



Marathoneum

AIMS Museum of Running – Sportmuseum Berlin

The **Marathon**eum in the Berlin Sports Museum



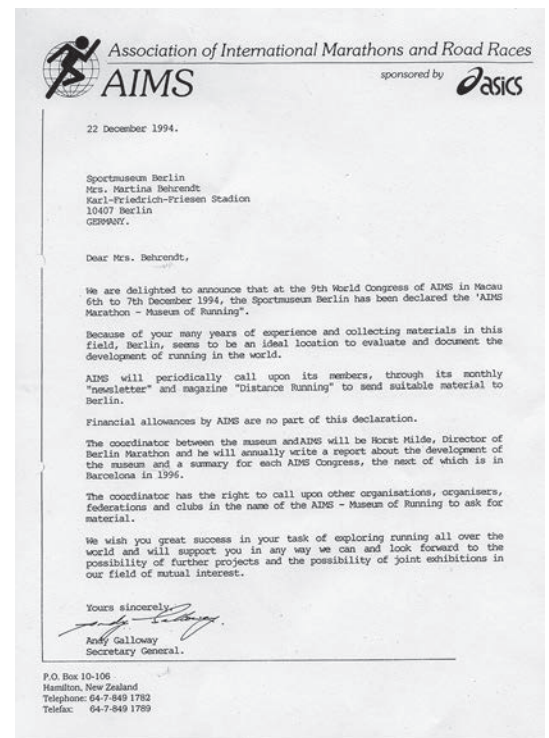
„Keep on Running“ on December 7, 2019

„We are delighted to announce that at the 9th World Congress of AIMS in Macau 6th to 7th December 1994 the Sportmuseum Berlin has been declared the ‚AIMS Marathon – Museum of Running‘.

Because of your many years of experience and collecting materials in this field, Berlin, seems to be an ideal location to evaluate and document the development of running in the world.“

Andy Galloway

Secretary General, 22 December 1994



Letter of appeal from AIMS dated December 22, 1994.

The Beginnings of AIMS

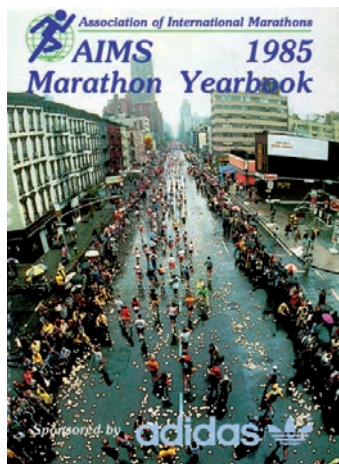
AIMS was born as a concept a while before it took this name! At a meeting of 35 marathon directors from 30 countries at the Sheraton Hotel in New York on October 26, 1981, an alliance was formed, initially called the International Race Directors Association. Among other things, they discussed the establishment of a Marathon World Championships. In order to continue the discussion of organizational issues, further meetings were arranged at the Honolulu Marathon in December 1981 and at the London Marathon in May 1982.

At the race directors' meeting held at the Princess Kaiulani Hotel in Honolulu from December 10 - 11, 1981, the participants received the proposed bylaws of the international marathon organization to be established.



Plaque commemorating the meeting in Honolulu.
Donation from Alain Lunzenfichter (Paris)

After the constituent meeting of the AIMS Board on May 28-29, 1982 in Montreal (Canada), the first AIMS newsletter was sent to the members.



The first issue of the AIMS Yearbook, the forerunner of the magazine Distance Running.



Will Cloney * 1911 † 2003
AIMS President 1982-1985



Chris Brasher * 1928 † 2003
AIMS President 1985-1987



Bob Dalgleish * 1936 † 1990
AIMS President 1987-1990



Hiroaki Chosa * 1930
AIMS President 1990-2010



Paco Borao * 1946
AIMS President since 2010

The participants agreed that the proposed name, Directors of International Marathon Events Society, and the acronym DIMES “has to go”. The race directors accepted the name Association of International Marathons with the acronym AIMS as the new name.

