

FOR THE OLYMPIC MUSEUM



Director of the Museum of Physical Culture and Tourism of Warsaw Mrs MORAWINSKA-BRZEZICKA kindly accepted to spend 3 months in Lausanne, in order to draw up the inventory of the Olympic Museum and to establish a project for the future museum of which we informed you in preceding numbers.

Let us under-line the fact that the help given by Mrs MORAWINSKA-BRZEZICKA has only been made possible thanks to the intervention of the Polish member of the I.O.C. Mr. Włodzimierz RECZEK, President of the I.O.C. Cultural Commission.

We give below the text which appears as the preface of the project of Mrs MORAWINSKA-BRZEZICKA.

In order to achieve the goal set itself by the Olympic Museum in keeping with today's extremely exacting demands, it is vital for the best possible conditions to be provided.

Present-day ideas on the function and purpose of museums bear witness to a radical change in thought.

To-day, museums serve an educational purpose and act as scientific institutes and research laboratories.

They are establishments whose role consists not only in preserving the past but also in featuring and providing for present and future events.

As the headquarters of the I.O.C. are in Lausanne, it

would seem necessary and obvious to consider the creation of an Olympic Museum in this town.

Like so many others, the new Museum should have its own character and fulfil a definite programme.

We are now approaching the main part of our project: the choice of the architectural framework and the site. There are no imperative rules and clearly defined methods to refer to. The plans for each building and each exhibition will have to be made individually depending on its respective needs without detracting from the unity of the whole. Nevertheless, it would be a good idea not to ignore everything that has already been accomplished in this field.

There are two possibilities:

1. Conversion of an already existing building or collection of buildings - adaptation to present needs.
2. Creation of a new museum, i.e.:
 - careful selection of a site,
 - construction of an architectural whole, all of whose details shall be in keeping with the most exacting demands in this field.

This second solution would be preferable by far.

This new cultural centre would thus have every chance of becoming of the greatest importance for the people of Lausanne, just as the very fine Verkehrs Haus for the inhabitants of Lucerne.

The new Olympic Museum, which would be enhanced by the charm of the surroundings of Lausanne and the beauty of the many monuments in the town, would become one of the main attractions for tourists flocking towards this beautiful site from all over the world.

This modern museum should:

1. be the world centre of Olympic documentation.
2. be the receptacle and worthy representative of the Olympic Ideal.
3. bear witness to a profound humanism.
4. focus attention on the important contribution made by the I.O.C. to cultural life.