with an influence on the world mass media.

On the same wavelength and with other agencies besides the IOC, the IOA set as a special subject for its 44th International Session for Young Participants 'Education through sport', in keeping with the decision of the European Parliament to name 2004 as the 'European Year of Education through Sport'.<sup>34</sup>

---

*tional Session for Young Participants of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 27th July-11th August 2005, Athens, IOA/IOC, 2006, 199-212.*

34. See the Decision no. 291/2003 of the European Parliament.

It hardly needs to be pointed out that the holding of the Olympic Games is in itself a stimulus for discussions within the circles of IOA sessions. In particular, the Olympic Games of Atlanta, Sydney and, of course, Athens were special subjects for the Sessions for Young Participants.<sup>35</sup> This was the period at which the Olympic Games had completed 100 years since their revival in 1896, Greece had failed to undertake the holding of them on this gala occasion, but the interest and passion of the Greeks for the Olympic Games had already flared up anew.

---

35. The special subject of the 36th International Session for Young Participants was "Athens 1896-Atlanta 1996", of the 41st it was "Olympic Games: An Overview of the Sydney Games and 'Athens 2004'", and of the 45th "The Olympic and Paralympic Games of Athens 2004".

## Lecturers and Lectures

### The number of lecturers

To begin with, the number of lecturers and the number of lectures, above all during the first, but also during the second decade of the IOA's life, do not coincide. Some of the lecturers, constant associates of the IOA, co-ordinate the discussion groups and undertake to deal with more than one subject, so that, for example, at the 3rd session, in 1963, 11 lecturers made 15 lectures in total, or at the 6th session in 1966, 21 lecturers delivered 24 lectures.

In the fluctuation of the number of lecturers at the sessions an important role has been played by the economic factor, which is so decisive that entire sessions can be postponed because of it. But what we observe is that at the Session for Young Participants, the number of lecturers is not directly affected by the financial affairs of the IOA.<sup>36</sup> This is the main and oldest session, which has been, particularly in the early decades, an absolute priority for the IOA. At this session, an increase or –particularly– a reduction in the number of lecturers is more a matter of conscious policy and priorities of the Ephoria. When, for example, in 1971 at the Session for Young Participants the number of lecturers reached the 24, whereas the next year the figure fell steeply to 16, this was a conscious policy of reducing the number of lectures on the part of the IOA. In practice, it proved that 24 lecturers were too many for a two-week stay of the participants at Olympia and that they did not leave enough time for the discussion groups, a fact pointed out by the participants to the organisers.<sup>37</sup> Furthermore, from the early 1970s the sessions of the IOA increased in number, a fact which obviously had its significance as regards the reduction of the number of lecturers, since the IOA needed to meet the expenses of more lecturers for various sessions each year.

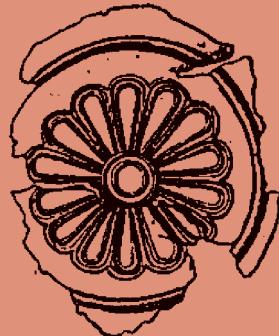
36. For example, in 1982, two sessions of IOA were postponed because of financial problems, see "Foreword", *Report on the 22nd Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 11th-25th July 1982*, Lausanne, IOC, 1985, 11. In spite of this, the number of lecturers at the Session for Young Participants does not show a substantive reduction. Naturally, in the fluctuation of the number of lecturers a role was also played by unpredictable factors, such as the non-attendance of certain lecturers or lack of timely notice by the IOA as to their replacement.

37. This was, more specifically, a proposal of the President of the Commission of the IOC for the IOA, Ivar Emil Vind, which was adopted. See CIO, *Procès-verbal de la réunion de la Commission pour l'Académie Internationale Olympique*, Lausanne le 12 septembre 1971, 4: IOA Archive, K695, and IOC, *Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission for the International Olympic Academy*, Lausanne, 3rd December 1971, 4: IOA Archive, K695.



We may say simply that the Olympic Academy which is to arise here will be at once a continuation of the ancient Academy – an Elis of today – and the realization of Coubertin's plans to lay a scholastic foundation for the Olympic idea.

Carl Diem, 1961



This first course was an experiment without precursor. It was planned without relevant experience, out of trust in the power of the idea. Looking back we can see with satisfaction that the success was greater than we could have expected. When 31 young people from 24 nations with different coloured skins and varying political and religious convictions live together for three weeks, partly in tents, in a completely unaccustomed climate without the slightest personal friction arising and – on the contrary – with mutual consideration characterizing their relations, this is in itself alone a proof of the power which the idea of sport has to transcend all differences and contradictions, and to bind and unite.

Franz Lotz, 1961





The President of the HOC and IOC Member Lambis Nikolaou awards the IOA's prize "Olympia" to the Honorary President of the IOC Juan Antonio Samaranch. Opening ceremony of the 44th International Session for Young Participants on the Pnyx Hill, 2004  
[IOA Archive, K49.48]

Furthermore, at the 26th Session for Young Participants in 1986, 24 lectures were delivered, whereas the following year at the same session, 17 lecturers took part; in this way the intention of the Ephoria under the presidency of Nikos Filaretos was expressed of reducing the number of lectures in order to give more importance and more time to the other activities of the participants, such as the art workshops.<sup>38</sup> Thus, from 1987 onwards, the number of lecturers at the Session for Young Participants was no more than 15 or 16. The restriction of the number of addresses became a conviction, in order that the structure of the session should be more free and liberal and give time to the participants for free discussion with the lecturers and for a critique on the part of the parti-

cipants on the basis of a more 'open' look at the Olympic movement.<sup>39</sup>

On the other hand, the special sessions of the IOA have distinctly fewer lecturers than the 'main' session, that is, the Session for Young Participants, because of their short duration. However, even then it is noticeable, for example, that, at the 3rd Joint International Session for Directors of National Olympic Academies and Members and Officials of National Olympic Committees in 1996, only a few lecturers were invited, so that more time could be devoted to the presentation of the work of the National Olympic Academies, whose number had perceptibly increased and whose activities were of particular interest.<sup>40</sup>

38. These workshops were held for the first time in 1986 on the proposal of Nikolaos Nissiotis and then were further reinforced under the presidency of Nikos Filaretos, so that today they are an integral part of the organisation of the Session for Young Participants, see *Minutes of the 16th Session of the IOA Ephoria* (16.12.1986): IOA Archive. See also N. Filaretos, "Foreword", *Report on the 26th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 3rd-18th July 1986*, Lausanne, IOC/HOC in collaboration with O. Szymczek, [1987], 11-12.

39. See *Minutes of the 18th Session of the IOA Ephoria* (15.12.1987), 1-2: IOA Archive, K693; Report of Mr N. Filaretos on the IOA to the IOC Executive Board, Lausanne 11.12.1987: IOA Archive, K699.

40. See "Foreword", *Report on the 36th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 19th June-2nd July 1996*, Lausanne, IOC/IOA, 1998, 12.



中国奥林匹克委员会

CHINESE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Mar 28 1984

ΔΙ.ΕΝ. Τ. Κ/ΥΠ. ΔΙΑKH  
ΑΚΑΔΗΜΙΑ

FREDDY SERPIERIS  
President  
International Olympic Academy  
4, Kapsali ST.  
106 74 Athens  
Greece

Αρ.Ε. της 4754  
Ημερ. Παροχής (29.3.84)

Re:3rd International Session for Young Participants

Dear Sir,

We have the pleasure to inform you that Chinese Olympic Committee will send the following two (2) delegates for the captioned Session:

Name	Sex	Date of Birth	Language
WEI Daishun	Male	Oct.11 1971	French
WANG Nan	Female	Aug.2 1963	English

Please find enclosed herewith their entry forms and the photos.  
Travel details will be informed as soon as confirmed.

Thank you for your kind attention to the above.

With best regards,



Chinese Olympic Committee

Address: 9 Tiyuguan East  
Beijing 100071  
People's Republic of China

Tel: 010-37701000  
Fax: 22223 CHOC CN  
Telex: 117015888

[IOA Archive, K581]



COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIQUE

CHÂTEAU DE VILL. 1007 LAUSANNE, SUISSE  
P. DE SEVRES 1007 LAUSANNE  
SWISS UNION DE BRÈVES SUISSES CH. POST 1012 LAUSANNE

Monsieur Otto SZYMIEZ  
Recteur  
Académie Internationale Olympique  
4, rue Kapsali  
ATHENES 106.74  
Grèce

Lausanne, le 27 mars 1985  
Réf. No. 4002 /85

Objet : Document concernant les académies nationales olympiques

Cher Monsieur Otto,

Votre lettre du 14 mars 1985 m'est bien parvenue et je vous en remercie.

\* Comme vous pourrez le constater dans le procès-verbal ci-joint de la réunion de la commission pour l'A.I.O., tenue à Lausanne le 7 janvier 1985, votre document intitulé "L'œuvre et le programme d'enseignement des académies nationales olympiques" n'a pas, lors de son étude, soulevé d'objection de la part des membres présents. De plus, les membres ne m'ont pas encore envoyé leurs éventuelles remarques à cet égard.

En accord avec M. Mzali, Président de la commission pour l'A.I.O., je suggère donc que l'Académie Internationale Olympique adresse d'ores et déjà aux académies nationales olympiques votre document accompagné de la liste corrigée des conférenciers.

\* Par ailleurs, c'est avec plaisir que je vous adresse ci-joint trois exemplaires du Répertoire 1985.

Veuillez croire, Cher Monsieur, en l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

*amis*

*lucy*  
Monique BERLIOUX

Directeur

\*P.J.

[IOA Archive, K713]



Certificate of participation at the 11th Session  
of the IOA, 1971 [IOA Archive, K402a]



Certificate of participation at the 14th Session  
of the IOA, 1984 [IOA Archive, K402a]

**TABLE 1**  
**Number of lecturers per year by session**

YEAR	SESSION FOR YP	SESSION FOR EDUC.	SESSION FOR IPE	JOINT SESSION FOR EDUC. & IPE	SESSION FOR NOCS & IFS	SESSION FOR NOAS	JOINT SESSION FOR NOAS, NOCS & IFS	SEMINAR FOR SJ	SESSION FOR OL. MED.
1961	11								
1962	9 (12)								
1963	11 (15)								
1964	17 (19)								
1965	13 (16)								
1966	21 (24)								
1967	15								
1968	18 (19)								
1969	21 (23)								
1970	22 (24)								
1971	24								
1972	16 (17)								
1973	18 (19)	11							
1974	—								
1975	19 (20)								
1976	18								
1977	16	9							
1978	19 (20)				9				
1979	17	10				14			
1980	15	10							
1981	19				7				
1982	17 (18)	9							
1983	18				10				

NOTE: Titles of sessions in full:

- *Session for YP*: International Session for Young Participants

- *Session for Educ.*: International Session for Educationists

- *Session for IPE*: International Session for Directors of Higher Institutes of Physical Education

- *Joint Session for Educ. & IPE*: Joint International Session for Educationists and Responsibles/Staff of Higher Institutes of Physical Education

- *Session for NOCs & IFs*: International Session for Members and Staff of National Olympic Committees and International Federations

- *Session for NOAs*: International Session for Directors of National Olympic Academies

- *Joint Session for NOAs, NOCs & IFs*: Joint International Session for Directors of National Olympic Academies, Members and Staff of National Olympic Committees and International Federations

Today, 'International Federations' have been omitted from the title of the Session, but they retain the right of participation in it.

- *Seminar for SJ*: International Seminar for Sports Journalists.

- *Session for Ol. Med.*: International Session for Olympic Medallists.

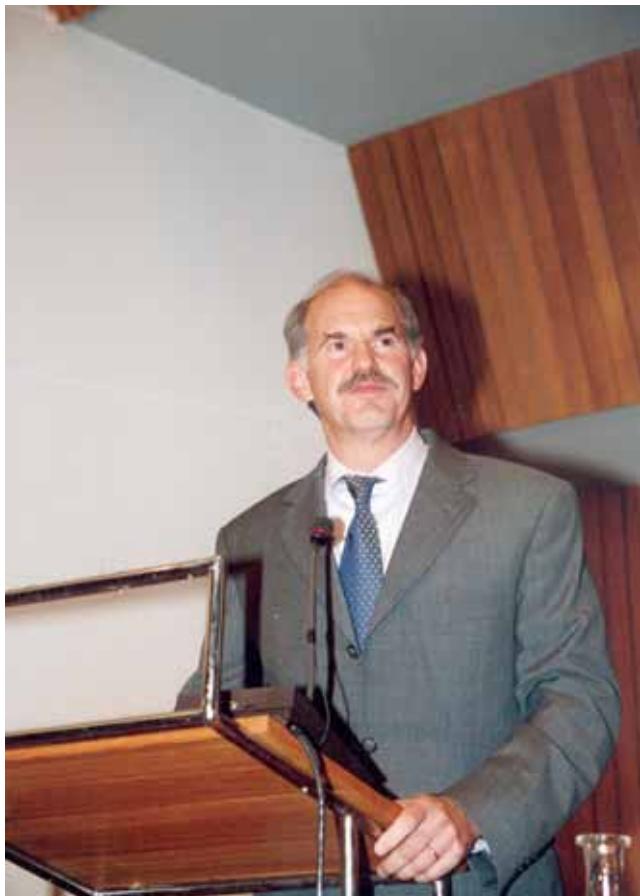
- On tables 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6, the number of lectures figures in a parenthesis next to the number of lecturers because the two numbers are not identical.

**TABLE 1 (continued)**  
**Number of lecturers per year by session**

YEAR	SESSION FOR YP	SESSION FOR EDUC.	SESSION FOR IPE	JOINT SESSION FOR EDUC. & IPE	SESSION FOR NOCS & IFS	SESSION FOR NOAS	JOINT SESSION FOR NOAS, NOCS & IFS	SEMINAR FOR SJ	SESSION FOR OL. MED.
1984	16	9							
1985	19				8				
1986	24	17	10			1st Resp. of NOAs & 7th of Educ.		3	
1987	17				8			2	
1988	15	6	10			7		6	
1989	15				6			6	
1990	14	10	7			5		6	
1991	14				7			6	
1992	15					10			
1993	14			10				5	
1994	14					11			
1995	11			11				6	
1996	13					6			
1997	16			9				6	
1998	16					8			
1999	14			8		5		5	
2000	16					8			
2001	14 (13)			9		8			
2002	12					13			
2003	14			8		9			
2004	12					7			
2005	15				6				
2006	13			10			2		
2007	14				10			4(5)	7(6)
2008	10			8			8		
2009	10				10			5	5
2010	11					7			

NOTE: The 1st International Session for those Responsible for National Olympic Academies was held within the framework of the 7th International Session for Educationists.

At the 8th Joint International Session for Presidents or Directors of National Olympic Academies and Officials of National Olympic Committees (2006), only two lectures were delivered as the Session's main work focused on the 32 presentations by Olympic Academies and Committees of their Olympic education activities.



George Papandreou, the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs at the time and Vice-President of the International Olympic Truce Foundation, delivers a lecture during the 41st International Session for Young Participants (2001)

[IOA Archive, K44.206]

were put into effect in 1971,<sup>41</sup> it is specifically laid down that the proposal of the annual educational planning of the IOA to the Ephoria and the drafting of the educational programme for each session are among the competences of the Dean. Thus it is by the Dean of the day that, following a dialogue, the lecturers who are most suitable in the view of the members of the Ephoria are chosen. When the list of lecturers has been finalised and approved by the Ephoria, an official invitation to take part in the particular session is addressed to each speaker on the part of the IOA.

In the past, the list of lecturers and subjects of the lectures was submitted for confirmation to the Plenum of the HOC and the IOC Commission for the IOA.<sup>42</sup> The Ephoria was responsible for the proposal and the Hellenic Olympic Committee for the final official confirmation; while, within the framework of the IOC Commission for the IOA, which met twice a year, a first planning of the sessions which were to be held in the following year took place, on the basis of the proposals of the Ephoria, as well as a report on the sessions of the preceding year. The President and the Dean discussed with the members of the IOC Commission for the IOA the general guidelines for the forthcoming session, that is, the dates, the programme, the special subject, the lecturers etc., so that the IOA could always operate in close collaboration with the IOC.

Later, however, after the amalgamation of the IOC Commission for the IOA with the IOC Commission for Culture and Olympic Education, in 2000, and the conversion of the IOA into a private law legal person supervised by the Ministry of Culture, in 2003,<sup>43</sup> the planning

## Choosing the lecturers

The question of the selection of lecturers and lectures is of primary importance for the IOA, since the structure of its sessions rests to a large degree, as has been explained above, on individuals. For this reason, the Academy's chief concern has always been to obtain, on the one hand, lecturers of high scholarly prestige, and, on the other, lecturers who could contribute in a variety of ways to the functioning of the IOA; the attempt is made to achieve this through a careful process of selection and joint assessment of specific criteria and factors.

The academic head of the IOA is the Dean for the time being. The Dean, in collaboration with the President, submits to the Ephoria of the IOA, at the beginning of the planning of each year's sessions, a list of the proposed topics for lectures and the proposed lecturers. In Article 4 of the operating regulations of the IOA, which

41. The Regulations of the International Olympic Academy were drawn up in 1971 and annexed to the *Minutes of the 43rd Session of the IOA Ephoria* (12.01.1971): IOA Archive. Before that there were Provisional Regulations which described the main functions of the Academy; see "Provisional Regulations of the International Olympic Academy", *Report on 2nd Summer Session of the International Olympic Academy, 1962*, Athens, [HOC], 1962, 177-183 (also in French).

42. According to Nikolaos Nissiotis, President of the IOA, "the Ephoria reports to two authorities, the Hellenic Olympic Committee and the IOC Commission for the IOA", see *Minutes of the 1st Session of the IOA Ephoria for 1985* (n.d.), 3: IOA Archive, K693.

43. The new Operating Regulations of the IOA are included in the Presidential Decree on the conversion of the IOA into a private law legal person, which was signed on 29 October 2003 and was published in the Government Gazette on 5 November 2003. In this the competences of the Dean are the same as in the earlier Regulations. See "Presidential Decree no. 302 – Organisation and Operating Regulations of the International Olympic Academy", *Government Gazette* 257, 5 November 2003, issue 1, 4490-4494, particularly 4492. The first Ephoria of the IOA as a private law legal person was formed on 5 April 2004.

of the sessions is no longer submitted to either of these two bodies, but is the exclusive responsibility of the Ephoria of the IOA, while the IOC Commission for Culture and Olympic Education is briefed on this matter.

The list of lecturers is drawn up, to begin with, in the light of the nature of the session and, by extension, the public to which it is addressed and then in view of its special subject, and other factors. Apart from the members of the Ephoria, the members of the IOC Commission for the IOA –at least during the first three decades—also proposed lecturers, as well as the permanent associates of the IOA, in a wish to support and enhance its educational programme. Furthermore, in the case of sessions addressed to a special public, such as the members and officials of the National Olympic Committees, there have been times when the IOA has sought the assistance of the Olympic Committees in finding lecturers.<sup>44</sup>

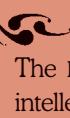
But on what criteria are the lecturers at each session chosen? According to an address of the then Dean, Otto Szymczek, given at the 4th Session for Young Participants in 1964, “a serious problem will always be that of the choice of the speakers who must be chosen from among the specialised scientists of international repute and who through their theoretical work have proved that they constitute inspired soldiers of the Olympic ideology”.<sup>45</sup> Clearly, then, a foremost consideration is the academic prestige of the lecturers, and they are looked for among those researchers who have served the Olympic movement by their work. Also chosen as lecturers are those who have taken part in previous sessions of the IOA and have engaged in a multiplicity of activities in the Olympic movement,<sup>46</sup> while there are also cases where some people, aware of the work of the IOA, propose themselves as lecturers on a specific topic at one of the sessions, in which case the Ephoria examines their request accordingly.

Also a criterion for the selection of lecturers are certain decisions taken from time to time by the Ephoria of the IOA. The choice of a speaker who represents a

44. See IOC, *Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission for the International Olympic Academy*, Ancient Olympia, 23rd July 1979, 1: IOA Archive, K697.

45. See O. Szymczek, “The International Olympic Academy, its history, achievements, objectives”, *Report on the 4th Summer Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia, August 1964*, Athens, [HOC], 1964, 59.

46. See some examples in Otto Szymczek’s speech “The Task and Future Activities of Participants in the Sessions of the IOA”, *Report on the 27th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 1st-16th July 1987*, [Lausanne], IOC/HOC in collaboration with O. Szymczek, [1988], 86-92, esp. 92.



The IOA can be thought of as a *sui generis* intellectual institution, unique of its kind in the world. Although it is administered by executives of the Hellenic OC, it operates under the auspices of the IOC, is international, because it numbers among its lecturers international authorities on Olympic matters, and addresses itself to an audience which is drawn from all the states of the World. [...] The originality in the manner of operation and work of the IOA is due to the fact that while the basic principles of Olympism are always taught, studies are presented by various lecturers who give us views on and interpretations of the Olympic Principles [...], adaptation to these depends upon the way of life, the social systems and the mentality of the different peoples. Open, free discussion results in determining a shared interpretation of the Olympic principles and thus the right adaptation of the Olympic principles to today's reality, accepted in common by all, is always found. Thus the IOA creates a bridge between antiquity and the modern world of endeavour and sports, in the interests of the whole of humanity – and of the Olympic Ideal.

Otto Szymczek, 1981





Jesse Owens, Olympic gold-medallist, gives a lecture at the 9th International Session (1969) [Report on the 9th Session of the IOA at Olympia, 1969, Athens, HOC, 1970, 209]

certain body may give expression to collaboration which already exists or an intention of establishing collaboration between the IOA and that agency, just as it can indicate a whole orientation of the IOA, for example towards UNESCO, the Academy of Athens, etc.<sup>47</sup>

47. When, for example, Mr Trypanis, General Secretary of the Academy of Athens, was invited as a speaker at the 22nd Session for Young Participants, this was on the proposal of Nikolaos Yalouris, then a member of the Ephoria, and within the framework

Furthermore, as constant practice, one or more members of the IOC are invited so that the official position of the IOC on the special subject of the session can be put forward, as well as to inform the participants of the role, the structure and the function of the IOC.

Thus, many factors contribute to the compilation of the final list, and the individuals are matched with the subjects by means of a specific process. It is worth noting, however, that the choice of lecturers is based –*inter alia*– on a complex of interpersonal relations and relations between colleagues, since the proposals come from many quarters, which demonstrates that the lecturers are invited by the Academy not only as units but also as parts of a larger whole. There is often a relation between some of the lecturers, given that some propose as lecturers their colleagues, some of whom have also been students under their supervision.<sup>48</sup> The lecturers of the IOA belong to a broader academic community and engage in communication and dialogue on many occasions besides those at Olympia.

Another question which arises is whether, within the framework of the process described above, the speaker or the subject of his lecture is chosen first, or whether the choice of the two takes place simultaneously. In this area practices vary. Depending upon the period, more importance has been attached either to the lecturers or to the subject of the lectures, so that sometimes the topics are relevant to the special subject of the session in question and sometimes not.<sup>49</sup> On some occasions the subject of the address is set first and then a suitable speaker is looked for, and on others the speaker is selected and then a subject for the lecture is sought which is relevant to the special subject of the session but which also falls within the interests and specialisation of the speaker. Initially, the IOA relied more on ‘personalities’, since it was a newly-founded institution; the predominant role was played by the speaker and not the subject which he dealt with, a fact, of course, which was combined with the existence at certain periods of a basic core of lecturers-associates who were invited repeatedly. However, as the character and function of the IOA became established, the centre of gravity shifted towards the subject and not the person.

of the intention of the President, Nikolaos Nissiotis, to establish ties with an intellectual institution. See *Minutes of the 5th Session of the IOA Ephoria* (18.3.1982): IOA Archive, K692.