A steering committee was also appointed to examine the feasibility of a World Circuit. The idea from Montreal Marathon Race Director Serge Arsenault for a World Circuit was that these races should be organized in five geographical regions: America, Africa, Asia-Oceania and Europe (divided into two zones). The best runners would run three marathons each year over a two-year period, so they would run in all zones over the course of this period. They would receive points according to their times and rankings, and an overall marathon world champion would be determined, with the champions being awarded at the end of each second year.

The Steering Committee would become the future Board of Directors of AIMS. In Honolulu, the participants had already agreed on many points, which would later form the basis for the future organization. Will Cloney from Boston was the moderator in Honolulu. AIMS was to consist of events over the standard marathon distance (42,195km or 26 miles and 385 yards). An international marathon was described as a race in which at least one runner from a country other than the marathon host country participated.

New York race director Fred Lebow argued that other types of events could be included once AIMS was fully organized. The initial membership fee was set at \$1000 for full members and \$500 for associate members. Thereafter, the annual membership fee was set at half of these fees. Individual memberships were \$100. It was decided that the Association would be non-profit and that the founding meeting of AIMS would be held in London in May of the following year.

The ensuing months were filled with plenty of correspondence, but the idea for a World Circuit was finally dropped. It is quite interesting that this idea has been revived today in the form of a joint initiative of the World Marathon Majors of London, New York, Chicago, Boston, Berlin and Tokyo.

Between the meetings in Honolulu and London, there was an ad hoc meeting of the Steering Committee on April 20, 1982, in connection with the Boston Marathon. In the meantime, the statutes for AIMS were being prepared for the founding congress in London, which was held at the Park Lane Hotel from May 6-7, 1982. The 61 participants included Horst Milde (Berlin Marathon) and Wolfram Bleul (Frankfurt Marathon), both from Germany.

Will Cloney (Boston) was elected President, Chris Brasher (London) Vice President, Andy Galloway (Hamilton, NZ) Secretary/Treasurer. Appointed to the board were Hiroaki Chosa (Fukuoka), Serge Arsenault (Montreal), George Courmouzis (Athens), Kathrine Switzer (Avon), David Benson (Honolulu), Anders Olsson (Stockholm), Elpidio Dorotheo (Manila) and Jose Werneck (Rio de Janeiro); Vince Regan (Manchester) was appointed Press Officer.

The idea behind these appointments was that the board should include representation from every part of the world. Rules and regulations were established and AIMS started out as The Association of International Marathons, later to include other road racing distances. It was agreed that regular meetings would be held approximately every eighteen months to coincide with a member's marathon at that time and to allow for geographical distribution of meetings. It was also decided that each elected president could serve a maximum of three consecutive terms. Thus, AIMS was established and was ready to function as an international marathon organization.

The Beginnings of a Museum for Running

When sports were barely represented in the 1981 Prussian Exhibition in Berlin (West), G. Steins criticized: „A stale aftertaste remains that sport, which today organizes more than 17 million people in the Federal Republic of Germany and, in addition, is pursued by countless others outside of clubs, was not included by the “guardians of culture” in the traditional concept of culture and was not appreciated as a significant cultural form of behavior or social phenomenon.”

In the preparations for Berlin's 750th anniversary celebrations, sport and its history were being ignored once again. In addition, the Berlin Senator for Culture had responded negatively in a report on the overall concept for Berlin's future cultural offerings, as he considered a museum focused on sport and medicine to be unfeasible. At the end of 1984, it was leaked from East Berlin that a special exhibition on physical culture and sports was to be set up there for the anniversary of Berlin in 1987. On January 23-24, 1985, the cultural committee for the German Gymnastics Federation gave the green light for an exhibition on 175 years of the gymnastics venue Turnplatz Hasenheide, which was conceived by the author and was to be on display in 1986 and 1987. Two days later, the author wrote an appeal „Doesn't the sporting city of Berlin have a history?“ with the central statements: „It is striking that an essential part of social life, namely sport, should not receive sufficient historical recognition. ... Following an outstanding sports history exhibition in Berlin in 1987, the goal should now be to create a representative Berlin Museum of Sport.“ This appeal was made on January 27, 1985, by H. Milde to a number of sports functionaries, together with an invitation to join a working group on sports history on February 6, 1985. Meanwhile, G. Steins held a discussion with the museum representative for the State of Berlin on January 31, 1985, about possible subsidies for planned sport-history activities. However, the response to the resulting parliamentary inquiry was very vague and cautious. The working group on sports history then resulted in the Berlin State Sports Association setting up an ad hoc commission on sports exhibition projects, which met for the first time on April 19, 1985. Finally, with the help of this commission, the exhibition Sport in Berlin. From a Knights' Tournament to City Marathon was opened in the Kunstforum (Art Forum) at the Grundkreditbank.

