



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Historical Archives
Olympic Studies Centre

Juan Antonio Samaranch

Fonds list

Overview of the content of the archives concerning his biography, mandates and activities from 1957 to 2001

14 April 2011



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Reference: CH IOC-AH A-P07

Dates: 1957-2001

Level of description: Fonds

Extent and medium: 5.20 l.m. Text documents¹.

Name of creator

International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Administrative / Biographical history

Juan Antonio Samaranch was born on 17 July 1920 in Barcelona. He was the third of six children in a family from the Catalan rich bourgeoisie. On 1 December 1955, he married Maria Teresa Salisachs Rowe. Two children were born from this union: Juan Antonio Junior, currently a member of the International Olympic Committee, and Maria Teresa. In 1991 he received the title of Marqués from the King of Spain for his involvement in the Olympic Movement.

He did his studies at the Business School of Barcelona, which he completed in London and the USA. He obtained a diploma from the Barcelona Higher Institute of Business Studies (IESE). During his studies, he practised roller hockey, for which he created World Championships in 1951 and which the Spanish team won.

While still playing a part in managing the family business, in 1954 he became a city councillor for the City of Barcelona responsible for sport, then Delegate for Physical Education and Sport in the Spanish Parliament in 1967. Appointed President of the "Diputación" (provincial council) of Barcelona in 1973, he resigned four years later, in 1977, when he was appointed Spanish Ambassador to the Soviet Union and Mongolia after the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

At the same time, he had an active career within the Olympic Movement. He was elected Vice-President of the International Mediterranean Games Committee for the second edition of the Games in Barcelona in 1955. On several occasions he was appointed Chef de Mission: for the Winter Games in Cortina d'Ampezzo (1956) and the Summer Games in Rome (1960) and Tokyo (1964). For these last two Games, he was also President of the Spanish delegation. Elected a member of the Spanish Olympic Committee in 1956, he became its President in 1967 until 1970. He was elected as an IOC member in 1966. Two years later, Avery Brundage appointed him Head of Protocol (1968-1975 and 1979-1980). A member of the Executive Board (1970-1978, 1979-1980), he was IOC Vice-President from 1974 to 1978. Elected to the IOC presidency in the first round of voting on 16 July 1980 at the 83rd Session, he succeeded Lord Killanin on 3 August that year.

Juan Antonio Samaranch endeavoured to breathe new life into the Olympic Movement. He acceded to the IOC presidency during the troubled political period of the Games of the XXII Olympiad in Moscow. Above all, he sought to give back unity to the Olympic family by defending its cause on his numerous trips and meetings with heads of state and sports leaders. In 1981, he obtained for the IOC the status of non-governmental international organisation and became the first IOC President, after Pierre de Coubertin, to establish himself in Lausanne. He was also in favour of the feminisation of the Olympic Movement, and during the Baden-Baden Congress gained permission for women to become members of the IOC. At his instigation, the IOC became involved in various initiatives to promote women and sport.

Among his accomplishments are his many activities to promote peace through the Olympic Movement. He managed to include both the NOC of the People's Republic of China and that of Chinese Taipei; with the assistance of Kéba Mbaye, he contributed to the abolition of apartheid in South Africa and the reintegration of the country in Olympic competitions; he visited Sarajevo during

¹ The number of linear metres corresponds to the files kept to date by the Archives Section. Other documents will add to this fonds in due course.



the civil war to express Olympic solidarity; and, thanks to his determination, the two Koreas marched under the same flag at the Opening Ceremony in Sydney.

For sport, he intensified the IOC's support to organise Paralympic Games as from the Winter Games in Sarajevo in 1984. He also made doping a priority issue by launching vast research and control programmes. The creation of the World Anti-Doping Agency in 1999 allowed the IOC Medical Commission to extend its scope of action. One of the major transformations of the Olympic Movement is undoubtedly the end of amateurism, and professionals' access to Olympic competitions, in accordance with the vision that Juan Antonio Samaranch gave to the athlete. Finally, it was under his presidency that the Summer and Winter Games were organised every two years, instead of in the same year, still respecting the gap of four years.

