An exhibition of material from the Monash University Library Rare Books Collection
27 July 2006 - 29 September 2006
Exhibition room, level 1, ISB Wing,
Sir Louis Matheson Library, Clayton campus

Item 64. Cover of *Life and reminiscences of a nineteenth century gladiator*, by John L. Sullivan; with reports of physical examinations and measurements, illustrated by full-page half-tone plates and by anthropometrical chart by Dudley A. Sargent. George Routledge and Sons, London and New York, 1892

Exhibition and catalogue by Richard Overell, Rare Books Librarian, Monash University Library, Box 4, Monash University, Victoria, 3800 Australia. An electronic version of this catalogue, with additional illustrations, is available at the Monash University Library website. Electronic catalogue prepared by Iris Carydias

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www.lib.monash.edu.au/exhibitions/
Introduction

Australians do enjoy sport and Melbourne is now routinely depicted as Australia’s sporting capital. The formal rules for playing the world’s original code of football, Australian Rules, were drawn up here. Melburnians have long enjoyed an official public holiday to watch a horse race. So although Melbourne’s traditional Australian Rules clubs can no longer match it with cashed-up competitors from interstate, and despite the fact that every so often a horse from Ireland wins the Melbourne Cup, an exhibition of books and associated historic items about sport, fits well with the city’s, and indeed Australia’s, sense of identity. In the written words of the book, of the annual or the pamphlet, sport becomes far more than a ‘just a game’.

Today, any list of Australian best-sellers will include books about sport; books not always deftly-written and texts not typically able to bring to the reader an inspiring explanation to life’s great mysteries, but written works nonetheless, whose pages are turned by many who may never pick up another type of book. The author of one of these autobiographies, a former star from one of Melbourne’s Australian Rules clubs, famously announced at his autobiography’s launch, that he had now written one more book than he had actually read.

The written word can probably never match the manner in which the spoken language of our favourite sports has passed effortlessly into demotic use. An unconfident worker might be told by the boss to ‘get on the front foot’. Unable to make a decision he or she has ‘a bob each-way’. With success within reach, the worker ‘stumbles at the last hurdle’ or worse, gets a touch of ‘The Colliwobbles’. The hapless employee must then be given ‘the flick pass’. Some sporting metaphors fade quickly, especially those associated with horse racing. So only an antiquarian worker would, having been given the flick, reflect that he or she was “as unlucky as Shadow King” (the perennial Melbourne Cup placegetter). To the boss of course the worker would always be recollected as a “Drongo”. (a racehorse form the 1920s who had 37 starts without winning, although he was 2nd in the VRC Derby and St. Leger).

Traces of this rich oral culture of sports we might now see emerging in the conversational autobiographies of sporting champions, many of them passing from taped conversation to printed text with the lightest editorial intervention. Very popular sports stars are now subject to a range of biographies, some of them attempting to make claims more broadly about society of which the star is emblematic, rather than about sports. As a counterweight to the book about the sports star as celebrity, there now exists a rich sub-genre of writing by average sports fans, or at least the sports journalist masquerading as just one of the crowd.

Such personalised accounts of sports take us a long way from the manner in which writers in the early-nineteenth century wrote about their pastimes; often about the great outdoors and opportunities for killing local fauna. Many of these accounts, drawn from the first, perhaps sixty years of European recreation in the Australian bush, are modelled on the travel diary. The writer engages the reader back home through his gothic sketch of Australia, the grotesqueness of the place calibrated in numbers of kangaroos slaughtered and strange birds shot down. Formalised rules of sports in the second half of the century gradually led to written reminiscences by sportsmen and reflections on team sports and behaviour of spectators interwoven again into the more generalised travel diary; hence the several depictions of suburban football and cricket matches in Melbourne which found their way into more generalised descriptions of
Australia. Horseracing perhaps more than any other sport, had lent itself to fiction writing by the end of the nineteenth century, a genre in which Melbourne, through the writing of Nat Gould, figures highly. Horseracing too gave us the ‘annual’ and the ‘compendium’ collating results of races, lists of sires and trainers and anecdotes from the track. Cricket by the early twentieth century gave us a specialist genre, which has multiplied ever since: the book of the tour. So that when the Ashes change hands, as occurred last year, we get many books of the tour, by players, critics and journalists.

Whatever the sport, the book about sport bridges a gap between the ephemeral reporting of the daily press and the more distant commentary on substantial events. Sports journalists over the course of the twentieth century became adept at speedily transforming their daily accounts into book-length critiques, so that almost as soon as a season or major championship ends, the story of that event appears as a book. With growing frequency, investigative journalists now write books to expose the corruption and scandal of sport; from rigged results in European soccer, to the constant use of banned performance-enhancing drugs. Much more prosaic are the histories of clubs, Now, almost any club at any level of competition has its printed history. Whilst professional historians are active in writing about sport, most of the history of sport is created at a parochial level, by enthusiasts who write with passion rather than discretion. Sports have become a recognisable part of university education and there is a specialist literature to support sports studies. It is fitting that Monash University holds the items which are part of this exhibition. Long before universities promoted courses in sports studies, Ian Turner of the Monash History Department, had set out to explore the historical significance of sport in Australia. He was the first serious historian of Australian Rules football. Were he still alive no doubt he would remain unconvinced by some aspects of academic sports studies, galled by the repeated failures of his football team, Richmond, and excited by the works on display in this exhibition.