48. For example, Professor Josef Recla had Norbert Müller as a student, and he in his turn had as a student the present Honorary Dean, Konstantinos Georgiadis.

49. In 1971, at the 7th Meeting of the Ephoria of the IOA, the view was expressed that the subjects should be proposed first and then the lecturers should be chosen. See *Minutes of the 7th Session of the IOA Ephoria* (11.11.1971): IOA Archive.

## The lecturers' profile

By taking a look at the list of those lecturers who have given five lectures or more within the framework of the sessions of the IOA under examination, a first picture can be obtained of the lecturers with the most lectures to their credit. It is, of course, obvious that the members of the Ephoria of the IOA for the time being, and particularly the President and Dean deliver the most lectures, which mostly deal with the general subject of each session, which is Olympism and the history of the Olympic Games in antiquity and of the modern Olympic movement. Otto Szymczek,<sup>50</sup> Cleanthis Palaeologos,<sup>51</sup> Nikolaos Nissiotis,<sup>52</sup> Nikos Filaretos,<sup>53</sup> Konstantinos Georgiadis,<sup>54</sup> and Nikolaos Yalouris<sup>55</sup> gave the most lectures, while it is worth noting that the present honorary Vice-President of the IOA, Nikolaos Yalouris, is the only one of these whose vigorous presence as a speaker spans the whole of the history of the IOA up to the present. More specifically, Otto Szymczek and Cleanthis Palaeologos, who have given the most lectures at the Academy –even though often they have dealt with the same subjects– have for three decades shouldered the

introductory part of each session by delivering lectures, in the case of the former on the history of the Olympic movement and the meaning of Olympism, and in that of the latter on the history of sport and of the Olympic Games in antiquity.

Apart from the executives of the IOA, we see that at certain periods invitations are issued to certain lecturers who also become associates of the IOA, organising and co-ordinating the discussion groups at sessions, editing the conclusions, and actively concerning themselves with the work of the IOA in general. In the first two decades, Josef Recla,<sup>56</sup> Henri Pouret,<sup>57</sup> Favre Sisto,<sup>58</sup> Liselott Diem,<sup>59</sup> Monique Berlioux,<sup>60</sup> and later, Fernand Landry,<sup>61</sup> John Powell,<sup>62</sup> Nadia Lekarska,<sup>63</sup> Franz Lotz,<sup>64</sup> Mohamed Mzali,<sup>65</sup> and then Norbert Müller<sup>66</sup> and Jim Parry<sup>67</sup> were frequently invited to be lecturers. From the end of the 1980s, the frequency with which the same lecturers have been invited over a number of years

50. Dean of the IOA (1962-1990), coach of the Greek national team, technical adviser to the Hellenic Olympic Committee from 1945, and President of the International Track and Field Coaches Association for a number of years. See in greater detail Skiadas – Georgiadis, *40 χρόνια*, op. cit. (n. 13), 162.

51. First Vice-President of the IOA (1975-1984), honorary member of the Ephoria of the IOA (1966-1968), Assistant Dean (1971-1974), Director of the Academy of Physical Education, General Secretary of the International Track and Field Coaches Association for a number of years, distinguished himself in the field of literature. See in greater detail Skiadas – Georgiadis, op. cit., 164; *Curriculum vitae* (in Greek): IOA Archive, K313.

52. President of the IOA (1977-1986), member of the IOC (1978-1986), Professor of the Philosophy of Religion at the Theology Faculty of the University of Athens, Director of the Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches (1966-1974), athlete and subsequently coach of the Panhellenic Gymnastics Association and of the National Team during the 1950s.

53. President of the IOA (1986-1992 and 1997-2005), member of the IOC (1981-2005), General Secretary of the International Mediterranean Games Committee (1977-middle 2005), General Secretary of the HOC (1974-1985), member of the 17-member Organising Committee for the 'ATHENS 2004' Olympic Games. See in greater detail Skiadas – Georgiadis, op. cit., 160; IOC, *Biographies of the members of the International Olympic Committee*, October 2003, 73.

54. Dean of the IOA (1992-2005), honorary dean (2005-to-day), member of the Executive Committee of the International Society of Olympic Historians, member of the 17-member Organising Committee for the 'ATHENS 2004' Olympic Games, and Associate Professor of the History of Sport at the University of the Peloponnese.

55. See below n. 95.

56. Professor of the History and Theory of Physical Education, Director of the Institute of Physical Education of the University of Graz, permanent speaker at the IOA since 1962, honorary member of the Ephoria of the IOA (1969). See *Curriculum vitae* (in Greek): IOA Archive, K313.

57. Gynaecologist, honorary member of the IOA (1969), member of the Academy of Sport and of the French Academy, author of many biographies. See *Curriculum vitae*, op. cit.

58. Journalist, writer, Vice-President of the 'Panathlon of Rome', honorary member of the IOA (1969).

59. See below n. 103.

60. Director of the Press Office and Public Relations of the IOC (1967-1968), Director of the IOC (1969-1985), journalist, champion swimmer in France, honorary member of the IOA (1970).

61. Professor of Physical Education at the Laval University, Quebec, Director of the Laboratory of Sciences of Physical Activities, member of the Canadian Olympic Association, Vice-President for North America of the International Council for Sport Science and Physical Education.

62. Professor of Human Kinetics at the School of Human Biology at the University of Guelph, member of the Canadian Olympic Association.

63. Member of the Commission of the IOC for the IOA, member of the IOC Commission for the Olympic Programme, member of the National Olympic Committee of Bulgaria.

64. Professor in the Chair of the Theory of Physical Exercise, Director of the Institute of Physical Education of the University of Würzburg, honorary member of the IOA (1969), Director of Studies, together with Cleanthis Palaeologos, at the 1st Session of 1961. See *Curriculum vitae*, op. cit. (n. 56).

65. President of the IOC Commission for the IOA, President of the National Olympic Committee of Tunisia (1962-1986), Vice-President of the IOC (1976-1980), president of various commissions of the IOC, Prime Minister of Tunisia (1980-1986), etc.

66. Professor in the Department of Sport Sciences of the University of Mainz, President of the National Olympic Academy of Germany, member of the IOC Commission for the IOA and Olympic Education, member of the Pierre de Coubertin Committee.

67. Professor of Philosophy at the University of Leeds.

**TABLE 2**  
**Number of lecturers by capacity and decade<sup>1</sup>**

CAPACITY	'60s	'70s	'80s	'90s	2000-2005	TOTAL
University Professors	42 (49)	47 (48)	87	92	40	308
Doctors (PhD)	3 (4)	4	2	11	3	23
Doctors, representatives of sports medicine organisations	1	4	-	3	5	13
Archaeologists, representatives of Archeological Schools in Greece, professors of archaeology	6	3	8	5	3	25
Representatives of OCOGs	2	10	8	9	13 <sup>2</sup>	42
IOC						
Members of the IOC Commission for the IOA	4 (5)	4	16	8	3	35
IOC Presidents, Vice-presidents, Secretaries General	4	2	1	1	1	9
High-ranking administration officials, IOC legal advisers	-	10	6 (7)	4	4	24
Olympic Solidarity	-	1	5	7	7 (6)	20
Mass Media, public relations, marketing	2	2	9	7	-	20
IOC Commission for the Olympic Programme	1	-	7	-	-	8
IOC Members	2	11	4	9	8	34
Athletes' Commission	-	-	2	-	4	6
Other commissions ('Sports for All' Commission, Commission for the Olympic Movement, Sports Department, scientific consultants, publications)	-	1	2	4	1	8
Representatives of Olympic Studies Centres, researchers, librarians	1	2	4	12	5	24
NOCs' representatives	15 (17)	26	25	16	2	84
NOAs' representatives	-	-	6	12	11	29
Journalists	2 (3)	8 (9)	8	19	1	38
Representatives of Paralympic Committees	-	-	-	2	5	7
Representatives of Special Olympics	-	-	-	4	2	6
Representatives of museums	3	2	6	3	-	14
Educationists at lower levels	-	-	4	9	-	13
Physical Education Inspectors	2 (4)	8	4	-	-	14
Sports writers	11 (15)	12 (14)	-	-	-	23
IOA Ephoria Members	9	34 (36)	61	27	13	144

1. - Where certain capacities co-exist, that in which the lecturer was invited is taken into account. Where all the capacities of the lecturer have to do with the world of sport and Olympism, the most important is regarded as the principal one: for example, a member of the IOC who is also President of a NOC counts as a member of the IOC.

- National Olympic Associations have been counted as Olympic Committees.  
- In the case of university professors who are at the same time members or Presidents of a NOC or the HOC, their capacity as a professor has usually been given priority, unless they were invited in another capacity. For example, if a professor is also President of a National Olympic Academy and has been invited to the Session for Academies, his capacity as President of the National Olympic Academy takes precedence.

- Archaeologists are the only category in which professors of archaeology have been included.  
- In particular, Olympic medallists have all been counted as such, in spite of their other important activities, because it is this capacity which has contributed decisively to their involvement with the administrative aspect of sport – with the exception of the Olympic medallists who have served as members of the IOC Commission for the IOA.

- Honorary Members of the IOA Ephoria have not been counted in this capacity, but in the first in which they were established as permanent associates of the IOA and as such were at a future date made Honorary Members.

2. Of the 13, nine were representatives of the 'Athens 2004' OCOG.



**TABLE 2 (continued)**  
**Number of lecturers by capacity and decade**

CAPACITY	'60s	'70s	'80s	'90s	2000-2005	TOTAL
Ministers or representatives of Ministries of Education or Sports, governmental representatives	3	8	2	1	5	19
International Centre for the Olympic Truce	-	-	-	-	5 (4)	5
Non-governmental humanitarian organisations (UNESCO, Doctors without Borders, Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights)	-	2	3	1	2	8
Olympic medallists	6	8	8	1	5	28
Directors of Institutes and Academies of Physical Education (non-university)	13	2	5	2	-	22
Other capacities						47 (48)
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>1,100 (1,124)</b>

NOTE: The tables 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8 include data until 2005, year of the first edition of the volume (Athens 2007).





Jacques Rogge at the 41st International Session for Young Participants (2001), before his election as President of the IOC  
[IOA Archive, K44.197]

has diminished perceptibly, as the list of lecturers has been expanded and renewed.

After a grouping of the capacities in which the lecturers are invited,<sup>68</sup> we can distinguish the following categories: university professors of various disciplines, Olympic medallists, members of the Ephoria of the IOA, sport officials (National Olympic Committees, National Olympic Academies, International Federations), representatives of the IOC (members, representatives of commissions), members of the IOC Commission for the

IOA, directors of physical education institutes, archaeologists and representatives of foreign archaeological schools in Greece, members and representatives of Olympic Games Organising Committees, journalists, representatives of ministries and figures in government, representatives of international non-governmental organisations which work with Olympic bodies, etc.

A by far more numerous category of lecturers proves to be that of university teachers, and that is without including in it their colleagues who have been invited as representatives of some other body or in another capacity. These professors are from various disciplines with some relation to sport and Olympism, such as physical education, ancient or modern history, psychology, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, medicine, etc., and from universities all over the world.

From 1977 until his sudden death in mid-1986, the distinguished university teacher in the field of philosophy of religion Nikolaos Nissiotis served as President of the IOA. During this period, a gradual change in the selection of lecturers is observable. The university teachers invited no longer came only or principally from the

68. The capacity of the lecturers has been taken to be that in which they are invited and take part in each session and especially that relating to sports and the Olympic movement. For example, Professor Eleni Glykatziki-Ahrweiler took part in 1999 in the 39th Session for Young Participants in the capacity of President of the European Cultural Centre of Delphi, in spite of the fact that she is a distinguished professor of Byzantinology and former rector of the University of the Sorbonne. Furthermore, the same lecturers may have been included in different categories, depending either upon their capacity at the given moment in time, which may later change, or upon the subject of their lecture and the special subject of the session.

**TABLE 3**  
**Number of lectures per lecturer and decade**

NAME	'60s	'70s	'80s	'90s	'00s	TOTAL
Andrecs Hermann	4	1	1	-	1	7
Anthony Don	-	1	-	3	1	5
Berlioux Monique	2	10	5	-	-	17
Bugeja Paul Lino	-	-	3	2	-	5
DaCosta Lamartine	-	-	-	3	2	5
Csanadi Arpad	1	2	2	-	-	5
DeFrantz Anita	-	-	2	2	1	5
Diem Liselott	6	5	3	-	-	14
Duncan Sandy	1	4	-	-	-	5
Durantez Conrado	-	1	2	1	3	7
Durry Jean	1	2	3	2	-	8
Favre Sisto	7	4	-	-	-	11
Filaretos Nikos	-	-	2	9	5	16
Francisco Marius	-	-	1	2	2	5
Georgiadis Konstantinos	-	-	-	12	17	29
Girard-Savoy Nicole	-	-	-	1	8	9
Jernigan Sara	2	2	1	-	-	5
Jeu Bernard	-	-	5	-	-	5
Karatassakis Triantafyllos	4	3	-	-	-	7
Kartalis Kostas	-	-	-	-	7	7
Landry Fernard	-	3	15	-	-	18
Lekarska Nadia	-	1	6	3	-	10
Linardos Petros	-	-	2	3	1	6
Lotz Franz	-	7	5	-	-	12
Lucas John	-	2	-	3	1	6
Maes Marc	-	-	-	3	3	6
McIntosh Peter	4	-	2	-	-	6
Misangyi Otto	6	-	-	-	-	6
Morgan Vernon	2	2	1	-	-	5
Mouratidis Ioannis	-	-	-	3	2	5
Müller Norbert	-	2	3	4	1	10
Mzali Mohamed	-	5	6	1	-	12
Nissiotis Nikolaos	-	7	16	-	-	23
Palaeologos Cleanthis	9	14	16	-	-	39
Paparescos Nikolaos	-	5	-	-	-	5
Parry Jim	-	-	3	7	3	13
Pouret Henri	8	9	-	-	-	17
Powell John	-	5	16	1	-	22
Recla Josef	10	5	-	-	-	15
Ren Hai	-	-	-	2	4	6
Rodichenko Vladimir	-	-	1	3	2	6
Silance Luc	-	4	9	2	1	16
Siperco Alexandru	3	2	1	-	-	6
Szymiczek Otto	8	15	23	2	-	48
Tröger Walther	-	3	3	1	-	7
Tzartzanos Athanassios	1	2	4	-	-	7
Vialar Paul	6	-	-	-	-	6
Yalouris Nikolaos	3	2	7	7	3	22
Yannakis Thomas	-	-	-	4	1	5

NOTE: Here the lectures given by each lecturer have been counted when they are more than five in number; the fact that some of these may be the same or how many times the lecturer has attended have not been taken into account.

field of physical education, but also from those of philosophy,<sup>69</sup> medicine,<sup>70</sup> theology,<sup>71</sup> and other humanistic disciplines such as sociology, anthropology and psychology.<sup>72</sup> In the field of theology in particular, it is worth drawing attention to the address of the Vatican Cardinal Antonio Samoré, who was also librarian and archivist of the Holy Roman Church, in 1978 at the 18th Session for Young Participants on the subject of 'Religion and Sport'. This is the only time that a representative of the Vatican, of the Catholic Church, or, more generally of any religious leadership, has been officially invited within the context of a session of the IOA.<sup>73</sup> It was in the same field, of course, that many of the speeches of Nissiotis himself as President belonged; from 1976 to 1979, he gave a central position in his lectures to Olympism in relation to religion,<sup>74</sup> society,<sup>75</sup> philosophy,<sup>76</sup> and education.<sup>77</sup>

69. For example, the following have been invited to various sessions: Bernard Jeu (1980, 1982 to two sessions, 1986 to two sessions), a distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the University of Lille; Hans Lenk (1982), professor of philosophy and Olympic medallist; Vladislav Stolarov (1980, 1982), professor of philosophy and the sociology of sport, etc.

70. For example, Ernst Jokl from the United States (1979) and Ludwig Prokop from Austria (1977).

71. For example, Jürgen Moltmann (1980), a distinguished German professor of theology, Cardinal Antonio Samoré (1978), etc. Cf. CIO, *Procès-verbal de la réunion de la Commission pour l'Académie Internationale Olympique*, Lausanne, 26 novembre 1979, 6: IOA Archive, K698.

72. Under Nissiotis' presidency, the following were, for example, invited: John MacAloon (1982, 1984), professor of social sciences, Otto Eiben (1982 to two sessions), professor of anthropology, and Roger Ingham (1983), professor of psychology.

73. See A. Samoré, "Religion and Sports", *Report on the 18th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 7th-20th July 1978*, Athens, HOC, 1979, 73-82. Some part must have been played in his invitation by the mediation of De Stefani, a member of the IOC Commission for the IOA. See IOC, *Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission for the International Olympic Academy*, Tunis, 24th January 1978, 2: IOA Archive, K697. Another representative of the Vatican, Cardinal Giovanni Ceirano, adviser to the minister for ecclesiastical affairs in Greece, Cyprus, and Jordan took part in the work of the 3rd International Session for Educationists, as a participant and not as a speaker; he addressed a greeting at the close of the session, see "Olympism and Religion", *Report on the IOA International Sessions for Educationists Ancient Olympia, 1973-1977-1979*, Athens, HOC, 1980, 182-183.

74. See N. Nissiotis, "Olympism and Religion", *Report on the 16th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 29th June-15th July 1976*, Athens, HOC, 1977, 59-70. This was the first lecture on the subject of religion and, more specifically, on the distinction between Olympism and religion, to be given within the IOA.

75. Idem, "The influence of ideology on the formation of society", *Report on the 18th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 7th-20th July 1978*, Athens, HOC, 1979, 49-56.

76. Idem, "Philosophy of Olympism", *Report on the 18th Session*, op. cit., 170-178.

77. Idem, "The divulgence of the Olympic principles as a

During the 18th Session for Young Participants of 1978, with 'Olympism in contemporary society' as its special subject, Nikolaos Nissiotis proposed, moreover, that the session should be preceded by speeches by experts on issues of sociology, economics and technology by way of an introduction.<sup>78</sup> Furthermore, Nikolaos Nissiotis was particularly concerned with the issue of establishing links between the IOA and a university institution so that its teaching programme should rest as much as possible on an academic basis.<sup>79</sup> For the same reason, during his presidency, and, more specifically, in 1986, it was decided, in collaboration with the IOC Commission for the IOA, to set up a Section of Permanent Members of the IOA in which could be included those who had been lecturers of the IOA for a number of years, university teachers and, more generally, important figures from Greece and abroad.<sup>80</sup>

Another large category of lecturers at the Sessions for Young Participants, which was inaugurated in 1964, under the presidency of Prince George of Hannover, is that of Olympic medallists, who share their Olympic experiences with those taking part in the particular session, thus establishing a tradition which has continued until the present day.<sup>81</sup> A beginning was made by the

means of Education", *Special International Session for Members and Staff of National Olympic Committees* (1978): IOA Archive, K460.

78. *Minutes of the 9th Session of the IOA Ephoria* (28.11.1977): IOA Archive. See also IOC, *Minutes of the Commission for the International Olympic Academy*, Lausanne, 3rd December 1977, 4: IOA Archive, K697.

79. *Minutes of the 5th Session of the IOA Ephoria* (18.3.1982): IOA Archive, K692.

80. Lecturers over a number of years at sessions of the IOA who have contributed substantively to the smooth conduct of the sessions by the organising of seminars, discussion groups, etc. have been called permanent associates of the IOA from time to time, sometimes informally and sometimes formally. As early as 1976 we encounter the official naming of lecturers as permanent associates of the IOA. See *Minutes of the 4th Session of the IOA Ephoria* (20.8.1976): IOA Archive. In 1985 it was decided to set up officially a Section of Permanent Members of the IOA. See CIO, *Procès verbal*, op. cit. (n. 71), Lausanne, 25 août 1970, 4-5: IOA Archive, K694 and *Minutes of the 1st Session of the IOA Ephoria for 1985* (n. d.), 4: IOA Archive, K693. In July 1986, Article 13 was added to the Articles of Association of the IOA; according to this, the Section of Permanent Members of the IOA was set up; see the *Minutes of the 7th Meeting of the Ephoria of the IOA* (5.6.1986), 4-7: IOA Archive, K693. The SPM could have up to 45 members consisting of established academics from the disciplines of physical education, philosophy, sociology, history, archaeology, law, medicine, etc., divided into three sections, with a view to promoting Olympic education and supporting research into Olympism and sport. These members had to have been engaged in authorship in their fields and to have taken part in at least three sessions of the IOA.

81. See "Introduction", *Report on the 6th Summer Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia August 1966*, Athens, HOC, 1967, 6.



Sergey Bubka, Olympic gold-medallist in the pole-vault, lecturer at the 43rd International Session for Young Participants (2003), as representative of the Athletes' Commission of the IOC  
[IOA Archive, K48.138]

Olympic gold-medallist Hans Lenk in 1964, to be followed in 1966 by the Czech Olympic gold-medallist Emil Zatopek, and in 1967 by the then King of the Hellenes Constantine. This was followed also by lectures by Jesse Owens,<sup>82</sup> Lia Manoliu, Bob Matthias, Kipchoge Keino, Filbert Bayi, etc. Many of these are at the same time university teachers of physical education, such as the Frenchman Ignace Heinrich, Gergely Kulcsar, Hans Lenk, Iolanda Balas-Soeter, Mikio Oda, and Angela

Schneider. Most Olympic champions, however, speak either in their capacity as a member of the IOC as well, such as Kipchoge Keino, Sergey Bubka, Roland Baar, Irena Szewinska, Anita DeFrantz and Hicham El Guerrouj, or in their capacity as an executive of some sport organisation, such as Lee Evans, Jeko Camuti, Lia Manoliu, Svetla Oztetova, Filbert Bayi and Bob Matthias.

Another category of lecturers, the members of the IOC Commission for the IOA, apart from their advisory role within the framework of the Commission, have frequently undertaken to deliver speeches at sessions of the IOA, particularly during the 1980s, their chief representative being Mohamed Mzali, President of the Commission from 1977 to 1987 and an important figure in the Olympic movement, while the presence of A. Siperco, N. Lekarska, H. Brownlee and N. Müller has been frequent.

Apart from the IOC Commission for the IOA, the IOC has been an unfailing presence by means of its various representatives, sometimes its executive personnel,

82. It is worth quoting in full the comment by Cleanthis Palaeologos as alternate Dean in his report on the work of the 9th International Session for Young Participants in 1969 to the HOC on the talk given by Jesse Owens: "I should make particular mention of the presence of the American Olympic victor Jesse Owens, who revealed himself to be a true pedagogue, a man with splendid ideas, a true adept of the Olympic Ideals, a great humanitarian, an eloquent speaker, quick-witted and with a precious sense of humour. I can say that he enraptured the audience; he himself was moved and he moved everyone." (IOA Archive).



