

AMSTERDAM 1928

by Anthony Th. Bijkerk

The Organizing Committee for the Games of the IXth Olympiad, in Amsterdam in 1928 decided to appoint the director of the Municipal Museum in Amsterdam Mr. C.W.H. BAART president of the art section at their games with Mr. J.W. TEILLERS from The Hague as Secretary-General.

The Organizing Committee [usually called the "Comite 1928"] approached many national organisations asking them to take part.

At the very first meeting a 'working group' was established in which both Mr. BAART and Mr. TEILLERS took part, together with Mr. Ed GERDES and Jonkheer Jan FEITH as representative of the Comite 1928. Finally, an advisory commission was appointed with advisors, who each were specialist in the various disciplines of the "Concours d'art".

The first objective was to establish the "General Regulations for the Olympic Art Contest", setting out the conditions for participation.

Then the decision was made to hold an exhibition of the entries: paintings, sculptures, medal-designs and architectonic designs and this would take place in the Municipal Museum in Amsterdam.

It was held from 12 June to 12 August 1928, and a special catalogue in French was published. The public response was considerable; over 10.000 visitors came to visit the exhibition.

Great care was spent on the composition of the International Jury.

Two years before in Lisbon, the IOC had appointed from its midst members of the International Jury for the Art Competition. One year later, in 1927, the IOC and the Comite 1928 agreed to add renowned international specialists to the Jury for each discipline. It was also decided that Baron Alphert SCHIMMELPENNINCK van der OYE¹ (IOC member in the Netherlands, President of their NOC and a member of the Comite 1928) would be appointed President of the International Jury, with Mr. J.W. TEILLERS acting as Secretary-General.

Architecture

The following were appointed to the International jury:

General Ch. H. SHERRILL (USA) and
Major P.W. SCHARROO (NED)² for the IOC;
Engineer J. DUIKER (Amsterdam, NED);
Torben GRUT (Stockholm, SWE);
Prof. Dr. Wilh. KREIS (Dresden, GER);
W. KROMHOUT (The Hague, NED);
Desider LAUBER (Budapest, HUN)
Auguste PERRET (Paris, FRA).

The Art Competition in architecture was split up into two separate categories:

Architectural designs and Town-planning designs.

For each category awards could be granted in gold, silver and bronze.

The International Jury had to judge 124 numbers from the catalogue and in total looked through 450 models, drawings and photographs.

In the category *architectural designs* the International Jury awarded the prizes to:

Gold Medal: Jan WILS (NED) for the design of the Olympic Stadium in Amsterdam;
Silver Medal: E. MINDEDAL RASMUSSEN (DEN) for the design of a Swimming Pool in Ollerup;
Bronze Medal: J. LAMBERT (FRA) for the design of the Stadium in Versailles.

In the category *town-planning designs* the prizes were awarded to:

Gold Medal: Alfred HENSEL (GER) for the design of the Stadium in Nuremberg;
Silver Medal: J. LAMBERT (FRA) for the design of the Stadium in Versailles;
Bronze Medal: M. LAEUGER (GER) for the design of the Stadium in Hamburg.

Note: It is quite remarkable that Mr. J. LAMBERT from France won both silver (for town-planning) and a bronze medal (for architecture) with the design of the Stadium in Versailles. Further research is needed to discover if these designs are similar.

Literature

The section of the International Jury for *literature* consisted of:

Count Clarence de ROSEN (SWE) and
Count De Penha GARCIA (POR) for the IOC;
K.J.L. Alberdingk THIJM (Haarlem, NED)
Dr. P. C. BOUTENS (The Hague, NED)
H.E. Rafael CABRERA (Mexican Ambassador
in The Hague)
Dr. Herbert EULENBERG (Kaiserswerth am
Rhein, GER)
Marius Ary LEBLOND (Paris, FRA)
Johan de MEESTER (Rotterdam, NED)
Sophus MICHAELIS (Copenhagen, DEN)
Dr. Giuseppe PREZZOLINI (Rome, ITA)
Ernest THYS (London GBR)

The Art Competition for *Literature* was split up in three categories:

1. entries for lyric and speculative works, that is: song, poem, ode, hymn, ballad, cantata, lyric prose, essay, etc.
2. entries for dramatic works, that is: tragedy, drama, comedy, farce, libretto, pageant, dialogue, scenario, etc.
3. entries for epic works, that is: novel, short story, saga, tale, etc.