Dr Chris McConville.
Faculty Of Arts And Social Sciences,
University Of The Sunshine Coast

Sport
An exhibition of material from the Monash University Library,
Rare Book Collection

Preface

Sport is an interest, even an enthusiasm, which spans society. I have not set out here
to give a detailed history of sport but rather to give researchers an idea of the
resources available in the Monash University Library Rare Books Collection should
they wish to study the social history of “sport.”

The items on display range in date from the early nineteenth to the late twentieth
century. Although there is a predominance of Australian material, we have not limited
the coverage to local sports, and much English, American, European material is
included.

Richard Overell
Rare Books Librarian
Monash University Library

General

1. British sports and sportsmen, past and present / Compiled and edited by The

The set includes volumes on sporting identities, big-game hunting, fox-hunting,
athletics, cricket and football, and horse racing. It was compiled and edited by the staff
of "The Sportsman" and later "Sporting Life" magazines. Part of the intention in
publishing the series was to legitimise sport history and to bring together much of the
lore that surrounded the various sports and their “heroes”. Each volume has a history
of the sport as well as details of the current state of play.

The volume on racing has as its frontispiece King Edward VII with his top hat,
binoculars and cigar, presumably at Royal Ascot, and as the title-page vignette, a
photograph of “Pintadeau; King George V’s first winner.” This emphasises racing as
“the sport of Kings.”

The athletics volume has a vignette of one of the royal tennis courts at Queens Club. It
includes a chapter on the Olympic Games and their revival. There is a volume on big-
game hunting which has as the frontispiece a photograph of “His Majesty King George
V with H. H. the Maharaja of Nepal. Shot before lunch.” They are mounted on
elephants with the morning’s bag of four tigers and a deer laid out in front of the
hunting party. There is a separate volume on fox hunting.
Hunting

2. Cynegetica, or, Essays on sporting : consisting of observations on hare hunting ... : together with An account of the vizier's manner of hunting in the Mogul Empire / by William Blane ; to which is added, The chace : a poem / by William Somerville. (London : Printed for John Stockdale, 1788)

This eighteenth-century collection of essays on hunting begins with “An account of the hare hunting and coursing of the ancients from Xenophon to Arrian.”

The rationale put forward by the compiler in his “Introduction” reads in part,

I know the literary and speculative part of mankind are apt to consider these kind of country diversions in a contemptible light; and perhaps, they may be inclined to despise any person who shall devote his time to the writing, or even the reading, of a single page, on a subject which they may think only deserving the attention of Grooms, Country Squires, and Dog-boys. But this opinion is by no means founded on reason.

A healthy frame of body is to the full as necessary for our happiness as a sound disposition of mind. The Roman satirist [Juvenal] joins them together in his prayer, and, indeed, the latter is never perfectly attainable without the former. Now to gain this in a compleat manner, more exercise is certainly requisite than the tasked hour of walking or riding, which the Man of Literature or Business with difficulty persuades himself to snatch from his favourite employments. This may, indeed, just suffice to keep off the dreadful consequences which must inevitably attend an entirely sedentary life; but will never give that state of robust health, which no one who ever enjoyed will ever effect top despise. (p. 2-3)

The second paragraph harks forward to the present day emphasis on personal fitness, while the first could be applied to academics who see subjects such as the history of sport as being too frivolous for any serious consideration.


The moor and the loch : containing practical hints on most of the highland sports, and notices of the habits of the different creatures of game and prey in the mountainous districts of Scotland ; with instructions in river, burn, and loch-fishing / by John Colquhoun. 2nd. ed. (London : John Murray, 1841)


Sport and sportsmen : a book of recollections / by Charles Stretton. (London : Hurst and Blackett, 1866)


Some account of English deer parks, with notes on the management of deer / by Evelyn Philip Shirley. (London : John Murray, 1867)

Before the rise in interest in team sports in the second half of the nineteenth century, “sport” usually meant hunting. The hunting of game, in particular, pheasant-shooting, deer-hunting, and of course, fox-hunting were the favourite sports of the nobility and gentry.


Exhibition catalogue: Sport
This colour-plate book is best known in Australia for its New South Wales supplement which shows illustrations of the Aborigines hunting, but there are about one hundred other hand-coloured plates showing sports from countries such as India and Africa. Hunting in one form or another is the general subject matter.