M. Francisco from Benin and O. Szymczek at the closing ceremony of the 2nd International Session for Directors of National Olympic Academies (1988) [IOA Archive, K12.74]

sometimes its members in various countries and sometimes its Presidents or Vice-Presidents, at sessions of the IOA up to the present. The President of the IOC, Avery Brundage, delivered speeches at the sessions of 1963 and 1964,<sup>83</sup> while Lord Killanin attended a session of the IOA and stayed for a number of days at the facilities at Ancient Olympia.<sup>84</sup> Two subsequent Presidents of the IOC, Juan Antonio Samaranch and Jacques Rogge,<sup>85</sup>

spoke at the Session for Young Participants before undertaking the presidency. Of course, at opening ceremonies of the International Session for Young Participants on the Pnyx, Presidents of the IOC have attended and addressed those present, without, however, being included in the list of lecturers.

Depending upon the period, the more frequent presence of certain figures of the IOC is observable.

83. See A. Brundage, "The Olympic Philosophy", *Report on the 3rd Summer Session of the International Olympic Academy*, Athens, [HOC], 1963, 29-39; idem, "Baron Pierre de Coubertin", *Report on the 4th Summer Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia August 1964*, Athens, [HOC], 1964, 27-28 (he was not present in person, but sent his address).

84. Lord Killanin delivered an address in 1979, see the *Report on the 19th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia July 1979*, Athens, HOC, 1980, 41-48.

85. In 1969, A. Samaranch attended as a member of the Commission of the IOC for the IOA and as President of the Spanish Olympic Committee, see A. Samaranch, "The Olympic Spirit in the Modern World", *Report on the 9th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia August-September 1969*,

Athens, HOC, 1970, 45-50, while in 1978 as a member of the IOC, see A. Samaranch, "Olympism in the various sectors of society", *Report on the 18th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 7th-20th July 1978*, Athens, HOC, 1979, 42-48. J. Rogge attended in 1995 as a member of the IOC, delivering an address on "Ethics and Olympism", *2nd Joint International Session for Educationists and Staff of Higher Institutes of Physical Education* (1995); IOA Archive, K192, and in 2001 as a member of the IOC and President of the European Olympic Committees, see J. Rogge, "The challenges for sport in the next millennium", *Report on the 41st International Session for Young Participants of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 22nd June-2nd July 2001*, [Lausanne], IOC/IOA, 2002, 48-55.



The President of the IOC, J. Rogge, the Minister of Culture, E. Venizelos, the President of 'Athens 2004', Gianna Angelopoulos, and the President of the IOA and member of the IOC N. Filaretos two years before the Athens Olympics, at the 42nd Session for Young Participants (2002) [IOA Archive, K47.197]

For example, Monique Berlioux, initially head of the Press Office and Public Relations of the IOC and then its Director, was virtually a constant speaker of the IOA from 1968 to 1979. In 1970, moreover, she was appointed an honorary member of the IOA. So frequent an invitation of a high-ranking executive of the IOC can be interpreted in the light of the good collaboration between the IOC and the IOA and her personal relations with officials of the IOA. The IOA can be seen to ground its work on collaboration with people who believe in the Olympic movement and support its mission. The selection of lecturers is based primarily upon their academic and professional status, but does not cease also to be human.

We can also note that the presence of representatives of Olympic Solidarity as lecturers at sessions of the IOA is more or less unbroken between 1987 and the present. Olympic Solidarity financially supports the work of the IOA by providing assistance to the National Olympic Committees and the National Olympic Academies so that their representatives can take part in the sessions of the IOA and receive in-service training in the

principles of Olympism and issues of the contemporary Olympic movement. In 1978, Olympic Solidarity began to financially support the work of the IOA and in the course of events decided to provide 50% of the travelling expenses for two participants from each Olympic Committee.<sup>86</sup> From as early as the 1984 Los Angeles Games, the revenues of Olympic Solidarity from the television rights of the relaying of the Games increased considerably,<sup>87</sup> while after the Baden-Baden Conference of 1981 and the new orientation of the IOC on the issue of sponsorships, the initiatives of its President Samaranch

86. See Müller, *Thirty-eight years of lectures*, op. cit. (n. 23), 15-16.

87. See, inter alii, Nicole Girard, "Olympic Solidarity", *Report on the 39th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 20th July-5th August 1999*, [Lausanne], IOC/IOA, 2000, 155-161 and Pére Miro-Nicole Girard-Savoy, "Olympic Solidarity", *Report on the 41st International Session for Young Participants of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 22nd June-2nd July 2001*, [Lausanne], IOC/IOA, 2002, 79-89.



IOC members attend as guests the 30th International Session for Young Participants (opening ceremony on the Pnyx Hill, 1990). From left to right: N. Filaretos, C.-K. Wu, D.S. Sibanye, I. Dibós, G. de Stefani, Flor Isava-Fonseca, M. Mzali, J.A. Samaranch, J.D. Vallarino Veracierto, G. Rieckhoff, F. Nyangweso, J.-C. Ganga, F. Lima Bello, J. Staubo, L. Nikolaou [IOA Archive, K14.18]

had already started to bear fruit,<sup>88</sup> with the result that Olympic Solidarity was in a position to invest financially in the in-service training of –current and potential– officials of the Olympic movement.

Thus representatives of Olympic Solidarity have been invited mostly to the Sessions for Young Participants both for National Olympic Committees and National Olympic Academies, in order to brief the participants on the activities and aims of that body and to exchange views with them; their regular presence at the sessions of the IOA demonstrates the close collaboration between the two bodies not only in connection with subsidies on the part of the IOC but also at the level of the mutual support of the two agencies.

Furthermore, in the years 1988-1990 we can note the presence of many representatives of the Press Committee of the IOC at sessions of the IOA. This was the period when the dynamics of the mass media had begun to make themselves felt in the world of the Olympic movement, a fact which is, in any event, linked with the initiative on the part of the IOA to hold an international Session for sports journalists, beginning in 1986. The role of marketing had now become decisive for the course followed by the IOC and had started to yield results, as the IOC, on the one hand, ‘enjoyed’ the success of the TOP Olympic Partnership Programme, and, on the other, began to benefit from the more than doubling of its revenues from the television rights.<sup>89</sup> Furthermore,

88. See J. MacAloon, “Sponsorship policy and Olympic Ideology: towards a new discourse”, *Report on the 32nd Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 17th June-2nd July 1992*, [Lausanne], IOC/IOA, 1993, 62-76.

89. See D.S. Aikman, “Presentation to the International Olympic Academy” (on Olympic Marketing and Sponsorship), *Report on the 38th Session of the International Olympic Academy*,



The Honorary Vice-President of the IOA, Nikolaos Yalouris (1996) [IOA Archive, K35.78]

within the framework of the inauguration of the session for sports journalists in 1986, naturally enough, many journalists and representatives of international associations of sports journalists (AISP, UESP, CFPJ, USJSF) have been invited as lecturers more generally, particularly during the second half of the '80s and the '90s.

In addition, the presence of members of the IOC at the IOA sessions in the capacity of speaker, as well as of guest, increased perceptibly under the presidency of Nikolaos Nissiotis and, even more so, that of Nikos Filaretos. Both members of the IOC, they established good relations between the IOA and the IOC. At the 27th Session for Young Participants in 1987, ten members of the IOC formed a 'round table' and answered the public's questions, responding to queries and creating a

particularly friendly atmosphere.<sup>90</sup> In 1998, it is typical that of the 16 lecturers, six were members of the IOC – including the President of the IOA, Nikos Filaretos – while of the remaining lecturers, three were high-ranking office-holders of the IOC and two represented the Committee of the Paralympic Games and the Special Olympics. At the end of the 1980s, the then President of the IOC, Juan Antonio Samaranch, decided to meet the travelling expenses of the new members of the IOC, and more generally of members of the IOC, to Ancient Olympia, so that they could take part in the sessions of the IOA and undergo specialised in-service training in Olympic matters.

*Ancient Olympia 15th-30th July 1998*, [Lausanne], IOC/IOA, [1999], 72-81.

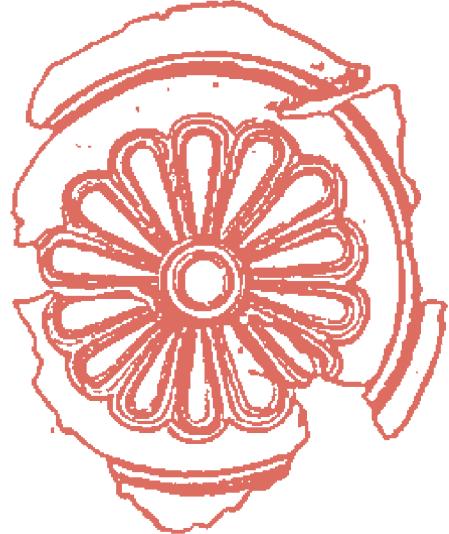
90. See "Foreword", *Report on the 27th Session of International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 1st-16th July 1987*, [Lausanne], IOC/HOC in collaboration with O. Szymczek, [1988], 10.

**TABLE 4**  
**Number of lecturers by country and decade**

COUNTRY	'60s	'70s	'80s	'90s	'00s	TOTAL
<b>AMERICA, NORTH</b>						
Canada	-	11	40	15	13	79
USA	10 (11)	18	21	27	19	95
<b>AMERICA, CENTRAL AND SOUTH</b>						
Argentina	-	-	-	-	3	3
Brazil	-	-	-	3	4	7
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	1	1
Honduras	-	-	-	1	-	1
Mexico	-	-	1	4	-	5
Peru	-	-	-	1	-	1
Uruguay	-	-	-	-	1	1
<b>ASIA</b>						
Armenia	-	-	-	1	-	1
China	-	-	-	2	11	13
India	1	-	2	2	-	5
Japan	3	1	3	1	1	9
Jordan	-	-	-	-	1	1
Korea	-	-	1	4	-	5
Malaysia	-	-	-	-	1	1
Singapore	-	-	-	-	2	2
Chinese Taipei	-	-	-	2	1	3
<b>AFRICA</b>						
Algeria	-	-	3	2	1	6
Benin	-	-	1	2	3	6
Cameroon	-	-	-	-	1	1
Central African Republic	-	-	-	2	1	3
Congo	-	-	-	-	1	1
Egypt	-	2	2	-	-	4
Ethiopia	-	-	-	-	1	1
Kenya	-	1	-	1	1	3
Morocco	-	-	-	-	1	1
Niger	-	-	-	2	-	2
Nigeria	-	-	-	1	1	2
Senegal	-	-	1	-	-	1
South Africa	-	-	-	-	4	4
Sudan	-	1	-	1	1	3
Tanzania	-	-	-	-	3	3
Togo	-	-	1	-	-	1
Tunisia	-	7	6	1	3	17
Zimbabwe	-	-	-	-	3	3

**TABLE 4 (continued)**  
**Number of lecturers by country and decade**

COUNTRY	'60s	'70s	'80s	'90s	'00s	TOTAL
<b>EUROPE</b>						
Austria	10 (14)	15	3	3	4	35
Belgium	-	6	10	9	5	30
Bulgaria	-	1	8	4	-	13
Cyprus	-	1	-	1	1	3
Czechoslovakia	1	-	-	-	-	1
Czech Republic	-	-	-	-	2	2
Slovakia	-	-	-	-	1	1
Denmark	1	-	-	-	-	1
Finland	1	-	2	-	1	4
France	14 (18)	30 (33)	21 (22)	16	9	90
Germany	18 (21)	25 (26)	28	20	14	105
Great Britain	9 (12)	11	16	24	12	72
Greece	30	55 (57)	85	74	99 (98)	343
Hungary	3	6	12	3	-	24
Israel	2	-	-	1	-	3
Italy	9 (10)	6	5	1	2	23
Liechtenstein	-	2	1	-	-	3
Malta	-	-	4	3	-	7
Netherlands	1 (2)	-	-	4	-	5
Norway	1	-	1	2	1	5
Poland	1 (2)	1	1	3	2	8
Portugal	1	-	-	1	2	4
Romania	3 (4)	4	4	1	1	13
Soviet Union	-	5	9	-	-	14
Estonia	-	-	-	1	-	1
Latvia	-	-	-	-	1	1
Russia	-	-	-	6	6	12
Ukraine	-	-	-	-	3	3
Spain	5	4	5	8	6	28
Sweden	-	-	-	1	-	1
Switzerland	10	8	8	8	22 (21)	56
Turkey	-	-	-	-	1	1
Yugoslavia	-	-	3	-	-	3
<b>OCEANIA</b>						
Australia	1	-	3	12	5	21
Fiji	-	-	-	-	1	1
New Zealand	-	1	-	-	1	2
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>1.235 (1.259)</b>	



Nor should the fact be overlooked that the candidacies of Athens for the Olympic Games of 1996 and particularly of 2004 were connected, albeit indirectly, with the invitation of members of the IOC to Ancient Olympia, so that they could acquaint themselves with the history of ancient sport, ancient Greek civilisation, and Greece in general. Furthermore, it was a concern of the IOA, particularly under the presidency of Nikos Filaretos, an active member of the IOC, that the participants should come into contact with members of the IOC, to hold discussions with them, to put their questions to them, and acquire information on the Olympic movement from its representatives themselves.

From 2000 onwards, the Presidents of the International Committee for the Paralympic Games, initially Robert Steadward and then Philip Craven, have been invited to the sessions of the IOA. The institution of the Paralympics has been increasingly strengthened in recent years, so that the IOA, aware of the need for the greater informing of the young in this connection, but also wishing to support the institution, has invited members of the Committee. The subject of the Special Olympics seems to have concerned the IOA at an earlier date; thus as early as 1990, the representative of the Special Olympics was invited to the 3rd Session for Directors of National Olympic Academies as a speaker, and in 1992, the American Olympic gold-medallist Benita Fitzgerald delivered a lecture on that subject at the 32nd Session for Young Participants.

A further consideration which has influenced the invitation of specific lecturers has been the constant foundation of Olympic Academies, particularly from the second half of the 1980s onwards. Thus, at some point Presidents of the National Olympic Academies – who have engaged in special activity through the work of their Academy and have been invited specially to the Sessions for Directors of the National Olympic Academies to hand on their experience and example – have been included in the categories of lecturers. The beginning was made by Nina Pappas, a professor at the University of Illinois of Greek descent, who set up the Touring National Olympic Academy in the USA in 1977 and was invited as a speaker to Olympia on that subject in the same year.<sup>91</sup> Also, the first National Olympic Academy, that of Spain, which was founded in 1968, was represented by its President, Conrado Durantez, at four sessions of the IOA,<sup>92</sup> while the African Olympic Academy of Benin<sup>93</sup> has shown itself particularly vigorous; its President, Marius Francisco, has been invited five times as a speaker. From Africa, the Presidents of the Academies of the Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo have also been invited as lecturers, thus demonstrating the efforts of the IOA to activate the mechanisms for the setting up of Academies on continents such as Africa, where there are different priorities and needs. Next in terms of attendances is the National Olympic Academy of Belgium, with its three, and that of Portugal, with its two representatives.

At the same time, by the institution and development of National Olympic Academies throughout the world, certain Centres for Olympic Studies have been especially active in the field of Olympic education, and their representatives were invited particularly during the 1990s to give lectures. The research centres of Barcelona, of the IOC in Lausanne, of Beijing, of Western Ontario, Canada, and of New South Wales, Australia, stand out. Furthermore, in order to investigate ways in which Olympic education can be incorporated into the curriculum of all levels of education, representatives of

91. See Nina Pappas, "The promulgation of the Olympic Ideas of Pierre de Coubertin, Carl Diem and John Ketseas in the United States of America", *Report on the 17th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 8th-24th July 1977*, Athens, HOC, 1978, 196-203. Nina Pappas also wrote her thesis on the International Olympic Academy, see below n. 136.

92. The first time that Conrado Durantez was invited as a speaker was in 1976, but in another capacity.

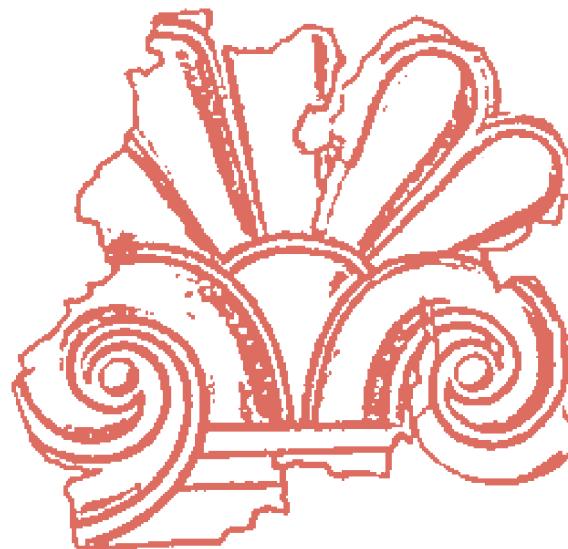
93. The first African Olympic Academy was founded in Egypt in 1978. The Olympic Academy of Benin was founded in 1985.

ministries of education, culture and sport from various countries have been invited.

As to the representatives of National Olympic Committees who have so far been invited as lecturers of the IOA, not taking into account the members of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, the first in attendances is the National Olympic Committee of the USA,<sup>94</sup> followed by those of Great Britain, Italy –particularly in the early years of operation of the IOA– Germany, Belgium, Russia, Romania, and Bulgaria.

Also invited have been members of the Organising Committees for the Olympic Games in order to give a briefing on the progress of the preparations and a review or assessment of the organisation in each instance, and to hand on their knowledge and experience of the whole undertaking. Since 1997, when Greece undertook the organisation of the 2004 Olympic Games, the Greeks have been increasingly interested in practical issues of the organisation and, consequently, the Games in Sydney and their sequel in Athens were at the centre of the attention of the IOA.

The history of the IOA is closely bound up with the excavations at Ancient Olympia, especially since its first session coincided with the ceremony of the handing over by the German School of Archaeology of the ancient stadium. Furthermore, the site of Ancient Olympia and the subject of the Olympic Games are directly associated with the archaeological heritage. Therefore, those responsible for the excavations, such as Emil Kunze, Director of the German Archaeological Institute and head of the excavations at Ancient Olympia, Oscar Broemer, Director of the American Archaeological School and in charge of the excavations at Isthmia, and Stephen Miller, professor at the University of Berkeley and in charge of the excavations at Nemea, have been invited to speak. Also, one of the closest associates of the IOA has been Nikolaos Yalouris, General Ephor of Antiquities and Restoration of the Ministry of Culture and Director of the National Archaeological Museum,<sup>95</sup> who has given at least 22 lectures – without counting his guided



tours of the archaeological site of Olympia from the very first year of operation of the IOA and for many years afterwards. Within the same context, invitations have also been extended to representatives of museums, such as the Archaeological Museum at Olympia and the Olympic Museum at Lausanne, while there has also been close co-operation between the IOA and the French Sport Museum under the directorship of Jean Durry.

The IOA has from time to time invited lecturers from non-governmental organisations whose work relates directly or potentially to sport and the principles of Olympism and voluntarism. In 1978, for the first time, a representative of the UNESCO international organisation was invited to speak about the activities of UNESCO in the field of physical education and the role which Olympism plays in these.<sup>96</sup> In addition, the International Centre for the Olympic Truce, which has its symbolic headquarters at Olympia, has been represented at sessions of the IOA by its Vice-President, Minister of Foreign Affairs Georgos Papandreou, and its General Secretary, Ambassador Stavros Lambrinidis, while a representative of the 'Doctors Without Borders' has been invited twice to speak about the work of that body.

94. The Olympic Committee of the USA in particular set up at an early stage within its own body a special committee for the International Olympic Academy. See S. McNeely, "The new generation and Olympism in U.S.A.", *Report on the 16th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 29th June-15th July 1976*, Athens, HOC, 1977, 158-159.

95. More specifically, Nikolaos Yalouris served as Ephor of Antiquities for the Western Peloponnese, with his headquarters at Olympia (1952-1966), Director of the Athens National Archaeological Museum (1977-1981), and General Inspector of Antiquities and Restoration of the Ministry of Culture, while in 1978 he was elected Professor of Archaeology at the University of Athens. Also, in 1989 he was appointed honorary life Vice-President of the IOA.

96. UNESCO representatives were also invited in 1979, 1981, 1985, and 1986.

NATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY  
Athens Street • Astoria 116, Athens

**PARTICIPANT'S PERSONAL HISTORY**

Committee: NIGERIA OLYMPIC COMMITTEE  
Name: WABARA  
First name: IRENE EGESE  
Nationality: NIGERIAN  
Address: NATIONAL SPORTS COMMISSION, P.O. BOX 1155  
Date of arrival in Athens (means of transport): 5TH JULY 1979  
Anticipated date of departure from Greece: 23RD JULY 1979  
Knowledge of languages. What is your mother tongue? IBO LANGUAGE

OTHER LANGUAGES	READ		WRITE		SPEAK		UNDERSTAND	
	Early	Not easily	Early	Not easily	Fluently	Not fluently	Early	Not easily
ENGLISH	✓		✓		✓		✓	
FRENCH		✓		✓		✓		✓
GERMAN		✓		✓		✓		✓

EduATION. Give full details.  
A. Secondary school, technical school or apprenticeship:

Name of institution, place and country	Years attended from _____ to _____	Degree and academic distinction	Main subject of study
QUEEN'S SCHOOL, ENUGU ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA	1958-1965	WEST AFRICAN SCHOOL CERTIFICATE, EDUCATION CATE	ARTS SUBJECTS HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE ARTS SUBJECTS

B. Post secondary education:

Name of institution, place and country	Type	Years attended from _____ to _____	Certificate or diploma obtained
UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN IBADAN, OYO STATE NIGERIA	UNIVERSITY	1971-1974	B.A. HONOURS (ENGLISH) AND CLASS DIVISION

Profession: ASSISTANT SECRETARY GRADE ONE  
(ADMINISTRATION)

Sports career as an athlete:

Sports practised in the past: ATHLETICS, NETBALL

Sports currently practised: LAWN TENNIS

Awards:

[IOA Archive, K491]

### Nationality of the lecturers

It is also worth investigating whether the nationality of the lecturers has played any role in their selection, whether it is an indication of the dynamism of the Olympic movement in their country, and how far an international body like the IOA consciously chooses to invite lecturers from the ends of the earth in an effort to ensure that as many cultural zones as possible are represented, or whether it barricades itself within the developed countries.

The ethnicity of the lecturers-university teachers who are invited by the IOA is indicative of the level of sport and Olympic studies in the relevant country, while it can also be connected with other factors, such as the holding of the Olympic Games and the increased interest which this generates in each country; for example, Aus-

tralian lecturers were invited particularly in the 1990s because of the forthcoming Olympic Games in Sydney.

Reasonably enough, the majority of lecturers come from Greece. What we see is that whereas in the early decades of the operation of the IOA, Greek lecturers, who were either members of the Ephoria of the IOA or permanent associates, were largely the same, from the 1990s up to the present, many different Greeks have been invited – whether university teachers, or members of the Organising Committee for the 2004 Olympic Games, or representatives of other bodies. What is observable, that is, is an ‘opening up’ to new Greek lecturers as an option of the IOA,<sup>97</sup> something which is directly linked with the development of sport studies in Greece and with the undertaking of the Olympic Games of 2004.

