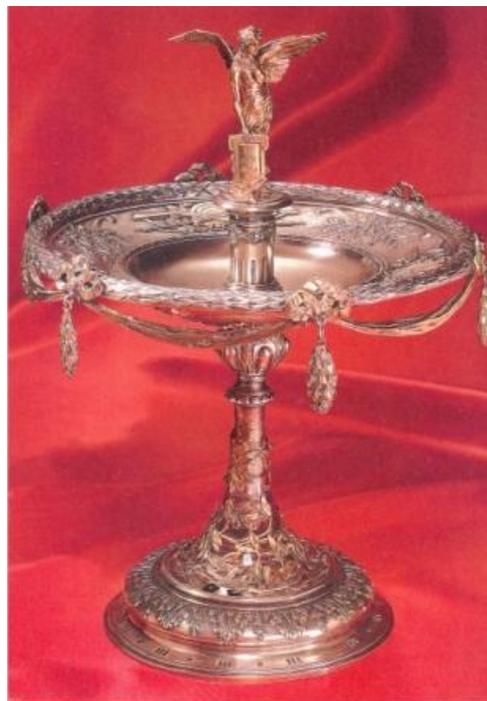


1949: Fluminense Football Club receives the Olympic Cup

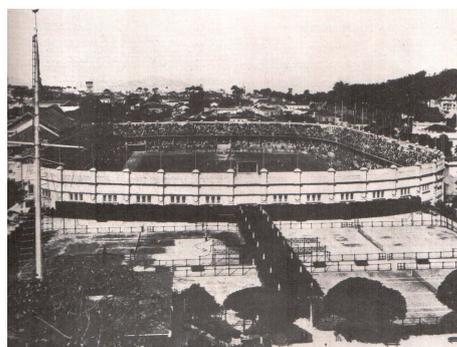
When Fluminense had been honored with the *Coupe Olympique* (Olympic Cup) in the year 1949 by the International Olympic Committee IOC, this cup formerly represented the efforts of the club to have organised the Regional Olympic Games back in 1922. The Fluminense FC had been the real organiser of the games in those times.

The Brazilian government had decided to realise the games at any case, even though if international financial support would fail to appear. Due to the recognition by the IOC, the games already turned to be international and therefore it would have been inconceivable to cancel the project based on economical constraints. The government nominated the *Confederação Brasileira de Desportos* CBD to realise the games. But neither a stadium nor the appropriate infrastructure existed to organise such an international competition. The Fluminense FC in Rio de Janeiro already had experiences organising football tournaments and other events. The cooperation between the government and Fluminense FC was obvious and on 5th May 1922 the two partners signed an agreement. The government accepted hereby to take over all costs needed to adapt the stadium for the event and also made available budgets to organise the games themselves.

From 1916 to 1930 Arnaldo Guinle had been the president of the traditional Fluminense FC. He also had been president of the CBD from 1916 to 1920 and handed over this duty to Oswaldo Gomes in 1920, who had been a former player at Fluminense FC. Soon after the start of the constructions at 1st July 1922 it became obvious that the original



The *Coupe Olympique*
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The stadium at Fluminense FC
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budget estimates would have been far to low. The construction had been officially authorised by the president of the organisation committee Coronel Estellita Werner, but the government escaped from its financial commitment. It was the Fluminense FC, who realised the games and took over a huge mortgage. At the end of the event the club had to take over the financial losses alone.



Arnaldo Guinle
© Internet Image

The engagement of the Fluminense FC was warmly welcome by the IOC. Henri de Baillet-Latour appreciated the club having offered its services to the fatherland and having undertaken all efforts and financial support possible to realise the games in the name of the government together with various sports associations and the public.

A formal appreciation only followed in 1949 when the IOC officially awarded the *Coupe Olympique* to Fluminense FC.

Since 1906 this cup gets awarded annually to institutions that support the Olympic movement with significant contributions. Usually the cup gets handed over to associations and communities, but only once in history it had been awarded to a football club: the Fluminense FC. The club was a candidate for the cup back in 1924, when Pierre de Coubertin had still been president, but got rejected. Also a second tentative had not been successful in 1936 and the Brazilian member of the IOC, José Ferreira dos Santos finally could guarantee the cup being awarded to Fluminense FC in 1948. Adjacent to the award assembly 1948 the IOC changed its rules not to award the cup anymore to clubs in the future.

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