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Dear Editor,

I was pleased to see that Richard Stanton's excellent article on the Search for the Artists of 1912 has aroused the interest of Members. I can add some details on the winner of the gold medal for sculpture.

After settling in America in the late 17th century, the Winants family changed their Dutch name to Winans and proposed with the developments of the railroads. Walter Winans' father was one of two brothers who went to Russia to direct the building of the national railway system. Walter Winans was born in St. Petersburg on 5 April 1852, and was educated in that city.

As an adult, Winans established a base in Britain where he acquired a large estate in Scotland and pursued his hobby of deer breeding. He also travelled extensively throughout Europe and was honoured by the governments of Russia, Spain and Romania.

His Olympic debut in 1908 raised a question about his eligibility to represent America as he had never set foot in the United States, and he was required to swear his allegiance before the U.S. Consul General in London before winning a gold medal in Running Deer (double shot) and a silver in the single shot event.

He wrote five books on rifle and pistol shooting and was equally known as an equestrian sculptor, exhibiting fourteen times at the Royal Academy. As shown in Richard Stanton's article, Winans won the gold medal for sculpture at the 1912 Games and is the only American to win gold medals in both Olympic sporting and arts competitions. Trotting, another of his interests, led to his death. In a race at Barking, England, on 12 August 1920, he suffered a heart attack, fell from his rig, broke his skull and died instantly without ever seeing America.

His address at the time of his death was given as the Carlton Hotel, Brussels, Belgium.

Ian Buchanan
25 November 200

Dear Editor,

Re: A Database of Olympians by Bill Mallon

From my own perspective, the matter of properly recording an Olympic competitor's name is fundamental to basic Olympic history. Thus, while to some this subject may seem trivial and niggling, in my opinion it is far from it. Now, to comment on some details of Bill Mallon's thought provoking article:

Regarding the issue of Particles (short modifiers to surnames, e.g. 'von' or 'de' etc.) as discussed in the article, in my view the least acceptable standard would be to follow the name convention of the country of the athletes' origin. The lack of an internationally accepted standard has led to many oversights and innocent errors in an uncountable number of historical works precisely due to the lack of a uniform international cataloging convention.

On the matter of Name Order, Patronymics and Matronymics I again feel a uniform standard must prevail over the common practice of any particular country. The major problem is that I doubt any of us know what the common practice is in all countries and our time is better spent researching in our field, not in chasing the individual style practices of almost every country on the planet. Examples of this type of problem can be seen in the existing cases of several countries where we sometimes do not know, and at this point in time have no way of discovering, a past competitor's actual name.

Related to this concern are those of Name Style, Transliteration and The Tchaikovsky Question." While already a dilemma with some athletes, this type of problem will become even more acute with the 2004 Olympics in Athens and the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, of which both countries do not primarily use the Latin alphabet. In my own research I am virtually unable to identify some Olympic artists due to their names having been recorded in the Latin alphabet without including the name in the artist's local alphabet or logographic for their name. Not meaning to further complicate

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this matter, I would suggest that any “ideal” database should also have a special field to accommodate the individuals name in their native alphabet or writing system where appropriate.

I believe whatever set of standards are finally determined, great care must be taken to assure the guidelines are freely available and accessible in all countries. One of the examples given was the use of a Transliteration Table such as the one provided in the Encyclopedia Britannica. The problem here is that the Encyclopedia Britannica is neither free nor commonly available in many countries, thus some other basis for a transliteration standard might be more appropriate. While in pursuit of these standards there is no need to reinvent the wheel, but we must be cautious to work within the demands of public domain and common availability.

Whether our recommended cataloging standard would, or should, reconcile with the practices of the IOC or the host of a current Olympiad is another item to be addressed. Does the IOC even have any such standard? It should be noted that for many of the items under consideration it is not a matter of determining which method is superior, it is simply a matter of selecting one method to be used as a standard and to publish that standard under the aegis of the ISOH. Having designed quite a few databases as well as those for my own my research, I can personally attest to the dire need for such an international standard and the inconsistencies that result in the absence of such a standard.

Richard Stanton

January 2, 2002

Dear Editor,

Theodosius put an end to the ancient Games. He also emptied the ancient Great Library of Alexandria!

The modern Olympic Games are back with a vengeance. The Great Library of Alexandria was restored just last year.