Many lecturers from Austria and Germany are recorded in the 1960s and 1970s in particular, because of the assistance given in the founding of the IOA by the German Olympic Committee through Carl Diem, but also by reason of the developed state of studies and of the increased interest in ancient Greek history in these countries. Of course, the participation of lecturers from Germany has continued until the present to be particularly marked because of the high level of sport studies in that country. The number of 100 lectures which university professors, for the most part, from Germany have been invited to give throughout all the years that the IOA has been functioning is indicative.

Naturally enough, the participation of lecturers from the homeland of the reviver of the Olympic Games, Pierre de Coubertin, has been particularly important. Ninety-eight speeches have been given by French lecturers. Among them have been important figures from the French intellectual world and permanent associates of the IOA such as Henri Pouret, Paul Vialar, and Bernard Jeu. Because the headquarters of the IOC is in Lausanne, there have been many lecturers of Swiss origin who are invited as representatives of the IOC to provide information on the activities of that body and to explain its official positions.

Furthermore, from the late 1980s and during the 1990s, the presence of Spaniards, either executives of the IOC or executives of the National Olympic Academy or Committee, has been of importance.

It is worth noting the fact that 24 Hungarian

97. The demand for more Greek lecturers had been expressed as early as the second half of the 1980s, see *Minutes of the 10th Session of the IOA Ephoria* (16.12.1986), 6: IOA Archive, K693 and *Minutes of the 23rd Session of the IOA Ephoria* (15.12.1988): IOA Archive.

lecturers have been invited to various sessions of the IOA. Certainly, the fact that Otto Szymczek, for three decades Dean of the IOA, was of Hungarian descent, and, together with the permanent associate of the IOA and member of the Ephoria Cleanthis Palaeologos, had studied at the Physical Education Academy in Budapest explains the invitation of so many Hungarian lecturers. However, Hungary is a country with developed Olympic studies, as is, in any event, evidenced by the fact that as early as 1981, at the University of Budapest there was a six-month Olympic studies seminar<sup>98</sup> and that in 1985 their National Olympic Academy was set up.

In the 1980s, lecturers from Canada, with Professors Fernard Landry and John Powell, associates of the IOA, as their most important representatives, moved into a central position, since Canada, particularly because of the Montreal Olympic Games in 1976, was developing into a dynamic country in the field of Olympic studies.<sup>99</sup>

The USA has provided lecturers throughout the history of the IOA, chiefly university professors, in view of its high level of sport studies and of its many Olympic medallists and sport executives. An important contribution has been made to the sessions of the IOA since the earliest years of its operation by Great Britain, with Jim Parry, Professor of Philosophy of Sport at the University of Leeds, as its most frequent speaker, with 13 lectures at sessions of the IOA to his credit.

The African continent was totally absent from the ranks of the IOA lecturers during the first decade of its operation, while in the 1970s and 1980s it was represented chiefly by lecturers originating in a country of North Africa, Tunisia, which was the land of origin of the then President of the IOC Commission for the IOA, Mohamed Mzali. However, from the 1990s onwards, we notice an effort being made by the IOA to have African countries systematically represented by means of lecturers at its sessions. This was a conscious policy of the Academy, which was attempting to encourage the development of Olympic studies and the setting up of National Olympic Academies in Africa and in other

98. This information is given by Otto Szymczek in his speech "Objectives, aims, and achievements of the International Olympic Academy", *Report on the 21st Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 5th-20th July 1981*, Athens, HOC, 1982, 93.

99. On the way in which the young people of Canada had begun to look upon Olympism in view of the Games of 1976, see J. Powell, "The new generation and Olympism in Canada", *Report on the 16th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 29th June-15th July 1976*, Athens, HOC, 1977, 131-145.

<small>ACADEMIE OLYMPIQUE INTERNATIONALE 4, Rue Kapsali ATHENES, 138- GRECE</small>	<small>INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY 4, Kapsali Str. ATHENS, 138- GREECE</small>
<small>APPLICATION FORM 18th SESSION</small>	
NOM : <b>ABDERRAHMANE</b> FIRST NAME : <b>ABDERRAHMANE</b> PRENOM : <b>ABDERRAHMANE</b> LAST NAME : <b>ABDERRAHMANE</b> NATIONALITE : <b>SUDAN</b> NATIONALITY : <b>SUDAN</b> ADRESSE : <b>SUDAN NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, P.O.BOX 1936 KHARTOUM - SUDAN</b> ADDRESS : <b>SUDAN NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, P.O.BOX 1936 KHARTOUM - SUDAN</b> PROFESSION : <b>OFFICIAL</b> AGE : <b>35 Years</b> SEX : <b>MALE</b> DATE D'ARRIVEE A ATHENES (PAR QUEL MOYEN) : <b>Carer on by cable</b> DATE OF ARRIVAL (MEANS OF TRANSPORT) DATE PREVUE DE DEPART DE LA GRECE : INTENDED DATE OF DEPARTURE : QUELLES LANGUES PARLEZ-VOUS ? <b>ARABIC AND ENGLISH</b> WHAT LANGUAGES DO YOU SPEAK ? <b>ARABIC AND ENGLISH</b> QUEL EST VOTRE INTERET SPECIAL DANS LE DOMAINE DES SPORTS ? <b>WEIGHT LIFTING</b> WHAT IS YOUR SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE FIELD OF SPORTS ? <b>WEIGHT LIFTING</b> REMARQUES : REMARKS :	
<small>27th May 1978</small>	<small>SIGNATURE</small> 
<small>Note : Nous vous prions de renvoyer le plus tôt possible cette feuille d'attente remplie (en lettres majuscules) à l'Academie Olympique Internationale, 4, rue Kapsali, Athènes 138, Grèce. Veuillez nous envoyer deux photographies récentes.</small>	
<small>Note : Please return this sheet duly filled in (in printed letters) the soonest possible to the International Olympic Academy, 4, Kapsali Str. Athens 138- Greece. Please attach two recent photographs.</small>	

[IOA Archive, K489]

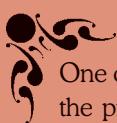
countries outside Europe and North America, in order to demonstrate the global nature of the Olympic ideal.<sup>100</sup> The more active participation of Asian countries in sessions of the IOA at the same period, with Japan and Korea as their principal representatives, countries in which vigorous National Olympic Academies operate, belongs within the context of these efforts. In spite of this, it was only in 1997 that we have the first speaker from China, with its vast population: Hai Ren, a professor and the director of the Centre for Olympic Studies of Beijing.

100. See IOC, *Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission for the International Olympic Academy*, Barcelona, 16th July 1992, 3-4: IOA Archive.

## Women lecturers

An issue which also deserves investigation is the percentage of representation of the female sex in the ranks of the IOA lecturers. We see that within the framework of the IOA, up to the present, 147 women have taken part in the international sessions under examination as compared with 953 male lecturers; that is, a female representation of the order of 13.4% as against a 86.6% representation of the male sex. It is, therefore, obvious that the participation of women lecturers is very small, a fact, of course, which should be seen in conjunction with the position of women in society on a broader scale. Exceptionally small is the percentage of participation of women lecturers in the sessions for sport journalists – a field *par excellence* dominated by men. In spite of this, the representation of women at the sessions of the IOA in the capacity of lecturers is steadily, even if not spectacularly, increasing.

Through conscious options and calculated moves the IOA, in collaboration with the IOC's Olympic Solidarity, has insisted upon and achieved the participation of men and women on equal terms in its sessions. In the category of lecturers, however, in no circumstances has it achieved a corresponding arithmetical balance. The IOA has attempted to give a boost to the participation of women lecturers in its sessions, often touching upon matters relating to women's issues, but this is obviously not enough. In spite of this, the low level of women's membership in the ranks of lecturers of the IOA does not concern the IOA alone, but is directly connected with the percentage of women's participation as members of the IOC or as executives of sport organisations. Up to 1981, no woman had ever been elected a member of the IOC,<sup>101</sup> while a similar state of affairs prevailed in the National Olympic Committees and was even worse in the International Federations.<sup>102</sup>



One of its (IOA's) objectives in fact is to widen the present vision of Olympic education and discover and integrate what the other cultures can contribute to the fundamental elements provided by classical antiquity, using Olympia as a starting point. This is why, since 1976, national and local Olympic Academies have been founded in several countries, by former lecturers and alumni of the IOA, always in close link with the latter.

Nikolaos Nissiotis, 1982



[...] and will be surprised to see who has come here and what they have said.

A king, princes, a prime minister, a cardinal, ministers, clergy, four Presidents of the International Olympic Committee, all the women members of the IOC, many members of the HOC, a President of Greece, lawyers, representative of the press and television, radio personnel, writers, dancers, innumerable Olympic victors in the Summer and Winter Games, military men, representatives of all the academic disciplines and hundreds on the threshold of careers of interest and influence. In other words, this Academy –the first and only Olympic university– has touched in all its dimensions all levels of society.

John Powell, 1986



101. In 1981, at the 11th Olympic Meeting at Baden-Baden, the first two women were elected members of the IOC, see Nadia Lekarska, "Women in the Olympic Games and Movement and Coubertin's views on their participation on the Games", *Report on the 30th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 20th June-5th July 1990*, [Athens], IOC in collaboration with the IOA, [1991], 106-107; N. Filaretos, "The progress of the Olympic Games in the last 35 years", *Report on the 38th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 15th-30th July 1998*, [Lausanne], IOC/IOA, [1999], 37.

102. See Lia Manoliu, "Women's presence in the administration of contemporary sport (IOC, IFs, NOCs and NPs)", *Report on the 30th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 20th June-5th July 1990*, [Athens], IOC in collaboration with the IOA, [1991], 124-130. Cf. J. Parry, "The new

The IOA made women the special subject of its main session as early as 1964, when the first women lecturers took part: Liselott Diem, full Professor at the German School of Sport in Cologne –whose Rector she had been– a member of many international sport organisations<sup>103</sup> and wife of Carl Diem; Eva Földes, the Hungarian Professor at the Pedagogic Academy of Hungary; and Eleanor Metheny, Professor at the American School of Physical Education. The very next year, Sara Jernigan, the American Professor in the Department of Physical Education at Stetson University in Florida, was invited. The choice of the nationalities of the first women lecturers of the IOA was no accident. The United States was one of the countries where the movement for the emancipation of women first manifested itself, while at an early date they managed to elect a woman representative on the IOC. The particularly active participation of Professor Liselott Diem from the earliest years of the operation of the IOA is related, of course, to some degree with the fact that she was the wife of Carl Diem, but we should not overlook the fact that Germany is one of the most advanced societies in Europe where the study of physical education is also developed; and last but not least, the choice of the Hungarian Eva Földes was based both on Hungary's methodical sport programme<sup>104</sup> and on the Hungarian origins of the Dean, Otto Szymiczek, as has already been noted. Subsequently, the presence of Monique Berlioux, a high-ranking executive of the IOC, was particularly marked and dynamic, as was, a little later, that of Nadia Lekarska,<sup>105</sup> Lia Manoliu,<sup>106</sup> and Anita DeFrantz.<sup>107</sup>

---

conception of women in the Olympic movement", *Report on the 30th Session*, op. cit., 165-176, esp. 175-6.

103. Liselott Diem was President of the International Physical Education and Sport Association for Women, a member of the Board of Management of the ICSPE, a member of ICHPER, and a member of the Organising Committee for the Munich Olympic Games of 1972. She was an important associate of the IOA, particularly in the first two decades of its operation, giving 14 lectures and taking an active part in the organisation of seminars and discussion groups during the sessions.

104. See J. Powell, "Olympism, sport and world society", *Report on the 22nd Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 11th-25th July 1982*, Lausanne, IOC, 1985, 114.

105. Member of the IOC Commission for the IOA, member of the IOC Commission for the Olympic Programme, member of the National Olympic Committee of Bulgaria.

106. Olympic gold-medallist for discus, Vice-President and later President of the National Olympic Committee of Romania.

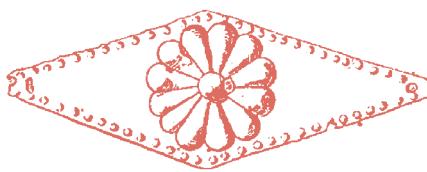
107. Member of the IOC, member of the Athletes' Commission of the IOC, President of the Amateur Athletic Foundation in Los Angeles.



Liselott Diem (1964) [IOA Archive, K1.85]

**TABLE 5**  
**Number of lecturers by gender and decade<sup>1</sup>**

GENDER	'60s	'70s	'80s	'90s	2000-2005	TOTAL
Men	123 (141)	197 (202)	273	238	122	953 (976)
Women	12 (13)	25 (26)	38 (39)	43	29	147 (150)
TOTAL						1.100 (1.124)



**TABLE 6**  
**Number of lecturers by gender and session<sup>2</sup>**

GENDER	SESSION FOR YP	SESSION FOR EDUC.	SESSION FOR, NOCs, NOAs & IFs	SEMINAR FOR SJ	TOTAL
Men	614 (638)	151	140	48	953 (976)
Women	91 (94)	22	32	2	147 (150)
TOTAL					1.100 (1.124)

1. The individuals and not the number of lectures have been taken into account; for this reason the number of lectures has been given in a parenthesis. In the early years in particular, lecturers gave more than one lecture. As to cases of two lecturers corresponding to one lecture, either they gave it together, in which case both are counted as lecturers, or the second stood in for the first and read his/her lecture, which is why the first is also given, even if he/she was not present in person.

2. Titles of sessions in full:

- *Session for YP*: International Session for Young Participants
- *Session for Educ.*: Including the International Session for Educationists, the International Session for Directors of Higher Institutes of Physical Education and the Joint International Session for Educationists and Responsibles / Staff of Higher Institutes of Physical Education
- *Session for NOCs, NOAs, & IFs*: Including the International Session for Members and Staff of National Olympic Committees and International Federations, the International Session for Directors of National Olympic Academies and the Joint International Session for Directors of National Olympic Academies, Members and Staff of National Olympic Academies and International Federations
- *Session for SJ*: International Seminar for Sports Journalists

## Subjects of the lectures

As has been pointed out above, each session has Olympism as its main subject and a special subject which is different on each occasion. As can be seen from the data as a whole,<sup>108</sup> the work of the sessions opens with lectures by executives or permanent associates of the IOA by way of an introduction –which constitutes the first cycle of speeches– having to do with the basic principles of Olympism, the history of the ancient Olympic Games and the ideas of Pierre de Coubertin. In the second cycle of speeches, the lecturers deal with administrative, organisational and academic issues in connection with the modern Olympic movement with the special subject of the session as the hub.<sup>109</sup>

According to Article 9 of the regulations for the operation of the IOA,<sup>110</sup> the cycle of subjects of the lectures is defined as follows:

1. The History of the ancient Olympic Games.
2. The true spirit of the Olympic Idea.
3. The contribution of Baron de Coubertin and other personalities in the revival of the Olympic Games. The history and evolution of modern sports.
4. The contribution of sports and Games to the education of youth. The philosophy of the Games, its influence on the Arts and Social Sciences, and its evolution.
5. The moral principles of sports and the creation of spiritual values through them (amateur aspect).

---

108. The purpose of the grouping of the subjects was not the compilation of an index. On most occasions, more than one subject co-exist in one speech, while almost all of them revolve around the pivotal subject-matter of Olympism and athleticism. Furthermore, the best method for a reliable subject inventory is that of key-words, which N. Müller followed in his book, *Thirty-eight years of lectures*, op. cit. (n. 23), on the speeches of the Session for Young Participants. Thus an effort has been made to identify the main topic of each lecture in relation to the capacity of the speaker and the special subject of the session.

109. See O. Szymczek, "Olympism in a process of constant evolution", *Report on 17th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 8th-24th July 1977*, Athens, HOC, 1978, 54.

110. The subjects of the lectures are the same both in the Regulations of the IOA of the year 1971 (see, *Minutes of the 43rd Session of the IOA Ephoria* (12.1.1971), 8: IOA Archive), and in the Provisional Regulations (see the *Report on the 2nd Summer Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 9th-21st July 1962*, Athens, [HOC], 1962, 178, article 7).

6. The evolution of the theory and technique of coaching and training in the various sports.

7. Scientific subjects related to athletics (Psychology, Education, Medicine, Biology, Biophysics, etc.).

Through a conventional grouping of the subjects,<sup>111</sup> we have attempted to trace the subject-matter of the lectures, on the one hand, on a chronological basis and, on the other, by session. Naturally enough, the subjects of the lectures are directly dependent upon the nature of the session and its special subject: for example, topics having to do with Olympic education are dealt with by lecturers at the Sessions for Educationists, or subjects relating to sport journalism are the object of study and discussion at the Sessions for Sport Journalists. Similarly, at the sessions for the National Olympic Committees and the National Olympic Academies, subjects relating to the structure and activity of Olympic sport organisations, collaboration between them, Olympic education and the history of the modern Olympic Games are covered. The greatest variety in subject-matter is observable in the lectures at the Session for Young Participants, a session which is addressed to young people from all over the world, in which an attempt is made to give the most global education possible in matters of Olympic interest.

It is also interesting to trace the selection of the subjects on a chronological basis, that is, in direct relation with international developments in the Olympic movement and with the evolution of the character of the IOA. In the first two decades of operation of the IOA, particular weight was attached to more theoretical and philosophical subjects concerned with the values and philosophy of Olympism, amateurism, etc., matters relating to the history of both ancient and modern sport, and issues of sport medicine and coaching, while the need for the documentation and organisation of the science of

---

111. In the first grouping made in 1976 by N. Müller of the lectures up to that point, he divided them into nine sections: the history of the Olympic Games and sport, Olympism, the Olympic Games and the Olympic movement, questions of sport pedagogy, the science of coaching and movement, the philosophy of sports, sports medicine, the sport psychology, and sports documentation science. See N. Müller, "The Olympic Idea of Pierre de Coubertin and Carl Diem and its materialization in the International Olympic Academy (IOA)", *Report on the 16th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 29th June-15th July 1976*, Athens, HOC, 1977, 97.



# ΕΦΗΜΕΡΙΣ ΤΗΣ ΚΥΒΕΡΝΗΣΕΩΣ

## ΤΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ

ΕΝ ΑΘΗΝΑΙΣ  
ΤΗ. 3 ΜΑΡΤΙΟΥ 1971

ΤΕΥΧΟΣ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΟΝ

ΑΡΙΘΜΟΣ ΦΥΛΛΟΥ  
**165**

### ΠΕΡΙΕΧΟΜΕΝΑ

#### ΥΠΟΥΡΓΙΚΑΙ ΑΠΟΦΑΣΕΙΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΓΚΡΙΣΕΙΣ

Παρί έγκρισης Κοινοτικού Λειτουργίας της Διεύθυνσης Ολυμπιακής Ακαδημίας.  
Παρί ελέγχους εἰς την πρωτοβουλία της Επόμενης της Υπουργείου Συντονισμού τού σειράς. Έτους 1971 της πι-  
στούσης του φερίου 20 - 150.  
Παρί μερικής πρωτοβουλίας της 3ης έτης έργο. Γ.2068/30.  
11.1970 έπερσσων της Υπουργού των Ολυμπιακών επί την παρατάξης εἰς την κατανομή των καθεύδρων προσώ-  
πων των Κρατικών Αρχών.  
Παρί παρατάξης διὰ την πα-  
ραπομπής Η.

Άρθρον 9.

Βασικά δέματα Σπουδῶν.

1. Ο κύκλος των δεμάτων και δημιουργίας από  
αναλογίας:

- a) Ιστορία των Ολυμπιακών Αγώνων κατά τους 'Αρ-  
χαίου χρόνου.
- b) Το πνευματικόν περιεγέμενον της Ολυμπιακής Πάτερ-
- c) Η ανατολή των Βαρώνου Κουμπερτέν και δηλων προ-  
ποτιστήριας εἰς τὴν ἀναστασιν τῶν Ολυμπιακών Αγώ-  
νων. Η Ιστορία και ἡ ἐξέλιξις τῆς συγχρόνου δημοσιευτικῆς  
κινήσεως.
- d) Η συμβολή του δημοσιευμού και των ἀγώνων εἰς τὴν  
ἐργατικήν τῶν νέων. Η φιλοσοφία των ἀγώνων, ιδέαριστης τῆς  
ἀγωνιστικῆς εἰς τὰς τάχυτας και τὰς κοινωνικές ἀποτέλεσμας.
- e) Αι δημική άρχαι του Αθλητισμού, αἱ δι' υπούργου ἀναπτυ-  
σθεῖσαι φυγικαὶ ἀρχαι τοῦ θεάτρου πνεύμα.
- f) Η ἐξέλιξις τῆς θεωρίας και τῆς τεχνικῆς τῆς προ-  
σονήσεως εἰς τὰς διαφόρους κλάσεις τῆς σφραγιστικῆς.  
g) Επιστημονικά δέματα σύγχρονα καὶ τὰς τεχνικές τῆς προ-  
σονήσεως, παρατηρητική, ιστροντή, ειδολογική, μηχανική, κλπ.).

2. Βάσει τῶν γενικῶν τούτων δεμάτων και ἐνδεκάτοτε  
καθοριζομένων εἰδικῶν δέματος, καταρτίζεται διὰ τῆς Εργ-  
οσίας λεπτομερές πρόγραμμα ἐκάστη Συνόδου, τὸ ὅποιον περι-  
λαμβάνει δημιούργια, σεμινάρια, διαλογικές συναντήσεις, συνά-  
ταξικές και πραγματικές ἀπαγόρευσις. Τὸ πρόγραμμα περιλαμβάνει  
διετάξειν τοῦ προγραμμάτος εἰναι ωπορθωτική διὰ τὰ συμβ-  
τύγοντα εἰς τὴν Συνόδον πρόσωπων.

2) Τηρί Συνέδεσης των έργων 3 περ. 1 και 3 τοῦ Ν.Δ.  
150/70 επί τροποποίησης και παραλογίσης τῆς παρί<sup>η</sup>  
Επιτροπής Ολυμπιακών Αγώνων Νομοθεσίας.

3) Τηρί η 3ης έργο. 43/12.1.71 έπερσσων τῆς Συνέδεσης  
τῆς Ολυμπιακής τῆς Ε.Ο.Δ., ἀνταποζημιών:

Έγκρισην τὴν 3ης έργο. 43/12.1.71 ἀπόρετην τῆς Ολυ-  
μπιακής τῆς Επιτροπής Ολυμπιακών Αγώνων, τὰ της  
ισούσια κατὰ ιδέαρια την Κοινοτική Λειτουργίας τῆς Διεύ-  
θυνσης Ολυμπιακής Ακαδημίας, σε εἰς τὸ συνεργατον, καπο-  
ρεύοντα περὶ ιδεώντων ἀντιγράφων, συγχειμένων ἐν 14  
έργον συμπλεγμάτων διαι τὰ της παρατάξης 3η τῆς  
Επιτροπής τῆς Κοινού Καρπού, ἀντὶ τοῦ παρόντος ἐν ισχύ

Αρθρου της 23 Φεβρουαρίου 1971.

Γενικός Γραμματος Αδελφείας  
ΚΩΝ.ΝΟΣ ΑΣΔΔΝΙΔΗΣ

ΚΑΝΟΝΙΣΜΟΣ  
ΝΟΥΣ ΟΑΥΓΜΠΙΑΚΗΣ ΑΚΑΔΗΜΙΑΣ

Άρθρον 1.

ποτε - Σημείο - Ήσρε Δ.Ο.Δ.

