

Journal Editor's Report

The *JSH* received twenty-one (21) new manuscripts from May 1, 1985 to April 30, 1986 which compares to thirty-five (35) for the proceeding year. In addition, two manuscripts previously invited for resubmission were resubmitted. Out of the new submissions, four were accepted with minor revisions and have or will appear in print. Eight were of sufficient quality to merit a request that the author revise the manuscript in line with the critical comments of reviewers and resubmit at a later date. Nine (9) articles were rejected; six (6) having been turned down by the reviewers and three (3) returned as inappropriate for the journal. In all, the editors accepted in the course of the year seven (7) manuscripts, three (3) of which were resubmissions. Decisions are currently pending on three (3) manuscripts, one of which is a revision.

We continue to maintain the standard length of the review process at six to eight weeks. When the process has taken longer it is generally because the manuscript deals with an unusual topic that the editorial board lacks expertise in. In those cases we have relied heavily on the efforts of experts in the particular fields. I would like to thank Susan Gillespie, Alyce Cheska, Michael Salter, George Eisen, Archibald Smith, Joseph Morton, W. Robert Morford, Dennis Brailsford, and Anne and Edwin DeWindt for their kind assistance in this scholarly enterprise.

In forthcoming issues of the *JSH* there will be a number of small innovations that the publications board and the membership of NASSH have indicated an interest in. Beginning with the winter issue we have tried to put more emphasis on publishing graphics along with articles, particularly those that enhance the discussion and provide evidence to substantiate the argument(s) being presented. In the Winter 1986 issue we shall publish our first interview with Abel Kiviat. It is our hope that this will be just the first of several interviews with prominent sportspeople that will enhance our understanding of the history of sport. The summer issue will be devoted to Latin American sport and has been edited by William Beezley. We hope to be able to send it to press presently. We have tentatively scheduled another special issue for the spring 1987 on the topic "Sport, Exercise and American Medicine," which will be edited by Jack Berryman, former editor and current managing editor of the *JSH*. We welcome additional ideas for future special issues.

The major problem for the journal is once again that of keeping to a timely publication schedule. The heart of that problem is the difficulty of securing a sufficient number of high quality manuscripts that merit publication. As you have seen above, the number of submissions has declined very substantially. One way to alleviate that problem is to produce special issues in which the essays are invited by guest editors. We do not, however, want to go overboard on this route. The editors continued to be concerned with the relatively small proportion of articles invited to be resubmitted that actually are, both because of the high quality of criticism given, and the high proportion of acceptances to revised (and re-revised essays). We are in a very competitive "market" for good manuscripts. Not only are all historical periodicals publishing essays on sport history, but we can hardly keep up with the number of new journals being published in the field of sport history, et., *Baseball History*, and *the Journal of British History*. Before the arrival of JBS, we were getting a good number of manuscripts in British sport history, and publishing some very fine pieces, but in the past year, we received virtually no submissions in that area. There has been less of a problem of keeping pace with the book review and journal abstract sections, although in the former section, we still have a problem of getting all the books we want to review, and some reviewers are still slow in getting back to us. In the case of the abstract section, there are moments when I am afraid it will take over the *Journal* because there is so much to abstract. Our communication with our printer has been very good after initial problems with the

shipping of journals to my office, and we are mailing them out as fast as possible when they are completed. We are trying to alter our format of shipping and will try to have future issues mailed directly from the printer once we get a price on the cost.

As of this date, you will have hopefully received your copy of the winter 1985 issue. The spring 1986 is being copy edited and should soon be printed up. I expect the summer issue to appear right on schedule along with the subsequent two issues since space for those numbers is virtually set.

We have fared very badly in the area of advertisements. In fact, we have received no contracts over the past year and just a few inquiries. Jack Neville, the advertising manager, has been hard at work in producing a rate card and other material to heighten our visibility and secure appropriate advertisements. While this can bring in some revenue, I feel that a far more profitable endeavor would be to try to increase our institutional circulation. Virtually every "major" university library in the U.S.A. receives our journal; I think we are doing well in Canada; and probably holding our own in the rest of the world. We have not enough subscriptions going to smaller universities and colleges and are doing poorly with the public library market. I urge everyone in the organization to check whether their college is getting the journal and to encourage them to subscribe. Similarly, many local libraries subscribe to various historical journals, including some of more specialized interest. If we could get into that market, we could do quite well.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven A. Reiss

Editor

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