

THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AT VIDY

The General Secretariat of the IOC has moved to the Chateau de Vidy (1) on the road along the Lake of Geneva, between Lausanne and Saint-Sulpice.

We learn from a booklet, which Maxime Reymond wrote about the Château de Vidy, that the lake dwelling populations had already settled their relays in this neighbourhood. Excavations conducted in the surrounding areas disclosed a Roman town in which a large avenue ran parallel to the lake and transversal streets at right angles. This civilisation disappeared in the course of the Germanic invasions and the Burgundians once camped on the ruins.

About the year 1200, the location was called Vizi, later Viti. The name Vidy only appears during the XVIth century. There was a church at Vidy at the beginning of the XVth century which was secularized in 1536. The farm, the barn and other dependances frequently changed hands. The land was continually being split up and reconstituted until 1771 when Jean Louis de Loys undertook the reorganization of the estate by himself.

The laying out of the Chateau was directed by Brigadier de Mides, brother of Jean Louis de Loys. The alterations were begun in 1772 but the interior decoration was only begun two years later in 1774.

In 1880, Brigadier de Mides and his nephew Jean Samuel de Loys, (councillor to be) received Napoleon, who stayed half an hour in the Lounge before inspecting his troops.

In 1918 the de Loys family yielded the Château de Vidy to Mr. and Mrs. Martin who in their turn were to yield it to the Municipality. In 1936, the inauguration of the Lausanne Roman Museum took place in Vidy - a bust of Cato of Utica had been found near the Château.

Vidy was once more vegetating when, a few months ago, the Municipality of Lausanne suddenly decided to undertake the necessary alterations, so that the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee could be sheltered there.

And so, ever since 10th April 1915, date of the establishment in Lausanne of the seat of the International Olympic Committee, after an exchange of signatures between Baron de Coubertin and the Mayor of the town, Lausanne is and remains the administrative centre of the Olympic Movement.

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