It is my hope that we can all help the new library to

establish a powerful archive devoted to African sport – its history and development. The main sources for material will come from two main segments – insiders looking out, and outsiders looking in. I have alerted the IOC Museum and Study Centre to this question and, hopefully, they will establish some form of helpful link.

It occurs to me that our ISOH Journal could also make a modest gesture by placing one page at the disposal of African Olympic history; I am happy to edit any material. Should this modest act prosper, perhaps Olympic Solidarity will help us increase the number of pages?

Next year will be the 80th anniversary of Coubertin’s proposed African Games in Alexandria. These never took place, but copies of medals produced for such Games can be seen at the Touny Museum at Cairo’s Olympic Stadium Complex.

Don Anthony

January 3, 2002

Dear Editor,

In the article by Bob Clotworthy about Aileen Riggin Soule in the Commemorative issue, Vol. 10, there is a statement that is not correct.

He states that “She (Aileen Riggin) was the first person in Olympic history to medal in both swimming and diving events.”

That honour belongs to Georg Hoffmann, Germany, who in 1904 was second in both 100 yards backstroke and diving.

Aileen Riggin was not even the first American woman to medal in both swimming and diving. That was Helen Wainwright, who in 1920 was second in springboard diving, and on 15 July 1924 was second in the 400 metres free style. Aileen Riggin won her medal in backstroke five days later: 20 July 1924.

In 1924, there was yet another person who medalled in both swimming and diving, Hjädis Tjöl from Sweden. On 18 July 1924 she was third

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in the 4 x 100 metres free style relay and on 20 July 1924 third in high diving.

I do not know whether she won her diving medal before Aileen Riggan won her backstroke medal. Both events took place during the afternoon session of 20 July 1924, starting 15:00. The 100 metres backstroke for women was the last swimming event in 1924. But it could, of course, have started before the women's high diving was finished.

So, Aileen Riggan was not the first person in Olympic history to medal in both swimming and diving. She was, at best, the third, and more likely, the fourth person to do so.

Ture Widlund.

8 January 2002

Dear Mr. Editor,

I write to you regarding Harry Gordon's article, published in the September issue of the Journal of Olympic History.

This contribution attacks Avery Brundage and Lord Killanin. As they are no longer able to correct these statements I feel obliged to point out that should Mr Gordon had known the two former IOC Presidents, he would not have written such slanders.

Avery Brundage and Lord Killanin were two perfect gentlemen. They devoted their time and money to make the IOC respected worldwide. Lord Killanin said repeatedly: "We must not be greedy". When Lord Killanin left in 1980, the IOC was far from being bankrupt, a statement which fortunately is now corrected. A very profitable contract with Los Angeles which allowed the administration to greatly cover the next four year period prior to the following Games had been signed in 1979.

Another remark: the medical commission was set up by Avery Brundage in 1964 and doping controls started in 1968 under his presidency.

After 1980 only, the members ceased to be 'voluntary'. All their expenses when attending meetings and Sessions were taken over by the IOC

and they started to receive pocket money.

You know as well as I do that truth above all, in these matters, will prevail.

Monique Berlioux.

January 16, 2002,

Harry Gordon responds (January 25th, 2002):

It is understandable that Mme Berlioux was offended by some contents of the essay I wrote praising the achievements of the former IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch and making some observations about the era before his, as well as about his immediate predecessors, Avery Brundage and Lord Killanin. She was a loyal servant of both these men, involved to a very large degree in the running of the IOC pre-Samaranch. Her relationship with Samaranch was obviously less happy.

Killanin was known as man of wit, intelligence and integrity. What I wrote about him was that he was "an indecisive and rather frustrated president". I also wrote that he "found it hard to cope with the villainy of Munich, the thuggish politics of Moscow, and was glad to surrender the leadership after a single term of eight years." I made no other mention of him.

*The traits I mentioned are well documented. Even his friend and co-author John Rodda, in an eloquent tribute after Killanin's death in this Journal (September 1999), referred to his frustration and failure to address certain issues. David Miller's excellent biography of Samaranch, *Olympic Revolution*, quotes Alain Coupat, Samaranch's former chef de bureau and a cousin of Mme Berlioux, as saying of Killanin: "He was indecisive, in the sense of not having the will to make decisions".*

Miller wrote in the same book that it was weariness of crisis that "forced the termination of Killanin's presidency at the end of the statutory first eight years". He added that after Munich, Montreal and the Moscow boycott, he "had had enough."

