



World's Largest Olympic Collectors Club
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Established 1982 - Our 35th Year - Issue No 138 - June 2016

Greetings to all 505 of our 2016 Olympin members from 32 nations around the world. And a warm welcome to our 14 new members! 2016 promises to be a big year for collectors. In August, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil will host the 31st Summer Olympic Games. We expect dozens of our members to be there, wearing their 2016 Olympin member pin!

We will update any information on Rio 2016 via Eblast as those Games draw closer. (The next newsletter is in September, after the Olympics.) The rest of this newsletter contains instructions to vote in our board election. Plus, there is a report on the IOC Fair in Sweden, as well as news on our 35th Olympin Festival in Atlanta in October of this year.

C L U B

B U S I N E S S

2016 RENEWAL PERIOD OVER

Thanks to the 138 of you who renewed for this year in a timely fashion! It made Don's job much easier! Most appreciated were those that renewed for more than one year, easing the process next year.

ELECTRONIC VS WRITTEN MEMBERSHIP

The conversion to Electronic memberships is still evolving, with 76% of our membership now having a cheaper Electronic membership, and they will be receiving their newsletters and Directory via the internet. That's a 5% increase over last year. Good for you! You save 40% on dues. Those who decided to remain on the postal mail distribution had this newsletter mailed to you. It is interesting to note that 80 of the 121 Written members do have internet addresses. It is so easy to open the newsletters and directory on-line. Once you try it, you will agree. Please ask Don if you need assistance to do it, and then you can decide whether to save 40% off your dues. PLUS make Don's job easier!

2016 MEMBER DIRECTORY SENT TO ALL

The 62-page Member list was completed in March and sent to all members. Please let us know if you did not receive it. There are 9 more members in the enclosed June Supplement. (page 63)

2016 MEMBER PIN

Thanks to the USOC, the Rio 2016 Organizing Committee and pin manufacturer HONAV, we have the Rio 2016 logo on both the 2015 and 2016 member badges. You should have your 2015 and 2016 member pins. They were mailed to everyone. If you are missing one, please let us know right away.

We are very grateful to the 328 members who have prepaid beyond 2016. We hope the 177 members who will be asked to re-new in December will consider choosing a multiple year plan to save money. But more importantly, save Don work handling renewals in future years.

ELECT 2 DIRECTORS TO THE 2016 BOARD

Two Board positions are up for election. One is currently held by Scott Reed, and the other is held by Pam Litz. Both are running for re-election. No other members came forward to run for the Board. Statements for each of the two candidates are included in this newsletter, as are voting instructions. All votes must be returned to Olympin by August 15, by mail or Email.

Results will be announced at the Olympin Show in Atlanta, plus also in the September Club newsletter.

Visit our Website! www.olympinclub.com

SHOWS SHOWS

22th WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTORS FAIR REPORT

By Michael Bowlby

The 22nd World Olympic Collector's Fair was held May 13 -15 in Gothenburg, Sweden. Sponsored by the Gothenburg Sports Museum, the fair was held in Kviberg Park at the former military complex that houses the museum. Kviberg Park is located about 3 miles northeast of downtown Gothenburg. Unlike previous fairs, there was a hotel at the complex which was about 100 yards from the museum and the exhibition hall. This proximity to the complex allowed the participants to eat breakfast and stroll over to the fair without worrying about traffic or other transportation. The hotel was also a great social center. There were small groups during breakfast and dinner, but the largest gatherings were after 9 p.m. each evening. During this time people met in the hotel lobby and engaged in lively conversation until late in the evening. There was no real bar in the hotel, but they did sell beer, soft drinks and snacks at the front desk.

A welcoming reception was held on Thursday evening at the hotel. Participants were able to register and receive their credentials, limited edition pin and program. A large number of the dealers showed up and it was a lively event with people reconnecting with those that they don't get to see but once a year or so at these fairs.

Friday morning found us at the exhibition hall. The hall, an 1890's brick building with large high windows is currently used for basketball and possibly volleyball. Both long and wide, the hall easily held the 100 or so tables with large aisles for walking and plenty of space behind the tables. There were also several informative philatelic and autograph exhibits belonging to local collectors on display near the entrance.

As with most of the Olympic Fairs, much of the activity took place between the dealers themselves. There were collectors who visited the show on all three days of the weekend, not only local collectors, but also some from Norway, Finland and Switzerland.

