

Panathlon International

40

ANNI NELLO SPORT

YEARS IN THE WORLD OF SPORT

ANS DANS LE SPORT

JAHRE IM SPORT

AÑOS EN EL DEPORTE

ANOS NO DESPORTO





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Panathlon International

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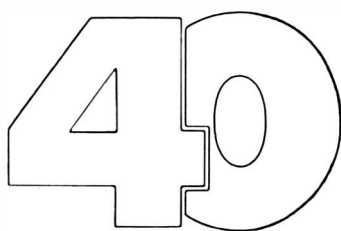
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PREFACE
by
Antonio Spallino

As I wrote in 1988 in the "Report" on the state of the association, an organism which loses the memory of its roots is a mutilated being. It knows nothing of the reasons and the doubts, the sufferings and hopes that have made it what it is: bits of information which, taken together, furnish us with an ambience that no computer could ever hope to recreate.

We exist fully only in the measure in which we have a memory. It is a challenge to dissipation and the things it retains are the touchstone for gauging the future.

An image without perspective is an image that has only one dimension, without the wings and backdrops so essential in making the story come alive for one generation after the other. Annihilating its rapport with our being, constructed day by day, Bergson wrote of memory that it is our conscience. "La conscience, c'est la memoire".

And those men who contemplate their origins with loving attention, preserving the memory of what they have received to transmit it to those who will come after them, serve the continuity of life. The first proposal in the Report, and the first

question addressed to the Clubs in the questionnaire was whether they thought the story of Panathlon should be written.

Another equally essential reason accompanied those already mentioned: that of honoring the debt of gratitude towards the founding fathers.

Whether Panathlon would exist today had it not been launched in Venice is a moot question; but were it not for the men who founded and directed it, and the men who collaborated with them, wherever the pact inscribed on its coat of arms "ludis iungit" was concluded, Panathlon today would not be what it is.

An obvious fact? Of course; but what is important is that without the values championed by the founding fathers and without the custody of these by their successors, the association might have been subject to the injunction of other models, generated by a society in which utopia, friendship, altruism seem to be limited to a few selfless islands.

And the result? Almost all the Clubs answered yes: the story of Panathlon had to be written, published, communicated. Not as a matter of curiosity. But as information, as gratitude: both of which are acts of love.

* * *

And that is how this book was born.

The protagonists who can remember that segment of the story of our association, and that alone, in which they participated are few. Many Clubs no longer have the documents that tell their story. Even in the office of the General Secretariat unearthing material from the archives was hard work and often depended upon chance.

How did such a seed, as tiny as the one created by the Venetian maniple on June 12, 1951 objectively was, manage to germinate in a society that was attracted ever more towards quite different goals?

Had it not been for the faith that nourished it, the slender beacon would probably have burned in solitude among the covered terraces and bridges of its native city.

What happened instead was what the sportsman Viali, and the men who flanked him, like Chiesa, Giulini, Pozzani, Mairano and Balestra, dreamed of.

As one volunteer after another took up the torch of an ideal relay race, the cocoon wove the tapestry that today includes around 300 clubs.

This book, written by Carlo Alberto Magi, ventures on an arduous task: that of making history when chronicle is still alive and breathing. Paolo Cappabianca, the most recent helmsman, would have found himself faced with the same dilemma — torn between the echoes and the tensions of an experience still enthusiastically lived in the first person, on the one hand, and, on the other, the need to focus the merciless lens of time on the currents, mostly silent, which have carried the ship of Panathlon battered by the breakers out to sea.

Let the reader judge if the narrator has here and there succumbed to his emotion in encountering the men and themes which appear in the story. One fact is certain: Panathlon International today has its first pilot's book, the map of its first navigation.

A document then, of inestimable value not only for those who are in the Clubs today, but also, and perhaps even more so, for those who will enter the Clubs forty years from now; when a historian, with a good knowledge of associationism, of the customs and sports of a century, will write the annals of our movement in the world.

* * *

I already mentioned the task that fell to Magi of exploring the sources, with the cooperation of Henrique Nicolini for Central and South America, of Walter Wehrle for Switzerland, and of Giorgio Bazzali for the General Secretariat. But once the material available in Europe and America had been tracked down, the rest still had to be decided on: the book, the aspects to highlight for future memory, the editors, the publisher, the funds. The inexorable course of time had also to be taken into account: the first-born Club was almost forty,

and the first consignee of this sign of our gratitude could be none other than the Club of Venice, the core of the celebration itself.

It was in the house of Vittorio Wyss, a leading figure in spurring Panathlon towards reflection and cultural action, that we met Stefano Jacomuzzi and Riccardo Grozio. The former, holder of the chair of the history of Italian literature at the University of Turin and the author of books that have been considered of capital importance in the history of sport and the Olympics; the latter, a young, serious and enthusiastic promoter of a research institute that dealt with the social science of sport.

Thanks to the sensitive and prudent supervision of Prof. Jacomuzzi, the main body of the book gradually took on form and range, in the face of various volleys of interdiction fire. The last one was put down by Domenico Chiesa, a true gentleman, who humbly and quietly invited us all to lay down our respective points of view in front of the event of the birth of the book of Panathlon International.

* * *

Panathlon still is — or has it always been? — one of the few associations which truly believe in the ethic and cultural values of sport.

Riccardo Grozio has summed up the broad themes of the relationships, controversial and at times ambiguous, that exist between intellectuals and sport practice, between politicians and athletics and recreation. In a few telling strokes he provides us with a picture of what sport really is and of its ambience. The refusal to recognize them and the consequent disinterest or lack of preparation in facing them, are blameworthy, for, by omission, they help to leave the field open for the affirmation of models of behaviour and organization which are the true adversaries of the values we hold dear.

Panathlon must overcome the qualms which at times mask the desire not to see deterioration, or the indolence which conceals the fear of offending the powers that be.

And it must overcome the temptation to think that its duties are done once the convivial meetings are over. They are, of course, the place where members get to know each other, communicate, make friends. But they must also be the platforms for the launching of initiatives among people, in the institutions, in the world of sport.

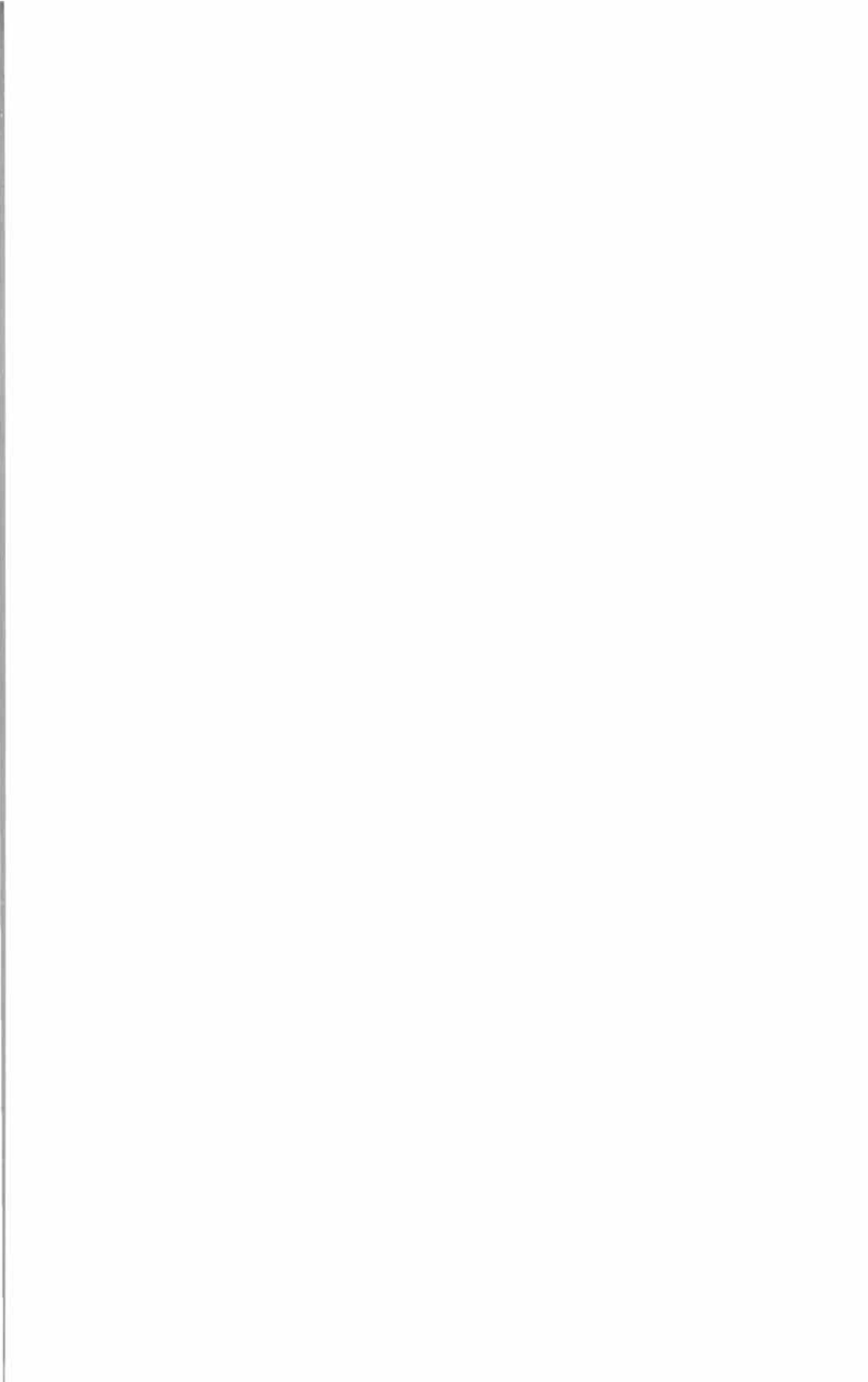
We are well aware of the challenge which sets us face to face with competition carried to its extremes, especially among youth, administrative and moral corruption, chemical frauds, physical and psychological violence, onstage and off-stage, practiced in the field of sport as elsewhere. It is a mirror of society and therefore, when it adopts the deviations, it celebrates them and transmits them into the often undiscerning world of the spectator.

But this challenge of ours has, if nothing else, an inestimable value: that of making us feel we are right in respecting our ideals, and rich in that truly special joy in serving which *Mistral* has sung.

What we hope to communicate to others is our identity, so that we then can work together in the court of that ideal *Dulcinea del Toboso* which has always existed deep down in every sport lover's heart.

And even if there were no more to it than that, this challenge is an echo of the harmonious and slightly mysterious beauty for which we have sport to thank; and it is a way of praying for the health of sport, without invoking a new *Emperor Theodosius*.

And, conclusively, this is just what the words of farewell by *Jacomuzzi* remind us of.



*There is no History of mankind,
there are only many histories
of all kinds of aspects of
human life.*

Karl R. Popper

FORTY YEARS OF HISTORY

by

Carlo Alberto Magi

INTRODUCTION

“Making history” has always been an arduous undertaking, especially when the material involved, in the form of documents, minutes, direct and often oral reminiscences, has not yet been classified or put into the order of importance, passing through the filter of time. Chronicle and history are still hard to tell apart and therefore anything omitted may seem to be an oversight or, even worse, negligence, a guilty silence. The temptation in these cases is to let the events speak for themselves, assembling them, one after the other, in a roughly chronological order: in other words to tell the story of Panathlon in the form of a collection of items of information regarding the constitution of the individual clubs, followed by a list of the activities which they promoted. Apart from the extreme difficulty, not to say impossibility, of unearthing all the indispensable archive material (often lost or nonexistant), a solution of this kind would without doubt have led to the failure of any attempt at putting Panathlon in its historical context, offering, after forty years of life, a simple list of events, names, facts, but not a unified setting, an all-over vision of a direction that is not simply the sum of a thousand indistinct rivulets but which also and above all provides

a relatively clear picture of an underlying project and its subsequent achievement. We have therefore limited ourselves to treating the problem in general terms, citing only, at various times, some of the clubs which were involved in activities of national or international interest and were thus able to furnish us with supporting documents and reliable data. This mode of operation, adopted after lengthy reflection, allowed us to avoid the risk of omissions and prevented the background, which was what we were most interested in furnishing, from being broken up into a series of piecemeal episodes and anecdotes. Those who approach Panathlon from without can get an idea of our history, can understand the general make-up, without being distracted by a mass of apparently irrelevant information which means little to them; those, on the other hand, who have experienced Panathlon and its vicissitudes from within, who have in one way or the other been spectators and protagonists, can read between the lines of this first attempt to furnish a historical picture and sense the much richer, more articulated sequence of events, rediscovering features and facts that although minor may for them have a particular meaning and importance and an emotional charge that history cannot transmit. Therefore, before beginning our story, we would like to offer all the clubs of Panathlon International a token of our esteem and high regard for their intense and enthusiastic work in helping Panathlon to become in a sense "great", making it a subject for history. The life and activity of Panathlon depend on the life and activity of the individual clubs, for it is none else but the result of the union, cohesion, and harmony of its constituent clubs, the synthesis of their will and their enthusiasm.

THE HISTORICAL MOMENT

The end of the 1940s coincides with one of the most important moments in the history of Italian society, marked by the cruel and devastating effects of a world war (which had also witnessed its military and political defeat), in the wake of twenty years of a dictatorial regime, with all that this meant

on the political, economical and cultural level.

Once the first difficult years of material reconstruction and political and civil readjustment had passed, the early 1950s witnessed the beginning of a renewal and a growing awareness of the new and complex problems of development, with the resulting new demands and concepts of life, proposals for new values.

Associationism, an apparently marginal aspect, bore witness to the incentive provided by a vast popular demand (which then became particularly important as regards our history), and was strictly tied to the need for "communication", the direct consequence of the new stimuli which were fermenting in society in Italy as well as elsewhere. It was a slow process of which, perhaps, at the time no one was really aware, even if the incredible rate with which one event followed the other was a premonitory sign of the profound change which was coming to a head. The effects of the gradual disappearance of the millennial agro-pastoral culture under the assault of an irrepressible industrial and capitalistic development, which had been going on for some time, were most clearly evident in Italy, and the exodus from the land, while not the most important, was certainly the most visible sign of a world that was changing and that wanted to change.

Athletic sports, which do not exist in a utopian arcadia of their own, but which are a phenomenon whose importance in social and cultural development is constantly growing, cannot help but be influenced by such an incisive evolution, and in fact, from then on, a process of profound ideological mutation became manifest. The concept of sport as the expression of regime obviously fell by the wayside and a culture of athletic sports began to mature as part of a diverse and more complex vision of life (intellectually, morally, and physiologically speaking). Aware of what was happening, an initial period of confusion and uncertainty was followed by attempts to put things back in order, to give sport its true identity. It was a matter, in other words, of rediscovering the basic function of sport as an element of education and civic and cultural formation, in the sphere of those precious values of yore which De Coubertin had reposed to the entire world with the

modern Olympic Games, well aware, however, that the social landscape had changed profoundly and that what was needed was not a nostalgic and barren conservatism, but a ductile and disenchanting view of the problems. New ideas and new means were needed to withstand the inevitable onslaught of a violent economic development, with all the obvious inherent risks of polluting the raw material and ideals of sport.

Seen in this light, the origins of Panathlon no longer seem to be something governed by chance — although that too played a part as with everything in this world — or something of a basically convivial nature. Panathlon was a sign, an almost indispensable sign (something, in other words, that somehow had to come to be) of the vitality of the ideal of athletic sports and, at the same time, of the need of safeguarding this ideal.

It was not therefore an accident that a city like Venice, structured for man, a region where the tradition of associationism was perhaps stronger than in many other parts of Italy, should have been the birthplace for the idea of a sport association that could act as interpreter for these new feelings and of this renewed awareness before transposing them into a promotional program for society as a whole and not only for those interested in athletic sports.

The stimuli that came from the Anglo-Saxon countries where various service clubs — with Rotary and Lions in the lead — had placed their economic and cultural forces at the service of society or who based their primary reason for existence on this aim, are not only highly relevant but are, in certain aspects, decisive for the maturation of this idea. The recognition accorded the various Rotary and Lions clubs in certain levels of bourgeois society (there seems to be no reason for trying to conceal the fact that they are certainly not popular in nature: popular associationism had created and was to create other organized forms which were unquestionably equally important) is a sign of this diffused need for free associations. It represents the natural reaction to twenty and more years of repressed sentiments, of psychological frustration, of ideals that were either outlawed or mortified, which

the new governmental forces had to attempt to put right, offering new faith and new hopes as well as the opportunity to fill in the lacunae created in the post-war period, which cannot be achieved by political or para-political organizations alone.

The founders of Panathlon drew their inspiration from the Anglo-Saxon type of associationism mentioned above, in part because some of them were active members of associations of this sort to which they explicitly referred in creating and getting the new institution off the ground.

In the period between April and June 1951, a group of Venetians repeatedly met in the seat of the National Italian Olympic Games Committee, in Venice, with the idea of constituting an association ideologically inspired by Olympic values, aimed at consistently bringing the idea and the practice of athletic sports back to the purity of its origins, mindful however of the inevitable changes and developments that were part of the current social and historical conditions. Sport, then, seen essentially as a decisive factor in the material, moral and spiritual formation of the individual and as a means of brotherhood and relations between peoples. Indeed, it was just these concepts of clear decoubertian derivation which were to inspire the future statutes of the association.

THE FOUNDING FATHERS

As an introduction to the historical commemoration (the term can be legitimately used in the light of forty years of existence and activity) let us present the names of the members of the promotional Committee of the new-born association: Guido Brandolini D'Adda, Domenico Chiesa, Aristide Coin, Aldo Colussi, Antenore Marini, Costantino Masotti, Mario Viali. Last in alphabetic order, but unquestionably the first as creator, as tenacious backer of the project, as untiring promoter, is Colonel Mario Viali, former artillery officer, who was born in Venice on January 14, 1903 and was therefore at the time fifty-eight years old.

His biography is that of a soldier, of an officer who distinguished himself at an early age in World War I, in which he initially participated as second lieutenant in command of a battery. He took part in the twelve battles of the Isonzo, receiving three promotions on the field for war merit, a silver medal for military valor and one for civil valor, for saving some soldiers from drowning in the river Isonzo. On the occasion of a special mission in the Eritrean colony, he earned the cross for merit in war, for his generous behavior in rescue operations of the wounded, on a ship that had been torpedoed by a German submarine off Alexandria of Egypt. At the end of the war, an illness contracted during the war led to his mandatory discharge with the rank of colonel. In 1942, during World War II, he attempted to volunteer as a private, for the campaign in Northern Africa, but his request was turned down on account of health.

A military figure, but also an example of courage, of denial, of those gifts of generosity, zeal, enthusiasm, firm will and altruism which often accompany a profession where risk and determination, as well as a sense of duty, are the constant factors. He left a trace, a mark of these qualities in the foundation and initial conduction of the society, later known as Panathlon, so tenaciously desired by him and the other friends.

His passion for sports was great indeed. He himself was a versatile athlete, and gained numerous affirmations principally in swimming, gymnastics, target shooting. A detailed report exists in the file card of the archives of the Italian Olympic Games Committee, giving his sports curriculum, both as athlete and as manager, that was drawn up when he received the Gold Star for merit in sports from this same committee (*appendix 1*).

The sensitivity and experience that Mario Viali had matured both as protagonist and alert and interested spectator of the historical-political vicissitudes of Italy turned into a sort of obsession: that of making all the precepts he had acquired in an extremely eventful period, highlighted by two world wars, available to his idea of associationism: to draw from these reflections and these analyses all the positive aspects, adding

the personal convictions he had acquired as a member of Rotary, where Viali detected important moments and aspects of union and socialization. This, together with his passion for sports, came to a head in an idea: a club with sport-cultural aims, ideologically inspired by the decoubertinian principles and by Rotary on the level of organization. The second aspect, so important to Viali from the practical point of view (one cannot begin to build without first laying the foundations), induced him to call in the man who was to become his closest and most faithful collaborator and who was to be determining in the affirmation and development of the future Panathlon: Professor Domenico Chiesa. An established Venetian professional, at the time councilor of the Federazione Italiana Gioco Calcio (Italian Football Association) and councilor-secretary of the Rotary Club of Venice, Chiesa was charged with the task of drawing up an initial proposal for the statute of the association then being formed, using the Rotary statutes as model guide.

The influence of Rotary on this nascent club was unquestionably great, as witnessed by the fact that the name "Panathlon", subsequently coined by Count Lodovico Foscari, was initially accompanied by the subtitle "Rotary of Sports Lovers". The idea was to give a more immediate and direct image of the characteristics and objectives of the new club (1). This forthright and highly visible reference aroused various perplexities. In the first place, it was felt that the club lost some of its unique features in a moment as critical as that of its foundation, when it should immediately affirm itself as a unique autonomous organism, and, in the second place, because reactions regarding the exclusive use of the name

(1) In the document drawn up on March 27, 1952 by the notary public Giovanni Bissoni, ratifying the constitution of the Brescia Panathlon, the reference to Rotary has a preeminent place. The text, in fact, refers to "objectives that can most easily be achieved through an association of the lovers of all the sports, on the model of Rotary International"; the declaration of the constitution of the Panathlon Club of Brescia then follows: "Rotary of Sports Lovers", a free and civic association. . ."; and the title of the document even subordinates the specific name so as to highlight the generic Rotary denomination. In fact, it reads: "Constitution of the Rotary of Sport Lovers known as Panathlon Club of Brescia".

might be expected on the part of Rotary.

Four years later it was Chiesa himself who asked that this improperly used term be eliminated.

While the models of organization and service were taken from Rotary, the projects and ideals bore the mark of the decoubertian ideology. De Coubertin had been dead for fifteen years, but his ideas and his teachings continued to be the point of reference for all policies in the field of sports.

Mario Viali had met De Coubertin at a sports gathering. Profoundly impressed, he adhered wholeheartedly to his pedagogic principles and his concept of sport.

This adhesion involved above all the ethic, moral and social significance De Coubertin had assigned to the reintroduction of the Olympic Games. The practice of athletic sports was no longer to be the privilege of the aristocratic classes but was to be open to all, an instrument for improving life and human relationships. It was also quite likely that the lyrical and even epic enthusiasm to be found in the famous "Ode to Sport" which De Coubertin composed for the Stockholm Olympics of 1912, the last before the interruption of war (2), also played a part. Viali's adhesion was also a result of De Coubertin's firm conviction — undeniably valid in terms of anticipation and precedence — that sport moves with the times and should even be of aid in foreseeing social changes and in preparing the means required to deal with the problems involved (3).

It was with this complex mixture of feelings and emotions

(2) On that occasion accusations were launched against De Coubertin because his Ode had won him the prize for arts, introduced for the first time in the Olympic games. He had participated in the contest under the pseudonym of Hohrod Eschbach, a typically Nordic name, and knowing the man, there is no reason to think that it was a voluntary deceit. These art competitions (architecture, literature, music, painting, sculpture) remained in the Olympic calendar until the London Olympics of 1948, when they were abolished as a result of the scarce participation and the low quality the works and were replaced by collateral initiatives such as exhibitions, etc. Panathlon, in the Assembly of May 1986, in Trieste, took up the subject once more and proposed the renewal of art competitions, taking into account the obvious changes required by circumstances. And it is in fact, a conviction of Panathlon that the cultural and creative components should not be neglected in the worldwide festival of the brotherhood of sports.

that Mario Viali prepared to found his sport organization, which was to transmit ideals, spirituality, ideas, love for sport, love for life, reflection, precepts to young people above all. It was with youth in mind that the Venetian club was founded, and one of its principal aims was that of transmitting a message of hope that would stimulate them to look to sport as a key in resolving the social and existential problems which characterized the post-war years. It was to be an association that would, in any case, be capable of offering support and orientation for individual and collective solutions.

Viali firmly believed in the force that an organization of this sort would have in terms of stimulating opinions, and he persevered in his decisive proposals in spite of the inevitable doubts, uncertainties and diffidence he at times encountered.

Three years earlier, in 1948, the Olympic Games had been resumed after a twelve year interruption due to the war. Even though they were organized in London, under the sign of austerity, the rediscovery of the Olympic values provided Europe, which had suffered most in the war, with new stimuli and new hopes. Enthusiasm for great athletic contests once more flared up thanks to the exploits of the American Fanny Blankers Koen, the Czechoslovakian Zapotek, the Italian Consolini. As the new-found Olympic spirituality was celebrated, the last doubts regarding the force of solidarity inherent in the Olympic Games were dispelled. Life went on and sport was reaffirmed as a component of a free and civil society.

(3) Among the host of important documents mention must be made of the declaration of 1900 on the concept of "Sport for all", still timely after almost ninety years, a concept appropriated almost integrally by the current President of the International Olympic Games Committee J. A. Samaranch, on the occasion of the opening of the Convention of Frankfurt in 1986 and adopted by the European Council; the organization of a convention in 1913 by De Coubertin himself on the theme "Psychology and Sport" and a declaration of 1925 in which he recognizes and accepts the process of transformation of sport as a result of the evident decline of dilettantism. A propos, in 1936 De Coubertin once more wrote words that are well worth meditating on and which contrast with the overly soave and almost arcadian image that has unjustly ended up by masking his thought: *Oh! what an old stupid story that of Olympic amateurism! Go and read the famous oath of which I am the fortunate proud author. Where does it say*

AND THUS PANATHLON SAW THE LIGHT

It was late May 1951 by the time Viali had finished the series of consultations, reflections, second thoughts and contacts with the people he wanted.

On May 30th the promoting group sent a letter to thirty Venetian sport lovers, who belonged to just as many sport activities, inviting them to a meeting on “*Wednesday June 6th at 9:30 p.m. on the dot, in S. Fantin della Veste no. 2004 (headquarters of CONI)*”, of which Viali was a delegate, to inform them of the characteristics and objectives of the proposed club, enclosing the draft of the statutes as drawn up by Domenico Chiesa (*appendix 2*).

Due to completely unforeseeable circumstances — a violent downpour that devastated Venice that very evening — the meeting was a fiasco.

Only “a courageous nine”, as Viali defined them, were present, and after “a friendly chat”, the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, June 12, 1951, a date that was to go down in history as the day on which Panathlon was born.

Twenty-four of the thirty convened took part in the event: Salvatore Brugliera (track and field events), Tiziano Calore (tennis), Angelo Cecchinato (gymnastics), Domenico Chiesa (football), Aristide Coin (cycling), Aldo Colussi (track and field events), Pietro De Marzi (technician sports facilities), Guido De Poli (track and field events), Egidio De Zottis (sailing), Carlo Donadoni (basketball), Ludovico Foscari (swimming), Paolo Foscari (motorcycling), Guglielmo Guglielmi (sailing), Alberto Heinz (gymnastics), Antenore Marini (golf), Costantino Masotti (fencing), Luigi Pavanello (umpires), Ora-

that amateurism is mandatory for the athletes who go down into the Olympic stadium, an amateurism that I am the first to admit is impossible? With that oath I ask but one thing: the sporting loyalty which is not an exclusive prerogative of amateurs. It is the spirit that interests me and not the respect for this ridiculous English concept that permits only millionaires to make sacrifices to sport... This is not the type of amateurism that I wanted, it is the international Federation which has imposed it. It is, therefore, no longer an Olympic problem”. The “sporting loyalty”, the “spirit” — what other institution could keep watch over these basic aspects better than Panathlon?

zio Pettinelli (competitive fishing), Aldo Querci della Rovere (sports medicine), Gino Rava (winter sports), Antonio Scalabrin (swimming), Alfonso Vandelli (mountaineering), Mario Viali (modern pentathlon), Mario Zanotti (fencing). They are the twenty-four founders of what is now Panathlon International. Twenty-four "fathers" of an idea which is spreading throughout the world.

On June 12, 1951, then, at half past nine in the evening, in the headquarters of the Italian Olympic Games Committee of Venice, Viali's dream came true. Only that the newborn club did not yet know that it was to receive a high-sounding name echoing with classical recollections. For the time being the (unofficial) name reflected its convivial birth: "Disnar Sport" ("Disnar" stood for *desinare*, or to sup, in Venetian dialect.).

The first meeting of the club took place on July 6, 1951 at the Hotel Luna, in San Marco, premises chosen by Viali himself to offer an initial touch of distinction and prestige, in line with the Rotary model. The club officials were appointed and, as was to be expected, Viali was president by acclamation. The subject discussed that evening was: "Sport problems in the province, in particular regarding facilities". This was the first subject relating to sports discussed by Panathlon.

But this was only the beginning. In order to live, a creature has to grow, to develop. This was the moment of its first expansion, its incipient proselytism. Viali's intentions had been clear and peremptory: "A club in Venice then and there, in a day or two in the Veneto, or better in the Tre Venezie, then (very soon) in all Italy and, subsequently, after a brief experimental period, in Europe and the World". No time could be lost if his objectives were to be respected.

The initiatives for the constitution of clubs in other Italian cities depended solely on the personal friendships of the promoting members and founders. Domenico Chiesa, in particular, profitted from the connections he had with the component members of the Italian Football Association to which he belonged, and successfully succeeded in constituting the clubs of Brescia, sustained by Ing. Zanchi, of Vicenza

(through the industrialist Beretta), of Milan (Avv. Marchesini), of Naples (Ing. Cavalli), of Florence (Comm. Beretti and Hon. Paganelli), of Genoa (Dr. Bertoni) and of Palermo (Cav. Siino, also a councilor of the Italian Football Association).

The idea spread from one city to another. It had begun its onward course under the best of auspices.

After only two years seven clubs had already been constituted: Venice, Brescia, Genoa, Milan, Naples, Sondrio, Vicenza. With these seven clubs the first phase of Viali's program was accomplished: the constitution of the PANATHLON ITALIANO achieved in Milan on November 21, 1953.

Later Domenico Chiesa was to relate that the number of clubs chosen for the constitution of the Panathlon Italiano was not haphazard, but based on the fact that seven is a sacred number and could therefore be interpreted as a sign of good omen.

Thanks to the activity of another personality of outstanding importance, Aldo Mairano, to be dealt with more at length later on, Panathlon became international on May 14, 1960, with a splendid ceremony in the Foscoli Hall of the University of Pavia. After barely nine years Viali's program had been achieved. We shall see how Viali's idea was to be taken up and elaborated by the newborn clubs, how intense and qualified their activity was to be, and how they managed to assert themselves in their territory, regarding the sports community and institutions, assuming a leading role in initiatives regarding sports policy and becoming a point of reference for relevant decisions.

We will witness the enthusiasm aroused by the panathletic ideal in the world of sports and how many of the future Panathletes, at the cost of personal sacrifices, committed themselves unstintingly so that these ideals would be duly recognized, offering Panathlon the best of their cultural assets.

NOMEN OMEN

The purpose of citing this old maxim by Plautus in the title is to stress the fact that often a small significative story of ideas, of proposals, is inherent in the choice of a name, which ultimately contains a sense of wish fulfilment, an omen as Plautus says. And the road that led to the name "Panathlon" is strange indeed.

Not many are aware of the fact that a small baptismal mystery which might have changed the future of the association lies hidden behind the hellenizing name of "Panathlon", by now world famous. It all revolves around the eternal and knotty problem of choosing a name, whether for a child, for an invention, or more modestly, for a club. Naming a child Julius Caesar means running the risk that, once grown, he may be anything but courageous or commanding and even physically may very well be the antithesis of what we imagine this historical Roman warrior figure to have been, a source of unhappiness for the person who has to bear such a name all his life. Or someone whose name is Attila and who, when he is twenty, decides to become a monk and enter a monastery. But the contrary may also happen. In other words the name may put limits on the success and fame that might otherwise be enjoyed. In this case the effects of a given name might be even graver. In this sense what happened to Mario Viali and the "Panathlon" is a story that merits to be briefly told.

Mario Vitali was clearly a man of action. His small role as a soldier in World War I is an exemplary catalogue of courageous gestures, bursts of generosity, even of contempt for life, for it was a matter of serving the Country and the men whom he commanded. The same may be said of his comportment in the field of sports where he was also a good soldier. A fine swimmer, an enthusiastic fan of all athletic disciplines, the fervid sustainer of a competitive spirit which unites men rather than dividing them, he was always at war with something or someone. He fought disorder, apathy, lack of initiative. One day he decided to wage war against all impure forms, all speculative aspects of sport and metaphorically came out of the trenches to fight this battle.

