

# A TREASURE TROVE FOR SPORTS HISTORIANS: HISTORICAL ARCHIVES AT THE OLYMPIC STUDIES CENTRE OF THE OLYMPIC MUSEUM, LAUSANNE



by *Cristina Bianchi*

This paper aims at presenting the different "fonds", or series of paper documents which scholars can study at the IOC *Historical Archives*; why and how this unique information is in Lausanne.

## Creation

In 1905, Baron Pierre de COUBERTIN already had in mind to locate the administrative headquarters of the IOC, which had officially been created in Paris in 1894, in Switzerland.

*"Spreading (the city of Lausanne) delightfully along the lake, under its crown of forests, and offering every imaginable opportunity for sport, it was the ideal spot for setting up the administrative headquarters of Olympism. But for this to come about, we had first of all to be accepted."*<sup>1</sup>

Taking advantage of the interruption of the IOC's activities when the First World War broke out and anticipating misgivings on the part of other IOC members, COUBERTIN decided

*"to override the objections and, on 10 April 1915 in the Assembly Room of Lausanne Town Hall, we signed the document establishing Lausanne as the world administrative centre and the repository of the archives of modern Olympism. [...] Consequently, in the present state of Europe, administrative stability had become indispensable to Olympism."*<sup>2</sup>

The IOC archives, which at that time were essentially made up of COUBERTIN'S correspondence, were already at the forefront of COUBERTIN'S mind. To be more precise, in a series of letters he wrote to Godefroy de BLONAY, his representative in Switzerland, he mentioned the work that needed to be done:

*"a library to be set up, 20 years of documents to be classified: there is much to be done, not to mention the offices and the beginnings of a Museum which I have in mind."*<sup>3</sup>

The following month, on 23 May 1915, he wrote:

*"Your comments regarding the archives made me think and this is what I suggest: if you approve, we can begin without delay."*

1/ *The actual archives will be sent to you at*

*Grandson already roughly classified event by event; 1894 Congress, 1896 Games, 1897 Congress, etc. They would therefore remain in your possession, which I consider to be a great advantage where our colleagues are concerned. A single filing cabinet with 20 or 24 compartments, like the one I have in Paris made of cardboard and deal, would be sufficient to hold these papers and I am sure you will easily find somewhere at Grandson to store it.*

2/ *The books, brochures, etc. would be entrusted to the Commission in Lausanne and stored under its direction and responsibility in order to form the beginnings of the future library.*

3/ *Any Olympic post arriving in Lausanne in my absence would be sent to you at Grandson [...]"*

A few months later, the plan was implemented and the archives were moved from Paris to the château de Grandson. The Baron shared the concern of any archivist: what should be kept and what should be sorted?

*"Dear friend,  
The archives are packed up and ready to be sent to you; twelve parcels are already classified into the different Olympiads and Congresses, while two parcels of "general correspondence" may need to be reclassified. [...] May I suggest that you look after them as carefully as possible; Grandson is vast. All in all, they are no more valuable than a small trunk, but events are often such that a document that once seemed barely usable turns out to be very precious. [...] Unless you object, I propose to take the archives with me when I return in November, for I fear they may otherwise be lost.  
18 Sept. 1915."*

The archives ultimately remained at the château de Grandson for twelve years, until 1927, even though the beginnings of an administrative office had been established at Mon-Repos in 1922, at the express request of Godefroy de BLONAY, backed by the Executive Board, who wished to make the management of the IOC a little more transparent. COUBERTIN

1 COUBERTIN, Pierre de, *Olympic Memoirs*, IOC, 1997, p. 147.

2 COUBERTIN, *Memoirs*, p. 168.

3 Historical Archives of the IOC, Series: Coubertin/Correspondence, Coubertin's letter to Godefroy de Blonay, 7.4.1915.

had appointed Fred AUCKENTHALER as unpaid secretary. AUCKENTHALER was often absent and subsequently ill.

It was not until 1925 that, after wavering between Lausanne and Brussels and thus causing Lausanne City Council a certain degree of concern, the new IOC President, Belgian Count de BAILLET-LATOURE, established a permanent secretariat at the Mon-Repos villa. In a statement of 9 September 1925 (city council minutes), the Count assured the council that *"he would do his utmost to ensure that the IOC secretariat was established in Lausanne and that the Committee headquarters would remain in that city"*. Lausanne-based André BERDEZ was appointed as paid secretary and took charge of the day-to-day running of the IOC until 1940. Along with the IOC administration, the archives were moved from Mon-Repos to the Château de Vidy in 1968. They remained there until the *Olympic Museum* was built, although they were kept in the depot in Malley between 1983 and 1986 because of a shortage of space.