της Ολυμπιακής Ακαδημίας Δ.Ο.Δ. Εργ-  
οτοῦ έργο 2 περ. 2, ιδέαριον 3 τοῦ Ν.  
τροποποίησης και παραλογίσης τῆς παρί<sup>η</sup>  
Επιτροπής Ολυμπιακών Αγώνων Νομοθεσίας και τοῦ έρ-  
γο 150/70 επί τροποποίησης τῆς Διεύθυνσης Ολυ-  
μπιακής Ακαδημίας, την προτετάντη τῆς  
Επιτροπής και την επανή συνεργατεία  
της τῆς Διεύθυνσης Ολυμπιακής Επι-  
τροπής Ολυμπιακής Ακαδημίας, ἀνταπο-  
ρεύοντα περὶ ιδεώντων ἀντιγράφων,  
Επιτροπής Ολυμπιακών Αγώνων τοῦ  
Η προστατεί τῆς Δ.Ο.Δ. παρατάξης 3η  
της Κοινού Καρπού τοῦ διαι έργο τῆς τυ-  
χαντού Δ.Ο.Δ.

Επιτηματική Ακαδημίας ἀποκατεῖ εἰς τὴν  
την εἰς Αρχαία Ολυμπία Διεύθυνση  
ὅπερ όλη μαρτυρεῖ διὰ τὴν διατέρησην  
την εἰδική Πνευματος την παλίτη καὶ  
πολιτικού καὶ κοινωνικού ἔργου τῶν  
πατριωτικῶν διεμελίσιμη τῆς Ολυ-  
μπιακής Ακαδημίας έργον την Αρχή  
την Συνόδον την Αρχής

την εἰδική Ακαδημίας ἔργον ή Αρχή  
την Συνόδον την Αρχής

The Regulations of the International Olympic Academy published in the *Government Gazette*, no. 165, 3.3.1971  
[IOA Archive, K325]



Norbert Müller at the 26th International Session for Young Participants (1986) [IOA Archive, K11.45]

physical education was frequently discussed.<sup>112</sup> From the third decade onwards, the subject-matter of the addresses was broadened considerably, a fact which is, of course, explained by the increase in the number of sessions of the IOA, but which also demonstrates the clear attempt made by the IOA to cover as many aspects of the Olympic movement as possible within the framework of its ses-

sions. For example, subjects such as commercialisation, doping, violence, 'sport for all' appear as subjects of speeches from the 1980s onwards. Furthermore, the treatment of sport and Olympic subjects from a socio-logical and anthropological viewpoint is a phenomenon of recent decades, as well as the delicate issue of the involvement of politics in sport.<sup>113</sup>

112. See, for example, J. Recla, "The importance of science in the practical organisation of Physical Education", *Report on the 3rd Summer Session of the International Olympic Academy*, Athens, [HOC], 1963, 145 -152; idem, "Questions and Problems of Literature on Physical Education", *ibid.*, 200-206; idem, "Scientific Documentation and its Significance for Research Work and

Theory of Physical Education", *Report on the 4th Summer Session of the International Olympic Academy*, Athens, [HOC], 1964, 162-172.

113. Of course, these subjects had been touched upon and discussed within the framework of sessions of the IOA at an earlier date, but without constituting separate topics for lectures.

**TABLE 7**  
**Number of lectures by subject and decade**

SUBJECT	'60s	'70s	'80s	'90s	2000-2005	TOTAL
Olympism (idea, values, philosophy, ideology)	14	27	40	11	8	100
Art and Culture	4	9	21	9	10	53
Physical Education	9	5	10	10	5	39
Ethics and Sport	1	3	2	6	3	15
IOA	5	7	13	15	3	43
Legal Subjects	1	6	10	2	2	21
Mass media, Marketing	2	5	11	26	3	47
Amateurism	8	4	3	3	-	18
Commercialisation	-	-	-	11	-	11
Fair Play	-	-	3	11	1	15
Sport for All	-	-	1	11	-	12
Doping	-	-	10	3	6	19
Violence and Sport	-	-	15	1	1	17
Museums	1	-	2	2	1	6
Olympic Truce	1	-	1	1	5	8
Paralympic Games	-	-	-	2	6	8
Special Olympics	-	-	-	4	2	6
Women and Sport	4	3	3	15	3	28
Politics and Sport	-	-	1	3	2	6
UNESCO	-	2	2	-	-	4
Olympic Education (in general, methodology, organisation)	1	25	46	43	21	136
Olympic Sports Organisations	7	25	26	21	15	94
IOC	5	5	5	6	6	27
Olympic Solidarity	-	1	5	7	6	19
National Olympic Committees	-	7	7	1	-	15
National Olympic Academies	-	3	4	4	-	11
Relations and collaboration between them	2	9	5	3	3	22
Sports and Olympic Games in antiquity	19	12	23	18	6	78
History	14	10	13	16	5	58
Archaeology	4	-	3	2	1	10
Mythology	1	2	7	-	-	10

NOTE: Of the 28 lectures on a subject in the category of 'Women and Sport', 22 were given by women and six by men.

**TABLE 7 (continued)**  
**Number of lectures by subject and decade**

SUBJECT	'60s	'70s	'80s	'90s	2000-2005	TOTAL
Sports and Olympic Games in modern times	35	52	48	39	20	194
History of the Olympic Games and the Olympic movement	10	14	11	23	8	66
Olympic Experiences	2	9	9	-	2	22
Pierre de Coubertin	6	7	11	4	-	28
Olympic Congresses	-	3	2	4	-	9
Winter Olympic Games	3	4	4	2	-	13
Olympic Programme	-	3	5	-	-	8
Organisation of Olympic Games, Olympic Preparation	5	6	2	1	4	18
Sports and the Olympic movement in different countries	6	5	3	2	2	18
Miscellaneous (Mediterranean Games, Olympic Flame)	3	1	1	3	4	12
Social and humanistic sciences	16	17	12	5	18	68
Social Anthropology	-	-	1	1	10	12
Sociology	5	11	5	2	7	30
Psychology	8	2	1	-	-	11
Philosophy	3	2	2	2	1	10
Other (Philology, Theology)	-	2	3	-	-	5
Sports Sciences	23	26	5	3	1	58
Sports Medicine, Biology, Anatomy	3	9	3	-	-	15
Training	12	6	-	-	-	18
Documentation, Bibliography, Research	8	9	2	1	1	21
Informatics, Technology, Management	-	2	-	2	-	4
Miscellaneous (volunteerism, globalisation, gigantism, 'Doctors without Borders', environment, philately, rescue services)	3	2	3	8	4	20
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>1.124</b>



The President of the IOC, Avery Brundage, delivers an address of greeting at the opening ceremony  
of the 5th International Session for Young Participants (1965) on the Pnyx Hill  
[IOA Archive, K2.7]



The lecturers at the 32nd International Session for Young Participants (1992). From left to right, first row: O. Milshtein, L. DaCosta, K. Heinemann, J. MacAlloon, W. Liponski; second row: G. Whannel, L. Silance, I. Mouratidis  
[IOA Archive, K16.132]



Souvenir photo of the participants in the 2nd International Session for Olympic Medallists (2009) and the students of the Master's Degree Programme. In the first row, from left to right: K. Georgiadis, Sofia Bekatorou, I. Kouvelos, D. Gangas  
[IOA Archive, unclassified]

**TABLE 8**  
**Number of lectures by subject and session**

SUBJECT	SESSION FOR YOUNG PART.	SESSION FOR EDUC.	SESSION FOR NOAS, NOCS, & IFS	SEMINAR FOR SPORTS JOURN.	TOTAL
Olympism (idea, values, philosophy, ideology)	72	15	10	3	100
Art and Culture	40	5	8	-	53
Physical Education	16	22	1	-	39
Ethics and Sport	4	8	3	-	15
IOA	22	2	14	5	43
Legal subjects	15	1	4	1	21
Mass media, Marketing	16	-	1	30	47
Amateurism	15	1	1	1	18
Commercialisation	11	-	-	-	11
Fair Play	1	12	2	-	15
Sport for All	11	-	1	-	12
Doping	16	-	3	-	19
Violence and Sport	13	-	3	1	17
Museums	3	2	1	-	6
Olympic Truce	5	1	2	-	8
Paralympic Games	8	-	-	-	8
Special Olympics	5	-	1	-	6
Women and Sport	25	1	2	-	28
Politics and Sport	6	-	-	-	6
UNESCO	4	-	-	-	4
Olympic Education (in general, methodology, organisation)	35	63	38	-	136
Olympic Sports Organisations <sup>1</sup>	49	1	43	1	94
Sports and Olympic Games in antiquity (history, archaeology, mythology)	55	11	8	4	78
Sports and Olympic Games in modern times <sup>2</sup>	160	9	21	4	194
Social and humanistic sciences <sup>3</sup>	54	12	2	-	68
Sports sciences <sup>4</sup>	51	6	1	-	58
Miscellaneous	19	1	-	-	20
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>1.124</b>

1. IOC, Olympic Solidarity, NOCs, NOAs, collaboration between them.

2. History of the Olympic Games and the Olympic movement, Olympic experiences, Pierre de Coubertin, Olympic congresses, Winter Olympic Games, Olympic Programme, organisation of Olympic Games, Olympic preparation, sport and the Olympic movement in different countries, miscellaneous.

3. Sociology, social anthropology, psychology, philosophy, philology.

4. Sports medicine, biology, anatomy, training, documentation, bibliography, research, informatics, technology, management.

In greater detail, Olympism as the main subject of each session of the IOA is the predominant topic in all lectures, since, in any event, every topic is linked or combined with Olympism. Olympism is "a state of mind", according to Pierre de Coubertin,<sup>114</sup> while according to the *Olympic Charter* it is a "philosophy of life".<sup>115</sup> What we note, however, is that Otto Szymczek and Nikolaos Nissiotis describe Olympism as an *ideology*. Olympism is for Nissiotis something more than an attitude of life, it is "a social ideology, purely educational and cultural"<sup>116</sup> which should not be confused with religion – a confusion which is common because of the ritual character of the Olympic Games.<sup>117</sup> Szymczek used this term as early as 1962, in his first speech at the IOA,<sup>118</sup> with the passion of a disinterested champion of the Olympic movement, and he was followed by Nikolaos Nissiotis, who gave it scholarly documentation with all the qualifications of a university teacher. For his part, the President of the IOC Commission for the IOA, Mohamed Mzali, in his speech of 1981, regarded the Olympic ideology as a "philosophy, ethics and a underlying system of values".<sup>119</sup>

An integral part of Olympism is the concept of amateurism, which has often formed the subject of lectures. During the first two decades of the operation of the IOA, the discourse of the lecturers was dominated by romanticism on the subject of amateurism and a non-negotiable faith in the amateur nature of the Games prevailed, as in any event it did more generally within the Olympic movement.<sup>120</sup> The then President of the IOC, Avery Brundage, a fervent supporter of amateurism, in a lecture at the IOA in 1963 on the Olympic philo-

sophy, devoted the greater part of it to a defence of the principle of amateurism.<sup>121</sup> More particularly, however, from the 1980s and from the Baden-Baden Conference and the presidency of J.A. Samaranch<sup>122</sup> onwards, a more realistic outlook on the subject prevailed, in harmony with the needs and new givens of modern society.

Another dominant subject and object of discussions and enquiries at the sessions of the IOA is Olympic education. The Dean of the IOA, Otto Szymczek, was the first to speak within the framework of the IOA in 1965 and 1968 about education in conjunction with the Olympic ideology.<sup>123</sup> More particularly, from the 1970s with the firm establishment of the work of the IOA and the beginning of the holding of sessions for educationists, the question of Olympic education was a major concern for lecturers and participants. Already, at the beginning of this decade, the Deputy Minister of Education of Bavaria and President of the Youth and Olympic Flame Committee of the Organising Committee of the Munich Olympic Games, E. Lauerbach, spoke of the need for the teaching of Olympic principles in schools.<sup>124</sup> The torch was then handed on to H. Andrecs, F. Landry,<sup>125</sup> J. Powell, N. Nissiotis, M. Mzali

121. See Brundage, "The Olympic Philosophy", op. cit. (n. 83), 29-39.

122. J.A. Samaranch had foreshadowed the importance and the reforms of the forthcoming Baden-Baden conference as early as 1978 in his address at the Session for Young Participants, see Samaranch, "Olympism in the various sectors of society", op. cit. (n. 85), 43-44.

123. O. Szymczek, "Education and the Olympic Ideology", *Report on the 8th Summer Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia August 1968*, Athens, HOC, 1969, 19-26; idem, "The Olympic movement and the Olympic Games", *Report on the 13th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 13rd-29th July 1973*, Athens, HOC, 1973, 49-58.

124. See E. Lauerbach, "The prospects of sports-School sports and the Olympic Idea in the 70's", *Report on the 11th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 16th July-2nd August 1971*, Athens, HOC, 1971, 254-261; idem, "The propagation of Olympic principles in schools", *Report on the 12th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 12th-30th July 1972*, Athens, HOC, 1972, 98-107.

125. Professor F. Landry was head of the programme for Olympic education which was implemented in schools in Canada in view of the Montreal Olympic Games (1976) and explained the parameters of the whole undertaking at the 2nd, 3rd and 6th International Session for Educationists. See F. Landry, "The promotion of the Olympic Ideals in the Quebec School System", *2nd International Session for Educationists* (1977): IOA Archive, K155; idem, "The Games of the XXIst Olympiad and the Promotion of Olympism in Quebec Schools", *Report on the IOA International Sessions for Educationists, Ancient Olympia 1973-1977-1979*, Athens, HOC, 1980, 287-298; idem, "Education on Olympism and the school curriculum: principles, techniques and applications based on the experience of the Montreal Olympic Games", *6th International Session for Educationists* (1984): IOA Archive, K168. See also Skidas – Georgiadis, *40 χρόνια*, op. cit. (n. 13).

114. This is the translation of the corresponding French phrase: "Olympisme ... est un état d'esprit", see N. Müller (ed.), *Pierre de Coubertin. Texts choisis, Tome II. Olympisme*, Zurich, CIO, Weidmann, 1986, 385.

115. IOC, *Olympic Charter*, in force as of 1 September 2004, 9.

116. Lecture of N. Nissiotis, "The influence of ideology on the formation of society", op. cit. (n. 75), 56.

117. See Nissiotis, "Olympism and Religion", op. cit. (n. 74), 59-70; idem, "Problems of Olympic Education", *Report on the 20th Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 15th June-1st July 1980*, Athens, HOC, 1981, 43-46, where he introduces the term 'humanist's religiosity'.

118. See O. Szymczek, "Adhesion to the principles of the Olympic ideals", *Report on the 2nd Summer Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 9th-21st July 1962*, Athens, [HOC], 1962, 111-120. From then on, Szymczek consistently used the term 'Olympic ideology'.

119. See M. Mzali, "The influence of Olympic Ideology and teaching programmes", *Report on the 21st Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia July 1981*, Athens, HOC, 1982, 88.

120. The examples of the numerous lectures of Cleanthis Palaeologos and Otto Szymczek are representative.



Isidoros Kouvelos, President of the IOA (2009-) at the official launch  
of the IOA's Master's Degree Programme in Olympic Studies on 30 March 2009  
[IOA Archive, unclassified]

and many other lecturers. From the beginning of the 1980s, the demand for the introduction of Olympic education into the curriculum was extended to tertiary education.<sup>126</sup>

Another large unit of subject-matter in the lectures concerns the relation of art and culture with sport and the Olympic Games, since the Olympic Games are a part of culture and an expression of a multi-cultural society. Furthermore, the holding of the Olympic Games on each occasion incorporates the individual cultural features of the country which hosts them, and expresses through the lectures the interest in the individual culture and tradition of each country or the broader cultural region in the Olympic movement.

Another category of subjects concerns women, their participation in sport, in the Olympic Games and in the decision-making centres of sport. These subjects have been covered for the most part by women themselves. Their main concern in recent years has been the inadequate representation of women in high-ranking administrative positions in sport and Olympism. In addition, it is observable that particularly in the 1990s, subjects involving women and sport increased perceptibly in number within the framework of a conscious and methodical attempt on the part of the IOA to promote the need for greater and more dynamic participation of women in the Olympic movement.

Yet other subjects related to the structure, positions and work of the IOC, Olympic Solidarity of the IOC, the National Olympic Committees and the National Olympic Academies have been covered by the representatives of the bodies in question. Of particular interest seems to have been the issues of the collaboration of all these Olympic sport organisations among themselves. Furthermore, subjects relating to the holding of the Olympic Games which belong within the history of the modern Olympic movement have been dealt with by members of the Organising Committees for the Olympic Games, as has been explained above.

### The IOA as subject of lectures

The work of the IOA itself has been the subject of many lecturers – and not only members of the Ephoria of the



Konstantinos Georgiadis, Honorary Dean of the IOA

IOA – who have aimed to explore the mission of the IOA, the briefing of participants on its character and work, a report on its work, the tabling of proposals for its future action, etc.

In 1961, when Carl Diem gave his first lecture at the 1st Session for Young Participants, he spoke of his own efforts and those of Ioannis Ketseas for the setting up of the IOA, the difficulties which they faced and their expectations for the future. According to Diem, the high academic level of the sessions should always be ensured, and there should always be a central subject, while the main mission of the IOA is the "scholarly documentation of the principles of Olympism".<sup>127</sup>

In 1964, at the 4th International Session for Young Participants, the Dean of the IOA Otto Szymczek, a man who more than anyone else had the IOA in his blood and had determined its ideas and action by his character, made the first review of the chronicle of IOA's foundation and its protagonists, and drew attention to its constants, aims and priorities, taking care to give an overall outline

126. See indicatively G. Bernhard, "Olympism in university curricula", *5th International Session for Educationists* (1982): IOA Archive, K165; J. Powell, "Olympism and the Universities", *6th International Session for Educators* (1984): IOA Archive, K168; F. Lotz, "Highest Institutes-Olympic movement- International Olympic Academy", *1st International Session for Directors of Higher Institutions of Physical Education* (1986): IOA Archive.

127. C. Diem, "An 'Elis' of our Times, Meaning and Purpose of an Olympic Academy", *Report on the 1st Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 16th-23rd June 1961*, Athens, HOC, 19732, 18-22.



Discussion group, co-ordinated by J. Powell,  
at the 25th International Session for Young Participants (1985)  
[IOA Archive, K10.122]

of its operation.<sup>128</sup> In his 1981 address, he states that the ambition of the IOA is “to organize sessions for the representatives of all cultural, scientific, technical and artistic branches, so that its idea can be disseminated among all social strata, thus attracting more converts to the Olympic Ideology.”<sup>129</sup>

In the introductory speech in 1973 at the 13th Session for Young Participants, the then President of the IOA, Epameinondas Petralias, having analysed the role, the aims and the history of the IOA up to that point, noted the fact that in the past the National Olympic Committees had been particularly reserved towards the IOA, but now, from 1973 onwards, an increasing number of Olympic Committees were sending representatives to its sessions.<sup>130</sup> This was a confirmation and recognition of the efforts of the IOA.

Apart from the members of the Ephoria, who have often spoken of the history of the IOA and its work, it is observable that some of the virtually permanent associates of the IOA, faithful and fervent supporters of its work, have devoted their lectures to its function, character and mission and have put forward proposals for its future. Among them are Professors John Powell, Josef Recla, Nina Pappas and Norbert Müller. “The academic arm of the Olympic movement” and “the first and only Olympic University” was how the Canadian professor at the University of Guelph John Powell described the International Olympic Academy.<sup>131</sup> The Austrian Josef Recla, Professor of Physical Education and subsequently Director of the Institute of Physical Education of the University of Graz, insisted upon the maintenance of the high academic standard of the IOA’s

128. See Szymczek, “The International Olympic Academy”, op. cit. (n. 45), 45-60. This is the first review, not counting the lecture by Carl Diem, who was a leading figure in the foundation of the IOA.

129. Szymczek, “Objectives, aims and achievements”, op. cit. (n. 11), 78.

130. E. Petralias, “Address”, *Report on the 13th Session of*

*the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 13rd-29th July 1973*, Athens, HOC, 1973, 32-33.

131. See J. Powell, “The contribution of the International Olympic Academy to international understanding”, *Report on the 21st Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 4th-19th July 1985*, Lausanne-Athens, IOC/HOC, [1986], 94 and 96 respectively.

sessions by the invitation of distinguished lecturers from various areas of culture in order to achieve a global exploration of the Olympic ideal, as well as upon a strict selection of the participants and upon their adequate preparation to take part in the work of the particular session.<sup>132</sup> On the model of the International Olympic Academy, Nina Pappas set up the Mobile National Olympic Academy of the USA in 1977.<sup>133</sup> In the view expressed in the speech of Professor Norbert Müller at the 16th Session for Young Participants in 1976, in the IOA, the combination of speeches and sport and artistic activities within the framework of a harmonious co-existence is unique; he himself proposed the expansion of the activities of the IOA through different sessions, and the creation of a functional library and of an academic council responsible for the dissemination of Olympism.<sup>134</sup>

Finally, Juan Antonio Samaranch, then President of the IOC and subsequently Honorary President of the IOA and the IOC, said, in addressing the participants at the opening ceremony of the 21st International Session on the Pnyx hill in 1981 and on the occasion of the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the IOA: "What a beautiful example for you participants of international understanding and cooperation! Here is a Greek institution operating in Greece under the auspices of an international organization founded by a Frenchman with headquarters in Switzerland and which welcomes participants and lecturers from all over the world".<sup>135</sup>

132. See J. Recla, "The Reception of the IOA in the International Area", *Report on the 6th Summer Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia August 1966*, Athens, HOC, 1967, 144-147, and idem, "Our Contribution to the Reception and Dissemination of the IOA-Idea and Organization", *ibid.*, 143-144. Recla was particularly insistent upon the scientific character of Physical Education and the need for the bibliography of the science of Physical Education to be recorded and organised, while never failing to inform those taking part in the Session of the IOA on new entries in the bibliographical production or to distribute to them a summary bibliography on Olympic subjects, divided up into different areas.

133. Of the nine lecturers in the work of the American Olympic Academy, five had attended the work of the IOA or had been invited as lecturers, see Nina Pappas, "The promulgation of the Olympic Ideas", *op. cit.* (n. 91), 201-203.

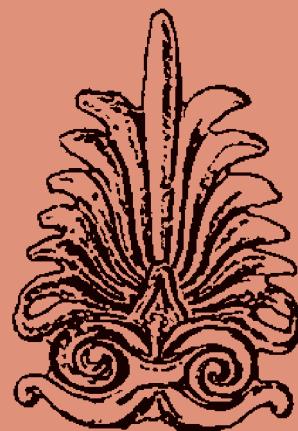
134. Müller, "The Olympic Idea of Pierre de Coubertin and Carl Diem", *op. cit.* (n. 111), 94-100.

135. See "Address by the President of the IOC H.E. J.A. Samaranch", *Report on the 21st Session of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia 5th-20th July 1981*, Athens, HOC, 1982, 26.



Olympism changes antagonism to synagonism, competition to noble emulation, opposition to partnership. Sports in Olympic spirit serve the most difficult and decisive element of human being in modern times, i.e. socialisation as a process by which each one of us becomes a conscious and creative member of a responsible society. Competitive sport is a reality of this transcultural value and a symbol of how one becomes conscious of his social belongingness.