For each category awards could be granted in gold, silver and bronze.

There were 40 entries, divided among ten countries; 20 entries in lyric; 5 in dramatic and 15 in epic works.

In the category *lyric and speculative works* the International Jury awarded the prizes to:

Gold Medal: K. WIERZYNSKI (POL) for *Laur Olimpijski*;
Silver Medal: R. BINDING (GER) for *Reitvorschrift für eine Geliebte*;
Bronze Medal: J. WELTZER (DEN) for *Symphonia Heroica*.

In the category *dramatic works* the prizes were awarded to:

Gold Medal: not awarded;
Silver Medal: L. De BOSIS (ITA) for *Icaro*.
Bronze Medal: not awarded.

In the category *epic works* the prizes were awarded to:

Gold Medal: Dr. Ferenc MEZÖ (HUN) for *L'histoire des Jeux Olympiques*;
Silver Medal: E. WEISS (GER) for *Boetius von Orlamünde*;
Bronze Medal: C. and M. SCHARTEN-ANTINK³ (NED) for *De Nar uit de Maremmen*.

Music

The International Jury for *Music* consisted of:

Count CLARY (FRA) and Prince Casimir LUBOMIRSKI (POL) for the IOC.
Gustave DORET (Lutry, SUI)
Sem DRESDEN (Amsterdam, NED)
Prof. Dr. Z. JACHIMECKI (Krakow, POL)
Marco LABROCO (Rome, ITA)
Dr. Willem MENGELBERG (Amsterdam, NED)
Gabriel PIERNE (Paris, FRA)
Willem PIJPER (Amsterdam, NED)
Prof. Dr. Max von SCHILLINGS (Berlin, GER)

The Art Competition for *Music* was split up in three categories:

1. compositions for song for one or more persons, with or without the accompaniment of piano or orchestra;
2. compositions for one instrument, with or without accompaniment, and for instrumental chamber-music;
3. compositions for orchestra, (military band or brass band)

For each category awards could be granted in gold, silver and bronze.

There were 22 entries from nine countries; 5 vocal compositions; 9 orchestral and 8 for one instrument.

The quality of the music-entries was very poor and the International Jury decided not to award prizes in the categories *compositions for song* and *compositions for one instrument, with or without accompaniment, and for instrumental chamber-music* and finally only awarded a

Bronze medal: to Rudolf SIMONSEN (DEN) for the *Symphony No. 2 Hellas* in the category *compositions for orchestra*.

Painting

The International Jury for *Painting* consisted of:

Miguel de BEISTEGUI (BEL) and Count de Penha GARCIA (POR) for the IOC.
Aman JEAN (Paris, FRA);
A.E. GALLATIN (Washington, USA);
H.J. HAVERMAN (The Hague, NED);
Prof. Axel JORGENSEN (Copenhagen, DEN);
Prof. H. NAUEN (Dusseldorf, GER);
Prof. Isidore OPSOMER (Antwerp, BEL);
Sir William ORPEN (London, GBR);
Willy SLUITER (The Hague, NED);
Prof. H.J. WOLTER (Amsterdam, NED).

Owing to illness, the members Miguel de BEISTEGUI (BEL) and H.J. HAVERMAN (The Hague, NED) were unable to perform their duties; Professor OPSOMER and Sir William ORPEN (who himself had entered several works in this category) could not attend for other reasons. The other members agreed to replace de BESTEGUI and HAVERMAN with Count Clarence de ROSEN (SWE) and Mr. C.W.H. BAARD, chairman of the Art Section.

The Art Competition for painting was split up in three categories:

1. paintings (in oil, on canvas or wood);
2. drawings (on paper or similar material in one or more colours);
3. graphic art (engravings, lithographs, etc.).

For each category awards could be granted in gold, silver and bronze.

The International Jury had to judge about 460 paintings, drawings and graphic works belonging to participants from 18 countries.

In the category *paintings* the prizes were awarded to:

Gold Medal: Isaac ISRAËLS⁴ (NED) for his painting *Cavalier Rouge* (Ruiter in de Rode Rok);
 Silver Medal: Mrs. Laura KNIGHT (GBR) for her painting *Boxeurs*.
 Bronze medal: W. KLEMM (GER) for his painting *Patinage*.

