



# MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

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By Harry Gordon

As this issue of the Journal of Olympic History goes to press, something of an editorial baton change is taking place. As our esteemed editor Tony Bijkerk notes separately in these pages, he has decided that it is time to hand over the editorship. He will remain as a member of the team in the capacity of Associate Editor.

Quite separately, I have decided to leave the crew that puts the journal together, and generally navigates its editorial course. Tony's stepping down has, I think, a philosophical base. He has long held a conviction that the editor's chair needs a younger occupant, and feels strongly that the time has come.

In my own case, it's a simple question of time. I'm going to be quite busy for the next year. I have recently agreed to update my 1994 history, *Australia and the Olympic Games*, and it is a task that will require a concentration of energies. The time frame of the book is being expanded to post-Salt Lake City 2002. The research and writing are being carried out, unsurprisingly, against a deadline.

It has been a delight to work with Tony Bijkerk, Steve Harris and Anthony Edgar and share a common objective: to attempt to give each issue a sense of freshness, historical integrity and sheer readability. They are indeed a dedicated group. Incoming members of the editorial team for the next issue will be Karl Lennartz and Stephan Wassong, both professors at the German Sport University in Cologne. They will take over as joint editors. Karl is one of Germany's most respected Olympic scholars, and recently enhanced Volume 10 of The Journal with his groundbreaking article "The Story of the Rings".

In this issue, Robert K. Barney has followed up the Lennartz research with a fascinating contribution that focuses on the confrontation between Helms Bakeries and the USOA, guardians in the United States of those rings and other Olympic symbols. Helms provided bakery products to the 1932 Olympic Village in Los Angeles, then proceeded to capitalise

on that role. Along the way Bob Barney discusses a couple of formidable characters: Avery Brundage and Paul Helms.

Another triumphant product of solid research is the article by Stephanie Daniels and Anita Tedder (authors of *A Proper Spectacle*), who during the course of their investigation into the infamous women's 800 metres track event at the 1928 Olympic Games, tracked down a feisty grandmother, Florence McDonald, aged 91, who was one of the competitors. The result is a very satisfying read, and a fine contribution to Olympic history.

Richard Stanton has written about the only female Olympic art gold medallist, and Jeroen Heijmans has explored the history of motor sports at the 1900 Olympics - even to the extent of discovering an event dedicated to taxis and delivery cars. Both authors manage to shed light on little-known corners of our Olympic past. To do that has been one of the abiding objectives of our editorial team during recent years.

There are many other components to the editorial mix that makes up this issue of the Journal, including of course book reviews, Olympic news and ISOH members' information. We hope you enjoy it.

The Editorial Team (with exception of our good friend Harry Gordon, who himself was a victim) wishes to apologize to our overseas friends (especially those in Australia) because accidentally the May issue of the Journal of Olympic History was mailed to them by sea instead by air-mail. This caused a three month delay in receiving that particular issue. We will make sure that this will not happen again.

On behalf of:  
Anthony Th. Bijkerk, editor  
Stephen L. Harris, associate editor  
Anthony Edgar, associate editor  
Karl Lennartz, associate editor