The book is open at the plate, “India hog hunting 4”. It shows the hunter on horse-back being attacked by a leopard. The accompanying letterpress begins:

Hog-hunting in India is at all times a very dangerous amusement; though, so great is the entertainment it affords, that the pursuit of it becomes an infatuation. (p. 75)

As the hunt takes place in long grass, it is not uncommon for the hunter to meet with other wild animals. The incident shown actually happened and the hunter died a few days later of “locked jaw”, i.e. tetanus.


Pigsticking ; or, Hoghunting: a complete account for sportsmen, and others / R. S. S. Baden-Powell. Illustrated by the author. (London : Harrison, 1889)


The rifle and the hound in Ceylon / by S.W. Baker. (London : Longmans, Brown, Green, and Longmans, 1854)

9. Inglis, James, 1845-1908.

Tent life in Tigerland ; with which is incorporated, Sport and work on the Nepaul frontier : being twelve years’ sporting reminiscences of a pioneer planter in an Indian frontier district / by James Inglis (“Maori“) (Sydney : Hutchison, 1888)

For those stationed in India and Africa, hunting was the favourite sport. We hold many books on Africa, but these will be used in a special exhibition on that continent at a future date. On display are some of the books about hunting on the sub-continent. Baden-Powell’s Pigsticking has a gilt design on its cloth cover showing a man who has succeeded in sticking his pig, only to find that his horse has stumbled and pitched him off. Samuel Baker’s book on hunting in Ceylon has much on elephant hunting. The coloured frontispiece shows an elephant which is being restrained by ropes around two of his feet while the hunter tries to lasso the beast.


Nimrod’s hunting reminiscences, comprising memoirs of masters of hounds, notices of the crack riders and characteristics of the hunting countries of England / with an introduction by W. Shaw Sparrow and fifty-one illustrations. New ed. (London : John Lane, the Bodley Head, 1926)

Mr. Facey Romford's hounds / by the author of "Handley Cross", "Mr. Sponge's sporting tour", "Ask Mamma", etc., etc.; with illustrations by John Leech and Hablot K. Browne. (London : Bradbury and Evans, 1865)


Market Harborough, or, How Mr. Sawyer went to the shires ; Inside the bar, or, sketches at Soakington / by G.J. Whyte-Melville. 14th ed. (London : Chapman and Hall, [1879])


Fox-hunting generated the greatest interest among nineteenth century sports. There was a thriving literature attached to it. The sporting papers included articles describing the runs of the various hunts after foxes, and many Victorian novels included hunting scenes.

“Nimrod”, Charles James Apperley, is often cited as the best of the sporting writers of the period. He was an experienced hunter who wrote for the Sporting Magazine, and later the Sporting Review. His three famous papers on “Melton Mowbray”, “the Road” and “The Turf”, appeared in the Quarterly Review and were reprinted in book form as, The chace, the turf and the road. (1837)

Surtees was an immensely popular sporting novelist who devised the character of John Jorrocks, a Cockney grocer who takes up hunting. Jorrocks first appeared in the New Sporting Magazine in July 1831. The stories were published in book form as Jorrock's jaunts and jollities in 1838. The original illustrations were by Phiz, but later editions were illustrated by Henry Alken, who specialised in scenes of the hunting field. The success of Jorrock's jaunts led Chapman and Hall to commission Dickens to write Pickwick papers.

John Leech was also employed to illustrate Surtees works, often in colour. Hunting prints were very popular among Victorians, and were commonly seen in clubs, libraries and smoking rooms.

George Whyte-Melville was also a popular sporting novelist, best-remembered now for the unfortunate fact that he met his death in a fall from his horse on the hunting field.

Anthony Trollope was perhaps the best nineteenth century writer on fox-hunting. He was an enthusiastic rider after hounds and managed to work hunting scenes into many of his novels. He visited Australia in 1871 and wrote an account of it, in a series of despatches to the London Daily Telegraph, the articles being published in book form as, Australia and New Zealand (1873). The parts which describe the Australian colonies were re-published in three yellow-backs, each including his impressions of two of the colonies, in 1875. While in Victoria he hunted with local sportsmen; their quarry being kangaroos and dingo.

*Sport in war* / by Major-General R. S. S. Baden-Powell ; with nineteen illustrations by the author. (London : William Heinemann, 1900)

Baden-Powell is best-known as the founder of the Boy Scouts. He served in South Africa, before and during the Boer War and distinguished himself with his abilities as a forward scout, being able to reconnoitre the enemy positions. After the war he returned to England and devoted himself to establishing the Boy Scout movement, publishing the famous manual, *Scouting for Boys* in 1908.

His philosophy drew on his African experiences, not only in war but also on the hunting field. *Sport in War* sets out specifically to show how skills learned while hunting can assist in fighting.


It is now a commonplace that hunting is abhorrent and inhumane. We find agitators protesting against fox-hunting in Britain and, here in Victoria, against duck-shooting.

But we do not expect to find such views expressed in the nineteenth and early twentieth-centuries, especially not from a woman who was an experienced hunter herself.