Although he had officially "retired", Baron Pierre de COUBERTIN still kept an eye on the archives and suggested that the new secretary look after them<sup>4</sup>. On 12 August 1927, when the transfer was complete, BERDEZ wrote to Baron de BLONAY:

"I am pleased to inform you that the archives of the International Olympic Committee, which you delivered to me at Grandson on 5 August last, have been put into storage at the Committee offices at Mon-Repos. I have already informed Baron Pierre de Coubertin."

On 25 November that year, he informed BLONAY that *"Baron de Coubertin has returned to Lausanne and we have begun to sift through the archives you gave me. I think it will be a fairly lengthy task."* Then on 5 December: *"I am slowly continuing to sort through the archives, or rather I am watching Baron de Coubertin sort through them, as he alone can decide what is personal to him and what should be preserved as archives."* By February 1st, 1928, the archives seem to have been classified, although there was a problem in finding a particular item: *"At Mon-Repos, I looked through the archives you gave me and which have been classified, but without success"*.

### Coordination between old and current archives

This brief history provides a foretaste of what became of the IOC *Historical Archives* 100 years later: 850 linear metres of archives, comprising more than 10,000 files of papers dating from 1894 to 1984, plus additional, unclassified material, were moved to the *Olympic Museum* when it was opened on the Quai d'Ouchy in 1993.

The management of current and intermediate archives, which already represent more than 8,000 files covering 1985 to the present day, is the responsibility of the records department, based at the IOC headquarters. The files are then sent in chronological instalments to the Historical Archives section of the Museum.

The exponential increase in the number of documents over the past 25 years is due partly to the steady growth of the IOC and partly to the use of typewriters, photocopiers and fax machines, not to mention the electronic methods that are now increasingly used, such as e-mail. The archivists have therefore had to reassess the archive management system. In 2001, the IOC began to review its document management system, from the arrival of documents by post on paper or otherwise, or from their creation in-house, to their sorting and classification into permanent archives.

Coordination between the two archive departments (historical archives and records) is now assured, as it is managed by the same expert archivist. A working group has been set up to promote electronic document management as a means of preserving all important information currently produced by the IOC. Four departments are now taking part in a pilot rollout. They are equipped with the latest technology, such as scanners for paper mail, e-mail and fax integration systems, project sharing, filing plans and retention schedules to help them classify the information as soon as they receive it, and according to their business needs.

As far as public access to information is concerned, the first step was taken when the *Historical Archives* were opened to the public after they were moved to the *Olympic Museum*. The drafting of rules approved by the Foundation Board was also an important development.

<sup>4</sup> Historical Archives of the IOC, Series: Members/Blonay, correspondence between Berdez and Blonay, 9 July 1926.

In accordance with current European standards, the *Rules of Access to the IOC Archives*<sup>5</sup> permit researchers to consult archived documents that are over 20 years old. Files containing confidential personal or medical data may only be consulted after 50 years. However, reasoned applications for special dispensation may be addressed to the President or Museum Director.

Since 1998, in order to facilitate access to the IOC *Historical Archives* and to enhance their value, the archives department has been automatically sorting and cataloguing all series of files on a computer database at the Museum, known as SIM. This computer system incorporates other types of Olympic heritage, such as photographs, artefacts, books, stamps and coins, making it possible to conduct comprehensive cross-domain searches. Updated in accordance with ISAD-G international standards, the electronic archive catalogue contains various description fields, classification codes and keywords which enable users to find information under different criteria. The series relating to the Presidents, IOC members, candidate cities, International Federations and National Olympic Committees are complete, whereas the Olympic Summer and Winter Games series are currently being compiled. This data has been transferred to a new high-speed database, which is connected to the electronic document management system recently installed at the IOC headquarters.

The *Historical Archives* are divided into large series which reflect the structure and operations of the *International Olympic Committee*:

- \* Presidents
- \* IOC members
- \* Games of the Olympiad
- \* Olympic Winter Games
- \* Candidate cities
- \* IOC Administration
- \* Media, Publications, Press Reviews
- Private collections.

