

PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL MESSAGE

The background of the formation of ISOH appears elsewhere in this issue and I am honoured to have been asked to serve as the first President. I am also delighted that Erich Kamper (AUT), the doyen of Olympic historians, has agreed to accept the position as Honorary President. With such knowledgeable enthusiasts as Bill Mallon (USA) taking on the onerous duties of Secretary-General and Ture Widlund (SWE) serving as Vice-President, I am confident that the foundations for an enduring and active Society have been well laid.

The majority of current Olympic journals now seem to pay scant attention to the competitive and factual aspects of the Games, preferring instead to devote space to such matters as socio-political implications, stamp collecting, pin collecting, and the like. For no apparent reasons these journals have distanced themselves from the actual Olympic Games and I am still trying to fathom the connection between the Olympics and the poet, Lord Byron, who was the subject of a recent feature article (September 1991) in the *Olympic Review*.

It is the intention of ISOH to take a less ethereal approach and to concentrate on researching and recording matters which have a direct connection with the Modern Olympic Games.

I would like to thank Bill Mallon for producing such a splendid first newsletter and I know that he has many interesting features planned for future issues. Your articles, news items, ideas and suggestions will be not only welcome, but necessary if we are to survive as a functioning Society, and not the work of only a few people. It has been said that the advent of electric and diesel power to the railway systems of the world has brought about a vastly increased interest in the old days of the "steam age." Like the railways, the Olympic Games are undergoing drastic changes - not all of them for the better - and I trust that ISOH will, similarly, help stimulate interest in the Olympic Games of the past.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Society.

Sincerely,

Ian Buchanan
President
International Society of Olympic Historians