

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

Dues are Due!

Yes, it's once again dues renewal time! We're happy to report that we can continue to offer you a year's membership at 2013 prices.

How do you know if *your* membership is about to expire? If you receive an envelope with this issue of *JSP*, then it's time to renew. You won't want to miss any of our coverage of the action in 2018 with World Cup competition in Russia and the Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, Korea.

If you currently have a print subscription and would like to move to an online web subscription for just \$15 worldwide, just let us know on the renewal envelope. And of course web members may convert to a print subscription for only \$31 per year in the U.S. and Canada (\$43 overseas). Whatever your preference, we want to thank each of you for your continued support of Sports Philatelists International!

Dale Lilljedahl (1955-2017)

We recently lost a longtime SPI member and good friend, Dale Lilljedahl of Dallas, Texas. Dale passed away on 3 March following complications from diabetes.

Dale joined SPI back in 1984. Over the 33 years as a continuous member, he gave generously of his time, serving six terms on the Board of Directors from 2002-2014. For 4½ years he took on the time-consuming duties of the SPI Auction Manager while still managing to knock out an article for the journal every now and then.

Dale was also a dedicated exhibitor. His spectacular philatelic collection of the 1924 Paris Olympic Games developed into a gold-medal winning traditional exhibit, "French Olympic Issues from

1924." His other collecting areas included the POW Olympics in Poland, which turned into a single-frame gold-medal exhibit, "Polish Prisoner of War Camp Olympic Issues." Dale was also a student of the 1960 Squaw Valley Olympic Winter Games which he was researching for a future book.

The last time I saw Dale was at our 2012 SPI Convention at INDYPEX in Indianapolis. Despite physical limitations, he nevertheless was a smiling face at each and every event. We'll miss you Dale!

A Book Deal for SPI Members

Bob Wilcock, an SPI Board Member as well as Chairman of the Society of Olympic Collectors, has a deal for all USA members of SPI: copies of his full-color book on the 1948 London Olympic Games for just \$15 ... POSTPAID!

I reviewed "The London 1948 Olympic Games – A Collectors' Guide" back in the Winter 2013 issue of the journal. Covering not only the philately of those Games, the book also touched on ephemera such as cigarette cards, vignettes and labels, programs, tickets, organizing committee publications and much more. Summing up, I wrote, "For 1948 Olympic collectors of all stripes, this guide is for you."

SOC originally sold this book for \$35 postpaid from the UK. Bob has made us a terrific deal. He will drop ship a batch of books to us for distribution here in the U.S. Profits from the sale will be split between SOC and SPI. If you're interested, please reserve a copy so we know how many to order. Email either myself or John La Porta (email addresses below) your name and address and the number of copies you'd like to reserve. Don't delay – the deadline is August 1!

The SPI web site is located at: <http://www.sportstamps.org>

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