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Of Brundage (whom I met several times). I wrote: “(He) saw himself as a guardian of Olympic principles. He was obsessed with amateurism, and possible violations of it, and he now looms through Olympic history as something of a caricature, a cowboy shooting at all the wrong targets.” The language is colourful, but we’re hardly into new territory here; the man’s autocratic pursuit of purity through amateurism has been documented in various works of Olympic history. David Miller pointed out that it was not until Killanin succeeded Brundage in 1972, that “the IOC belatedly began to knock some sense into their (amateur) eligibility code”. Miller’s unflattering assessment: “It was not only the issue of amateurism that Brundage failed to understand through the five Olympiads during which he maintained his abuse of professional sport. I believe that, to a degree, he did not understand sport itself ...”

*Brundage’s occasional extremism has been catalogued over the years in numerous newspapers, journals and books. A notable example was the expulsion of the Austrian skier Karl Schranz from the 1972 Sapporo Olympics. Brundage even wanted to disqualify the entire Austrian and French ski teams (Andrew Strenk, *The Olympic Games in Transition*, 1988).*

Mme Berlioux says that when Lord Killanin left in 1980, the IOC was far from being bankrupt. I didn’t say it was bankrupt. I simply compared conditions in the pre-Samaranch era, “when the IOC didn’t have the money it needed to assert real authority”, with later days, when “the IOC was run like the huge corporation it is.”

Mme Berlioux points out that doping controls started in 1968 under the presidency of Brundage. True, but (through no fault of his) the controls were not particularly effective. Possibly the worst excesses of drug-taking in sport occurred in the 1970s and 1980s. Under Samaranch the IOC led the way in the fight against drug cheats (as I wrote), and played a key role in the establishment of the world anti-doping agency, WADA, in November 1999. The fight continues.

Mme Berlioux writes that after 1980 IOC members ceased to be “voluntary”, and that the IOC took over payment of their expenses and “pocket money” when attending meetings. Some would see that decision in September 1981 as a refreshing moment in Olympic history, signalling the end of a perception that the IOC was an exclusive men’s club, the province of a wealthy elite.

Dear Editor,

Re: Olympic Flag raiders in Antwerp 1920.

At the risk of being catalogued as ‘pedantic’, I would like to point out a minor inaccuracy in the interesting letter of Dr. Jacques Rogge (Volume 9, #1, page 40) to the Members Forum/Letters to the Editor of the Winter 2001 issue of the Journal of Olympic History. It concerns the amazing history of Harry Prieste (called Han Haig Prieste in the letter), who – at the age of 103 years – returned an Olympic flag, which he had stolen in Antwerp in 1920. Moreover, I want to stress that the minor correction I propose stems from a photocopy of a document, which was kindly provided to me by Dr. Rogge himself via his letter of 21 December 2000. The photocopied document is the administrative act, handwritten by Joseph De Potter on 20 August 1920. De Potter, who was deputy chief of police of the third Antwerp precinct, stated that he had received the following report – in Flemish [Dutch] – from policeman Jan Malherbe:

“On the 19th of this month at 5 1/2 I have recorded that the flags, attached to the ornamental flagpoles of the Olympiad, had disappeared from the Leopold Square, Comedy Square and the corner of the Schuttershof [Bowmen Guildhouse] and the Huidevetter [Tanners] streets.”

Deputy chief De Potter further declared that he had warned the different police chiefs and had started investigations in order to identify the offenders. However, these efforts had been unsuccessful so far, but“We continue our investigations”. So, according to this police report, the flags were not stolen on August 20, as Lennartz (in his article in Volume 10, #1, page 41) has understood from

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Rogge's letter to the Journal, but on the 19th. Moreover, it seems worthwhile to mention that the male American athletes were housed in a city school in Oudaen street, just around the corner of the spot of the crime.

Joseph De Potter has not lived long enough to witness Harry Prieste's remorseful restitution of his 'trophy' from 1920. In the mean time, the City of Antwerp has claimed its stolen property back and Dr. Rogge confirmed in his letter to me that the IOC had decided to give the flag on loan to the City of Antwerp.

