

## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE EDITORIAL TEAM

In spite of the many problems confronting the IOC, the editorial team decided not to pay too much attention to the crisis. The *Journal of Olympic History* is not the place for re-publishing the many allegations and rumours circulating in the international press. Therefore, we made the obvious choice only to publish official information, as it was published in the IOC bulletin: OLYMPIC HIGHLIGHTS.

The ISOH continues to grow. We started 1998 with 243 members, and ended with 263. Already 10 new members joined over the first three months, with more coming up soon. Most important is that several members joined from four new countries: Argentina, Cuba, Puerto Rico and Roumania. All new members are very welcome indeed!

The editor received sort of a 'rap on the knuckles' from one member regarding the 1896 Olympic marathon article, published in the last issue. He suggested that the article's authors should first have consulted all ISOH members about the availability of more 'sources' on the 1896 Olympic Games, with emphasis on the 1896 marathon. The editorial team disagrees, pointing out that the authors made a good start. In fact, the authors of the article explicitly invited members to submit any other materials concerning the 1896 marathon for publication in the *Journal*.

In this issue, we are publishing an interesting request from the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games, directly addressed to all ISOH members. We also introduce the "Oral Project". David Wallechinsky initiated this project during the meeting of the Executive Committee in Lausanne last year. The Committee unanimously endorsed the project and invited Wallechinsky to introduce it to the members. Please read the introduction carefully and make appropriate use of the questionnaire. To make its use easier for you, we have enclosed a separate copy of the questionnaire.

Although many members acted upon our Treasurer's request to pay their yearly dues, others have forgotten. We make another request to look at your own personal situation. For Europeans living in one of the countries which uses the Euro, I have an additional request: please do not use Euro-cheques in this currency! They are not (yet?) accepted by the Bank. Only a direct transfer into the account, as mentioned on page 4 of the previous issue, is the correct way for the money to be accepted into the Dutch ISOH-account.

We just learned of the death of Mr. Masaji Kiyokawa, IOC honorary member, ISOH member and 1932 Olympic goldmedal winner. He died 13 April 1999 in Tokyo, age of 86 years. We remember and honour him through his article: 'My Olympic Golden Moment - Swimming into History', published in Volume 5, Number 3, Fall 1997.

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*Stephen L. Harris and Harry Gordon, Associate Editors*

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