## **Analytical description of collections available for consultation at the Olympic Museum**

### **1. Archives of the IOC Presidents**

#### **Demetrius VIKELAS, Greece, 1894-1896**

Chosen by COUBERTIN as the first IOC President in preparation for the Athens Games in 1896, VIKELAS left very little in the IOC archives. A small file of letters dating from 1894 bears witness to the trust and friendship he felt towards the Baron, as well as the political problems faced by Greece in organising the Games. A larger collection can be found in the archives of the *Greek National Olympic Committee*.

#### **Baron Pierre de COUBERTIN, known as the Reviver of the Games, France, 1896-1925**

Although he tended not to make copies of his originals and destroyed part of his correspondence when he fell out with Swiss IOC member Godefroy de BLONAY, COUBERTIN left behind a huge quantity of letters, circulars, postcards and conference notes which constitute the main core of the IOC archives. Letters from all over the world, mainly from aristocrats in important political positions, testify to the tireless work already being carried out on a global level by the Baron. A prolific writer, COUBERTIN wrote about all kinds of subjects, including sports education and European politics: manuscripts, jottings, lecture notes and conference papers all form part of the collection, which is one of the most frequently consulted and is catalogued item by item on computer.

The numerous hand-written documents in this series enable us to retrace the establishment of the IOC in Lausanne and the steps taken by COUBERTIN to ensure that the institution was gradually recognised more and more widely as an international organisation<sup>6</sup>.

#### **Count Henri de BAILLET-LATOURE, Belgium, 1925-1942**

In 1925, BAILLET-LATOURE was elected ahead of Swiss Godefroy de BLONAY. Although in the end he decided to keep the IOC office in Lausanne, he did not live there, setting a trend followed by later Presidents whereby he would travel to and fro between Switzerland and his home country. Letters, speeches and written

<sup>5</sup> *The Rules of Access to the IOC Archives* may be obtained on request from the *Olympic Studies Centre* at the Museum, Quai d'Ouchy 1, 1001 Lausanne.

<sup>6</sup> Documents mentioned in the book by GILLIÉRON, Christian, *Les Relations de Lausanne et du Mouvement Olympique à l'époque de Pierre de Coubertin, 1894-1939*, IOC, 1993, 220p.

papers illustrate his work for the Olympic Movement, particularly his efforts to strengthen the links between Olympism and South America and the Far East (reports of his travels are frequently consulted). The end of his second term of office was blighted by war and the highly controversial Berlin Games of 1936, to which, according to some historians, he gave his "tacit blessing".

To date, this President's period of office has barely been studied, although the work of a French doctoral student, combined with the fact that the new President, Chevalier Jacques ROGGE, is Belgian, means that this very rich and unknown collection is being consulted with increasing regularity.

### J. Sigfrid EDSTRÖM, Sweden, 1946-1952

As Vice-President, EDSTRÖM filled the gap following BAILLET-LATOUR'S sudden death until he was officially elected in 1946. Thanks to the neutrality of Sweden and Switzerland, he managed to maintain regular correspondence with the IOC headquarters during the Second World War. His letters deal with the admittance of the Soviet Union to the Olympic Games and speak of his desire to keep the press informed about the IOC's activities. This collection, which few people have studied, could be the subject of some interesting research.

### Avery BRUNDAGE, United States, 1952-1972

President of the *United States Olympic Committee*, BRUNDAGE was elected IOC President in 1952. His correspondence describes his numerous trips to meet sports leaders all over the world. He arranged regular meetings with the NOCs. As technology developed and equipment became more widespread, communication was becoming

easier and the volume of archives began to increase rapidly from this period onwards. Having retired to the United States, BRUNDAGE donated his personal archives to the library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, near Chicago. We are in possession of 150 microfilms containing copies of these archives, which form a valuable part of our collection. These are regularly consulted in connection with all kinds of subjects.