Nikolaos Nissiotis, 1986



[...] the International Olympic Academy has as its task the protection and extension of the educational heritage of the Olympic movement and the social and philosophical interpretation of the World Athletic Movement. The Academy is a teaching institution for the creation of personnel dedicated to the principles and to the ideas of Olympism who will be able as ambassadors to disseminate these principles in their countries.

Nikos Filaretos, 1988



## International Postgraduate Seminar on Olympic Studies

The Postgraduate Seminar, which lasts for a month, includes four units of subject-matter of lectures by university professors from all over the world; in the first unit, they give lectures on sport in ancient Greece, in the second on the revival of the Olympic Games and the modern Olympic movement, in the third, a sociological approach to the phenomenon of the Olympic Games is

undertaken, and in the fourth, this phenomenon is examined from a philosophical point of view. The students present their essays at the end of the seminar, together with the conclusions from its work, in which guided tours, educational trips to archaeological sites, sport activities, social events, etc. are also included.



Lectures during the first year of the Master's Degree Programme in Olympic Studies (academic year 2009-2010). In the centre, Professor Christina Koulouri  
[photograph: Vassiliki Tzachrista]

**TABLE 9a**  
**INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE SEMINAR**  
**Participation number per teacher<sup>1</sup>**

Teachers	Nationality	Participation
Abrams Jeffrey	Great Britain	1
Ajisafe Mike	Nigeria	1
Albanidis Evangelos	Greece	3
Amara Mahfoud	Algeria	1
Anthony Don	Great Britain	1
Barney Robert	Canada	2
Bartzeliotis Leonidas	Greece	2
Beamish Rob	Great Britain	2
Binder Deanna	Canada	1
Brown Douglas	Canada	1
Brownell Susan	USA	2
Buschmann Jürgen	Germany	1
Chappelet Jean-Loup	Switzerland	1
Chatzistefanou Kostas	Cyprus	1
Crowther Nigel	Canada	2
Crum Bart	Netherlands	2
DaCosta Lamartine	Brazil	3
Daly John	Australia	2
Decker Wolfgang	Germany	4
Georgiadis Konstantinos	Greece	17
Goggaki Konstantina	Greece	2
Hargreaves John	Great Britain	2
Heinemann Klaus	Germany	2
Henry Ian	Great Britain	5
Herzfeld Michael	USA	1
Hill Christopher	Great Britain	1
Houlihan Barri	Great Britain	2
Jobling Ian	Australia	2
Kalpaxis Athanassios	Greece	2
Kemo-Keimbou David-Claude	Cameroon	2
Kidd Bruce	Canada	3
Koulouri Christina	Greece	3
Kretchmar Scott	USA	1
Kriemadis Athanassios	Greece	2
Kwanboonchan Supranee	Thailand	1
Kyle Donald	USA	2
Landry Fernard	Canada	1
Lee Hugh	USA	2
Lennartz Karl	Germany	3
Liponski Wojciech	Poland	1
Loland Sigmund	Norway	2
Lolas Ioannis	Greece	1
Lucas John	USA	3
MacAloon John	USA	3
Maes Marc	Belgium	2
Martinkova Irena	Czech Rep.	2
McNamee Mike	Great Britain	2
Mechikoff Robert	USA	2
Meier Klaus	Canada	1
Messing Manfred	Germany	3
Miah Andy	Great Britain	2
Mikrogiannakis Emmanuel	Greece	3
Miller Stephen	USA	3

1. Including supervising and guest professors.

**TABLE 9a**  
**Participation number per teacher**

Teachers	Nationality	Participation
Mountakis Kostas	Greece	2
Mouratidis Ioannis	Greece	4
Müller Norbert	Germany	7
Panagiotopoulos Dimitrios	Greece	1
Panagiopoulou Roi	Greece	1
Panagopoulos Andreas	Greece	6
Papaioannou Ioannis	Greece	1
Parry Jim	Great Britain	8
Pavlogiannis Onoufrios	Greece	1
Pfister Gertrud	Germany	1
Ramsamy Sam	South Africa	3
Reid Heather	USA	1
Ren Hai	China	1
Repond Rose-Marie	Switzerland	1
Reppold Alberto	Brazil	2
Robinson Leigh	Great Britain	3
Rodichenko Vladimir	Russia	1
Rondoyiannis Georgios	Greece	1
Schantz Otto	France	5
Schneider Angela	Canada	1
Séguin Benoît	Canada	3
Shaddad Kamal Hamid	Sudan	1
Terret Thierry	France	2
Theodoraki Eleni	Greece	4
Toohey Kristine	Australia	1
Uchiumi Kazuo	Japan	1
Wacker Christian	Germany	2
Wallechinsky David	USA	2
Wamsley Kevin	Canada	2
Weiler Ignomar	Austria	9
Weiss Curt	Germany	1
Xiao Jie	China	1
Yalouris Nikolaos	Greece	3
Yatsis Sotiris	Greece	2
Young David	USA	1
Total of teachers: 88		Total of countries: 25
		Participation total: 205

**TABLE 9b**  
**Participation and teachers number per country<sup>1</sup>**

Country	Participation	Teachers
Greece	61	20
Great Britain	29	11
Germany	24	9
USA	21	11
Canada	17	10
Australia	5	3

1. The first six countries in terms of numbers of participants / teachers



**TABLE 9c**  
**Number of teachers per year**

Year	Number of teachers
1st 1993	9
2nd 1994	11
3rd 1995	12
4th 1996	12
5th 1997	13
6th 1998	10
7th 1999	11
8th 2000	14
9th 2001	10
10th 2002	15
11th 2003	13
12th 2004	16
13th 2005	11
14th 2006	12
15th 2007	15
16th 2008	11
17th 2009	10

The Postgraduate Seminar provides lessons in the form of seminars to selected postgraduate students from every part of the world who will form the future generation of scholars in the sports sciences and researchers into the Olympic movement. The Honorary Dean of the IOA, Professor Konstantinos Georgiadis, is responsible for conducting it, teaching, and supervising its work. Norbert Müller, professor at the University of Mainz and member of the Commission of the IOC for the IOA, contributed significantly to the Postgraduate Seminar, while the following professors were regularly present at the seminars for more than five times: Ingomar Weiler, Jim Parry, Andreas Panagopoulos, Otto Schantz and Ian Henry.

The selection of professors in a postgraduate seminar of international standing is, of course, to a large degree related with the directness and ability to pass on messages of those who teach, their academic prestige, and inter-personal relations, but it is at the same time indicative of the level of studies in the country of each one of them. Greece, Great Britain, Germany, the USA and Canada –in that order– are the countries with the most representatives. All the above countries have a high level of studies in sport sciences and in the field of the study of the Olympic movement.

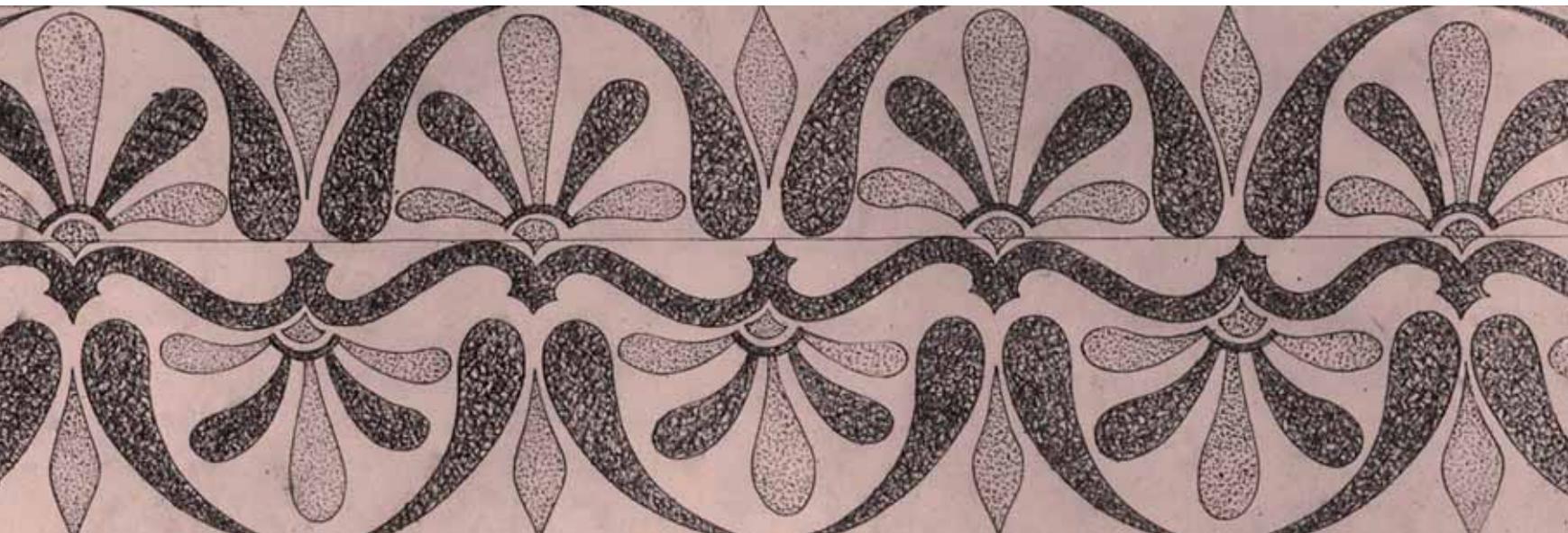
More particularly, the professors who teach at the Seminar are drawn from the disciplines of ancient his-

tory, archaeology, philosophy, classical studies, sociology, anthropology, the history of sport, the history of the Olympic movement, political sciences, physical education, kinesiology, etc., with a view that all four areas of the Seminar should be covered as globally as possible.

However, it cannot be overlooked that despite the fact that the IOA carefully ensures the arithmetical balance of male and female students in the Postgraduate Seminar, the same cannot be said of the representation of women in the ranks of those teaching at it. Of the 205 participating as teachers, only 22 have been women professors, and most of these have taken part only since the beginning of the new millennium.

On general lines, the Postgraduate Seminar on Olympic Studies is one of the manifestations of the IOA with a separate structure and function, which pertain more to a university curriculum. As an organised event, it has succeeded in giving a different image to the IOA, which has thus broadened its horizons and made its presence felt in tertiary education in the field of Olympic studies.





## Instead of an epilogue

The IOA is a body whose influence on the lives of those who take part and share in its work is difficult to calculate. Within a liberal framework of encounter, time spent together and co-existence of people from all over the world in the cradle of the Olympic Games, on a historically and emotionally charged site, friendly relations are developed, ideals are inspired and life choices are sometimes determined.<sup>136</sup>

It is worth quoting here in full the words of a scholar who has lived with and loved the IOA and has studied it exhaustively, Professor Norbert Müller: "There are no other institutions which can be compared with the IOA and its teaching methods. The mixture of recognized academics from basic specialized areas, well known sports scientists, practicing athletes and top Olympic

officials has extended the IOA clearly beyond the framework of other types of scientific congresses. No sports university or institute and no academic seminar has a similar, permanent framework and none is as meaningful: nowhere else can modern sport be discussed against such a stimulating backdrop as that of the Stadium in Olympia".<sup>137</sup>

The IOA was set up with the purpose of serving as an intellectual and educational centre for Olympism without any previous model. Having experimented to begin with as to the nature and character of the sessions, the number of lecturers and the subjects to be presented, and then firmly establishing a stable structure for its activities, it has succeeded in developing into a body with a clear international profile, a consistent educational and academic orientation and action at a multiplicity of levels with a view always to the defence and academic grounding of the Olympic Ideal.

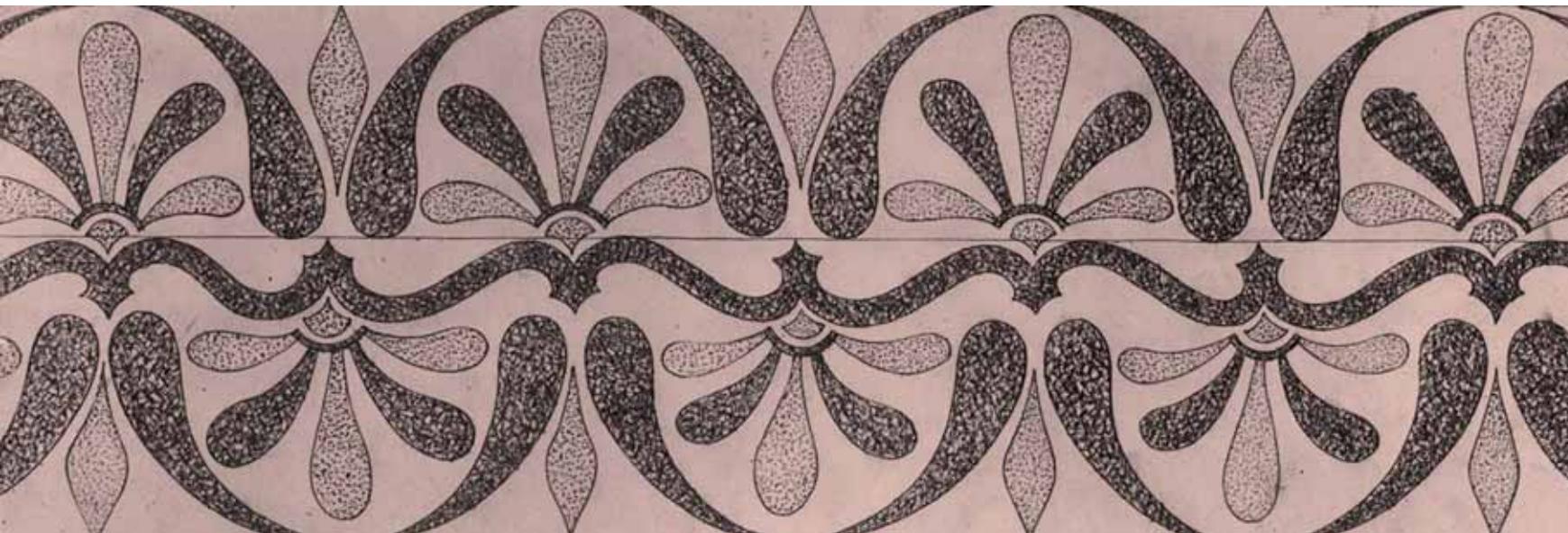
What has also determined the uniqueness and dynamic of the IOA, regardless of its contribution to scholarship, is the fact that its work has always been based on human relations, and for that reason any examination of who has been invited as a speaker, when, of what origins, why and what subject he dealt with should always be undertaken bearing in mind the human factor. The lecturers of the IOA form an active part of it with their own

---

136. One of the most representative examples of the influence of the IOA on the life of those who have attended one of its sessions is the case of Nina Pappas, who, after taking part in the 12th International Session for Young Participants as representative of the USA, chose as her subject for her doctoral thesis at the University of Illinois the International Olympic Academy. See Nina Pappas, *History and Development of the International Olympic Academy 1927-1978*, Urbana, Illinois 1978. Another thesis with the IOA as its subject was compiled again by a former participant in a session of the IOA, N. Müller, *Die Olympische Idee Pierre de Coubertins und Carl Diem in ihrer Auswirkung auf die IOA*, Vol. 2, Graz 1975; today, moreover, Müller is one of the foremost researchers of the work and history of the IOA. A third doctoral thesis that refers to the IOA was written at the University of Alberta, Canada, by Jean Leiper. See also Szymczek, "Objectives, aims and achievements", op. cit. (n. 11), 82.

---

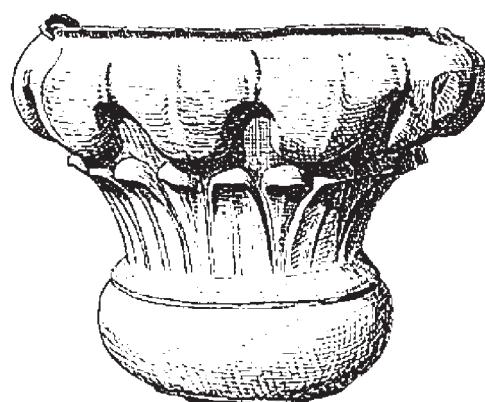
137. See Müller, *Thirty-eight years of lectures*, op. cit. (n. 23), 19.

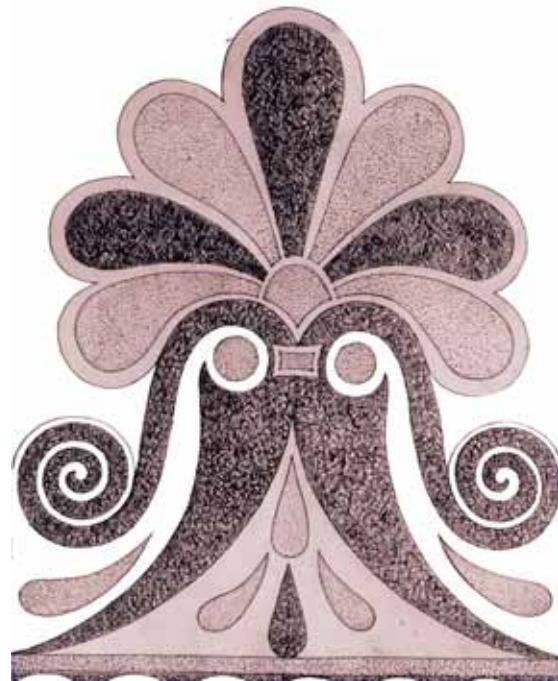


dynamics and entity within the framework of the sessions, and are often its advisers, associates and sympathisers. Furthermore, the IOA has always been a forum of free expression of ideas and views. It may determine the structure of the sessions and their subject-matter and invite the lecturers whom it chooses by means of specific procedures; but it does not involve itself in the content of the speeches and in the views which are expressed by the lecturers, the substance of which it never, in any event, censors. It has always taken care to make clear that the

lectures do not necessarily reflect its positions and it accepts in good faith and with a creative approach the critique of lecturers and participants with regard to the Olympic movement and the IOA itself.

In 2009, the IOA opened a new chapter in its educational activities with the launching of the Master's Degree Programme in Olympic Studies in cooperation with the University of the Peloponnese, thus enhancing its academic contribution and making the "Olympic University" a reality.





# The Master's Degree Program on Olympic Studies

## “Olympic Studies, Olympic Education, Organization and Management of Olympic Events”

KONSTANTINOS GEORGIADIS

The Department of Sports Organization and Management of the Faculty of Human Movement and Quality of Life Sciences of the University of Peloponnese in collaboration with the International Olympic Academy organized for the first time during the Academic year of 2009-2010 a Program of Postgraduate Studies with the title “Olympic Studies, Olympic Education, Organization and Management of Olympic Events”. The Master's Degree Program for the Olympic Studies constitutes an innovation in the Olympic Movement at an international level.

The University of Peloponnese has its seat in Tripolis and is being developed at the level of complete Faculties in the five capitals of the Prefectures of the Region of Peloponnese (Tripolis, Kalamata, Corinth, Nafplio, Sparta). It includes six (6) Faculties with ten (10) Departments that cover an ample variety of subjects and disciplines: science and technology, humanitarian sciences and cultural studies, social and economic sciences, fine arts and human movement and quality of life sciences. Additionally, ten (10) master's degree

programs are offered in the cities of the University. Furthermore, the operation of the Research Institute of Byzantine Culture in Mystras, at the Laconia Prefecture, is very important.

The purpose of the establishment and operation of the University of Peloponnese is its creative contribution to the development of the tertiary education in Greece, with high quality standards in the curriculum, research and teaching, which will meet the demands of a modern University of national, European and international impact.

The philosophy underlying the Master's Degree Program in Olympic Studies represents an innovation for the Olympic Movement at an international level.

The educational program rests on the three pillars of the Olympic Movement: Education, Sports and Culture, which are the foundation of Olympism and Olympic Pedagogy. As they broaden their academic knowledge participants will experience the deeper meaning of Olympism through sporting, cultural and social activities.

The program's philosophy is fully compatible with

the core principles underpinning the Olympic Movement's creation. An idealistic approach to Olympism is followed for the propagation of the Olympic ideal worldwide, which is essential for the promotion and dissemination of the Olympic Movement's humanitarian values. Learning and research on Olympic issues is encouraged by focusing, in particular, on Olympic philosophy, Olympic pedagogy, Olympic education, the organization and management of Olympic events.

The Olympic Movement is a social and educational movement aimed at all people, races, religious groups, men and women without distinction, so that sport can contribute to the development of men's virtues and their individual and social fulfillment.

The course seeks to achieve a number of very important objectives.

For the first time an international master's degree for the Olympic Studies will be granted in the birthplace of the Olympic Games, in Ancient Olympia and in Sparta. A Greek university is also given the opportunity to cooperate directly with the IOA, a cooperation that will contribute to the development of both institutions. Moreover, the course aims at providing high level specialization in all these subjects to students and Olympic Movement officials and playing a leading role in the areas of Olympic Research and Olympic Education.

Today, there are Olympic education programs in more than 80 countries around the world. The challenge for the International Olympic Academy and for the University of Peloponnese is therefore to support these efforts by laying down the constant principles and values that will guide the development of curricula. Greece expresses the sentimental side of the Olympic Movement - the myth - that has its own special role to play in educational matters. With the academic support of the University of Peloponnese, the Master's Degree Program for the Olympic Studies could become a source for the production of ideas for Olympic education issues at a world level.

Foreign and Greek University professors specialized in Olympic issues are teaching in the course. There is a large pool of professors from all over the world who are already working with the IOA in the context of its Post-graduate Seminar that has been running since 1993 and who together with the professors of the University of Peloponnese will constitute the faculty and research staff.

The Olympic Movement needs people who know its history and philosophy to guide its future course. This particular program can provide people with the appropriate training to carry through this mission. The program is open to graduates of Greek and foreign higher education institutions, officials of National Olympic Academies, National Olympic Committees, the International Olympic Committee and European Union Com-



The educational and cultural dimension of the modern Olympic Movement, as developed by Coubertin and his successors, continues to this day with the support of the IOA. The International Master's Degree Programme that we are inaugurating today with the University of the Peloponnese will contribute significantly to its enhancement as we jointly promote and support the educational values of Olympism.

We all know that the contribution of athletes and sports administrators to the promotion of this goal is not enough; what we especially need are educators who will teach the humanitarian values of sport and Olympism to the new generations with a vision for a better and more peaceful world. It is clear that Olympism is a fundamental ideology of life and an inexhaustible source of ethical values and precisely for this reason Olympic education uses the Olympic Idea and the principles of Olympism in order to promote the value of sport and consolidate peace in the world.

Isidoros Kouvelos, 2009





Ceremony for the launching of the Master's Degree Programme in Olympic Studies of the IOA and the University of the Peloponnese, on 30 March 2009. In the first row, from left to right: Emmanuel Katsiadakis, General Secretary of the HOC, Giannis Ioannidis, Deputy Minister of Culture, responsible for Sports, Fanny Palli-Petralia, Minister of Employment and Social Welfare, Spyros Capralos, President of the HOC, Dora Bakoyannis, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marianna Latsis, member of the Supervisory Board of the John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation, Aris Spiliopoulos, Minister of Education, Henrietta Latsis, President of the John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation, Evangelos Chronis, General Director of the Latsis Group and member of the Latsis Foundation's Executive Board.

[IOA Archive, unclassified]

mittees, graduates of university departments for Education, Culture and Sports, as well as graduates of physical education, media and economics departments and other institutions dealing with relevant subjects.