SHOWS SHOWS

One of the highlights of the fair was the autograph guests. The museum arranged for 13 Swedish Olympic medal winners and one Paralympian to appear at the fair to sign autographs and talk with the attendees. The museum also produced postcards for each Olympian to sign. These postcards, with a limited edition of 100, were given out for free to anyone who requested one from the athletes. Additionally, there were four Olympians and one Paralympian who were unable to attend. Their postcards were pre-signed and handed out upon request. The medalists covered a variety of sports from two 1952 gold medal gymnasts to bronze medalists in sailing from 2004. The athletes appeared over the three days so that there was activity at the autograph tables all weekend.

I learned that the athletes enjoyed coming to the show to sign autographs and talk with the Olympic collectors. One of the athletes, 1972 double gold medalist in swimming, Gunnar Larsson spent most of the day on Friday at the show and returned on Saturday where he displayed his opening ceremony jackets from 1968 and 1972. Mr. Larsson mentioned that he is friends with several of the Swedish collectors.

A guided tour of the city was given on Friday evening. With the sun setting after 9 p.m. there was plenty to see while it was still light out. Free tours of the Sports Museum were offered to all exhibitors on Friday and Saturday morning before the show opened. It is a well-organized museum. It has an extensive collection of items related to Swedish Olympians, the 1912 Summer games and the 1956 Equestrian games. It is not limited to just the Olympics. There were also displays on table tennis, ten pin bowling, football (soccer) and many other sports. The personal collection of world champion boxer and Olympic silver medalist Ingemar Johansson is also on display.

The usual Saturday night banquet was held at the Restaurant Kviberg Kantin adjacent to the museum and the exhibition hall. It was a very lively evening and a good crowd.

On Sunday afternoon as the show was winding down, one of the leading Swedish Olympic

collectors appeared at the show; two-time Olympic race walker, 94-year-old Lars Hindmar. Lars started collecting after competing in both 1952 and 1956. Focusing on the games held in Stockholm, his extensive collection has its own room at the Sports Museum.

The show itself had dealers from many countries including France, Norway, Russia, Switzerland, Germany, Greece, Great Britain, Japan and China. There was a large contingent of Swedish dealers who have not appeared at the other fairs. Many of them specialize in paper goods. They had a lot of programs, postal items, posters, books and other assorted items. I saw quite a few of the 1912 Real Photo Postcards that were issued during the games. Other items in abundance at the show included torches, tickets, medals, official reports and pins. Olympin was well represented with the following members: Bob Bravender, Jonathan Rosenthal, Shlomi Tsafir, Rimantas Dziautas, Konstantin Borodin, Bernth Ahlstrom, Ingrid O'Neil, Irina Dzidziguri, Vladimir Nabokov, Wolfgang Fuhr, Li Xiang, Bian Yuewang, Piotr Debski, Pasquale Polo, Hans Elbel, Scott Reed, Pete Wade, Jonathan Becker, Domenico Di Pinto and yours truly. I may have missed a few people whose names I was not sure of. We had at least 10 countries represented at the fair.

A great thanks should be given to Hans Elbel, director of the Kviberg Sports Museum, along with his staff and volunteers. They did an outstanding job as hosts. I believe I speak for many of the attendees when I say: **“Tack så hemskt mycket.”**

2ND AICO GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

(14 May 2016, Gothenburg, Sweden)

by Mark Maestrone

The timing of the 35th Fair was partially predicated on the need to hold the AICO General Assembly on or before 22 May, marking the end of the first two years of the Olympic collectors' organization.

Among its many accomplishments, as summarized by President Roman Babut, were the establishment of a solid foundation for the new organization including winning the designation of an “Organization Recognized by the International

Olympic Committee.” The successful launching of AICO's website in both English and French, inaugurated the key means for communication with and between its members. The advanced capabilities of the new website will provide numerous direct benefits, including an extensive e-catalogue of all Olympic collector resources available around the world – a work now under construction.

Another important project of AICO will be working with the IOC's Foundation for Olympic Culture and Heritage on the subject of combating fakes and forgeries while at the same time keeping the collecting public abreast of alerts.

The new Expert Committees within AICO have been constituted and are beginning work.

The General Assembly elected two new members to AICO: Klubben 1000 from Norway, and the China Sports Philately and Memorabilia Association (CSPA). The latter is provisional until AICO receives the required letter of approval from the Chinese NOC. Both new member associations are on probationary status for one year.