### Lord KILLANIN, Ireland, 1972-1980

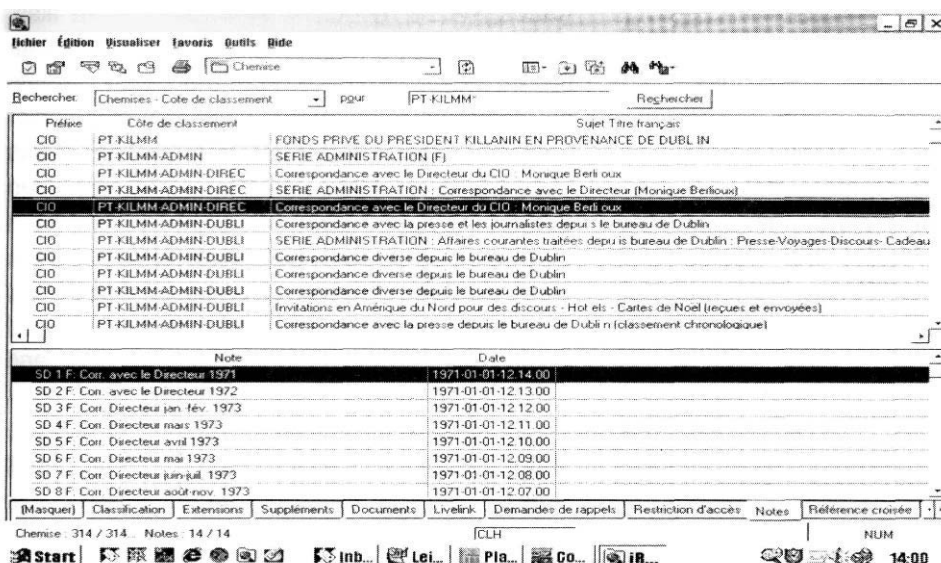
Correspondence, memos and telexes provide an account of KILLANIN'S eventful term as IOC President, which marked an important turning-point for the Olympic Movement, characterised by an influx of money from the sale of television rights, the politicisation of sport and boycotts.

Lord KILLANIN lived mainly in Dublin, from where he issued his orders for eight years. He bequeathed all his archives to the *Olympic Museum*, on condition that they were not opened until after his death. In 1999, after deteriorating because of humidity, they were restored and catalogued. They represent an extremely rich collection, supplementing the copies kept at the IOC. For the first time, we have comprehensive archives from an eight-year "reign": administration from Dublin and Lausanne, staff management, development of the Charter and Statutes, correspondence with members and former Presidents, travels, recognition of National Olympic Committees, Commissions, Montreal and Innsbruck 1976, Moscow (boycott) and Lake Placid 1980. These archives are still not accessible to the public under the terms of the Rules of Access.

Below is an example from the archives database, which provides easier access to the

collection. In accordance with the international ISAD-G standards, fields such as the classification code of the archive box, the description of files and sub-files and keywords can be used for a complex search to be carried out.

Database of the *Historical Archives*



The screenshot shows a search interface with a table of results. The search criteria are 'Chemin: Cote de classement' and 'PT-KILMM'. The results table has columns for 'Préfixe', 'Côte de classement', 'Sujet Titre français', and 'Date'. The first row is highlighted in black.

Préfixe	Côte de classement	Sujet Titre français	Date
CIO	PT-KILMM4	FONDS PRIVE DU PRESIDENT KILLANIN EN PROVENANCE DE DUBLIN	
CIO	PT-KILMM-ADMIN	SERIE ADMINISTRATION (F)	
CIO	PT-KILMM-ADMIN-DIREC	Correspondance avec le Directeur du CIO - Monique Berlioux	
CIO	PT-KILMM-ADMIN-DIREC	SERIE ADMINISTRATION : Correspondance avec le Directeur (Monique Berlioux)	
CIO	PT-KILMM-ADMIN-DIREC	Correspondance avec le Directeur du CIO - Monique Berlioux	
CIO	PT-KILMM-ADMIN-DUBLI	Correspondance avec la presse et les journalistes depuis le bureau de Dublin	
CIO	PT-KILMM-ADMIN-DUBLI	SERIE ADMINISTRATION : Affaires courantes traitées depuis bureau de Dublin : Presse-Voyages-Discours-Cadeau	
CIO	PT-KILMM-ADMIN-DUBLI	Correspondance diverse depuis le bureau de Dublin	
CIO	PT-KILMM-ADMIN-DUBLI	Correspondance diverse depuis le bureau de Dublin	
CIO	PT-KILMM-ADMIN-DUBLI	Correspondance diverse depuis le bureau de Dublin	
CIO	PT-KILMM-ADMIN-DUBLI	Invitations en Amérique du Nord pour des discours : Hot els - Cartes de Noel (reçues et envoyées)	
CIO	PT-KILMM-ADMIN-DUBLI	Correspondance avec la presse depuis le bureau de Dublin (classement chronologique)	

Below the table is a 'Note' section with a table of dates and descriptions:

Note	Date
SD 1 F. Corr. avec le Directeur 1971	1971-01-01-12-14.00
SD 2 F. Corr. avec le Directeur 1972	1971-01-01-12-13.00
SD 3 F. Corr. Directeur jan-fév 1973	1971-01-01-12-12.00
SD 4 F. Corr. Directeur mars 1973	1971-01-01-12-11.00
SD 5 F. Corr. Directeur avril 1973	1971-01-01-12-10.00
SD 6 F. Corr. Directeur mai 1973	1971-01-01-12-09.00
SD 7 F. Corr. Directeur juin-juil. 1973	1971-01-01-12-08.00
SD 8 F. Corr. Directeur août-nov 1973	1971-01-01-12-07.00

**Juan Antonio SAMARANCH, Marqués de Samaranch, Spain, 1980-2001**

When he was elected as the seventh IOC President, J. A. SAMARANCH left his position as ambassador in order to devote himself full-time to his new responsibilities. He moved to Lausanne. These two innovations propelled the Olympic Movement into a new era: increased resources, organisational success tempered by boycotts, doping and violence. His archives and those of the recently elected President are not currently available.

**Chevalier Jacques ROGGE, Belgium, 2001**

The new President is currently proposing reforms to strengthen the institution and is backing the electronic document management project, which should provide for greater transparency despite the exponential increase in information and the variety of media in which it is produced.

**2. IOC members**

Initially numbering 14 and now 127, IOC members are co-opted to represent the IOC and Olympism in their respective countries, which should each have their own *National Olympic Committee*. They meet regularly at annual IOC Sessions held in cities all over the world.

From the moment the IOC was created, COUBERTIN corresponded frequently with some of the 14 original members whom he elected, including VIKELAS (Greece), Jiri GUTH (Bohemia), KEMÉNY (Hungary) and SLOANE (USA). He had no hesitation in pointing out with his usual humour and diplomacy that

*"I was allowed a free hand in the choice of members of the IOC. Those proposed were elected without any amendment [...] Nobody seemed to have noticed that I had chosen almost exclusively absentee members. [...] I needed elbow room at the start, for many conflicts were bound to arise. Some at any rate would want to seize the helm, either to benefit from the success of the venture or to modify the direction. Such is human nature."<sup>7</sup>*

Arranged in alphabetical order, the members' archives retrace the origins and evolution of the IOC through international correspondence that remains very lively to this day. The files of Godefroy de BLONAY, Swiss IOC member from 1899 to 1937 and acting President from 1916 to 1919, speak volumes about his relationship with COUBERTIN and the

IOC's move to Lausanne. Although less bulky, the files of the other Swiss members are also interesting: Henri GUIBAN, Albert-Roman MAYER, Raymond GAFNER and Marc HODLER, Swiss member since 1963. Detailed research has yet to be carried out.

**3. Games of the Olympiad**

In parallel with the growing size and modernity of the Olympic Games, the volume of Games archives increases exponentially with every Olympiad. As a practical, regular manifestation of the Olympic phenomenon, the steady development of the Games is often studied by researchers and students from all over the world who come to consult the archives.

Preparatory documents, notes and general correspondence with the *Organising Committees of the Olympic Summer Games* (OCOGs), technical leaflets, press cuttings, interim and official reports, documents concerning organisational issues such as security, transport and timekeeping, opening and closing ceremonies, the flame, protocol, Olympic village, etc. relate the intensity generated by the organisation of these events, which became global in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

From Athens 1896 to Sydney 2000, from 14 NOCs to 199 countries, from 245 participants to 11,116 athletes, from 43 to 300 events, the many and varied Olympic files may be consulted from all kinds of angles, whether historical, political, social, economic, media-related, technical, architectural, artistic or even symbolic.

The initial difficulties and diplomacy, the ambiguously huge proportions of Berlin 1936, the power of the media and the boycotts of the 1980s are all recounted in these archive files, which are currently being computerised. With regard to the organisation of the Berlin Games, an exchange of letters between the most senior officials of the Nazi regime and the IOC shows that, already in 1932, the Committee was keen that the *Olympic Charter* should be respected in relation to the participation of coloured and, later, Jewish athletes. Wounded by the Nazis, Pierre de COUBERTIN, who was bitter and tired of being ignored during that period and encouraged by Carl DIEM, Secretary General of the Games, proposed an Olympic Institute to be created in Berlin. He intended to donate to it all

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<sup>7</sup> COUBERTIN, *Memoirs*, p. 24

his personal archives concerning Olympism. The Institute was established in 1938, after COUBERTIN'S death in 1937, but COUBERTIN had since decided to bequeath his archives to the IOC. The *Carl-Diem archives* in Cologne now contain a large proportion of the archives of German Olympic history.