Lady Florence Dixie was the daughter of the seventh Marquis of Queensberry. Lady Dixie travelled widely, to Africa, Arabia, Patagonia and the United States. She was a fine horse-woman, and a crack shot, and was one of the first women to take up big-game hunting. However, by 1891, when the first edition of her *Horrors of Sport* was published, she had become an advocate of banning the hunt.

It is a remnant of barbarism in man’s nature that he should take pleasure in displaying his skill on living animals. Deer-stalking is no doubt a healthy and exhilarating exercise, requiring endurance, stamina, a clear sight, and a steady hand. Yet the last act in a successful stalk is, if we come to think about it, disgusting and horrible. (p. 6)

The Olympic Games


The modern Olympics began with the games at Athens in 1896. Perhaps the most controversial Olympics were held in Berlin in 1936. The celebratory work on display, published in the build-up to the Nazi-organised Olympics, makes specific the link between sport and the state, which many at the time and since have found distasteful.

17. Olympic Games (16th :, 1956 : Melbourne, Vic.).

*The official report of The Organizing Committee for the Games of the XVI Olympiad Melbourne 1956* / by the Organizing Committee of the XVI Olympiad, 1956. (Melbourne : W. M. Houston, Government Printer, 1958)


Melbourne was proud to host the 1956 Olympics. Australia did well in the events, winning 13 gold medals, more than we had ever won previously, coming third in the overall medal tally, behind the USA and the USSR.

One of the Wall Cases is devoted to the 1956 Olympics.

20. *Invitation Committee for the 1988 Olympic Games for Melbourne.*


Melbourne tried to host the Games again in 1988 and in 1996, but the Games were awarded to Seoul and Atlanta, respectively.


Despite the unsuccessful bids by Melbourne in the 1980s and 1990s, Sydney, was awarded the honour of hosting the 2000 Games.

**Rowing**

23. *Official programme. Forty-second Anniversary Regatta. Hobart Town. Tuesday, January 27, 1880. To commemorate the Anniversary of Tasman’s discovery of this island in 1642.* (Hobart, Mercury Office, 1880) [printed on silk]

In his Introduction to volume 1 of British Sports and Sportsmen (1908) Horace Huntchinson wrote,

> I remember that when I first began to look into the history of our British sports and pastimes, I was not so much surprised at the little interest which they seemed to excite ... as by the fact that the pastime which aroused the greatest interest of all at that time was rowing. I do not mean that locally it was of equal interest with hunting; but there was no other sport, not even that of pugilism (which had then fallen from its highest estimation) that interested people in London so much as rowing. (p. v)

Henley Regatta began in 1839 and the Oxford-Cambridge boat race, had first been rowed in 1829, but there had then been a ten year gap before the official Oxford University Rowing Club was formed in 1839 and the first of the continuous series of races between the Universities took place.

The first Hobart regatta was in 1827, and the Sydney regatta was first held on 26th January 1837, to commemorate the founding of Australia.

*Barwon ballads and school verses* / by James Lister Cuthbertson "C". Memorial ed. (Melbourne : Melville & Mullen, 1912)

The “Head of the River” races between the major public schools are held in each state. In Melbourne they race on the Barwon River at Geelong as well as on the Yarra. James Lister Cuthbertson’s *Barwon Ballads* is most notable for his poems on the races.

Until the 1950s and early 1960s the Head of the River races were given extensive coverage in the sports pages of the Melbourne daily newspapers and there was betting on the races.

25. Reed, Talbot Baines, 1852-1893.


First published, London, Hodder and Stoughton, 1887, after appearing in *Boy’s Own* magazine, this English school story centres on rowing.

The cover of this edition features a colour illustration of the crews going under a bridge, while their schoolmates cheer them from above.

26. Lang, John.

*The Victorian oarsman with a rowing register, 1857-1919, 62 years / the work of John Lang ; with introduction by George Fairbairn and foreword by Henry Gyles Turner.* (Melbourne : A.H. Massina, 1919)

This is an invaluable source of information on the early history of the sport in Victoria, giving for example the background details and the results of such major events as the Melbourne Regatta, first held as the “Upper Yarra Regatta” on 25th April 1857, and the Australian Henley Regatta, first held on 19th March 1904 on the Yarra River from the Botanic Gardens Bridge to the Princes Bridge.

Tennis


Bobby Riggs was a professional tennis player, former Wimbledon champion (1939) and US Open champion (1939, 1941), who was back in the limelight because of his challenges to prominent women players. He had defeated Margaret Court 6-1, 6-2, in 1973, then a few months later been beaten by Billie Jean King, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3. He played Susan Peacock at Kooyong on 4 January 1975 in “a fun spectacular for charity” where the match finished at 3 all. Susan was an A grade competition player who had been runner-up in the Franklin Cup social competition at Portsea.

Susan Peacock, now Susan Renouf, is an iconic figure in Australia. She was married to Liberal politician Andrew Peacock, owner of the champion race-mare Leilani, winner of the 1974 Caulfield Cup; and then married to Robert Sangster, who was a major racehorse owner in the UK and Australia. He won the Melbourne Cup in 1980 with Beldale Ball.