But in addition to being a good soldier, Viali was also a perfect man of the world. Not for nothing was he Venetian. And if the sports ideal achieved together with his first twenty-four “arditi” (assault soldiers) was crowned by immediate success, in the sense that the club was finally created, the same does not apply to the name that Viali from that very evening had hoped (even if provisorily) to give his creation. Which was not “Panathlon”, as it was later to become, but, as already mentioned, “Disnar Sport”.

The founding fathers, all of them Venetians, were well aware of the dialectal challenge Viali meant to bring with the club that was being formed, but no one was convinced or satisfied. With a name like that, which joined the concept of sport with that of dining in the Venetian dialect (or “banquet” if the idea was that of ennobling the baptism), the initiative — they thought — would be limited in scope. While it was true that “at table friendships are revived, one talks and discusses more frankly and cordially, doubts, misunderstandings, suspects are often eliminated”, as was written in the first document of the assembly, to turn a dinner or supper into the corporate name of the group seemed a limitation. All of them, with due respect for the enthusiasm of the original creator, voted in a body against that “disnar” which risked curbing the initiative, confining it to the Veneto with no possibilities of “exportation”, as, on the other hand, all hoped to do.

What were the reasons behind this choice? Viali, man of the world, in a sense got the upper hand over Viali, soldier. He had taken Rotary as his model and had attempted to make a copy, replacing the Anglo-Saxon with Venetian features. The name it finally received, “Panathlon” (pan: all; athlon: sport), was coined by Count Ludovico Foscari, a cousin of Viali’s, with a fortunate (even though, at the time, ambitious) insight. He turned to the splendors of Olympia and the Greek term “athlon” came by itself and immediately struck him with its aura of historical nobility and the advantage, that was anything but trifling, of being international. This time all the founding fathers were in agreement, but it took three meetings (3/8/51 — 7/9/51 — 5/10/51) to arrive at this definitive result, accepted, though unwillingly, by

Viali, convinced as he was of the validity of his “disnar” which reflected a twofold conviction: that of the encounter of friends around the table and the typically Venetian one of considering their language not a dialect, but a true international language.

The name “Panathlon” of Hellenic origin was followed, once more thanks to a happy insight by Count Foscari, by the Latin motto “*LUDIS JUNGIT*”, which synthetically, but efficaciously completed the meaning and objectives of the club. In only three words Count Foscari had succeeded in expressing the ethic, moral and cultural content of the club. It was unquestionably an excellent premise and a valid “visiting card” for an association which was preparing to enter the difficult and complex world of sport.

ITS DIFFUSION IN ITALY

The year 1953 became a true “milestone” in the history of the association. In the two years that had passed since the founding of the club in Venice another six clubs had joined the ranks:

Brescia, founded on March 27, 1952, with Carlino Beretta, owner of the Beretta arms factory and president of Brescia Calcio, as president.

Genoa, founded on May 21, 1952, with president Avv. Giovanni Maggio, president of the provincial administration of Genoa and mayor of Rapallo.

Milan, founded on June 21, 1952, president, Cav. del Lavoro Fernando Pozzani, formerly president of Ambrosiana/Inter.

Naples, founded on June 12, 1953, president, Federico Caflich, an eminent Neapolitan sportsman.

Sondrio, founded on August 31, 1953, president, Geom. Salvatore Ferruggia.

Vicenza, founded on September 14, 1953, president, Count Paolo Marzotto, automobile champion.

Seven clubs in all which represented a valid initial patrimony, but which had come into being exclusively as the result of personal friendships and therefore ran the risk of remaining one-time and provisory initiatives. What was needed was an organization capable of administering to the important aspects of liason and expansion, through a promulgation no longer entrusted to personal initiatives, but based on rational methods. Concrete supports of a juridical and economic nature were also needed in order to overcome the inevitable initial difficulties and the scepticism the entrance of a new organization, with a Greek name and a Latin motto, would be likely to encounter in the sports ambient where it might be interpreted as both unrealistic and pretentious, almost aristocratically arrogant. Which was certainly not the case.

It was therefore thought best to reunite the seven clubs, which were already operating in completely autonomous form within their territory, into a single structure. In addition to spreading the panathletic idea, this structure would see to the general organization of the institution, elaborate a statute and regulations which would be valid for all the clubs and would take charge, through official channels, of the divulgation of the objectives of the association, and constitute other clubs on a provincial basis.

Deeply convinced, the seven clubs already in existence, thereafter jokingly called "the magnificent seven", met in Milan, and on November 21, 1953 constituted the PANATHLON ITALIANO, with Mario Viali as president and Cav. del Lavoro Ferdinando Pozzani, formerly president of the club of Milan, as vice president.

This was the first and determining step in the realization of Viali's idea. "Soon throughout Italy" he had said in his first program document. Through a new structure, which was to offer itself to Italian society as one of the most interesting and important organizations of voluntary sport enthusiasts that had until then been constituted, Panathlon Italiano was taking its clubs out of their modest provincial dimension and relaunching them on a national scale. The Board of Directors of the association, elected in that meeting of November 21, 1953, paid particular attention to the aspect of promotion



Mario Viali and Aldo Mairano. With them are Edoardo Sampognaro, founder of the Club of Catania and Giuseppe Guerrera, President of that Club.

and divulgation, and printed and distributed a monthly brochure (someone defined it as “a modest sheet, but courageous”) illustrating the activities of the clubs and the programs for future activities.

As a result of this initiative and the capillary work of the Board of Directors, now able to act in the name of an officially constituted organization and no longer as individuals, Panathlon Italiano was enriched by another seventeen clubs over a two-year period.

By the end of 1955 the first seven clubs had, in fact, been joined by clubs in Florence, Lugano, Palermo, Ferrara, Verona, Varese, Catania, Como, Caserta, Pisa-Livorno, Cremona, Pavia, Mantua, Bergamo, Bari, Perugia, Taranto.

These initial successes made Mario Viali particularly happy and he repeatedly expressed his satisfaction with the way in which the idea, “his” idea, was spreading with relative ease. His delight at having “conquered” large and important cities touched its acme with the constitution of the clubs of Palermo and Catania, the first Sicilian cities to adhere to the panathlet-

ic principles. Viali immediately went to Sicily, a land particularly dear to him, not only for an official visit to the two clubs, but also for a personal encounter with his friend Edoardo Sampognaro, one of the principal arteficers in the constitution of the club of Catania.

Prestigious names in the fields of sport, culture, industry had adhered to the constitution of the clubs. The motivations, both ideal and personal, that lay behind their decisions to collaborate and assume responsibilities and initiatives were probably as varied as their experiences of life and social commitments, but they were all strongly aware of the important role sport was acquiring, of its extraordinary impact on the social and economic aspects, and were therefore convinced of the need of their presence in terms of promotion, but also of control and safeguard. They were almost all figures of national standing who as a result played an essential role in endowing Panathlon with a highly prestigious identity, and setting it on a level with the other older and more influential service clubs, and, as a result, characterizing its development.

One of the most important aspects of this initial expansion was an event which may not at the time have received the attention it deserved: the constitution of the club of Lugano, on February 14, 1954. Contacts with the club of Milan made it easy to enter Italian Switzerland and infect Swiss friends with the ideas contained in the panathletic message, even though the social, historical and economic conditions of the country were basically different from those in Italy. But the success, even though un hoped for, was complete: the idea was received enthusiastically and the club was constituted. Walter Ambrosetti was elected as president. At its foundation, Avv. Demetrio Balestra became a member of the club, and was subsequently one of those most involved and committed in the international expansion of the association.

It was the first step taken by Panathlon towards that internationalization which Viali had envisioned in what by then seemed the far off 1951 ("... in all Italy and, subsequently, after a brief trial period, in Europe and in the world."). Lugano had given Panathlon the passport it needed to cross the national boundaries and be known in Europe. Now what was

needed was a valid and efficient organizational structure and the right men to make the most of this favorable circumstance.

In the meanwhile the clubs had initiated their institutional activity with great commitment and enthusiasm. In the monthly convivial meetings the problems regarding sport were studied, local situations were investigated, subjects pertinent to the life of sport were debated, initiatives were undertaken whose aim was that of publicizing questions of outstanding interest concerning problems which were in need of adequate solutions. The club became a true palaestra for discussion, for an exchange of opinions and experiences: an active and often impassioned comparison of ideas which led to studies, the gathering of information, denunciations, projects.

Panathlon, through this capillary work of the clubs, was making a name for itself in society as a movement of opinions in the service of sport, as a club whose interests were cultural and focussed on a sport education that was open to all those who believed in sport and its values. As was to be expected and hoped for, the clubs vied with each other in doing more and better. The clubs and the men who represented them were by now fully aware that they were part of an organization committed to a program that would be developed on a medium — long term basis. Through a dense network of relationships with political, administrative and cultural institutions, Panathlon became a point of reference and of support for the development on a local level of projects and various initiatives, attempting to find the possible and logical solutions, and contextually its presence in the territory was affirmed and reinforced. Decisive in this task was the work of Domenico Chiesa, who at the time held the office of General Secretary and infused the organization with the enthusiasm and passion which had always distinguished his each and every activity. Chiesa offered Panathlon Italiano his profound professionalism, as well as the experience matured as Secretary of the Rotary Club of Venice. He had drawn up a constitution approved by the constituting assembly, which dictated the behavioral norms and outlined a program to be followed,

developed and adhered to by the clubs. It was an exceptionally important document for, with the exception of a few modifications and up-datings made necessary in the course of the years as a result of the changing conditions of sport society, it was to remain basically valid for a long time. In the norms regarding the procedural and organizational criteria, the by-laws established periodic assemblies of the club presidents and conventions of the members. In the former the budget was to be approved, the statutes modified and the officers of the club renewed, while in the latter themes of common interest were to be discussed, ideas and opinions useful in elaborating the new programs exchanged, the activity of the clubs was thus to be verified and indications, proposals and concrete experiences could be transmitted to the central structure, useful in ensuring the expansion of Panathlon, a problem that was high on the list of musts and worthy of the greatest endeavor.

THE FIRST ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly which took place in Venice on April 3, 1955 marked an extremely important date in the history of Panathlon Italiano. Mario Viali, who had held the chair of president ever since its foundation, decided to "withdraw" to make way for fresher energies on the directive organ, with new ideas and experiences. And there was no lack of "fresh energies" in that assembly. One name above all rose to the fore: that of Aldo Mairano, president of the club of Genoa, a man who made a strong impression on the assembly with his broad points of view and concrete proposals. It was he who proposed the nomination of Viali as honorary president of Panathlon Italiano, with the right of participating and voting in the assembly and the Board of Directors, and of electing as active president Cav. del Lavoro Fernando Pozzani, president of the club of Milan. In the election of councilors, Aldo Mairano received 15 out of 18 votes. Domenico Chiesa also became a member of the board and left the office of secretary to Dott. Aldo Missalgia.

The name of Aldo Mairano will frequently appear in this story: we will often have the occasion to mention him and speak of him more at length. His election as councilor, in the Assembly of Venice, brought him to the attention of the panathletic world. Viali, Mairano, Chiesa, each with different characteristics, qualities, talents and merits, will remain in the historical memory of Panathlon as the men who set it on its way, who constructed the future.

The men on the Board of Directors of Panathlon Italiano, engaged in various vital sectors of society, brought all their experience and professionalism to their panathletic commitment, with a clear and rational vision of what had to be done and how it had to be done, to help "their" movement grow. The meetings of the Board of Directors, which followed hard upon each other, had a wealth of matters to discuss, ranging over the entire vast panorama of sport activities. Nothing was to be overlooked, because even the most humble and apparently insignificant event might conceal elements of great moral value in which Panathlon felt it was a duty to intervene.

In his management of Panathlon, the newly elected president, Pozzani, an eminent figure in the entrepreneurial class in Lombardy, applied the same principles of managership as those he used in his industrial activities, with the same positive results. The process of expansion was intensified (in the course of his presidency, from 1955 to 1957, nineteen clubs were constituted) and in the board meeting of June 12, 1955, in Milan, Panathlon decreed the end of the name "Rotary of Sport Lovers" which initially had been thought useful by some in helping to put across the motivation that lay behind its constitution, the aims, organization and the area in which it intended to act: in other words, that of the service clubs. It was a determining step in the affirmation of its identity. With this resolution, long hoped for, Panathlon Italiano had aligned itself with the great service clubs which were already successfully operating in the world, even though for Panathlon the world was yet to be conquered.

At this same board meeting a rapport with the Italian National Olympic Committee was first broached, with an eye to intensifying the expansion and making it possible for Panath-

lon to be present at the Winter Olympics, to be held in Cortina in 1956.

With his stress on organization, President Pozzani led the Board of Directors to realize that the time had come for a confrontation that would include all members, rather than being limited exclusively to meetings of club Presidents, so that the true strength of Panathlon might find expression, in making operating proposals and collaborating directly in the management of the association. The outcome was the Convention, which alternated with the Assembly, and together the two became the carrying structure of the association, from which the Board of Directors would draw the policies it would then translate into concrete measures and actions. Thirty-six clubs, with almost three hundred members, at the time represented a potential of no small means which could not be ignored, a potential on which President Pozzani felt he could rely in helping his management to continue on a track of common intentions based on a general consensus.

THE FIRST CONVENTION

The first convention of the members of Panathlon Italiano took place from October 13th to 15th, 1956, in Florence, a choice that was dictated in part by the presence of illustrious members in that club, and by the fact that Tuscany was a land rich in sports and sport lovers, and that Florence itself was a city of art and culture. For three whole days, in an atmosphere marked by intense interest and communitarian aims, one hundred and thirty-five members, representing twenty-eight clubs, discussed three timely subjects: "Amateurism and Professionalism", with a report by Ing. Ottorino Barassi; "Sport Facilities and their Function", with a report by Ing. Sergio Brusa Pasquè; "Norms of Health Prophylaxis", with a report by Prof. Giuseppe La Cava.

Panathlon had set out in the right direction to accomplish its aims, calling itself to the attention of the sports community in the best possible way. The broad themes dealt with were a demonstration of the concern that Panathlon was dedicat-

ing to events that involved the world of sport and the problems coming to a head in that ambience. Panathlon had anticipated the times, facing up to problems that in the course of the following years were to become the object of contrasting opinions and often of contradictory solutions. This ability to sense the uncertain and obscure aspects of various problems, thanks to the experience of its executive staff, was in the years to come to remain the most interesting and characteristic aspect of Panathlon activity.

However, while in the one hand everything proceeded according to program and the first successes were obtained, negative aspects, opposition and the first delusions were certainly not wanting. Panathlon was by no means immune from the rule that governs all things in this world, according to which success comes only through delusions. In fact, all the agreements that were to be made with CONI regarding the possible presence of Panathlon at the Winter Olympics in Cortina came to naught and this led to remonstrances on the part of Viali who considered the fact that they had "perforce to stay in the background" after requesting an active participation as highly regrettable. He firmly hoped that the recognition that had failed to arrive at Cortina would finally be granted in Rome on the occasion of the 1960 Olympic Games. This hope was moreover reinforced by the benevolent and optimistic attitude of Avv. Onesti, who at the time was president of the Italian National Olympic Committee.

MAIRANO PRESIDENT

In a meeting in Milan on February 17, 1957, the Board of Directors decided to entrust the organization of the elective assembly, which fell due that year, to the club of Brescia, an assembly which took place on April 6th and 7th in Sirmione.

In the pleasant city overlooking Lake Garda, Panathlon marked a determining date even though, for an organization as young as Panathlon was at the time, any and all innovations introduced aimed at perfecting the inherent structures of the association, were of particular importance. But the out-

standing event of the assembly was the election to the presidency of Aldo Mairano, already a member of the Board of Directors. He was to remain in office for over eleven years, a period that coincided with the greatest development of Panathlon and the constitution of over seventy clubs, almost all with Mairano himself as godfather.

Mairano, born in Genoa on May 19, 1898, and entrepreneur in the confectionary industry, was involved in the world of sport for over sixty years, first as an active athlete and then as manager, in the disciplines of cycling, gymnastics, football (he was president of the Genoa team in the years 41/42), and basketball. An exceptional eclectic in the field of sports, he founded cycling and football societies in Piedmont (he lived at length in Turin) and in Liguria, instituted a whole series of cycling and football events, presided over regional Committees on cycling and football in Piedmont and Liguria, and in the end passed over to basketball, organizing a women's team in Genoa in 1940 and in 1946 rising to the office of president of the Italian Basketball Federation.

He was the provincial delegate of the Italian National Olympic Committee, in Genoa, for twenty-five years (from 1945 to 1970), national councilor and member of the executive council of the Olympic Committee itself.

At the end of World War II he promoted the constitution of the *Unione Stampa Sportiva Italiana*, with the convention aboard a ship in Genoa, while in the pre-war years he had founded and directed the tri-weekly "*Piemonte sportivo*" in Turin. Particularly close to the world of journalism, he was also president of the board of directors of the sport daily "*Tuttosport*" of Turin.

Extraordinarily dynamic, he also held various public offices.

His presidency of *Panathlon Italiano* offered the young association that final touch, which was perhaps still wanting, of efficacy, managerial quality and pragmatism, elements that contributed in a determining manner to maturing the association both qualitatively and quantitatively, taking it out of a purely national dimension to relaunch it as a great organization on an international level. In his term of office Mairano

dedicated himself wholeheartedly to Panathlon which had entered his life like a tyrant and not a day passed but that his best and most productive hours were devoted to the organization. In the effort to keep faith with the intense program he had established for himself, he even went so far as to neglect his personal interests. Jokingly referred to as "the traveling president", in a single trip through Italy he covered over five thousand kilometers to be wherever a new club was being formed or where he thought his presence would be useful and necessary in guiding the first steps of the newly constituted clubs.

He transferred the headquarters of Panathlon to Genoa, where he himself lived and where he could devote more time to his commitment. Flanking him in the Provincial Committee of Genoa of the Italian National Olympic Committee and just as passionately involved in the world of sports was Rag. Angelo Galletto Valladares. Together in that committee, together in the Panathlon Club of Genoa, the coupling of their names in what was then still Panathlon Italiano was almost natural and the first measure Mairano took as president was that of nominating Angelo Galletto Valladares Secretary General, as well as Treasurer, and for over thirty years he collaborated with humility and modesty, but with a determining contribution, in the development of Panathlon, to which his name is tied in an indissoluble symbiosis. The merit for the constitution of an initial organizational structure which was to favor the evolution and expansion of Panathlon is for the most part his. But, above all, he is to be thanked for consolidating and improving the relationships with the world of sport, as well as for the opening of new contacts for panathletic expansion. Everything he did was marked by a profound devotion to the association, to which he was to give the best of his resources. Without his diligence and zeal in taking down the detailed minutes of all the meetings of the Boards of Directors, of the Assemblies and of the Conventions, we would never have been able to reconstruct the story of Panathlon. Only through a careful reading of these documents, fortunately still extant, is it possible to trace the evolution of thought that in forty years permitted Panathlon to

keep up with the times and to adjust to the rapidly developing society.

Aldo Mairano's term as president was studded with great initiatives and great events.

Apart from the considerable responsibilities which Mairano had taken upon himself in presiding over the association in this delicate phase of its development, with all the implications and consequences which the office itself implied and of which Mairano was perfectly aware, his commitment became even more intense and required major concentration as a result of the presence in the Board of Directors of Viali and Chiesa. The atmosphere was undoubtedly one of great cordiality and friendship, yet it cannot be questioned that the presence of the two real founders of Panathlon constituted an obligatory point of reference, with both its pros and cons, in the apprehension that certain decisions might not be in line with their ideas, particularly with those of Viali. The merit of transforming this initial obstacle into a positive factor of incentive and initiative belongs to Mairano. From the very beginning he set to work to carry Viali's aspiration for an internationalization of the movement to fruition.

The first contacts with the International Olympic Committee were announced at the meeting of the Board of Directors of January 18, 1958. The president, Mr. Avery Brundage, in his answer to a letter from Mairano expressed his enthusiasm for the initiative and hoped that Panathlon would be exported to other countries as soon as possible. In the same meeting, on a proposal of Cav. Pozzai, the institution of pennants to be adopted by each club was decided. They are small but vitally important signs in the organic definition and personalization of the organizational structure of Panathlon.

In the meanwhile the Swiss friends, enthusiastic and convinced that there was need for Panathlon in their national scene as well, had constituted the club of Lausanne on May 18, 1956. These first two non-Italian clubs (Lugano and Lausanne) in particular sustained Mairano's spirit and will and encouraged him in his dream of transforming Panathlon Italiano into Panathlon International before long. These were his first words at the opening session of the Board of Directors

on July 12, 1958, and, strangely enough, it was Viali himself who attempted to hold his enthusiasm in check, maintaining that in order to justify the variation at least three countries would have to be represented in Panathlon. Mairano accepted the opinion of the "founding father", but he could not resign himself to the imposition of this stop which conditioned his volcanic programs. He simply had to anticipate the times and he needed help in this obstinate aspiration. He found it in the club of Milan, in the person of Comm. Massimo della Pergola, an internationally famous journalist, whose professional activity often took him abroad where he could further the development of the panathletic ideals. Della Pergola (inventor in Italy of the contest-lottery of forecasts "Sisal", now "Totocalcio"), enthusiastically accepted the idea and Mairano obtained consensus for this extremely personal initiative at the meeting of the Board of Directors of November 9, 1958. Della Pergola immediately set to work but was unable to achieve those immediate successes which Mairano so anxiously and confidently hoped for. Transferring the panathletic ideals to other countries, with different cultures, traditions and customs, turned out to be more difficult than expected; but Mairano held firm. His "obsession" was still that of achieving international status as soon as possible, and, as we shall see, he succeeded in the course of two years.

Mairano however never lost sight of the expansion in Italy, to which he dedicated the greater part of his time. Under his promotional impulse, friendships and acquaintances he had made in the professional and sport field offered him continuous occasions for consolidating his convictions and his resolves. The clubs increased in number and the quality of their activities improved, occasionally spreading beyond the limited territorial confines of territory into a national field. The first example was provided by the club of Florence in 1958, when it organized the first edition of the "Mostra Nazionale Arte e Sport" (National Art and Sport Exhibition), an event which was to be repeated annually and which is still one of the most significant cultural expressions of Panathlon. The organizers of the exhibition, with the president of the club Hon. Arrigo Paganelli at their head, flanked by Prof. Gabriele

Gardenghi (who was later to become the untiring promoter of the Florentine club), had drawn their inspiration from the decoubertian idea and his Olympics in which the athletic contests were accompanied by artistic contests.

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On May 24, 1959 in Pisa the elective assembly reconfirmed Mairano by acclamation as president of Panathlon Italiano. The new Board of Directors, while paying all due attention to the routine activity in the service of the Olympic ideal, oriented its specific commitments along two lines:

- 1) the intensification of the program for internationalization;
- 2) the elaboration of a program for an active presence of Panathlon Italiano at the Olympics to be held in Rome in 1960.

One of its first important successes in the field of internationalism was achieved when the International Olympic Committee granted Panathlon the "OLYMPIC CUP", on the following grounds: "... for having rendered eminent service to the cause of sport and validly contributing to the spread of the Olympic idea".

This recognition was determining, for it greatly helped in opening the frontiers towards new countries: this was what Mairano had been waiting for in order to give concrete form to his idea.

On the Olympic front, however, things did not go as well. All the ideas the councilors had expressed, all the hypotheses manifested and all the programs worked out vanished into thin air. Once more Viali's regrets seemed to be fully justified. After Cortina, his hopes of seeing Panathlon present at the great international manifestations foundered. Positive premises had not been wanting. Panathlon had, in fact, been invited to the "Olympic Day", declared by the Italian National Olympic Committee on June 19, 1959, and the entire Board of Directors had been received in official visit by the President of the Republic. This could have been the viaticum needed for a real affirmation, but then something snagged and the participation of Panathlon in the Rome Olympics was limited



The Chancellor of I.O.C. Otto Mayer presenting the « Olympic Cup » to Mairano.

to the distribution of informative brochures which were lost in the sea of posters and various other materials which flooded Rome in those days. The only positive note on the part of the Italian National Olympic Committee was the nomination of Mairano as president of the Olympic Flame Committee which permitted him to organize the journey of the Flame from the time it came ashore in Italy to Rome and to escort it along the way.

The truth behind these failures is that the organization of Panathlon Italiano, only seven years after its constitution, was still too fragile with respect to the monstrous machine that lay behind events such as the Olympic Games. It was too soon to compete with situations of this sort. Mairano, who had both feet on the ground, realized and accepted the situation at face value. He was sure that in the end the day would come when Panathlon too would have the opportunity of achieving its aims and doing its share.

PANATHLON INTERNATIONAL

The news brought by Massimo Della Pergola from his frequent wanderings abroad became encouraging.

On February 14, 1960 he referred to the Board of Directors that as a result of personal contacts, three clubs were on the verge of being constituted: Madrid, Barcelona and Paris. Mairano was sure, at that point, that his goal was within reach. The requisites for transforming Panathlon Italiano into an international organ had all been met, including that of Viali who wanted at least three nations represented. Why then wait any longer? The problems that would undoubtedly arise from such an operation could be dealt with later: the important thing was to take off. And Mairano took off almost on impulse, heedless of those who counseled calm and reflection in such an important moment in the life of the association. Yet his decision was undoubtedly wise and courageous, for any delay, in view of the subsequent complications, would have compromised the entire program.

In a splendid ceremony held in the Aula Foscoliana of the University of Pavia on May 14, 1960, Panathlon became "International". It was the definitive consecration of Mario Viali's original program, conceived in the distant 1951 and of which Mairano had become the enthusiastic and almost obstinate champion. Five days later Mairano turned sixty-two and it was an unforgettable birthday for him: his commitment and that of his collaborators, an often thankless and insidious job, had carried Panathlon to another of its decisive and historic turning points.

The charter of the new association, drawn up by the notary public Cesare Rognoni of Pavia, lists as present at the ceremony, in addition to the entire Board of Directors of what was by now the former Panathlon Italiano, the following: Antoin Hafner and Jean Weymann, representing the Swiss clubs; Pierre-Etienne Guyot, representing the club in Paris currently being formed; Miguel Piernavieja del Pozo, representing the Spanish clubs currently being formed; who subsequently became members of the new Board of Directors (Consiglio Direttivo) of Panathlon International. Aldo Mairano

was confirmed president, Mario Viali was nominated honorary president with the right of participation and vote in all the meetings of Panathlon International, while Mr. Avery Brundage, president of the International Olympic Committee and a convinced supporter of the function of Panathlon in sport, was given the qualification of "Honorary Member". Demetrio Balestra was unanimously elected vice president in recognition of his outstanding merits and because he had been president of the first club to be formed across the Alps.

Panathlon International had become a convincing reality; even though the clubs in Spain and the one in Paris could not yet be considered operative.

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The international aspect Panathlon assumed after the assembly of Pavia had substantially modified the existing relationship with the world of sport. There had unfortunately been differences of opinion with Avv. Onesti, at the time president of the Italian National Olympic Committee, who saw the action of Panathlon in terms of competition tending to harm the structure of the Olympic Committee itself. Avv. Onesti had erroneously interpreted the institutional activity of Panathlon, for the association had, on all occasions, declared its firm will to be absolutely independent and autonomous. These divergencies were overcome after an explanatory encounter with Mairano and the other councilors who had come to Rome for just that purpose. Two things contributed to this definitive "pacification": the close bonds which united Panathlon to the International Olympic Committee and the great esteem and consideration Mr. Avery Brundage held for Panathlon, which had been concretely expressed in the conferral of the Olympic Cup.

* * *

This new image of internationality allowed Panathlon to broaden its sphere of action and to look beyond the Italian frontiers, to acquire an awareness of the problems facing in-

ternational sport, compare them with those in Italy and thus propose programs of common intervention. Obviously the chief center of attention was the Olympic Games, the highest expression of universal sport. What was needed was to trace the technical and cultural evolution of the Olympic Games by means of a systematic study of the relationships between Games and Society, to align the development of the economic and social processes with those of sport in an attempt to understand the mechanisms that governed them and act in consequence. And Panathlon never fell short of this commitment, nor did it ever fail to exercise its methodic action in the years to come. Panathlon was among the first to realize that the Olympic Games had turned off into a path that was bristling with danger. After Rome, Tokyo and Mexico had clearly revealed the still latent faults which were then to become macroscopic, such as gigantism (the admission of too many disciplines and a mastodontic organization, the costs of which had hindered many nations from proposing their candidacy), the politicalization (which was to explode clamorously in Munich '72, in Moscow '80 and in Los Angeles '84), commercialization (which was to overturn the traditional concept of the practice and organization of sport) and the conflict between amateurism and professionalism.

The Olympics served as an example, and sport, including that of more modest provincial dimensions, was adapting itself to the new panorama and the new strategies. Panathlon, with keen sensitivity, perceived the dangers inherent in this new situation and began a series of consultations, both on the level of clubs as well as in conventions, attempting to evaluate the fundamental causes underlying these upheavals, and make use of the resulting deductions and hypotheses in proposing solutions to the competent organs. This particular aspect of its activity was to make Panathlon International one of the organizations in the service of sport, augmenting the esteem it was held in by the International Olympic Committee to the point of being considered a powerfully telling movement in the framework of Olympic promotion.

Society was rapidly changing, and sport followed suit. The conditions of life changed and with affluence, the people

wanted and needed more. Nor was sport immune to this process. Words that up to then had been unknown became part of sport language, such as sponsor (an institution which brought undeniable advantages to sport as well as great hazards) and doping (its deleterious effects were to compromise the ethics, the practice and the results of sport activities). Panathlon, constantly aware of these changes, lost no time in exercising its unique function of observer, in entering the heart of the processes and forming opinions there where it was necessary to intervene for clarification or for a decision. A true inversion of tendency took place in Panathlon. Initially accused — although wrongly — of “narrow-mindedness” with regard to some of the problems and of aristocratic attitudes, it “opened” its doors to the sport society and became part of it so as to take its cultural contribution and its opinions “home”. The true aspect of Panathlon was offered to the world of sport and the institutions and it was the image of an efficient, functional, democratic association, which day after day gained in prestige and won new friends, creating for itself noteworthy and important areas in which to carry out its institutional tasks.

EXPANSION IN SWITZERLAND

After Italy, and while expansion there continued, Viali's idea crossed the borders, towards Switzerland. Canton Ticino, where there were no obstacles of communication or contacts on account of language, was the natural bridge to the other Swiss cantons, in a land with great sport cultural traditions, furnishing a fertile ground for the panathletic idea of the safeguarding of the ethic and moral values of sport. Something inherent, in other words, in the culture and civic and sport mentality of the Swiss, who have always considered Viali's idea a beacon in the idealization of Olympism and fair play.

The club of Lugano was constituted in February of 1954, thanks to the efforts of Walter Ambrosetti and Demetrio Balestra who followed each other as presidents. From there,

Panathlon went on to Lausanne on May 18, 1956, and the constitution of that club was a determining step for expansion in Switzerland, which, after Italy, is now the country with the highest number of clubs (28) and of Panathletes (over 200).

Lausanne was important — and not only for expansion in Switzerland — on account of what it represents in the world of sport and on account of the men of prestige, in that same world, who immediately took up Viali's idea and became ambassadors and guarantors for the diffusion in Switzerland itself and for the relations of expansion in other countries.

While the constitution of a club in Lausanne, seat of the International Olympic Committee, and therefore considered the moral capital of world sport, did of course reflect prestige on Panathlon, over and above this fact was the possibility it offered for important and determining contacts.

Jean Weymann, first president of the club of Lausanne, was General Secretary of the Swiss Olympic Committee, and therefore in close contact with the International Olympic Committee, and able to favor the rapports between the IOC and Panathlon, which eventually led to one of the first (and throughout the years many) meetings for collaboration between Otto Mayer, at the time Chancellor of the International Olympic Committee, and Aldo Mairano, presiding President of Panathlon International, in the presence of Weymann and the General Secretary of Panathlon, Angelo Galletto Valladares.

The International Olympic Committee has always kept a particularly keen eye on Panathlon, in view of the objectives pursued through the panathletic idea, as well as its continuous disinterested action in defense of sport.

