



ITTF Museum Donations Program by Chuck Hoey, Curator

How do you hold an amazing total of 49 World Championship Gold Medals in the palm of your hand? By holding a single Table Tennis ball bearing the autographs of legends Victor Barna, Laszlo Bellak, Bohumil Vana and Richard Bergmann ! Such a ball was recently donated to the ITTF Museum, a Spalding Villa XXX ball from the 1938/9 season:



The ball also was autographed by H. Lurie, English internationalist who reached the Men's Doubles semi-finals of the 1938 and 1939 World Championships. The ball was discovered in England, and the signatures, each clear and well preserved, were likely gathered at the 1939 English Open, where all 5 competed. A very special ball indeed, and a proud addition to our ball exhibits.

Trophies donated

I am very pleased to report the donation of two magnificent trophies won by the late Hugo Urchetti of Switzerland, founding Treasurer of the prestigious Swaythling Club. These trophies trace the Swiss Men's Individual Championships from 1932 to 1948, which Hugo won 16 times, plus numerous doubles and team championships, a truly remarkable record. Thanks to the kind generosity of Marie-Jeanne Urchetti Hugo's legend will live on in the ITTF Museum in Lausanne, where these trophies will form the centrepiece of a permanent exhibit on Swiss Table Tennis.

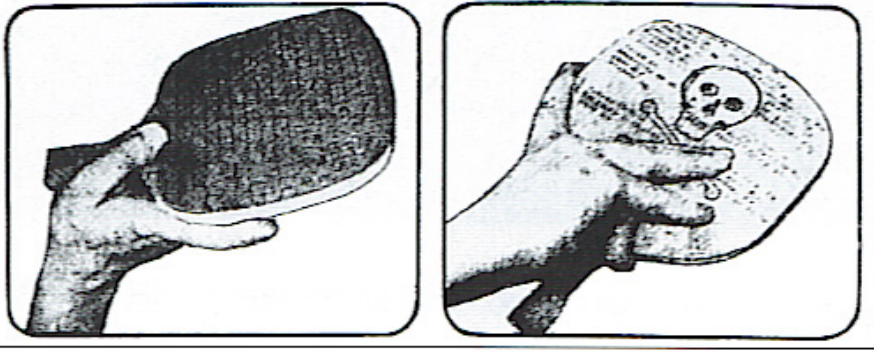
Ten trophies won by Claudine Protopopoff were recently found in Argentina, dating from the early 1930s to the 1950s. Research has uncovered that Ms Protopopoff played Table Tennis in Moscow in 1928, and then won several international events in Belgium in the 1930s, later moving to Argentina, where she continued her winning ways. One of the trophies was presented to her by none other than Eva 'Evita' Peron! These trophies were also donated to the ITTF Museum.



Center: 2 Swiss Championship trophies won by the late Hugo Urchetti, flanked by trophies won by Claudine Protopopoff, all donated to the ITTF Museum this year.

The donations program is a vital and active component of the ITTF Museum, and I urge all our World and Olympic Champions to give some thought to planning for the preservation of their legacies. For the first time in the history of Table Tennis we have a proper facility for honouring our great champions, and I ask all of you champions to donate your signed bat to the ITTF Museum. The great Olympic Gold Medalists from South Korea, Hyun Jung Hwa, Yoo Nam Kyu and Ryu Seung Min have set a fine example for all of our athletes by donating their inscribed bats.

Your help is also needed to locate bats used by our champions no longer with us. I am especially hoping to arrange for the famous skull and crossbones bat used by the late Zarko Dolinar to be on exhibit at the ITTF Museum, as well as bats used by the many early Hungarian stars ... we need to establish family contacts to achieve these goals.



Zarko Dolinar's famous skull & crossbones bat. Zarko is in Heaven now, but where is his bat? From Table Tennis Legends, by the late Zdenko Uzorinac

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