

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE - EXHIBITION THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC GAMES 1906 IN ATHENS

Volos 27 February – 1 March 2004

by *Karl Lennartz*

Two years ago the executive board of ISOH forwarded a motion to the IOC asking for official recognition of the 1906 (Intercalated or Interim Games) as the Second International Olympic Games in Athens. Although the vast majority of sports historians regard these Olympic Games in Athens as no different to the those held officially in 1904 or 1908, the Executive Committee dismissed the motion without explanation.

A view on the  
congress:  
Ioannis  
PAPASPIROU  
(GRE), Bill  
MALLON (USA),  
Georgios  
DOLIANITIS  
(GRE)

Greek historian and collector Georgios DOLIANITIS is one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the campaign for recognition and as part of the preparations for Athens 2004 he succeeded in getting funding for a conference on the status of the 1906 Games.

The conference took place in Volos where Olympic soccer matches will be held. The session was held in a study centre provided by the municipal authorities in Volos.

Mr. DOLIANITIS kindly asked me to help him in finding from countries which sent teams to 1906 Olympic Games. The participants met on 26 February in Athens. The conference started with a dinner in the hotel *Titania*. In the next morning we had the opportunity to visit the sporting sites which were used for the 1896 and 1906 Olympic Games. In the afternoon the participants travelled to Volos where an exhibition on 1906 was opened. DOLIANITIS and other collectors presented newspaper clippings, stamps and various other exhibits. Greek scholars dealt with participants from Cyprus, Smyrna and Constantinople, from Patras and Egypt and with the various sport disciplines whilst visiting lecturers gave the following lectures.

Jean DURRY: "Coubertin and the International Olympic Games, Athens 1906". "The Participation of France in the International Games, Athens 1906"

Bill MALLON: "The Participation of the US in the International Games, Athens 1906"

Anthony Th. BIJKERK: "The participation of the Netherlands in the International Olympic Games, Athens 1906"



Wolf LYBERG: "The Contribution of Sweden to the International Olympic Games, Athens 1906"

Conrado DURANTEZ: "The Impact of the International Olympic Games, Athens 1906 in the Spanish Speaking World"

Maurizio TECARDI: "The Participation of Italy in the International Olympic Games, Athens 1906"

Ian JOBLING: "The participation of Australia in the International Olympic Games, Athens 1906"

Ferenc KALOCSAI: "Hungary and the International Olympic Games, Athens 1906"

Manfred LÄMMER: "The Participation of the German-Speaking World in the International Olympic Games, Athens 1906"

Karl LENNARTZ: "The Participation of the German-Speaking World in the International Olympic Games, Athens"

In addition the Dean of the IOA, Kostas GEORGIADIS lectured on "The idea of the Permanent Staging of the Olympic Games in Greece" and 1964 Olympic Javelin Champion Mihaela PENES took as her theme "The Impact of the International Olympic Games, Athens 1906 in Romania".

At the end of the conference the participants unanimously voted for a resolution to renew the motion to the IOC. It was decided to send this Motion to all members of the IOC and the NOCs. On the transfer back to Athens we had the chance to visit the excavation sites of Sesklo and Dimini.

## **MOTION\***

### **To the members of the International Olympic Committee and the National Olympic Committees**

**At the IOC Session in 1948 IOC member Mezö proposed to include the event of 1906 in Athens as "111b Olympic Games" in the list of the Olympic Games.**

**The motion was rejected in 1949 without any historical analysis.**

**The Executive Committee of the International Society of Olympic Historians (founded in December 1991), based on research documented herein, voted in 1999 and again 2001 to recommend the IOC, while echoing Ferenc Mezö's 1948 proposal to include the 2nd International Olympic Games in Athens in the official list of Olympic Games and to assess the event for what it had been - real Olympic Games.**

**We therefore urge the International Olympic Committee to consider this Proposal and adopt it as a historical fact.**

**Unanimous decision of the  
International Conference - Exhibition  
"International Olympic Games in Athens 1906"**

**Georgios Dolianitis, President of the Conference**

The 2nd International Olympic Games in Athens 1906 were for the members of the IOC, the participating NOCs, for the athletes, for the spectators, and for the people interested in sports activities all over the world, real Olympic Games, as for instance those from 1896 in Athens or 1908 in London. Even the founder of the modern Olympic Games, baron de Coubertin, accepted as such. Historical evidence clearly indicates that most likely the Olympic Movement would have died an untimely death if these International Olympic Games had not taken place.

\* Adopted from the motion of the International Society of Olympic Historians from March 2002.