*Match play and the spin of the ball* / by William T. Tilden, 2nd, edited by Stephen Wallis Merrihew. (New York, American Lawn Tennis, 1925)

Bill Tilden was the dominant tennis player of the 1920s, winning seven US singles titles (1920-1925, 1929) and three Wimbledons (1920, 1921, 1930). He was in some ways similar to John McEnroe in his tendency to loudly question line-calls. In 1969 he was voted the greatest male player of all time.

The copy of his book on display is a presentation copy to the Australian champion, Norman Brookes, with a manuscript inscription from Tilden.

To Norman, the Greatest of them all from one who is proud to acknowledge the debt he owes to the Wizard and is proud of the friendship he can boast of, Sincerely, Bill.

Norman Brookes won Wimbledon in 1907 and 1914. He was part of the Australian Davis Cup team that won the trophy in 1907 and held it until 1911, creating great interest in the tournament in Australia. Tilden also played on several successful Davis Cup teams for the US throughout the 1920s.

Tilden wrote four books of boy’s fiction about tennis in the 1920s and several plays.


The Davis Cup was long a traditional Australian preoccupation over the Christmas break. However, after Australian tennis began to decline in the early 1970s and we could no longer look forward to our team making the finals, public interest has waned.

The Federation Cup is the women’s team tennis tournament held every year since 1963.

Behind the tennis items in the display is an original shop advertisement for “Bond’s cottontails briefs for women and girls” which features a lady tennis player from the 1960s.

Royal Tennis


Royal tennis, or “Real Tennis” as it is sometimes called, descends directly from the medieval tennis game, *Jeu de paume*. It is played on specially constructed indoor courts, using a pear-shaped racquet and a hard cloth ball. The net is five feet high at the sides and three feet high in the middle. There are fewer than thirty courts in the world, but they include Henry VIII’s court at Hampton Court Palace, which is still used. In Melbourne, there is a court at South Yarra.

Manevieux’s *Treatise* was first published in French in 1783. This is the first translation of the book into English, a task undertaken by local Royal Tennis enthusiast, Dr. Richard Travers. Dr. Travers is one of the major benefactors of Monash University Library and has been gradually donating his collection of medical books to the rare Book Collection for years. He has loaned us for display in this exhibition two royal tennis racquets and two balls, and gives the following description of them:-

**Royal Tennis racquets.**

The older racquet was made by Prosser & Sons, London. It owes its pristine condition to the fact that it was used as a trophy – the gold plate at the throat of the racket reads “Royal Tennis Championship of Australasia won by W. Travers 1896. Walter Travers (1871-1906) was a son of Samuel Smith Travers (1826-1888) who built the real tennis court in Hobart, the first in Australia. He was a very good player, representing Cambridge University in 1893 and winning the Hobart Gold Prize the same year. He won the Melbourne Gold Racket in 1896 and 1897. He married Isobel a’Beckett in 1897. The racquet belonged to his son, Sir Thomas Travers, the Melbourne eye surgeon.

The racquet is made by bending a strip of wood about 5 feet long to form an eccentric head. The two ends of the strip are joined together over a centrepiece to form the handle. A racquet from the Sydney court, built in 1997, shows that this method of construction has not altered with time.

Of particular interest is that the older racquet is strung with gut, and there are three fine cords running horizontally at the top. This is the trebling – one side (the forehand side) is smooth and the other side (the backhand side, with the gold plate) is rough. This distinction, “Rough or smooth?” was used when tossing for the initial serve.

Also shown are two of the balls. One demonstrates the tightly-wound tape, tied with string, which forms the ball. This lasts for a year or more. The other shows the ball covered with hand-stitched cloth (this one was a commemorative souvenir). The cover lasts only 3 or 4 weeks.

**Football**


This is a facsimile of an illustrated paper published in Melbourne in 1880, open at the issue for July 24. The engraving on the cover shows, “Sketch at the football match. Carlton v. Geelong. George Coulthard running with the ball.”
The accompanying article on Coulthard describes him as,

About twenty-four years of age, weighs about 12 stone, is 5 ft. 10 in. in height, of Victorian birth, and for physique as fine a specimen of a colonial as one could well wish to see. ... For the last five years his name has been very prominent among footballers, and for playing the game in its most perfect style we would have much difficulty in finding his equal; he marks with certainty, and kicks "punt" or "drop" with admirable judgment and accuracy; is very dangerous when near his opponent’s goal, seeming rather to prefer acute angles. During last season he kicked twenty-one goals for the Carlton Club. ... His fellow players show their confidence by always playing to him when possible. ... His specialty is, undoubtedly, running with the ball; many are the runs he has made, warding off his opponents with his long muscular arms. This peculiar style of passing is really a treat to witness, and we may well say that Coulthard is unequalled at it, being a custom almost his own. (p. 52)


On display is no. 4, 1878. The editor, Thomas Power was the Secretary to the VFA, the Victorian Football Association. At this time there were seven senior clubs in Melbourne, Albert Park, Carlton, Essendon, Hotham, Melbourne, St. Kilda, West Melbourne. Geelong was listed among the “provincial” clubs.