In September 1985, the third AIMS World Congress took place in Berlin at the Hotel International, parallel to the Berlin Marathon. On this occasion, an exhibition on running was supposed to be on display in the shop windows of a well-known department store on Kurfürstendamm during the 1985 Berlin Marathon. With the help of race director H. Milde, requests for loans were sent out all over the world starting in April 1985, and G. Steins penned a concept for the exhibition. Unfortunately, due to personnel changes in the management of the department store, the running exhibition in the finish area of the Berlin Marathon could not take place. Instead, all the loans and donations on the sport of running that were received were used for the 1987 exhibition From the Knights' Tournament to the City Marathon. At that time, there was not yet a significant pool of running artifacts, so about 95% of the exhibited objects were borrowed.

At the very last moment, we acquired the pastel-chalk work by Elke Kirs-taedter, who left her landscape depictions to reflect artistically on the Berlin Marathon, which took place on October 4, 1987. At the opening of the Sport in Berlin exhibition in the Kunstforum of the Grundkreditbank on November 5, 1987, this fresh work was hung in the exhibition. Over the course of the exhibition, together with H. Milde, the idea was developed to bring together art and running objects of all kinds in an annually expanding Marathon Gallery and to establish this Marathon Gallery as the nucleus of a (West) Berlin Sports Museum. The pastel chalk work was purchased by the Milde family; it was displayed



Above: Leaflet on the exhibition Sport in Berlin. From Knights' Tournament to City Marathon", November 3, 1987 – January 3, 1988, at the Kunstforum of the Grundkreditbank.

Right: Booklet accompanying the exhibition.



Brochure for the exhibition „40 Years of 'Sport Frei' (athletes' greeting)" in the exhibition center at the TV Tower in Berlin (East) from September 30 – November 6, 1988.

1979 Boston Marathon: Number 1 for Bill Rodgers.
Donation from Bill Rodgers (USA)



1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, marathon start number 260 with which Katrin Doerre ran for the bronze medal.
Donation by Katrin Doerre-Heinig (Erbach)

Medals and awards!



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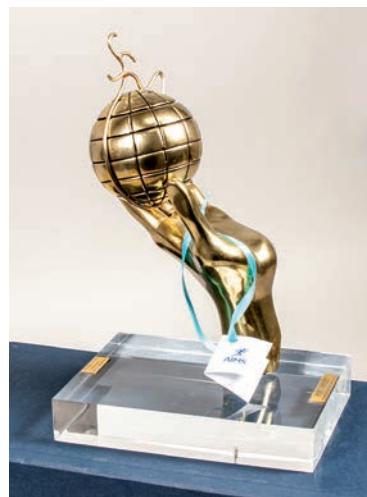


