

EDITORIAL NOTE

Our congratulations go to three ISOH members who in the past months have been honoured.

Wolf Lyberg (SWE), ISOH's doyen, has been appointed Honorary Member of ISOH by the Executive Committee for his great work on behalf of the Olympic movement.

Special emphasis must be given to the statistical work which he performed over the last fifteen years for the IOC, not to forget the extracts of the IOC Sessions from 1894 to this day, which will shortly be followed by the same for the IOC-Executive Board. His works form a milestone in Olympic history. His total production for the IOC amounts to around 15,000 pages! Wow!

Recently two ISOH members were awarded the Olympic Order.

Russia's NOC-Vice-President Vladimir Rodichenko received his Olympic Order direct from IOC President Samaranch when he visited Moscow in February.

William K. Guegold (USA), well known historian of Olympic music, received the news from IOC headquarters that he had been awarded this much coveted honour too.

The first issue of the Journal of Olympic History in the new millennium was received with praise all over.

The editorial team wishes to express that this is only for a small part of their own doing.

It is you, the members, who submit the articles and we 'only' edit them for the Journal. But please keep these articles coming!

It seems after all, the editors thoughts about Alida Johanna (Alie) van den Bos being the oldest living Olympic champion in the world, were correct.

Alie van den Bos is the only living female gymnast and Olympic gold medal winner at the Amsterdam Olympic Games in 1928, and 98 years old.

One ISOH member recently contacted the editor and informed him that Aileen Riggin, in spite of the fact that she won her Olympic gold medal in diving in the Olympic Games in Antwerp in 1920, still is four years younger than Mrs Van den Bos. Aileen Riggin thus is the oldest (and probably the only) gold medal winner alive from the 1920 Olympics.

This issue finally brings the long awaited historical article on the 'Olympic Bribery Scandal'. The article, written by ISOH Vice-President Bill Mallon, is an unbiased and comprehensive overview of all the events of the past year, when tensions ran high and drastic measures were needed to bring the IOC back onto its course, heading into the new Millennium.

John Lucas submitted his research on Caspar Whitney, about whom we published in the previous issue. John Lucas came up with more fantastic details about the fascinating early history of the American Olympic Committee and some of its members.

Harry Gordon has written a wonderful article which opens up an almost untrodden path: that of 'Olympians in the trenches of war'. Some of us might find inspiration in his ideas and might want to follow up with articles of their own. There must be some heroic stories to tell, but also some stories about shame, and these should not be neglected either, because both belong to the sad history of wars.

Further, you will find the regular chapters, like those with book reviews and letters to the Editor.

Unfortunately, Ove Karlsson from Sweden, who usually publishes his list of obituaries in the May issue, had to hold over and will now publish the obituaries in the September issue.

The ISOH Treasurer, David Wallechinsky has supplied us with his end-of-the-year account over 1999 and you can find that in this issue too.

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