De Potter was right though to mention 'offenders' in plural. Even IOC President Pierre de Coubertin mentioned in his contribution in the Report of the American Olympic Committee [pages 54-55] that one fine night a group of athletes scoured the town in the hunt for the Olympic flags which were everywhere, and in 1957, Australian hurdler Wilfred S. Kent Hughes (1957: 34) stolidly told his tale:

"The road to the Stadium was bedecked with Olympic flags, one of which, by some strange chance, was among my baggage on return to England".

Later this 'robber athlete' was to become Sir Wilfred upon receiving a knighthood as President of the 1956 Melbourne Games (Renson 1996: 38). Alas, Sir Wilfred is no longer among the living and we do not know whether the City of Antwerp has any intentions to prosecute his heirs or the Australian Olympic Committee as possible 'receivers' of this unlawful artifact?

What we still don't know is whether Harry Prieste was among the flagraiders during the night of 18-19 August, or whether he seized his chance on 29 August as he claimed. That was the day he had won his bronze medal in fancy high diving from the 5 and 10 m. boards. That was also the night, when at 9 p.m. a supper was offered to all foreign athletes in the large halls of the Société des Fêtes d'Anvers in Middelheim (Rapport s.d.: 25):

"This organization however left much to be desired because of the poor services offered by the company which was responsible for it. Splendid allegorical fireworks, in the gardens of the Antwerp festival [fête des d'Anvers], brought this democratic manifestation to a close" (Rapport s.d.: 25-26)

This joyful atmosphere might have created the right mood for flag raiding. Citing deputy police chief De Potter: "We continue our investigations".

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R. Renson.

Leuven 23 January 2002,

Associate editor Harry Gordon comments:

At the risk of being infinitely more pedantic than Ronald Renson was, I would like to point out a fractional error in his interesting and amusing letter. To call it "minor" would be to inflate its status massively.

Sir Wilfrid Kent Hughes spelled his first name exactly that way, with two "i"s, not an "i" and an "e". I know that in the book that Mr Renson relied on as the source for his anecdote --- Olympic Saga, by Keith Donald and Don Seth --- the same error is made. It's a pity, because it was a good book.

I wouldn't even bother to point this out except that Sir Wilfrid used to become very indignant when the name was spelled as "Wilfred". Such was his wrath

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that he would telephone editors whose newspapers offended. Directives were pinned on news-room notice-boards about the correct spelling. As an editor I published various style books that stressed to reporters, among other things, that the name was Wilfrid, not Wilfred (and, incidentally, that Kevan Gosper shouldn't be called Kevin).

Kent Hughes was a fascinating man. As well as being chairman of the Organising Committee for the Melbourne Olympic Games (for which he was knighted), he was a military hero (he won a Military Cross and was Mentioned in Dispatches four times in World War I), a prisoner of war (he was captured at the fall of Singapore and later decorated with an OBE for his "inspiration" to all ranks during his incarceration), an Olympic hurdler, a published

poet and a significant politician. He reached ministerial rank, but was too much of a maverick ever to be considered a potential prime minister.

Kent Hughes had the flag that found its way into his baggage autographed by all members of the Australian team, and later by Count Baillet-Latour and Sigfrid Edstrom. When Avery Brundage visited Australia for the 1956 Games, he put a third presidential autograph on it. Kent Hughes later donated the flag to the Beaufort Athletic Centre at Melbourne University.

Sorry to be so fussy. I respected the man very much, and just feel I owe it to him to keep that pesky "e" out of his name.

DAVID WALLECHINSKY AWARDED OLYMPIC ORDER

David Wallechinsky was awarded the Olympic Order by IOC President Jacques Rogge at a ceremony at the Little America Hotel and Suites during the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games.

Wallechinsky is a writer, who has written extensively about the Olympic Games. In 1984, he published his signature work, *The Complete Book of the Olympic Games*, which has become the best-selling book on the Olympics ever published in English. This work has now gone through five editions, one for each Summer Olympics since 1984, and he has also written four editions of *The Complete Book of the Winter Olympics*. Wallechinsky is a founding member of the International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH), and has served as treasurer of the organization since 1996. He is also a consultant to the IOC for information for their Web Site, and has worked for NBC Radio and Television as a commentator at the Olympic Games since 1988. Some of his other popular works include *The Book of Lists*, *The People's Almanac*, and *David Wallechinsky's 20th Century History – With the Boring Parts Left Out*.

Written by ISOH President, Bill Mallon