

MEMBERS FORUM

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC SCHOLARS AND THE SYDNEY 2000 GAMES

*by Richard Cashman, Director, Centre for Olympic Studies,
University of New South Wales*

The visit of twenty or thirty or more international Olympic scholars for the Sydney Olympic Games will be an important event for Olympic studies in Australia. Local scholars will welcome the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with this group of eminent international visitors. It is also our role to welcome international colleagues and to facilitate their research while in Australia. There is great potential then for mutual exchange and benefit.

Visiting scholars will be pleasantly surprised by the involvement of various universities in the Olympics, both in Sydney and other cities. There are already two Centres for Olympic Studies in Australia the second one being at the University of South Australia where it is headed by Professor John Daly. Other universities, such as University of Technology Sydney, have an ongoing program of Olympic teaching and lectures and the University of Sydney started an annual Edwin Flack Lecture in Olympic Week in 1998. In fact all the universities in Sydney and New South Wales have some form of involvement in the Games.

The International Society of Olympic Historians has appointed Harry Gordon, the doyen of Australian Olympic historians and the official historian and lecturer of the Australian Olympic Committee, as its *chargé d'affaires* in Sydney for the Games. In that role he has arranged a meeting of members of the organisation on the track and field rest day during the Olympic program, Tuesday 26 September.

To further enhance the visit of international Olympic scholars the Centre for Olympic Studies at the University of New South Wales would like to form a 'UNSW Panel of International Olympic Scholars'.

UNSW PANEL OF INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC SCHOLARS

The Centre would like to host a panel of 15-20 scholars, representative of the five continents of the world - covering the five rings. Some of Panel activities could include:

- A meeting and reception shortly before the Games;
- Organising a book on the Sydney Games perhaps along the lines of the 'Keys to Success' (on the Barcelona Games) in which individual panellists could contribute a chapter;
- The opportunity for panellists to attend one Session at the University's suite at the Main Stadium;
- The opportunity for some panellists to have some involvement in the Centre's office in the Main Press Centre, thereby enabling contact with the international print media;
- Participation in the 'Marathon Breakfast' at the UNSW Union during the running of the women's marathon. The marathon will pass directly in front of the University Union and after completing the Kingsford loop and return again in front of the Union;
- Access to the Centre for Olympic Studies Library and other facilities.

APPLICATIONS

Interested Olympic scholars, who will be in Sydney for the 2000 Games, should apply to be part of this Panel.

Because there are limitations on the size of the Panel - due to space constraints and issues of representation - preference will be given to panellists who can participate in the full range of Panel activities.

Enquiries and expressions of interest to:

Richard Cashman, Director,
Centre for Olympic Studies,
Room G 17 Morven Building
University of New South Wales,
Sydney 2052, Australia
Centre phone: 61 + 2 + 9385 1551
Direct Phone: 61 + 2 + 9385 2338
Home Phone: 61 + 2 + 9568 6836
Fax: 61 + 2 + 9385 1551

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THE 1st CENTURY PROJECT - update

In a recent conversation with Gary Allison, Chairman of the 1st Century Project, ISOH's Journal editor learned that after 16 years of intensive work, the English-language edition of THE OLYMPIC CENTURY: The Official 1st Century History of the Modern Olympic Movement, is nearing completion. All 24 volumes of the series will go to the printer in mid-December with complete sets, packed in a single box, ready for distribution in January 2000.

"The key distribution focus will be the middle, secondary and public school libraries of the English speaking nations," said Allison. "From day one, we envisioned that *The Olympic Century* continuity series would become the single most important resource for teachers, students, writers and journalists who wanted to learn about the Olympics," Allison continued, adding, "And we have accomplished that just in time for the millennium."

Advance orders for a complete 24-volume set of *The Olympic Century* can be made between October 1 and December 15, 1999 via the home pages of the IOC and the National Olympic Committees of Australia, New Zealand and the United States, all of whom will make the series available at cost, or \$348.00 US, which includes shipping within each country. An additional shipping charge will be added for shipment to other nations. Individuals who want to own the series can take advantage of the discounted price by ordering during this time and are invited to do so.