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- 1 Tableau with 21 Volkslauf people's run medals made of 800 silver, which were awarded in Baden-Württemberg (Germany) from 1966-1969.
Donation from Werner Sonntag (Ostfildern)
- 2 Vest with 130 badges, medals, pins and 40 Volkslauf people's run medals from the Federal Republic of Germany from 1973-1976.
Donation by Hans-Dieter Lang (Berlin)
- 3 Presentation tableau for finisher medals from the Tatar Run in 2017 (Kazan Marathon).
Donation from the Kazan Marathon (Kazan/Russia)
- 4 Combination of the finisher medals from the 2016/17 Fun Run Series by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Sports INC: „Each participant who completes the races will receive the specially designed fragmented medals of the Fun Run Series and can combine the medals of the Fun Run Series after the 6 events.“
Donation from Helmut Winter (Berlin)
- 5 Left: AIMS/ASICS World Athlete of the Year Award. From 1992-2012, AIMS annually awarded the Golden Shoe to the most outstanding athletes in the marathon in recognition of outstanding achievements in the year of the competition. Samuel Kamau Wanjiru (KEN) received this award in 2009 for his Olympic victory at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.
Right: AIMS/CITIZEN World Fastest Time Award. This prize was awarded by the AIMS to the half marathon and marathon runners who set a new world record for one of the two distances, which was awarded in this form from 1988-2010. Samuel Kamau Wanjiru (KEN) received this prize for his world record time of 58:35 min at the Fortis City-Pier City Run on March 17, 2007.
Donation from AIMS (London/Athens)
Front left: AIMS Award. The breaking of both the world records for women and men at the BIG 25 Berlin in Berlin on May 9, 2010 is a novelty in international street running. This unique achievement prompted AIMS to present the BIG 25 Berlin with an AIMS Award on May 8, 2011.
Donation from Christoph Kopp (Berlin)
- 6 AIMS Lifetime Achievement Award. Horst Milde (founder of the Berlin Marathon) was the first German to receive the AIMS Lifetime Achievement Award on November 9, 2018 in Athens.
Donation by Horst Milde (Berlin)



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on the marathon programme in 1988; the creation of the Marathon Gallery was announced; and the collection was increased annually by one work of art until 1995.

When the East German sports collection was transferred to the Berlin Sports Museum by the Berlin City Council on October 1, 1990, it had a library stock that filled approx. 110 linear meters, 72,772 sports photographs and negatives, approx. 6,000 documents and approx. 8,800 other artifacts of various kinds. By the end of 2019, the library had about 110,000 artifacts (up 12.5 times!) of various kinds, the photo archive grew to about 1.5 million sports photographs and negatives (up 20.6 times!), and the library now extends over 1,170 linear meters (up 10.6 times!). In addition, since October 3, 1990, running materials of all kinds have been solicited in a targeted manner and have been collected since 2015 under the umbrella of the Marathoneum.

From the 17th Berlin Marathon in 1990 to the 20th Berlin Marathon in 1993, the Berlin Sports Museum presented smaller exhibitions of posters, running objects and works of art at the Marathon Expo.

Berlin is especially a city of running: with the first cross-country and street races initiated around 1900, long-distance running found an important home in Berlin, and numerous initiatives for German and international running originated here. The Berlin Cross-Country Run (since 1964) and the Berlin Marathon (since 1974) successfully continue these traditions and today are among the most renowned running events. The Berlin Sports Museum's philosophy therefore naturally also reflects a museum of running! For this reason, the first major running exhibition, entitled QuerStadtein! - From Cross-Country Run to Berlin Marathon was organized in the Berlin State Archives from September 19 to December 7, 1994.

After that, the Berlin Sports Museum was called the AIMS Marathon - Museum of Running. The cooperation with AIMS turned out to be very successful: In January 2008, a top-class AIMS delegation visited the Berlin Sports Museum/AIMS Marathon Museum of Running, was convinced by the work being done, and handed over a cheque for \$10,000. In the summer of 2008, another \$10,000 was donated and at the same time an annual donation of the same amount was pledged. Since then, the AIMS Marathon Museum of Running has continuously received running artifacts of all kinds from all over the world and has become a magnet for numerous experts from the marathon world.

The Marathoneum includes about 2,500 posters, 1,500 T-shirts, 2,200 finisher medals and 1,600 accreditation cards from races around the world. In the library there are more than 95 German and English-language running magazines. The total stock of the collections is deposited and recorded on approx. 340 meters of shelves in two large deposit rooms in the Berlin Sports Museum according to museological rules. Special treasures of the museum include: the extensive and magnificent English language collection of Dr. David Martin (Atlanta/USA): the collections of Henryk Paskal (Poland); Wim Verhoorn (Netherlands); Werner Sonntag (Germany); as well as the estate of the four-time marathon winner Max Wils (Berlin).

