

BOOK REVIEWS

Salt Lake City 2002 - Unser Olympiabuch.

By Katarina Witt,; Heinz Florian Oertel, (Eds.).
Published by "Das Neue Berlin Verlagsgesellschaft mbH", Rosa-Luxemburg-Straße 39, 10178 Berlin, Germany. Price: 19.90. ISBN 3-360-00953-3; 239 pages, many photo's in colour, written in German. Reviewed by Dr. Stephan Wassong, German Sport University Cologne.

The book Salt Lake City 2000. Unser Olympiabuch was published only five days after the end of the XIX Olympic Winter Games. This journalistic achievement is an "Olympic record" of its own. Together with the editors Katarina Witt and Heinz Florian Oertel, a team of almost 30 authors – among them are journalists, scholars, Olympic historians, former athletes and photographers – were involved in this ambitious book project. But one has to ask if the correctness of facts has not suffered from the aim of the commercial competition of the publishers to be the first to deliver the book-stores with a book on the Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

In order to present a structured review I have grouped the 30 chapters of the book into six sections: the first section and the book itself starts with a foreword of IOC vice president Dr. Thomas Bach as the highest representative of Germany in the IOC. This is followed by a series of photos which help to keep "Olympic Moments" alive. Of course the choice of the photos on which one can see various scenes of athletic competitions, gold medalists, enthusiastic spectators and a highly equipped security soldiers is subjective. Therefore, it does not make sense to suggest that other photos would have been more appropriate to reflect a bit of the Olympic atmosphere in Salt Lake City. But one can question if it has been a good idea to start the series of photos with one on which the doping sinner Johann M^hlegg is in the foreground. Unfortunately the editors' brief comment on this cross country scene misses a remark on M^hlegg's abuse of doping. Of course this doping scandal is mentioned on other pages. The end of section one is a portrait of German medallists and the editors'

retrospective comment on the Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City. The comment is nicely written and does not only concentrate on the shiny side of the Olympic festival. It is not pedantic to point at one historical mistake. Pierre de Coubertin's aim was not to revive the ancient hellenistic Olympic Games. According to Coubertin the Olympic Games should be modern and not a simple revival of the ancient festivals. This knowledge of Coubertin's ideas could be expected from editors who uses quotations of Coubertin to illustrate their statements.

The second section is an Olympic diary written by Volker Kluge. The German journalist and Olympic expert writes down what impressed him daily in the course of the Olympic Winter Games. Apart from his descriptions of the opening and closing ceremony, Kluge informs the reader about the "strange" habits of the new IOC president, explains cultural aspects of the host city, talks about various athletes and mentions Olympic anecdotes. Kluge does not miss to criticize the doping scandals and the exaggerated patriotism often exhibited by US-American spectators and officials. Of course Kluge's impressions are – as usual for a diary – very subjective. But particularly this makes the book so important for readers who were not in Salt Lake City and whose impressions on this athletic world event are built on what they watched on T.V.

In the third section all disciplines in which athletes competed in Salt Lake City are described. Like in the other sections the nicely written text passages of section three are illustrated by professional photos. The reader is informed about the athletes, the various competitions, the results, the persons behind the athletes or about the Olympic scandals. Generally speaking one can say that the informations are very detailed and that correctness of content has not suffered from the time pressure to publish the book as early as possible. One can guess that section three is the most comprehensive one. In order to avoid monotony in reading the description of the athletic competitions is divided into two parts by the fourth section. In this intermediate section

BOOK REVIEWS

information are presented on the torch relay, the ideological power of Olympic peace and on the historical development of selected sport equipment. Of course these informations are not for Olympic historians or Olympic experts. Therefore they need not to be too scholarly. The editors and authors managed quite well to write for people who do not want to engage in a scholarly discourse on Olympic questions and facts. One chapter of this section is about Katarina Witt, her athletic and professional achievements, her Olympic victories, her devotion to Olympia and her life in the USA and Germany. It was definitely not a good decision that Katarina Witt herself has written this article. I would have thought that her popularity is high enough without this image cultivation.

