

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In December of last year (1996) ISOH celebrated its fifth anniversary and I have no doubt that I speak for other founding members when I say that the growth and development of ISOH has far exceeded our wildest expectations.

From a distinctly modest beginning, the Society now has over 200 members from 30 different countries. Eight IOC members, nine Olympic competitors and no less than 17 recipients of the Olympic Order are numbered among our members. I find this broad range of membership one of the most encouraging features of our development.

Although the number of countries represented continues to grow, I would particularly like to see more members from Asia, Africa and Central and South America, but if Olympic historians actually exist in these territories, we will find them-or they will find us.

This year ISOH is listed in the *Directory of the Olympic Movement* for the first time and now that the Society is so firmly established, it is time to look forward and perhaps review the possibility of furthering research on a collective basis. Groups with similar specialist interests should be encouraged to pool their material. Unfortunately, "encouragement" is all the ISOH can offer at the moment as our financial position precludes any possibility of the Society assisting with the costs of publication.

Many of our members have recently produced some splendid books and one only has to look at the acknowledgments in these books to realize the help that the authors have been given by fellow ISOH members. It is gratifying to see that one of our original aims of enabling members to make contact with persons having similar interests is being fulfilled in this way.

Through the good offices of President Samaranch and the IOC it is hoped that the Officers and Executive Committee of ISOH will be able to meet in Lausanne later this year. Should this proposed gathering take place, it will be the first time that all our officers have been able to get together at one time and such a meeting would provide an invaluable opportunity to discuss the general direction in which ISOH should be moving. We will, of course, ask the IOC if there is any particular aspect of Olympic history which they would like us, as a Society, to pursue. If you have any particular items you would like placed on the agenda of the ISOH meeting, please advise Tony Bijkerk.

There is also a possibility that a meeting, open to all ISOH members, might be arranged at the International Olympic Academy in 1998 or 1999, but it would be premature to say more at this stage.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Tony Bijkerk, together with Steve Harris and Wray Vamplew, on the quality of the first Journal produced by this editorial team. In order that the name and aims of ISOH are kept before the International Olympic Committee, members of the IOC Executive Committee will, in future, receive a complimentary copy of the *Journal*. My thanks also to David Wallechinsky for taking on the onerous duties of Honorary Treasurer and dealing so competently with the problems attached to accounting in more than one currency.

Ian Buchanan, ISOH President