In the category *drawings* the prizes were awarded to:

Gold Medal: J. JACOBY (LUX) for his drawing *Rugby*.
 Silver Medal: A. VIROT (FRA) for his drawing *Gestes de Football*.
 Bronze medal: W. SKOCZYLAS (POL) for his work *Posters*.

In the category *graphic works* the prizes were awarded to:

Gold Medal: W. NICHOLSON (GBR) for his work: *Un almanach de douze sports*.
 Silver Medal: C. MOOS (SUI) for his work *Posters*.
 Bronze medal: M. FELDBAUER (GER) for his work *Mailcoach*.

Sculpture

The section of the International Jury for *Sculpture* consisted of:

Count CLARY (FRA) and
 Prince Casimir LUBOMIRSKI (POL) for the IOC.
 C. ANGST (Lausanne, SUI);
 Prof. Bernhard BLEEKER (Munchen, GER);
 Louis Dejean (Paris, FRA);
 Theo van Reijn (Haarlem, NED);
 Prof. Ernest Wynants (Malines);
 Dirk Wolbers (The Hague, NED).

The Art Competition for *painting* was split up in two categories:

1. Statues;
2. reliefs and medallions.

For each category awards could be granted in gold, silver and bronze.

The International Jury had to judge about 255 sculptures, from which 80 were medals and reliefs.

In the category *statues* the prizes were awarded to:

Gold Medal: P. LANDOWSKI (FRA) for his statue *Boxeur*.
 Silver Medal: M. MARTIN (SUI) for his statue *Athlète au repos*.
 Bronze Medal: Mrs. R. SINTENIS (GER) for her statue *Footballeur*.

In the category *reliefs and medallions* the prizes were awarded to:

Gold Medal: E. GRIENAUER (AUT) for his design *Médailles*.
 Silver Medal: C.J. van der HOEF⁵ (NED) for his design *Médaille pour les Jeux Olympiques*.
 Bronze medal: E. SCHARFF (GER) for his design *Plaque*.

Conclusion

The Olympic Art Competition in 1928 were close to the concept outlined by Pierre de COUBERTIN when he made his proposals to integrate art and sports in 1906. This was shown by the interest shown by artists in various categories and from many countries who participated in this contest.

Notes

1. Alphert, Baron SCHIMMELPENNINCK van der OYE was Mayor of Doom; [6 April 1880, Bussum - 30 April 1943, Baarn]; was "chamberlain in service extra-ordinary" at the court of Queen Wilhelmina; his daughter Gratia Maria Margaretha SCHIMMELPENNINCK van der OYE was a wellknown skier and took part in the 1936 Olympic Winter Games. Baron SCHIMMELPENNINCK van der OYE became NOC President in 1925, almost a year after the death of his predecessor Frederik Willem Christiaan Hendrik, baron "Frits" van TUIJLL van SEROOSKERKEN; SCHIMMELPENNINCK van der OYE was nominated in the IOC on 26 May 1925 and died in office 30 April 1943.
2. Pieter Wilhelmus SCHARROO [16 September 1883, The Hague - 19 August 1963, The Hague] was a career officer in the Royal Netherlands Army; he retired with the rank of colonel in the Corps Royal Engineers in 1941; "Peter" SCHARROO was co-opted in the IOC on June 25, 1924, to replace "Frits" van Tuijll van Serooskerken; he was elected to the IOC Executive Board from 1946 to 1953; he retired from the IOC on September 23, 1957 and was nominated Honorary Member. Colonel Scharroo became known as the officer of the Dutch Army who had to defend the City of Rotterdam against the invading German elite-troops; after four days of heavy fighting, Scharroo had to surrender the citadel of Rotterdam because of heavy bombardment of the city by German bombers.
3. Margo Sybranda Everdina SCHARTEN-ANTINK, [7 September 1869 - 27 November 1957] and her husband Carel Theodorus SCHARTEN, [14 March 1878 - 31 October 1950] wrote their book *De Nar uit de Maremmen* as a team.
4. Isaac ISRAELS, [3 February 1865 - 7 October 1934].
5. Christiaan Johannes van der Hoef [11 October 1875 - 5 March 1933].