Whereas in section five the work, function and quality of television broadcasts about the Olympic Winter Games are briefly mentioned section six deals with statistical facts and data about the XIV Olympic Winter Games. These lists are very useful to give a rational overview about the Winter Games, to highlight certain parameters and to compare these parameters with the ones' of former Olympic Winter Games. I myself needed the help of an Olympic expert to recognise that the list about the most successful athletes is an outdated one that was not completed after the Olympic Winter Games from Lillehammer in 1994. Referring to the list about the participating countries in Salt Lake City one last comment should be allowed. It would have been important to mention that Puerto Rico had to withdraw from the XIX Olympic Winter Games. The correct amount of participating countries thus is 77 and not 78. In the pages preceding the section on the statistical facts and data editors and authors were not consensual about the amount of the participating countries. This is a little bit confusing for the reader.

Concluding one can say that Salt Lake City 2002 - Unser Olympiabuch is a welcome reminder of good Olympic Winter Games and that it contributes to keep the Olympic spirit of Salt Lake City alive.

OLYMPISCHE SOMMERSPIELE – DIE CHRONIK IV, by Volker Kluge. Published by **Sportverlag** Berlin, Berlin. ISBN: 3-328-00830-6. 1023 pages, in German. Price: 45,00, exclusive mailing costs. Reviewed by Tony Bijkerk.

This last volume of a series of four, once again a “brick” in anyone’s postbox (to repeat Wolf Lyberg’s earlier review on the third volume), completes Volker Kluge’s research of the first century of the modern Olympic Games, and what a research it has been! Kluge is a “collector” of Olympic information and he has been doing that for over four decades, and even today he acknowledges that he does not know it all, as on the very last page of his book, he requests the readers to contact him when they have anything to add to his book(s).

This fourth volume: *Die Chronik IV*, covers the complete statistics of the Olympic Games in Seoul 1988, Barcelona 1992, and Atlanta 1996.

Again he starts the chapter on each Olympics with a description of the historical situation in the period leading up to those Games. He then follows up with the story how the Games were awarded to the host cities; and the composition of the Organizing Committees. The actual statistics on each of the Olympic Games starts with an overview on the participating countries and athletes, given by NOC; but alas not giving a split up between men and women, to make the statistics complete!

The data given in the statistics cover almost anything: from who spoke the Olympic Oath for athletes and officials to who designed the Olympic torch; from the amount of paying visitors to the amount of media-representatives; from who made the official Olympic Film, to how many Official Reports were published. And there is a lot more information, which needs many pages to be mentioned!

All this information may be valuable and interesting for Olympic historians; but the real value of Kluge’s book comes with the statistics on the many sportsevents of each Olympic Games. He gives full

BOOK REVIEWS

details; from the heats to the finals of each event in all sports.

But that is not all, as in all previous issues, he closes each chapter on one Olympic Games with a list with notes about the various persons, or facts, which needs elaboration. These notes are very entertaining and they give many biographical details about persons, who deserve our attention. Just think about the tremendous amount of work going into these notes only! For the chapter on the Seoul Olympics, Kluge comes up with 807 notes; for the Barcelona Olympics 853 notes; and finally for the Atlanta Centennial Olympics 960 notes!

This book, which, for the tremendous amount of work put into it, deserves the highest praise, should be in the library of every Olympic historian, even if he can't read German!

ORANJE OP OLYMPISCH IJS. Edition 2002. By Huub Snoep and Marnix Koolhaas. Published by DE VRIESEBORCH, Tuinwijklaan 29, 2012 RE Haarlem. 271 pages, in the Dutch language. ISBN 90-6076-496-X. Price: 26.00. Reviewed by Anthony Bijkerk.

The second edition of this book on the accomplishments of Dutch skaters (both speedskaters and figureskaters) was published immediately after the Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City in 2002, and as such contains the latest information. For anyone who can read or at least understand Dutch, this book contains the full history of the Dutch participation in the Olympic Winter Games, starting with St. Moritz in 1928, when two speedskaters (together with five bobsledders) formed the whole Dutch team, up to and including the results in Salt Lake City in 2002. There were no Dutch participations in the Olympic Winter Games in 1924 and 1932, but from 1936 onwards there always were Dutch speedskaters who tried their utmost to win an Olympic medal. Many times without success, but equally as many times with great success as is shown from the statistics at the end of the book. With a total of 22 gold, 28 silver and 19 bronze Olympic medals, the

Netherlands may be counted to be among the best countries in the world on two small iron skates. When we subtract the one gold and two silver medals from figureskating, won by Sjoukje Dijkstra (1960/1964) and Dianne de Leeuw (1976) all the other medals were won by speedskaters. From each Olympic medal winner, but also from several non medal winners, sportsbiographies have been written. The book also contains numerous photographs, both in colour and in black & white.

