

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On Thursday, 5 December 1991, a group of us met at a small pub in the Knightsbridge section of London, the "Duke of Clarence." Present were Bill Mallon (USA), Ian Buchanan (GBR), Stan Greenberg (GBR), David Wallechinsky (USA), Ture Widlund (SWE), Ove Karlsson (SWE), and Peter Matthews (GBR). Invited guests who sent regrets were Wolf Lyberg (SWE), Erich Kamper (AUT), Pim Huurman (HOL), Tony Bijkerk (HOL), and Peter Diamond (USA). On that day it was decided to form a society for the promotion of Olympic history and research into Olympic history. Erich Kamper, who has received the Olympic Order for his efforts in that regard, was unanimously elected as honorary president. All members present that day, and invited as noted above, are now considered as founding members of the International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH).

For several years now, Ture Widlund and myself have made efforts to form such an organization. We have tried to obtain International Olympic Committee (IOC) support and official recognition before proceeding, but so far have been unsuccessful. During that time we have contacted many of you receiving this journal, and support for such an organization seemed to be available. Thus, Ture, Ian Buchanan, and myself helped arrange the above meeting with one of our plans to be the formation of such a group.

You will note that many top published Olympic historians are included in the above group. Upon my return to the United States I then contacted several of the top academic Olympic historians in the United States. My purpose was to be certain that they were in favor in such a group's formation and also to assure them that we sincerely desired their membership and participation in the group. All were in favor of the idea.

I also contacted Dr. Bob Barney of London, Ontario, Canada. Many of you are probably aware that Bob, who is at the University of Western Ontario, is editing a journal, *Olympika*, which will be an academic journal concerned with the Olympics. We did not wish to be competing with this journal. Indeed, I have no plans for this journal to be a purely academic one. Rather, we thought that a mutually beneficial nexus could be formed between the society and *Olympika*. It was proposed that we would consider *Olympika* the official academic journal of ISOH. We also agreed that *Olympika* could advertise themselves as such which may help support for that journal.

For many years Ture Widlund and I have called the group SIHO, standing for *Société Internationale d'Historiens Olympiques*. We also formulated a preliminary constitution, based on constitutions of several comparable groups (ATFS - *Association of Track & Field Statisticians*, and SABR - *Society for American Baseball Research*). The constitution deemed the official languages to be English and French, with English taking preference. (This is similar to the Olympic Charter which has the same official languages, but gives French preference.) After discussion with Ian Buchanan and others, it seemed that the English version of the name, ISOH - *International Society of Olympic Historians*, was a better choice for several reasons. First, English was supposed to be the primary language, and secondly, English is a far more universal language than is French.

A copy of the proposed constitution is enclosed in this issue. I would like all of you who to decide to join the group to review this and suggest any changes you think are appropriate. At this time, because of the scattered nature of the group, true democratic process will probably not take place in the formative stages of the society, and the officers may modify the constitution per your suggestions. It should also be noted that plans are mentioned to meet at the Games of the Olympiad every four years. It is a bit late for that to occur this year at Barcelona.

As to membership, we have mailed this issue of the journal to almost 100 well-known Olympic historians. Anybody receiving the journal is being offered membership in ISOH. A membership application is enclosed in the journal and should be returned to me if you desire to join, along with the annual membership fee of \$15.00 (US). [In exceptional circumstances, this can be modified or waived, if the prospective member so requests.] There are two membership applications in each journal. The society will be a closed one, with membership being offered to people. However, initially, we consider everybody to whom this is being sent to be honest and a well-known Olympic historian. If you know somebody of similar interests, who you are certain we could consider for membership, you may send them a membership application as well during the formative days of the society.

As secretary-general, I will serve three purposes. I will publish the journal, at least through 1996. I will serve as membership secretary, keeping a membership roster and distributing it to members. I will also collect dues and manage the funds of the organization.

As to *Citius, Altius, Fortius: The ISOH Journal*, I will attempt to publish three issues a year initially. This issue contains two excellent articles. One is on Olympic baseball by Pete Cava, who is a member of the ATFS as well as SABR and is an expert on baseball and the Olympics. The second is a study of the economics of Olympic costs, written by Frank Zarnowski, who is a top expert on the decathlon and is a Ph.D. in economics.

In order to continue publishing the journal, I will need to receive articles for publication. As stated, they will not require academic rigor to be published, although hopefully they will have some substance. I would be happy to receive any academic articles which you have been unsuccessful in getting published in academic journals. As an orthopaedic surgeon, I have several medical articles of my own in that category, though I doubt they would fit this journal. I would also like to publish a statistical column in which any significant statistical research you have done into the history of the Olympics could be published. I encourage all of you to submit articles or the journal will not survive.

I will eventually publish the final, revised version of the constitution in the journal. Also, we will publish letters from people to the membership asking for information or offering help. Eventually, I will include a column of work in progress so that members will know who is doing what, and where to turn for help. A membership directory will also be published which will include current interests and previous works published to also help in that regard. Finally, please send along any newspaper articles you see which you think could be of interest to re-print. I will consider everything but guarantee nothing. At this point, the final decision will be mine. The journal will not initially be refereed by sending articles to other members.

Welcome to *ISOH* and *Citius, Altius, Fortius*.

Sincerely,

Bill Mallon
Secretary-General
International Society of Olympic Historians