



MESSAGE FROM THE ISOH-PRESIDENT

The International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH) has now completed over 10 years of existence. And with each year our group grows. We now have over 310 members in 50 nations. Our financial health is also good, as evidenced by David Wallechinsky's statement in the last issue of our journal.

And that journal, *Journal of Olympic History*, has flourished over the years. In the world of academics a measure of a journal's or articles' importance or relevance can actually be measured. This is done, by counting references to it in bibliographies and footnotes of other journal or book articles. While such a count is not actively being done with JOH, more and more often, in journals like *Olympika*, *Journal of Sports History*, *Olympic Review*, or the *International Journal for the History of Sport*, I see references to the *Journal of Olympic History*, or to articles that have been published in it.

The journal has also taken on a new professional look. When I first started it in 1991, I well remember xeroxing all the pages, and collating them on the floor of my study, with my wife's assistance. I actually even bound the first issue with spiral binding, to save money. After all, at the time, we had almost no members and no money. It was not uncommon, while we were doing this, for one of our dogs to walk over the pages, so if you see any dogprints on those old journals, this explains it.

The primary reason for the improvement in the journal and the reason it continues to flourish is Tony Bijkerk. Tony took over as Secretary-General of ISOH and editor of the

Journal of Olympic History (then called *Citius, Altius, Fortius*) in 1996. With him at the helm, everything about the journal has improved. The journal now has a professional look, and is expertly bound. He has worked diligently to solicit articles from our members and academic Olympic historians throughout the world. The last two issues speak well of the quality of the articles we now receive and publish, thanks to Tony's efforts. As Secretary-General, he has made it his mission to increase our membership, and especially, to spread it to more nations. He has been very successful in this regard.

We all owe Tony Bijkerk a big debt of gratitude. He has done a superb job. But I can assure you that editing and publishing this journal three times a year becomes tiresome. And at this time, Tony has asked to step down as editor of the *Journal of Olympic History*. We will miss him, but he will continue on to serve out his term as Secretary-General of ISOH and as an associate editor on the new team.

Beginning with the first issue in 2003, the new editors of the journal will be Dr. Karl Lennartz and Stephan Wassong of the Carl and Liselott Diem-Archives, Olympic Research Centre of the German Sport University Cologne in Germany. Karl and Stephan will be assisted by several associate editors: Steve Harris, Tony Bijkerk and a new associate editor from the U.K. Philip Barker. We know they will continue Tony Bijkerk's legacy.

Thank you, Tony. Let's all raise a glass in his honor.

Bill Mallon, M.D.