The program's duration is 3 semesters, each corresponding to 30 credits. Courses are given English. The number of enrolled students has been set at 30 each year. The curriculum includes 8 mandatory and 2 selection courses on the following subjects:

#### *1st Semester*

1. The birth of sports. The history and philosophy of sports in antiquity.
2. Modern Olympic Games (revival, historical evo-

lution of Summer and Winter Olympic Games, social and political aspects of the Olympic Games, Olympic Institutions, Olympic Law).

3. Sport and Ethics – Olympic Philosophy.
4. Olympic Pedagogy: Development and implementation of Olympic education school programs.

#### Selection courses (1 of the following)

1. The role, organization and operation of Olympic museums and libraries.
2. Financial management of sports organizations.
3. International relations – Humanitarian law.



The President of the HOC Spyros Capralos addresses the audience at the official launching of the IOA's Master's Degree Programme. To his right: the President of the Administrative Committee of the University of the Peloponnese Professor Emeritus Konstantinos Dimopoulos, the IOA President Isidoros Kouvelos and Associate Professor Konstantinos Georgiadis, Honorary Dean of the IOA and Director of the Master's Degree Programme [IOA Archive, unclassified]

#### *2nd Semester*

1. Olympic Pedagogy: Development and implementation of Olympic education school programs.
2. Evaluation of Olympic education programs; research methodology.
3. Organization and management of the Olympic Games (technology, media, financial management, communication, etc.)
4. Olympic sponsoring and marketing.

Selection courses (1 of the following)

1. Specialized issues of the Olympic Movement: Media – Technology and the Olympic Games,

Doping, Fair play, racism and sports, intercultural education, volunteering, etc.

2. Strategic and operational planning of major sports events.

#### *3rd Semester*

1. Preparation and presentation of a Master's thesis.

#### **The first year of the Master's Degree Program's Operation**

31 students from 25 different countries attended the Program for the academic year 2009-2010. All the courses of the 1st Semester took place in Ancient Olym-



Souvenir photo on the stairs of the conference centre with the first year students of the IOA's Master's Degree Programme (academic year 2009-2010). Among them, the lecturers D. Gargalianos, Associate Professor of the Democritus University of Thrace and Dr Dionyssis Gangas, Director of the IOA [IOA Archive, unclassified]

pia from the 2nd of October to the 5th of December 2009 while during the 2nd Semester that lasted from the 17th of April to the 17th of June 2010 some of the courses took place in Sparta.

Although the duration of the courses in each semester was two months with a daily intensive schedule, the evaluation of the program showed that the participants were satisfied in almost all the aspects of the program.

Some of the positive elements that the participants identified were the good organization, the innovations

and the quality of the lectures, the contemporary issues that were examined and analyzed, the scientific grounding of the professors, the excellent accommodation, the service of the staff, the knowledge and the experiences that the participants got and generally the positive multi-cultural atmosphere that prevailed during the whole duration of the Master's Degree program.

The organization of the program works in combination with the visits to archeological sites and the cultural – sporting activities contributed largely to the suc-



First year students of the IOA's Master's Degree Programme (academic year 2009-2010) with the IOC President Jacques Rogge in the ancient stadium of Olympia after the ceremony for the lighting of the Olympic Flame for the Vancouver Olympic Games  
[IOA Archive, unclassified]

cess of the organization of the Master's Degree program works.

The cohabitation in Ancient Olympia with people from different geographical and cultural background gave the participants the possibility to meet new people and to exchange views and experiences in common interests. Additionally, the innovative and interesting subjects that were examined or discussed contributed to the accomplishment of the goals of the Master's Degree Program. Thus, the participants acquired a more ample

knowledge, gained a more clear view of Olympism and the Olympic Movement, won new educational experiences and obtained more self-confidence after the completion of the courses.

The advantages that the participants gained from their participation to the program will help them extend their career and use this knowledge in their country aiming to promote the Olympic Ideal and the Olympic Education.

In the current academic year of 2010-2011, 28



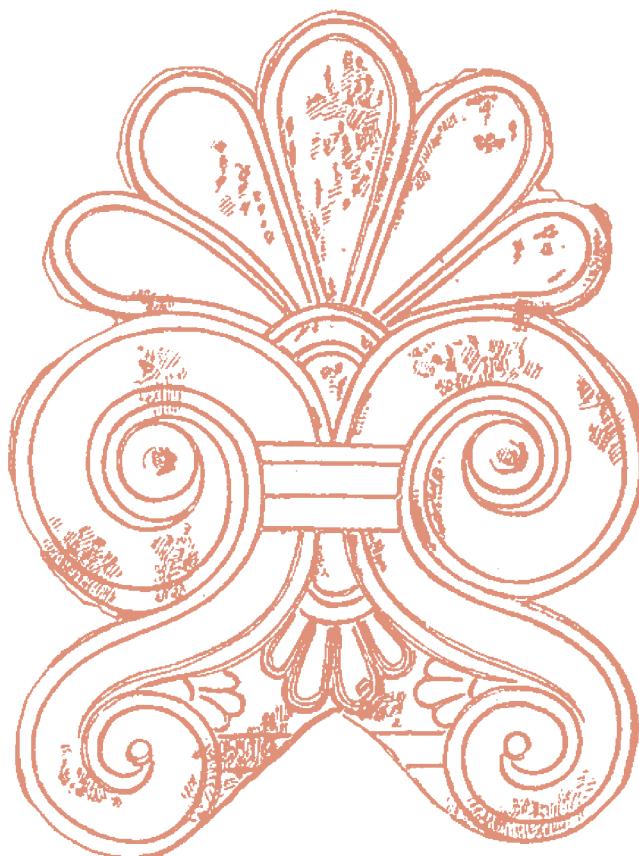
The IOA's stand in the Olympic Village of Singapore where the interactive educational programme  
of the IOA was presented (Youth Olympic Games 2010)  
[photograph: Alexandra Karaiskou].

students from 20 different countries are attending the Master's degree Program in the facilities of the International Olympic Academy in Ancient Olympia. At the same time the students that completed successfully the first two semesters, are in the process of writing their master's thesis. By the end of the third semester they will be the first to receive the Master's Degree Graduation Diploma.

The Master's Degree Program is privately financed by the John S. Latsis Foundation therefore no costs are incurred by the students regarding course fees and accommodation.

I wish to point out that the University of Pelopon-

nese has chosen for its logo the chariot race from the legend of Pelops who is considered to be the legendary founder of the Olympic Games in antiquity. This might be symbolic for the cooperation between the two institutions with the generous sponsorship of the Latsis Foundation. This cooperation for the Master's Degree program in Olympic Studies will revive the ancient gymnasium of "arete" (virtue) in Ancient Olympia and Sparta, two places closely connected with education, feats and wisdom. At this gymnasium of virtue young people from all over the world are trained in Olympic education in order to bring the timeless message of the Olympic Idea to their countries.



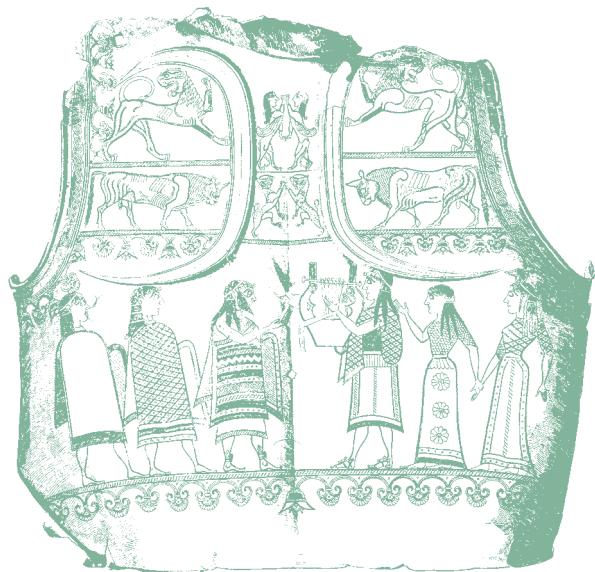




KONSTANTINOS GEORGIADIS

THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMIES





The National Olympic Academies (NOAs) are an integral part of the International Olympic Academy (IOA) and the Olympic movement. Their founding, aims and structure, as well as their relation with the IOA, will be explained below.

When the IOA embarked upon its activities, a whole series of crucial and substantive issues arose as to its functioning in relation to the realisation of its aims. It was obvious that the IOA needed the support of other bodies if it was to meet the educational needs of the Olympic movement. Attendance at the lectures of the sessions was not considered sufficient to make the participants aware of the mission of the IOA and their own share in these endeavours.

The selection of the participants, their preliminary training, the sending of them to the IOA and their future mission sparked off the creation of National Centres for Olympic Studies in various countries.<sup>1</sup> Thus those who

took part in the sessions and seminars now had in their country a point of reference around which they rallied in order to develop their Olympic educational activities in collaboration with the IOA.

These efforts were supported chiefly by participants and lecturers from the early sessions of the IOA. Their evolution from working groups into Centres for Olympic Studies is graphically described by the founder of the Centre for Olympic Studies in Madrid, Conrado Durantez: "We went back to our respective countries deeply affected by this mysterious 'Olympic awakening' one feels after a stay at the Academy in Olympia".<sup>2</sup> In connection with the founding and aims of the Centre for Olympic Studies, he goes on: "Its provisional rules and

---

"an Olympian society" had been founded, "for the aim to promote on a quite private way the Olympic idea in Germany... On my suggestion the Chair of this society has decided on to send for Greece and for Olympia a youth group of appr. 30 pupils during the school holidays" (Diem to Ketseas, 28.1.1952, C. Diem Archive). Diem wrote this letter to encourage Ketseas, who wrote to him: "Unhappily we do not meet hot interest from abroad. But we must endeavor. Meanwhile we are dealing with 'material' preparations for the housing of the expected (or unexpected) 'proselytes' = students" (Ketseas to Diem, 21.1.1952, C. Diem Archive).

2. *Report on the IOA's Special Sessions and Seminars 1998*, Athens 1999, 571.



Conrado Durantez, President of the National Olympic Academy of Spain, 1996  
[IOA Archive, K33.154]

regulations specified that the new institution would possess a functional structure and would be organized on the model of the Olympic Academy at Olympia, with the same objectives and that it would attempt, in its limited national form, to become an effective collaborator of the Academy in the pursuit of its aims".<sup>3</sup>

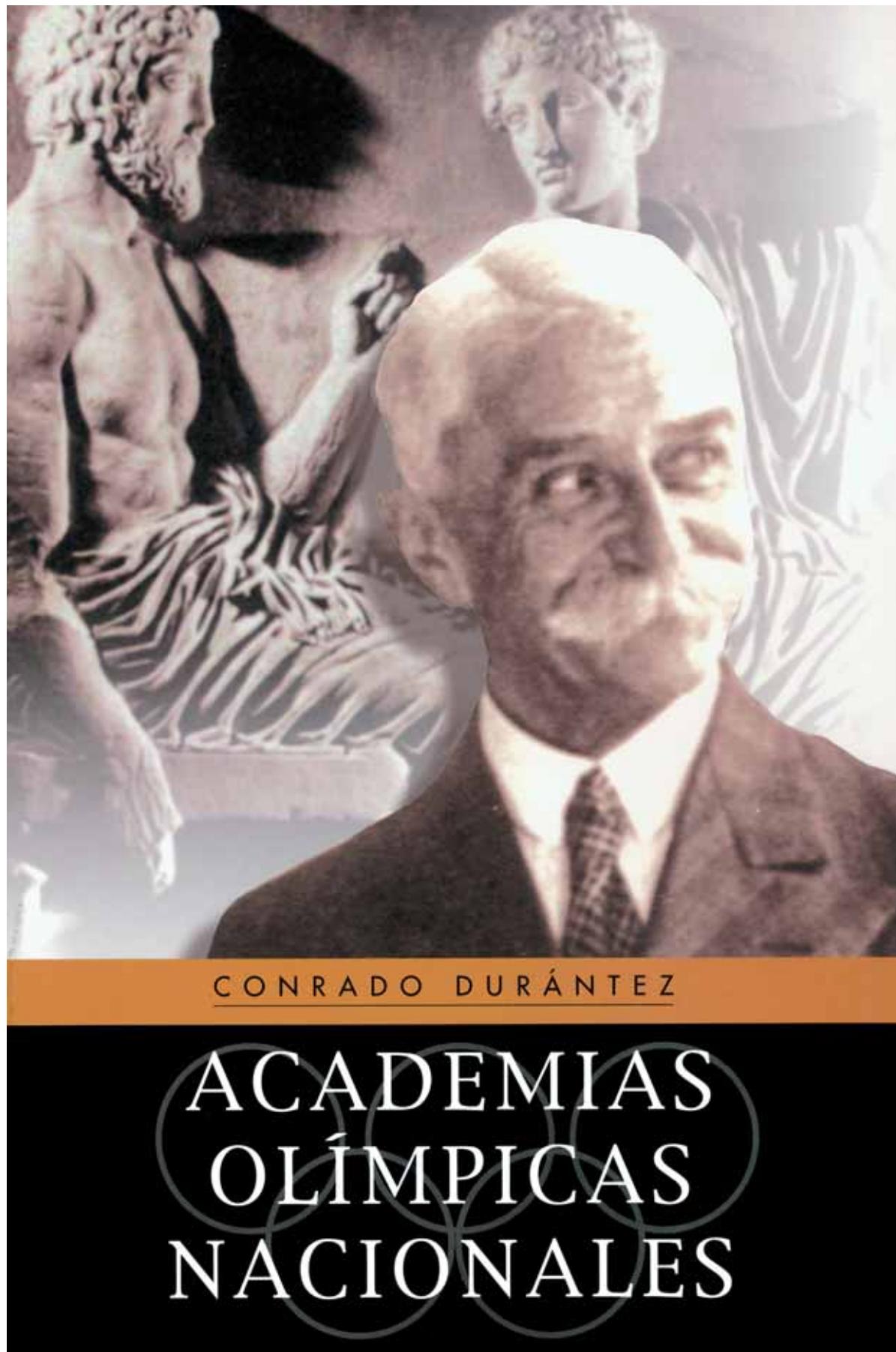
As early as 1966, the National Olympic Committee

of Germany had decided upon the creation of a standing academic committee under the name of 'Kuratorium für die IOA', which had as its aim to support the work of the IOA by selecting and preparing the participants for its sessions and then serving as the link between them.<sup>4</sup>

---

3. *Report on the 16th Session of the IOA*, Athens, HOC, 1977, 91.

4. N. Müller, *Die Olympische Idee Pierre de Coubertins und Carl Diems in ihrer Auswirkung auf die Internationale Olympische Akademie (IOA)*, Dissertation zur Erlangung des Doktorgrades an der Philosophischen Fakultät der Karl-Franzens-Universität, Graz im SS 1975, 191, and Quellensammlung 149, 150.



[IOA Archive]



The creation of the International Olympic Academy and its extension by means of National Olympic Academies, which will henceforth increase throughout the world, was brought about by visionaries, by a few determined and inspired men who thereby rendered an inestimable service to our Olympic movement. The names of all those who have contributed to this often difficult task are now part of our history and have assembled in the pantheon of Olympism together with those who have guaranteed the success and strength of our movement for almost a century.

Juan Antonio Samaranch,  
30th June 1988



Fortunately, there is the International Olympic Academy and the many National Olympic Academies whose purpose is to promote Olympism as an educational philosophy with wide-ranging societal impact. It is the Olympic Academies that often are left with the responsibility of promoting and developing not only the physical but also the moral qualities which form the basis of all sport. It is also the solemn duty of the Olympic Academies to educate youth in the cardinal virtues of sport, including the virtues of camaraderie, respect for the written and unwritten rule, respect for the opponent, competing to improve oneself, striving for balance of body, mind and soul, and a comprehension of the moral qualities and mental structures which make up the Olympic Spirit. The Olympic Academies, therefore, attempt to perpetuate and transfer Olympic ideals into reality.

Joseph Olander, 1992



Similar initiatives were also taken in the same year in Austria for the setting up of the 'Arbeitgemeinschaft zur Förderung des Olympischen Gedankens in Österreich'.<sup>5</sup>

In the United States also a similar committee was set up in 1974, consisting of officials of the American Olympic Committee, students and university teachers who had all attended the sessions of the IOA and had then become protagonists in the convening of the first session of the National Olympic Committee of the USA, in 1977, in Chicago.<sup>6</sup>

In the discussion groups of the IOA sessions, the idea of a 'National Olympic Academy' emerged, as it was reported, as a "popular topic".<sup>7</sup> Since a number of the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) did not conscientiously fulfil their educational obligations, the participants in the IOA sessions sought the setting up of National Olympic Academies, so that those taking part on each occasion, on returning to their own countries, would join the nucleus of these Academies and serve as ambassadors of Olympism in those countries.<sup>8</sup>

After 1976, the Centres for Olympic Studies, with the IOA as their model, gradually were renamed National Olympic Academies and, together with those which already existed, set up the first academic network of the Olympic movement.<sup>9</sup>

Today, 30 years after the founding of the first National Olympic Academies, their purpose is the cultivation and dissemination of the Olympic Ideal, together with the study and application of the universal pedagogic and social principles of the Olympic movement, as defined in the Olympic Charter, through Olympic Educa-

---

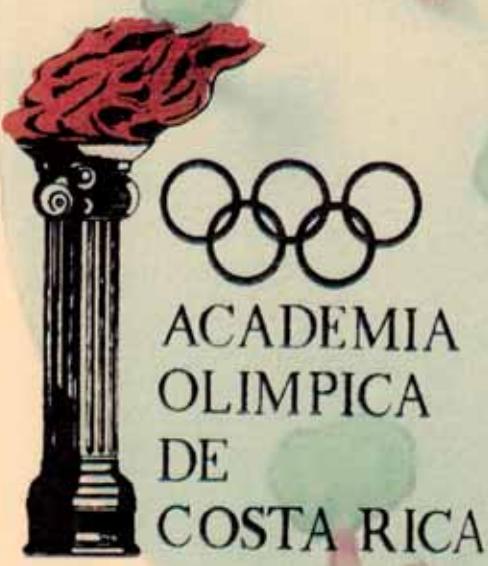
5. Annette Hauser, *Die Bedeutung und Effektivität der Internationalen Olympischen Akademie (IOA) für Österreich*, Hausarbeit zur Erlangung der Lehrbefähigung aus Leibesübungen an Höheren Schulen, Graz, November 1983, 118.

6. Nina Pappas, *History and Development of the International Olympic Academy 1927-1977*, PhD thesis, University of Illinois, May 1978, 131-132.

7. *Report on the 16th Session of the IOA*, Athens 1977, 241.

8. *Ibid.*, 237.

9. "These meetings, eventually, took the form of branches of the IOA. Thus commenced the effort to acquit [sic] all countries with the Olympic idea. These meetings in Austria, Spain, Japan, China and America, later assumed the name 'National Olympic Academies'", O. Szymczek, 'The National Olympic Academies' in the *IOA Report on the 23rd Session, Lausanne 1985*, 64. On 9 November 1989, at the meeting of the IOC Commission for the IOA in Lausanne, the criteria for the definition of a National Olympic Academy were discussed, and it was decided that these had already been fulfilled by the founding of the National Olympic Academy of Spain. See *Procès-verbal du groupe de travail pour l' Académie Internationale Olympique*, Lausanne, 9 novembre 1989.



# PROGRAMA DE EDUCACION OLÍMPICA INFORME ANUAL 2002

[IOA Archive]



Commemorative photograph of participants at the 7th International  
Special Session for Educationists and Responsibles of National Olympic Academies, 1986  
[IOA Archive, K11.1]

tion programmes, within the boundaries of the national and cultural zone in which each is active, in collaboration with the International Olympic Academy and the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The National Olympic Committees are arms of the IOA and serve as transmitters and receivers for the spreading of the ideas of the Olympic Charter through national Olympic Education programmes. They must also en-

courage the involvement in sport of all social and age groups and promote the idea of sport as a fundamental human right.

These objectives are realised by the NOAs through programmes which they themselves draw up in collaboration with the NOCs and with other sport and sport education bodies in their countries.



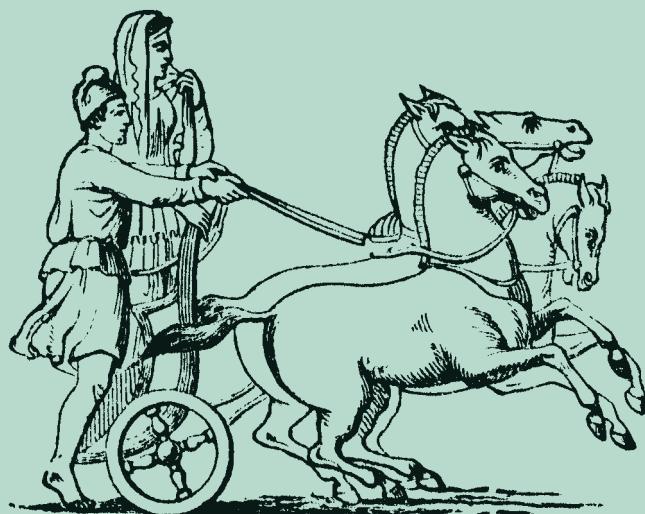
All NOCs have a duty to respect the principles of the "Olympic Charter", and it is clearly in their interest to spread the ideals of Olympism within their respective countries according to their means. This will promote the development of the physical and moral qualities of the population which form a basis of today's concept of sport, (Article 1,1).

Participation in Olympic and Continental Games recognised by the IOC and the organizational, economic and sports technical questions this involves, leaves the NOCs very little opportunity for reflection on the philosophical principles of the Olympic Movement. Pierre de Coubertin was aware of this short coming, even in

his day, and mentioned it on several occasions in his speeches and writings.

How can the young people of a country become interested in the principles of Olympism unless each NOC provides the necessary information? How can these principles be incorporated into the teaching in schools and further education establishments without assistance from the NOC? In order to fulfil this important requirement on a lasting basis, every NOC and every country needs a National Olympic Academy (NOA). Over forty countries have already taken this step.