A much-anticipated election to fill three seats on the Executive Board, AICO's governing body, was the focus of the General Assembly. Initially, six candidates had put their names forward: Roman Babut (Poland), Jonathan Rosenthal (Great Britain), Branislav Delej (Slovakia), Massimiliano Bruno (Italy), Scott Reed (USA) and Pablo Galan (Spain). At the last minute, Mr. Galan suddenly withdrew his name from consideration, leaving five candidates.

Ms. Stephanie Coppex, representing the IOC, and Mr. Christophe Ait-Braham, Secretary of AICO, conducted the counting of ballots in plain view of the assembly with the results of each secret ballot displayed in a spreadsheet format on the television screen at the front of the room. Each ballot was required to rate every candidate from most desirable (1) to least (5). Thus, much as in the sport of golf, the three candidates with the lowest totals (e.g., more first-place votes) were elected. Out of a possible 27 ballots, 24 ballots were cast. One ballot was disqualified for not having rated every candidate.

The results, in order of finish (the lower the number the better): Roman Babut (46), Massimiliano Bruno (58), Branislav Delej (69), Scott Reed (79), and Jonathan Rosenthal (94). Mssrs. Babut and Bruno will serve for four years (2016-2020), while Dr. Delej will complete the two-year term of the late Gianni Galeotti (2016-2018).

At the new Executive Board's first meeting, which immediately followed the election, officers were chosen. Roman Babut continues as President, as do Mark Maestrone (1st Vice President), Christophe Ait-Braham (Secretary), and Branislav Delej (Treasurer). New member, Massimiliano Bruno, assumes the office of 2nd Vice President.

AICO will be taking a close look at potential locations for upcoming fairs. While no formal applications have been received, two groups have mentioned an interest in holding future World Olympic Collector Fairs: the new Chinese group hopes to apply for the 2017 Fair (Hohhut, the capital of Inner Mongolia, was suggested), while UICOS (Italy) has the Alpine skiing center of Cortina d'Ampezzo (host of the 1956 Olympic Winter Games) in mind for the 2018 Fair.

35th OLYMPIN FESTIVAL IN ATLANTA!

By Show Chairman Scott Reed

Start planning now for this year's Olympin show so your plans will be in place and ready to go when you return from Rio! We are pleased that the 2016 Olympin Collector's Show will be held in Atlanta, from Friday, October 7 through Sunday, October 9. This will be the first major pin show in the USA after the Rio Summer Games, and it's also the 20th anniversary of the Atlanta 1996 Summer Games, so we expect great attendance. Add that to the events that are planned, and you won't want to miss it!

The event will be at the Omni Hotel in downtown Atlanta on Centennial Park, attached to CNN Center. It is within walking distance of MARTA (you won't need a rental car if you fly in for the event), and popular sites such as Centennial Olympic Park, the Georgia Aquarium, and the World of Coke.

Special events in addition to the show itself will include our annual banquet, which will be at the Omni. The Hard Rock Café has reserved its private event room for us Saturday after that day's show, so we will have a fun filled event there that will include both a live and silent auction, including Olympic as well as Hard Rock items.

For hotel reservations and event registration, go to the Olympin web site at www.OlympinClub.com.

We look forward to seeing you in Atlanta in October!

36th OLYMPIN FESTIVAL?

Our Club will soon be accepting bids to host the 36th Annual Olympin Festival. Has anyone considered holding it in a new place, or even a repeat location? Please let us know if you are interested, and if you come to Atlanta this fall, you'll have the floor to introduce your idea. (There will be an Olympin Club Member Meeting, as always. We are not yet sure exactly when to fit that in with all the activities slated.)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW CLUB EMAIL

While this does not fall under the category of "SHOWS", it is very important Club information, and there is space available here.

Olympin has added a second email for Club use. It is askolympin@aol.com, which should be used to contact the Club with questions and information.

Our other email is olympin@excite.com, which we have had for more than a decade. This email is now limited to PayPal payments only. It should be used for paying fees for dues, purchases and any advertising costs, possible table fees, etc. This email will continue to be monitored by Don to record payments to the Club.

The new email askolympin@aol.com will be forwarded to one of our Board members to respond to your concerns.

The change is effective immediately. Thank you.

RIO

2016

In this section, we had hoped to have some updates on Rio 2016 topics related to collecting, trading etc. at the Games.

