

## THE CARL DIEM INSTITUTE AND THE WORKS OF PIERRE DE COUBERTIN

**T**he publication of Pierre de Coubertin's texts devoted to Olympism and the various forms of sport is the concrete result of a long-term project, the successful completion of which has not been a uniformly easy task. It is not possible to mention the issue of these three volumes, an exhaustive piece of work, without paying tribute to the excellent and meticulous work of research and compilation carried out by the Carl Diem Institute in Cologne (FRG).

Thanks to the determination of its Director, Professor Liselott Diem, who has been surrounded by an editorial committee made up of widely recognised authorities on the subject, sports libraries will shortly have access to a major source of reference where the works of the founder of modern Olympism are concerned. On this occasion, we should like to pay a particular tribute to Carl and Liselott Diem and to their devotion to the Olympic Movement. Let us evoke the memory of Carl Diem, pioneer of the Olympic ideal who, fifty years ago, successfully organised the Games of the XIth Olympiad, and who devoted all his life to the definition and development of an Olympic ethic. Within the institute for sports science which he created in Cologne in 1946, Liselott Diem continues the work he began. The principles of the Institute have not changed; the aim is still to widen the field of research on sport as a phenomenon of civilisation and to provide a philosophical method of approaching Olympism. For many reasons, the Olympic Order, which is to be presented to her by the IOC President at the end of September, is an honour richly deserved. Professor Diem, who recently handed over to the Olympic Studies Centre in Lausanne her personal collection of Olympic documentation, is about to publish her memoirs, which will undoubtedly be a mine of information for all sports historians and researchers.