It was Otto Mayer who first acknowledged the activities of Panathlon by granting it the Olympic Cup award (1959), an acknowledgement that was repeated twenty-three years later (1982) when Juan Antonio Samaranch included Panathlon among the associations officially recognized by the International Olympic Committee.

From Mayer to Samaranch, collaboration with IOC continued with its other presidents, such as Avery Brundage and Lord Killanin, marked by feelings of high esteem and mutual

affinity. The prestige involved was an official guaranty for Panathlon of further expansion. Above all in Switzerland.

In addition to Weymann, the club of Lausanne also attracted other sport lovers such as Andre Favre, an outstanding figure in the field of Swiss influence and within Panathlon, Raymond Gafner, who then became the delegate administrator of the International Olympic Committee with a long eclectic sports career behind him, journalist and writer, and, in the 1980s, Jean Presset with his idea of a campaign for fair play which was met with a general consensus and broad divulgation and which conferred on the club an incisive influence in the Swiss world of sport.

Lugano was the point of departure, Lausanne became the point of reference for expansion in Switzerland, where the differences in culture, even though amalgamated in a single nation, the differences in language, and the inborn conviction that any idea must be thoroughly studied before being accepted, had to be taken into account before the third club became a reality.

Demetrio Balestra was untiring in promoting contacts, in stimulating those who could help him arrive at operative solutions. Firmly convinced of the panathletic idea, Balestra was just as convinced that its international vocation would find ideal expression in Switzerland, as a result of its roots in the field of culture and sport and the banner of internationality which the Helvetican state has always hoisted.

Then in June 1959 came the club of Geneva. To be followed by those of Valais a Sion (December '60) and of Basle (February '62). Expansion in Switzerland proceeded with typically Helvetican schemes and regularity, in a programming that left nothing to chance, but went through precise and validly oriented rapports and channels. The right men for sure results.

And the right men for the constitution of the sixth club in Switzerland, the 87th of Panathlon International, were found in Bern. One above all: Walter Siegenthaler, who was also the first president of the club founded in May of 1964.

Walter Siegenthaler is another outstanding personality in the story of Panathlon: not only because he was involved in

the constitution of the club of Bern, but because thanks to his panathletic activity and his brilliant well-balanced personality, he then rose to the offices of Panathlon International, all the way to the vice presidency. Just as two other Panathletes of Bern eventually also rose to offices in Panathlon International: Marc Hodler, president of the International Ski Federation, and Max Beer, whose devotion to Panathlon, after having presided over the club of Bern, never stopped. An Olympic athlete in Berlin 1936, with a strong descisive character, Beer greatly contributed to panathletic expansion in Austria, Norway and other countries as well as in Switzerland.

The force of the panathletic philosophy together with the force of Swiss sport lovers who, from the beginning, shared and adopted it: this is the common way towards the progressive constitution of another twenty-two clubs in Switzerland, grouped into a single District, the 10th, of Panathlon International:

in 1965: Oberwallis.

in 1975: Sopraceneri, Zurich, Lucerne.

in 1976: Biel/Bienne.

in 1978: Thurgau, Aargau.

in 1979: Chur und Umgebung, Winterthur, Freiburg, Solothurn.

in 1980: Berner Oberland.

in 1981: Yverdon les Bains, Neuchatel

in 1982: Chaux de Fonds, Olten/Zofingen.

in 1983: Schaffhausen, Wil Toggenburg, St. Gallen, Zug.

in 1984: Zurcher Oberland.

More than anyone else Max Beer and Jean Presset (elected to the Board of Directors for the first time in the assembly of 1984) have continued to be present at the highest levels of Panathlon International: Beer, former vice-president, particularly important in international expansion; Presset, deputy vice president after the death of Vittorio Wyss, and as president of the Cultural Commission, contributing greatly to the awareness of this sector as he methodically dealt with the difficult and delicate relationship between sport and family and between sport and school. The themes of the year which

were discussed in the clubs before being taken up for study in the various conventions, were the fruit of one of his initiatives in an area where he had already had considerable experience in Switzerland as an active member of the Fair Play Commission of the Swiss Sport Association. His activities led Panathlon to deal with themes of great importance in terms of society and sport, particularly regarding youth. The initiative for an in-depth study of a subject that touched many a chord, "Sport education of youth", came from Presset. Panathlon took up the task and invited the clubs to act in line with the suggestions furnished in a report prepared by Presset, so as to bring together in a single movement everything that had been begun earlier, between 1985 and 1988, in the way of promoting sport education in the family and in the school, and get the third part of a joint action under way, in parallel to the results that had already been achieved, that of sport education in sport associations and clubs. All under the categorical imperative of fair play which was to represent a fixed constant and a categorical policy for society as a whole and from which sport in general, and in particular that involving youth, could not prescind.

* * *

Other countries in Europe, on the example of Switzerland, had already welcomed the panathletic ideal, and still others would welcome it with enthusiasm.

Belgium, with the constitution of the club of Brussels; Germany which was to found a club in Munich; Spain with clubs in Barcelona, Murcia, Sabadell, Terrassa, Zaragoza; France with the club of Paris to be followed by Angers, Le Cannet/Rocheville, Pau-Pyrenees; Luxembourg with the club of Luxembourg; the Principality of Monaco with the club of the same name; Norway, which with the constitution of the club of Oslo, was to represent ideally the northern tip of a vast geographic area in which Panathlon had developed; Austria with the clubs of Innsbruck and Vienna and those of Graz and Salzburg; Portugal with Lisbon and Santarem.

They are clubs that are deeply involved in their sport

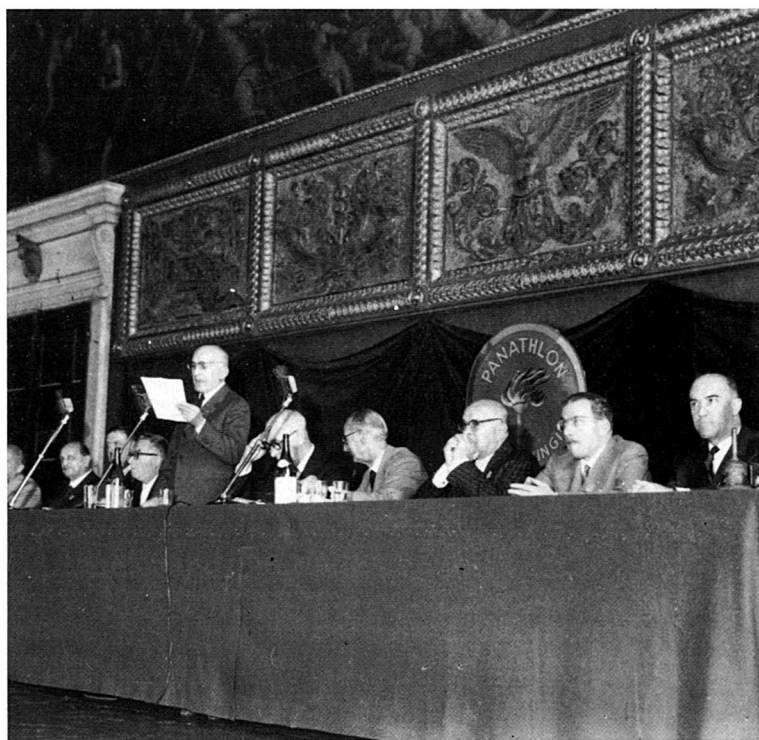
worlds where the role they play in safeguarding sport is inspired by the Olympic values. They are the expression in Europe of an active Panathlon International, continuously developing, whose aim is that of consolidating the prestigious position it has achieved through the incisive and methodical work of its members who believed and believe in the message that set out from Venice.

OUTSIDE THE CONVIVIALS

The years to follow were dedicated in great part to the revision of the by laws and the restructuring of the internal organization that was required by the new international role Panathlon had acquired in Pavia.

In the meetings of the Board of Directors on April 12, 1961, in Lausanne, and in the following one on October 21st, mention is made for the first time of Districts, of Governors and of the President's Council, even if the ideas at the time were set aside. It was also clear that the concept of a great, modern organization already existed in the hearts and minds of the councilors who were unanimously striving to perfect the image of the Panathlon by improving its structure and conduct.

In the various clubs, which by 1961 already numbered more than seventy, activity was intense and projected into a national, and occasionally international, sphere. The idea proffered by the club of Spezia, even though inspired by a resolution of the Board of Directors of Panathlon International, for the organization of an encounter to discuss the safety of the skier, first on a national and later on an international level, was of interest. The animating spirit of this initiative, which was widely acclaimed, was Avv. Dario Toracca, president of the club of Spezia, together with the councilor Aldo Travain (of Padova) who was directly responsible. In a series of encounters, initially organized by the individual clubs and subsequently by Panathlon International, held in the most prominent ski resorts, the subjects of greatest interest were discussed and the "Decalogue of the Skier". later accepted by



The 1 International Convention in Venice (1961).

the International Ski Federation, was elaborated.

Another brilliant and felicitous idea saw the light in the club of Carrara-Massa: that of collaborating with the Foundation "Città del libro" of Pontremoli in the institution of an annual award to be called "Bancarella Sport". The insight Renzo Chiappale had that evening of June 1963 in Pontremoli was transformed into a significant reality. With the participation of Panathlon International, Bancarella Sport was born in August 1964 and the prize was awarded to the book "Sport nasce in Asia" by Count Cesare Bonacossa, one of the figures who animated and ennobled sport activity and culture on the national and international scene. Still today, after twenty-five years, "Bancarella Sport" is a concrete reality and the best in the way of sport literature has been submitted to its strict selection. Even though, since the award was limited to Italy, Panathlon International as an international association withdrew its official participation, the club of Carrara and Massa continued to support the award, thanks particularly to Renzo Chiappale and his personal commitment.

In the meanwhile the decennial convention was held in Venice, on May 13 and 14, 1961, with over five hundred members present, and those broad themes which Panathlon had singled out and considered determining for the future of sport were discussed. Dr. Otto Mayer, chancellor of the International Olympic Committee, presented a paper on the "Future of Olympism"; Dr. Gino Palumo and Dr. Aldo Bardelli, well-known Italian sports reporters, on "Should the Program of the Olympic Games be Reduced?" and "The Problem of Dilettantism in the Olympic Games". These three subjects were of international interest and in dealing with them Panathlon hoped to propose its opinions and solutions to the world of sport.

* * *

During the meeting of the Board of Directors in Lausanne on April 12, 1961, the entire Board, accompanied by the Chancellor of the International Olympic Committee, Otto Mayer, the secretary, Jean Weymann, and civic and sport

authorities, had paid homage to the tomb of De Coubertin in Mon Repos. It was a moving act of homage to the man who is by now considered as universal father of modern sports, the man who asked that his heart be buried at Olympia, where it still rests, preserved in a stele at the foot of the sacred mountain of sport.

On the occasion of the decennial celebration in Venice, his widow, Baroness de Coubertin, with exquisite personal sensitivity and consideration for Panathlon, sent President Mairano the sign of her affection, fruit of a curious photomontage, here reproduced.



CITIUS ALTIUS FORTIUS

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIQUE

MON REPOS, LAUSANNE, SUISSE

TEL: 32.94.49 - ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE: CIO LAUSANNE
BANQUE: BANQUE CANTONALE VAUDOISE - CH. POST: IL 2262

Par l'entremise de M. Otto Mayer, chancelier du
Comité International Olympique, j'adresse à

MONSIEUR ALDO MAIRANO

Président du Panathlon International

réuni en son premier Congrès à Venise le 13 mai 1961,
l'hommage de ma sincère sympathie et mes vœux les
meilleurs.

LAUSANNE, le 10 mai 1961.

Bonne nuit de Coubertin

In the anti-doping campaign, already begun on a world-wide basis, Panathlon hoped to do its part by sensitizing the clubs but, surprisingly, the Board of Directors refused to accept a proposal by Mairano aimed at underscoring the anti-doping campaign by distributing handbills bearing the slogan: "Take drugs in the morning, win at noon, die in the evening". An undeniably effective slogan, still highly valid. The proposal did not obtain the general consensus of the Board, for the idea of handouts was not considered efficacious as a means of promulgation, even if there was a general consensus that Panathlon International had to do something along this line.

The internal organization also progressively improved thanks to the competent instigation of the General Secretary Galletto Valladares. The information bulletin had become a real monthly newsletter, with articles of general interest and information on the activities of the clubs, printed on glossy paper, and accompanied by photographs, under the personal direction of Aldo Mairano.

The Assemblies in Ravenna on May 5, 1962, in Naples on May 25, 1963, in Montecatini Terme on June 20, 1964, and in Cagliari on June 11, 1966 had not brought about any substantial changes in the programs and strategies already elaborated, to which the Presidency devoted its energies. New names had come to the fore when the club renewed its officers, and some of them were to leave a profound mark on Panathlon and enrich its cultural and spiritual patrimony with their actions, their contributions and their active, qualified and intelligent participation. Among these, the following merit particular mention: Avv. Dario Toracca, elected in Montecatini, for his commitment — as seen — in favor of the safety of the skier, Marquis Luigi Medici del Vascello and Prof. Sisto Favre, elected in Cagliari, for the eminent offices they were to cover, as we will soon see, in the direction of Panathlon International.

News from abroad was not comforting and on September 3, 1966 the Board of Directors (Consiglio Direttivo, which in the meantime had modified its name and was now known as the Consiglio Centrale), officially declared the failure of the

clubs of Madrid, Barcelona and Paris, from whom nothing had been heard for over eight months, despite repeated requests.

The feeling of delusion that settled in was in part dispersed by the comments, basically optimistic, of all the board members, who expressed hope and trust, as well as proposals, for expansion abroad. And this atmosphere of optimism gave its fruits, for the year 1967 closed with an event that was if anything sensational, and aroused both surprise and satisfaction.

The international expansion entrusted to Massimo della Pergola, with the intense collaboration of Mairano himself, had not produced concrete results. Nor did the coordinated endeavors of various others who had offered their help in overcoming the difficulties which had made the initiatives of Madrid, Barcelona and Paris come to nothing. The suggestion was also made to interest the Consuls of the Republic of San Marino (where, in the meantime, a club had been constituted) in the hopes that, in their seats abroad, they could help promote the constitution of clubs in the various countries. Interesting as it might be, the idea could not be put into practice for obvious political-administrative reasons. Mairano could not resign himself to the situation. He was convinced that approaching the people, say, of France and Spain, so similar to the Italians in origin, culture and traditions, should be relatively easy and could not understand what the perverse mechanisms or reasons hindering the operation might be.

But chance sometimes plays odd tricks and can resolve the most intricate, apparently unsolvable situations. It was in fact pure chance that one day in May 1966, at a convention in the Lombard capital, Count Severio Giulini, president of the club of Milan, should meet the delegate of the Olympic Committee for Argentina, Bernardo Dino Gorla, and speak to him about the Panathlon. Gorla was not only interested but outright fascinated by what Count Giulini had to say, which revealed an aspect of the sport panorama to which he might not otherwise have given due consideration. He wanted to know more and Giulini lost no time. Through the General Secretary he sent illustrative material to Buenos Aires, includ-

ing a few numbers of the review and a copy of the statutes. On September 14, 1967, the 86th club of Panathlon International was founded, the club of Buenos Aires. The panathletic ideal had crossed the ocean and taken root in Argentina in the most simple and most natural way. It was the confirmation that Mairano's convictions were well-founded and that the difficulties previously encountered in France and Spain were solely subjective in nature and could, therefore, be overcome.

The enthusiasm for the "conquest" of Argentina came close to euphoria and some even asked themselves if it had been worth while having lost time and money in an operation that had failed, such as the one in France and Spain, after having noted that all that was needed was a brief, intelligent talk with the "right" person for such an exalting success. But Viali soon restored order. He was so convinced that sooner or later Panathlon would make a name for itself in the world, that the event did not particularly excite him. This was what he had already foreseen as far back as 1951, and the fact that it should have happened fell within the natural order of his internal program, based essentially on a great peace of spirit and a profound faith.

Argentina was the first stage in the conquest of the entire South American continent, with a population that included thousands of Italian extraction, the fruits of whose labor had contributed to the prosperity of those immense countries. Work was begun with this in mind and it all suddenly seemed much easier. In no time at all, thanks to the good offices of the board members Pistolesi and Travain, two more non-Italian clubs were added to the substantial list: Innsbruck and Malta, while Switzerland, thanks above all to Demetrio Balestra, continued to expand with the clubs of Valais a Sion and of Basle. At the end of 1967 all of one hundred and seven clubs were working in line with the instructions issued by Panathlon International. Panathlon Clubs had been founded in the large cities such as Rome, Turin, Bologna, and Panathlon International had also moved into Sardinia. The problems, however, were not wanting, especially for the large urban centers. The constitution of the clubs was in fact

much easier in provincial centers, where acquaintances and the circle of much more restricted friendships favored that immediate contact which made joining relatively much easier. The large cities, basically distracting and socially inclined to the formation of limited and exclusive groups, presented various complications to be overcome only by recruiting well-known and charismatic figures already part of the city fabric. This specific aspect had delayed the affirmation of the panathletic idea in some of the urban centers but had, on the other hand, brought with it the advantage of including in the ranks of Panathlon illustrious protagonists of culture and industry, who could open the doors to the various sectors of social life.

THE DISTRICTS — THE GOVERNORS

In the meeting of the Board of Directors held in Milan on January 13, 1968, Mairano had already announced that he did not intend to renew his candidacy as president of Panathlon International in the elective Assembly which was to take place in Perugia. He held to his decision despite the urgings of the board members present, who thought it would be difficult to find a person capable of shouldering such a weighty inheritance, in view of the great development Panathlon was undergoing at the time, and who considered that the defection of Mairano seriously jeopardized the association. But the President had made up his mind, even though he was touched by this great manifestation of esteem and affection. He wanted to demonstrate that the offices of Panathlon International were open to all and that no one "should exercise a monopoly on the leadership of the club". His presence on the Board of Directors however, as Past President, would have guaranteed an active participation in the life of Panathlon.

Like Mairano, Demetrio Balestra also "withdrew". "The offices — he said — represented duties, but also honors which had to be distributed". And added: "After reaching the age of 65, it is necessary to abandon things before they abandon us".

The Assembly of Perugia entrusted the presidency of Panathlon International to Count Saverio Giulini, the man who had brought Panathlon to Argentina.

In the course of his term, Giulini paid particular attention to the general organization of Panathlon and its organic and administrative restructuration, exploiting and putting in practice his professional experience.

The Mairano cycle then came to an end in Perugia: a fertile period, characterized by an intense and qualified activity, composed of works carried out, of meaningful programs, elaborated with far-sightedness, but adhering strictly to the real problems of everyday life and in line with the principles underlying the panathletic ideal which Viali, with his constant presence, still represented.

Right at the first meeting of the Board of Directors in Milan on June 22, 1968, the newly elected president Giulini clearly expressed his line of action, based essentially on the internal organization of the association and that of the clubs. Strict criteria of administration, programming of the meetings of the Board of Directors and of the president's council (constituted on the occasion of various modifications of the statutes which had been deliberated in a precedent assembly), delegations to the board members for periodic visits to the clubs, with a territorial division for each delegate (a prelude to the institution of the Governors), a revision of the criteria to be used in publishing the Newsletter (it was discovered that the Newsletter absorbed 50% of the Panathlon income); these were the first subjects discussed. The importance of making all possible efforts for further expansion was not neglected, even though Giulini's four-year term represented, in this aspect, a period of stasis and reflection: the newly constituted clubs, in fact, were only nine.

Giulini's great talent was that of having succeeded in establishing close ties with the most important organs in the field of sports and without. It was, in fact, significative that the Italian National Olympic Committee decided to include the presidents of the Panathlon clubs in the provincial committees of the "Giochi della gioventù" (Youth Games), at the time organized by the Olympic Committee itself, and the in-

ternational President of the Board of Directors. It was an event which did away with any residual reserves which in one way or the other still existed concerning Panathlon, which thus made its entrance, with full recognition, into the most delicate, but most important, sphere of sports, that of youth.

Giulini's principal obsession however was that of organization, which began to shape up at the meeting of the Board of Directors on September 20, 1969, when concrete discussion began on the subdivision of the clubs into Districts. Each member was charged with drawing up a proposal: the various hypotheses would then be examined in a subsequent meeting. In Rome, in the meeting of December 13, 1969, the Board of Directors approved the territorial division of Panathlon International into six Districts, composed as follows:

- 1st District: Emilia Romagna, S. Marino, Tre Venezie;
- 2nd District: Lombardy, Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta;
- 3rd District: Liguria, Tuscany, Marches, Umbria;
- 4th District: Lazio, Abruzzi and Molise, Sardinia, Campania;
- 5th District: Puglia, Lucania, Calabria, Sicily, Malta;
- 6th District: Switzerland, Austria, Luxembourg.

A Presidential District was to deal with the clubs not included in the countries and regions named above.

It was also decided that on the following April 12th, the meeting of all the presidents of the clubs was to be held, under the presidency of the councilors delegated, with the task of electing the Governors. Everything took place with the most perfect regularity and the Board of Directors, in its meeting of April 25, 1970, ratified the nomination of the elected Governors.

The first Governors who became part of the history of Panathlon, nineteen years after its constitution, were:

Prof. Albino Bocciai for the 1st District; Comm. Massimo della Pergola for the 2nd District (he relinquished the office of board member); Dr. Lamberto Cicconi for the 3rd District; Dr. Adriano Falvo for the 4th District; Avv. Alessandro Chieco-Bianchi for the 5th District; Ing. Andr  Favre for the 6th District.

Panathlon had assumed a new more modern structure. Giulini's innate sense of organization had prevailed over the inevitable perplexities that came to the fore in this occasion too. The organization that had been constituted with its oligarchic structure saw the Governors as an intermediate position between the Board of Directors and the clubs and as a point of reference for both. Over a hundred constituted clubs already represented an onerous task for the General Secretary who, through the Governors, would now be able to delegate part of his activity, both administrative and organizational. Moreover, the Governors would be able to provide the Board of Directors with a more immediate and realistic picture of the life of the clubs, with the possibility of direct intervention where necessary.

With this new set up, modeled on that of the other service clubs of Anglo-Saxon origin to which reference had once more been made, Panathlon had ensured for itself a further availability of resources that were to reveal themselves essential in the course of the years for the development of the panathletic movement. The governors, elected by the presidents of the clubs that belonged to the district areas, also assumed a function of coordination and direction of the clubs themselves and, in their regards, represented the power of the Board of Directors, in particular for those interventions where specific delegation had been emanated. This complex of attributions delegated a considerable amount of responsibility to the Governors, accepted by them with enthusiasm and with the certainty that they were the beginning of an administrative decentralization, worthy of a great organization which had established a dense network of contacts. The Governors felt (and in effect they were) the protagonists of a system which, on the one hand, made them participants in the determination of the criteria of management, and on the other, coordinators of the subjects to which those criteria were to be applied. A twofold function, which placed them in an extremely important, but delicate position on the strategic chessboard of panathletic policy where they represented a structure that supported the entire organization.

Giuliani had turned out to be right and he merited the con-



Demetrio Balestra.

sensus of his management. The years to follow, up to 1971, were characterized by an intense activity under the guidance of an efficient Board of Directors supported by the neo-Governors, who from the beginning demonstrated the utility of their function.

The third convention of members, which was held in Sanremo from June 4 to 8, 1969, resounded in the world of sport because its theme was the problem of the relation between Youth — Sport. The two papers, one by Count Cesare Bonacossa (who had won the first edition of the literary award "Bancarella Sport") entitled "Introducing Youth to Sport", and the other by Dr. Fritz Pieth (board member of Panathlon and director of the Institute of Physical Education of the University of Basle) on "Youth and Sport", presented a broad cross section of the situation regarding young people in Italy and in Switzerland, with interesting comparisons which were quoted and commented on by an ample number of press reviews. This was the first concrete movement of the Board of Directors in the new program launched by Giuliani and oriented to the problem of youth. In the years to come this program constantly remained in sight and was enriched by new and even more interesting initiatives.

* * *

The elective Assembly held in Florence on May 16, 1970 brought no important changes to the composition of the Panathlon organs. By reconfirming the men who had guided Panathlon in the previous two-year period, the Assembly wanted to offer them a sign of their esteem and appreciation for the work they had done, as well as a clear incentive to continue along those lines.

* * *

On June 11, 1971, the celebration of the twentieth anniversary and an extraordinary Assembly were held in Venice. The former took place in the stupendous salon of the Ducal Palace and the latter, in which various statutory modifications were approved, in the meeting hall of the Chamber of Commerce.

The opening ceremony of the Twentieth Anniversary Convention, presided over by Demetrio Balestra who maintained close contacts with Panathlon even though he was no longer



Naples 1972: President Saverio Giulini presenting his paper; Alfonso Vigorita is at his side.

actively involved and who was always present at the more important manifestations, was profoundly and movingly significant. In his opening speech, president Giulini traced the principal stages of Panathlon's twenty years of life in a broad synthesis. Avv. Onesti, president of the Italian National Olympic Committee, then dealt with the theme "Sport as a Social Duty", resounding throughout with the basic principle of "Sport for all" formulated by De Coubertin at the beginning of the century and which, as the years passed, was affirming itself as a true "right to sport" for man. This right was sanctioned by the International Olympic Committee and the great international organizations and taken up anew by the Italian Olympic Committee in its "Libro bianco dello sport" of 1966 and in the "Libro verde dello sport" of 1971.

The extraordinary Assembly, on the other hand, dealt with the statutory modifications. The revision and up-dating of the by-laws have always occupied considerable time in the activities of the various Boards of Directors; it is a subject, in fact, to which the greatest attention has always been dedicated, for only an agile constitution, properly articulated and in step with the rapidly changing times, can offer Panathlon the methodology it needs for the affirmation of its ideals in the sports society. Particularly meaningful, in this respect, after the assembly of Pavia on May 14, 1960, were the assemblies of Ravenna on May 5, 1962, of Sanremo on May 28, 1965, of Lugano on May 20, 1967 and, lastly, that of Venice on June 11, 1971.

As his four-year term drew to a close, Giulini's direction expressed the essentially organizational aspect that had distinguished it with still another initiative: the constitution of the Work Commissions, each of which was to deal with one of the many programs being elaborated: statutory reform, expansion, newsletter, etc.

This new and modern organization of working methods was to reveal itself, above all in the future, as one of the best types of management in achieving the greatest possible efficiency and outstanding results.

THE FIRST NON-ITALIAN PRESIDENT

The elective Assembly which was held in Naples on May 12, 1972, marked another historical date for Panathlon: "A Swiss president for Panathlon International" was the title of the "Mattino" of Naples of May 13, 1972. Demetrio Balestra, a lawyer from Lugano, had expressed many doubts as to his candidature, due also in part to his age (he was 72, but looked younger), but in the end ceded to the pressure of his friends and accepted the office of president, thus definitively consecrating the internationality of Panathlon. But the Naples Assembly went further and elected an "authentic" Neapolitan, vice president of the Italian Canoeing Federation and contest judge at the Olympic Games in Rome, Paolo Capabianca, to the Board of Directors, with 51 out of 77 votes. As a result of this high percentage of ballots he was entrusted with the vice-presidency.

The first Board of Directors of Balestra's term of office met in Munich on June 24, 1972, and in that sitting the governors present furnished a broad panorama of all the activities of the clubs, their problems, their initiatives, their programs, and elected as deputy vice president Prof. Sisto Favre, eminent scholar, historian and philosopher, president of the club of Rome.

Discussion centered on the Olympic Games at the meeting of the Board of Directors on October 28, 1972 in Bologna. The tragic events of Munich had shocked the world of sport, the world as a whole, and had once more called to the general attention the topics which Panathlon had already treated in the course of its conventions, and the hypotheses, unfortunately negative, which had emerged from these conventions regarding the politicization of sport. In Munich terrorism had also invaded the "neutral" realm of sport, exploiting the continuously growing, extraordinary force of the influence of sport in society. The illusion that sport was arcadically foreign to the dialectics of history was by now impossible. The entire panathletic movement reeled under the terrible blow and was quick in expressing its indignation — as a whole and as individual clubs — for what had happened in Munich, where

the principles of peace and brotherhood which were inherent in sport and therefore in the Olympic Games, still the highest expression of sport, had been violated. But deploration is a sterile act, if it is not translated into a desire for analysis, into the duty of correcting, in action that is both concrete and illuminated by a great moral force: Panathlon felt its place was in the front ranks of this rightful battle.

THE FLAMBEAU D'OR

In the meeting of the Board of Directors on that 27th of October 1972 another "stone" was added to the foundations, by then already consolidated, on which Panathlon based its structure: Prof. Sisto Favre, who had for some time been entrusted with planning something on a high level, capable of calling international attention to the existence and function of Panathlon, had made his decision. In a convention to be organized in Rome, in the Campidoglio, with the highest international sport authorities present, the "Golden Hercules" would be assigned to three personalities who had most distinguished themselves with their activity and work in favor of the Olympic ideals, in the fields of promotion, organisation, and culture. In a long and detailed historical exposition, which began with the myth of Hercules, founder of the first Olympic Games, up to De Coubertin, who took his inspiration from Hercules in reproposing the games in modern times, Favre explained the meaning of the "Hercules". The Board of Directors, which had attentively followed Favre's scholarly report, accepted the proposal and instituted the "Premio Panathlon International Fiaccola d'Oro" to be assigned every four years. The term "Hercules" was replaced by the more comprehensible "Fiaccola" (or Flame) which was then in turn modified into the French "Flambeau", to make the award itself more specifically international in nature. A commission was instituted, with Sisto Favre as president, for the elaboration of regulations, for the approval of a program including the divulgation through the press of the institution of the award, for the organization of the first edition and for the

choice of the award winners. After only three months, the commission, spurred on by Favre's dynamism, made the award "Golden Flame" a reality. On January 29, 1973, in Rome in the room of the Orazi and Curiazi, in the Campidoglio, with the opening salutation of Lord Killanin, president of the International Olympic Committee and of Honorable Giulio Andreotti, head of the Italian Government, and formerly president of the organizing Committee of the Olympic Games in Rome, the first edition of the "Premio Panathlon International" was held (curiously enough the term "Fiaccola d'oro" had vanished from the chronicles even though the award itself consisted of a stele set on a marble base, with the Olympic flame at the top).

The award was conferred on three illustrious figures in the field of international sports:

Avery Brundage, former president of the International Olympic Committee, for culture;

Willy Daume, president of the Olympic Committee for the Federal Republic of Germany, for organization;

Giulio Onesti, president of the Italian National Olympic Committee, for promotion.

The Honorable Cajati, who spoke on the theme of "Olympic and Sport Ideal", closed the ceremony, at which King Constantine of Greece, Olympic sailing champion, was present, as well as the Mayor of Rome and a great many other illustrious persons. The award received considerable attention in the international field and the leading Italian and Swiss newspapers dedicated ample space to the event.

Sisto Favre, the originator, organizer and leading force behind the entire event, had the recognition he so justly deserved; he had fulfilled the assignment he had received from the Board of Directors in terms of austerity and greatness, with a ceremony worthy of the greatest of occasions which came to a close on the next day, January 30th, with the official reception, in the rooms of the Quirinale, by the President of the Italian Republic, Giovanni Leone. Once more Panathlon officially drew near the highest office in the Italian State even though, in the course of its observances, politicians, ministers and under-secretaries of state had often

been present, actively participating, expressing their sincere regard for the high and noble function of the movement, in the written as well as the spoken word. The private reception of President Leone and his words of praise revealed a profound awareness of what Panathlon meant and what it was doing to defend the Olympic ideals and safeguard the dignity of man and his spiritual needs in a civilization dominated by technology, and conferred official approval on Panathlon. In describing its principal features, the head of the Italian state had consecrated its importance, acknowledging the merit of its function in the field of sports, in society and in culture. This was the primary goal Panathlon had set out to achieve from its very beginnings.

Sisto Favre and his commission once more set to work to organize the second edition of the award which was definitively to assume the official name of "Flambeau d'Or".

The subsequent sitting of the Board of Directors in Milan on March 17, 1973, was almost completely dedicated to comments on the great Roman event and on the reading of the many congratulatory letters that had come from all parts of the world, addressed to Sisto Favre who in the precedent sitting of the Board had been nominated deputy vice president.

