

Olympic exhibition in Lausanne



On June 16th, at 11 o'clock the first Olympic Exhibition was opened in the main pavilion of the Palais de Beaulieu in Lausanne. This exhibition is organised by the Municipality who, for the last fifty-six years, has given shelter to the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee. Let us recall a few years ago . . .

At a luncheon in Lausanne, at the beginning of 1969, the President of the International Olympic Committee, Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE, met Mr. Georges André CHEVALLAZ, the city's Syndic, and the Director of the Museum of Fine Arts, Mr. René BERGER.

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE - *"Lausanne, which has held the Secretariat of the International Olympic Committee for so many years, has indeed at Mon Repos a museum bequeathed by Baron de COUBERTIN - a collection of many items. However, for us, it is not a real museum. Do you not think that the time has come to donate an intrinsic Museum to the City of Lausanne, one which would be indispensable to its needs and for its tourism - a genuine centre of international attraction."*

Mr. René BERGER - *"Yes. A modern museum, an "Olympiorama" where the most recent audio-visual techniques could be exploited to the full."*

Mr. Georges André CHEVALLAZ - *"We will think about it."*



*Entrance to the Exhibition:
Mrs. M. MORAWINSKA-BRZEZICKA
shows the Syndic of Lausanne,
Mr. Georges André CHEVALLAZ,
round.*

Some months later, the 68th Session of the International Olympic Committee took place in Warsaw. On this occasion an Olympic exhibition was opened, organised by the Museum of Sports and Tourism, whose director is Mrs. Maria MORAWINSKA-BRZEZICKA.

This is what Lausanne should be capable of doing. Immediately, talks began with the President of the Polish Olympic Committee, Mr. Włodzisław RECZEK, the present President of the Cultural Commission of the International Olympic Committee. Would it be

possible for Mrs. MORAWINSKA-BRZEZICKA to come to Lausanne in an advisory capacity and help with the realisation of this Olympic Museum, whose re-organisation had been mentioned some months before?

Mr. RECZEK agreed straight away, with his customary kindness. The Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee gave its full consent to this rather strange project. Mr. RECZEK gave Mrs. MORAWINSKA-BRZEZICKA three months' leave and she arrived in Lausanne in 1970. She had then to face innumerable difficulties. Alone, she began from the beginning like a Fine Arts' student, acquainting herself with the inventory of the Museum - there was none. For half a century, donations and other items have been collecting at Mon Repos. Mr. Numa ROUX, who looked after the "Mon Repos Mansion", produced at best all that had been entrusted to him: medals, posters, trophies, postage stamps, manuscripts. On his side, Dr. VECHSLER, who has looked after the library at the Secretariat of the International Olympic Committee since August 1967, filed, deciphered and put into some sort of order the manuscripts which he came across each day . . . The work was enormous.

At the same time, the Municipality of Lausanne set up a Commission. The Syndic was its President, with Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE as Honorary President. The Commission consisted of competent people from both the International Olympic Committee



The Comte Jean de BEAUMONT.



and the Municipality (1). Within this new body were created two Commissions, one for statutes and one for the programme presided over respectively by Mr. RUSCONI and Mr. SCHWAAR, solicitors.

The first suggestion was to construct a vast building to house the Olympic Museum, but, very quickly in the autumn of 1970, it was decided that a temporary exhibition would not only draw the attention of the general public but also give a greater understanding of the tremendous demands made by a large museum.

The Organising Committees of the cities of Sapporo, Munich, Denver and Montreal immediately accepted to present what would be the Olympic Games in their respective cities.

(1) see Olympic Review No. 18. March 1969.

from left to right: Mr. Thomas KELLER, President of the Fédération Internationale des sociétés d'aviron; Me. SCHWAAR; Mr. RIOLO, Secretary General of the Fédération Internationale des sociétés d'aviron.

Moreover, it was decided that the first exhibition should pay homage to the Reviver of the Games, Pierre de COUBERTIN; he was naturally chosen as much for his personality as for the recognition which we owe him and the unpublished documents which have been unearthed.

Thus, on June 16th the inauguration took place of the Olympic Exhibition and it will continue for a month in Lausanne, before being transferred to Barcelona and then on to Lyon next autumn.

On that morning, the visitors to the stands were greeted by the Olympic hymn. In their inaugural speeches, these personalities could only commend the organisers for such a remarkable achievement.

Mr. Georges André CHEVALLAZ thanked those who had contributed to the magnificent exhibition. The representatives of Munich and Sapporo made convincing speeches to draw people to their cities for the Games next year. Mr. SCHWAAR stressed that this was just the beginning of a great and time-consuming enterprise. Finally, the Comte de BEAUMONT, representing the International Olympic Committee in his capacity as Vice-President, praised the virtues of Olympism and the educational and social values of the Olympic Games in these troubled times, illustrating how beneficial achievements of this sort could be to the Ideal which we are defending.

Monique BERLIOUX



*His Excellency Mr. KITHARA,
Japanese Ambassador in Switzerland.*

*Lay-out of the installations in
munich.*

