



Olympic Order Biographies

By David Wallechinsky

On 17 May 2001, the International Olympic Committee announced that the Olympic Order in Silver would be awarded to three members of the executive committee of the ISOH. The Olympic Order honors those individuals who have performed outstanding services to the Olympic movement.

Here are brief descriptions of the recipients:

HARRY GORDON

Born 9 November 1925, Harry Gordon worked as a foreign correspondent and covered the Korean War and the revolution in Algeria before becoming editor of the *Melbourne Sun* in 1968. Over the next nineteen years, Gordon served as executive editor or editor-in-chief of leading newspapers in Australia. He was also chairman of the Australian Associated Press. He is the author of twelve books and was awarded the National Book Council first prize for Australian Literature.

Gordon's involvement with the Olympics began in 1952 when he attended the Helsinki Games as a journalist. In 1956 he helped plan the press facilities for the Melbourne Olympics. After leaving daily newspaper

work in 1987, Gordon was appointed official historian of the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC). His book *Australia at the Olympic Games* was published in 1994 and served as the basis for a major television documentary.

With the 2000 Olympic Games being scheduled for Sydney, Gordon was given the task of naming streets, parks and other features of the Olympic Village and other venues. He also played a significant role in nominating towns and geographical features for inclusion in the Sydney 2000 Torch Relay.

In May 1999 the AOC honored Gordon with its highest award, the Order of Merit. He was elected to the executive committee of the ISOH in 2000 and is currently associate editor of *The Journal of Olympic History*.

ANTHONY "TONY" TH. BIJKERK

Tony Bijkerk was born 19 February 1931 in Bandung in what is now Indonesia. After the Japanese takeover of the Dutch East Indies in 1941, Bijkerk spent four years of his childhood living in internment camps. At the end of World War II, his family was reunited and repatriated to the Netherlands. Bijkerk graduated from the Royal Naval

Academy and then served as a naval officer for twelve years. After he left the Royal Netherlands Navy he worked as director of sports and recreation for the city of Leeuwarden for 25 years before retiring in 1990.

Bijkerk was a member of the Dutch national swimming team in 1949 and 1950. He began collecting Olympic books in 1960 and soon expanded his collection to include memorabilia and Olympic history. Most of the collection can now be viewed in the Netherlands Sportsmuseum *Olympion*.

After his retirement, Bijkerk started working fulltime on the project of compiling the names of all Dutch Olympic competitors. His database is now 99.6% complete and serves as the basis of the Olympic Archive of the web site of the National Olympic Committee of the Netherlands: www.sports.nl. Bijkerk is the author of *Nederlandse Deelnemers aan de Tweede Olympische Spelen—tijdens de Wereldtentoonstelling Parijs 1900*, the product of forty years' research regarding Dutch participation in the 1900 Olympics. He is also the co-author, with Ruud Paauw, of *Het Gouden Boek van de Nederlandse Olympiërs*, a biographical dictionary of Dutch Olympians with full statistical data.

Bijkerk has been a member of the ISOH executive committee since its inception in 1991, and serves as secretary-general of the ISOH since 1996, as well as editor of *The Journal of Olympic History*.

WILLIAM "BILL" MALLON

Dr. Bill Mallon was born 2 February 1952.

He graduated from the Duke University School of Medicine and is a practicing orthopaedic surgeon specializing in shoulder surgery. Before completing his medical education, Mallon was a professional golfer. He played on the U.S. PGA Tour from 1975 through 1979 and finished fifth in the 1977 Tucson Open. Mallon successfully integrated his interests in orthopaedics and golf. Among the medical books he has co-authored are *Feeling Up to Par: Medicine from Tee to Green* and *The Golf Doctor*.

A lifelong fan of the Olympics, Mallon published his first Olympics-related study, *A Statistical Summary of the 1904 Olympics*, in 1981. Since then, he has published a total of fourteen books about the Olympics and four more are due for publication by the end of 2001.

Among these works is Mallon's extremely important series, *Results of the Early Modern Olympics*. When completed, these seven volumes will provide scholars with the most complete results available of the Olympics of 1896-1920, games for which the Official Reports are inadequate.

Mallon is currently working as a statistician and historian for the International Olympic Committee and is completing a database of the complete results of all Olympic Games to be published on the IOC web site.

Mallon is a founding member of ISOH, he served as its Secretary-General and as Editor of the ISOH magazine: *Citius, Altius, Fortius* from 1991 to 1996, then from 1996 to 2000 he was ISOH's Vice-President, and he currently is the organization's president.