Alexander, Sunik: Russian Sport and Olympic Movement at the edge of XIX-XX Century. Moscow, "Sovetskiy Sport", 2001. – 664 pages. ISBN 5-85009-657-4. The edition of 300 copies. Reviewed by Prof. Dr. Oleg A. Milshteyn.

The essence of the book can be determined by the following words: the power of the source – the authority of the fact – the depth of the theory. It is purely a scientific-monographic research the author has been working at for almost 30 years. After a proper reading of this book, we can freely say that in fact there are no more white gaps in the theme of Sport before the Revolution, and in the theme of the Olympic movement in the Russian Empire. So versatile, deeply and many-sided, Prof. Alexander Sunik, graduated from the Historical faculty of Lvov University, and from the Institute of Physical Culture and Education, enlightened the researching problem. Here there is a birth and primary development of the modern sport in the tsar's Russia; the problem of it's genesis; the primary sporting practise; the features of the sport's development at that time; the formation of the international sporting movement as a general historical background of the Russian Sport in the second part of the XIXth - beginning of the XXth Century.

It's scientific genesis is given in Russian and international history and historiography of the Soviet Sport for the first time. The birth of some kinds of sport as skating, gymnastic, weightlifting

BOOK REVIEWS

and wrestling, cycling, athletics, skiing, football is shown here. Moreover the author does not limit himself with the facts, names and figures but the main thing is that he describes the main features of each of these and many other kinds of sport and also shows the roots of school and student sport as also the birth of women sport.

According to approximately the same logic scheme, Alexander Sunik gives the genesis of Olympism and modern Olympic movement in general and in Russia in particular. Having discovered prerequisites of their appearance and primary development, the author suggests the number of original and innovating ideas, unlike some other foreign and Russian historians. The same can be said about the author's interpretation of Pierre de Coubertin's activities and his Olympic ideas; and of Coubertin as a reformer. The representation of Russian sports officials is also shown in the preparation and participation in the International Athletics Congress in Paris. The author's point of view on this fact seems very original as it is given like from Russia of the end of XIXth Century. Exactly in this case there is an uncommonness of this monograph. The same can be said about the author's analysis of holding of the first 5 Olympiads and preparation of Russian sportsmen, sports officials and organisations for the Vth Olympic Games. Almost all this part of the book, as with many others, will become an absolute revelation for the foreign reader not only because of its novelty and originality but also because of the abundance of the factual material and peculiarities of the occurring processes in Russia.

The same can be stated about the author's analysis of creation and primary activity of the IOC (1894-1914); to the analysis of the first 6 Olympic Congresses; activities of the outstanding persons that stood at the top of the modern Olympic movement; primary participation of Russian sportsmen in the Olympic Games; creation of the Russian Olympic Committee and its activities and especially to the analysis of the preparation to the Vth Olympic Games and Russia's participation in

these. In this field the fundamental story about the First and the Second Russian Olympiads in Kiev and Riga is of great interest for the reader. A special part of the book is devoted to the analysis of the sporting movement during the Ist World War.

Every Olympic historian knows the name of A.D. Boutovsky, the first IOC Member for Russia. However Prof. Sunik has given a rather full portrait of this outstanding teacher, scientist, public man, and provides us with no less detailed biographies and characteristics of some other IOC Members for Russia and their activities on the sporting field – Vyacheslav Sreznevsky, George Ribopier, George Guperron and also of some other Russian Olympic figures as for example Ludwig Chaplinsky, Alexander Anochyn, Boris Kotov and etc.

Finally, the attitude of the Russian press of that period to sport and Olympism, to the sport's place in various Russian strata of society, and to the development of Olympism's ideas in Russia is shown for the first time in Russian Olympic history.