The archives created by the Organising Committees, which have a life span of around 7 years, are kept in the host country. This is for obvious legal reasons and because of the sheer volume of documents (Sydney left 40,000 boxes to the *Australian National Olympic Committee*, which will process them in cooperation with the New South Wales records office). The archives from Rome 1960, on the other hand, have not yet been located. The archivist hopes to create a network of local bodies that hold archives relating to the organisation of the Games in order to promote the exchange of expertise and inventories, where they are available.

#### 4. Olympic Winter Games

The files on Saint Moritz, the only Swiss town to have hosted the Winter Games to date (in 1928 and 1948), form part of this series, which covers Games featuring ice and snow sports. The distinction between Summer and Winter Games was not made until Chamonix in 1924. In principle, they were to be held in the same country in the same year (e.g. Berlin and Garmisch-Partenkirchen 1936), but Switzerland stood in for Amsterdam and London, the capital cities of relatively flat countries. Following Oslo 1952, the Winter Games were often held in different continents to the Games of the Olympiad, which helped to widen media coverage and reduced the costs for the host countries. Since Lillehammer 1994, the Games have been staggered, with a two-year gap between Summer and Winter Games. Olympic Games are now held every other year.

Only half as voluminous as the Summer Games archives, these documents describe, through correspondence with the OCOGs, technical brochures and organisational documents, a series of Games which have been less turbulent politically but have not been without their points of friction, such as amateurism and commercialisation. The environment has become a recurrent topic of debate. Letters and signatures of important State leaders reflect the importance that has been attached to these events over the years.

As for the Olympiads, the IOC Winter

Games archives describe relations between the IOC, the host city and the Games Organising Committee. The archives created locally by the OCOG, which is usually disbanded two years after the closing ceremony, are generally either handed over to the archives department of the host city or donated to a Foundation set up to commemorate the Games. The new Olympic archives network will help researchers who specialise in this field.

#### 5. Candidate Cities

Files in the candidate cities series, which includes unselected cities, show, inter alia, the impact of the Games during different periods. For example, there have been few candidates at times when the investment required has appeared too great in relation to the anticipated benefits, whereas 11 cities contested the 2004 Games, with Athens eventually being selected. The archives comprise correspondence with the IOC and promotional materials shared between the Olympic library and the archives: large, lavish books, brochures, document cases, etc.

Lausanne has bid several times to host the Olympic Games. The first official letter from the city council, sent by the mayor to Pierre de COUBERTIN, who had often spoken to him about the possibility, was written on 30 December 1924 in anticipation of the 1928 and 1932 Games.

#### 6. IOC Administration

The building blocks of the *International Olympic Committee*, the administrative archives cover the activities of the various IOC departments.

The legal files deal with statutes and rules, the symbol of the rings and protection of emblems, the establishment of the *Olympic Charter* and correspondence with the *Court of Arbitration for Sport*, set up in Lausanne in 1983.

The set of administrative files contains, in alphabetical order, the archives of the main IOC protagonists other than the Presidents. The move of the IOC headquarters from Mon-Repos to the Château de Vidy, the architectural plans for the various renovation projects and the construction of the *Olympic Museum* are all included in this category. The 1929 rental agreement, renewed free of charge, between the city council and Pierre de COUBERTIN for "*the third-floor apartment in the Mon-Repos building at the disposition of Mr de Coubertin*" is one of the earliest examples of many communications

between the two institutions. It is interesting to note that, in 1972, a comprehensive inventory of the furniture at Vidy valued Coubertin's plaques, medals, stamps and manuscripts at CHF 10,000<sup>8</sup>.

The files of correspondence with Lausanne city council date back to 1915, with a summary of the famous meeting of 10 April 1915 at which the City of Lausanne "*notes the recent decision of the IOC to install its headquarters in Lausanne*". On 18 May, the City officially approved the creation of an Olympic Institute in Lausanne and undertook to support its development (it survived from 1915 until 1919, with lectures given at the *Montbenon Casino*). A set of attractive brochures published to mark the Olympic jubilee, which was officially celebrated in Lausanne in 1944, depict a city with a firm desire to be recognised as a centre for sport and the cradle of Olympism<sup>9</sup>.

