

## *Editorial Preface*

There has been some debate in the Australian Society for Sports History (ASSH) and Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (ACHPER) as to whether we should publish a reflective but critical article on the latter institution which has been longer established and has a much larger membership than ASSH. Who are we to comment on the strengths and weaknesses of another society? Should we be offering suggestions about ACHPER's future?

Our lead article is just one opinion (or the joint opinion of two authors) and in publishing their views we invite others to respond or take issue with the authors in *Sporting Traditions* or the *ASSH Bulletin* or elsewhere. Sports history or sociology, sports studies, cultural studies — or whatever we call our work — is well enough established to accept and even welcome critical debate and the odd intellectual confrontation. We don't live in an intellectual glass house so if we throw a few 'stones' or allow them to be thrown in our journal, we must be prepared to accept a few volleys in return. Maybe someone in ACHPER could publish an equivalent article on ASSH in their journal. I would enjoy reading it.

Discussions are taking place with an international library about placing all the past issues of the journal and ASSH Studies (and probably the Bulletin as well) on the internet. While there are still some issues to resolve, such as copyright, the arrangement will be beneficial to the Society in a number of respects. Members will be able to consult (and download at no cost) some of the earlier ASSH Studies for instance which have been long out of print. It is not financially viable to reprint a small number of issues. The Society will also gain some benefit in terms of a licensing fee. To 'protect' our membership publications there will be a lag of two years before any present or future publications appear on the 'net'.

I wish to apologise for some proof-reading errors in the reviews section of the last issue of the journal. Since that issue, two measures have been pursued which should greatly reduce 'typos' and other infelicities. Bob Bennett, who has an 'eagle eye', has proof read most of the material in this issue. I will make more effort to ensure that all individual authors proof read the final version of their article or review — if mistakes occur authors can share the blame.

My thanks to Ian Wilkinson for providing an interesting and evocative front cover illustration.

I am pleased to report that John O'Hara will become Publications Officer for ASSH and will edit *Sporting Traditions* after my term ends in June 1999. John has previously edited the journal: he was the second Editor of the journal and soon will become the fourth — which seems like a good example of 'the more things change, the more they stay the same'. I can head off to Olympian pastures in July 1999 knowing that the journal is in good hands.

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