

## RE-ORGANIZATION FOR THE OLYMPIC MUSEUM

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by Monique BERLIOUX

Under the chairmanship of Mr. Georges-André CHEVALLAZ, Syndic of Lausanne, the first meeting of a commission in charge of the expansion of the Olympic Museum, was held in the villa Mon-Repos, on Friday, the 14th March at 4 o'clock.

The Olympic Museum was opened in 1934. At first it was modestly situated on premises which were put at Baron de COUBERTIN's disposal as a favour by the Municipality of Lausanne. The "Restorer's" personal records were the main exhibition material, then soon afterwards some documents concerning the former Olympiads were added. The Baron de COUBERTIN watched over the progressive growth of this new creation with the same jealous care he always gave to all his undertakings. Which is why, in 1936, he addressed the International Olympic Committee in session in Berlin in this manner :

*"The Baron de COUBERTIN informed the IOC that due to the fact that he did not live in Lausanne all the year round it had become impossible for him to tend the Olympic Museum in Mon-Repos. He requested both the Municipality of Lausanne and the IOC to combine their efforts in the conservation of this establishment. The Museum contains some items belonging to the IOC, others which are the property of the City of Lausanne, and those bequeathed to the Museum by its founder on condition that the Museum remained as it was at that time."*

However, the Pierre de Coubertin hall, as we know it today, was only established on the third floor of Mon-Repos in 1949. It contains the Baron's personal things and in particular his Louis XVI desk, his library, and his medals and trophies. Just before this four large glass cases had been installed for the documents and photographs of each Olympiad.

In 1964, the IOC chancellery moved down to the second floor of Mon-Repos, leaving the whole of the third floor for the Museum.

1969 marks a step forward : the Museum is being enlarged and re-organized. This idea was born at luncheon

last January in Lausanne with the President of the International Olympic Committee, Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE and Mr. Georges-Andre CHEVALLAZ, the Syndic. Delighted with Mr. BRUNDAGE's proposal, Mr. CHEVALLAZ organized a meeting with various prominent people of the town and in sport and Olympism.

The outcome of this meeting was that a permanent committee was formed, consisting of two commissions; one called the Statutory Commission which will study the legal procedure for setting up the new museum, the other being the Programme Commission.

A resolution was unanimously adopted: the Museum must be devoted to Olympism in the widest sense of the word, just as de COUBERTIN had conceived it. It must show the alliance between sport and the fine arts. Moreover, it must be a museum in the modern concept and no longer a necropolis where objects are carefully guarded. According to Mr. René BERGER, it is an "Olympiorama" where one can see not only articles and souvenirs of the men who have taken part in the Olympic life but also where one can listen to records and attend conferences. The presentation of exhibitions on certain subjects is also under consideration and to create an international prize for literature, and organize conferences with world famous athletes and sports managers. Such a programme is not far removed from the International Olympic Institute which Pierre de COUBERTIN wanted to establish as early as 1914.

The IOC has a remarkable collection of trophies, posters, stamps, photographs and souvenirs of the Games, not forgetting the etchings recently presented by André Dunoyer de SEGONZAC. It is now necessary to add new items by appealing not only to the National Olympic Committees, the International Federations and the Organizing Committees but also to all those interested in the Olympic Movement who might be potential patrons.

The combined efforts of the IOC and the dynamic Municipality of Lausanne which has always been dedicated to sport, can only lead to the town so dear to Pierre de COUBERTIN becoming not only a tourist centre but also an Olympic shrine.

Monique BERLIOUX

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*A selection of souvenirs of the restorer of the Games and of by-gone Olympiads*





Caption : The Syndic of the town of Lausanne, Mr. Georges-André CHEVALLAZ, at the meeting for the extension of the Olympic Museum, held on the 14th March. On his right Mr. Jean-Pierre LARPIN, and on his left Mr. Pierre PETOUD.

COMPOSITION OF THE TEMPORARY COMMITTEE

- Honorary President* : Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE, President of the IOC
- President* : Mr. Georges-André CHEVALLAZ, Syndic of Lausanne
- Vice Presidents* : Mr. Marc HODLER, IOC member for Switzerland, Mr. René BERGER, head curator of the Cantonal Fine Arts Museum, Mr. Paul-Henry JACCARD, director of the Association des Intérêts de Lausanne (ADIL)
- Secretariat* : Mr. Jean-Pierre LARPIN, assistant secretary to the Municipality of Lausanne.

- Members* :-Mrs. Monique BERLIOUX, responsible for Press and Public Relations at the IOC.  
 -Mr. Alfred BUSSEY, finance director  
 -Mr. Jean CHEVALLAZ, vice-president of the Swiss Ice Hockey League  
 -Mr. Charles-Henri FAVROD, head of the Press and Information Department of Editions Rencontres  
 -Mr. Raymond GAFNER, president of the Swiss Olympic Committee (C.O.S.)  
 -Mr. René HAEBERLI, president of the Société des Hôteliiers de Lausanne Ouchy  
 -Mr. Paul-Henry JACCARD, director of the ADIL  
 -Dr. Paul MARTIN  
 -Mr. Bernard MEUWLY, head of the Buildings Section of the Works Department  
 -Mr. Jean PERRET, chairman of the Managing Committee of the ADIL  
 -Mr. Pierre PETOUD, assistant secretary to the Municipality  
 -Mr. Baptiste RUSCONI, lawyer  
 -Mr. Gilbert SCHWAAR, lawyer  
 -Mr. Jean WEYMANN, secretary general of the C.O.S.

It has been agreed that the same press representatives will be invited to every committee meeting, i.e. Mr. Raymond PITTEI, Mr. Frederic SCHLATTER, Mr. ZANGGER, Mr. HUBER, and Messrs. SCHAEFER and CHESSEX.

#### STATUTES COMMITTEE

- President* : Mr. Baptiste RUSCONI  
*Members* : Me Marc HODLER, Mr. Pierre PETOUD

#### PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

- President* : Mr. Gilbert SCHWAAR  
*Members* : Mrs. Monique BERLIOUX, Mr. Bernard MEUWLY, Mr. René BERGER, Mr. Jean-Pierre LARPIN, Mr. Frédéric SCHLATTER, Mr. BUACHE (Swiss film library), Mr. Charles-Henri FAVROD, Mr. Jean CHEVALLAZ, Mr. Raymond PITTEI.