From almost 900 sources of the book more than two-third are introduced into literature practice for the first time; therefore the conclusion, with the author's notes and supplements, as well as all foot-notes reflect the high scientific level of this monograph and inspire the confidence in the fact that Russian and especially foreign readers will find Alexander Sunik's book of great interest.

NOTE from the Editor: It must be said that translations of some parts of this book into the English language should make the early history of Russia's Olympic history more knowledgeable for us, Olympic historians. Therefore, we've invited our Russian members to try and translate some important parts with previous permission from the author and then submit them to be published in our Journal of Olympic History!

BOOK REVIEWS

THE VOLUNTEERS, edited by Max Walker and Gerry Gleeson. Published by Allen & Unwin (Sydney). ISBN 1 86508 568 5. Recommended retail price \$A24.95. 350 pages, in English. Reviewed by HARRY GORDON

One of the most laudable aspects of the highly successful Sydney Olympic Games was the performance of 47,000 volunteer workers. No matter how efficiently the paid organisers and administrators did their job, no matter how marvellously the athletes performed, it was the volunteers whose efforts made the whole show come together. Certainly, more than anyone else, it was this army of distinctively (okay, gaudily) uniformed citizens who gave Sydney and the Games a happy face.

When the Olympics were over, Juan Antonio Samaranch was happy to proclaim them the best ever, and to offer the opinion that “the Olympic Movement . . . has more prestige than ever before.” In a message for publication in this book, he gives a major reason: “Everywhere I went, I saw smiling, helpful volunteers ensuring everyone’s needs were well taken care of. They were the best hosts the Olympic Movement could have hoped for.”

The book is a celebration of the performance of these ordinary citizens who did such an extraordinary job, and of the 14,000 others who gave their time to work at the Paralympic Games that followed the Olympics. It was at least 50 per cent the brainchild of a hugely enthusiastic former sportsman and current television personality, Max Walker, who was chosen to light the community cauldron for the Paralympics.

Walker was both a Test cricketer for Australia and a champion ruckman with the Melbourne Club in the Australian football competition. He and his old Melbourne football team-mate Gerry Gleeson, who was one of the Olympic volunteers, marvelled together at the exuberant success of the Games, and finally decided that the volunteers deserved a book of their own.

What they have produced in essence is an anecdotal compendium of assorted personal experience. There are also some interesting statistical breakdowns: 52 per cent of the volunteers were female; 13 per cent were aged between 50 and 59; 20 per cent were between 40 and 49; 23 per cent were aged 20 to 29; 78 per cent came from the state of New South Wales. Of overseas volunteers, most came from the United States.

The personal stories which make up the substance of the book are remarkable for their diversity and often their quiet emotion. One fellow-volunteer remarked to Gerry Gleeson that she had only three months to live. When he asked why she was working at the Games she explained that this was “the best way to use up three weeks of the last three months of my life”.

One of the 1000 samba dancers in the closing ceremony reveals he stopped dancing to avoid being run over by “a mountainous kewpie doll”. A driver for the Icelandic team recalls Henry Kissinger stepping out in front of his car, and the shouted warning: “Don’t run over that man”. Another driver remembers taking three members of the Kenyan team for a beer in a country pub. A horseman tells of his tears during the opening ceremony. An accreditation assistant talks about the time she processed Mohammed Ali. An honorary attaché explains how he coped when a Ugandan archer arrived without bow, arrow or any other equipment.

What emerges from all this is a kind of tapestry of goodwill. It seems that everyone associated with the volunteer effort has a tale to tell, that most of them worked difficult hours without complaint, that all of them had an experience of a lifetime. The collective, enduring image they have left is one of efficiency and friendly grace.

There is something about volunteers that invokes the spirit of Australia. The abundant beaches are patrolled by volunteer lifesavers. The frequent bushfires are battled by volunteer fire-fighters. This book provides further, well documented testimony to the debt the nation owes such people.

BOOK REVIEWS

It seems a pity to carp about any aspect of such a well-intentioned book, but do I wish the editors had taken a little more care over spelling. Not once in scores of mentions could I find Herb Elliott's name spelled correctly. Legends deserve something better.