There were teams in New South Wales and South Australia and in 1879 the game began to be played in Tasmania and Queensland.

Although The footballer is mainly devoted to Australian Rules, it also has a history of Association football (soccer) and “Hints to players”.


The story of an athlete: a picture of the past / by H.C.A. Harrison. (Melbourne: Alexander McCubbin, [1924])

Harrison is usually credited, along with his cousin and brother-in-law, Tom Wills, with devising “Australian Rules” football in 1858 as a game to be played by cricketers to keep fit in the winter season.

Harrison gives the details in his autobiography on display.

Football always has been to my mind the game for strong and vigorous men, for the simple reason that it requires all the best qualities of a first-rate athlete, namely strength, courage, endurance and self-control. It also requires a sufficient amount of resource and judgment to make it really interesting to the player and yet, at the same time, is quickly and easily learned. It is also much more comprehensible to the general public than cricket for instance, and there are no dull moments for the spectator, the excitement being kept up from start to finish. One has only to hear the continuous roar that proceeds from the vicinity of a big match to know that! (p. 88)

Harrison quotes Sir Arthur Conan Doyle who watched a match in Melbourne in 1921. The Englishman compared Soccer and Rugby to the local code and concluded that “the Victorian system [i.e. Australian Rules] has some points which make it the best of all – certainly from the spectacular point of view.”
Harrison gives his version of the genesis of the game in Victoria,

Till the year 1858, no football had been played in the colony. But when T. W. Wills arrived from England fresh from Rugby school, full of enthusiasm for all kinds of sport, he suggested that we should make a start with it. He very sensibly advised us not to take up Rugby (although that had been his own game) because he considered it (as then played) unsuitable for grown men, engaged in making a livelihood, but to work out a game of our own. So a number of us (principally cricketers) got together, and began to play. It was rather a go-as-you-please affair at first, but a set of rules was gradually evolved, which experience taught us to be the best. (p. 89)

37. Clark, Mavis Thorpe.

Hatherly's first fifteen / by M.R. Clark; illustrated by F.E. Hiley. (London : Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press, 1930)


These are from our extensive collection of children's books and magazines. The dust-wrapper of the novel show boys playing Rugby; the cover of The Sports Girl, features a female soccer player. This relates to the main story in the magazine, “The wizards”. There is also a double-page spread on “Football girls and what they have done”, with details of two of their teams and group photographs.

A further article of interest in The Sports Girl is “What I think of my husband”, no. 2 in a series on footballers' wives. This one features the wife of Fulham player, James Torrance.

Cricket


England v. Australia at the wicket : a complete record of all cricket matches played between English and Australian Elevens / [compiled by George Brumfitt and Joseph I. Kirby]. (Ilkley, Yorks. : Brumfitt and Kirby ; London : Wright ; Melbourne : Boyle & Scott, [1887])

The earliest game of cricket in Australia appears to have been played in Sydney in 1803. Inter-colonial matches began in 1856. The first team of touring English players came out in late 1861, with another team landing here in 1863. A team of Aborigines toured England in 1868 representing Australia. They were a popular success, not only for their prowess on the field, but also for their demonstrations of boomerang throwing.

Lillywhite's English team toured in 1876-77 and played the first test match against Australia, in March 1877 when the Australian team defeated the Englishmen by 45 runs. In 1878 an Australian team toured England and played a full first class series of 17 matches of which they won nine, lost four and played four draws. The “Ashes” originated after the defeat of the English by Australia at the Oval in 1882.
40. Giffen, George, 1859-1927.

*With bat and ball : twenty-five years’ reminiscences of Australian and Anglo-Australian cricket : with hints to young cricketers on batting, bowling and fielding* / by George Giffen. (London ; Melbourne : Ward, Lock, 1898)

George Giffen, a member of the team that played in the 1882 Oval Test, was Australia’s first great all-rounder, and was the first Australian player to make over 1000 runs and take over 100 wickets in test cricket. He played in the Sheffield Shield competition for South Australia, and captained Australia in 1894-95.

41. Warner, Pelham Francis, 1873-1963

*Cricket : a new edition / by P. F. Warner ; with contributions by the Hon. R. H. Lyttelton [and others].* (London : Longmans, Green, 1920)

This is part of the “Badminton Library of sports and pastimes”.

Sir Pelham “Plum” Warner was the captain of England (1902, 1911-12) and Middlesex (1908-1920). He scored nearly 30,000 runs during his career and made 60 centuries. He was a journalist who wrote on cricket from 1897 when he began reporting for *The Sportsman* during the English tour of the West Indies.

