



## THE PIERRE DE COUBERTIN MEDAL AWARDED TO ISOH DOYEN WOLF LYBERG

Honorary IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, through the 112<sup>th</sup> IOC Session in July 2001, awarded the **Pierre de Coubertin Medal** to Wolf Lyberg for his many contributions to the *International Olympic Committee* and to the *Olympic Family*.

The **Pierre de Coubertin Medal** is a decoration intended for representatives of the world of education. The medal, which was created in 1997, is a tribute to people and institutions with a pedagogical and educational calling who through their teaching, research and writing of academic works, in the spirit of Pierre de Coubertin, help to promote Olympism.

The Pierre de Coubertin Medal is awarded each year by the IOC Session to people or institutions who have published academic works, or taught or created courts on sport and/or Olympism. This intellectual endeavour should contribute to expanding knowledge of the Olympic Movement and the ancient or modern Olympic Games, and express the pedagogical values of the alliance of culture and sport, the essence of Olympism.

The medal, designed by André Ricard, has been awarded for the first time to The President of the IOC, Juan Antonio Samaranch, at the 106th IOC Session in September 1997, in Lausanne.

This medal takes the form of a polished disk in a plated alloy. On the obverse it bears, engraved in relief, the Olympic rings from which five beams of light spring forth, enclosed by the motto: *Citius, Altius, Fortius*. On the reverse, the left profile of the reviver of the Games appear in the centre enclosed within the inscription *Médaille Pierre de Coubertin*. The medal is trimmed with a fine braid through which a ribbon is passed to hold it in place. The medal is accompanied by a lapel pin with a circular head featuring the motif that appears on the obverse of the medal and a diploma.

The recipients are:

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch (ESP) [1997].

Léon Stukelj (SLO) [1999, posthumous]; Raymond Gafner (SUI) [1999].

H.R.H. Prince Rainier (MON) [2000]; Joao Havelange (BRA) [2000]; Giovanni Agnelli (ITA) [2000]; Alain Danet (FRA) [2000]; Kurt Furgler (SUI) [2000]; Henry Kissinger (USA) [2000]; Yoshiaki Tsutsumi (JAP) [2000]; Emil Zatopek (CZE) [at the funerary ceremony on December 6th 2000, in Prague].

Judge Kéba Mbaye (SEN) [2001]; Rodolphe Leising (SUI) [2001]; and Wolf Lyberg (SWE) [2001].

The ISOH extends its heartiest congratulations to its doyen Wolf Lyberg with this high but well deserved honour. Most of us have been witness to how much work Wolf Lyberg has done for the IOC through his statistics, which were regularly published in our Journal. We express the hope that in the future we may continue to receive that very important material.



Wolf Lyberg receives the „Pierre de Coubertin-medal“ out of the hands of IOC President Dr. Jacques Rogge (from: „*Pressens Bild*, Stockholm“)

### BIOGRAPHY OF WOLF LYBERG

By Ove Karlsson.

Born 24 July 1917 in Visby, the 84-year-old sports journalist/official is still working daily for the IOC. With a never-ending enthusiasm, Lyberg is researching facts and figures from the Games and the entire Olympic Movement, making a great contribution to the documentation of the Olympic history. He has made compilations on all Olympic participants (by Games, nation, sport) and IOC members, summaries of every Session and Executive Board meeting, written books like *Fabulous 100 Years of the IOC* and *The Seventh President of the IOC* (Samaranch), etc.

Wolf Lyberg has attended 27 Games since 1936; in Berlin as a student/spectator and from 1948 in London as a journalist (nearly 30 years at *Idrottsbladet*) or official (the Swedish Sports Confederation and the Swedish Olympic Committee). As NOC Assistant Secretary-General (1969-84) and Secretary-General (1984-88), he was Chef de Mission or Assistant Chef de Mission of all Swedish teams in the 70s and 80s. Wolf was awarded the Olympic Order in 1988.

A founder member of the ISOH, Lyberg has been a member of its Executive Committee since the foundation in 1991, and is a regular contributor to the *Journal of Olympic History*.

Multilingual, he was Treasurer of the International Handball Federation (1946-50) and correspondent for the famous French sports daily *L'Equipe* (1945-81), and has contributed to several other publications in various countries.