AN ATHLETES COMPENDIUM. An annotated Guide to the UK Literature of Track and Field Athletics. Compiled by Tom McNab, Peter Lovesey and Andrew Huxtable. Published by the British Library and available from Turpin Distribution Services Ltd., Blackhorse Road, Letchworth, Herts SG6 1HN, United Kingdom. Price: £Stg. 30.00. 261 pages, Reviewed by Ian Buchanan.

This book, which sets out to list every athletics book ever published in Great Britain, is the combined work of two ISOH members, Peter Lovesey and Andrew Huxtable, and Tom McNab, who was the technical advisor to the memorable film *Chariots of Fire*.

Unfortunately, a number of books which clearly merit inclusion among the 2,482 entries are omitted. The outstanding and historically valuable ATFS manuals are not mentioned, while space is found for both editions of Ballet exercises for athletes and assorted volumes of poems.

Many of the entries are devoted exclusively to Olympism or have a strong Olympic content and a large number of the entries are supplemented by the compilers assessment of the book.

I was particularly taken by their verdict on The Olympic Games of 1908: a reply to certain criticisms. They commented that it was: "An acid, crisply-argued rebuttal of American charges of British foul play at the 1908 London Olympics. A model of cool, sustained invective". (!)

Involving extensive searches of the British Library archives and contact with many sporting bibliophiles the book has taken some years to complete and is an invaluable reference source for historians. However, its value is diminished by its

uneven and irrational approach to the subject matter.

Note: The previous book in this British Library series on Rugby Football was edited by ISOH member, John Jenkins.

DIE OLYMPISCHE FURBALLTURNIERE, Band 2 – Das erste große Turnier, Stockholm 1912 dazu Berlin 1916. By Jürgen Buschmann and Karl Lennartz. Published by AGON-Verlag, Kirchweg 64, 34119 Kassel, Germany. ISBN: 3-89784-160-6. 266 pages, in German. Price: ca. – 20.40 [old price in DEM: 39.80]. Reviewed by Wolf Lyberg.

Some Olympic sports have, through the years, received good coverage of the media. Football is one of these.

But, let me explain that the information assembled in the early days of football was certainly not based on the factual information of the modern era, with computers and statistics. Many of the historical books are a mixture of already existing, most of the time not very good, literature. We, the so-called insiders, always want more, the very best. That what really happened in the various Olympic tournaments, but above all, we want to know more about what went on when the leading organisation(s) [FIFA/UEFA] was/were founded.

I am quite sure that many, even the so-called leading experts, are not fully aware of the bitter fights that were fought in those early days.

The current book arrived just before Christmastime in my home, and it was a pleasure to read it. The book is 'loaded' with information and the text – even if sometimes 'heavy' – gave full satisfaction.

The whole international and national picture of those days in 1912 is told with true German thoroughness..

My heart made a few extra 'bumps of joy' when I read the introduction of the UEFA-President Lennart Johansson. He almost 'blessed' the

BOOK REVIEWS

Olympic historians for the role they are playing in writing down these almost unknown stories.

Until the last few years, Olympic football tournaments never were 'hot stuff'.

The two authors, Buschmann and Lennartz, have had the fine assistance of some leading experts, and that means the reader will get a very interesting view of the situation of that particular sport, and the few existing federations.

I made an extra little jump of joy, reading that four more books are planned to be published about the Olympic football tournaments from 1920, up to 1940. Many of these tournaments are still full of mysteries, but I am sure that the authors, in due time, will enable us to find new examples of perfect information, as the results of thorough and timeconsuming research in this interesting subject.

I especially liked the short biographies of most of the players, most of them even with a small photo added. This, with a good overview of the matches they played and even most of the reserves for each team mentioned, makes this book into a valuable addition to any Olympic library.

The book is, of course, richly filled with fine black & white photographs. Even many of the most prominent leaders in this sport, people one rarely saw on photos before, are shown here. An oldtimer like me, who visited so many of the European countries in my heydays, had a special feeling, when reliving some wonderful meetings with the top-officials of the earlier European Football Associations.

The FIFA and UEFA both are lucky to have such fine sources of documentation of the early days.

Congratulations to Jürgen Buschmann and Karl Lennartz for another example of good research!

