

= Carmelo Camet =

Carmelo Félix Camet (October 29 , 1904 ? July 22 , 2007) was an Argentine fencer who competed in the Olympic games in 1928 . He was the son of Francisco Carmelo Camet , a fencer at the 1900 Summer Olympics who is sometimes considered to be Argentina 's first participant at the Olympics . Trained as a lawyer , Carmelo Camet gained his training and love for fencing at an early age from his father . By the 1920s he had already won several tournaments and , in 1926 , he won the Argentine national fencing championship .

Although Camet successfully completed all of the trials required of him by the nascent Argentine Olympic Committee , he did not attend the 1924 Summer Olympics in Paris , although his name was on the official register as a non @-@ participant . After taking a brief break to finish his law degree , he was part of the Argentine fencing delegation sent to the 1928 Summer Olympics . There , as the substitute on the foil team foil , he won a bronze medal , Argentine 's only medal in that sport as of 2008 . Although he sat out the first two matches with Norway and Spain , he replaced Héctor Lucchetti during the matches against Belgium and all subsequent events . At the time of his death in 2007 , in Buenos Aires , Camet was believed to be the world 's oldest living Olympic competitor .

= = Early life = =

Carmelo Camet was born on October 29 , 1904 , the son of Francisco Carmelo Camet , a fencer at the 1900 Summer Olympics in Paris , and Clara Isa . The elder Camet , though officially an athlete from France , is considered by some to be Argentina 's first Olympic participant . This is disputed , however , by those who claim that Horatio Torromé should hold this title as the first official Argentine representative . Carmelo had one brother , Carlos Ernesto Camet , who pursued a political career . Carlos , who served as a deputy to the national congress , was , like the rest of his family , supportive of the Radical Civil Union , an Argentine political reform party formed in the 1890s .

Although trained as a lawyer , Carmelo began fencing at an early age , beginning in the 1910s , at the behest of his father and , much like his father , specialized in épée , while also being proficient at fleuret . In 1918 he came in first place in the former category and second in the latter at a competition , organized by the city of Buenos Aires . In the next two years , he finished at the top in both events and became nationally known . In 1921 the Argentine Fencing Federation was founded and , in 1922 , the organization sent him to represent Argentina in the Olimpiados Latinamericanos , a celebration overseen by the International Olympic Committee to celebrate the centenary of Brazil 's declaration of independence . His native country won first place in the épée , fleuret and sabre events in the host city of Rio de Janeiro . At the age of 17 , he was one of the youngest competitors to represent his country at these games .

= = Olympic career = =

The Argentine Fencing Committee had great difficulty in organizing a team to attend the 1924 Summer Olympics . Despite the establishment of the Argentine Olympic Committee , and his participation and success in all of the trials , Camet did not attend a congratulatory gala for the Olympic delegation , nor did he travel to Paris to participate in the games themselves , for personal reasons . The official report lists him as a member of the official delegation , albeit one who did not participate . That year , the Argentines placed fifth in the team foil competition . He continued to practice fencing until 1926 when , after winning a national championship , he put the sport on hold to complete his law degree .

Camet did , however , travel to Amsterdam to participate in the 1928 Summer Olympics . He was joined by four teammates : Roberto Larraz and Luis Lucchetti , who were part of the 1924 delegation that had placed in fifth place , and newcomers Raul Anganuzzi and Héctor Lucchetti . The fencing competition took place from July 29 to August 11 . Camet , who was a substitute , sat out of the matches against Norway and Spain , before being called to replace Héctor Lucchetti against Belgium . After entering the quarter @-@ finals , the team defeated the United States and the

Netherlands , advancing undefeated to the quarter @-@ finals , where they bested Hungary . The Argentine team then lost against Italy and France , the eventual gold and silver medal @-@ winning teams respectively . The competition for the bronze medal , which would have been between Belgium and Argentina , was scrapped because the latter had already defeated the former .

Camet , therefore , won the bronze medal in the team foil category , along with his teammates , despite what he considered to be adverse rulings from the jurors . This was the first and , at the time of Camet 's death , only Olympic medal for Argentina in fencing . It was also the only bronze medal won by the Argentine delegation in Amsterdam , although silver medals were won by Raúl Landini , Víctor Peralta and the football team , along with gold medals from Víctor Avendaño , Arturo Rodríguez and Alberto Zorrilla .

= = Later life = =

After the Olympics , Camet traveled to Navarreux in France to visit his old family home , where his father had studied both academics and fencing . While the victory at Amsterdam was considered a milestone in Argentine athletics at the time , Camet , as a substitute was often forgotten as a contributor by his contemporaries in the fencing community such as Oscar Viñas and Eugenio Peni , despite being a legitimate and official medal winner . He was always given credit by his teammates , however , even if they emphasized his position as a substitute on the team . Camet 's father died on July 15 , 1931 , a few years after Carmelo 's success at the Olympics . Carmelo subsequently married Elsie Muir and , in 1981 , returned to Navarreux for a second visit . He lived the rest of his life in Buenos Aires . At the time of his death , on July 22 , 2007 , at the age of 102 , he was believed to be the world 's oldest living Olympic athlete , although that distinction actually belonged to Erna Sondheim .