

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM

The museum team has been busy collecting over two thousand photographs, Olympic medallists' autographs and filling boxes with various objects and documents. Hard at work from morning to evening, it managed to get everything done.

The museum team knows that the papers and souvenirs with which the tables and floor are littered today will in most cases be unobtainable documents tomorrow. Building up archives involves anticipation, accumulation, discrimination and selection. Anne Badan, Mauricette Durioux, Charly Fardel and Jean-François Pahud, the director, are specialists. Each day they divide up the sites they will explore, the teams they will meet. Knocking at the doors of Chefs de Mission, not taking offence at the sometimes cool reception, swapping pins, asking for pennants, flags, reports from delegations, lists of participants, returning to the Press Centre several times each day in search of documents liable to disappear almost as soon as they are printed.

Not forgetting, as they pass the shops and stands set up nearly everywhere, to track down amongst the thousands of objects produced specially for these 1988 Games those items which will be most amusing or interesting at a retrospective exhibition ; and, most importantly, remembering in which order athletes have signed their names as tomorrow it will be too late to decipher each magnificent but illegible flourish of the pen !

The days go by, each one full of activity and unexpected events. But the members of the museum team always maintain the impression of being out for a quiet walk. They run their race systematically, and win every stage. Every day they have their individual leg of the relay; that's how they play their part.



The Olympic medallists at an autograph signing.

