

UNITED STATES SPORTS ACADEMY

"America's Sports University"



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The United States Sports Academy and the American Sport Art Museum & Archives (ASAMA) certainly feel that we know the immense talent and breadth of Charles Billich. Since our first meeting at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, Charles has been a major contributor to the mission of the Academy and ASAMA.

His internationally influential works grace our campus and galleries near Mobile Bay in Daphne, Alabama, U.S.A.

His devoted service as a trustee of our institution has helped it become the world's largest sports university; the ASAMA collection, meanwhile, has grown to become the world's largest collection of sport art.

As a recipient of the Academy's honorary doctorate, *honoris causa*, Charles has been a devoted ambassador for the institution.

We had the honor of presenting Charles to the world as the Academy's Sport Artist of the Year 2000. This honor reflects his ability to consistently capture the spirit of sport, whether in his Olympic cityscapes or his resurrected Qin dynasty warriors, the *bing mah yong* series. Whatever the medium or the vision, the unexpected will result when Charles renders sport. And it will be enjoyed immensely.

For a quarter century, ASAMA has honored sport art's most distinguished global figures, artists like Charles. The fact that Charles serves the Academy with his support and friendship is most gratifying.

We wish him the best upon the opening of his extraordinary show at the China World Hotel in this year of the Beijing Olympiad.

Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich
President and CEO
United States Sports Academy

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

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IN GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Australian Olympic Committee and the wider Australian Olympic movement has enjoyed a long and mutually rewarding involvement with Charles Billich and the Billich Gallery, including:

- Charles' appointment as official artist for the Sydney Olympic Bid in 1993 and the 1996 Australian Olympic Team; and
- Billich Gallery's appointment as official licensee of the 2004 and 2008 Australian Olympic Teams.

I am aware that Charles was the official artist for the United States Olympic Committee in 2000, and for the Beijing Bid.

And Charles was commissioned by His Excellency Juan Antonio Samaranch to paint several pieces for his collection while the French National Olympic Committee based its hospitality at the Billich Gallery during the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

Charles and Christa Billich have been very generous supporters of our Australian Olympic Teams for many years.

I take this opportunity to thank them for their loyal support and wish them all the very best for their exhibition in the China World Hotel's "Road to Beijing" culinary and art festival in Beijing in May 2008 and generally.

JOHN D COATES



George R

George Tupou the Fifth, by the Grace of God of the
Kingdom of Tonga, King and Sovereign of the Order of the Crown

To Our trusty and well beloved Sebastien Edlich Greetings!

Whereas We have thought fit to nominate and appoint you to be a
Commander of Our said, Order of the Crown

We do by these presents grant unto you the Dignity of a Commander of Our said Order
and hereby authorise you to have held and enjoy the said Dignity and Rank of a Commander of
Our aforesaid Order together with all and singular the privileges thereunto belonging or appertaining.

Given at the Royal Palace in Nuku'alofa under Our Sign Manual and the Seal of Our said Order

This 20th day of July 2008 in the Third year of Our Reign.

By the Sovereign's Command

[Signature]

Grand Master

Sealed and Registered

No. C17



Hydrex
NIKU'ALOFA

Wed. 20th Oct

My Dear Charles,

Thank you very much for your kind hospitality last night and I truly and thoroughly enjoyed the music and the opportunity to meet the very talented young people. Thank you for the Portrait which I shall display prominently in the newly renovated Palace.

Yours Always,

George R.



NUKU'ALOFA

25th Oct. 2008.

My Dear Charles,
Thank you very much for the most
enjoyable dinner last night and for your kind hospitality.
I wanted to stay longer but hope that I can
visit again next time I am in Apia. I can't wait
to see the drawing of Lanise in uniform.

Your friend,

George R