For example, Bud Kling has been trying to effect an informal partnership with Coca-Cola so that Olympin members might assist with their Pin Trading Center management, even if limited to supplying pin trading experts to advise novice collectors. Right now, his Coke contacts are out on the road working with the Rio Torch Run, and are unavailable.

Bud has also been trying to find a place for collectors to meet during the Games, whether just once, or several times, to trade and make new hobby friends. A huge shopping mall near the entrance to the Olympic Park is a logical choice, but so far no response has been elicited.

If any news comes up on either of Bud's projects, or other Rio 2016 topics, Olympin will issue EBlasts to its membership. With no more newsletters before the Games, that's the best we can do.

AUTHENTICITY PROJECT UPDATE – NOC AND MEDIA PINS FOR RIO

by Steve Robie

Despite the complete lack of apparent activity in the last 18 months, I am happy to report that both the NOC and Media sections of the Olympin Authenticity project are alive and well. I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on what has been going on and what you will eventually see on our website.

Since the end of the 2014 Sochi Olympics, we've been accumulating images of any new dated or generic NOC pins or media pins appearing on eBay or that have been brought to our attention by collectors. To date, we've nearly doubled the number of NOC pins we have images for from 273 immediately after Sochi to 509 as of 5/31/16. Media pin images are going up more modestly, from 179 after Sochi to 219 on 5/31/16. Both totals are likely to triple by the end of the Games.

I am sure that someone out there is asking "If you've got all these images, why haven't I seen any on the website?" There are a couple answers to this. The first is that we have decided not to go live with these images until about one week before the start of the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro in order to protect the intellectual property of the NOCs and media outlets and to minimize the chances that fraudsters will use the images to produce fakes. The second reason is that this delay gives us some time to begin contacting all of the NOCs to ask whether the pins that we've seen are legitimate.

Thanks to help from our new volunteer, [Tanya Ollick](#), we have begun our NOC outreach program. Part of this is just asking whether a pin that we've seen is authentic as we have done previously. But this time, we hope to get more from the NOCs. We are asking them to send us images or samples of all the pins that they plan to use in Rio. This will help us get images of as many legitimate pins as possible onto the website before the Games so that we can concentrate on a fewer number of pins during the Games. We are also asking each NOC if they can identify a staff person that we can contact during the Rio Olympics for questions regarding any pin that appears during the Games. We hope that this will help us establish the authenticity of pins in as short a period of time as possible.

Rio will also be the first time that media pins will be on display on our website during the Olympics. While the authentication process is much more complicated, Doug Todd and his team will do their best to indicate which pins are legitimate and which ones aren't as they appear.

How can you help? I am glad that you asked! You can volunteer to help us contact the various NOCs. Not ready for that much commitment? No problem. It would be a tremendous help if you can just send us images of any NOC or media pin you get in the mail, through trade or see on eBay or anywhere else online. It will take only a few seconds for us to figure out whether we've already got an image of the pin in question and could potentially save us hours of looking for it online. Together, we can protect honest pin traders from the fraudsters.

