



∞ Introduction ∞

The Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement have a rich and complex history. But until 1991 no organized group existed to study and document this history. But on Thursday, the 5th of December 1991, a cool, rainy day, seven historians of the Olympics gathered together at a small pub, the Duke of Clarence, in the Knightsbridge section of London, and officially formed the International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH). ISOH began publishing its first journal in the spring of 1992, now entitled the *Journal of Olympic History*. It has been published three times per year since its inception.

Since the founding of ISOH, the study of the Olympic Movement and the Olympic Games has flourished. There are now several Olympic Studies Centres around the world where scholars and academics may do their work, usually supported by libraries of Olympic materials. Most of the scholars who direct the Olympic Studies Centres are members of ISOH.

And now we are ten years old. In December 2001, ISOH celebrated its 10th anniversary with the publication of a special issue of the *Journal of Olympic History*. Over the past few years one item of discussion at ISOH Meetings has been the status of the 1906 International Olympic Games in Athens. The IOC has taken the position that the 1906 Games are not official Olympic Games. This relates to a decision taken by the IOC and specifically, the *ad hoc* Brundage Commission, in 1948. But there is little doubt that in 1906, those Games were considered as Olympic Games by the IOC.

In this special issue of the *Journal of Olympic History*, Prof. Dr. Karl Lennartz, director of the Carl and Liselott Diem-Archive, Olympic Research Institute of the German Sports University in Cologne, discusses the status of the 1906 Olympic Games in exhaustive detail, using primary sources exclusively for his documentation. His article leads one little doubt that the 1906 Olympic Games should be given official recognition and full Olympic status by the IOC. We hope you will read and study the article carefully.

We are presenting this special issue to you for your own interest, and to show you what ISOH has produced during its existence, and what it is capable of in the future. We hope you will enjoy it, and especially, we hope you will learn from it. Further, we urge you to consider the thesis presented by Dr Lennartz, and give the 1906 Olympic Games their proper recognition.

We appreciate the support of the International Olympic Committee and hope that cooperation between our two groups may continue – to further the study of the goals and ideals of the Olympic Movement.

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