THE DEATH OF VIALI

Mario Viali died in Venice on July 11, 1973, a summer day that was too luminous for Panathlon in mourning. It was not unexpected: a long and inexorable illness had for some time heralded the imminence of this fateful day. Viali had lived "his" Panathlon for twenty-two years — years of joy, of satisfaction, but also of hard work, of sacrifice, of delusions. How had that marvelous "adventure", so intensely lived, marked his life? Ever since 1957, when he left the presidency to others, Viali had followed the development of Panathlon from on high, in his position of honorary president, but no

one can say, even now, whether Viali had truly accepted his replacement as president, even though it seems likely, considering his rather difficult character, that he was never particularly happy about it. His nomination as honorary president gave him a new lease on life. If up to then Mario Viali, submitting himself to a rigorous daily routine of work, had tired out himself above all, from then on he had no qualms about transferring these exertions to others.

Viali had presided over Panathlon much a a father presides over the education of his child. He had brought it into the world, had given it an education, had formed its character, and had even established what it was to have done once grown. He had never, deep down, liked the idea that as time passed others would have to take over the guidance of that "child", although as a reasoning individual, he realized that it was inevitable. Still president of Panathlon, even though in a purely honorary way, and feeling himself still the legitimate father and master of the house, Viali never once took a back seat when it came to expressing an opinion regarding the practical affairs of the association, the problems of the organization, any decision which, in his eyes, might seem important. He did so with great firmness and, also, with a pinch of involuntary but benevolent cunning. It was a right that he felt was his due as recompense for the loss of parental authority over that "child" that was by now adult and on its way to becoming famous. Viali participated in the meetings of the Board of Directors, letting the others discuss and decide and rarely having a direct say in the work of the Board, until the end, when decisions had been taken, when he would express his doubts about everything he thought was not going as it should. He felt he was the natural father and did not want the putative fathers to ruin the heir and the heredity. More than one president at times found himself in difficulty, even though all agreed that Viali always spoke only in favor of his creation, which he meant to protect and set on the "right path" in his own way. General Secretary Galletto Valladares above all bore the brunt of this fatiguing management. Throughout those years Viali kept up a running correspondence with Valladares, and traces are still to be found in the

Panathlon archives. It was not a simple exchange of points of view, but an epistulary inundation, which sometimes created unforeseen problems for Galletto Valladares. Whatever the case, the Board of Directors, in the persons of its presidents and members, as well as the General Secretary, were always comprehensive and nourished the maximum respect for that rather difficult "father", who was after all responsible for the life of the organism of which they all felt proud and flattered.

When Mario Viali died, he was deeply mourned by all; his death had been preannounced from the day he was no longer as assiduous in attending the meetings of the Board of Directors and his colleagues began to be aware of the truth. Then one day he did not come at all and the General Secretary no longer found the usual daily letters on his table. The old Father had died and it was a day of great grief for all.

The sitting of the Board of Directors on October 13, 1973 took place in an atmosphere of deep mourning. Viali's departure had deeply shaken the members and not even the news of the constitution of the clubs of Vienna and of Rosario (the second club in Argentina), which normally would have been received with great enthusiasm, succeeded in raising the veil of gloom which had settled over the meeting. It was President Balestra who, in commemorating Viali, managed to raise their spirits. "His life sets us a lofty example — he said — and his memory, now that he is in the place of good Spirits, is a commitment for us to work faithfully for the ideal he has left us". The work of the Board continued in this spirit, with detailed relations by the Governors on the intense activity of the clubs, revealing a real ferment of initiatives and ideas, to the great satisfaction of the entire Board. The meeting closed with the proposal on the part of Aldo Mairano to institute an award to be called "Penna d'oro Mario Viali", in memory of the Founder. A pen which was to pass from one club to the other and with which each president was to write a phrase commemorating Viali in a special album. The proposal, despite its profound significance, was archived.



Funeral rites for Mario Viali: in the foreground Balestra, Mairano, Siegenthaler and Chiesa.

IN LATIN AMERICA

The constitution of the clubs of Buenos Aires and Rosario had shown that once the right channels and the men who “counted” had been found, expansion in the South American countries could be continued. The hypothesis of a concrete affirmation in that continent was fascinating and every member of the Board set to work to hunt up old forgotten relationships with emigrants in the hopes of renewing contacts. The “South American fever”, as someone called it, had infected more or less everyone, and all news that arrived from abroad, no matter how slight, was received as an accomplished fact.

In the Board meeting of November 20, 1973, held in Bern, the board member Francesco Babini, from Ravenna, confirmed the constitution in the offing of clubs in Montevideo, S. Miguel de Tucuman, Lima, San Paolo, Bogotá, Mexico. This clearly demonstrated that the panathletic philosophy had peremptorily made its way into the heart and soul of the South Americans and the merit of all this fervor was in great part due to the president of the club of Buenos Aires, Roberto Monteverde, who had spread the idea through a dense network of friendships and acquaintances in the sport world. When confirmation arrived, the Board of Directors discussed the need to adequately exploit this opportunity in order to achieve the hoped-for effects. It was decided that someone should go to those countries as a sign, in the first place, of the real and concrete presence of Panathlon, thus undoubtedly favoring the expansion which was still in a theoretical phase. But even more important was the need to take the situation in hand, coordinate the complex work and choose the men capable of transforming the various initiatives into reality. The Board of Directors just then had what one might call the classic stroke of good luck. The Governor of the 3rd District, Dr. Lamberto Cicconi, who had particular interests in that continent, in particular in Mexico, asked and obtained the authorization to go there on an official visit. This was the beginning of the story of Panathlon in Latin America,

a story which in the course of a few years became so important and fascinating that it must be told.

* * *

In the meanwhile on May 18, 1974, the Elective Assembly of Bolzano had reconfirmed Demetrio Balestra as President and had elected the new Board of Directors. Few changes were made: Lamberto Cicconi was elected to the Board and Robert Supino, a former board member, took his place as Governor. The same thing happened to Massimo Della Pergola, who had ceded the 2nd District to Vittorio Wyss of Turin, another illustrious figure whom we will often meet in the chronicles of Panathlon. Sebastiano D'Amico, a lawyer from Catania, was also elected to the Board.

A curious and touching incident was the nomination as honorary president of Aldo Mairano. When Mairano in person asked what had happened to his proposal for the award "Penna d'oro Mario Viali", Balestra answered that the best way of remembering Mario Viali was that of nominating none other than Mairano as his successor to the office of honorary president, thus keeping alive and active the ideals Viali had expressed and which had then been so passionately spread by Mairano. In accepting the nomination Mairano was unable to conceal his profound emotion.

At that same meeting the office of treasurer was entrusted to Marquis Luigi Medici del Vascello and Sisto Favre, Domenico Chiesa and Paolo Cappabianca were nominated vice presidents.

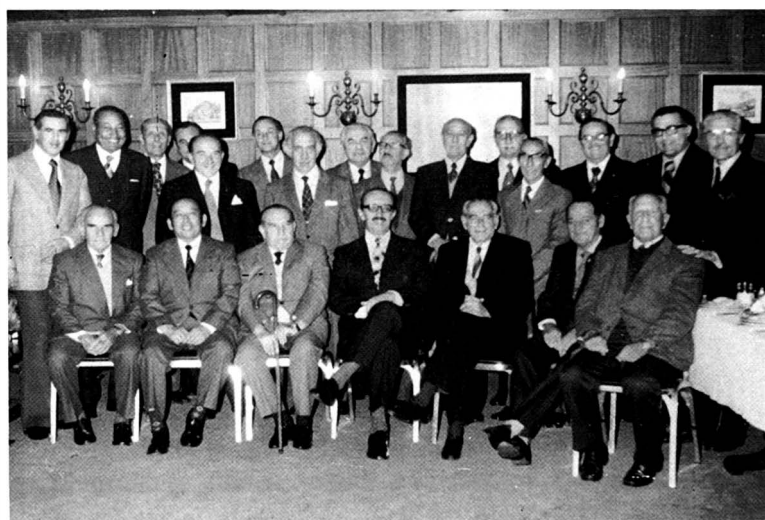
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The effects of Lamberto Cicconi's trip to the Latin American countries was overwhelming. With the preliminaries taken care of in Italy by the board member Francesco Babini, who it is said wrote more than a hundred letters to outstand-

ing figures in the world of sports and eminent personalities in the entrepreneurial and cultural sectors of Latin-American society, Cicconi, who in turn had been wise enough to preannounce the scope of his arrival, was hailed as a messenger of peace and hope, as the bearer of a word which was to bring order into a sports context that was threatened by a thousand dangers. And Cicconi did all he could. His presence, particularly in Mexico (he was elected, from that moment on, as "godfather" of the Mexican clubs, a title he still holds), unleashed the enthusiasm of the Italo-Americans, who in turn passed it on to the other inhabitants in a competition marked by a pacific and constructive emulation. The word panathletic spread throughout most of the continent. Uruguay, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Peru were carried away by a flood of optimism and in barely nine months, between November 8, 1973 and August 7, 1974, the clubs of Buenos Aires and Rosario were joined by those of Montevideo in Uruguay, Tucuman in Argentina, Lima in Peru, Santiago in Chile, Mexico Centro in Mexico, San Paolo in Brazil.

On October 23, 1975, a delegation from Panathlon International, including President Balestra, Board Members Babin and Cicconi, went to Mexico City, where the 8th District of Panathlon International was officially constituted, with eight operating clubs. Roberto Monteverde, first president of the club of Buenos Aires, was elected Governor.

The clubs in Latin America, unlike those in Italy, were constituted from the beginning with the official approval of the government, in line with the legislative codes of the respective countries. Once authorized, the club was considered a legal entity, with a juridical status and, as such, subject to the tax and tributary laws in force. A clear picture of the seriousness, commitment and conviction with which the Latin-American friends embraced the panathletic idea emerges from the studies carried out and the documents tracked down. The current Governor of the 11th District, Enrique Fontecilla Rojas, remembers that the club of Santiago originated as a result of a letter that Ing. Monteverde sent to his friend and colleague Hernan Munoz Segura, member of the Olympic Committee for Swimming (this discipline was to be



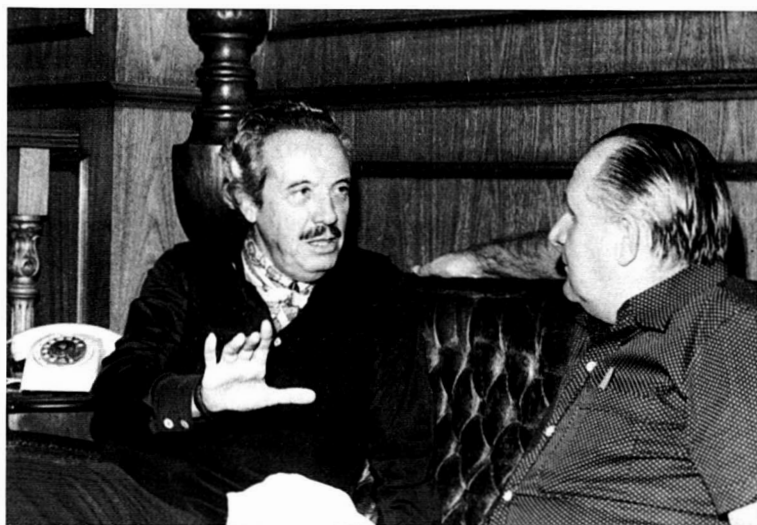
The first board of directors of the Club of Santiago in Chile.

A meeting of the members of the Club of Lima (Peru).

fundamental in the spread of the panathletic movement in Latin America, in that the first contacts were established between the exponents of the Swimming Associations of the various countries).

Further contacts were not needed, for Segura had immediately grasped the importance of the message launched by Monteverde. A telephone call to explain the mechanisms and the club was on the move; a study of the by-laws and less than a year later the club of Santiago was a reality. Even more convincing, in the light of seriousness of intentions, was the constitution of the club of Lima. Sebastian Salinas Abril (also a member of the Swimming Federation) tells of how he had heard about the existence of Panathlon on the occasion of the Olympic Games in Mexico '68 and his interest in this international organization was so aroused that he himself set out to find news and further information, which he succeeded in getting from the club of Buenos Aires. This praiseworthy attitude on the part of Abril, who through his own initiative and not as a result of external solicitation, as was the case with most of the clubs, sought and obtained information, fascinated by something he had heard almost by chance, is an emblematic symbol of the enthusiasm manifested in South America for the panathletic philosophy and the seriousness with which it was received.

Prof. Henrique Nicolini, later to become a member of the Board of Panathlon International, has revealed what the assumptions for the panathletic development in Brazil were, based on the great sense of responsibility in terms of its social and sport aspect that characterized the officers of the Swimming Federation throughout Latin America. Panathlon represented the point of contact and cohesion for all sport lovers, animated by an understandable but healthy rivalry, but it was also an efficacious means with which the sport movement attempted to keep at bay the corruption that was coming to the fore in sports as a consequence of the precarious socio-economic conditions of the country. Nicolini also stressed the fundamental differences between the expansion of Panathlon in Brazil and European Panathletism. Although the philosophy is universal, the organization was not the



Javier Ostos Mora and Henrique Nicolini.

José Pedro Damiani, Governor of the VIII District in 1977. On his left, Roberto Monteverde, first President of the Club of Buenos Aires.

same for the enormous distances involved impeded frequent and productive contacts between the clubs, and the climate, geographical conditions, socio-economic context and the very nature of the Brazilian people all differed and generated a specific feeling towards the panathletic movement, with which the people identify and for which they harbor a profound feeling of respect. The concept expressed by Nicolini in an article published in one of the Newsletters of 1977 is to remain famous. "Even though an Ocean lies between our country and our international headquarters — he said — we hope to build in Brazil the bulwark of an idea, of a banner in favor of concord and union among men. More than satellites, it is the essence of a philosophy and the bonds of the heart which binds us to our central headquarters".

Javier Ostos Mora, formerly member of the Board and currently Governor of the Mexican District, has published a rewarding brochure drawn up on the occasion of the creation of the 13th District of Panathlon International from which a memoir was taken by Lamberto Cicconi. By itself it contains the essence of the panathletic spirit which is astir in that country (*appendix 3*).

* * *

In the course of the year 1975, among the many events and numerous initiatives, the Five Days of the floating Convention rose to the honors of the press. From June 15th to 20th, in fact, the Convention of Members was held in the course of a delightful cruise on the motorship "Ivan Franko". It was an initiative which joined pleasure with work, enjoyment with commitment. Along the route Genoa — Tunisia — Palma de Majorca — Barcelona — Genoa, about 250 guests enjoyed the Mediterranean sun, enthusiastically participated in the parlor games, and attended the convention in great number. The program included two reports: one by Dr. Ferdinando Imesch, director of the S.L.L. of Bern, on the theme "Sport education and the education of the public", and the other by Dr. Mario Pescante, General Secretary of



The « Flambeaux d'Or », 1976: J. A. Samaranch, Lord Killanin, M. Hodler.

the Italian National Olympic Committee on the theme "Sport education of the masses and the function of the organs of information", both themes of great value which perhaps merited a more appropriate ambient that was more conducive to concentration than the salon of a cruise ship. The chronicles of the time, in any case, refer to a lively debate at the end of the reports and a suitable conclusion by the president Bales-tra.

TWO TORCHES AT INNSBRUCK

On February 3, 1976, the Flambeaux d'Or (second edition), the quadriennial reward initiated by Sisto Favre, were assigned in a ceremony in the Hall of the Giants of the Hofburg in Innsbruck, chosen in honor of and as a prelude to the XII Olympic Winter Games, of which it was headquarters.

In the presence of the highest personalities in the world of sport, the political and administrative authorities of the Austrian region and those who had already received the Flambeau d'Or (with the exception of Avery Brundage, who had died in the meantime), in a splendid ceremony skilfully orchestrated by Sisto Favre, the award was presented to Lord Killanin, president of the International Olympic Committee, for culture; Marc Hodler, lawyer and president of the International Ski Federation, for promotion; Juan Antonio Samaranch, vice-president of the International Olympic Committee, for organization.

One of the many outstanding expressions of esteem for the Panathlon came from the Mayor, Alois Lugger, one of the foremost men on the Austrian political scene. The merit for "the Olympic games of Innsbruck — he said — is also due in part to Panathlon".

In the next meeting of the Board of Directors, in Bologna on February 21, 1976, President Balestra stressed the success and great significance of the event, although, as he bitterly had to admit, the Italian mass-media had on the whole ignored it, while the Swiss and Spanish had devoted ample space to the awards. Only brief mentions appeared, a few days later, in "La Gazzetta dello Sport" and the "Corriere dello Sport", as a result of the personal intermediation of Giulini and Favre.

That meeting of the Board of Directors was the last official act of President Balestra, who was preparing to close his term with an explicit declaration of his intentions not to present himself as candidate at the elective Assembly, which was to take place on October 23 and 24, 1976 in Venice.

The decision was coherent with the man. Balestra, almost 76 years old, had previously refused the office of board mem-

ber vice president for strictly personal reasons and had accepted the international presidency in obedience to what he deemed his precise duty as man and Panathlete. His four-year term had cost him much work and sacrifice, but he left a Panathlon that was in full and fertile activity. His personality, with its military training, and his working mentality, as well as the successes obtained, had left deep traces. The Flambeau d'Or and the expansion in South America are the two stars which marked his management.

His commitment to the presidency had not hindered him from personally following and closely collaborating with the Swiss friends for the expansion of the movement in their country. At the end of his term of office, one hundred and seventy-three clubs, with over nine thousand members, were carrying out an intense and fervid activity: nine clubs in Switzerland, three in Argentina, one in Brazil, one in Chile, two in Spain, one in Luxembourg, one in Mexico, one in Peru, one in Uruguay, two in Austria, and a hundred and fifteen in Italy represented a material, spiritual and cultural force that Balestra entrusted to his successors.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

On October 23 and 24, 1976, the elective assembly was held in Venice and the 25th anniversary of Panathlon was celebrated. As part of these manifestations Mario Viali was officially commemorated with the participation of the Patriarch of Venice Cardinal Albino Luciani, the future Pope of the "33 days", who expressed lofty thoughts on the ideal juxtaposition of body and on the defense and preservation of the body through sport for the purity of the soul.

The elective assembly was a personal success for Sisto Favre, unanimously acclaimed president of Panathlon International.

Of particular note were the election to the Board of Javier Ostos Mora, president of the club of Mexico centro, of Avv.

Francesco Monterisi of Bari, whose personality and professionalism were to leave their mark on the management of Panathlon in future years, and of the lawyer Marc Hodler, Panathlete of Bern and decorated with the Flambeau d'Or in Innsbruck.

Sisto Favre entered as a great protagonist in the succession of presidents of Panathlon International, as Aldo Mairano brought to the fore in his significant "Chi è Sisto Favre" (Who is Sisto Favre) published in the Panathlon review immediately after his election (*appendix 4*).

THE SIX MONTHS OF FAVRE

At the board meeting of December 4, 1976 in Florence, Sisto Favre began his term as president with an ample exposition and two specific problems were proposed for study: the revision and the recomposition of the work commissions and the restructuration of the Districts, matters that were defined in the subsequent meeting of January 29, 1977. Of particular interest were the nominations of Demetrio Balestra (maintained, in any case, in... active service) to the presidency of the commission and of Paolo Cappabianca as delegate for the action of Panathlon in Italy.

In the meeting of April 30, 1977 in Bologna, the Board of Directors ratified the nomination of the new Governors elected in the district assemblies held in March. Among these, for the first time in the 25-year old history of Panathlon, appears the name of Giorgio Bazzali, sports journalist of "Secolo XIX" of Genoa, who worked in Genoa, resided in Rapallo, but considered himself a native of La Spezia. Bazzali was not only to take part in the story of the Panathlon, but, together with Cappabianca, he was to "make" the history of Panathlon.

In that meeting of the Board, however, the members were shaken and troubled by the news that Sisto Favre had presented his resignation as president, on account of illness, which albeit temporarily but for an unforeseen length of time prevented him from doing anything. The unexpected com-



The Twenty-fifth Anniversary in Venice: Cardinal Albino Luciani, patriarch of Venice and future Pope John Paul I, between Domenico Chiesa and Demetrio Balestra.

munication was given by Paolo Cappabianca and, interpreting the by-laws, it was decided to elect a new president in the Assembly of Viterbo, in part extraordinary, which was close at hand. After only four months Sisto Favre was forced to pass the "baton" and it was a great and painful renunciation.

THE YEARS OF CAPPABIANCA

The Assembly of Viterbo, held from June 10 to 12, 1977, lived up to the expectations in providing an answer to the question of who was to succeed Sisto Favre as president of Panathlon International. General Fabrizio Antonelli, president of the organizing club, mindful perhaps of the long wait his city had imposed on Christianity with the Conclave that lasted almost three years and was concluded in 1271 with the election of Gregory X, prolonged the "suspense" by articulating the Assembly in three days, surrounding the work of the assembly with the impeccable organization of tourist outings, visits to museums and cultural activities. The Assembly was a personal success for Antonelli, as was the almost unanimous election to the presidency of Paolo Cappabianca, who was to stay in office for eleven years, in virtue of particular statutory modifications, opening a new cycle in the history of Panathlon.

Cappabianca officially took the chair of the presidency in Viterbo, in a meeting of the Board of Directors that was held immediately after his election. He lost no time in indicating what his way of working was to be: efficiency, practicality, pragmatism, the values in which he believed; linearity, simplicity and humility, the systems upon which his work was to be based.

At that same meeting Giorgio Bazzali was nominated person in charge of the press office of Panathlon International and this was the very first measure adopted by the Board of Directors presided over by a "true Neapolitan".

In his eleven years of presidency Cappabianca marked a determining turning point for Panathlon; with all due respect



The election of Sisto Faure to the Presidency of Panathlon International in Venice.

to the panathletic tradition that had by then been consolidated, it brought a fresh breath of modernity which made it possible to renew and consolidate old relationships, to institute new ones and to “open” towards new horizons that had up to then been regarded with extreme caution, if not outright fear. This was the case with relations with politicians which, some time before, had been the subject of an in-depth discus-

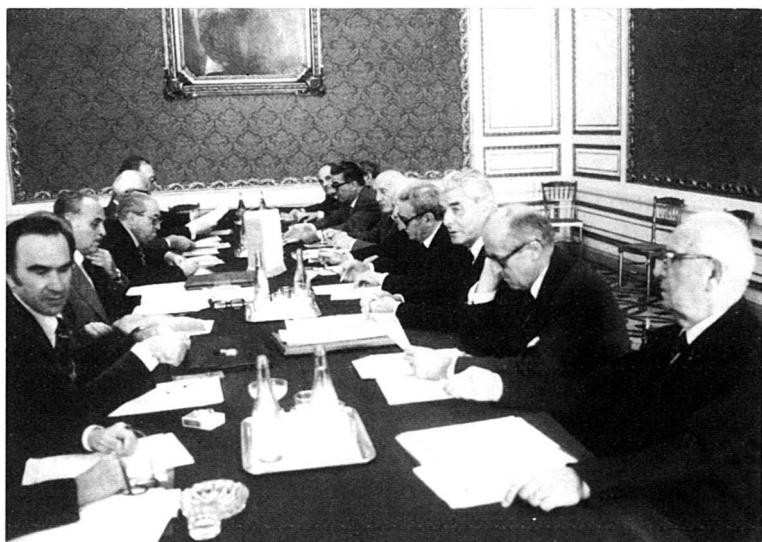
sion by the Board of Directors as a result of a denunciation made by the club of Turin. Cappabianca rent the veil of diffidence and maintained, without mincing words, that on the part of Panathlon a talk with the politicians and, therefore, with the institutions was necessary and indispensable.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors of September 23, 1977, in Vienna, Cappabianca gave the first exhaustive demonstration of the practical application of his theories.

After the election of Marquis Luigi Medici del Vascello as vice president (an office Cappabianca himself had vacated) and of Domenico Chiesa as deputy vice president, Cappabianca's proposals were few but essential, all with a view to the improved functioning of the by now complex machine of Panathlon organization:

- nomination of Giorgio Bazzali to the editing committee of the Review, still directed by Count Giulini;
- programming of a visit to Lord Killanin, president of the International Olympic Committee, who had sent Cappabianca a letter of congratulations on his election, and to Avv. Onesti, president of the Italian National Olympic Committee;
- confirmation of and complete loyalty to the two basic programs along which Panathlon was now moving with success, and which were synthesized as follows:
 - 1) continuation of the endeavors for an ever greater internationality;
 - 2) improvement in the standards of the clubs, high as they already were.

Cappabianca added a third policy (and this was his first important and revolutionary novelty): the institution of the "theme of the year", a subject chosen by the Board of Directors, which each club was to deal with in a specific convivial meeting. The conclusions were then to be collected by the General Secretary who, in turn, would elaborate them for a convention, which in the end would emit a final resolution stating the precise position of Panathlon on the theme proposed. A brilliant idea, closely connected to the aims of Panathlon, immediately and unanimously approved, and which in future years was to reveal itself as determining for



The Central Board of Directors in session in Vienna.

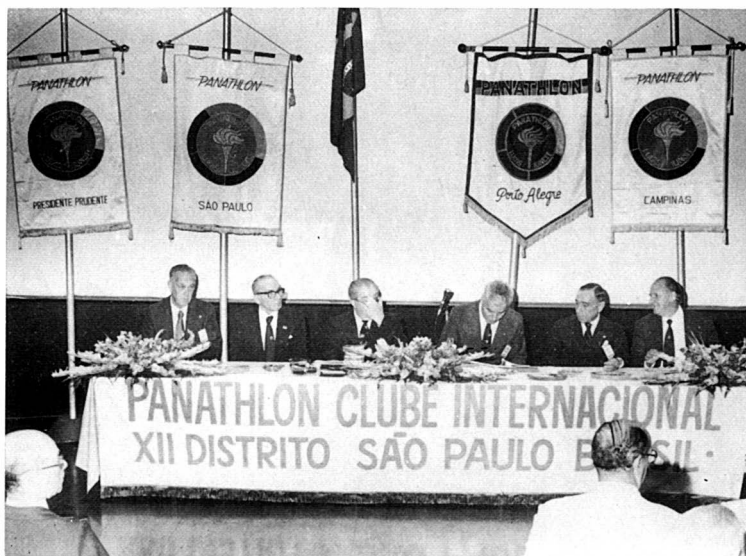
the future of the association as a movement of culture and of opinion. The theme agreed on for the year 1978 was "The future of the Olympic Games", which was taken up once more and concluded on the occasion of the annual Assembly in Naples.

Cappabianca had begun putting his best foot forward; he was aware of having received in heredity a patrimony which his predecessors had built bit by bit in many long years of patient work and personal sacrifices and had committed himself, first of all, not to let down the world of sports, always ready to judge and pass judgment. He knew he had all requisites for succeeding: his experience as an athlete first and then as manager, his long service in Panathlon, including the presidency of the club of Naples and the vice-presidency of Panathlon International, his friendships in the international field and the regard with which he was held in all the ambiances "that counted" were guarantees of success.

He was gifted with a charisma and committed himself to the utmost throughout the eleven long years of his term. Sustained by an open, cordial character, he was always willing to listen and provide an answer, always ready with a "quip", sometimes needed to play down complex situations, all seasoned with a typically Neapolitan irony which always helped him to "communicate" and to make friends and warm acquaintances with the personages in the world of sport.

Panathlon International thus set out once more from Viterbo, with a voluminous fund of hopes, of certainties and an occasional delusion, which had, however, served a purpose in bringing up for reconsideration points that seemed to have been settled and archived and which, instead, demanded fresh commitments.

The discussion on the theme of the year "The future of the Olympic Games" was, in the meantime, in full swing. The clubs of the various countries were in a state of ferment as they vied with each other in demonstrating their enthusiastic acknowledgement of his directives, and the reports that were sent to the General Secretary — and published in the review — clearly revealed how seriously and intensely the subject had been treated by prestigious figures in the world of sport, sport journalism, and culture. It was a success which comforted and abetted the Board of Directors and provided the incentive to continue in this direction. The concluding debate on "The Future of the Olympic Games" took place in Naples on May 5, and 6, 1978, at the assembly held in the historical



The constitution of the Brazilian District. Left to right: Castro Leite, Cicconi, Galletto Valladares, Chiesa, Medici del Vascello, Nicolini.

Court Theater of the Royal Palace, in the presence of eminent personalities and the presidents or their delegates from one hundred and one clubs. The closing speech was delivered by the Tunisian Minister of Sport Mohamed Mzali, vicepresident of the International Olympic Committee, a sign of official recognition of the assembly on the part of the highest sport association in the world (final resolution of the convention, *appendix 5*).

The clubs in the meanwhile had grown in quality as well as quantity. Cappabianca, with the Board of Directors, had never lost sight of the problem of expansion, always a determining aspect in the life and survival of the association. Five more clubs had been added to the one in San Paolo in Brazil, and an exclusively Brazilian District was created. At the official ceremony the vicepresidents Domenico Chiesa and Luigi Medici del Vascello, the General Secretary Galletto Valladares, and the ever-present Lamberto Cicconi were present, having journeyed to San Paolo in Brazil for that very purpose. Prof. Henrique Nicolini was elected governor. He was a sports journalist, with a degree in philosophy, the first president of the club of San Paolo.

But in Italy too, and in the other countries, expansion was on the upswing. At the time one hundred and sixty-one clubs were officially listed, even though the number was then reduced by a few units because some of the clubs which were given as constituted never became completely operative. This was the case with four clubs in India (*appendix 6*). The quality of the social activities had also been considerably improved. Important events, prestigious presences, the integration of the clubs in the life of the community, active participation in the sports policy were the principal initiatives undertaken. Nor were events of national import lacking. In Switzerland activities were centered on defending fair play in sport, promoted by the club of Lausanne, under the initiative of Jean Presset. In Italy the club of Valdarno Inferiore in Tuscany, operating in a territory that included the provinces of Florence, Pisa and Pistoia, instituted the national award "The Athlete in History" in 1972. Panathlon International has always thought highly of this annual event thanks to the seriousness with which it is carried out and the outstanding names in sport which have been included in the golden book of this award.

Threatening clouds began to gather over the world of sport in those years. Various obvious signs were the excessive politicization and the increase in violence. Panathlon was the first to be aware of the risks that sport was running.

There was an ever growing awareness in the field of politics



Three great Panathletes: Chiesa, Balestra, Mairano. Behind them: Giulio Onesti, President of CONI, and Paulino Rivera Torres, Governor of Mexico, who died before his time.

of how important a role sport played in society and its significance as a direct and immediate means of communication with the masses. The shadow of violence fell on sport, and more specifically over the football stadiums, where it became a serious and threatening problem, which undermined the very heart, the essence, of sport, no longer simply the subject of an occasional news story. Panathlon promoted two conventions in an attempt to get to the bottom of this phenomenon, to unearth the hidden motives and, if possible, indicate

solutions. The first, on politicization, was organized by the club of Siracusa, under the presidency of the Hon. Concetto Lo Bello, former international referee. The impact was exceptional, both from the point of view of subject and of the outstanding speakers: Artemio Franchi, president of the Italian Football Federation (Federcalcio italiana), Franco Carraro, president of the Italian National Olympic Committee, Livio Berruti, Olympic champion in Rome, the most committed Italian sports journalists such as Candido Cannavò (later to become manager of "La Gazzetta dello Sport"), Gino Palumbo, Gianni Brera and Tito Stagno. One presentation followed the other, each one highly valid, while the final resolution centered on a concept expressed by Gino Palumbo, at the time manager of "La Gazzetta dello Sport", who, without mincing words, affirmed: "The diffidence the world of sport entertains against the political class derives from the fact that sport is convinced that the interest shown by politicians in sport is not for the purpose of spreading sport but for taking it over, they are not interested in improving it, but in entering, and dividing it up among themselves".

"Violence" on the other hand was the subject chosen by the Board of Directors as the theme for the year 1979 and the conclusions were discussed in the annual assembly in Florence.

