

12th International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Post Graduate Students 10 June – 10 July 2004, International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia

This year's *International Olympic Academy* seminar for post graduate students took place as its title "The Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement: Past, Present and Future – An Analysis from the Historical, Philosophical and Social Perspectives". 37 students from all continents were invited to visit Athens and later Olympia.

Coordinating Professor Kostas GEORGIADIS, dean of the IOA and Professor at the newly established *University of the Peloponnese* in Sparta, welcomed the students and introduced the seminar, which took participants to the most important pan-Hellenic excavation sites and dealt in detail with Olympic matters. The first two days were devoted to visits to ancient sites and the history of ancient Greece and athletics, before the formal session started with an opening ceremony and the traditional laying of wreaths at the steles of COUBERTIN, and IOA founders Carl DIEM and John KETSEAS.

The first week was linked to the archaeological visits with lectures by Nigel B. CROWTHER, University of Western Ontario, and Emmanuel MICROYANNAKIS, University of Athens, on the roots of Hellenic gymnastics, athletics and the Olympic Games while during the second week the spotlight was turned upon the history, philosophy and sociology of the modern Olympic Games and their renovator Pierre de COUBERTIN as well as the Paralympics. Lecturers in the second week were Klaus HEINEMANN, emeritus Professor at the University of Hamburg, Karl LENNARTZ, at that time vice-president of ISOH and head of the *Carl and Liselott Diem-Archives* in Cologne, and Otto J. SCHANTZ, professor at the Universities of Strasbourg and Koblenz-Landau. During the third week the emphasis was laid on special (more sociological) matters of the Olympic Movement such as gender problems in Olympism and the role of China in the Olympic Movement. The IOA invited Susan BROWNELL, University of Missouri, Gertrud PFISTER, University of Copenhagen, and Gerald GEMS, President of the *North American Society for Sport History* (NASSH), as supervising professors. The last week was dedicated solely to philosophy and Olympism and the only lecturer was Jim PARRY from the *University of Leeds*, who introduced the participants into philosophic methods in research. During the afternoon sessions the students had the opportunity to present their results and papers, which provoked lengthy discussions and gave

them some new perspectives for their individual research. In order to further widen horizons on Olympism Professor GEORGIADIS invited some guest professors from Greek Universities who also presented their topics to the participants. In addition the University of the Peloponnese organized the "1st Panhellenic Congress with international Participation" 25 – 27 June 2004 on the subject "Organization and Management of the Olympic Games" and invited the IOA students and lecturers to take part in this congress over a weekend in Sparta.

The papers presented by the students will be published in the next volume of the IOA series of reports on Special Sessions and Seminars, which also includes reports of the NOC-officials sessions and the Educators' sessions.

At the end of the seminar the participants were offered the opportunity of taking part in an examination in co-operation with *Loughborough University*, United Kingdom, where they could gain 30 of 180 credit points for their higher education studies.

The session once again made an important, perhaps the most important impression on the lives of young Olympic scholars. Visits to the archaeological sites, lectures on ancient and modern "Olympism" and the discussions were the basis of the Academy and friendships and networks were formed or even renewed during this session. At the end of these four weeks even the participants from countries with very different political views found it hard to say goodbye.

Hitherto edited reports of the IOA's special sessions:

International Olympic Academy (ed.), *Report on the I.O.A.'s Special Sessions and Seminars 1997*, Athens: Eptalofos, 1998, 392 p.

International Olympic Academy (ed.), *Report on the I.O.A.'s Special Sessions and Seminars 1998*, Athens: Eptalofos, 2000. 648 p. ISBN 960-8144-04-3; ISSN 1108-6831.

International Olympic Academy (ed.), *Report on the I.O.A.'s Special Sessions and Seminars 1999*, Athens: Eptalofos, 2000. 856 p. ISBN 960-8144-15-9; ISSN 1108-6831.

International Olympic Academy (ed.), *Report on the I.O.A.'s Special Sessions and Seminars 2000*, Athens: Eptalofos, 2001. 580 p. ISBN 960-8144-33-7; ISSN 1108-6831.

International Olympic Academy (ed.), *Report on the I.O.A.'s Special Sessions and Seminars 2001*, Athens: Eptalofos, 2002. 652 p. ISBN 960-8144-72-8; ISSN 1108-6831.

International Olympic Academy (ed.), *Report on the I.O.A.'s Special Sessions and Seminars 2002*, Athens 2003. 664 p. ISBN 960-87449-5-4.