During the 1970s, while CHEVALLAZ was mayor and KILLANIN IOC President, the IOC carried out renovation work at the Château de Vidy and planned the construction of an *Olympic Museum*. As mayor of Lausanne, DELAMURAZ later confirmed the validity of the agreement signed back in 1924 and, in 1980, supported the IOC's application to the Federal Council for its international status to be officially recognised in Switzerland and then abroad.

At the same time, the new President SAMARANCH stressed his intention to "*find a plot in Lausanne where a building can be constructed to house the Olympic Studies Centre which he hopes to create*"<sup>10</sup>. More recently, in 1994, the City of Lausanne and the IOC signed an agreement officially recognising Lausanne as the "Olympic Capital".

The IOC Executive Boards, Sessions, Commissions and Congresses series contains the hand-written and published minutes of all these meetings, several of which were held in Lausanne even before the headquarters were officially established there. The 1913 Olympic Congress, organised in Lausanne by COUBERTIN, dealt with the theme of sports psychology and physiology. The 1921 Congress was devoted to Olympic regulations and gave the International Federations greater powers to regulate their respective sports.

These events, which had a definite impact on the Olympic Movement<sup>11</sup>, were preceded by IOC Sessions. These attracted visitors from different countries and were accompanied by shows and sports festivals to which the people of Lausanne were invited. COUBERTIN'S intention in arranging these events, as he admitted himself, was to promote and win approval for his burgeoning organisation and to maintain strong relations with the City of Lausanne.

The IOC created a global interest network by building relations with organisations from both within and outside the world of sport. Sports events and regional games played their part. Among these series of documents, the correspondence with the *National Olympic Committees* (NOCs) is often consulted. Dating back to 1894, the files recount the story of how the NOCs were created, with applications for recognition, statutes and regulations, the establishment of executive boards, various publications and the emblem of all the NOCs, which currently number 199. These documents, many of which are unique, are very precious for the representatives of NOCs which do not have organised archives.

The series relating to the International Sports Federations (IFs) also contains a wealth of information on the development of certain sports, the evolution of rules, ratification of records and the role and relations between the IFs and the IOC since its creation. Fifteen of the 34 IFs which are recognised by the IOC are now based in Lausanne. The *International Gymnastics Federation*, which is based in Moutier, was established back in 1881.

## 7. Media, Publications, Press Reviews

Relations with the press, radio and television are described in this series of administrative documents. The archives also function as a reserve collection of IOC publications. For example, the *Olympic Review*, the official publication of the Olympic Movement which was published back in 1894 under the title *Bulletin du Comité International des Jeux Olympiques*, is often consulted by researchers because of its historical articles. Finally, the press reviews which collate all national and international sports news provides researchers with basic contextual information.

8 IOC Historical Archives: IOC headquarters/Château de Vidy, 1915-1973.

9 IOC Historical Archives: Lausanne municipal council/Correspondence, 1915-1935.

10 IOC Historical Archives: Lausanne municipal council/Correspondence, 1923-1987.

11 MÜLLER, Norbert, *Cent ans de Congrès Olympiques, 1894-1994*, Lausanne 1994, 278p.

### 8. Private collections

Always prepared to receive the archives of important individuals within the Olympic Movement, not to mention those of its own members and partners, the IOC has archived several private collections of varying sizes, such as that of Dr WALDSTEIN, benefactor of the IOC and eminent professor of archaeology at Oxford. As far as French-speaking Switzerland is concerned, we should mention the archives of Lausanne-based Chancellor Otto MAYER, those of Dr Paul MARTIN, distinguished surgeon and Olympic medallist in 1924, and those of Dr MESSERLI, who masterminded Lausanne's bid for the Olympic Games and ensured that Baron Pierre de COUBERTIN was granted membership of the honorary citizenship of the Vaud capital in 1937.

These administrative and private collections constitute an inexhaustible, as yet barely consulted wealth of information for any interested students and academics.