In the meanwhile reassuring news had come from Switzerland. The International Olympic Committee was enthusiastic about the conclusions reached in the debate on "The Future of the Olympic Games", and the final resolution was published in the "Revue Olympique", the official review of the Olympic Committee itself, while an invitation for Panathlon to collaborate directly on the problem of violence and fair play arrived from Belgium. A Panathlon delegation, in the person of vice president Luigi Medici del Vascello and General Secretary Galletto Valladares, was received in official form by Rita De Backer Van Ocken, minister for Belgian culture on the Flemish side, to agree on the terms of the collaboration.

The world football championship games in Argentina were a favorable occasion for the meeting between European and Argentine Panathletes. The Italian referee Sergio Gonella,



During the 1979 Assembly in Florence.

who had directed the final game, vice president of the club of Spezia, accompanied by the Florentine Otello Sorbi, member of the College of Auditors of Panathlon International, was the ambassador for this panathletic bridge in an unforgettable meeting of the club of Buenos Aires.

* * *

At the age of 82, Dario Toracca, a lawyer and founder of the club of La Spezia, formerly councilor of Panathlon International, ascended Mount Rosa (4150 meters) with a group of roped climbers organized by the Alpine Club of Malnate. Toracca, as a good Panathlete, had shown how ephemeral the laws of time might be.

Once more Florence threw wide its doors and opened its treasures of art and culture to the Panathletes of the world who met in an assembly there from May 25 to 27, 1979, with

the theme "Violence in Sport". Panathlon offered the over two hundred Panathletes present and the numerous guests an image of authority and capacity which exerted a positive influence on the press present at the convention and lit the fire of enthusiasm in the correspondent for the Tunisian newspaper "Le Sport", who in his comment invoked: "A Panathlon club in Tunisia!" (but it was six years before the club of Tunisia was constituted, on March 27, 1985). The four reports by Victor De Doner and Erik De Greve, respectively secretary and president of the international association in the fight against violence in sport, of Rodolfo Bacelar Begonha, Secretary of State for youth and sport in Portugal, and of Donato Martucci, chief of the press office of the Italian National Olympic Committee, led to a lively debate concluded by the presentations of Madame De Backer, Belgian minister of culture, and Lord Killanin, president of the International Olympic Committee. The final resolution of this convention was also transmitted to the competent organs, so that they might acknowledge the indications and suggestions (*appendix 7*). In the meanwhile the district assemblies had elected their governors for the two-year term 1979-80. Six had been reconfirmed: Bazzali, Nicolini, Monteverde, Pizzigoni, Sambito and Malnati; six were newly elected because their predecessors were not eligible for re-election: Romolo Gentilini to the 1st District, Vittore Catella to the 3rd District, Roberto Fanucchi to the 6th District, Fabrizio Antonelli to the 7th District, Eugenio Rivello to the 8th District, Max Beer to the 10th District.

The Panathlon Review promoted the antiviolence campaign by publishing, in a special colored inset, all the relative reports and debates which were taking place in the clubs. The initiative, favorably received in the clubs and by the Panathletes, was promoted by Giorgio Bazzali, who had become co-director in November 1978 and managing director in January 1980, thus putting his qualifications as capable sports journalist at the service of Panathlon International. His positive experiences in the field were the outcome of his professional contacts with the most important events in the world. Under his guidance and his incentive, the Review no longer limited



The visit of Paolo Cappabianca to Lord Killanin, President of I.O.C. in Lausanne. Also present are Domenico Chiesa, Pierre Scheidegger, Jean Presset, Mark Hodler and Galletto Valladares.

itself to pure and simple information but became a means for exchanging opinions and promoting informative-cultural relations between Panathlon and the Institutions charged with the programming of sport policies and practice. The program established by the new director also included the improvement of the quality of the product, insofar as permitted by the financial possibilities of an association whose only income came from membership dues.

The nineteen-eighties began badly. On January 21st Count Saverio Giuliani, former president of Panathlon International in the four year period 1968-72, and at the time board member treasurer and director of the Review, suddenly died. Giuliani had given the best of his human and professional resources to Panathlon, and his figure and talents were sketched out by Giorgio Bazzali with great feeling and humanity (*appendix 8*).

The first point in the 1980 program was concluded in Sanremo with the election of the new Board of Directors. The results confirmed the program outlined by Cappabianca, who was re-elected to the presidency with 118 out of 132 ballots. The Board of Directors was composed of: Sisto Favre, Franco Monterisi, Sebastiano D'Amico, Vittorio Wyss, Javier Ostos Mora, Domenico Chiesa, Franco Malnati, Aldo Travain, Walter Siegenthaler and Marc Hodler.

The Assembly concluded with a round table on "Fair Play in Sport", a subject that was called to the general attention as the third of the great themes of universal interest which Panathlon, after the "Future of the Olympic Games" and "Violence in Sport", had widely discussed and promoted. Six speakers, with Vittorio Wyss as moderator, spoke alternately in the interesting debate: Jean Borotra, president of the International Fair Play Committee; Raimond Gafner, member of the International Olympic Committee; George Walker, representative of the European Council; Rodolfo Begonha, former undersecretary of state of Portugal; Paul Hoffmann, representative of the German Olympic Committee and Giuseppe Prisco, president of the Panathlon club of Milan.

Panathlon frequently returned to the subject of fair play, including the exhaustive monographs published in the inserts of number 1 (January '80) and 9 (September '80) of the Review.

In the meeting of October 4th in Milan, the Board of Directors elected as vice presidents Domenico Chiesa (deputy), Sisto Favre, and Walter Siegenthaler; ratified the election of Nino Magistri and Vito Cardaci as Governors, respectively of the 2nd and 9th Districts, where the offices were vacant because Malnati and D'Amico had been elected to the Board;



Roberto Fanucchi visiting the Club of Campinas (Brazil).

The Assembly of Presidents in June 1980 in Sanremo on Fair Play.

it renewed the Commissions, nominating Vittorio Wyss delegate of Panathlon International at the International Associations and deliberated "Sport and Family" as theme of the year 1981, to be taken up for discussion and concluded in the Convention of Lausanne. On October 26, 1980, Panathlon lost another of its great figures; Marquis Luigi Medici del Vascello unexpectedly died and was commemorated by Giorgio Bazzali in the Review in an article entitled "Adieu to a friend" (*Appendix 9*).

Two important appointments were scheduled for 1981: the 3rd edition of the "Flambeau d'Or" and the 6th Convention of members in Lausanne.

After Innsbruck, the ceremony of the "Flambeau d'Or" returned to Rome in the hall of the Orazi and Curiazi in the Campidoglio. On March 25, 1981, in the presence of the Italian Minister of Tourism and Culture, Honorable Signorello, of the mayor of Rome, Hon. Petroselli, of the president of the Italian National Olympic Committee, Franco Carraro, and of the president of the International Olympic Committee Juan Antonio Samaranch (when he was elected president of the highest international sport organ, the Review of Panathlon, in numbers 6-7-8/80 had dedicated ample space to the event — *appendix 10*) the award was solemnly conferred.

The "Flambeaux d'Or" were assigned to:

Dr. Beppe Croce, president of the International Yacht Racing Union, president of the Federazione Italiana Vela, formerly president of the Sailing Games Committee of the Rome Olympics, for organization;

Prof. Nicolaos Nissiotis, president of the International Olympic Academy and member of the International Olympic Committee, for culture;

Prof. Hon. Mohamed Mzali, prime minister of Tunisia, president of the Tunisian Olympic Committee, for promotion.

Once more Sisto Favre had been a superb "host" and perfect organizer and the ceremony consecrated the image of an active and efficient Panathlon International. The day after, the Panathletes who participated in the events were received in private audience by Pope John Paul II, in an encouraging moment of great spirituality.



The « Flambeaux d'Or » 1980: Nicolaus Nissiotis, Mohamed Mzali, Beppe Croce.

The Convention of members was held in Lausanne from May 21st to 24th and the theme "Sport and Family", its superb conclusion. This was the first time that Panathlon had called its members together in a non-Italian city. The Convention was to remain memorable for the high quality of the work and of the speakers, for the first-class welcome the Swiss Panathletes accorded the over five hundred participants, for the perfect functioning of the organizing machine.

Jean Presset, president of the club of Lausanne, and Pierre Scheidegger, president of the organizing Committee, lavished their best resources and energies so that the Convention might express the panathletic values of the best of sport culture and universal friendship.

The Convention was opened by Dr. Kurt Fulgler, president of the Helvetican Confederation, who presented a learned and profound introductory report. The presentations of Raymond, Gafner, Ulrich Frey, Giulio Onesti, Ludwig Prokop, Pauline Rivera Torres and a debate open to the speakers and the numerous members, led to the achievement, after two days of strenuous work, of the final resolution synthesized in nine points (*appendix 11*).

* * *

Cappabianca imparted an extenuating rhythm to the management of Panathlon. As he said: "Any overtures we make to a burgeoning society that is in a phase of feverish development must also be characterized by proportionate growth and, if needs be, by an equally feverish activity".

As was his custom, he accompanied his words with actions, and incited his closest collaborators not to lose sight of even the slightest event, for it too might offer material for study and discussion, for the shaping of opinions and interventions at the right time and place.

Attention was paid also to events of a non-sporting nature, whereby Panathlon demonstrated that it was an integral part of society. An example was the earthquake in Irpinia in 1980. Panathlon, in the burst of solidarity of its clubs, collected a consistent sum of money to be allotted in the form of scholarships to five students of the ISEF (Institute for Physical Education) in Potenza, entrusting the operation to a commission presided over by the board member Monterisi (a few years later a residual sum, increased by bank interests, was given, through the usual mechanism, to Mexican students, victims of the earthquake which devastated their country).



Paolo Cappabianca and Sisto Faure presenting Pope John Paul II with the « Flambeau d'Or ».

A picture of the Convention of Lausanne in 1901: Paolo Cappabianca, flanked by Jean Presset, shakes hands with the President of the Swiss Confederation Kurt Furgler.

The position Panathlon assumed with regards to the American boycotting of the Moscow Olympics was also exemplary. Just as the answer on the occasion of the Davis Cup finals in Chile had been a clear and unequivocal "yes", for Moscow '80, Panathlon, with reference to the Olympic ideals, was openly favorable to the participation of the representatives of all countries. It was an example of great coherence, appreciated by the International Olympic Committee, and served to cement the close friendship between Samaranch and Cappabianca and thanks to which the Olympic Committee at long last officially recognized Panathlon International as a sport organization of Olympic interest (*appendix 12*).

It was an enervating work pace, with the normal management of an association which already counted over one hundred and ninety clubs, augmented by the commitment (which turned out to be fatiguing) to the theme of the year and the organization of the assemblies and conventions attended by hundreds of members. In addition studies had begun for a profound and radical modification of the by-laws (which had for some time been called for in view of the changes that were taking place in society and in particular in the world of sport), with discussion and approval delegated to the extraordinary Assembly to be held in Stresa in June 1982.

Stresa confirmed the desire for renewal that animated Panathletes all over the world. For two days discussions went on regarding the proposed statutory reforms and the new articles of the constitution were individually voted by show of hands, generating for the commission of control a thankless task, even more difficult due to the lack of suitable structures. The revised by-laws re-elaborated by an international commission presided by Domenico Chiesa, presented two substantial innovations: the reform of the procedures for the election of the Board of Directors and the exclusion from that organ of the Governors, who up to then had been a part in view of a statutory derogation.

The first measure was a decisive step towards the internationalization of the association. Voting by "geographic areas"



A great friendship: Juan Antonio Samaranch and Paolo Cappabianca.

would, in fact, make it possible to elect to the Board of Directors the representatives of the various countries in which Panathlon was present, and did away with the single ticket which would have penalized even further those countries with fewer members. The exclusion of the Governors from the Board of Directors was not painless, even though it was softened by the institution of the "Board of Governors", a new organ which was to meet twice a year with the Board of Directors to get an all-over view of the problems that Panathlon was to face and to discuss the solutions from the point of view of a common objective.

“Sport in the Life of the City” was proposed as the new theme of the year, and the clubs once more got to work arousing interest in the subject on the part of the sports societies, the promotional Associations and the Institutions (in this case contact with the politicians was particularly necessary). This theme was followed by “Human Promotion through Sport”.

* * *

The enchantment and the sun of Taormina welcomed Panathlon for the Assembly of 1983. The four proficuous days of work on the theme “Panathlon yesterday, today, tomorrow” were also delightful days of rest in the pleasant Hotel Capo Taormina with the accompanying events organized by the Sicilian Panathletes. Unforgettable the visit to the temples of Agrigento and the receptions of Catania and Siracusa. The Review devoted a large amount of space to the reports and contributions on the theme in question (number 4/1983).

That year, 1983, was also the year of the District Assemblies which elected the new governors: Arnaldo Cavallari in the 1st District, Nino Magistri in the 2nd, Carlo Mario Giuffrè in the 3rd, Paolo Berardi in the 4th, Bruno Burattini in the 5th, Carlo Alberto Magi in the 6th, Mario Camilli in the 7th, Luigi Treggiari in the 8th, Vito Cardaci in the 9th, Daniel Plattner in the 10th, Josè Pedro Damiani in the 11th, Henrique Nicolini in the 12th, Paulino Rivera Torres in the 13th.

The managing staff was under pressure to carry out the program established by Cappabianca. The elections for the renewal of the Board of Directors were also drawing near, and the fact that some of the members were no longer eligible for re-election made them all the more important. Various problems arose concerning the choice of seat until the club of Pistoia-Montecatini took on the responsibility for organizing the Assembly, which was to be held in the Italian spa city in June 1984. In the course of the organization, in which the



CITIVS ALTVS FORTIVS

COMITE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIQUE

MON REPOS. LAUSANNE. SUISSE

TEL. 22 84 45 ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE CIO LAUSANNE
BANQUE BANQUE CANTONALE VAUDOISE CH. POST. 11 2202

le 6 juin 1959

Comm. Aldo MAIRANO
Présidente del
PANATHLON ITALIANO
Via Ippolito d'Aste 3-4
GENOVA

Monsieur le Président,

J'ai l'honneur et le plaisir de vous faire avoir que le Comité Olympique International, réuni en Session à Munich en mai dernier a attribué au Panathlon Italien la COUPE OLYMPIQUE, fondée par le Baron de Coubertin en 1906. Cette Coupe est attribuée à une institution ou association de caractère étendu et désintéressé, ayant rendu à la cause du sport des services éminents ou ayant concouru avec succès à la propagation de l'idée olympique.

La Coupe reste exposée au Musée Olympique de Mon-Repos à Lausanne et le titulaire en reçoit une plaquette de bronze, une réduction de cette plaquette destinée à son président, ainsi qu'un diplôme.

La coutume veut que la remise de cette distinction se fasse à l'occasion d'une manifestation officielle par un membre du C.I.O. du pays en question. De ce fait, nous prions notre membre le Comte Paolo Thaon de Revel, de vous remettre cet hommage en notre nom. Nous lui ferons parvenir les plaquettes et le diplôme d'ici une quinzaine de jours et vous voudrez bien vous entendre avec lui pour la remise officielle à laquelle nous attachons une importance toute spéciale.

Tout en vous félicitant de cette distinction, nous saisissons l'occasion pour vous adresser nos vœux les meilleurs pour l'avenir et le succès de votre sympathique organisation.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Président, l'expression de nos sentiments très distingués.

copie à: Comte Paolo Thaon de Revel, Torino
Dr. Giorgio de Stefani, Roma
Avv. Giulio Onesti, Presidente del C.O.N.I.
Mr. Avery Brundage.

Otto Mayer, chancelier .-

General Secretary acted as superintendent and support for the club in collaboration with the governor of the 6th District, the unforeseeable, the unexpected happened: General Secretary Galletto Valladares suddenly died. Consternation, incredulity, grief for the irretrievable loss: Panathlon was once more in mourning and president Cappabianca commemorated his most loyal collaborator with touching words (*appendix 13*).

MANAGERIAL ADMINISTRATION

The life of Panathlon could not however come to a halt, nor could the organization of the Assembly of Montecatini Terme. Over a hundred and sixty clubs were already preparing to participate.

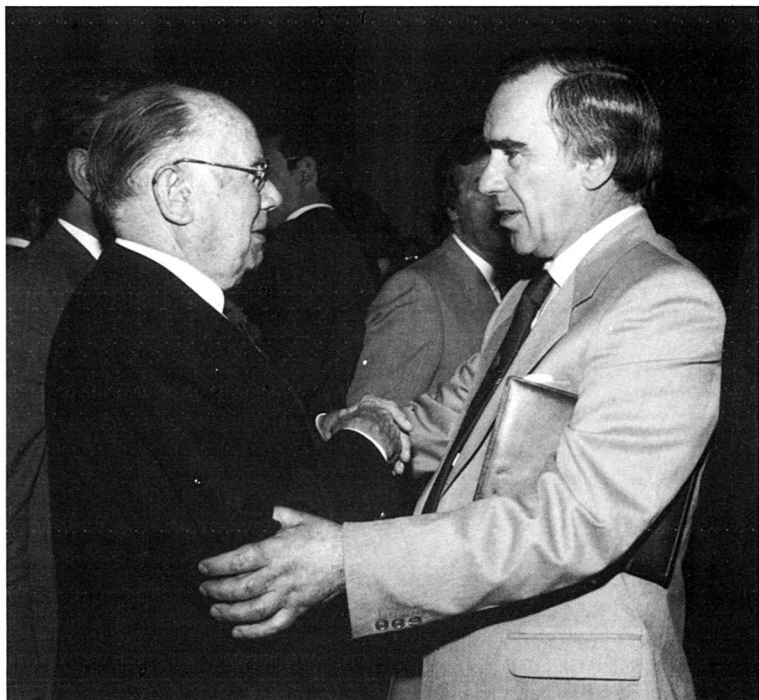
The organization of the General Secretariat, managed with rational circumspection by Galletto Valladares, was such that no replacements were contemplated. The bureaucratic structure was based solely on the General Secretary and on an occasional voluntary collaborator, G.B. Benvenuto, president of the club of Genova Ponente and former town councilor for sport in the Commune of Genoa.

Cappabianca and the Board of Directors had just finished putting the economical situation of the General Secretariat to rights when Galletto Valladares died, leaving a void in the management of the association.

Paolo Cappabianca and Domenico Chiesa found themselves pressed to find someone to carry on the duties of the General Secretariat and their choice fell on Giorgio Bazzali.

Committed to two fronts, the Panathlon and his work as a professional journalist, Bazzali faced the situation of the General Secretariat in terms of management, laying the basis for a structure which would allow him at least a minimal operating team capable of supporting his management on the executive level.

The first commitment, of no little import, was the task he inherited of organizing the Assembly of Montecatini Terme which took place as scheduled from May 25 to 27, 1984.



Two illustrious Panathletes: Sisto Faure and Giorgio Bazzali.

The results of the elections were what all had hoped for: Cappabianca was reconfirmed president with 135 out of 146 votes and the members elected to the Board of Directors were:

Giancarlo Brusati and Vittorio Wyss for the 1st area
Giorgio Bazzali and Roberto Fanucchi for the 2nd area
Seba D'Amico and Franco Monterisi for the 3rd area
Max Beer and Jean Presset for the 4th area
Javier Ostos Mora for the 5th area.

In closing, the assembly approved by acclamation the nomination of Domenico Chiesa as "honorary co-founder member", conferring on him the right of participation with

consulting vote in the Assemblies, Conventions and meetings of the Board of Directors.

The theme treated was "The Sponsor Phenomenon in Sport", which revealed both the advantages and the dangers inherent in the marriage of sport-industry. The concluding motion (*appendix 14*) underscored warnings that are all the more valid today when the phenomenon has become so important.

The qualitative and organizational success of the Assembly only in part helped to overcome the realization that Angelo Galletto Valladares was no longer at his place, where he had worked for thirty years as General Secretary of Panathlon International.

Domenico Chiesa in the meanwhile had taken part in the annual meeting of the International Olympic Academy in Olympia delivering a report on the relationship between Panathlon and Olympism, which was integrally reproduced in the "Revue Olimpique" published by the International Olympic Committee and in the Review of Panathlon numbers 7-9/83.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, decided to honor Panathlon with a visit to Genoa on October 21, 1983, on the occasion of which he bestowed the "Olympic Order" on Cappabianca, the beginning of a great friendship that was also to mean much to Panathlon.

The theme of the year 1985 was "How to Promote Sport Education as an Important Part of Youth Culture". An extremely interesting theme, which further demonstrated the active part played by Panathlon in developing its own cultural programs, particularly oriented towards youth, and which was, after the experience matured in Switzerland, the first and decisive step in the Italian world of a contact with the school.

A statutory norm was approved by which Giorgio Bazzali, who after the death of Galletto and after his election to the



Vittorio Wyss. President of the 1904 Assembly in Montecatini Terme.

Two Panathlon « greats »: Walter Siegenthaler and Paolo Cappabianca.

Board of Directors had taken over as governing General Secretary, was officially allowed to assume the qualification of "Board Member-General Secretary" in all respects. The fact that Bazzali, who also continued his work as managing director of the Review, made himself so available was a solution the association had hardly hoped for. Bazzali went on with his methodical work of renewal and modernization of the General Secretariat, assuming the necessary personnel, supplying the offices with computer systems and rationalizing the working methods to the point of turning the structure itself, in the course of only a few years, into a fully efficient instrument, abreast of the times and, above all, ready to satisfy the needs of the volcanic and untiring President Cappabianca.

That year the newly elected board member Jean Presset, main driving force of the fair play commission of the Swiss Association of Sport, author of "Charter of Fair Play", already used in the Swiss schools, was awarded the Fair Play trophy by an international committee for fair play.

In their meetings the clubs had already begun to discuss the subject of doping, the new scourge of sport. The results began to give an initial incredible picture of the dimensions the phenomenon was assuming.

Samaranch's visit to Genoa had produced its fruits. The next assembly of Panathlon International — in fact — was to be held in Barcelona, his city and the club of which Samaranch was founder and first president.

The fourth edition of the "Flambeau d'Or" took place and on May 6, 1985, with the usual austere and impressive ceremony in the council hall "Giulio Cesare" of the Senator's palace in the Campidoglio, awards were presented to:

Franco Carraro, president of the Italian National Olympic Committee, member of the International Olympic Committee and president of the European Olympic Committees, for culture; Joao Havelange, member of the International Olympic



The visit of the President of I.O.C., Juan Antonio Samaranch, to the headquarters of Panathlon International in Genoa. Present in addition to Cappabianca, Mairano and Favre, are Franco Carraro and Arrigo Gattai, respectively past-president and President of the Italian Olympic Committee.

The « Flambeaux d'Or » 1984: Franco Carraro, Joao Havalange, Mario Vasquez Rana.

Committee and president of FIFA (International Federation Football Association), for promotion; Mario Vazquez Rana, president of the Mexican Olympic Committee, president of the Association of Olympic Committees in Latin America, for organization.

The events were presided by the Honorable Giulio Andreotti, at the time Foreign Minister of Italy.

The cultural commission of Panathlon International composed of Jean Pisset (president), Giorgio Bazzalli, Vito Cardaci (governor of the 9th District), Domenico Chiesa and Dante Magnini (president of the club of Perugia), which had been charged among other things with determining the theme of the year, was enriched by the presence of Christian Garrabos, president of the club of Paris (it had taken almost thirty years, but finally Paris had its stable club, constituted on October 3, 1983).

The seventh Convention of members took place in Barcelona between May 15 and 18, 1985, and the panathletic event became part of the program promoted by the Catalan city in proposing its candidature for the organization of the Olympic games 1992.

The question was raised at the time whether the Panathlon convention would or would not have helped Barcelona in overcoming the imposing competition of other cities, in particular Paris. Time was to provide its explicit and favorable answer.

This seventh convention, the second to be held in a non-Italian country, had brought over three hundred Panathletes from all the countries in which Panathlon was represented to Barcelona, and the organizing Committee, with the journalist Andrè Merce Varela as chairman, also made the sojourn unforgettable. The reception at the Generalitat de Catalunya, the visit to the sport facilities of Neu Camp and the Real Club de Polo, the lunch given by Samaranch with the management of Panathlon and the gala supper in the celebration hall of Palazzo Reale, the summer residence of Juan Carlos, were to be long remembered.



The ceremony for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Panathlon International in the Aula Magna of the University of Pavia.

The convention on the theme “Education and Sport”, an abbreviated title for the theme of the year, was packed with meaning and propositions. The presentations were numerous. Everyone wanted to participate in the discussion of a subject which, with Taormina as point of departure, had been integrated, re-elaborated and perfected in the subsequent as-

semblies and was drawing to its conclusion in Spain. Education and sport: a clear message addressed to young people in the international youth year, entrusted to the world by Panathlon International, hoping and trusting in a better tomorrow. "Conquer the present and you will be sure of victory in the future" someone affirmed and with this intention the convention came to a close. In this occasion too Bazzali succeeded in duly highlighting the important event, publishing a special supplement in numbers 7-8/85 of the Review.

The 14th District of Panathlon, comprising the clubs of Spain and Portugal, was officially constituted on the occasion of the Convention, and Aniceto Ciscar Rius was nominated Governor.

One Panathlon event followed hard on the next. After returning from Barcelona, the next stop was Pavia where Panathlon International had first seen the light in the Aula Magna of that University on May 14th, 1960. The twenty-fifth anniversary of that historical event was celebrated on October 13, 1985, in another grand, solemn and austere ceremony with over two hundred and fifty Panathletes present, and with the prestigious participation of Aldo Mairano at this most important of panathletic appointments. The man who had so greatly desired the internationality of Panathlon was there to celebrate the twenty-five years of "his" creation, just as enthusiastic as he had been a quarter of a century earlier. Many who had participated in the historical event were still there with Mairano. Mementos and acknowledgements were given out, but the constant thought was for those Absent, those whom adverse fate had prevented from being witnesses and protagonists of this appointment.

The events, the dynamism of modern life gave no respite and Panathlon had to re-elaborate the statute approved barely three years earlier at Stresa, in the light of the constantly changing status quo. A commission composed of the board members Seba D'Amico and Max Beer and the Governor Carlo Alberto Magi made the necessary modifications, as required at the time, stopping short of the more radical revisions planned for the future.

The ordinary and extraordinary assembly which was held in Trieste from May 15 to 18, 1986, confirmed the arrival of a new panathletic generation, the first signs of which had appeared in Stresa, a new generation of club presidents who felt themselves more deeply involved, participating more actively in the problems and motivations, directly involved in the solutions and decisions taken. Protagonists, in other words, of the life of Panathlon, as representatives of the clubs, to whom the by-laws, through the assemblies, attribute broad powers of criticism, in-depth analysis, censure where needed, and the right to approve or not approve the proposals. There were some (in particular the older Panathletes, who had taken part in so many equally important but decidedly different assemblies) who wondered what lay behind this process of evolution, this emotional participation in the problems in discussion. But the reasons for this more accentuated sensibility clearly mirrored the evolution of Panathlon in the last years, and were to be attributed to the course which the presidency of Cappabianca had established for the association, the new and more rational criteria of management and organization on which Panathlon had been formulated, the broader and more qualified autonomy of the clubs guided with new criteria by the Governors and, as a result, the major responsabilization of the presidents in an active participation in the life of Panathlon. An amalgamation of greater positivism between clubs and summit, in the common intent of a more efficient Panathlon and of more deeply committed clubs, more representative in their areas and more solidly aligned in a policy of cultural expansion.

The involvement and participation of this new generation of presidents were, in any case, expressed in the constructive and positive in-depth study of each and every problem, including an analysis of the budgets and the future costs of the management of Panathlon International, in the awareness that the growth of the association also required new economical means, keeping in mind the social needs of the clubs and the fact that the members of Panathlon were an elite in terms of sport and not of financial means.

In Trieste these two needs also came to grips with the

problem of a new seat for Panathlon. The modest apartment in Via Edilio Raggio in Genoa, never really used as representative headquarters, had become too small for the activity of the General Secretary. It was completely inadequate with regards to the image Panathlon International had acquired and its functions. This became all too clear in October 1983 when Samaranch visited Genoa and the hall of a large hotel had to be used for the reception of such an outstanding guest.

The Board of Directors had, in the meanwhile, asked the General Secretary to find premises which would at least provide enough space for the offices and some kind of official headquarters, modest though they might be. Nothing was to be had in Genoa and it was Bazzali who found the solution in Rapallo. The Commune, which owned the Villa Porticcio, put the entire first floor, up till then occupied by the town library, at the disposition of Panathlon. A convention contemplated that the costs of restructuration were to be accepted in terms of rent. The Board of Directors agreed to the convention for a period of fifteen years, the architect Carlo Mario Giuffrè, governor of the 3rd District, elaborated the project (on a completely gratuitous basis). Funds were however not available and at the assembly an "una tantum" contribution was requested, thus completely covering the expenses of restructurization (directed by the panathletic Geom. Pierluigi Marchesi) as well as furnishings. Panathlon International thus succeeded in acquiring headquarters worthy of the name, furnished with taste and elegance, in a site overlooking the splendid Gulf of Tigullio, with the services that were indispensable for a rational functioning, including the equipment needed for simultaneous translation at the meetings of the Board of Directors. It is not only a seat which gives prestige to Panathlon and which is functional, but it also represents a point of reference for the clubs which often go there with their members, and for all the Panathletes, in particular those from abroad, who have "discovered" Rapallo in visiting the head office.

The Trieste Assembly concluded with a round table on the theme "The re-establishment of the art competitions in the ambient of the Olympic Games", a noble attempt by Panath-

lon (in support of the International Olympic Games Committee) to repropose, in the frame of its program of cultural promotion, the artistic events which accompanied the Olympics from Stockholm 1912 to London 1948. However, in consideration of the fact that interest in these events had waned in the course of the years with the gradual defection from the Olympics of well-known artists, writers, poets, painters, sculptors, who disliked competing with each other and had no intentions of submitting themselves to classifications, the first impression, in view of the fact that the modern Olympic Games had assumed an aspect that was highly commercial rather than idealistic, was that Sisto Favre's imploration was a crusade destined to be no more than that.

In the meanwhile, the sudden death of the board member Seba D'Amico, in a highway accident, had left a void in the ambiances both of "his" Sicily and of the Board of Directors, to which he had for years given much both in the way of culture and as a result of his high professionalism as jurist. General Fabrizio Antonelli, the first of those not elected in the elections held in Montecatini Terme, was co-opted for the Board of Directors.

The beginning of 1987 was a particularly critical period for Panathlon: failing health forced the president Cappabianca to notably slow up his incessant activity.

At the time the General Secretary was involved in an operation of historical importance, the organization of the First Convention of Panathlon International in Latin America. For some time the South American Panathletes had been urging for a meeting of their by now numerous clubs with the Panathletes of the other countries and the Board of Directors

enthusiastically agreed. A complex and onerous organizational machine was set in motion which, with a complicated round of airplanes, succeeded in taking three hundred and fifty Panathletes and sympathizers to the Latin American continent for meetings of friendship, brotherhood and hope, thus furnishing the world with still further signs of the vitality and internationality of Panathlon. Paolo Cappabianca, unable to face up to the difficulties of the long trip, officially delegated Giorgio Bazzali as his representant.

The intense and complex program in which work sessions alternated with tourist itineraries, was respected with chronometric precision. Montevideo was the first stopover and Jose Pedro Damiani was a perfect host and also managed the reception the President of the Republic of Uruguay, Sanguinetti, himself a Panathlete, held for the executive staff of Panathlon International. Then Buenos Aires, with its sports facilities, a day in the open in a "Fazenda", a precious contact with Argentine customs and traditions, the marvelous waterfalls of Iguassu and finally Brazil, San Paolo, where on May 4th the Convention centered on the theme "Sport in the year 2000" in a perspective necessarily bound to a frame of reference that was oriented to the development of sport in the last fifty years.

There were a great many pertinent contributions, almost all with a bearing on the Italian report which had aroused the greatest interest in the crowded auditorium. And then, without pause, visits to the "Palacio dos Bandeirantes", the "Estadio do Morunbi", the "Cidade universitaria" — the "Istituto Butanta" and finally the gala supper where, after the joy of being together, the touching words of Henrique Nicolini brought tears to the eyes of all.