The Badminton Library consists of 29 titles first published between 1885 and 1902, most of which also appeared later in revised editions. They were all written by experts in the field and give detailed information about the history of the various sports as well as information current at the time.

42. Bleackley, Horace William, 1868-1931.

*Tales of the stumps / by Horace Bleackley, illustrated by Lucien Davis, R.I., and "Rip". (London : Ward, Lock & Co., [1901])

This is a collection of short stories with a cricket setting, most notable for its finely illustrated cloth cover showing a cricket ball and a set of stumps. The frontispiece of a lady cricketer, dressed in full skirts and boater, about to execute a straight drive, is also interesting. This copy belonged to Hugh Trumble, the captain of the Australian team in 1901-02, and has his signature.
43. Noble, M. A. (Montague Alfred), 1873-1940.

Test cricket certainties and possibilities for 1928-1929: a review of the prospective players on both sides, the Australian attackers and the English defenders / by M.A. Noble. (Sydney: New Century Press, [1928])

Noble was captain of the Australian team from 1903 to 1909. Best known as a batsman, he was also a capable swing bowler. He wrote several books; of particular note are his accounts of the Ashes series in 1925, 1926 and 1929, and was one of the pioneers in broadcasting test matches.

The book on display is significant partly because it has been signed by Don Bradman. It was during this series that Bradman was first chosen to play for Australia. Noble has him first among the cricketers he describes in the section, “New blood”,

D. Bradman (New South Wales). Bradman is a country man who has played for his club and district, and who, in his first inter-state match, against South Australia, made a century. He is a right-handed batsman, short in build, fairly strong, and very active. There is nothing stodgy about either the man or his play. He is a good starter, has plenty of confidence and pluck, is a quick scorer, and puts lots of power into his shots; indeed, one wonders where all the power comes from. He must have a very quick eye, for he is very fleet of foot, and walks down the pitch with great daring to make splendid strokes off deliveries which might otherwise prove difficult propositions even to play. His style is somewhat similar to that of Clem Hill, and, like the famous left-hander, he impresses with the idea that he is thoroughly enjoying himself. He is a most likeable chap and altogether a good type of cricketer. (p. 48)

44. Kippax, Alan. 1897-1972.

Anti body-line / by Alan Kippax in collaboration with Eric P. Barbour. (Sydney: Sydney & Melbourne Publishing Co., 1933.)

Kippax was a New South Wales batsman who first played for Australia in 1925, and was a regular in the side from 1928 to 1932. He played his final test match, against England, in 1934. He received a head injury in 1931 and was dropped after the first test against the English tourists in 1932. This was the beginning of the infamous “bodyline” series, during which Jardine, the English captain had instructed his fast bowlers, particularly Harold Larwood, to aim at the batsmen’s bodies in preference to the stumps.

Kippax was one of the radio broadcasters for the BBC during this series, and wrote Anti body-line in condemnation of the English team’s tactics. The bitterly fought series provoked strong resentment from the Australian public towards the English, and there were calls to break off relations between the two countries.

46. Pollard, Marjorie, 1899-1982

   *Cricket for women and girls* / by Marjorie Pollard. (London: Hutchinson, [1934])

47. *Australian women's cricket tour 1951: souvenir programme*. [London]: Women's Cricket Association, [1951]

Women's cricket began in the 1880s, and in 1890, the English Cricket and Athletic Association organized two teams, under the banner of “The original English lady cricketers”, to tour England playing matches, “With the object of proving the suitability of the National Game as a pastime for the fair sex in preference to Lawn Tennis and other less scientific games.” The promotional literature stressed, “N.B. Every effort is made to keep this organisation in every respect select and refined. A matron accompanies each eleven to all engagements.”

The Women’s Cricket Association was formed in 1926 and began to arrange official games in 1927. The founders were mainly women’s hockey players, Marjorie Pollard, one of England’s leading hockey players of the 1920s and 1930s, being one of them.

Women’s test cricket was first played in 1934, when an English team toured Australia; Marjorie Pollard accompanied them as the radio broadcaster for the BBC. In addition to being the editor of the *Hockey Field* for thirty-four years, she founded the magazine, *Women’s Cricket*, in 1930 and edited it for nineteen years.

Horse racing.

48. Smurthwaite, Henry, (ed.)


This magazine was the predecessor of *Country life illustrated*, which became *Country Life*.

It is an important source for information on the social scene surrounding racing in the 1890s.
49. **Victoria’s greatest races**: With full descriptions of the Melbourne Cup 1921, Caulfield Cup 1922-3, Melbourne Cup 1922-3; biographical sketches of leading owners, trainers, jockeys / compiled and ed. by H. Michell. (Melbourne : British and Australasian Publishing Service, [1924?])

This was a similarly presented publication to the *British Sports and Sportsmen* series, albeit on a smaller scale.