Among the reforms to the running of the IOC, he imposed a new financial policy which allowed for the increase in revenues and the diversification of resources. Thanks to a large share of the revenues generated by agreements with TV channels, he restructured Olympic Solidarity in 1981 and provided assistance to National Olympic Committees in difficulty, and developed action plans to contribute to the universality of the Games. Finally, confronted with an IOC crisis in December 1998, created through the abuse of trust of some members following the vote for Salt Lake City as host of the 2002 Winter Games, he reformed the structure of the organisation after an enquiry and sanctions against the members concerned.

On 23 June 1993, the inauguration of the Olympic Museum, representing the memory and spirit of modern Olympism, the work of his career, crowned his presidency.

On 16 July 2001, he left the seat of the IOC presidency to Jacques Rogge and became Honorary President for Life.

He died on the 21st of April 2010 at the age of 89, in Barcelona.

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer

The fonds was received by the IOC Historical Archives in 1993, following the construction of the new Olympic Museum in Ouchy. However, part of the files is still kept by the IOC Document Management Section.

Scope and content²

The fonds bears witness mainly to the professional activities of Juan Antonio Samaranch within the IOC as an IOC member (elected in 1966), as President (1980-2001) then as Honorary President (2001-2010), but it also contains some information on his activities outside the framework of this body, mainly information on his personal life.

The correspondence conducted by Samaranch between 1966 and 1980, as an IOC member in Spain gives information mainly on the relations that he maintained with other IOC members and his activities within the organisation.

The documents dealing with Samaranch's presidency address various subjects linked to the IOC administration and particularly the construction and inauguration of the Olympic Museum, the organisation of the Games and the IOC's relations with members of the Olympic family (National Olympic Committees, International Federations) and various international organisations. It also bears witness to Samaranch's participation in various Sessions, commission meetings and IOC Congresses, certain decisions taken at these various meetings, his re-elections to the presidency in 1989, 1993 and 1997, and the various distinctions that he has received.

The fonds also gives information on Juan Antonio Samaranch's many trips between 1980 and 2001.

² The information indicated in the paragraph "Presentation and content" is not complete. Other files are still kept in the Records and intermediary Archives Section and by Samaranch.



The fonds also bears witness to the activity of the advisers of President Samaranch: Adrien Vanden Eede, Jean-Claude Rochat and Arthur Takac (1982-1984).

Finally, the fonds contains information on his personal life, particularly concerning his philatelic collection and the death of his wife in 2000.

The fonds contains correspondence with various individuals and organisations: media, staff and members of the IOC, NOCs, IFs and other organisations linked to Olympism, as well as private correspondence. It also contains speeches, press conferences, writings, administrative documents, biographical articles on Samaranch and interviews with him.

It also contains itineraries, programmes, correspondence and travel reports, and press articles on Samaranch, but also on the events marking his presidency, thank-you letters and congratulations following, for example, his election to the presidency as well as criticism, particularly on the use of English during the announcement of the city of Sydney as host city for the Games in 2000, or on the gigantism in the organisation of the Games.

Finally, it contains requests for autographs, photos and interviews, greetings, invitations received and given, information letters and many memos, messages and telexes written or received by Samaranch.

Accruals

Yes

System of arrangement

The files are classified by subject, by document type or by activities in alphabetical order. The documents in the files are classified chronologically, from latest to earliest.

Conditions governing access

Part of the documents is freely accessible, subject to the provisions set out for this by the IOC. Indeed, according to the communicability time limits defined by the IOC's access rules, the files are not communicable for a period of 20 years after their creation.

Language / scripts of material

The documents are mainly in Spanish, French and English.

Publication note

Comité international olympique. 2001. *Les années Samaranch, 1980-2001*. Lausanne: CIO.

Juan Antonio Samaranch: Memorias olímpicas. 2002. Barcelona: Planeta.

VAREIA Andres Merce. *La présidence: 1980-2001*.

LYBERG, Wolf. 1997. *The Seventh President of the IOC – Facts and figures*. Lausanne: IOC.

MILLER, David. 1993. *The Olympic Revolution: Profile of Juan Antonio Samaranch*. Paris: Payot. & Rivages

Related units of descriptionInternal sources

- National Olympic Committee of Spain : D-RM01-ESPAG

Notes

The content of this fonds, including the Olympic identifications, are the property of the IOC.

Rules or Conventions

Description complies with ISAD (G).

Date(s) of descriptions

Last update: mars 11



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