The Complete Book of the Winter Olympics, by David Wallechinsky. Published by The Overlook Press (Woodstock and New York) ISBN 1-58567-195-9 (hardback), 1-58567-185-1 (paperback). Recommended retail prices: US\$25.95 (hb); US\$15.95 (pb), 353 pages, in English. Can be ordered thru: Amazon.com: buying info: The Complete Book of the Winter Olympics 2002 (Complete Book of the Olympics, 2002) Sportspages. Reviewed by HARRY GORDON

David Wallechinsky is an envied writer with an enviable mission. For him, the recording of events at the Olympic Games is forever a work in progress. No sooner has he completed one of his "Complete Histories" of the Summer and Winter Olympics than he's preparing to observe and chronicle another Games. That means he always has a significant experience coming up --- a book or a Games. What he produces are crisply updated Olympic encyclopaedia, filled with statistics, facts, charts and background information. It really is no wonder that each new publication of his work is awaited with some anticipation by students of Olympic history and discerning sports fans.

This new work, The Complete Book of the Winter Olympics, published for the Salt Lake City Games, continues the Wallechinsky tradition with much style and competence. It is a little (well, 353-page) gem that presents not just a meticulous catalogue of results and accounts --- but offers a range of records, oddments and anecdotes likely to intrigue the reader and impress any third party the reader wants to tell about them.

Most gold medals? Oldest gold medallist? Youngest? Worst shooters in a biathlon? Longest winning streak in ice hockey? The figure skater who won gold medals at three consecutive Olympics? The all-time slowest alpine skier? The worst piece of judging? The most lopsided hockey match? The best performances from a snowless country? And anyway, which four-man bobsled team had a member facing the wrong direction? For the

BOOK REVIEWS

answers to these and hundreds of other fascinating questions, you need to read the book.

Even apart from its sheer abundance of history in assorted forms, there's a quality to this book that gives it an extra dimension. It comes from Wallechinsky's text, a notable example of which is his account of the Salt Lake City scandal that began in November 1998. Much has been written about this affair and the IOC's attempts to clean up afterwards, but some accounts of it have not made for easy reading; they have either pontificated or bogged themselves down in confusing detail. Coolly, clearly and concisely, Wallechinsky has placed the scandal into both its context and historical perspective. Along the way he has given an engrossing rundown on the history of expulsions from the IOC, as well as a background to the culture of Olympic corruption that was exposed in 1998-99.

The first to be expelled, he points out, was an Argentinian, a founding member of the IOC who failed to attend a single meeting in 13 years. With some sympathy, he notes that the culprit was a teacher who --- at a time when IOC members were expected to be wealthy enough pay their own expenses --- couldn't afford the fares. The IOC threw him out in 1907. Another interesting expulsion was that of Ernest Lee Jahncke of the United States, who wanted the 1936 Games taken away from Berlin and urged US athletes to boycott the Games if they were held in Nazi Germany. The president of the USOC, Avery Brundage, viciously attacked boycott supporters and spoke in favour of the Berlin Games. In July 1936 the IOC expelled Jahncke and replaced him with Brundage. Of the casualties from the Salt Lake City scandal, Wallechinsky singles out Jean-Claude Ganga of the Congo for special attention: he mentions that he became known as "the human vacuum cleaner" because he would suck up any material object that came his way.

Wallechinsky welcomes some of the IOC's recent post-scandal reforms, but has reservations about others. One example of the IOC going overboard, he says, was the passing of a rule compelling

members to resign at the age of 70. It's good to keep the membership fresh, he says, but "... by dumping all older members, the IOC will be losing their wisdom and experience."

Yes, there's a great deal more than immaculate statistics in this book. Wallechinsky has come up with another fine addition to a body of work that has become steadily more impressive since it began in 1984. Like all of them, this one has been well worth the wait.

THE 1912 OLYMPIC GAMES - Results for All Competitors in All Events, with Commentary, by Bill Mallon and Ture Widlund. Published by McFarland & Company, Box 611, Jefferson, North Carolina, U.S.A.; www.mcfarlandpub.com. 592 pages, in English. ISBN 0-7864-1047-7. Price: US\$59.50 (library binding). Reviewed by Ruud Paauw.