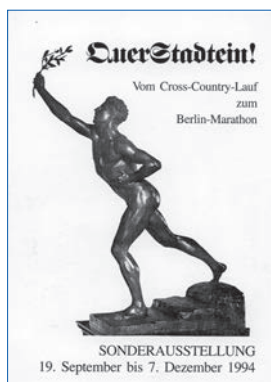


Exhibition Faster - Higher - Stronger. Pommel horse gymnasts, speedy runners and rowing patents from Berlin in the Steinhaus of the Friedrich-Ludwig-Jahn-Sportpark, June 23, 1991 - January 1, 1993. View of the showcases with running artifacts.



Exhibition QuerStadtein! - From Cross-Country Run to Berlin Marathon in the Berlin State Archive, September 19 - December 7, 1994.

View into the exhibition room (above, below), invitation card to the exhibition (left).



Ausstellung im Lichthof (Haus des deutschen Exhibition in the Lichthof Atrium (House of German Sports) in the Berlin Olympic Park: Up to now we have challenged the stadium - now the stadium challenges us! Trial museum at a controversial location, September 13, 1997 - May 24, 1998.

M. Behrendt (left, Director of the Berlin Sports Museum describes the display case with the loans from Waldemar Cierpinski to) Ingrid Stahmer (right, Senator for School, Youth and Sports).



Invitation to the exhibition Sport in Art on the occasion of the 32nd Berlin Marathon in the Wassergalerie, September 22 - October 3, 2005.



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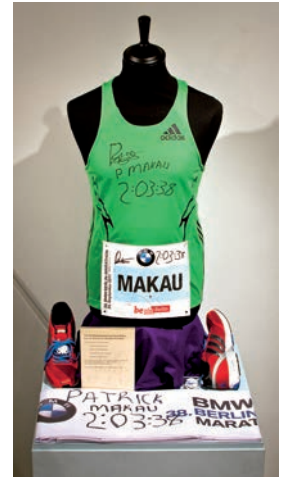
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On display!

- 1 Lichthof Atrium in the Haus des Deutschen Sports (House of German Sport) (Berlin Olympic Park): View of the exhibited wheelchair objects. (Status: November 2011).
- 2 Signed memorabilia of Naoko Takahashi's world record run at the 28th Berlin Marathon 2001, in which she was the first runner to beat the 2:20 mark with a time of 2:19:46.
- 3 Pocket watch that Paul de Bruyn received after his victory in the Boston Marathon in 1932.
- 4 Race numbers from Mary Jepkosgei Keitany and Samuel Kiplimo Kosgei, who both set a world record over 25 km on May 9, 2010 in Berlin.
- 5 Signed souvenirs from Patrick Makau Musyoki, who set a world-record time of 2:03:38 at the 38th Berlin Marathon on September 25, 2011.
- 6 Silver trophy (replica) awarded for winning the marathon in 1896, donated by Michel Bréal. This true-to-original replica was donated to the AIMS for its 25th anniversary and is now in the Marathoneum.
- 7 Signed running shoe worn by Mary Jepkosgei Keitany on her world-record run on May 9, 2010 in Berlin over 25 km (1:19:53).
- 8 Memorabilia from the New York Marathon on November 4, 2012, which was cancelled due to a hurricane.
- 9 View into the exhibition room with the showcases for the Boston and New York Marathons.



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Running shirt worn by pacemaker Christoforus Merousis at the 42nd Berlin Marathon in 2015.
Donation from Mark Milde (Berlin)



T-shirt with race number (both signed) worn by Eliud Kipchoge at the Berlin Marathon in 2015.
Donation from Eliud Kipchoge (Kapsisiywa/ Kenya).

Collection Artifacts!



