

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE EDITORIAL TEAM.

Already the Nagano Olympic Summer Games are receding into the past, and are now part of Olympic history at the moment they ended. From this moment onwards, the Olympic family will turn around, and start looking southward to the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney in 2000. We do the same, by publishing Harry Gordon's article on Australian Olympic legends who will be honoured at Sydney's Games Sites!

At a ceremony at IOC headquarters in Lausanne on 25 March 1998, attended by Mrs. Jeannie Buchanan, Mme. Françoise Zweifel, Secretary General of the IOC, Mme Marie-Hélène Roukhadze, and Mr. Wolf Lyberg, the IOC-President Juan Antonio Samaranch, Marques de Samaranch presented the Olympic Order to ISOH-President Ian Buchanan. We congratulate Ian with this much deserved honour! (Please see Page 21.)

We welcome quite a few new ISOH-members, including one from South Korea. In fact, in this issue we publish an article by this new Korean member, Mr. Ha.

Other articles include Wolf Lyberg's final figures on the athletes participating in the Nagano Summer Games, plus an extension to his article on the athletes of the Olympiad, (Volume 6, No. 1), containing the final figures, which now include the many track and field athletes. We pay homage to the late ISOH-member Vladan Mihailovic from Yugoslavia, who, together with his son Milan, collaborated on an article on Serbian Weightlifting. We enclose a biography of the late Dutch IOC-member, member of the IOC Executive Board and IOC-Vice President, Herman A. van Karnebeek, whose story will surprise many of our readers, and especially those who have known him well.

As usual, ISOH Treasurer David Wallechinsky publishes the year-end financial statement for 1997. And Ture Widlund from Sweden sent us his yearly Index.

Ove Karlsson from Sweden, Olympic statistician 'pur sang', has his yearly list of obituaries; to which we added a short biography of the famous pre-World-War II swimmer Willy den Ouden, who died in December. It is written by Ruud Paauw.

In the meantime, the editorial team again would like readers to realise that the Journal of Olympic History only deserves to be published when the material for publishing continues to come in regularly. That is why we again request you to contribute!

Tony Bijkerk, Secretary-General/Editor

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