



A GUIDED TOUR

by *JEAN-FRANÇOIS PAHUD*

DIRECTOR

Since its inauguration on June 23, 1986, the Olympic Museum's different activities have without doubt contributed towards making the people of Lausanne aware of the importance of the presence of the International Olympic Committee in their town. A recent survey has proved to its President, H. E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, just how much the many contacts he has developed with the town's authorities, in the field of education and with sports societies, have borne fruit. Now, the majority of Lausanne's population know what the initials IOC represent, and they are proud to have the highest international governing body for sport within their walls.

Let us, though, recount a little of its history. On April 10, 1915, during the First World War, the official documents which were to make the capital city of the Canton of Vaud the home of the IOC's headquarters — previously ambulant — and of the Olympic Museum, whose establishment was planned for the near future — were signed in the meeting rooms of Lausanne's town hall.

At this time, the international administrative centre and archives of renovated Olympism were installed in the Montbenon Casino, together with the Olympic Museum, as shown in a letter from the Municipal authorities to Baron Pierre de Coubertin dated May 18, 1915.

As of 1922, Coubertin and the International Olympic Committee were installed at the Villa Mon-Repos, acquired by the City of Lausanne in 1921. A few years later, and thanks to the goodwill of the municipal authorities, the Committee was given another floor of this building for its exclusive use. This space was allotted to the offices of the secretariat, a large conference room, and the Olympic library. The archives of the Olympic Museum remained on the third floor of this building where, we should recall, Pierre de Coubertin also had his home.

The Olympic Museum, whose basic collections were, for the most part, assembled by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, increased its treasures over each successive Olympiad, and largely thanks to gifts from the members of the International Olympic Committee and the host cities of the Games.

In 1969, when the offices of the International Olympic Committee were transferred to the Château de Vidy, the Olympic Museum was closed. A working group was formed to discuss possibilities of both enlarging and at the same time bringing it up to date.

The Museum was not to open its doors again until June 23, 1982, in its present form. After its rather discreet beginnings, the Olympic Museum has rapidly increased its impact.

To speak of a museum as such, for the time being, is perhaps a little presumptuous. It is rather an extremely well-documented and well-presented exhibition which retraces the history of the modern Olympic Games, winter and summer, from 1896 to the present day. Information provided by many richly-illustrated wall panels is completed by a dozen showcases, in which objects and documents concerning the Olympic

Temporary exhibitions at the Olympic Museum

- Switzerland and winter sports
- Lausanne, Olympic City - poster competition
- Seoul '88
- Sarajevo '84
- Hans Erni, Olympia
- Overview of official posters of the Winter and Summer Olympic Games
- Overview "Los Angeles '84"
- Swiss Olympic medallists of the Winter Games
- Coliseum '32-'84, The art and science of timing

The Olympic Museum's external exhibitions

- Comptoir suisse (Swiss National Exhibition)
 - Hall of the International Olympic Committee
- Swiss Museum of Sport, Basle
 - Hans Erni, Olympia
 - Sarajevo '84
- Vaud University Hospital Centre, Lausanne
- Hotel School, Lausanne
 - Overview of the official posters for the Winter and Summer Olympic Games
- Rainbow Days, Toulouse
 - Children's drawings
- Perry Center, Offirigen
- Union of Swiss Banks
 - Hans Erni, Olympia

Events upon which the Olympic Museum works on a regular basis

- Olympic Week (fifth edition in 1986)
- Lausanne's 20 kilometres (fifth edition in 1986)
- International Athletics Meeting, Lausanne (eleventh edition in 1986)

Movement and the Olympic Games are displayed. In a small and separate projection room, a video system with a large screen provides visitors with the opportunity to see film documents directly connected with the Olympic Games. The catalogue, drawn up by the audio-visual department in the basement of the building, makes it possible for any visitor to make his personal selection according to his particular interests.

In order to welcome visitors and to supervise the Museum, five top-level athletes have been engaged; a cross-country skier, a champion of curling and three cyclists share the tasks of caretakers of the museum throughout its opening hours. These athletes work special hours according to a timetable drawn up each month according to their particular training schedules and the competitions in which they take part.

Out of season — i.e. from October to May, the Museum attempts to present temporary exhibitions to tempt the people of Lausanne to renew their acquaintance. Usually, these presentations last from four to six weeks.

On the first floor of the Museum is the Olympic Library and Centre for Olympic Studies, ready to welcome readers and researchers. Some 7000 works, and the documentation available, are at the disposal of the public. If, at the moment, it is not possible to lend out these books, a photocopying service allows readers to take home what is essential for them.

The second floor of the museum houses a meeting room for about twenty people, equipped with a projector and screen, and has been placed, free of charge, at the disposal of any sports group or society wishing to use these facilities for a committee meeting, a working group or a small symposium. Our wish is, moreover, that the building of the Olympic Museum becomes a kind of meeting point for all sportsmen and women of the region, and one where they feel at home.

Also on this floor, and a new arrival there, is our documentation service. This is a public service which is intended to be able to reply to any request coming either from outside or from within one of the different departments of the International Olympic Committee.

It is also intended to include the photo library within the Museum. Unfortunately, however, it has not been possible to install this in the same building, and it seems that until the new Museum

Organised by the Olympic Museum

- First world meeting of Directors of Sports Museums, 1985
- Symposium "Pierre de Coubertin in the news", 1986

Number of visitors

- 1982: 2,567 as of 1.7.82
- 1983: 6,916
- 1984: 11,887
- 1985: 11,369

The Olympic Museum Team

- One Director
- Two secretaries
- One telephonist/receptionist
- Two librarians
- Two documentalists
- One specialist in audio-visual methods
- Two people in charge of the photo library
- One steward
- Five guides



is inaugurated, it will most probably remain in nearby premises. In fact, all the space available to the Olympic Museum is occupied to its fullest capacity, and we are impatiently awaiting the completion of the new building, which should allow the International Olympic Committee the pride of possessing a real museum.

If all goes according to plan, the great moment will be celebrated at the end of 1988. Enriched by all the experience accumulated within our present building, we should, in close collaboration with the architects, be able to give to the public a modern, attractive and living Museum, worthy of the universal movement which its aim is to portray. An Olympic park, with works of art from all five continents, will lead visitors from the shores of Lake Geneva to the entrance of the museum.

It is quite clear that, in order to accomplish this magnificent task, we need the collaboration of all the National Olympic Committees, all the members of the International Olympic Committee and of all the friends of the Olympic Movement. In fact, our present collections are by no means complete. We hope that, thanks to your interest in this remarkable project and to your donations, we shall be able to complete them. In this way, we shall be able to provide our future public with a rich, fascinating Museum which will honour the Olympic Movement.

J.-F.P.



By taking advantage of the many opportunities for training in Lausanne, the guides of the Olympic Museum stay in shape ! Craig Masback, who had this job from 1982 to 1984, recently showed this to be true when he and the rest of the American team won the 1985 World Cup for Athletics (ranking by points).

Opening hours Museum

Monday	14h-18h
Tuesday to Saturday	9h-12h/14h-18h
Thursday evening	20h-22h
Sunday and Bank Holidays	14h-18h

Library and Centre for Olympic Studies

Monday	14h-18h
Tuesday to Friday	9h-12h/14h-18h