

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE EDITORIAL TEAM.

During 1997, we mourned the loss of weightlifting expert and member of our Society Vladan Mihajlovic from Yugoslavia, who passed away in July at the age of 57 years. Vladan's membership was taken over by his son Milan.

In December, 1996, the International Society of Olympic Historians had 195 members from 30 countries, from which seven were patron members. This year, ISOH membership climbed to 243 members, including 14 patron members (a jump of about 20%). Among the new members, we welcome several from new countries, including patron memberships for the Russian and Mexican Olympic Committees as well as the Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games the Sports Library of Finland, and the National Sports Information Centre in Australia. Regular memberships come from Denmark, India, Israel, Jamaica, Latvia-, and Russia.

The Secretary General of the Society is most grateful for the fine assistance of Prof. Dr. Vladimir Rodichenko, vice-president of the Russian Olympic Committee, for recruiting several eminent Olympic historians from his country for ISOH membership.

With this issue, the editorial team starts its second year. We hope to continue in the same line as last year. Fortunately, the articles which we receive give us few problems. Our goal is to further improve the quality of the *Journal* and its illustrations. However, we wish to apologize for the lateness of this issue, caused by unforeseen technical difficulties.

Meanwhile, it needs to be stated explicitly once again that the responsibility for each article we publish belongs solely to the author or the person who submits it. The editorial team cannot take any responsibility for these publications, because we can only examine each article for its historical and reading value (as far as this is possible). We cannot take a stand on historical correctness. We leave that examination to our readers. Readers can express their opinions in the *Journal's* Members' Forum.

The editorial team wishes all its readers a very instructive, and studious Olympic historical year 1998!

Tony Bijkerk, Secretary-General/Editor

Stephen L. Harris, Associate Editor • Wray Vamplew, Associate Editor

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