Gold-plated silver laurel wreath, which Max Wils received for his victory in the „German Marathon Run“ in 1920 in Berlin.
Donation from Evelyn John (Berlin).



Light running shirt worn by Werner Sonntag in a Spartathlon (246km).
Donation from Werner Sonntag (Ostfildern).



Photo vest and accreditation card worn by Victor Sailer at the 2012 Olympic Games in London.
Donation from Victor Sailer (New York).



On the occasion of the 100th Boston Marathon in 1996, former winners received this anniversary jacket.
Donation from Charlotte Teske (Darmstadt).



Brütting running shoe „Road-Runner“.
Donation from Werner Sonntag (Ostfildern).



Signed race number worn Kenenisa Bekele Beyecha when he won his marathon debut in Paris on April 6, 2014 in 2:05:04.
Donation from Kenenisa Bekele (Addis Ababa).



Signed running shoes worn by Viktor Röthlin when he came in 6th place in the marathon at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008 in 2:10:35.
Donation from Viktor Röthlin (Kerns/Switzerland).



Signed race number worn by the Jemima Jelagat Sumgong when she won the 2016 Olympic Marathon in Rio de Janeiro in 2:24:03.
Donation from Jemima Sumgong (Kapsabet/Kenya).



Signed training shoes and Olympic top (bustier) from Constantina Dita, who won the 2008 Olympic marathon in Beijing in 2:26:44.
Donation from Constantina Dita (Boulder/USA).
Photo: Jürgen Engler, Berlin.

Receptions and visits!



At a joint reception hosted by the Senate Sports Administration and the Berlin State Sports Association at the „International Club Berlin“ on January 22, 2008, AIMS presented the Forum for Sports History - Supporters' Association for the Berlin Sports Museum with a check for the expansion of the AIMS Marathon Museum of Running in the Berlin Olympic Park. From left to right: Wim Verhoorn (AIMS board), Francisco Borao (AIMS board), Al Boka (AIMS treasurer), Martina Behrendt (Director of the Berlin Sports Museum), Thomas Härtel (State Secretary of the Berlin Senate Sports Administration), Horst Milde (AIMS board, member of the board for the Marathon Museum in the Forum for Sports History, Berlin).

State Secretary Thomas Härtel declared on behalf of the Berlin Senate:

„Sport City, you see, means not only a great number of successful athletes, but also a strong ratio of sports fields and gyms to the population, as well as a kind of liveliness in the whole sport scene, many regional, national and international sports events and – as we are becoming more and more aware – it also provides a permanent home for the preservation of great moments and eras in sport history. For this reason, it is with great pleasure that Berlin is privileged to be home to the exemplary Sports Museum, and I am – let me say – “proud as a peacock” that the museum incorporates the AIMS Marathon Museum of Running.”

Foto: Jürgen Engler, Berlin.



During the World Championships in Athletics, an AIMS reception was held in the Berlin Sports Museum on August 19, 2009. From left to right: Evangelos Papapostolou (Athens), Hiroaki Chosa (Fukuoka), Rosa Mota (Portugal), Mrs. Chosa (Fukuoka), Hugh Jones (London), Horst Milde (Berlin), Wallace Williams (Virgin Island).

Photo: Gerd Steins, Berlin.



Naoko Takahashi visited the Berlin Sports Museum with a Japanese television team on September 16, 2008, and described the memorabilia in her „show-case“ to the television team

Photo: Gerd Steins, Berlin.



Paco Borao (AIMS President) welcomes guests from the Berlin Sports Museum, Forum for Sports History and the Senate Department for Sports at the reception on July 2, 2016, in the „International Club Berlin“ on the occasion of the naming of the event „Marathoneum“.

Photo: Jürgen Engler, Berlin.



On September 28, 2019, Olympic champion Constantina Dita and world-record holder Tegla Loroupe were presented with an oak sapling from the Berlin Olympic Stadium in the Marathoneum.

From left to right: C. Dita, K. Gereit, T. Loroupe, H. Milde, G. Steins.

Photo: Jürgen Engler, Berlin.

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Marathoneum



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