

MEMBERS FORUM

Séamus Ware wrote to the editor on 16th August 1997, as follows:

“Séamus Ware intends to pursue study of Technological Progress and the Olympic Games, and he would welcome correspondence or suggestions from members on any aspects of this (wide) subject - facilities, equipment, communications, clothing and footwear.

Any letters/suggestions are welcome at: Séamus Ware; 13 Beithe Geala, Dún Droma, Baile Atha Cliath 14, Ireland.

Prof. Dr. Karl Lennartz wrote:

CITIUS, ALTIUS, FORTIUS AND/OR PARTICIPATION ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN VICTORY

At the seminar of former participants of the International Olympic Academy (IOA) this summer, I gave a report in Olympia on the history of Olympic Medals. In the ensuing discussion, I was asked about the form in which the Commemorative Medals are handed over. I could only answer that these medals are handed over to the leaders of the teams to distribute them to the athletes. This seemed to be a “not too worthy form” to the audience. In the discussion, I developed the idea to hand over these medals to participating sportsmen and women in a “more worthy form”. I proposed to do this in a very simple ceremony directly after every competition: after the qualification in an athletic discipline (technical discipline) the participants stand in line, and an IOC-member hands over the Commemorative Medal to each one of them. Every boxer receives it after the first fight, after the winner has been proclaimed. Soccer players get them after their first games. This procedure would not cost too much time, it would not require too much of an organizational effort, but it would definitely show in an appropriate form that - apart from the three medal winners - there are also competitors who had trained for the Olympic Games by following the motto: “Participation is more important.”

My proposal met the approval of the audience in Olympia, and I was asked to think of an appropriate form to contribute this proposal to the IOC. Before I proceed any further in this matter, however, I should like to ask for the opinion of the ISOH-members.

In case my proposal meets the assent of the ISOH-members, one could possibly hand it in as an “official ISOH-Proposal” to the IOC-President.

Karl Lennartz would like to receive comments on his proposal from ISOH members at his personal address: Sperlingweg 16, 53757 Sankt Augustin, Germany.

Heiner Gillmeister, Dr. Phil. from Germany wrote to the editor on 29th September 1997:

Since it might be of interest to our mutual colleagues, I would like to inform you about the appearance in print, in the course of October 1997, of the English language version of my *Kulturgeschichte des Tennis*, Munich: Wilhelm Fink Verlag 1990. (A Japanese version was published in 1993 by Professor Masahiro Inagaki, Shigeyuki Nara and Hironori Funai, Nara University of Education, et al.) by Taishukan Publishing Co., LID, Tokyo, ISBN 4-469-26263-3, Yen 7,000.] The English version will be titled: *Tennis. A Cultural History*, and the publisher Cassell Academic/Leicester University Press, London [416 pages, 120 b/w illustrations; 16 pages colour illustrations, ISBN 0-7185-0147-0 (HB) £60.00.]

The book will be taking the history of tennis from its beginnings in the early Middle Ages up to the eve of the First World War by which time the major events of modern lawn tennis such as the All England championships in Wimbledon, the championships of the USA and continental Europe and the Davis Cup had been inaugurated. Of special interest to the Olympic historian will, of course, be my chapter on Olympic tennis for which the recently discovered diary of John Pius Boland has been evaluated. The same chapter will also feature an excellent and hitherto unpublished photograph showing the Olympic victor, Boland, as a member of an Old Boys' cricket team in 1895. It may also be of interest to our friends, that I plan to edit, this under the auspices of Bonn University, Boland's diary together with a translation into German and on the basis of documentary evidence from local archives in Bonn including Bonn University archive. Roughly half of Boland's diary deals with his studies at Bonn University in the winter term of 1895/1896, and a special emphasis of the edition will be on this period of Boland's life.

Hoping that this is a useful piece of information, I remain,
With best regards,

Yours sincerely,
Heiner Gillmeister

Ture Widlund from Sweden wrote to the Editor on 6th October 1997:

THE HOUSE OF FORMER SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER WAS NOT BURNT DOWN!

In No.3, 1997, there was a notice saying that the home of the former Swedish Prime Minister, Ingvar Carlsson, was burnt down by an arsonist in protest against the Stockholm bid

for the Olympic Games 2004. As there is very little truth in this notice it should never have appeared in this Journal. The facts are as follows:

A number of sports arenas, hockey and tennis halls in and around Stockholm and the stand, with lockerrooms, of östermalms Idrottsplats (sportsground) close to the 1912 Olympic Stadium and a training arena in 1912, have burnt down. They have all obviously been set on fire by an arsonist. The media has been speculating whether these fires have been any sort of protest against the Stockholm bid for the Olympic Games 2004. The media even dubbed the arsonist: OS-pyromanen (the Olympic pyromaniac).

