

MEMBERS FORUM

Dear ISOH,

1) With reference to Pim Huurman's letter in Volume 2, No. 1- Winter 1994 - I would like to inform my colleagues that the IOC Olympic Collectors' Commission was created in 14th June 1993 to oversee the three commissions: FIPO (stamps), FINO (coins), and ACOM (pins, miscellaneous memorabilia). The ACOM - Association of Collectors of Olympic Memorabilia - had its first meeting 11 January 1994.

2) With reference to "Olympic News" of that same issue, I wish to inform my colleagues that at the VIII Olympic Winter games in Squaw Valley in 1960, the fire that was brought to the stadium was not lit in Olympia but in Morgedal (Norway). From 1964 on, the fire has always been lit in Olympia.

Dr. Karel Wendl
Lausanne, SUI

Dear Karel,

Thank you for the corrections. This is the true purpose of ISOH in my opinion - to encourage an interchange of information among members to further the study of Olympic history. As concerns the Winter flame, my information was based on *The Olympic Story: Pursuit of Excellence* (Groliers 1976). Conrado Durantez's book *Le Flambeau Olympique was also* consulted but, unfortunately, does not deal with the Flame during the Olympic Winter Games.

Karel also sent a copy of President Samaranch's letter to the NOC Presidents concerning the formation of the Association of Collectors of Olympic Memorabilia. I have copied it below.

To: NOC Presidents
Re: FINO/ACOM
Date: 8 December 1993

Dear Sir/Madam:

We have the pleasure in informing you that 14th June last, the International Olympic Committee officially created the Olympic Collectors Commission, a Commission which groups together and coordinates the International Olympic Philatelic Federation (FIPO), Olympic

Numismatic Federation (FINO), and the Association of Collectors of Olympic Memorabilia (ACOM).

These three Federations will have as members national associations and not individual members. With this in view, each National Olympic Committee is invited to encourage the creation of a national association of Olympic numismatics and of Olympic memorabilia in its country. Appropriate contacts should be established with national associations, private collectors, etc., in this respect.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation.

Yours faithfully,

Juan Antonio Samaranch
Marques de Samaranch

Dear ISOH Members,

Concerning the Book Review I have enclosed with this letter, *The Official Olympic Book Series*, so far two books have been published and I have reviewed both of them; the third volume of this series will follow after the Lillehammer Olympic Winter Games, most likely in September 1994. Volume III will be the final, comprehensive coverage in text and pictures of the XVIIth Olympic Winter Games. It will also be the Official IOC Book on these Olympic Winter Games, as Stenersens Forlag AS recently signed the agreement with the IOC for this purpose.

Some additional information: the price for each volume is \$69 (US), not only for the first two volumes but also for the third, still to come. I have been able to persuade Stenersens Forlag to give ISOH Members a small discount. As a token of its appreciation for our work, the Forlag will pay mailing costs for each volume ordered from their series by any ISOH Member. ISOH Members should order their books direct from J.M. Stenersens Forlag A.S., Postboks 2409 Solli, 0202 Oslo, NORWAY. ATTN: Mrs. Catharina Mowinckel.

Anthony Th. Bijkerk
Fochteloo
THE NETHERLANDS

Dear ISOH,

Please refer to the discussion I kicked off in a commentary letter at the very beginning of ISOH. I hope you'll remember I pointed out that the name of the country in English should be "The Netherlands." You got feedback from Pim Huurman and Tony Bijkerk, which you printed, but in your own commentary (*CAF*, Vol. 1, No. 3, p. 45) you responded something about the IOC changing the three-letter acronym from HOL to NED. Is this an "official" change? If it is "official," who makes the decision? Who publishes it? If the IOC has an

official committee which decides this sort of thing, do they publish a set of rules for their methods? How can I obtain a set of those rules? Who is in control?

Donald Sayenga
Bethlehem, PA, USA

Dear Don,

On my recent trip to Lausanne, I had a chance to ask your question of Karel Wendl, head of the IOC Research Department. Karel informs me that each individual National Olympic Committee may choose their own three-letter abbreviations. They do have to be submitted to the IOC for official approval, however. The three-letter abbreviations are published annually, along with a great deal of other information, in the *Olympic Movement Directory*, which is available from the IOC in Lausanne.

Dear ISOH,

As always, I enjoyed the Winter 1994 issue of *Citius, Altius, Fortius*. One correction, although minor, is worth noting. The first entry in the "Olympic News" column on page 43 cites the upcoming 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney as the first of the 21st Century. Actually, the next century does not begin until 1 January 2001. We tend to forget that the 1st Century A.D. began in the year 1 (one), not the year 0 (zero). In fact, the first games of the next century will be the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, wherever they may be held.

Mark Maestrono
San Diego, CA, USA

Dear Mark,

No comment really necessary except to admit my ignorance. I stand corrected.