Work on The Olympic Century series began in 1984 when both the IOC and various NOC's expressed the need for an intellectual work, which would be lively, definitive, and capable of serving the entire international movement as the major component to bringing Olympic education to the classrooms of the world. Other expectations were that during the development of the project, which would require a systematic re-examination of Olympic history, there would be a concurrent gathering of lost memorabilia which time had scattered around the world. The 1st

Century Project was created to assemble an international and multi-lingual staff to carry out the work.

The completed series consists of 24-volumes, written in an international voice, which tell the epic Olympic story beginning in ancient Olympia, with a description of the Olympic Games of classical Greece, and the events leading up to the modern era. The texts of each volume cover an Olympiad, or four-year cycle, starting with two chapters on that quadrennial's Olympic Games and closing with a chapter on the Olympic Winter Games of the same period. Each volume also has a chapter that recounts the decisions of the IOC whose leaders and officials steered the Olympic movement down its path of greatness during each Olympiad.

There is an extensive appendix in each volume which includes complete statistics and a comprehensive calendar of important events during the Olympiad. The series Master Index, originally planned as Volume 25, will instead be available in a sophisticated, subject-data search format on the IOC Home Page beginning February 2000, with hot links available to a number of NOC home pages.

From the beginning, the editors of 1st Century Project sought the advice of leading educators throughout the world and listened carefully to their views, and in some cases very sharp criticisms, as to what Olympic histories have been lacking to make them more pertinent to school curriculums especially in the disciplines of history, social studies, humanities and current events. Everything they learned was carefully integrated into all staff assignments for researching, designing and the writing of the series. The editors have gone to great lengths to carefully establish and evoke, time, place, and setting in every volume.

Thanks to the flexibility of the series design, the English-language edition there will be at least four tailored versions printed in December. These includes one for the IOC and one each for the National Olympic Committees of Australia, New

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Zealand and the United States. However, decisions by the NOCs of Canada, Great Britain and Ireland to have their own tailored versions were pending at press time.

Currently, a collection of grade-specific Teacher Curriculum Guides and Classroom Lesson Plans based on the library use of *The Olympic Century* are being developed by educators. These free, updateable, curriculum guides and lesson plans will be posted on the Home Pages of each participating NOC by March of 2000. This puts each participating NOC in a position to serve their nation's teachers and students, regularly and permanently with solid, accurate Olympic materials, while also being able to maintain, update, and address their individual national identities as the passage of time and events may require.

"Once the English edition of *The Olympic Century* has been shipped," Allison said, "translations will begin in an effort to make the series available in the other official languages of the IOC.

"Development of a multi-part companion video with television air dates and a single volume for use in the primary schools has already begun."

Home pages addresses to use for more information when ordering are the:

IOC: www.olympic.org.

AUSTRALIA: www.australian.olympic.org.au

NEW ZEALAND: www.olympic.org.nz

UNITED STATES: www.olympic-usa.org

Note: The 1st Century Project, which is an arm of the Olympic Family, is also a Patron Member of the ISOH, and many of the ISOH members were entrusted with research assignments for various portions of the series.

SYMPOSIUM ON VOLUNTEERS, GLOBAL SOCIETY AND THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

The Olympic Studies Center at the Olympic Museum recently announced the organization of an International Symposium on "Volunteers, Global Society and the Olympic Movement, which will be held at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne on 24th, 25th and 26th November 1999.

The Symposium will be divided into three parts:

First Part: The volunteer will be analysed as a social phenomenon in the XXth century. The evolution of volunteers, the typology and the future goals will be evaluated by international experts on this subject.

Second Part: Will be focussed on Olympic volunteers. The historic evolution of the Olympic volunteers will be analysed through past experiences and the future prospect.

Third Part: The practical experience of the volunteers will be analysed in the context of the major sports events. The personal experience of volunteers will be also expressed through those who have participated.

People interested in the Symposium can find all necessary information by contacting Mrs. Núria Puig at the Olympic Study Center at the Olympic Museum, 1, Quay d'Ouchy, CH-1001 Lausanne, Switzerland, or via Ana Belén Moreno, at the Centre d'Estudis Olímpics i de l'Esport, Edifici B, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 08193 Bellaterra (Barcelona), Espanya.

This and more information can be found at the website of the Olympic Study Center: <http://www.museum.olympic.org> or <http://www.olympic.org>