

## BOOK REVIEW



**La mémoire des 1ers JEUX OLYMPIQUES d'HIVER, CHAMONIX 1924**, by Pierre Vitalien; published on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the first Olympic Winter Games. Printed by Imprimerie Nouvelle Chamonix/Salanches; ISBN: 2-9520549-0-8; 164 pages, in the French language. Price: hardback edition: Euro 55,00, large format paperback edition: Euro 45,00; both exclusive mailing costs. Pierre Vitalien is the sole publisher and the book needs to be ordered from him at the address: Chemin des Jardins, 84830 Serignan du Comtat, FRANCE. Reviewed by Anthony Th. Bijkerk.

The author, who recently became a new member of the *International Society of Olympic Historians*, has succeeded in producing a book with a wealth of information on these Olympic Winter Games; which were originally titled "*la semaine internationale des sports d'hiver*" (the international week of winter sports) and which were held under 'patronage' of the IOC. Only afterwards, during the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the IOC in Lisbon in 1926, they were renamed to be the 1<sup>st</sup> Olympic Winter Games by the International Olympic Committee.

In this new book, Pierre VITALIEN publishes several documents and photographs, which were not published before, even though the *Official Report* from Paris/Chamonix 1924 covered these Winter Games at length, both in writing and in photography.

However, this new book is more handy to consult and for that reason may be regarded to be an invaluable contribution to the history of these First Olympic Winter Games.

The statistics in the book are, according to ISOH's most renown statistician on all things Olympic Wolf LYBERG, not fully complete, but most of the facts can be found, one way or other, in the *Official Report*.

The quality of the printing is excellent and for that reason the photography in the book is much enhanced compared to those in the *Official Report*.

One may notice that VITALIEN has been collecting autographs, as many photographs from early Olympians bear their autographs. Intriguing were the photographs from a very young Sonja HENIE and the one showing the flag bearers in a circle around the French Camille MANDRILLON, taking the Olympic oath. All flagbearers have one arm raised in the Olympic salute.

This new book may be regarded to be a welcome addition to every Olympic library!