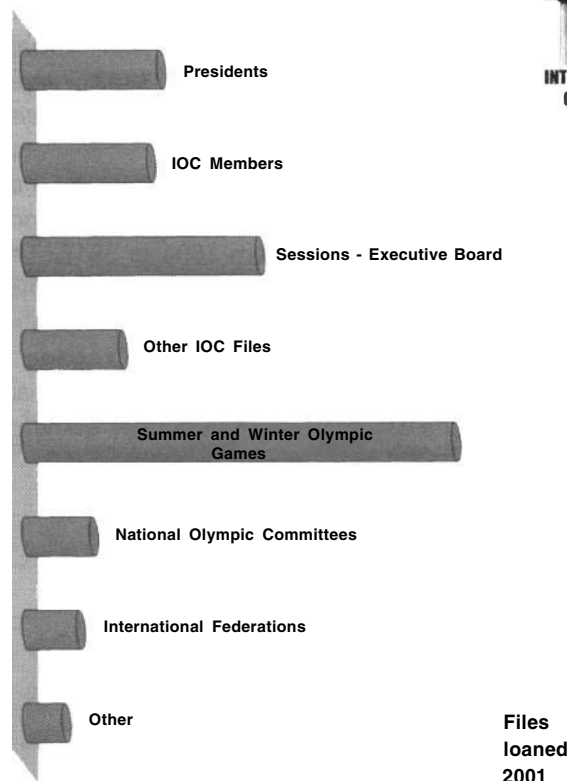
#### Research possibilities, statistics

Archivists are currently cataloguing these collections, but also work on a part-time basis answering requests from researchers and providing them with information based on their knowledge of the collections.

Since the archives were opened to the public, their work has more than doubled, in terms of both the number of consultations and file loans in the special new reading room at the *Olympic Museum*.

The most consulted series are those of the Summer and Winter Games, followed by the Sessions and Executive Boards, which record the decisions taken by those organs, followed by the correspondence of IOC Presidents and members.

Themes that have recently been studied include architecture, athletics, Presidents COUBERTIN and BRUNDAGE, doping, the environment, women and sport, geography and spatial economy of the Games, the Mexico City and Berlin Games and the Paralympic Movement.



Approximately 160 people visit the *Historical Archives* each year. Visitors come from 50 different countries: 70% from Europe, 10% from the USA and Canada, 5% from Asia (including increasing numbers of Chinese visitors preparing for the 2008 Beijing Games), 5% from Oceania, 2% from South America and 1% from Africa.

Each year, an average of 20 doctoral and master's degree students consult the archives over long periods of time. Since 1997, more than 30 master's dissertations and theses have been based on the IOC *Historical Archives*. These can be consulted in the library, since the authors are obliged to send a copy to the IOC.

Theses that have been based on the *Historical Archives* include: Patrice CHOLLEY, Pierre de COUBERTIN, *La deuxième croisade*, Christian GILLÉRON (quoted in footnotes), Pierre MORATH, *Le CIO à Lausanne (1939-1999)*, Florence CARPENTER, *Les valeurs et la politique du Comité International Olympique sous la présidence de Baillet-Latour (1925-1942)*, Franck BERRUT, *Le Congrès Olympique de Lausanne 1913: enjeux et savoir-faire de Pierre de Coubertin*, Sarah PURCHASE, *Planning for Olympic Legacies : a comparative analysis*, Jérôme GYGAX, *Boycott*

Annual Loan statistics - Comparison 1997 - 2001						
Year	Number of consultations	Increase %	Number of files loaned	Increase%	Monthly average no. of consultations	Monthly average no. of files loaned
1997	309	100	1392	100	25.8	116
1998	476	154	1975	141	39.7	164.8
1999	503	163	2245	161	41.9	187.1
2000	541	175	2937	211	45.1	244.8
2001	597	193	2806	202	49.8	233.8



*des Jeux de Moscou 1980, Nicolas NIGGLI, Diplomatie sportive et réalisations internationales. Helsinki 1952, Jean-Blaise NIDEGGER, Olympisme, Environnement et relations internationales.*

Finally, the IOC will shortly publish a volume of Pierre de *Coubertin's* hand-written correspondence from 1894 to 1918. The list of addresses of archives of the Organising Committees of the Olympic Games is currently being compiled on the web page of the Independent University of Barcelona: <http://blues.uab.es/olympic.studies/dir/oa.html>

### **Conclusion**

Forming unique study material, the IOC archives have already been used by the authors of numerous degree dissertations, doctoral theses, books and studies of Olympic and sports history. The first 50 years of the Movement have been studied particularly closely. Archivists are glad to advise, help scholars and students make new discoveries in the rich material that is still partly unexplored. It is a treasure trove for sport historians.