Nicolini, with his innate sense of organization and his capacities for getting things done, had been the factotum of the days in San Paolo, which brought this extraordinary journey to an unforgettable end. The last two days in Rio de Janeiro included the visit to the Corcovado, the Sugar Loaf, the Maracanà and a well deserved rest on the famous beaches of Copacabana and Epanema. The acts of the convention and the chronicle of the journey have been published in number

6-7/87 of the Review and the nostalgia and vivid desire to "do it again" can be read between the lines.

The choice of the theme to be discussed at the first Convention of Panathlon International in Latin America, "Sport in the year 2000", was the fruit of deep thought which took into consideration the anxiety and questions the entire world was formulating as the beginning of the third millennium drew closer. This fateful year 2000 which so fascinated us in the years of our youth, filling our nights with fantastic dreams inspired by the extraordinary adventures of Flash Gordon and his companion Dale in the comic strips of the "Avventuroso", was just around the corner. Apparently there were no extraordinary surprises in store for us in the coming of this third age or perhaps the surprises had already come and gone thanks to the dizzy technological process which had led to our landing on the moon and which had offered us the most sophisticated computer systems to know all there was to know about everything in no time at all; but, perhaps, all these novelties had not seemed so amazing because we had lived them in the first person; they had seemed natural and logical to the point that Armstrong's foot on the moon is now no more than a vague memory. Perhaps Gordon's fantastic world was already here and the pessimistic forecast of Orwell in his "1984" of an aseptic society, subjugated to the most perverse systems of control and conditioning, had been exorcised.

Even so the year 2000 still represented an important point of arrival and the world was waiting, with anxiety but perhaps also with curiosity, to see what things would be like and how it could be faced. It seemed only natural that Panathlon should choose to investigate by making a survey of opinions through its representatives as to how sport, closely bound to this post-industrial society, could enter the new century, and it was a legitimate question considering the many dangers to be found along the road taken by sport in the course of the last years.

The reflection of Laudo Natel, a Brazilian, was extremely

appropriate: "Considering that the year 2000 will be an Olympic year and that the deadline is only thirteen years away, the protagonists of this event will be young people who are now seven or eight years old, or who may even now be coming into the world, which means that they must receive a specific education which, from the families passes through the schools, the associations and the institutions, so that the essence of the Games will remain intact, that essence that existed two thousand eight hundred years ago in Greece". And he added: "Sport contests, after the year 2000, will be dominated by computers and by the most sophisticated instruments, but the results will still be who can throw the disk furthest or arrive first in the race, which demonstrates that the essential and fundamental aspect of sport cannot and will not change".

Pierre Scheidegger, from Switzerland, centered his presentation on the enormous amount of money involved in the phenomenon of sport and the figure of the "sponsor" who dominates the world of sport, and asked himself: "Should we accept him, tolerate him, refuse him? Sport — do we want it with money or without money, with a sponsor or without a sponsor?" And he concluded: "If the answers were as easy as the questions, we would not be here to discuss them". Typically then the Swiss speaker did not betray his historical neutrality: he put the questions but refrained from formulating proposals and hypotheses.

Carlo Alberto Magi, the Italian, although he began way back in the past with a historical-philosophical study of the origins of sport and its vicissitudes in the course of centuries, soon arrived at his conclusions, discussing at length the relationship athlete-man and asking himself what the psycho-physical and socio-economic conditions of the protagonist of the world of sport would be in the year 2000.

The hoary problem of amateurism — professionalism, regarding the first aspect, was solved by demonstrating that in view of the indispensable role assigned nowadays to economic resources, one can become professional, while remaining an amateur at heart. The spreading problem of doping however remained unsolved and the massive intervention

of sport medicine was invoked, not with the aim of improving the results, but of safeguarding the health of the athlete so that man, in his physical and psychic integrity, might remain an autonomous and complete being, the unique object of each project. Sport in the service of man, then, and not vice versa, to avoid the risk of finding ourselves in a world of robots.

Hardly had the Panathletes returned home when another event was at the door. The by now numerous panathletic community of Latin America had expressed the just and legitimate desire (repeated on the occasion of the Convention) to be more fairly represented on the Board of Directors. As a result it was deliberated to call an extraordinary assembly with the utmost urgency and modify the geographical areas and the relative seats in view of the elective assembly of 1888 which was already expected to be rather difficult and particularly important since Paolo Cappabianca and some of the board members could not be re-elected. The Secretariat at this time furnished further proof of its efficiency and the extraordinary assembly held in San Marino on May 30, 1987, less than a month after returning from Latin America, unanimously approved the proposals for:

three geographic areas for Italy, with six board members;
a single geographic area for Switzerland, with two members;
a single geographic area for Central and South America, with two members;
a single geographic area for the 14th District and the other members, with one member.

Two representatives on the Board of Directors, instead of one, would provide South American Panathletism with a greater continuity of expression and would also demonstrate how really important their more than thirty fully active South American clubs were in the all-over economy of Panathlon International.

At the end of the year death struck once again. Roberto Fanucchi, board member of Panathlon International and

past-governor of the 6th District, was stricken on November 14th while giving a report on voluntary service in sport at a convention in Lucca. It was a theme he was particularly attached to and which he had dealt with on various local and national occasions.

Sandro Bellei, journalist, past-president of the club of Modena and past-governor of the 5th District, was co-opted for the Board.

THE ASSEMBLY OF RAPALLO

The first number of the Review for the year 1988 announced in its editorial "Rapallo is waiting for you". In fact, the elective assembly of that year was to be held in Rapallo, where the new seat was now ready to suitably receive the Authorities, the presidents, the members, the admirers of the panathletic movement. It was the 33rd assembly and was to be a historical session.

The clubs in the meanwhile were still involved in the discussion of the theme of the year, and the subject, which had aroused great interest, was also treated on the level of district assemblies.

The Board of Directors and the General Secretary, on the other hand, were totally involved in the organization of the assembly, which was held in the Auditorium of the Clarisse from June 1 to 2, 1988. The absence of Paolo Cappabianca, retained in Naples on account of ill health, of Demetrio Balestra, also unable to take part, and of Aldo Mairano, immobilized in his house in Genoa, cast a pall of sadness over the assembly.

Giuseppe Prisco, a lawyer, past-president of the club of Milan, was elected to the presidency of the assembly proceedings, and Vittorio Wyss, deputy vice president, was charged with reading the report of the out-going president. More than a report, it seemed the spiritual testament of Cappabianca, and Wyss, with an uncertain voice, underscored the most significant passages, which suscitated deep emotion. With the elections the assembly was adjourned. Avv. Antonio Spallino from Como and the Honorable Vittore Catella of Turin were

candidates for the presidency. Spallino was elected with 147 out of 166 valid ballots, and the first to publicly offer his congratulations was Catella, who, true sportsman and gentleman that he was, expressed his pleasure and put himself at the service of Panathlon.

THE ADVENT OF SPALLINO

With Antonio Spallino, a personage in the field of sport and a man of vast culture had risen to the presidency of Panathlon International. A lawyer in Como, Spallino had been a protagonist of the sport chronicles in the 50s with his successes in fencing: Italian champion of foil fencing and épée fencing in 1948 and 1958, Olympic champion of the foil fencing team in Melbourne, world champion of foil fencing team in 1954 and 1955, world champion of épée fencing team in 1949. He was mayor of Como for three terms and was the extraordinary governmental Commissioner at Seveso after the ecological tragedy that took place there.

The day after the assembly, in the presence of Cardinal Siri and with the participation of the highest authorities, the new seat of Panathlon International in Villa Porticciolo was inaugurated. "You Panathletes — said Cardinal Siri in blessing the headquarters — who esteem and love sport, fill a profound void, for so many are unaware of how much sport saves in the world. I cannot give you greater praise than this." A thought that Panathlon treasured and which became part of its own ideal and cultural patrimony.

On the proposal of the deputy vice president Wyss, the Board of Directors had a bronze plaque set up on the premises: "In this villa/ opened to the community of Rapallo/ through the initiative of the mayor Giovanni Maggio/ founding member and first president of the Panathlon Club of Genoa/ Panathlon International / president Paolo Cappabianca / general secretary Giorgio Bazzali / architect Carlo Maria Giuffrè / inaugurated its headquarters on 2.6.1988 / on authorization of the City Administration / mayor Mauro Cordan".

The newly elected members of the Board of Directors,

single-minded in their intentions, with a deep sense of responsibility and aware that they had inherited a precious patrimony to preserve and, if possible, to improve, set to work to furnish immediate continuity to what Viali and Chiesa had begun thirty-six years earlier and which had been masterfully carried on by those who made history at the summits of the association. Early in the following July, the Board of Directors was already in session to begin the new management. A few days later, on July 11th, Paolo Cappabianca died in his house in Naples. It almost seems that he had waited for his season as a Panathlete, which had lasted eleven years, to be concluded before leaving for ever. We like to think that just this once more, faced with his last "battle", he managed, with supreme sagacity, to program his exit from the scene.

* * *

The death of Cappabianca was preceded by that of Demetrio Balestra, on June 26, 1988 in Lugano. These two sad events were joined by still another on April 1, 1990, that was just as cruel, just as anguishing: the death of Vittorio Wyss. These three men, no longer with us, had "built" Panathlon. Though different in character and physiognomy, they had shared an ideal, emotions, and enthusiasm in a common belief in the values of sport and the Olympics (*appendix 15-16-17*).

The "Story" ends here. Everything that happened in the years subsequent to 1988 is, for the time being, chronicle. This does not mean that chronicle, even without the capital letter C, is necessarily unimportant or devoid of events, at least until time has ennobled them and made them "history". We use the word chronicle only because we have not yet risen, as Chesterton said, to that certain level from which men can see the city in which they live or the period in which they are living. It is simply due to a lack of perspective that we cannot yet pronounce judgements, become aware of errors and positive decisions, control the consequences and the results

of the initiatives, the opportuneness of the proposals and decisions, the effect of behavior.

If, aside from these definitions and distinctions, we consider the last three years and the fact in itself that Panathlon felt it had the weight and responsibility of a story behind it, we realize that these years have been very important in the life of the club, years that, in all probability, will be remembered as a turning point, the moment of passage to an arduous and perhaps tormented phase of development and maturation. A club, an institution which comes to a halt, is destined to turn into a sterile academy, vaunting coats of arms that have no meaning. These years of "chronicle" clearly seem to indicate that Panathlon has no intention of running this risk. Because it was nothing less than a real turning point.

Right in the first board meeting of July 1988 the criteria with which President Spallino hoped to operate seemed fairly clear. Furnished with a great experience and backed by an outstanding professional preparation as well as cultural background, Spallino formulated an operative program which, besides involving all the members of the Board of Directors in the first person, proposed, without interrupting the continuity of action of the precedent boards, new rules, new behavioral schemes, new systems of observing, evaluating and acknowledging the problems and of studying them critically from various points of view so as to find the right solution. A program interested above all in a more in-depth cultural identification of the association, in expansion and internationalization, in improving the relations with the Institutions, in particular the international ones, in a more incisive professionalization of the Governors, in the organic unity and working unity of the clubs.

The first thing he did was direct his attention to the organization of the work of the Board of Directors, making use, in this phase, of the experience gained as public administrator, instituting simultaneous translation so that in the course of the meetings nothing went lost due to possible misunderstandings on account of differences in language, the complete recording of the discussion on the arguments on the agenda, and the final decision, which would then serve the General

Secretariat for the drafting of the proceedings. The first one to be affected by the consequences of these complex procedures was of course Giorgio Bazzali (reconfirmed Member of the Board and General Secretary), who had to restructure the entire organization of the secretariat to adapt it to the new requirements and to be able to furnish suitable answers in real terms. The first measure adopted by the newly elected Board of Directors was the approval of the "President's Report", a document which, in a broad, articulated and thoroughly studied perspective, examined the vast panorama in which Panathlon moves and questioned the utility of some of the structures on which the organization of the association was based, the need to modify them or even to replace them with others that were more suited to the changing needs of the club.

The "Report" began with the origins of Panathlon, stressing the importance of an investigation regarding its genesis, and went on with a study of its associative structure, not only aimed at knowing the past in terms of premise for future reflection, but, above all, in order to propose an analysis of Panathlon's roll, "basing it on a renewed awareness of what we are and of what we want to be".

The "Report" was accompanied by a long list of questions. Through the Governors, the clubs were asked to express their opinions on these subjects and their answers were then fed into a computer, thus furnishing the picture of a situation which the Board of Directors carefully took into consideration in setting up its future programs. This was perhaps the first and most qualifying example of a new panathletic policy which involved the clubs themselves, called upon to collaborate more incisively in the management of the association. One of the results that emerged was the unanimous desire to publish this "Story of Panathlon" so as not to lose the memory of the "founding fathers" and the roots of the movement and all those who helped it make a place for itself, for "any organism is mutilated if it does not have and does not safeguard the memory of its original motivation." Wanting to know what the individual clubs thought regarding the vast panorama in which Panathlon moved was undoubtedly



The official celebration of the constitution of the Club of Munich.

President Spallino at the Convention of Munich.

the first decisive step in opening the way to the new panathletic policy which the President and the Board of Directors wished to adopt. This breakthrough made it possible to acquire a clear and definite idea of the situation on which to base the many and various provisions and measures which meant frequent and demanding but constructive sessions for the Board and the President's Committee, which was in turn entrusted with specific delegations.

Not having yet been able "to rise to that certain height from which to see the city in which one lives" does however let one take note exclusively as chronicle and without comments and least of all judgements, of some of the important and significant measures adopted in the course of the last three years of Panathlon International's existence, which have most characterized the international aspect of its activity.

— First official meeting of President Spallino, accompanied by General Secretary Bazzali, with Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee (January 1980) to cement the collaboration of Panathlon with IOC and to continue that relationship of true friendship that began with Paolo Cappabianca.

— The Convention of members in Munich from May 17 to 21, 1989. This was the first contact Panathlon International had with the situation in Germany, a complex state of affairs which discovered an interlocutor for the development of Panathlon in that country in Willy Daume, president of the Olympic Committee of Germany, decorated with the Flambeau d'Or, member of the International Olympic Committee. The Convention expressed its fervent hopes that the driving force for the expansion of Panathlon in Germany, and for the defense of those Olympic values which had been so deeply humiliated in Munich itself, might come from Munich, the 246th club of Panathlon International, constituted through the initiative of Panathlon Club of Bolzano, with the collaboration of General Abella, Governor of the 1st District.

— The fifth edition of the Flambeau d'Or in the room of the Orazi and Curazi in the Campidoglio (May 3, 1989). Awards were made to the Honorable Giulio Andreotti for culture: Dr. Un Yong Kim, president of the Korean Olympic



Willi Daume, President of the German Olympic Committee, at the Panathlon Convention in Munich.

Committee, for promotion; Dr. Anselmo Lopez, director of Olympic Solidarity of the International Olympic Committee, for organization. "Revue Olimpique", the official organ of the International Olympic Committee, gave ample space to the event, a further demonstration of the interest IOC fostered for the panathletic movement.

— The Convention in Barcelona (29/30 October 1989) on the organization of the Olympics with the visit to the Olympic facilities then being built for the 1992 Games, with the participation of over 300 members and sympathizers.

— The Assembly of Presidents in Paris on April 28 to May 1, 1990. An assembly that, despite the limited participation of the clubs, made news not only because for the first time Panathlon International reunited its forces in France, but, above all, as a result of the exceedingly high level of the discussions.

— The assignment to an International Commission presided by the Honorable Alfonso Vigorita for the revision and up-dating of the by-laws of the association.

— The constitution of the 16th District of Panathlon International, including the clubs of Graz, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Vienna, Munich.

— The first steps in the organization for the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of Panathlon in Venice.

— The constitution of twenty-one new clubs (256 at the beginning of the term and 277 by the end of 1990, to which other non-Italian clubs would shortly be added, such as Punta del Est, Vigna del Mar, Porta Pora-Caballero, Pau, Le Canet, Angers).

— The elaboration of the program for 1991 — year of fair play — with the convocation of the President by UNESCO for the elaboration of a common program which, as its first measure, comprised the nomination of President Spallino as member of the International Fair Play Committee.

— Visit of President Spallino to the Latin American clubs from November 7th to 19th, 1991. The heartfelt welcome of the President by the Governors, the presidents of the clubs and the Latin-American members once more demonstrated how important it was to keep up close contacts with those



The « Flambeaux d'Or », 1980: Un Yong Kim, Giulio Andreotti, Anselmo Lopez.

countries in which Panathlon represents a faith, a truth and a hope. The meeting in Latin America also had a vaster objective: that of spurring the Central Board of Directors to increase its activities aimed at diffusing the panathletic ideal in other countries so that, in the near future, the movement that set out from Venice might involve the sporting peoples of other latitudes who would find in Panathlon a means for transforming into concrete actions the ideal incentives, otherwise destined to remain outside any cultural comparison, like trees that fall in the forest.



Edgar Fried, on the right in the photo, who passed away on February 2,

1987 in "his" Vienna, at the age of 94, was one of the most loyal supporters of Panathlon. Co-founder of the Club of Vienna, in 1973, he was its untiring promoter and secretary until his death; but, above all, he never missed an Assembly of the clubs or a Convention of the members of Panathlon International, up to 1986, the Trieste assembly.

Small and slight, he symbolized the moral force of sport and the staying power of the sportsman, and was well-liked by all.

Persecuted by the nazis and forced to find refuge in Greece, in 1946 he was the co-founder of the re-formed Austrian Olympic Committee of which he was secretary until 1974. An athlete of merit in his youth.

The International Olympic Committee awarded him with the Silver Olympic Order and he was an honorary member of the Union Internationale du Panathlon Moderne et Biathlon. A man of sport who fully warrants the place he holds in the story of Panathlon.

SPORT, HISTORY AND SOCIETY

by

Riccardo Grozio

PREMISES

A chapter of theoretical reflection in the context of a book that deals with the story of Panathlon International should not be thought of as something accessory or as pure and simple ornament. On the contrary, it is motivated by reasons that are closely bound to the philosophy which inspired this editorial venture.

At the roots of it all lies the need to clarify some of the crucial points in the development of sport in the form that it has assumed in the course of the centuries in western civilization.

Nor could it be otherwise, in consideration of the objectives of this publication. In retracing the 40 years of Panathlon, the book also furnishes an occasion for reflection on sport, and in particular on the relationship that exists between sport, history and society: which is after all in tune with the primary aims of Panathlon, which include the cultural analysis of sport.

And this is precisely why we have taken as our point of departure that controversial and problematical relationship between sport and culture which is a constant source of "polemics", due in part to the frequent confusion of terminology and concepts.

Subsequently on a mainly theoretical level, it seemed useful to go on to the eminently historical dialectics between agonistics and sportivization, where the first term refers to the universality of physical games of competition, and the second designates the concrete historical process of the formation of modern athletic sports which developed in England in the course of the 18th and 19th centuries.

The next part has been devoted to the relationship between Olympicism and politics, with the intent of underscoring those occult and manifest bonds which unite two apparently antithetical terms, but which, on closer study, for better or for worse, have always been closely connected.

Before concluding, we have examined the relationship that exists between society and sport, with particular reference to the emergence of new disciplines and a new feeling for sport in our times.

In summing up, can we hope for the emergence of a new sport culture, capable of recuperating, with simplicity and humility, the original values and of presenting them in contemporary terms?

SPORT AND CULTURE

These two terms are so broad in meaning that, particularly in the 20th century, they have engendered a considerable amount of confusion and lack of understanding, at times being set in open contrast to each other, at times, on the contrary, resulting in confused syncretisms.

The fact is that an extremely broad and all inclusive concept of sport, in which practically all the competitive physical activities are included, has been echoed by a concept of culture which, once the exclusivism of the classic type of culture with a capital C was left behind, has gradually been extended to embrace all the activities of man in society.

Only by correlating the two terms within a dynamic relationship can a correct balance between the two be defined, and a fruitful confrontation will depend on the meanings assigned.

The verbal contests between those who deny and those who affirm the cultural value of sport — between the “apocalyptic” who condemn it as an inferior form of barbarization, and the “conformists” who indiscriminately exalt its value and social function — lead absolutely nowhere.

Modern sport was first put under accusation in 1899, when the American sociologist Thorstein Veblen in his “The Theory of the Leisure Class” mercilessly took a radically critical stand, affirming that “anyone who dedicates himself to sport does so because of an archaic spiritual constitution, an extremely predatory emulatory tendency.”

In the thirties another voice was heard denouncing the regression inherent in the development of modern sports. In his “Homo Ludens” Johan Huizinga stressed the dramatic loss of the sense of play in modern sports which were becoming ever more serious, similar to work, and as a result set in opposition to play, the authentic prime promoter of culture. In Italy too, Benedetto Croce, in “The History of Europe in the Nineteenth Century (1932)”, denounced the fatal arrival of sport in the modern world, in his opinion implying the destruction of all forms of spirituality and sanctioning the affirmation of the cultural acts of barbarism.

But the most violent attack against sport was undoubtedly that of the neo-Marxist critics of the School of Frankfurt and their followers, according to whom sport is nothing but a means of controlling the masses, subjugated to the capitalistic ideology.

In the face of such severe condemnation and a general lack of interest and snobbery on the part of the upper class culture, the world of sport has often done no more than offer a superficial defense centered on the generic glorification and celebration of the ethic values and redeeming aims of sport. Various American sociologists, however, such as Lewis Mumford, stressed the positive civic value of sport as an efficacious factor in cultural integration, underscoring its compensatory function in the modern machine civilization.

Twentieth century “sport thought” oscillated between these two poles — a severe condemnation on one hand, and an acritical celebration on the other, incapable of compre-

hending the totality of this social reality in all its complexity, an element that cannot be limited to the confining category of free time as has been done all too long, but that must be considered on a conceptual level as well, in all senses: practice and performance, sport is the great folk epic of our times, to be ineluctably confronted if culture hopes to fully understand the contemporary world.

The nineteen hundreds, the century of the man without qualities, to cite the title of the well-known work by the Viennese Robert Musil, rediscovered in the champions of sport the heroes who were no longer to be found in literature.

In this sense the affirmation that sport is the true epic of the 1900s, the focal point for the myths and models of entire generations, may seem more credible than first apparent.

But this acknowledgement of an entirely autonomous and self-based paradigm is possible only in the context of a concept of culture that has abandoned its elite pretensions, and in forgoing the mechanical superposition of its own interpretative models, seeks understanding from within sport. Why then dwell on the various restrictive attitudes of the various disciplines, which favor their own analytical instruments and end up by colonizing the field of sport? Why not forgo specialization and promote an authentic and profound interdisciplinary knowledge of sport and make the most of all the human sciences can offer in an effort to comprehend it in all its universality?

The problem, in fact, is not the traditional question of whether sport is or is not culture, but centers around the existence of a new relationship between culture and sport. In other words while, on the one hand, the numerous attempts to furnish sport with a superfluous family tree of noble birth, in the form of anthologies of learned quotes accompanied, where possible, by elegant iconographical contrivances of a classical nature, are absolutely futile, on the other, the mental outlook of the world of culture, caught in the net of constructing utterly abstract analyses which have nothing to do with the concrete reality of the world of sport, is absolutely sterile and just as mystificatory.

These distinctions can be overcome by changing the men-

tal outlook of culture regarding sport that must be seen as something real that merits comprehension. And this was the point of view that began to prevail in the 1980s, when the afore-mentioned dualism of the apocalyptic and conformist outlooks was abandoned and overcome.

While on the subject, we believe reference to one of the most innovative positions found in the contemporary world of culture may be of use. The French anthropologist Marc Augé, president of the prestigious *Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales* of Paris, maintains that the knowledge of sport, like that of religious anthropology, which acquired a scientific status only after freeing itself from religious professionals, must also liberate itself from sport professionals. "Great as our respect may be for the ministers of the cult. . . it must be admitted that they are part of what is being studied and therefore cannot be good observers. By this we do not intend to deny that the warmth of a personal experience, of fleeting emotion bound to personal reminiscence, may be useful in sensing and then understanding the force of the symbolic effectiveness."

Marc Augé had without doubt captured the subtle dialectics between observer and observed, there where the need of liberating oneself from an exclusively internal knowledge of sport — involving those on the inside — corresponds to the need for a knowledge which, moving from the outside, becomes, through strong empathy, a real comprehension from the inside.

In this sense, the comparison with the study of religions seems enlightening and surely constitutes one of the most fertile interpretative models for an authentic knowledge of sport.

AGONISTIC GAMES AND SPORTIVIZATION

Let us now move on from the purely theoretical analysis of the relationship between sport and culture to an examination of the concrete dialectics by means of which the historical vicissitudes of sport can be followed.

First of all we must come to grips with a question of termi-

nology that is still open to debate, even though it has become an accepted fact that the term sport can legitimately be applied only to modern sports, to those competitive games which became popular in England in the course of the 18th and 19th centuries and which then spread out more or less all over the world.

Despite this, the term sport is still often used in an extremely broad sense to include all forms of competitive physical games practiced from antiquity to today.

Nor should this controversy be interpreted in a merely nominalistic sense, for it does after all represent the clash between two diverse points of view: the one where stress is laid on historical continuity and the other where, to the contrary, analysis centers on discontinuity.

The former sees the basic homogeneity that exists between the different competitive expressions of man, and as a result finds it is legitimate to speak of sport even in reference to antiquity, where the term was unknown. For the latter, the word sport can be correctly employed only with reference to its concrete appearance in England during the industrial revolution, when new competitive disciplines affirmed themselves, incorporating unique features, such as record and club, fair play, which were totally unknown in the ancient world, where ritualistic and religious components prevailed.

The concepts of competition and "sportivization" (transformation into sport) which we are about to illustrate allow the entire problem to be seen in terms of a more correct equilibrium between continuity and discontinuity, between anthropology and history.

Competition, or agonistic games, the key concept in an understanding of the essence of physical contests as a cultural invariant to be found throughout western history, takes us back to ancient Greece, where it became a determining factor in the process of civilization. For the Greeks *agon* originally meant the meeting place, the square in front of the temple, while subsequently it was identified with wrestling, struggle, contest, the games. The importance in Greek culture of these games is witnessed by the fact that it was the repetition every four years of the Olympic Games which led to the calendar.

On the other hand, the idea of competition, for better or for worse, seems to be a peculiarity of western civilization, distinguishing it from primitive societies without history.

Of great significance, in this respect, is the comparison of the games of primitive peoples, which are essentially ritual in function, and the competitive contests of the western world.

As Claude Levi-Strauss so acutely observed, competitive games exercise a differentiating function; involved, in other words, is a result that is unknown at the beginning, while ritual games have an integrative function, which anticipates the re-establishment of the initial order. The former move from an initial state of symmetry (rules and number of players equal on both sides) to a social distinction — winners and losers — while the latter move from an initial asymmetry to a reintegration of groups that were originally separated.

In this regard it may be useful to cite an episode mentioned by Levi-Strauss in "Savage Thought": the Gahuku-Gama in New Guinea "have learned to play football but play for several days in a row, until the number of games lost and those won by each side is exactly equal; in other words, game is treated as rite".

Moreover this distinction between play and rite is very close to the classification proposed by Roger Caillois, who, after identifying four specific areas of play, depending on whether competition, chance, simulacrum or vertigo (agon, alea, mimicry, ilinx) prevail, singles out among the various possible combinations, two sets which seem the most important: agon/alea which regards the universe of rules and mimicri/ilinx which deals with that of chaos and the irregular.

According to Caillois, simulacrum and vertigo refer to primitive society, competition and chance to organized society, and the process of civilization would coincide with the passage from the "world of the mask and of ecstasy to that of merit and chance".

All this leads directly to the theme of sportivization theorized by the sociologist Norbert Elias, which will now be analyzed so as to illustrate the process which led to the creation in England of sport as we define it today.

According to Elias, sportivization, that is the transformation

of various traditional pastimes into sport, which took place in the course of the 1700s and 1800s in England, and which subsequently spread throughout Europe and the world, should not be considered a rebirth of the contests of antiquity, but as something completely different. The former, in fact, were characterized by a considerable amount of violence and by a low threshold of repulsion of violence: in the *pancratium*, for instance, the competitions, in which many blows outlawed by modern sports were allowed, sometimes ended with the death of one of the two contestants, while in boxing there were no categories of weight with the exception of the distinction between men and boys. While in Greece the competitions were modelled on the ideal of a warrior ethos, in England, in the ambience of the process of industrialization, they were inspired by the values of the rising bourgeois class.

Sportivization should not however be interpreted as a phenomenon that was an automatic result of industrialization, but simply as something that was part of the same historical course. It gradually acquired concrete form with the progressive regulation of the antique games, purified as time went by of their more chaotic and violent aspects.

Various traditional games, in particular, developed to a mature form in which there was a balance of tension, which comprises the central paradigm of modern sport, and which can be defined as a "make-believe battle with controlled tensions and a final catharsis".

In this sense, the first pastime that could be called sport was fox hunting, distinguished by the fact that it is the dogs who kill the prey, with a consequent deferment of the excitement, no longer directly bound to killing and eating the animal, the original aim of the hunt, but now to be found in the chase. Civilization, of which sportivization is part, signifies principally the shifting from consumption to tension, from a stress on victory to a stress on struggle. The ethos of sport which exalts the values of fair play and participation can be closely compared to the spirit of parliament, which more or less in those same years, after the civil war, established itself in England as a stable institution for mediating between the different social components. In the 18th century horse racing and walking

racism were marked by the emergence of new concepts that corresponded to the new values of what was coming to be known as sport, such as handicap and record, while boxing, with all its rules, represented an ideal sublimation of the duel, which was to remain fashionable on the continent for over a century.

In the 19th century, the regulation of ball games, which derived from the more turbulent popular games — often during Carnival whole towns competed for the possession of a sphere in a struggle without rules which lasted all day — marked the end of that process of sportivization which replaced all the old popular games as it spread from England throughout the world.

OLYMPISM AND POLITICS

After sportivization, which developed in practically all countries in the second half of the last century, came the progressive internationalization of sport, most fully realized in the Olympic Games, originated and promoted by Baron De Coubertin.

While the goal De Coubertin had in mind with the creation of the modern Olympics was social and pedagogic, it was inevitably also political. On the level of internal politics, in fact, sport acts as a link between the different classes, stabilizing the social order, while on the level of foreign politics, by promoting competition between athletes and teams of different countries, it is liable to conflicts of national standing.

It is not therefore surprising that during the first editions of the Games, which were most closely dependent on the internationalism of the universal expositions, various diplomatic problems came to the fore. In Stockholm, for example, in 1912 Finland wanted to participate with a team of its own, but Russia, of which Finland was part, opposed this intention. The same problems rose concerning Vienna and the Hungarian and Bohemian teams which wanted to file past on their own. A compromise was at last reached: the Hungarians, in line with a tradition which dated back to the Olympics of

Athens, filed past with their own team and their own flag, the Bohemians filed past and participated under the Austrian banner, while the Finns, with an autonomous team, were to file past next to the Russians, but without the Russian banner which only in case of victory would be raised, surmounted by a flame with the Finnish colors.

The fact that for De Coubertin, a convinced champion of the legitimacy of the national teams, the geography of sport and that of politics was not the same, bears explicit witness to the potential conflicts between political states and nationalism inherent in the Olympic gathering.

The three editions of the Games which took place in Antwerp, Paris and Amsterdam in the 1920s, with the exception of the exclusion, in retaliation, of the German teams in 1920 and 1924, were not marked by important political questions, and the same held true for the Olympic Games of Los Angeles in 1932, which were extremely successful, both as spectacle and from the point of view of sport.

The various polemics raised by the Berlin Olympics organized in 1936 were due to the growing Nazi racial discrimination, which clashed with the pacific Olympic cosmopolitanism. A movement for boycotting the Games came into being in the United States, while in Barcelona the European socialists organized an alternative event, the Olympics of the people, which however were not held due to the outbreak of the Spanish war.

In view of these situations, De Coubertin made it clear in the last years of his life that Olympism must not be subject to the influence of transitory phenomena and must exist independently from political contingencies, establishing itself as a true religion: *religio athletae*.

Despite all this, the 1936 Olympics took place regularly with great success and excellent results, in a unique scenographic setting immortalized by Leni Riefensthal in his cinema masterpiece. It must however be added that for the first time, in open contradiction to the Olympic spirit, various journalists introduced the classification by nation.

These observations would seem to indicate that there may be sound reasons for affirming that with the Berlin Games the

Olympics assumed their mature form: financed by a national state with an eye to its home and foreign policy.