There is, however, no evidence whatsoever that the burning down of these arenas has anything to do with the Stockholm 2004 bid. There are no messages, no letters, no nothing, as there should have been had the burning down been done by anyone opposing the Stockholm 2004 bid.

The house of former Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson has not been burnt down. There was a minor fire outside one of the side-walls. It was discovered and quickly extinguished, causing only insignificant damages. Just as with the sports arenas the media speculated about a possible connection with the Stockholm 2004 bid, but just as with the sports arenas there was nothing whatsoever to connect it to the Stockholm 2004 bid.

So far, no-one has been arrested, neither for the burnt down sports arenas, not for the failed attempt to burn down the home of the former Prime Minister.

After that false notice was written, there has been two incidents that may, repeat may, be connected to the Stockholm 2004 bid. A bomb explosion in the 1912 Olympic Stadium and one in the Nya Ullevi stadium in Gothenburg. Both bombs caused only minor damages and did not prevent the stadiums being used as usual. It seems as if the bombs were not meant to cause maximum harm, only to be of a symbolic nature. And why should anyone opposing Olympic Games in Stockholm plant a bomb in Gothenburg? It more looks like being part of the eternal rivalry between Stockholm and Gothenburg. "If Stockholm has a bomber, so should we in Gothenburg".

Now, there were some messages claiming credit for the bombs. And for the fires too. A group called VSBS, "Vi som byggde Sverige" (We who built Sweden) took on the responsibility. But the Stockholm police was unconvinced, they doubted that those who wrote the letters are the same as those who planted the bomb in the Olympic Stadium. VSBS has previously said it should plant bombs, but no bombs have ever exploded or even been discovered after its threats.

The night prior to the day the IOC voted for the Olympic Games 2004, a man carrying explosives was apprehended close to the statue used as symbol by the Stockholm 2004 bid, Pegasus and the Man, by Carl Milles.

So far, the police has not released any information as to the identity of the man, his affiliation, his motives or whether he was responsible for the bomb in the 1912 Olympic Stadium.

Note by the editor:

We thank Ture Widlund for his enlightening piece on Sweden's arsonist. Whether he is an Olympic arsonist or not, still remains to be seen!

The 'notice' mentioned by Ture Widlund, happened to be an article in the British newspaper: The Daily Telegraph from June 5th, 1997 and for that reason it was published by the editor-team in the OLYMPIC NEWS SECTION.

Maybe, we, as the editor-team should do well to remind our readers again and again that the team cannot take any responsibility for the information contained in any of the articles forwarded!

That responsibility as a matter of course, solely belongs to the author of each article!

Dr. Uriel Simri from Israel wrote on 7th October 1997:
Dear Mr. Editor,

I was amazed to read Prof.Dr. Karl Lennartz's "abridged" biography of Carl Diem, which was published without any critical remark. I consider that biography to be abridged as it contains no details concerning Diem's activities during the years of World War II, a fact which is quite common among Germans who want to hide their past. The fact is that Carl Diem was a ranking official in the Nazi Ministry of Sports during that era.

As long as the present generation in Germany cannot admit its past, I would consider it much better to leave the writing of biographies to future generations, who should be able to handle those in an objective way.

Dr. Uriel Simri,
Herzliyah, Israel.

Dr. Don Anthony wrote to the editor in October:

On page 20 of the Fall-1997-issue of the Journal, in my article: COUBERTIN, BRITAIN AND THE BRITISH, A CHRONOLOGY, an incorrect year has been mentioned with regard to the naturalization of Charles Waldstein. It should be 1899, as correctly mentioned in my earlier article on Waldstein: THE REMARKABLE WALDSTEIN, published in the Winter 1997, Volume 5, Number 1-issue of the Journal of Olympic History.

Ove Karlsson from Sweden asked the editor on November 5th to please include in the MEMBERS FORUM the follow-

ing important message:

OBITUARIES

The summer 1997 issue of our *Journal of Olympic History* included a compilation of deceased Olympic medallists, mainly those who died in the period 1993 to 1996, after the editorial deadline for the Golden Book of the Olympic Games (by Erich Kamper and Bill Mallon), which is *THE* reference book concerning - among other things - names (spelling) with dates of birth and (where applicable) death of Olympic medallists.

A further list will be published in the Summer 1998 issue of the Journal (Vol.6, No.2).

Several ISOH members (and some other colleagues) have already sent information. New contributors include Jean-Pierre Caravan (USA), Juan Fauria Garcia (ESP), Egbert Gebauer (GER), Andrew Huxtable (GBR), Andrew Kahlich (HUN) and Gennadi G. Maritchev (LAT). Thank you very much indeed!

Please send, to the compiler, corrections (supported by relevant photocopies) and additions to data in the Golden Book and to the list in the summer 1997 issue of the Journal (Vol.5, No.2), and - first of all - information on recently deceased Olympic medallists. The address is:

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Many thanks in advance for your valuable help!