

# EDITORIAL NOTE

## Message from the Secretary-General and the editorial team

**W**elcome to the new Millennium. Crossing over into the Year 2000 was truly memorable; and the editorial team hopes all of you made this rite of passage without any problems. Our best wishes to every member for the coming years.

It seems as if the Y2K bug hit us early in the last issue, as a matter of fact. A few of those dreaded bugs worked their way onto the pages of the Journal. For example, we noted that it was designated issue "Number 5" when we all know it should have been "Number 3". We only publish three times a year.

In this issue, we want to direct your attention to the address, telephone- and fax numbers of the Secretary-General (listed previous page), these are now correct and must be used by members who wish to contact the Secretary-General/Editor.

As we start the new Millennium, we are excited about our first issue for the next 1,000 years. First of all, we continue to publish important new material surrounding the 1896 marathon, provided by three of our members.

In addition, we offer an excerpt from the 1944 autobiography of the American, James B. Connolly. His experiences in 1896 are well worth reading. We include the famous photograph of him holding the American flag, but we also are printing a rare photograph from the Burton Holmes book (1901) that shows the American team leaving Athens by train.

Perhaps one of the best ways for us to kick-off the Year 2000 is to set the record straight involving the 1956 javelin contest. Dr. Zablocki's (Poland) eye-witness account refutes the story told in the last issue by Sandy Hollway, which in turn was taken from David Wallechinsky's volume, "The Complete Book of the Summer Olympics," 1996 edition.

And on a personal note, your Editor is proud that years of research finally paid off! "The Missing Shooter from the Paris 1900 Olympics" has been found. Perseverance did win out!

Of course, there is much more in this issue.

Indeed, we offer our thanks to Ture Widland for his regular contribution, the "thankless job" of indexing all the material published in 1999.

Finally, please don't forget to reply to the letter sent to all members from the Secretary-General, concerning nominations for the ISOH Executive Committee. You must respond before April 1st, 2000.

Just before the expiration date for this new issue, the editorial team learned about the death of two important members from the Olympic family: Leon Stukelj, the doyen of Olympic champions (almost 101 years old) and Prima Nebiolo, IOC member and president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).

Immediately after the media learned about Leon Stukelj's death, questions were asked to many of our members who wanted to know now replaced him as the oldest living Olympic champion in the world.

I think that nobody knows exactly, but as far as I know there is one female Olympic champion in the Netherlands, also a gymnast and gold medal winner at the Amsterdam Olympic Games in 1928, who is nearing her century. She will be 98 years old in January 2000. Her name is Alida Johanna (Alie) van den Bos, currently living in a home for the elderly in Amsterdam.

Any other information on this subject is welcome at the address of the Editor!

On a final note, we would like to warmly welcome six new Patron members to the ISOH ranks, being the National Olympic Committee's from Ecuador, Indonesia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, as well as the Wingate Institute for Physical Education and Sport, Israel.

**Anthony Th. Bijkerk**, Secretary-general and editor  
**Stephen L. Harris**, associate editor. Harry Gordon, associate editor, **Anthony Edgar**, associate editor,