The Olympic Games, run off in a minor tone in the immediate post-war period, were not marked in their first two editions by any particular diplomatic or propagandistic incidents: the only outstanding novelty was the return of the Soviet team to Helsinki after an absence of forty years. In Melbourne in 1956, on the other hand, several problems began to surface: on the occasion of the Hungarian revolt against Soviet occupation there were various reactions which led to the withdrawal of some of the Olympic committees, while Egypt and Lebanon boycotted the games in protest against the military campaigns of Israel, France and Great Britain in Suez and in the Sinai, and the people's Republic of China abandoned the Games because of the official recognition given to the Nationalist China of Taiwan.

The extraordinary success of the Rome Olympic Games of 1960 was the result of the great organizational commitment of the Italian nation, protagonist in those years of an unhopd-for economic miracle, followed by the games of Tokyo which definitively rehabilitated the Asian power.

Before the opening, clashes between the army and protesters which caused the death of 250 people and the wounding of another 1000 cast a pall over the games of 1968 in Mexico City, the first ones in a non-industrialized nation.

Those games are still remembered today, in particular because a few of the United States athletes raised their fists in a gesture of protest demanding justice for the American blacks.

The Olympics of Munich in 1972, as everyone knows, were marked by bloodshed when Palestinian terrorists killed one Israeli athlete and kidnapped ten others, with the purpose of asking for the liberation of 200 Palestinian prisoners. The event came to a tragic end at the airport of Furstenfeldbruck with a bloody gun battle between the Bavarian police and the fedayeen commando in which thirteen people lost their lives. Montreal 1976, in addition to a disastrous economical management, was marked by the exclusion of the team from Taiwan and boycotting by many African countries

in protest of racial segregation in South Africa.

The Moscow Olympics of 1980 were boycotted by the United States and other western countries in protest against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, while in 1984 in Los Angeles the countries of the communist block deserted the Games in retaliation.

We have dwelt upon these events in order to show to what extent the Olympic institution is inevitably linked to the international political scene and in moments of crisis any declaration of neutrality is thwarted.

On the other hand, the very concept of Olympism as a religion which unites the fundamental values of the other religions and reawakens the values of peace and universal brotherhood is extremely ambivalent: Olympism can mean resigned acceptance of existing conflicts, but at the same time hope for an alternative. In this sense the proposals of the German theologian Jurgen Moltmann may not be entirely utopian when he suggests joining the Olympic Games, as regards their organization and finances, to a super-national organ such as the United Nations and expresses the hope that in the future victories will be dedicated to the men and not the nations they belong to.

According to Moltmann "modern commercialization of public sport has degraded it to service and goods, thereby destroying the class that characterized sport. Might not the Olympic idea as such be the key to freeing these games from a mentality based on performance and on consumerism, associating the games with a life style characterized by a simplicity which is the negation of this society of performance and consumerism? De Coubertin declared himself in favor of an ascetic life nowadays no longer a virtue of sportsmen alone. The life style of the future world community can be none other than that of a simple way of life in communion. Olympism, as the expression and reflection of this divided, oppressed and threatened world, is in crisis. Olympism as an alternative of the community to this divided world, as an alternative of liberation to this oppressed world, and as an alternative of life to this threatened world is the possibility we are offered by this crisis."

SOCIETY AND SPORT

There can be no question but that sport, and more specifically athletic sport games, provide an extraordinary field of study for the social researcher who can discover models, structures and value systems from a point of view that is both fresh and particularly fertile.

Sport as a mirror of society represents a new cognitive potential, leading to the emergence of new paradigms of interpretation that may cast new light on the entire social fabric.

This is why the recent discovery of sport as a subject for learned analysis is so important, its aims no longer that of ennobling sport but, on the contrary, as a means of understanding society as a whole more in depth.

A privileged observatory for social relations and daily life, sport makes it possible to identify the specific characteristics of the different societies.

The practice of any sport both reflects that given society and contributes to its formation; there is no before or after in the rapport between society and sport, but only a continuous dialectics.

An exemplary case, in this sense, is that of sportivization which Elias sets in the ambient of the industrial revolution, without however reducing it to a mechanical effect. The spirit of sportivization, indeed, with its cult of measuring and regulations, descends from the same values which permitted the industrial revolution itself to take off.

If the Victorian English model, thanks to its worldwide diffusion, soon came to be the dominant paradigm of modern sport, it is also true that several variants developed in the contemporary world.

We are in particular referring to the French variant, essentially consisting of bicycle and automobile road races, which represent the epic of technology, and the oriental variant which descended principally from the ancient martial arts, revisited above all by the Japanese.

In the last two decades still another variant has emerged, the so-called Californian sports, which, in contrast to the British model of competitive team games, consist in activities of

adventure and vertigo, practiced, at times with technological supports, individually or by small groups in direct contact with nature.

This category includes surfing, which was the precursor in the Sixties, and hang gliding, which today represents perhaps the most perfect expression.

The practice of these sports corresponds to the great changes in values that came to the fore in the last two decades marked by the emergence of a new individualism and hedonism, often bound to the search for new emotions and a "gentle" rapport with the environment.

Ecology and cooperation seem to be the key values of these new practices which, unlike the competitive Victorian games, are also particularly favored by the feminine public.

Another characteristic which they have in common with the racing marathons and certain forms of rhythmic gymnastics and body building is mass participation unlike the competitive team games which are considered specifically a form of passive spectacle.

But the Californian type is particularly partial to the adventure trend: from free climbing to the various crossings of deserts, oceans and rivers, a myriad of challenges with nature have been invented, variously interpreted in relation to the doing without or the use of more or less sophisticated technological supports.

The craving for adventure evident in Californian sports unquestionably represents the contemporary variant of that search for excitement which Elias set at the center of the process of sportivization.

These new disciplines reveal an impelling need for a new and different rapport with nature, with technology, and between men, a need felt widely throughout the world of today.

Nor in this case is sport to be interpreted simply as the symbol of social changes, for it is, on the contrary, one of the protagonists of these changes, as is amply witnessed by the large-scale diffusion of the Californian sports.

These new tendencies of contemporary sport have been mentioned not with any intent of predicting the future but as a means of furnishing an idea of the complexity and social

relevance, aware of the fact that sport is by its very nature an intricate mixture of old and new, tradition and innovation, archaism and futurism.

FOR A NEW SPORT CULTURE

After examining the values of sport as a great cultural observatory, it seems fitting to conclude with an analysis of its social functions, above all with regard to the future.

The great civilizing potentials in particular must be underscored, in an attempt to show the primary role it could, and probably already does, play, within the nations and in the relationships between them.

At this point mention must be made, as an aside, of an aspect that has not yet come up in the course of this brief excursus, but which today, in the era of mass media, is unquestionably the great force of sport: communication.

In the era of television, sport qualifies essentially as a means of worldwide communication and, in particular when the Olympic Games come around, the entire globe is involved.

The fact that sport never ceases producing signs inevitably turns it into a constantly open channel for an unbroken dialogue between men.

What we have here is a universal language which, aside from certain specific episodes in which it was intentionally utilized, promotes and reinforces constant diplomatic relations between nations.

Every day sport sets off a dialogue packed with meaning which involves, on different levels, all those actively engaged in sport as well as an audience that covers almost the entire world.

This by no means implies that all the messages set in motion by sport are neutral. On the contrary, with the exception of that vast and little known area of sport that is authentic play, they usually correspond to two prevalently mystificatory types of reasoning: that of commercialization and profit, on the one hand, and that of politics and ideology on the other.

But what really matters, it seems to us, is the fact that sport

in any case is a great channel of communication, and as such may be used badly, but may also be used well.

It is to this second hypothesis, to the enormous potentialities of sport as a means of communication, that we appeal in hopes of relaunching the idea of a new sport culture, any utopia aside, with rhetoric and futile gigantism relegated to the past, that will once more affirm the centrality of man, of real men who suffer and rejoice, lose and win, in life as in sport.

THE COURAGE OF UTOPIA

by
Stefano Jacomuzzi

I've just finished reading the story of forty years of Panathlon and I blush to admit that I discovered that the jury for a literary award of which I was chairman up until yesterday (I recently resigned) was created, and for years also guided, by none other than Panathlon: the "Bancarella Sport" award. I remember a telephone call years ago asking me — perhaps in view of some hybrid and special quality to be found in an "academic", a poor scholar, who had also attempted to write a few thousand pages on sport, seriously, with enjoyment and enthusiasm — to preside over this award because the chairman, I imagine because of his age and health, was no longer up to the task. At Chianciano I then learned that the man in question was Aldo Mairano, but I still didn't connect his name (which I certainly should have!) with Panathlon, and the same thing happened with that vivacious charming Tuscan-Ligurian whose acquaintance I made on that occasion and who went by the name of Renzo Chiappale; yet he was the Panathlete who had thought up the award! These may be extremely personal matters, but they tell you a lot, on the one hand about the discretion, perhaps excessive, of an association which does not presumptuously impose its image

on the public, and on the other about the culpable excess of silence which accompanies it, about the neglect on the part of the mass-media, incapable of recognizing the importance of a physical presence, even when with a touch of aristocratic distinction it refuses to blow its own trumpet.

To tell the truth, I knew what Panathlon was. I had even given a talk or two to the members of the club of Turin, invited by friends to speak on sport. But I was not aware of the scope of its activities, the importance of its action, the broad range of its experience.

Reading the pages by Carlo Alberto Magi has opened up new horizons and at times I too felt the nostalgia that transpires from his words. For sport, the pages we (at least as far as I am concerned) have lived in sport, the long jump competitions no one ever heard about in small town fields, the participation in minor insignificant championships rest within us as something beautiful and authentic, just as the moments of glory, of the Olympic podium, remain in the hearts and memories of great athletes and champions, such as our (pardon, your) President — and even the bitterness of defeat is — as Vergil says — sweet in our memories. Pathetic? No, not really. Treasuring a memory means rediscovering one's true self in the present and the concreteness and validity of any action that we undertake depends on this patrimony of feelings.

I've read the story of forty years of Panathlon with the utmost care, I might even say with imagination. I have come to know men, to understand ideas, feel the contrasts, fatigue, delusions, that went hand in hand with a constant and touching enthusiasm and an obstinacy that in the end led to results. At the beginning an outsider like me may feel put off by that subtle air of triumphalism which here and there seems to transpire from between the lines. But in continuing one becomes aware that the lines of their collective story are traced with great objectivity, and it becomes evident that this is not triumphalism, but well-deserved pride in what has been accomplished, the ascertainment of an inventory which has a credit balance. And in these times, at one and the same time of plenty and of famine, of indifference and of reckoning, a

credit balance of this kind, where profits are not defined in terms of a bank account, is fully entitled to a frank expression of satisfaction, one might almost say a rightful sense of pleasure. Perhaps this may all sound rather utopian. But without a bit of utopia, what kind of world can we ever achieve?

It is not up to me to discover or reveal the place of Panathlon in the field of sport — and even less to indicate what it should be. But it seems to me that its presence would be amply justified solely by that implicit appeal to its origins whereby sport is always sport, free from contamination, immune to the assaults which disfigure and pervert its nature, not drawing the tunic over one's eyes, as Caesar did with the dagger of Brutus, so as not to see. No, clear vision is needed, an acceptance of responsibility for the effective situation in which one intends to work, but without betraying the inalienable, constituent aspects of a patrimony we must preserve and develop. In my opinion Panathlon would have the right to exist even if its role were only that of constituting a sort of ever present pang of conscience, a place and an idea that are annoyingly present, an encumbrance that cannot be gotten rid of and which prevents, as a perpetual "bothersome" moral impediment, any behaviour that might cynically overstep the limits.

We all remember the episode in Genesis in which Abraham tries to save Sodom from divine wrath and asks God if he would have the fifty righteous who might be in the city perish too. "If I can find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes", answers the Lord. And Abraham manages to lower the number of righteous who might with their presence save the city and each time God accepts the cut. "... Let not the Lord be angry and I will speak yet but this once more; Peradventure ten shall be found there." Shall we transfer the biblical tale into the secular, temporal and sport field? If one day we find ourselves in need of saving sport from completely disappearing, where will we go to find those ten righteous?

APPENDIX

APPENDIX 1

VIALI: CURRICULUM

Early in 1900 he enrolled in the "C. Royer". But his first love was swimming although he was also interested in all the other sports. In 1906 he took part in his first sport competition: an under-18 race in the canal of the Giudecca, where he came in second.

In 1909 he was on the Target Shooting team of Venice which won the Italian championship of racing and shooting among non-military teams.

In 1911 he was on the team of the Royer which competed in Turin, classifying himself as a "laurel wreath" at the bars.

On that occasion he also competed in the 1000 meter race and the 110 obstacle race classifying himself in maximum time (2 bronze medals).

Before the war of 1915/18 he won two Venetian championships in 100 meter swimming in Padova, with place of honor in other races. He participated in two winter trials: one in Padova and one in Venice, and two clothing trials (completely dressed) one in Venice and one in Mira.

During the war, he was Captain/SPE at the age of 23 with three promotions for war merit, and he continued his athletic activity in the ambience of the sports he engaged in in the Army.

His activity as organizer and manager began as early as 1907. He was one of the founders of the first football society in Venice (Unione giovanile), one of the founders of the Sport Pedestre Venezia 1908; one of the founders of Veneziana Nuoto and in 1920 of the "Fenice" (basketball and track).

In 1920, backed also by Emilia, Tuscany and most of the associations of central-southern Italy, he helped to bring the F.I.S.A. (as the track federation was called at the time) to Venice.

On that occasion there was a split (Lombardy, Piedmont, Liguria) where the U.I.S.A. was formed, not internationally recognized.

He was one of the collaborators in modifying the statute and a technical revision in line with the international federation.

In 1920-21, together with Paolo Foscari, he accompanied a track team to Budapest-Prague-Berlin with an additional meet at Stettino. Included in the team was Virgilio Tommasi, for the long jump, at present a high functionary of C.O.N.I. (Italian Olympic Games Committee).

In 1925 when the Federation passed to Bologna (President Comm. Buriani of the Virtus) it was proposed to transform FISA (same abbreviation as the International Canoeing Federation) into F.I.D.A.L. With his unforgettable friend Bruno ZAULI he participated in the long promotional struggle for the introduction of sport in the school. In 1921 he succeeded in having the sport field of S. Elena (football and all track facilities) and property of the city built with the help of three financial backers (Colussi-Scarabellin and Moroni).

Just as he also succeeded in getting the City to buy the Halls in the

Zattere owned by the Monopoli Sali e Tabacchi and turn them into the head offices for the Aquatic Sports for which a detailed project has been ready for years, drawn up by the architect De Marxi. For about 15 years he was Provincial Delegate of CONI and for some years National Administrative Inspector and as such he participated annually in the meetings of the National Board of Directors where he was a member of the Commission to Verify Powers. In 1951 he founded PANATHLON INTERNATIONAL.

APPENDIX 2

THE CONVOCATION OF THE FOUNDERS

GRANTED

that sport, throughout the World, has developed to such an extent that in many aspects it can be considered one of the principal activities of each and every Nation;

In order to bring the various sports together, to develop friendly relations and to promote the sporting idea especially in its moral and social respects, in sincere support of the work of the Sport Federations under the guardianship of the C.O.N.I., as far as regards in particular chivalry, seriousness and discipline;

and that at table friendships and mutual bonds are revived, talk and discussion is more open and cordial, doubts, ambiguities and misunderstandings are often eliminated,

and that sport must unite individuals and peoples *in a single ideal* apart from particular interests, political convictions, social classes and age,

IT IS PROPOSED

to institute a group composed of a limited number of members, in each City, for now at least Provincial Capital, immediately in Venice, *in a day or two in the Veneto or better in the Tre Venezie* then (very soon) throughout Italy and subsequently after a brief experimental period in EUROPE and in the WORLD.

HEADQUARTERS — A grand hotel like Bauer, Danieli, Luna.

To Sig. Domenico CHIESA = VENICE

Venice, May 30, 1951

with a heartfelt entreaty to take part in the meeting that will take place Wednesday June 6th at 9:30 p. m. *on the dot* in S. Fantin Ponte delle Veste n. 2004.

If you agree as to the premise and the aim, a sign of your adhesion will be welcome, if you are unable to come.

Best greetings. Signed Guido Brandolini d'Adda — Domenico Chiesa
Aristide Coin — Aldo Colussi
Antenore Marini — Costantino Masotti

Mario Viali

Attached: Outline of the Constitution to be discussed at the meeting.
Address: (Only for the time being) "SPORT" Ponte delle Veste —
S. Fantin n. 2004 tel. 20.615

APPENDIX 3

MEXICO'S "GODFATHER"

At the beginning of the 1970s, as a member of the central Board of Directors of Panathlon International, I frequently had the occasion to contact Panathletic friends in South America, in particular Argentina, the home of ing. Roberto Monteverde, president of the Panathlon Club of Buenos Aires and Governor of the 11th District of Panathlon International.

At just this time, the Mexican Javier Ostos Mora, whom I did not then have the pleasure of knowing personally, was president of the International Amateur Swimming Federation (FINA). When I stressed the need to create other Panathlon Clubs throughout America, and not only in South America, the man who came to Monteverde's mind was Ostos Mora: he might be just the right person in Mexico and above all in the capital.

As time passed and Roberto Monteverde persevered, his friend Javier was convinced that the panathletic idea held great promise and finally on August 7, 1974, the bases for our movement were also laid in Mexico City, with the foundation of the Club Panathlon of Mexico.

As a result, I took the opportunity of going from Italy to this lovely city, eager to be present and if possible act as godfather for the birth of the club.

Fourteen years have passed since then and I still remember the solemnity and emotion of that moment.

The Club of founders was excellent, their sport curricula extraordinary, and I came home convinced that the job had been well done and that good seeds had been sown. I also felt sure of having discovered a leader, the person who would help the panathletic philosophy bear its fruits in Mexico as well.

Together with him, and this detracts not the least from the other founders, was another man with the same ideals who took it upon himself to promote the creation of a District for that dear sister of ours, the Republic of Mexico; the man I am referring to is Paulino Rivera Torres, whom I met, together with Ostos, during that solemn ceremony on August 7, 1974.

Paulino Rivera Torres fought for the District and he succeeded, with the formation of the 13th District of Panathlon International.

Unfortunately in the fullness of his life our dear friend Rivera

Torres departed from this world and what he had done began to fall apart.

Be that as it may, the man responsible for sowing our idea in Mexico was and remains our dear friend Javier Ostos Mora, who has had to take up where Paulino left off and carry on his work.

In celebrating fourteen years of struggle to foster our ideals in the bosom of this lovely country, I have been asked to write a brief prologue for this promotional edition of the Panathletic Idea and I cannot refuse for I am intimately bound by bonds of affection and ideals to all those who cast the first seeds in 1974; and naturally, like the others, I feel responsible and proud of the progress in store for our cause in this brother country.

I have been invited to the commemorative and promotional ceremony of our Idea, which is to take place this year in Mexico City.

I will do all I can, despite my 83 years, to be with you in such a welcome and solemn moment and to reconfirm the title I so proudly hold which was conferred on me at the time, Godfather of the Panathletic ideal in Mexico.

If ill luck should keep me from fulfilling these desires of mine and circumstances should keep me away, through these lines I wish to send to all of you my most fervid good wishes for the struggle and enthusiasm in favor of a cause we so deeply believe in, with a prayer that your successes may be ever greater and better and that deeper roots may produce the fruits we all desire.

A heartfelt embrace from an Italian who feels himself Mexican and who, thanks to a sporting nature, is united body and soul to each of you.

Macerata, Italy, July 11, 1988.

Lamberto Cicconi

APPENDIX 4

WHO IS SISTO FAVRE

by Aldo Mairano

The idea of trying to tell the Panathletes who Sisto Favre — thinker, orator, writer, organizer — is would be a waste of time and effort for many of them have heard him speak, have read what he has written, or know what he has done. Moreover the plebiscite which called him to the Presidency of Panathlon International is a significative demonstration of how well known and highly thought of he is. On the other hand, not every one knows that in his youth this man of letters, student of philosophy, history and archaeology, one of the most cultured and impassioned advocates of that complex of thought and action that might be defined as “neo-humanism”, whose activities have been directed in particular to the field of sport where he was one of the first to infuse it with culture, was an athlete of considerable standing in the various sports he actively engaged in. As Lando Ferretti, formerly president of CONI and of Panathlon of Rome said, his life has been *“dedicated to sport, conceived of as an irreplaceable means for eliciting moral values, as the inspiration for artists and poets, as the synthesis of a civilization in continuous development.”*

And effectively Sisto Favre has dedicated his entire existence first and foremost to the affirmation of these ideals. *“Inspired — as Adriano Falvo, at the time president of Panathlon in Naples wrote — by his feeling and by his peerless spirit, by his passion for sport which makes him an example for youth in particular, by the intensity of a distinguished cultural grounding.”*

The pages he wrote are always distinguished by their elegant style and wealth of profound meanings, not devoid of a moving aura of poetry. In the “Tuttosport” of Turin, an illustrious journalist who hides behind the almost anonymous initials “vl.c.”, has this to say: *“Sisto Favre writes like that professor of Italian and Latin none of us had, but all dreamed of having. His words deal with things and memories, emotions that continuously emerge. His writing exemplifies and musters the entire range of his extraordinary culture of life, through episodes, examples, quotes, observations, scenes, personages, some real, some only imagined by a mind so veracious that it is incapable of deceit. After all, how can one who loves deceive himself?”*

And his entire apostolate is truly based on love, an immense love for humanity, culture, sport; it is studded with unforgettable pages which constitute an authentic monument to the symbiosis — of which he was mediator and convinced champion — between sport and culture, sport and ideality. One of the first perhaps in our times, he realized that the nobility of the sport idea consists of more than physical health alone, and finds expression at the highest level in none other than the moral development of its objectives: the

redemption of a humanity which seems to have forgotten the Gospels, the indispensable basis for the construction of a human solidarity based on peace, on friendship, on love between peoples. And many were the sleepless nights he offered to this mission, with the enthusiasm of a neophyte and the profundity of a man of culture.

Of his numerous collections of essays, brief mention can be made of "Lo sport fatto sociale", "Aspetto etico e umanistico dell'educazione fisica", "Olimpismo e civiltà", "Paleogenesi dell'Olimpismo", "L'ideale sportivo da Vittorino da Feltre a Carl Diem", etc. followed first by the book "Arte e sport nell'antico Egitto", addressed to the world of culture and sport, and then a monumental work, published by the Dante Alighieri ("Civiltà Arte Sport"), fruit of a decade of impassioned work and considered invaluable by writers, critics and sportsmen. Cesare Bonacasso, man of letters and sportsman known to all, has this to say: *"Not only those who have to do with sport, but all men of culture should be grateful to Sisto Favre for having so generously given us, with this marvelous and noble endeavor, one of the most priceless spiritual museums in which what may be the most attractive aspect of the history of mankind comes alive."* His vast cultural and sport activity has been acknowledged by the conferral of various awards such as the "Premio della Cultura Minerwa d'Oro Raniero Nicolai" (1963), the "Premio culturale Annibal Caro" (1968), the "Premio culturale della presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri" (1970), the Gold Medal, unclassified, in the "Bancarella Sport" Award (1970), the "Medaglia d'Oro dei Benemeriti della Cultura e dell'Arte" conferred on him in 1972 by the President of the Republic. He has also been called to be a member of the International Olympic Academy, is a member "honoris causa" of the Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts and the Accademia Tiberina, is president of the Cultural Sport Association (Associazione Culturale Sportiva), and was a member of the teaching staff of the Scuola Centrale dello Sport.

He could not, obviously, keep his distance from the panathletic movement and he was one of the first to accept the invitation of the late lamented Mario Viali. Founder and delegate vice president of Panathlon in Rome, he was soon called to be a member of the Board of Directors of Panathlon International of which, up until yesterday, he held the office of deputy vice president.

He dedicated a great part of his many-faceted activities to Panathlon International, and was responsible for the events and celebrations on the highest level, including the "Premio Panathlon International", the award of which he was creator, in Rome and in Innsbruck. For this initiative, as honorary president of Panathlon International, I provided the words for the following significant dedication on a plaque offered to Sisto Favre in recognition of his endeavors: *"Panathlon International to Sisto Favre, creator, promoter, admirable organizer of the Premio Panathlon International which was achieved in Rome in its first edition with superb organization, master of faith and of the ideals of sport, student and writer on the Olympic*

splendors, always the first to arouse and promote with noble intents the values of sport."

It is to this man, who, according to what Lando Ferretti had to say "he adds to all his other merits that of modesty: he does many things, he works day and night, he tries to stay in the background as much as possible: he is a man who does not seek applause" that the Assembly of Presidents in Venice has entrusted the helm of Panathlon International. It is in good hands. His election, unanimously desired and greatly hoped-for by the out-going president, avv. Demetrio Balestra, represents the logical and natural conclusion of an entire existence dedicated to the service of those very idealities which constitute the moral basis of the institution of Panathlon.

APPENDIX 5

THE FUTURE OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

The Assembly of Presidents of Panathlon International affirms the fundamental importance of the Olympic ideal as a component of human civilization:

reaffirms its total support of the work of the IOC for the defense and promotion of this ideal as it is defined in the Olympic Charter and whose objective is to put sport in the service of the human individual;

expresses its full faith in the future of the Olympic movement and the Olympic Games;

exorts the IOC to multiply its endeavors in collaboration with the public authorities and with those responsible for the development of sport and the educational formation of youth, to eliminate the ever-growing dangers which the Olympic Games must face, dangers to be identified particularly in gigantism, an exaggerated nationalism, in the deleterious tendency — which is coming to the fore — of forcing the psycho-physical personality of the athlete to its limits;

invites the IOC to apply article 26 of the Olympic Charter on the status of the athlete, in acknowledgement of the new social and economic situation;

decides to associate Panathlon International ever more directly with these endeavors as with those undertaken for the safeguarding of the sport ideal in general and fair play, endeavors which correspond precisely to the panathletic idea;

commits all the Panathlon clubs to concretely orient their activities in this sense so as to achieve the objectives stated above, using whatever means they believe most opportune in the area of their territory;

requests the presidency of Panathlon International to submit to the presidency of IOC all the acts so that the opinion of Panathlon International and the suggestions formulated during the assembly may be made known to the competent authorities.

APPENDIX 6

THE INDIAN "CASTES"

Four clubs were constituted in India between 1976 and 1978: Bombay, Calcutta, New Delhi and Ahmedabad. It seemed rather strange, for that country, so different in culture and customs which had remained intact despite the attempt at westernization by the English, had never furnished anything particular in the way of sport. However the enthusiasm, comprehensible on the other hand, of having "conquered" India, after South America, was so great that no one paid much attention to an observation in which doubts were expressed as to how the Panathletic ideal could take hold in a country completely lacking in sport traditions. Mr. Maurice Ellmore was the "liason", whose entrepreneurial activity often took him to Europe, including Italy. Invited to a meeting of an Italian Panathlon club, his enthusiasm was so great that he began to promote clubs in India, and the one in Bombay was the first of the four he succeeded in setting up. But the problems encountered in India were not limited to the restricted number of personalities interested in sport. The division of the people into religious castes apparently represented an insurmountable obstacle to the idea of their coming together in a club, even though of a sporting non-political and non-sectarian nature.

After the initial news of the constitution of the clubs, which the Secretary registered as numbers 144, 153, 163 and 165 in chronological order, little more was heard and no one ever knew for sure whether any activity was being carried out. Nor was it possible for Panathlon to send a delegate to that far-off country to recuperate the operativeness of the clubs, and the Board of Directors could do nothing but acknowledge the situation, archive it, and cancel the Indian clubs from the list.

APPENDIX 7

VIOLENCE IN SPORT

The PRESIDENTS of Panathlon International, met in Florence on May 25th and 26th, 1979, to discuss the problem of violence in sport, confirming their determination to do all in their power to safeguard sport in the ambience of the panathletic ideal and their profound conviction of the fundamental duty of Panathlon International to furnish its contribution regarding the most pressing and difficult problems currently to be found in the world of sport:

acknowledge the fact that the problem of violence in the field of sport, in its various and disparate forms, is currently more serious and topical than ever and that, therefore, it requires on the part of sport lovers an efficacious, concrete and constant action to prevent further degeneration and to help in the normalization of the situation;

express their faith in what the "International Association in the Fight against Violence associated with Sport" is doing, and of which Panathlon International is a convinced and active member;

recommend that the public authorities be more severe in intervening to safeguard the public order in the sector of sport events; that the sport Federations adopt proceedings aimed at reducing incentives to violence, at the heart of the sport regulations themselves; that sport managers not force the limits of the psycho-physical personality of the athlete, an absolutely deleterious tendency; that the mass-media work for education and re-evaluation of the essential values of sport activity; that sport organizations adopt initiatives aimed at isolating violence and deviating spectators from its use;

pledge all the Panathletes, each in his own field of sport, to do their utmost to achieve these objectives, with direct, convinced and conscientious work;

and lastly, furnishing the president of Panathlon International with the mandate of submitting the "acts" of the convention to the presidency of the "International Association in the Fight against Violence associated with Sport", to the IOC, and to the International Sport Federations so that all valid suggestions can be taken into consideration.

APPENDIX 8

FAREWELL GIULINI

He left us as discreetly as was his custom as a Man. Almost as if he did not want to bother anyone, not even for his last farewell. He closed the chapter of his life so swiftly that we were stunned, still incredulous that it could have happened.

But if he himself could have made his appointment with death, we think he would have done it just that way. Suddenly, without suffering and without making others suffer more than necessary. And in his world, that world in which he lived for almost sixty years, that world of referees which has been his life and one of the most important things in that life. In fact Giuliani was in the Referee Section in Milan when he was suddenly taken ill. He still went there not because it had become a habit, but because in a sense he identified with these premises, so full of what he had loved most.

Saverio Giuliani, 'grand'ufficiale' of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy and "gold star" for CONI for his sport merits, had been, in private life, the manager of a pharmaceutical firm and held offices in the most important association in this category. For his entrepreneurial capacities, Confindustria had rewarded him with a gold medal.

In sport he belonged to the epoch of the pioneers of Panathlon International and Italian football. Founding member of the Panathlon Club of Milan, in 1951, he was vice president for eight years and president for seven. Then between 1968 and 1972 he was president of Panathlon International. Currently he was always present at the meetings of the Central Board of Directors as treasurer and director of the review.

He was one of the most eminent executive managers in Italian football, thanks also to his gifts as equilibrator. Ever since he was a boy, football was in his blood, refereeing a vocation. He began in 1920, casting the foundations for the referee sector. From 1950 to 1958 he was president of the National Football League, in times that were moreover fairly delicate; from 1962 to 1972 he was national president of referees. Well-merited referee of the Federcalcio (Football Federation), for a decade he also worked in the federal court of the same federation, for six years as president, then as a member.

It is impossible to express in words how much Giuliani did for sport and how much he gave sport, with his wisdom and integrity. And what he has done cannot be cancelled but will remain in time and is still with us, in particular and above all in Panathlon. It is as if he were still here. And in this last farewell, still incredulous and stunned, we wish to capture his spiritual presence in the presence of what he has left us. Not then "farewell" but a warm "ciao" just like always, for we know that he is still with us and spiritually will continue to inspire us with the noble message of a life dedicated to sport.

APPENDIX 9

FAREWELL TO A FRIEND

Marquis Luigi Medici del Vascello died suddenly on Sunday, October 26th.

Sixty-nine years. A life marked by profound affections, teeming with ideas and ideals that were far, too far, above the reality of the world around him, a life marked by an intimate, anguished conflict between the cold lucidity of thought and the passion of his heart.

Rarely did his expression betray that inner torment, the bitter disappointments. He was much more apt to let his joy come out into the open and always that self-assuredness which is the result of innate honesty, correctness, a warm-hearted goodness.

He was a member of Panathlon Turin, then President. He was a member of the board and vice president of Panathlon International. But it is not the contributions that he gave in these offices that count for Panathlon — to which he was deeply bound, to which he dedicated so much of himself for it interpreted those ideals of strength and loyalty which he had within himself — it was his presence. It was — even though frequently tacit — his example.

