



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

By Anthony Th. Bijkerk

Because on May 3, 2001, during its meeting in Lausanne the Executive Committee accepted a proposal to celebrate its first 'decennial' with this special commemorative issue of the *Journal of Olympic History*, it is time to look back on the developments over the past period of ten years.

When I took over as Secretary-General from Bill Mallon in December 1996, ISOH had 194 members: consisting of 2 honorary members, 185 full members and 7 patron members.

- In December 1997, ISOH had 238 members: 2 honorary members, 222 full members and 14 patron members.
- In December 1998, ISOH had 262 members: 2 honorary members, 240 full members and 20 patron members.
- In December 1999, ISOH had 275 members: 2 honorary members, 250 full members and 23 patron members.
- In December 2000, ISOH had 296 members: 4 honorary members, 261 full members and 31 patron members.

The situation at this very moment (November 2001) is such that ISOH has passed the 300 mark and currently has 309 members: that is 4 honorary members, 30 patron members and 275 full members.

We will probably (again) lose a few, as some of our members, in spite of several encouragements, simply forgot to pay their dues over two consecutive years and thus will automatically [according to point Five, sub a, of the ISOH Constitution] be deleted from further membership at the beginning of the new year.

It is therefore with some reluctance that I once again urge the members to look at their personal situation in this respect, because there are still quite a few members, who forgot to pay the 2001 subscription dues.

If you wish to know whether or not you are among those people, then please contact me. My (e-mail) address and other details can be found elsewhere in this issue.

In his Presidential Message, Bill Mallon also mentioned quite a few other important details on ISOH's history, while Past President Ian Buchanan reminisced about his period as ISOH's president.

Let's now turn to a very pleasant matter.

You will read elsewhere in this issue that ISOH Doyen Wolf Lyberg has been awarded by the *International Olympic Committee* with the highly valued "Pierre de Coubertin-medal", which will be handed over to him by IOC President Jacques Rogge himself on November 22nd, 2001. This will happen during an Olympic Ball in Stockholm, for which all Swedish gold medallists have been invited, and which will also be attended by King Gustaf Adolf and Queen Silvia from Sweden.

On behalf of all our members, I congratulate Wolf Lyberg with this incredible honour.

The awarding of this medal shows how much the IOC has valued Lyberg's numerous contributions to the history of the Olympic Games, many of which have been reviewed, or even published in our Journal!

But where there is gladness, there can be sorrow too.

Again I have to report that the ISOH lost three of its members: James Stevens passed away last March in New Mexico, U.S.A. His obituary can be found in this issue.

In September, we received a letter from Mrs. Susan Techko in Canada, informing us that Tony Techko had passed away; and in October, I received information from Prof. Norbert Müller that in Prague, in the Czech Republic, Dr. Jiri Kössel had passed away at the too young age of 58. Norbert Müller together with Karl Lennartz wrote Kössl's obituary.

We mourn the passing of these three members.

This year, ISOH received an invitation for a closer cooperation with the *World Olympians Association* [WOA]. Of course, the invitation has been accepted, and with express permission from the various authors, some of the biographies of Olympians from the past, which were earlier published in the *Journal of Olympic History*, will be reproduced on the WOA website.

Finally, I express the hope that in the next ten years ISOH will grow even more and that, with the assistance of our members all over the world, we may continue to search for the true history of the Olympic Games, for more knowledge about the members of the Olympic Family, and of the Olympic Movement in general.

Anthony Th. Bijkerk
Secretary-General of ISOH