IOC, *Académie Nationale Olympique – National Olympic Academy, Fondation – Foundation, Perspectives, Activités – Activities*, 1989





Commemorative photography of participants at the 3rd Joint International Session for Directors of National Olympic Academies and Members and Officials of National Olympic Committees and International Federations, 1996 [IOA Archive, K33.218]

The following are among the competences of each National Olympic Academy:

1.
  - Communication with the IOA and following its activities
  - Selection and preliminary preparation of the participants for the IOA sessions
  - Preparation and organisation of at least one national session per annum with the special topic of the IOA session as its subject
  - Maintenance of contact with former participants
  - Setting up of a working group or committee of former participants which will support the work of the IOA within the national borders of the country
  - Sending of an annual report on its events of an educational character to the IOA and IOC
2.
  - Promotion of Olympic Education programmes in primary and secondary schools
  - Training of personnel of the Olympic movement in the country in matters of Olympism
3.
  - In-service training of primary and secondary-school teachers of Physical Education in matters of Olympic education and the joint organisation of educational programmes in collaboration with the country's Ministry of Education
  - Continuing education of athletes who take part in the Olympic Games
  - Continuing education of Olympic medallists with a view to their serving as models for young people
  - Holding of talks, seminars, summer sessions for young people, camps for children, academic symposia with special subjects on the Olympic movement
  - Organisation of cultural programmes in connection with the Olympic movement
  - Holding of celebrations devoted to Olympic medallists and of interviews with them
  - Holding of a competition for Olympic sport poetry, painting, and sculpture
  - Holding of 'little Olympic Games' between schools



Participants' discussion group at the 6th International Session for Directors of National Olympic Academies, 2001  
[IOA Archive, K46.203]

- Holding of Olympic Day events
  - Holding of Olympic exhibitions
4. • Compilation of handbooks on Olympic Education for all levels of education on the summer and winter Olympic Games, as well as on the Paralympics, and the promotion of the material in educational institutions
- Compilation of handbooks in collaboration with historical museums and non-governmental organisations
  - Publication of a periodical on Olympic Education
  - Printing and dispatch to all interested bodies of handbooks, posters and information material of any kind in general
  - Encouragement of historical and philosophical research programmes on the Olympic movement at a national level
5. • Setting up of an Olympic Museum
- Creation of Olympic Archives
- Creation of an Olympic theme library
  - Organisation of an Olympic Games film library
6. • Communication with public and private agencies and mass media in order to sensitise and inform citizens about the principles of Olympism
- Creation of a web page to give information on its aim, structure and activities
  - Promotion of co-operation with other NOAs on bilateral relations at continent or international level
  - Setting up of working groups on sport and ecology, sport and women, sport and peace, sport and the media
  - Participation in international fora in connection with Olympic Education
  - Creation of Centres for Olympic Studies in universities throughout the country for the training of students and collaboration with teachers of humanities, and of a Chair in Olympism in universities.



[IOA Archive]

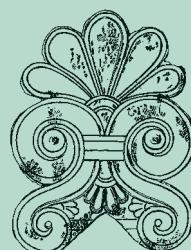


Over 20,000 participants have taken part in the various meetings of the IOA between 1961 and 1988. Many of them have taken the Olympic teaching mission proposed to them in Olympia extremely seriously and contributed in a number of ways in the spreading of Olympic ideals within their countries.

As it is impossible for all to visit Olympia, who are interested in the work of Olympism, or who will be needed to carry on the leadership of the educational role of Olympism (an NOC can send a maximum of five representatives to the main session), some NOCs have established their own centres devoted to the promotion of Olympic philosophy. These have been created as a result of the initiative of committed participants and speakers at the IOA's sessions since 1961. The first examples of this were the German NOC's "Kuratorium Olympische Akademie" (1966) or the Spanish NOC's "Centro de Estudios Olímpicos" (1968) in Madrid.

In 1983, the first meeting of representatives of the existing National Olympic Academies with the IOC's Commission for the IOA took place in Lausanne. Through this gesture, the IOC wished to show that, like the President of the IOA and the Ephoria (Board of Trustees), it welcomed and fully encouraged the new trend shown in the establishment of these National Olympic Academies. H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the IOC, had personally sent a circular to the NOCs in 1984 encouraging them to set up National Olympic Academies in their own countries.

IOC, Académie Nationale Olympique – National  
Olympic Academy, Fondation – Foundation,  
Perspectives, Activités – Activities, 1989





**OLYMPIC ACADEMY OF MALAYSIA**

*6<sup>th</sup> National  
Olympic Academy  
Session*



*Baron Pierre De Coubertin 1863-1937*

**7-11 APRIL 2003  
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA  
KUALA LUMPUR  
MALAYSIA**

[IOA Archive]



Education is one of the most important facets of Olympism, as it prepares athletes for performance and teaches universal ethical principles to them.

To achieve its aims, Olympism should constantly rely on cultural education that includes a physical dimension of every effort in rural and sporting activities, an intellectual dimension that encourages reflection and reasoned action and a moral and religious dimension that seeks for ethics and links them with any social act.

Olympism during the 3rd millennium must remain a universal model, promoting common

and timeless values for all nations and all men, through the ages and all over the world. These common and timeless values are the Olympic ideals and ethics, i.e. respect of the rules of the game, fair play, the love for individual and collective effort, tolerance, mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, availability, accepting differences, rejecting cheating (doping), violence and chauvinism, sense of duty, accepting well deserved victory and justified defeat, in short everything that contributes to man's inner well-being.

Théophile Touba, 2000



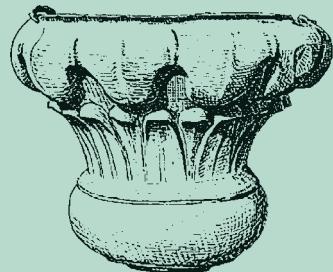
Meanwhile, the Olympic Games had conquered the world, but at the time only athletic deeds and medals mattered. The moral values and the philosophy of Olympism were soon to be forgotten.

Therefore, it was important to develop some action of formation for the several intervening agents, where the basic lines of Olympism would be analysed. This could be only done by the National Olympic Committees,

which were already overwhelmed with the economic, technical and organizational problems resulting from their representation in the Olympic Games.

The National Olympic Academies (NOAs) started to flourish then as a chance to gather the several scholarship holders coming to Olympia every year.

Anibal Justiniano, 2000





Sports activities (50th International Session For Young Participants, 2010)  
[IOA Archive, unclassified]

The National Olympic Academies operate within the determinative framework of the corresponding National Olympic Committees and the aim of their operation is in keeping with those of the Olympic Committees. From the answers given in a research project by 94 National Olympic Academies<sup>10</sup> –out of a total of 133 which have so far been set up– it was established that 78 are sub-committees of the corresponding NOCs (46 with their own charter and 32 without a charter), whereas only 16 stated that they are independent organisations. The NOAs are the educational institutions of the NOCs. Even though there are considerable differences in their structure and *modus operandi*, they must be under the aegis of the corresponding NOC, within the framework of a single Olympic movement. Furthermore, it would be very difficult today to determine a common system for all the NOAs, since there are major administrative, cultural and political differences from country to country.

10. The research was carried out by the IOA by sending questionnaires to all the NOAs and NOCs.

In the IOC's brief but substantive handbook on the National Olympic Academies, the recommendation appears that the President of the NOA should be an academic.<sup>11</sup> This proposal –wish– has not so far met with a response to any satisfactory degree. Moreover, it is proposed that the rest of the members of the NOAs should be drawn from the field of primary, secondary and tertiary education, so that they can support its activities at all levels. There is also a recommendation that the President of the NOA should be an *ex officio* member of the Executive Committee of the relevant NOC, in order to ensure better co-operation between them and the co-ordination of their work.

In 1982, the first official meeting of the earliest National Olympic Academies was held in Lausanne. Two years later, in Los Angeles, the then Dean of the IOA, Otto Szymczek, who had played an active part in their foundation, lodged detailed proposals and instructions

11. IOC (ed.), *National Olympic Academy. Foundation-Perspectives-Activities*, Lausanne 1989.



The President of the Hellenic Republic Karolos Papoulias opens the International Session for Young Participants on the Pnyx Hill (2009).

Next to him, the President of the IOA Isidoros Kouvelos

[IOA Archive, unclassified]

on their manner of operation.<sup>12</sup> The compilation of these proposals was based on the experience which he had acquired from the 20 years of operation of the IOA and from monitoring the functioning of all the National Olympic Academies which had so far been set up.

In 1986, in order to support the work of the NOAs, the International Session for Directors of National Olympic Academies, in which 14 National Olympic Academies took part, was held, at Olympia, for the first time. The session was held again in 1988 and in 1990 with 37 and 39 representatives of National Olympic Academies present, respectively. Since 1992, the session has been called the 'International Joint Session', because members and officials of National Olympic Committees and Academies have taken part in it. Since 1999, it has been held one year for the Directors of National Olympic Academies and the next as a joint session with offi-

cials of the NOCs. By means of these sessions, the items on the agenda of which have been concerned exclusively with the role, the operation, the structure and the activities of the NOAs, and Olympic Education in the upbringing of young people, the IOA has supported the activities of the NOAs, the communication between them and the in-service training of their personnel in the best possible manner.<sup>13</sup>

At these sessions, those responsible for the NOAs give an account of the educational activities of their Academies, and of the handbooks on Olympic Educa-

12. O. Szymczek, 'Το έργο και το διδακτικό πρόγραμμα των Εθνικών Ολυμπιακών Ακαδημιών' [The work and curriculum of the National Olympic Academies], IOA Archive (n.d.).

13. K. Georgiadis, 'International Olympic Academy: Reality and Vision', in *IOA Report on the IOA's Special Sessions and Seminars 2001*, Athens 2002, 506-523; idem, '45 Years of Olympic Studies and Olympic Education in the International Olympic Academy', in *IOA Report on the IOA's Special Sessions and Seminars 2005*, Athens 2006. I have myself followed and directed from 1989 to the present the work of seven out of the ten International Sessions of the National Olympic Academies and the eight International Joint Sessions for Directors of NOAs and Members and Officials of NOCs.



Lambis Nikolaou, President of the HOC – member of the IOC – member of the IOA Ephoria; Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the IOC; Nikos Filaretos, President of the IOA – member of the IOC; Dimitris Avramopoulos, Mayor of Athens, and Eleni Glykatzi-Ahrweiler, President of the European University. Opening ceremony of the 39th International Session for Young Participants, on the Pnyx, 1999

[IOA Archive, K41.143]

tion, with their methodology and content. Furthermore, they hold discussions and create bonds with other colleagues, and this ensures their collaboration after the session is over. In addition, the Session of Directors of NOAs is a periodical, but permanent, forum for the submission of reports on their *acta* on the part of the NOAs.

The IOA has also encouraged the NOAs to hold educational seminars on Olympic Education on its premises at Ancient Olympia, so that their personnel can acquaint themselves with the history and the archaeological site of the cradle of the Olympic Games.<sup>14</sup>

One of the aims of the IOA is the maximum possible increase in the number of National Olympic Academies, as well as accurate information on the educational framework of their operation. In order to achieve this objective, the former President of the IOA and member of the IOC Nikos Filaretos worked harmoniously for many

years together with Anselmo Lopez (1910-2004), Director of Olympic Solidarity. A special programme for the financial support of the NOCs for the setting up of Academies and libraries, and for the holding of educational Olympic Programmes was developed.

Many of the National Olympic Academies have some noteworthy work to their credit. Each year they educate hundreds of young people, of school age and adults, in their countries on Olympic matters and draw up excellent Olympic Education programmes. The National Olympic Academy of Germany was one of the first to compile a user-friendly handbook, entitled *Mach mit bei der Schülerolympiade!* Its content is revised every two years in view of the summer and winter Olympic Games, and it is sent to the country's schools.

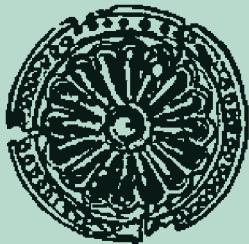
A host of activities of the NOAs is to be found recorded in the minutes of the IOA. Furthermore, as a result of action taken by the founder of the Spanish NOA, and its President up to the present, the Impero-American Association of Olympic Academies was founded in Madrid on 25 June 1988. Efforts are being made to set up similar associations to operate among countries which

14. In the past, the IOA made its premises at Ancient Olympia available to NOAs free of charge for the holding of their seminars, provided that the number of participants did not exceed 40.



The purpose of a National Olympic Academy is the Olympic education of those individuals who are either involved or interested in Olympic issues, the spreading of the Olympic principles and the implementation of the social and educational values of Olympism as they have been formulated and established already through the work of the International Olympic Academy. Additionally, collaboration with the International Olympic Committee, the International Olympic Academy and other sports authorities in the promotion and furtherance of the moral principles of the Olympic idea, also constitutes a basic purpose for the NOAs.

Otto Szymczek, 1985



Those who pass will receive their diploma during a special academic ceremony. Each time we are pleased to note that the people who have completed an Olympic academic year are very satisfied with the knowledge they have acquired, the opportunities they have been given and, above all, the wealth of relations they have developed. In fact, the Academy creates Olympic ambassadors, cross-border friendships, the very best that Olympism has to offer.

Marc Maes, 2000



belong to the same cultural zone or have the same mother-tongue.

Today, some three decades after the foundation of the first National Olympic Academies, many aims in connection with Olympic Education have been achieved. It is now a widely recognised concept throughout the world, and its ideas are an object of study and research in universities.

Many new Olympic Education programmes have been drawn up or translated by the NOAs in many countries, and have been adapted to their curricula. In addition, all the Organising Committees for the Summer and Winter Olympic Games compile Olympic educational programmes which they implement during the Olympic Games.

In assessing the situation today, it is observable that in the 1970s, shortly after the founding of the IOA, there was a pedagogic orientation of the Olympic movement, which, in conjunction with its other activities resulted in the creation of the National Olympic Academies. Development was rapid in the two ensuing decades, since most National Olympic Academies (102 out of a total of 133) were founded at that period. Their foundation was supported by the then President of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, throughout his term of office (1981-2001).

Samaranch introduced a number of innovations into the Olympic movement, while his time as President was marked by phenomena such as the abolition of the principle of amateurism, which had governed the Olympic movement from its inception, marketing and the commercialisation of the Olympic Games, the massive growth of the Olympic movement, on the one hand, and its unification, on the other, the invasion of anabolics, and efforts to curb them. In all these matters, the National Olympic Academies and Olympic Education were called upon to serve as a counterweight, with a view to the ideological preparation and cohesion of the Olympic movement. To what extent this balance was achieved cannot be precisely assessed today. Of course, in spite of the noble efforts which have been made, even today it is a known fact that the Olympic Committees place greater emphasis on participation in the Olympic Games and on top sport than on matters of education. Even today, many functionaries in the field of the Olympic movement have not grasped that this is a social and educational movement. The fact should not be overlooked that 68 National Olympic Committees have not yet set up a National Olympic Academy. In addition, there is a relatively large number of National Olympic Academies (approximately 25%) whose activities remain very limited. On the other hand, of course, research into matters of Olympic Education has made significant progress, and this is due chiefly



Arts happening during the 48th International Session For Young Participants, 2008  
[IOA Archive, unclassified]

to the work and presence of the National Olympic Academies. It is also a positive sign that the distribution of NOAs throughout the world is relatively evenly balanced. In Africa there are 35 NOAs out of a total of 53 National Olympic Committees, in Asia 25 out of a total of 44, in America 30 out of a total of 42, in Europe 40 out of a total of 48, and in Oceania three out of a total of 15. The fact that many National Olympic Academies in Africa, Asia and South America are vigorously active, in spite of the economic, social and political problems of their countries, is also a cause for hope.

Today more than ever before the International Olympic Committee is called upon to support the work of the International Olympic Academy, and, by exten-

sion, that of the National Olympic Academies. If the humanitarian ideals of the Olympic movement are those which determine its cohesion and the course which it follows in the future, the intellectual network which the International Olympic Academy forms in collaboration with the National Olympic Academies will be of major importance for the preservation of these ideals on a world scale. By combining sport with civilisation and education through the activities of the IOA and the NOAs, the Olympic movement will continue to play a leading role in the dissemination of its fundamental moral principles of respect for others, friendly competition, equality, democracy and world peace.



## REFERENCES

### *Introduction: The Academy of Olympism*

- 20 CIO, *Un siècle du Comité International Olympique 1894-1994*, I, K. Lennartz (ed.), Lausanne 1994, 186.
- 20 *Ibid.*, 188.
- 23 *Pierre de Coubertin. Textes choisis*, III: *Pratique Sportive*, N. Müller – O. Schantz (eds), Zurich/ Hil-desheim /New York, Comité International Olympique, Weidmann, 1986, 593.
- 26 C. Diem, “La journée d’Olympie”, *Olympische Rundschau-Olympic Review*, I, Berlin 1938, 13.
- 40 Jean Marion Leiper, *The International Olympic Committee: the Pursuit of Olympism 1894-1970*, PhD thesis, Department of Physical Education, The University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta 1976, 389-390.
- 41 Minutes of the Plenum of the OGC, 68th session, 4.11.1968, *Book of Minutes*, XI, 39-40.
- 42 IOA Archive, K694β.
- 43 IOA Archive, K694β.
- 45 Note to the members of the Olympic Games Committee and members of the Ephoria of the IOA [addition to the Minutes of the OGC, 4th session/1972], IOA Archive, K694.
- 51 C. Diem, “An ‘Elis’ of our times. Meaning and purpose of an Olympic Academy”, *Report on the 1st Session of the International Olympic Academy, 16-23 June 1961, Ancient Olympia*, Athens, HOC, 1961 (1973<sup>2</sup>), 21.
- 56 E. Th. Petralias, “Memorandum of the HOC-IOA to the Commission of the IOC for the IOA”, May 1972, IOA Archive, K694β.
- 56 N. Filaretos, “Introduction on Olympism through the works of the International Olympic Academy”, *Report on the 44th International Session for Young Participants, 23 May-6 June, Ancient Olympia*, Athens, IOA/IOC, 2005, 63-70.
- 59 C. J. Burckhardt, “The Olympia Myth”, *Report on the 1st Session of the International Olympic Academy, 16-23 June 1961, Ancient Olympia*, Athens, HOC, 1961 (1973<sup>2</sup>), 9.

### *Ancient Olympia: The Place and the People*

- 70 D. Vikelas, *Από Νικοπόλεως εις Ολυμπίαν* [From Nicopolis to Olympia], Athens, Ekati, 1991, 148-149, 150, 152.

- 70 N. K. Vasileiadis, *Pierre de Coubertin, Ταξίδι στην Ελλάδα* [Voyage in Greece], Athens, Eptalophos Publications, n.d., 56, 57, 59.
- 72 Isabel Armstrong, *Two roving Englishwomen in Greece*, London, Sampson Low, Marstone Company, 1893, 3-4, 20, 28-29, 31, 34.
- 76 Virginia Woolf, *The Diary*, IV (1931-1935), The Hogarth Press, London 1982, 318-319.
- 76 Ethel Smyth, *A three-legged tour of Greece*, London, William Heinemann Ltd., 1927, 109-110.
- 83 *Οδηγός της Ελλάδος, τον έτοντος 1930, ιδρύθη των 1900 υπό Ν.Γ. Ιγγλέσον* [Guide to Greece of the year 1930, founded in 1900 by N.G. Inglesis], Athens, Pyrsos, [1930], 949.
- 86 P. Levi, *The hill of Kronos*, London, Collins, St. James Place, 1980.

### *Germany meets Olympia: Archaeology and Olympism*

- 116 J. Schilbach, *Antikes Olympia: Ausgrabungen, Mythologie, Alltag der Spiele, Technologie*, Weilheim, Verein zur Forderung der Aufarbeitung der Hellenischen Geschichte, 2004, 37-38.
- 123 *Tagebücher Carl Diem*, Bd 8: *Werbeflug nach Athen*, 23.
- 125 C. Diem, “Sie graben Olympia aus...”, *Freude und Arbeit*, H.3, in *Ausgewählte Schriften*, Bd 2, Beiträge zur Entwicklung und Organisation des Sports, St Augustin 1982, 262.
- 130 C. Diem, “Über den Stand der Ausgrabungen in Olympia”, *Olympische Rundschau-Revue Olympique* 9 (April 1940), 1.
- 132 *Tagebücher Carl Diem*, Bd 14, *Budapest-Sofia-Athen. Vortrags und Urlaubsreise*, 18, 19, 23.

### *The “small Olympic village”: the premises of the International Olympic Academy*

- 145 Spatial planning diagram of the Olympic Academy at Olympia, 8.8.1961, by P. Tzannetos, architect [IOA Archive, K1].
- 149 Newspaper *Patris*, 12.5.1961.
- 158 Letter of Georgios Kloufetos (Moiraka) to the HOC, 22.5.1962, *IOA Interior Correspondance, 1961-1970*, no. 2, IOA Archive.

- 159 Application of G. Floros (Kamena, Ileia) to the President of the Government, George Papadopoulos, 20.5.1968, op. cit.

*The “Olympic University” of the IOA: Lecturers and Lectures*

- 206 C. Diem, “An ‘Elis’ of our times. Meaning and purpose of an Olympic Academy”, *Report on the 1st Session of the International Olympic Academy, 16-23 June 1961, Olympia*, Athens, HOC, 1973<sup>2</sup>, 18.
- 206 F. Lotz, “Looking back and looking forward”, ibid., 109.
- 213 O. Scymczek, “Objectives, Aims and Achievements of the International Olympic Academy”, *Report on the 21st Session of the International Olympic Academy, 5-20 July 1981, Ancient Olympia*, Athens, HOC, 1982, 76-77.
- 232 N. Nissiotis, “The International Olympic Academy and the radiance of Olympism”, *5th International Session for Educationists of the International Olympic Academy, 5-13 July 1982, Ancient Olympia*, 17-18 (not published): IOA Archive, K165.
- 232 J. Powell, “The contribution of the International Olympic Academy to international understanding”, *Report on the 25th Session, 4th-19th July 1985, Ancient Olympia*, Lausanne, IOC/HOC, [1986], 96.
- 247 N. Nissiotis, “Olympism as a source of creation of new values in life”, *7th International Session for Educationists of the International Olympic Academy, 28 June-3 July 1986, Ancient Olympia*, 5 (not published): IOA Archive, K171.
- 247 N. Filaretos, “International Olympic Academy”, *Report on the 27th Session of the International Olympic Academy, 1-16 July 1987, Ancient Olympia*, [Athens], IOC/HOC, [1988], 74.
- 255 Isidoros Kouvelos, “The International Olympic Academy, yesterday, today and tomorrow”, speech at the official launch of the Master’s Degree Programme, 30 March 2009.

*The National Olympic Academies*

- 268 Quotation from the address by the President of the IOC, Juan Antonio Samaranch, for the Opening of the 28th Session of the IOA on the hill of Pnyx, 30.6.1988, Athens, *Report on the 28th Session, 29 June-14 July 1988, Ancient Olympia*, Athens, IOC/HOC, n.d., 23.
- 268 J. Olander, “The need for disseminating Olympic Education among youth”, *IOA, 1st Joint International Session for directors of National Olympic Academies, members and staff of National Olympic Committees and International Sports Federations, 20-27 May 1992, Ancient Olympia*, Athens, IOA, 1992, 60-61.

- 271 “The foundation of a National Olympic Academy”, Comité International Olympique, Académie Nationale Olympique – National Olympic Academy, Fondation – Foundation, Perspectives, Activités – Activities, Lausanne, IOC, 1989, 5.
- 274 Ibid., 3-4.
- 276 Th. Touba, “Olympism and multicultural education”, *Report on the 39th Session for Young Participants, 20 July-5 August 1999, Ancient Olympia*, special subject: “The Olympic Ideal and Culture in the global age”, Athens, IOC/IOA, 84-85.
- 276 A. Justiniano, “The basic and ways of function of a National Olympic Academy”, International Olympic Academy, 4th Joint International Session for directors of National Olympic Academies, members and staff of National Olympic Committees and International Sports Federations, 7-14/5/1998, *Report on the IOA’s Special Sessions and Seminars 1998*, Athens, IOA, 2000, 499.
- 280 O. Szymczek, “The mission and the educational programme of the National Olympic Academies”, *Report on the 25th Session, 4th-19th July 1985, Ancient Olympia*, Athens, IOC, n.d., 245.
- 280 M. Maes, “An educational programme for national Olympic academies”, 4th Joint International Session for directors of National Olympic Academies, members and staff of National Olympic Committees and International Sports Federations 7-14.5.1998, *Report on the IOA’s Special Sessions and Seminars 1998*, Athens, IOA, 2000, 495.

NOTE: The number before each entry refers to page number.







