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*The Commission for the programme too met at Vidy on 8th and 9th September.*

The "Messerli Collection" is made up of correspondence, photographs, caricatures, diplomas, invitation cards, sports posters, etc., bearing detailed witness to half a century of history, testifying to a life lived to the full and of great moral value.

Dr. Francis Messerli, who died eleven years ago, was a notable Lausanne personality. Head of Medical Services in the city, he was behind the creation of many sports associations and groups, many of which elected him chairman. The purpose of most of these societies was the education of young people and the development of sports practice in a spirit which closely resembled that of Coubertin.

The long friendship which linked the two men was born in a gymnasium in 1908. Pursuing the same aims, cherishing the same hopes for the future of young people, it was natural that they should hold each other in high regard. This is borne out by numerous letters contained in the exhibition, which also presents an interesting gallery of portraits, featuring many of the personalities who made the IOC what it is: Count de Baillet-Latour, Siegfried Edström, who became IOC Presidents, and the Baron Godefroy de Blonay, acting President during an absence of Coubertin, with the Committee's founder, Pierre de Coubertin himself.

President Samaranch, accompanied by the members of the Executive Board, thanked Dr. Tanner and her brother most warmly for this important contribution to knowledge of the Olympic Movement. He expressed the wish that this magnificent gift might set an example to people in Lausanne who possess Olympic souvenirs. Dr. Tanner, for her part, recalled the special ties between her father and Baron de Coubertin recounting a number of incidents which marked her girlhood.

Mr. Raymond Gafner, IOC Administrateur délégué, Honorary President of the Swiss Olympic Committee and former Director of the Lausanne University Hospital, where Mrs. Tanner used to practise, was able to rejoice in more than one capacity at the fact that this collection will now be wholly accessible to the public. He expressed the IOC's great gratitude for this share in a legacy which will greatly enrich the Olympic Museum, in which a Messerli room will doubtless be installed.

## THE "MESSERLI COLLECTION"

**W**ithout ever having belonged to the IOC, Dr. Messerli was a fellow traveller of Olympism in the early years. Founder of the Swiss Olympic Committee in 1912 and historiographer of the IOC, he was a close friend of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who appointed him executor of his will. His daughter, Dr. Francine Tanner, has just presented the Olympic Museum with a large part of her father's archives. Before being catalogued, a number of the documents concerned were displayed in the hall of Olympic House in Vidy at the end of December 1986.