Ferenc Mezö(1885-1961), a former IOC-member for Hungary, was one of the first serious scholars who thoroughly researched the results of the Olympic competitions, correcting lots of mistakes that went from book to book and trying to solve all kind of confusion about the results, or the spelling of the names. Mezö predecessor was the German Dr. Fritz Wasner, who in 1939/1940 published his *Olympia Lexikon*. However, this work is not as detailed as Mezö work.

Mezö worked more than twenty years on his historical research and in 1956 the result 'Sechzig Jahre Olympische Spiele' was published. He realised that he himself had made errors and overlooked things. In the end of his introduction he quoted Goethe with some resignation: 'Es irrt der Mensch, so lang er strebt'.(Man will make mistakes as long as he strives).

Indeed Mezö work was only the beginning. Since then a great many researchers have looked into the Olympic history and found much more than our Hungarian friend did. Among the best in recent times are Volker Kluge whose four volumes 'Chronik' (alas only in German) cannot be missed in any Olympic library and Bill Mallon whose

MEMBERS FORUM

painstaking research regards the early Games. Volume 6 (in a series of seven) has just been published and deals with the 1912 Stockholm Games. Mallon got for this volume more than considerable help from Ture Widlund, also well-known to readers of the Journal of Olympic History.

One day I hope to find the time to compare in detail what Kluge did for 1912, compared to Mallon/Widlund's book, but a hasty comparison made clear that these works are complementary. We need both.

Highlight for me in Mallon/Widlund's book was the 16-page chapter 'In the Matter of Jacobus Franciscus Thorpe'. It gives the full story of this infamous case with a lot of new material, anyway with many things I did not know. I was also surprised to learn that the team of Russia contained only a few native Russians.

This is not the place to mention all the particulars I found. Each branch of sport gets full attention with all the results and an almost exhaustive list of notes. In the end all competitors are mentioned with their dates of birth and death. And there is a very handy index which is too often lacking in reference books.

What a work it must have been! I take off the hat I never wear for the authors.

ADVERTISEMENT:

Dr. John A. Lucas, Professor Emeritus at the Pennsylvania State University, has been re-appointed the "Official Lecturer of the International Olympic Committee" by IOC President Jacques Rogge.

Dr. Lucas would be pleased to visit your community or campus for several lectures.

There is no honoraria required and absolutely no expenses, except one night's lodging.

Dr. Lucas lives at 645 Berkshire Drive, State College, PA 16803.

Telephone: (1)-814-238-3623;

Fax: (1)-814-863-7360 or 814-865-1275.

OBITUARIES

DICK SCHAAP

ISOH Member Dick Schaap died in New York on 21 December 2001 after a lengthy illness, caused by complications from surgery. A former college lacrosse player at Cornell, he was one of the best-known sports reporters and broadcasters in the United States. During his career he wrote over 30 books, many of them best sellers. His Olympic involvement began with the publication of his book, *An Illustrated History of the Olympics*, which went through several editions. He later edited the 1984 United States Olympic Committee Official Report, and also wrote biographies of several U.S. Olympians, among them Bob Beamon and Tom Waddell. His most recent book was his autobiography, *Flashing Before My Eyes: 50 Years of Headlines, Deadlines, and Punchlines*. For the past decade, Schaap was seen frequently as host of the Sunday morning show, *The Sports Reporters*, on ESPN Television. A life-long New Yorker, Schaap was also a theatre critic and claimed to be the only person to vote for both the Heisman Trophy and the Tony Awards. He is survived by his wife, Trish, and six children, among them Jeremy, also a sports broadcaster and ISOH Member. Our condolences go out to Jeremy and his family. Dick's famed weekly table at Rao's Italian Restaurant in New York now sits empty.

PHILOMENA 'BONNIE' JOHNSTON (nee MEALING) 1912-2002

By KEVIN BERRY*

Champion swimmer, Philomena "Bonnie" Mealing, the last surviving medallist of the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic team, passed away on New Year's Day. She was one of a few select Australian women swimmers who won an Olympic medal in the pre-World War II era.

Born on 28th August 1912, Mealing was chosen to compete at the Amsterdam Olympics of 1928. She was one of only four women to be selected in that