James B. Cumming 84 Peachtree St. NW - Suite 901 Atlanta GA 30303 US HOME: (404) 355-2818 OFFICE: (404) 659-1440 CELL:	Olympic: 1,2,5,7,10 Sport: 32,39 Non-Sport: Other: 61,63,67,70,72,73,74,76,78 jcumming@trillium-mgmt.com
Gerhard Ebert 14908 Hopewells Landing Dr. Gainesville VA 20155 US HOME: OFFICE: CELL:	Olympic: 2,3,6,7 Sport: 23,37 Non-Sport: 44,49,50,55 Other: 63,75
Darwin L Edwards 115 Shoal Creek RD Fayetteville Georgia 30215 US HOME: (770) 461-0060 OFFICE: CELL: (770) 584 8185	Olympic: 4,6,10,13,14,16,18,19,20,81 Sport: 21,22,25,27,28,29,31,32,37,40 Non-Sport: 42,43,44,45,47,48,51,52,53,54 Other: 63 kingpinexchange@aol.com
Joshua Evans 130 Knickerbocker Avenue - Suite E Bohemia NY 11716 US HOME: (631) 244-0077 OFFICE: CELL:	Olympic: Sport: 21,22,28,32,39,41 Non-Sport: 44,45 Other: 59,60,67,68,70,72,74,76,77,78 laura@lelands.com
Nick Golic HR-43226 V. Trojstvo Hrvatska CROATIA HOME: (385) 43-885390 OFFICE: CELL:	Olympic: 1,2,4,5,7,17,18,19,20,81 Sport: 22,23,24,26,28,31,36,37,39,40 Non-Sport: 42,53,55 Other: 59,60,62,63,65,66,67,69,72,75
Vladimir Nabokov 9 Str. Parkovay 61-2-42 Moscow 105215 RUSSIA HOME: (7499) 164-54-78 OFFICE: (7917) 527-12-67 mob CELL:	Olympic: 5,7,8,9,11,12,15,16,17,18 Sport: Non-Sport: Other: 63,67 vladnab@hotmail.com
Marcus Orsi 175, Route de Chancy 1213 Onex Geneva SWITZERLAND HOME: (41) 22 727 0777 OFFICE: CELL:	Olympic: 2,3,7 Sport: Non-Sport: Other: 59,61,63,64,67,68,69,70 marcuso@davidfeldman.com
Dax Smith 154 Prospect Road Scarborough North Yorkshire YO12 7LA UK HOME: 1723890027 OFFICE: CELL:	Olympic: 2,3,4,5,6,7,17,18,19,20,81,82 Sport: 24,26,34,36 Non-Sport: 44,45,47,54 Other: daxsmith2012@gmail.com
Brendan Wells 32451 Golden Lantern, Suite 308 Laguna Niguel CA 92677 US HOME: OFFICE: (949) 831-3700 CELL:	Olympic: 9 Sport: 21,22,24,29,30,32,36,37,39,40 Non-Sport: 46,57,58 Other: 59,60,64,67,68,73,74,76,77,78 brendan@scpauctions.com

Election for the Board of Directors - 2016

Please vote for up to two

Scott Reed ___

Pam Litz ___

Candidate statements are below. Please read them before voting.

You may vote one of 2 ways:

1. Mark your choices on the sheet and return by regular mail to:

Sid Marantz, Secretary
Olympin Collectors Club
15754 Regal Woods Place
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403 USA

OR

2. E mail to:

sidmarantz@aol.com

Please vote by 15 August 2016

Results will be announced at the 35th Olympin Festival in
Atlanta and published in the September Newsletter.

Candidate Biographies

Scott Reed

It has been an honor to serve on your Olympin Board for the past 6 years. My overriding goal in serving on the Board is to help do what I can to enhance the enjoyment each of us receive from being involved in our hobby. As your club's Vice President, I have had varying responsibilities including coordinating two annual shows (in Atlanta in 2012 and again this year), overseeing the annual club auction to help support Olympin's operations, and serving as the club liaison with both the United States Olympic Committee and Honav. I look forward to helping in any way I can in the future.

Pam Litz

I am a long-time member of Olympin and have attended many Olympin shows, a few IOC World Fairs, and 13 Olympics so far. During recent Olympics, I have served as one of Coca-Cola's "experts" at its pin trading centers, introducing newcomers to our beloved hobby. In 2014, I helped to organize the club's 33rd annual show in Los Angeles, and after that was asked to fill in a vacated seat on the Olympin Board of Directors. I have been serving on the Board ever since and would like to continue to do so. I enjoy working with the other Board members and share with them the goals of increasing our membership and making the club as valuable and as rewarding as possible for all.

25 DIFFERENT RIO 2016 SPONSOR PINS - \$125.00

I have had the good fortune to obtain 25 different sponsor pins for Rio 2016 to take to the Games as traders. I am sure I have more than enough, so I can make this offer to Club members. You can instantly add 25 pins to your collection at just \$5 each. Or buy them for good traders if you plan to go to Rio!

The 25 pins are pictured below. This sale will last only until mid-July, then I will take the rest to Rio as traders. (I will stop selling when I reach a reasonable number to take with me.) Each set is identical, and there can't be any substitutions. The shipping charge is what I expect to pay to send them to you, no more. I prefer you pay me by check, but non-USA orders can be paid by PayPal to don.bigsby@yahoo.com. I will ship immediately upon receiving your order.

Shipping Charges: USA – Priority Mail for \$7.00 (1, 2 or 3 sets for one low price shipping)
Canada – First Class for \$16 (1 or 2 sets for this shipping price.)
Overseas – First Class International for \$23 (1 or 2 sets for this shipping price.)

Don Bigsby, P. O. Box 777, Guilderland, NY 12084 US (Checks to “Don Bigsby” please.)

