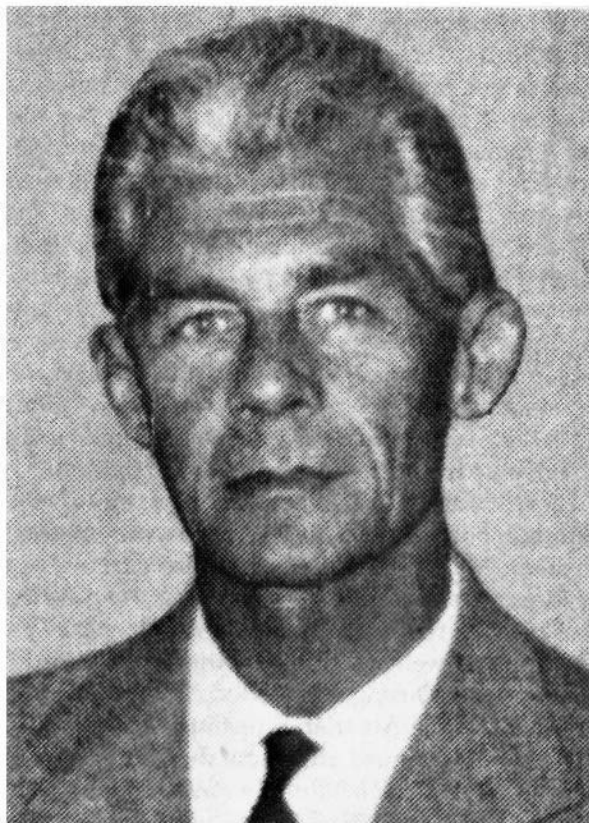


HRH PRINCE GEORGE WILHELM OF HANOVER

*25 MARCH 1915 †8 JANUARY 2006



HRH Prince George of HANOVER passed away in Munich on 8th January, 2005 at the age of 90. He was born in Brunswick on 25th March, 1915 as the second son of Ernst August, Duke of BRUNSWICK and therefore a direct lineal descendant of King GEORGE III. Princess VICTORIA LUISE was his mother who was the only daughter of the German Emperor WILHELM II and thus a great-granddaughter of Queen VICTORIA. George Wilhelm of HANOVER'S sister Friederike was queen of Greece and the prince was married to Princess Sophia of Greece.

George Wilhelm of HANOVER was partly educated at the famous private school Salem in Germany. In the Second World War HANOVER was major in the 10th Cavalry Regiment. In 1942 he left the army as HITLER forced all the German princes to resign from their services. After the Second World War he studied law at the University of Gottingen where he gained his Doctorate in 1948. HANOVER became headmaster of Salem School till 1958. In his educational work he strongly followed the ideas of Kurt HAHN who was founder of Salem School, Gordonstoun School, Scotland and the first Outward Bound School in Aberdovey, Wales, HANOVER was a first class educator stressing the humanistic ideal of the unity of body and soul. His

aim was to educate pupils willing to take leadership positions and responsibility in and for the community. In the course of their schooling pupils of Salem School had to devote three weeks of their holidays to social service. Boys were asked to build houses for the poorer people; girls had to work in hospitals. When an earthquake almost destroyed all of Argostol in the Ionian Island, HANOVER and a group of 100 boys of Salem School spent a month in the destroyed area to reconstruct an old people's home.

But Kurt HAHN was only one prominent person who influenced HANOVER. The other person - definitely not less prominent - was Pierre de GOUBERTIN; or to be more specific COUBERTIN'S educational/philosophical concept of Olympism. As a former Olympic athlete who belonged to the military team for the 1940 Olympic Games in Tokyo/Helsinki, HANOVER definitely was aware of the value of Olympic sport and the Olympic movement. He unremittingly stressed the educational role of sport for developing sound characters. It was only reasonable that HANOVER became president of the *International Olympic Academy* from 1965 till 1970. In this position he was brilliant in preserving the modern Olympic Spirit and the educational ideas behind it. In his function as president of the IOA he joined the IOC as ex-officio member at the session of the IOC in Vienna on 25th April 1966. When HANOVER was forced by the Greek fascist junta regime that had come to power in 1967 to resign as president of the IOA, he also stepped back from the IOC in 1971. But he remained on close terms with the Olympic Movement. He was still president of the National Olympic Academy of Germany (Kuratorium Olympische Akademie) from 1966 to 1981. He was personal member of the German Olympic Committee and member of the Organisation Committee for the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich.

HRH George of HANOVER devoted much of his life and working capacity to sport, education and social service. In Munich he created a riding school and became chairman of the Outward Bound Mountain School in Austria. In recent years he offered his help to Cambodian refugees in the West and frequently travelled to Thailand to distribute medicine and food at Cambodian refugee camps. His feeling for solidarity and his strong belief in the power of education made him an extraordinary personality.

Norbert Müller