His way of thinking, always intense even when not expressed, which unconsciously served all of us as guide.

Marquis Luigi Medici del Vascello was born in Genoa, in 1911. With a degree in jurisprudence, 'commendatore' of the crown of Italy, knight of SS. Maurizio and Lazzaro, gold medal of the Ministry of Education, he became a member of the Panathlon Club of Turin in 1958. Vice president in that same year until 1963, he was president from 1966 to 1969 and from 1974 to 1977.

It was his particular gifts as a convinced sportsman and organizer that led to his election in 1966 to the Board of Directors of Panathlon International, an office he held until 1969. In 1970 he was nominated vice president of Panathlon International, an office which he held for a decade.

As a sportsman, he loved hunting but his passion for the hunt was closely tied to his love for nature. In his mind he saw hunting in the light of a superior ethic, meant to keep the ecological balance among the fauna, unlike other activities which upset this natural balance. He was Italian delegate to the International Board for Hunting.

He was also a member of Rotary Club for over twenty years, first in Genoa, then in Turin, contributing here too, as in Panathlon and the International Board of Hunting, his circumspect managerial sense, never imposing it, but with a fervid propulsory activity.

He fought in World War II, then participated in the struggle for Liberation and was also imprisoned for his partisan activity.

Initially an industrial entrepreneur in Genoa (the firm of which he was president built the port structures and the airport of Genoa), then agricultural entrepreneur with the Mandria of Turin, in which his great gifts were once more able to shine brightly.

APPENDIX 10

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF IOC IS A PANATHLETE

Juan Antonio Samaranch, Spanish ambassador to the Soviet Union, elected successor of Lord Killanin as president of IOC, the International Olympic Committee, is a Panathlete of the Club of Barcelona and in 1976 was awarded the "Flambeau d'Or", together with Lord Killanin and Marc Hodler, by Panathlon International.

Samaranch, who became 60 the day after his election (he was born in Barcelona on July 17, 1920), belonged to a family of textile industrialists and was himself a textile industrialist before being nominated ambassador to the USSR by the Spanish government. In Iberian sport, on a competitive level, he has been an example of those Panathletic values which distinguish the athlete, and, on an organizing level, of that ideal force that must sustain action in man and manager.

Physically he was not naturally endowed — as the chronicles affirm — and it was due to his enormous will power and his passion for sport that he succeeded first in boxing and then in hockey on wheels, two sports that are still his great passion. Captain of the Spanish national hockey team, in 1951 he led it to the world title. Samaranch was president of the Spanish Olympic Committee from 1962 to 1970. In 1966 he was elected a member of the IOC, and became vice president from 1974 to 1978. Last year he became a member of the executive commission, as head of protocol.

The anything but easy task of continuing the work of Lord Killanin — who left the presidency of IOC after eight years in office — to safeguard the Olympic Games is now in the hands of Samaranch, to whom Panathlon International sends its congratulations with the traditional "good work".

Panathlon International also sends its greetings and best wishes to Lord Killanin, a friend it trusts is still with it in the defense of the Olympic ideals and sport ideals in general.

Our greetings also go to our friend Mohamed Mzali, first minister of Tunisia, who, at his desire, has left the office of vice president of IOC, marked by his concrete commitment, including the friendly and spontaneous rapport with Panathlon International, to find a constant point of encounter regarding problems of common interest and expansion of Panathlon in Tunisia.

APPENDIX 11

THE MOTION ON "SPORT AND FAMILY"

Panathlon International, at its convention in Lausanne from May 22nd to 24th, 1961, after having dedicated two days of discussion to the theme "Sport and Family" voted the following final resolution, aimed at inspiring the activity of its Clubs and its members, as well as orienting public opinion:

- 1 The family remains a vital cell of society, a community place of love and experience, a source of comfort and always more the center where leisure activities are formulated.
- 2 Sport can be used in the best or in the worst of ways, but when put in the service of man in the Olympic and panathletic spirit, it becomes a decisive factor of education, character formation and preparation for life.
- 3 Sport, practiced by the members of a single family, all together, can contribute enormously to their cohesion and the personal development of each of them. Even so, experience has demonstrated that even non-sporting parents can use sport as a means of education, as long as they are capable of exploiting the positive aspects.
- 4 The task of parents, sporting or not, is that of setting their children, when they are still very small, on the road towards the practice of sport conceived of as an element of joy, of faith in oneself, of the discovery of others, of amenability, of physical and psychical equilibrium and an expansion of the personality, and protect them with good sense and loving firmness against temptation and insidious excesses.
- 5 The participation of the mother-wife is highly recommended not only in her interest, but also to ensure the harmony of daily life and safeguard the equilibrium between the practice of sport and the imperatives of family and school life.
- 6 The choice of sports engaged in, as well as the identity of this practice, must conform to the family budget, and not ever become an insupportable expense, the object of rancour, of jealousy and even of arguments in the family.
- 7 One of the essential tasks of the sport clubs and the local authorities is to facilitate the development of the sport engaged in as a family pastime. The responsibility of the parents and the clubs becomes particularly important when it

is a question of getting a child that is weak, poorly endowed or handicapped, to participate in a certain form of sport activity, thus furnishing the child with an invaluable occasion to overcome his infirmity and to find a place for himself, without complexes, in the world of the healthy.

- 8 The active, positive, forthright and comprehensive role of the parents is of even more importance when one of the children prepares or dedicates himself to a highly competitive sport. Parental influence in this case will be much better accepted by the child, and his problem will acquire greater interest, the benevolent desire to solve them together while, at the same time, retaining the due authority in making decisions that concern the future of a minor. This is possible only if a permanent, open and trusting dialogue exists between the parents, the school, health and sport authorities, and the child himself. This dialogue must clarify every stage of this difficult and impassioned adventure, not overly complaisant, but without authoritarianism, in the hopes of achieving a human and social success for the young person who has committed himself.
- 9 On the basis of practical suggestions expressed during the discussions, Panathlon International will shortly publish a document which will furnish a variety of actions possible at a local, regional, national and international level, entitled: "The Family and Sport: two Partners in the Service of the Human Person".

APPENDIX 12

IOC OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZES PANATHLON INTERNATIONAL

In its May session in Rome, the International Olympic Committee officially recognized Panathlon International as a sport organization with particular moral objectives.

This recognition was immediately communicated, by telegram, to the president of Panathlon International by the president of IOC himself, Juan Antonio Samaranch, who then sent the letter of official communication to Dr. Paolo Cappabianca.

The news, received with a great ovation by the Assembly of Presidents, in Stresa, and with general satisfaction in the Panathletic world, is the confirmation of the particular attention that the IOC has dedicated to the activity of Panathlon International and, above all, its commitment in defense of sport ideals, particularly with the debates on the future of the Olympic Games, on sport as an essential component of modern man, on sport and family. The conclusions of these discussions were at the time presented to the president of IOC, Samaranch.

APPENDIX 13

CIAO, SEGRETARIO!

Destiny has suddenly torn our General Secretary from the love of his family, which he adored above all, and from us Panathletes, a man we loved and whose daily impassioned endeavors in favor of Panathlon International we followed with grateful admiration. He was a gentleman, a blue-blooded sportsman, a great Panathlete. I have lost a peerless friend, a precious collaborator.

We all know what Angelo Galletto Valladares represented for Panathlon International. His best energies, his irrepressible enthusiasm, his untiring activity have always been lavishly extended to Panathlon.

Angelo Galletto Valladares had made Panathlon his second family: it was his "protégé" to which he gave his all so that it might grow ever greater, more beautiful.

He gave all of himself with conviction and diligence for the constant expansion and affirmation of our Idea, rejoicing every time prestigious acknowledgements were attributed to Panathlon and the results we were all working for were achieved.

In this moment of deep emotion and sadness, it is comforting to think that, just before his earthly existence came to an end, he had the great satisfaction of receiving in "his" Genoa, the president of IOC, in official visit to Panathlon International, and to have been present at Montecarlo for the ceremonies of the "Premio Ranieri III" and the "Trofeo Panathlon International". He was radiant when he saw the prestige Panathlon had achieved in the world of sport; and much of the merit is also his for he dedicated himself to this objective as if it were a mission.

To Angelo Galletto Valladares goes all our gratitude, a gratitude without reserves, accompanied by our continuous constant affectionate memory, promising faithfully to continue our work in the defense of and in support of sport, so that Panathlon may continue its luminous way, as Angelo Galletto Valladares wanted it to.

APPENDIX 14

THE MOTION ON THE "SPONSOR" PHENOMENON

The 31st Assembly of Presidents of Panthlon International, met in Montecatini Terme on May 25th and 16th 1984, having heard the introductory reports and the subsequent broad discussion of the theme "The phenomenon of the sponsor in sport"

having noted

- a) that sport has always had and still has need of economic support and that these needs are constantly increasing;
- b) that there is a substantial coincidence of interests between the needs of our sport world and those of the new ways of communication by the economic world;
- c) that the latter has recognized sport as the most efficacious means of communication;
- d) but having also noted that this reciprocity of interests is unbalanced to the detriment of sport;
- e) and, lastly, that this reciprocity that once took the form of patronage — which was in the beginning a purely gratuitous act which brought social acknowledgement or psychological compensation to the initiator — increasingly is marked by the tendency to transform itself into an opportunistic overall concept that goes by the name of sponsoring;

having considered

the preceding and aware of the fact that the phenomenon of sponsoring is a situation unlikely to be reversed

affirms that

- 1) sponsoring must serve sport and not make use of it;
- 2) the sport federations must be on the alert and keep the rules of their sport in their domain and that their rightful prerogatives (organization and implementation of the contests, statute of the athletes, etc.) be always absolutely respected;
- 3) that the ideal sponsor is the one who understands sport, who loves it, who helps its human, moral and social values to be affirmed and spread.

APPENDIX 15

HOMAGE TO PAOLO CAPPABIANCA

On the 11th of July, at daybreak, in his Naples house, where he was born on the 4th of November 1916, Paolo Cappabianca passed away. A great grief for the entire Panathlon, of which he was President up to one month before his death.

His ascent in Panathlon begun in 1968 as President of the Naples Club, an office which he held until 1972. Then, he was elected Vice-President of Panathlon International (1972/77), and then he was elected President, an office which he held for full eleven years (1977/88).

Decorated by the I.O.C. with the Olympic Order, CONI Gold Star for sport merit, he had been rowing champion and had also been appointed Vice-President of the Italian Rowing Federation.

Moreover, he was a member of the Organizing Committee of the Sailing Olympics, which took place in Naples during the 1960 Rome Olympics and also of the Games of the Mediterranean, held in Naples in 1963.

Lawyer, for thirty years he was the manager of the maritime branch of Assicurazioni Generali.

The most important thing for him was to be, not to have. I believe there is no other way to describe Paolo Cappabianca.

His way of being was his great humanity, his spontaneous communicativity, a strong yet simple personality, all concentrated in that uncommon single gift: charisma.

To work in Panathlon and for Panathlon together with Paolo Cappabianca was, for me, an exceptional period of my life.

I learnt many things from him, but especially moderation, tolerance, the ability of judging impartially, always clearly visualizing what had to be done for the good of Panathlon. His lessons of life, fruit of intelligence and experience together, were never imparted, but descended with natural simplicity from the strength that example has, to become stimulus, incentive, reasoning, intelligence, but, above all, a serenity of the soul that makes it possible to overcome the greatest bitterness that could be encountered on the way.

If Panathlon has a history of his own, then Paolo Cappabianca will be part of it as a great President, definitely one of the greatest, since the qualitative leap that Panathlon International experienced during his Presidency will never be forgotten.

He was capable of giving Panathlon not just greater internationality, but world-wide prestige. The I.O.C. acknowledgement, the consideration which Panathlon International benefits from inside the International Olympic Committee, the mutual consideration between Paolo Cappabianca and the I.O.C. President, Juan Antonio Samaranch, are things that will remain uneffaceable in that qualitative leap that marked significant steps in panathletic development.

And last but not least, the Rapallo head office, truly worthy of the Panathlon he wanted, removing it from the narrow and unbecoming Genoa office, is "his" head office.

Paolo Cappabianca, as the current President of Panathlon International, Spallino, writes, left us after the Rapallo Presidents Assembly was over, after what the future of Panathlon was to be had been written.

To all Panathletes he left a great spiritual testament.

To me, he left, above all, the pride of having worked with him. Years of mutual commitment, sealed by an affection that has greatly enriched me and that makes me feel close to him even now that someone else answers from his Naples phone.

The almost daily call, up to the last days of his life, made me learn something new from him: serenity while waiting for the end. An uncommon quality, this as well.

Paolo Cappabianca left me an inheritance of which I am proud. With that boldness he taught me when, in moments of discouragement he would tell me: "Don't give up, keep at it!".

And, together, we built "his" Panathlon, which is alive, throbbing, future oriented in the way he wanted it, and that will remain thus if we shall not forget the great teachings of Paolo Cappabianca.

Giorgio Bazzali

APPENDIX 16

FAREWELL TO BALESTRA

On the 26th of June, in Lugano, where he was born on the 17th of January 1902, Demetrio Balestra, past President of Panathlon International, passed away. Founding member of the Lugano Panathlon Club in 1954, then President of the same from 1956 to 1958, he participated in the founding of Panathlon International (Pavia, 1960), where he was elected Vice-President, an office which he held until 1972, when he ascended to the Presidency, which he held until 1976.

First non-Italian to be elected President of Panathlon International, Balestra was a hockey player, had practiced civil and military equestrian sports, was active member from 1920 of the Swiss Alpine Club.

Lawyer, ex Brigadier General in the Swiss Artillery Corps, he gave Panathlon its first impulse to internationality, and his departure generated great sorrow in all Panathletes.

Demetrio Balestra has left us. With him disappears one of the great old men who have lived the glorious life of the Panathlon since the beginning and have carved its image with the contribution of their personality, of their bright example as men, citizens, sportsmen.

Great, eminent sportsman, Balestra immediately understood the beauty and the strength of the panathletic idea and he answered enthusiastically to the call of Mario Viali, the unforgettable founder of Panathlon, by promoting in 1954 the founding of the Lugano Panathlon Club, the first born outside Italy, ninth of the series, Club of which he was President from 1958 to 1960.

Then, as Vice President, he served constantly on the Central Board until 1972 when the Naples Assembly almost unanimously elected him International President, a title which he accepted as a commitment, confirming in a noble speech the principles of Panathlon to which he promised to inspire his management, namely loyalty to the sport ideal, exaltation of fraternity among men and peoples, internationality as the distinctive and unrenounceable character of the association.

After the unforgettable presidency of Mairano, fundamental step for the affirmation and consolidation of Panathlon, the four-year period held by Balestra was also a memorable one: because of the generous dedication of the President and the elevated moral and cultural content, not to mention some significant events such as the institution of the four-yearly "Flambeaux d'Or" prizes, awarded during splendid ceremonies in Rome, in the Capitol, in January 1973, and in Innsbruck, in the Imperial Palace in 1976, and the trip to the South American Clubs together with the late board member Babini in 1975, with the foundation of the then 8th District.

Together with these events, others of exceptional importance also

marked the activity of the President, apart from the normal management of Panathlon, without forgetting the visits to the Clubs, and the significant number of tenth and twentieth anniversary celebrations to which, with his presence, he gave prestige and relevance, appreciated and welcomed by all.

His tall, ascetic frame, his speech dry and down to earth yet constantly embellished with cultural references, and above all the sincerity of his passion for sport, and the certainty of being the bearer, through Panathlon, of a fundamental message for our civilization, are why he was so highly thought of and deeply respected by one and all.

Demetrio Balestra, born in Lugano in 1902, from an old Ticino family, graduated in Law at the Zurich University and practiced the professions of lawyer and notary in his native city.

In the Swiss Army he achieved the rank of Brigadier Colonel, the highest rank of the Swiss Armed Forces in times of peace.

He practiced with passion equestrian sports, field hockey and especially alpinism. He was manager of numerous sport and military associations.

Just before the recent Rapallo Assembly, from his small study, where he kept all the homages received from Panathletes during his visits to all the Clubs throughout the world, he wrote a letter where he expressed how sorry he was that he could not come and that he would therefore have to "say good-bye to Panathlon in absentia", and added: which is exceedingly sad.

Alas, shortly thereafter, another farewell followed, this time from life. For all of us who looked up to him as a bright example of sportsman and man, as an incomparable brotherly friend, this is extremely sad, nay, painful.

As a seal to these notes, no expression seems more worthy and appropriate to illustrate the thought and the feelings of Panathlon for the great old man who has just departed than the noble and moving words addressed to Balestra at the end of his presidency by Aldo Mairano, in Venice, when our Panathlon was certainly not as large or widespread as today, but better inclined to emotion, feelings, fondness:

"You have been for us a great and magnificent President, good, influential, sweet, severe, humane, volitive and capable; we stood next to you and you led us in the conquest of Latin America, in the founding of that District which will be the most beautiful and shining gem of your four-year long Presidency".

Then, handing him in the name of Panathlon, a copy of the famous Barovier nuptial cup, he added: "Look inside, Balestra dear friend: it is brimming with esteem, passion, faith, with the affection that we felt for you, that we still feel, and that we will always hold for you". Certainly, Balestra's spirit, he who so loved Panathlon, will be fulfilled: but the emotion that grips us while reading these words again, in quoting them, overcomes the contingent fact: only twelve years have elapsed and they seem so far away.

Domenico Chiesa

APPENDIX 17

WYSS' MESSAGE

We shall see our deputy vice-president Vittorio Wyss no more. "Kind, exact, at times fundamental": this is how a famous journalist who knew him well painted his portrait.

He left us in the night of the first day of April, after a long yet serene struggle against the failings of his tired heart.

After having returned home from his last hospitalization, he wanted us to gather in his airy and severe house in Corso Stati Uniti in Turin, which mirrored his life, thanks also to the care and uprightness of his wife Nina.

In the warmth of his exquisite hospitality he wanted us to meet a writer, a friend of his, to whom we wanted to propose writing about the founding of Panathlon and the fruitful work of Viali, Chiesa, Giuliani, Mairano and Balestra.

Near his fireplace, he had collected several works of art and the products of the handicrafts of populations that he had visited with his wife, both animated by the burning desire of knowing their silent histories, overwhelmed by the sensation created by champions coming from other continents make. I am quite convinced that his fervour came, apart from the exercise of the virtue of humility which he practiced out of religious faith, and from his scientific probity, from the need to compensate the common day-to-day activities of the large company for which he worked as a consultant, and which has been involved in the field of sport medicine since 1952.

Graduate "cum laude" in Medicine and Surgery, immediately after the Second World War, he specialized five years later once again with flying colours in Work Medicine. His scientific and human interests immediately focused on human physiology, a true base-camp for excursions towards the delicate and today treacherous field of sport medicine.

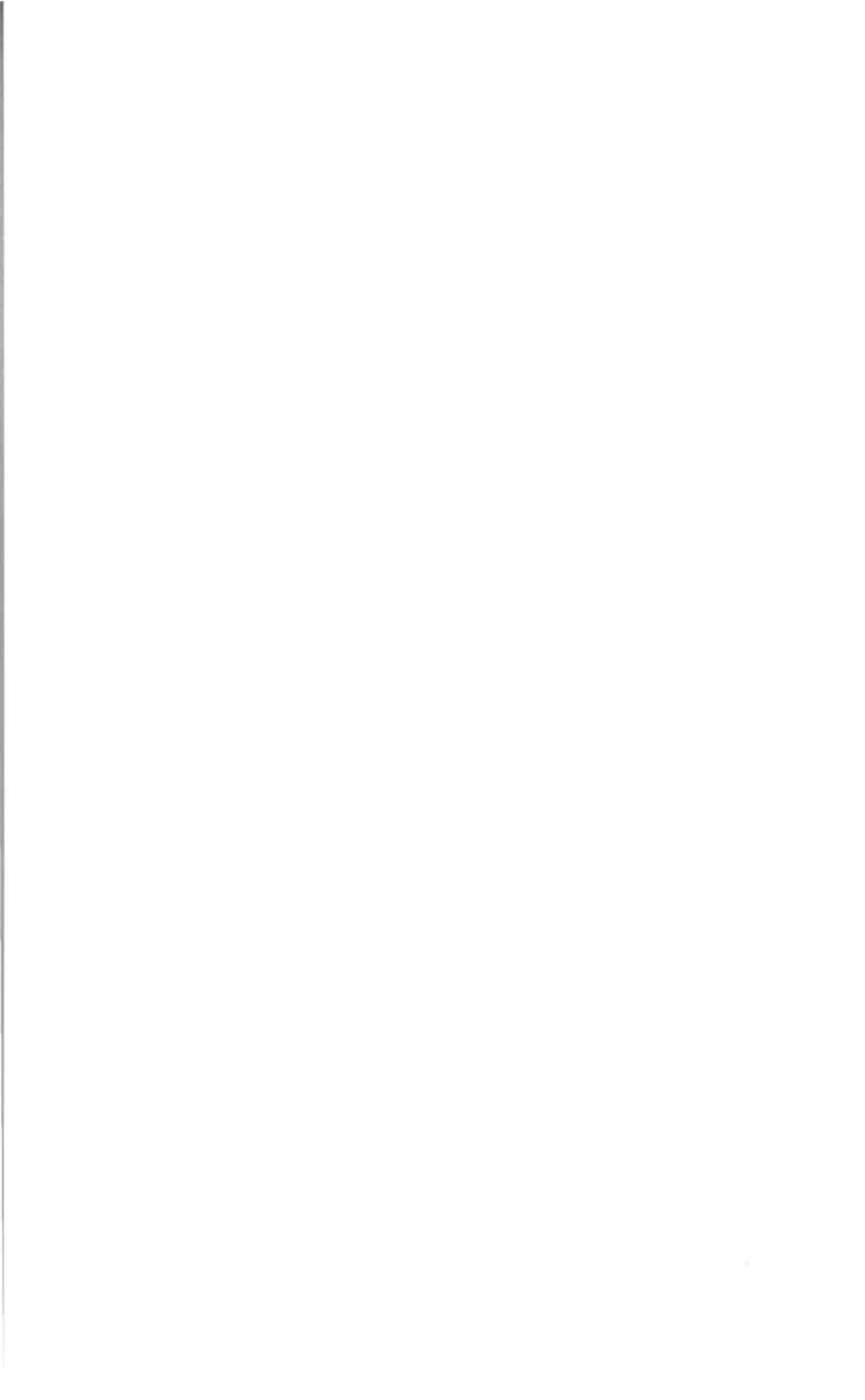
University teacher, and then full professor in the faculty of Sport Medicine at the Turin University, vice-director and then director of the Specialization School in Sport Medicine of the Turin University, publicist, author of more than 70 scientific publications, speaker in several international symposia, in February 1990 he was to participate in the Paris convention promoted by our local Panathlon Club: this to give you a rough idea of who Professor Vittorio Wyss really was and that, together with his Genoese friend Odaglia and a few others, he was a fixed reference point for the scientific culture of Sport Medicine. For us of Panathlon International he was the good friend, the wise advisor, the authoritative leader. Member of the Turin Panathlon Club since 1962, he was its president from 1970 to 1973; he then became the Governor of his District from 1973 to 1979; in 1981, thanks to the unanimous high esteem of the Panathletes from all the districts, he was elected as Central Board Member of the Association and Deputy Vice President.

He declined the proposal to candidate himself to the Association's presidency, burdened as he was by his scientific commitments and perhaps, although he never showed it, worried by the first signs of physical weakness. He never relinquished the tasks implied in his scientific posts, not even between his frequent hospitalizations. A phone call, a letter, conversations: all this made him present in the most delicate moments in the Association's life, as if the conversation was never interrupted, following the thread of trepidation and of constant considerations on the future of the panathletic movement. You will probably recall that very polite yet friendly way of his when he used to say: "It's me, Vittorio!"

Warm of heart, even when, and above all, where duty imposed it on him to underline the supremacy of the Association compared to our temporary existence, and to underline the need to renovate, strictly respecting the statutory limitations, the Clubs and of prompting members in earning their reputation on the field and in applying the definition of Club in the service of society to true life.

Go more deeply into the territory he told us during the Rapallo convention when concluding the debate in the absence of another great man, Paolo Cappabianca. Let us now make this message our own: in his Turin Club, from which he never really detached himself; in his District, where Governor Giuffrè was his brotherly and devoted friend, in all of our Association for which Vittorio Wyss was and has to keep on being the symbol of cultural and international vocations of the Panathletic movement.

THE FIFTEEN CENTRAL BOARDS
OF DIRECTORS
THROUGHOUT THE FORTY YEARS



1955/57 VENICE

Honorary President

Mario Viali

President

Fernando Pozzani

Vice Presidents

Federico Caflisch

Aldo Mairano

Members of the Board

Domenico Chiesa

Orazio Siino

Roberto Supino

Federico Sani

Carlo Beretta

Paolo Marzotto

1957/59 SIRMIONE SUL GARDA

Honorary Presidents

Mario Viali

President

Aldo Mairano

Vice Presidents

Federico Caflisch

Paolo Marzotto

Members of the Board

Domenico Chiesa

Federico Sani

Roberto Supino

Fernando Pozzani

Carlo Beretta

Daniele Turani

Alessandro Pietrucci

1959/60 PISA

Honorary President

Mario Viali

President

Aldo Mairano

Vice Presidents

Federico Caflisch

Lando Ferretti

Members of the Board

Domenico Chiesa

Arrigo Paganelli

Alessandro Pietrucci

Fernando Pozzani

Federico Sani

Roberto Supino

Aldo Travain

Vanni di San Vincenzo

1960/62 PAVIA

Honorary President

Mario Viali

President

Aldo mairano

Vice Presidents

Federico Caflisch

Lando Ferretti

Demetrio Balestra

Members of the Board

Domenico Chiesa

Massimo Della Pergola

Antonio Garcia y Bellido

Pierre Etienne Guyot

Antoine Hafner

Arrigo Paganelli

Alessandro Pietrucci

Fernando Pozzani

Federico Sani

Roberto Supino

Aldo Travain

Vanni di San Vincenzo

Jean Weimann

1962/63 RAVENNA

Honorary President	Mario Viali
President	Aldo Mairano
Vice Presidents	Demetrio Balestra
	Federico Caflisch
	Roberto Supino
Members of the Board	Domenico Chiesa
	Massimo Della Pergola
	Agostino De Rossi
	Jules Dublin
	Lando Ferretti
	Emile Gretsche
	Arrigo Paganelli
	Alessandro Pietrucci
	Federico Sani
	Aldo Travain
	Jean Weimann

As a result of the resignations presented by the Members of the Board Pietrucci and Travain, Saverio Giulini and Camillo Graf, the first of those not elected, were to be co-opted.

1964/65 MONTECATINI TERME

Honorary President	Mario Viali
President	Aldo Mairano
Vice Presidents	Demetrio Balestra
	Roberto Supini
	Saverio Giulini
Members of the Board	Francesco Babini
	Domenico Chiesa
	Massimo Della Pergola
	G.B. Giannoccaro
	Federico Sani
	Dario Toracca
	Carlo Ulessi
	Arrigo Paganelli
	Aldo Travain
	Jean Weimann
	Emile Gretsche

1966/68 CAGLIARI

Honorary President

Mario Viali

President

Aldo Mairano

Vice Presidents

Demetrio Balestra

Aldo Travain

Roberto Supino

Members of the Board

Francesco Babini

Domenico Chiesa

Massimo Della Pergola

Sisto Favre

G.B. Giannoccaro

Saverio Giulini

Luigi Medici del Vascello

Arrigo Paganelli

Carlo Ulessi

Giuseppe Zedda Caput

Jean Weimann

1968/70 PERUGIA

Honorary President	Mario Viali
President	Saverio Giulini
Past-President	Aldo Mairano
Vice Presidents	Fritz Pieth
	Roberto Supino
	Aldo Travain
Members of the Board	Domenico Chiesa
	Fernando Copello
	Massimo Della Pergola
	Sisto Favre
	Francis Lombardi
	Luigi Medici Del Vascello
	Dario Torraca
	G.B. Giannoccaro
	Ettore Roncoroni
	Carlo Ulessi
	Vanni Di San Vincenzo

As a result of the resignation of Vanni di San Vincenzo, Pasquale Meomartini was to be co-opted.

1970/72 FLORENCE

Honorary President	Mario Viali
President	Saverio Giulini
Past-President	Aldo Mairano
Vice Presidents	Luigi Medici del Vascello
	Aldo Travain
	Fritz Pieth
Members of the Board	Francesco Babini
	Domenico Chiesa
	Sisto Favre
	Pasquale Meomartini
	Roberto Supino
	Dario Toracca
	Fernando Copello

1972/74 NAPLES

Honorary President	Mario Viali
President	Demetrio Balestra
Past-President	Saverio Giulini
Vice Presidents	Sisto Favre
	Paolo Cappabianca
	Aldo Travain
Member of the Board Treasurer	Aldo Mairano
Member of the Board	Francesco Babini
	Domenico Chiesa
	Luigi Medici del Vascello
	Roberto Supino
	Dario Toracca
	Vanni Calvello

1974/76 BOLZANO

Honorary President	Aldo Mairano
President	Demetrio Balestra
Past-President	Saverio Giulini
Vice Presidents	Sisto Favre
	Paolo Cappabianca
	Domenico Chiesa
Member of the Board Treasurer	Luigi Medici del Vascello
Members of the Board	Francesco Babini
	Alessandro Chieco-Bianchi
	Lamberto Cicconi
	Sebastiano D'Amico
	Massimo Della Pergola
	Sisto Favre
	Hans Spohn

1976/80 VENICE

Honorary President	Aldo Mairano
President	Sisto Favre
Past-President	Demetrio Balestra
Vice Presidents	Paolo Cappabianca
	Marc Hodler
	Domenico Chiesa
Members of the Board	Sebastiano D'Amico
	Luigi Medici del Vascello
	Giuseppe Melis
	Francesco Monterisi
	Javier Ostos Mora
	Hans Spohn
	Aldo Travain

As a result of the resignation of the President Sisto Favre, Paolo Cappabianca was to be elected to the Presidency and Luigi Medici del Vascello to the Vice Presidency in the subsequent extraordinary Assembly held in Viterbo on 10/6/1977.

1980/84 SANREMO

Honorary President	Aldo Mairano
President	Paolo Cappabianca
Past-President	Demetrio Balestra
Vice Presidents	Domenico Chiesa
	Sisto Favre
	Walter Siegenthaler
	Francesco Monterisi
Members of the Board	Sebastiano D'Amico
	Vittorio Wyss
	Javier Ostos Mora
	Franco Malnati
	Aldo Travain
	Marc Hodler

1984/88 MONTECATINI TERME

Honorary President	Aldo Mairano
President	Paolo Cappabianca
Past-President	Demetrio Balestra
Co-Founding Honorary Member	Domenico Chiesa
Deputy Vice President	Vittorio Wyss
Vice President	Max Beer
Members of the Board	Giorgio Bazzali
	Giancarlo Brusati
	Roberto Fanucchi
	Franco Monterisi
	Javier Ostos Mora
	Jean Presset
	Sebastiano D'Amico

As a result of the death of Sebastiano D'Amico and Roberto Fanucchi, Fabrizio Antonelli and Sandro Bellei, the first of those not elected respectively in the 3rd and 2nd areas, were to be co-opted for the Central Board of Directors.

1988/92 RAPALLO

Honorary President	Aldo Mairano
President	Antonio Spallino
Past-President	Paolo Cappabianca
Deputy Vice President	Vittorio Wyss
Vice President	Jean Presset
Co-Founding Honorary Member	Domenico Chiesa
Members of the Board	Franco Monterisi
	Giorgio Bazzali
	Carlo Alberto Magi
	Pier Giorgio Bertotto
	Fabrizio Antonelli
	Max Beer
	Henrique Nicolini
	Pedro Damiani
	Rodolfo Bacelar Begonha

With the death of Vittorio Wyss, Giancarlo Brusato, the first of those not elected in the area, was to be co-opted for the Central Board of Directors, and Jean Presset was to be nominated Deputy Vice President, with Pier Giorgio Bertotto, as Vice President. On the death of Paolo Cappabianca Past-President Sisto Favre was to be nominated.

On June 7th, while this book was being printed, Aldo Mairano died in Genoa, at the age of 93.

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