1923 was Bitalli’s cup, and the book is open at a photo of the finish. As well as detailed descriptions of the Cups of 1921, 1922 and 1923 the book includes biographical entries of many of the prominent owners, trainers and jockeys as well as some of the “leviathan” bookmakers, chapters on each of the major clubs, including Williamstown, and “The history of the turf in Victoria”. There are also many aerial shots of the courses and a chapter on “Air photography”.

50. **Racehorses in Australia** / edited by W.H. Lang, Ken Austin and Stewart McKay ; with paintings by Martin Stainforth. (Sydney : Art in Australia Limited ; London : Constable, 1922)

This was one of the *Art in Australia* special publications. Martin Stainforth (1866-1957) was an English artist who came to Australia in 1908 to stay with his cousin on a cattle station in north Queensland. In 1911 he settled in Sydney and began a career as painter to the racing fraternity. He painted many Melbourne Cup winners, before returning to England in 1930; later settling in New York, in 1934. He continued painting racehorses, and is credited as one of the first artists to introduce realism to the genre.

*Racehorses in Australia* has articles on the history of horse-racing in Australia and an essay, “Martin Stainforth – an appreciation”, by Dr. Stewart McKay.

51. Levey, William.

    *The Victorian ruff, or, Pocket racing companion for 1866* / compiled and edited by William Levey. (Melbourne : W. Levey, 1866)

52. Miller, J. J.

    *J.J. Miller's Sporting pamphlet and official trotting record.* (Melbourne : Miller and Sayers, [1883]- )

53. Miller, J. J.

    *J.J. Miller's Sporting annual and athletic record.* (Melbourne, Vic. : J.J. Miller, -1968) 1943 issue

54. Victoria Racing Club.

    *Rules of racing* / Victoria Racing Club. (Melbourne : Sands & McDougall, 1904)

These are examples of various official and semi-official publications we hold. Among the items on display are the first numbers of *The Australasian turf register* (1867) and *Miller’s sporting pamphlet* (1883)
55. Blew, W. A. C.

*Racing: famous racehorses, horse owners, ... / by W.A.C. Blew. (London : R.A. Everett, 1900)*

As with most racing books, this is a fund of anecdote. In his chapter on “Trainers” the author writes of “nobbling” and the opportunities afforded “some accomplished scoundrels” of doping favoured horses. But there are other ways of pulling off betting coups. The case of “Jerry’s St. Leger” is given as an example,

The horse was as sound as the proverbial fiddle, and the St. Leger seemed entirely at his mercy, yet in the betting market there was a continual set against him, which neither Mr. Gascoigne, his owner, nor Croft, his trainer, could understand. In consequence, “Jerry” was watched night and day most carefully, and so great were the precautions taken, that it seemed impossible that he could be nobbyed by anybody, yet still the bookmakers kept laying against him. One evening, just before the race, Croft dropped into the betting room at Doncaster, and was astonished to find the hostility which prevailed against his horse. Driven out of his senses with all sorts of imaginations, he took a long walk on the North road, and eventually came to a turnpike gate. As he approached it a post-chaise dashed up. The light from the windows of the toll house and an inn opposite plainly revealed their faces of the occupants of the “bounder”, and to his surprise, yet at the same time consolation, he saw inside Edwards, the jockey who was to ride “Jerry,” and Bob Ridsdale, a not too honourable character. Croft had seen enough to tell him what was the matter, and hurried off to Mr. Gascoigne to tell him the news. Croft himself took care that the horse should not be drugged, and he and the owner came to the conclusion that no good turn would be served by taking active steps, so nothing would be done till the very last minute. In due course Edwards, one of the greatest thieves who ever rode, dressed, and put on his cap and jacket; but just as he was about to be tossed into the saddle, Croft came up and tapped him on the shoulder, and said, “Not to-day, Mr. Edwards, thank you; we shall not require your services,” and thereupon Ben Smith had the mount. As soon as the change of jockeys was known there was a perfect revulsion in the market, and in the end “Jerry” bore out the estimate that the owner and trainer had formed of him by winning the St. Leger of 1824. (p. 92-94)


*My racing adventures / by Arthur Nightingall. (London : T. Werner Laurie [1907])*

Nightingall was the top steeplechase jockey of his era, winning the Grand National in 1891, 1892 and 1894.

57. Scobie, James, 1860-1940.

*My life on the Australian turf / by James Scobie ; chronicled by Khedive. (Melbourne : Specialty Press, 1929)*

James Scobie was a Victorian trainer who began his career, in 1880, as a jumps jockey, winning the Australian Steeplechase at Caulfield aboard Blue Mountain in 1887. As a trainer, he won four Melbourne Cups (1900, 1922, 1923 and 1927) and seven Victoria Derbys, as well as winning the VRC Oaks four times, and the Grand National Hurdle and Steeple. Although a specialist in training of stayers, he also took out many of the major two-year-old races, such as the Maribyrnong Plate, which he won five times. From 1892 onwards, he was the trainer for Sir Rupert Clarke and his brother Ernest.
58. Muggridge, William.

*How to train a racehorse : Australian horse talk for horsemen /* by William Muggridge. 2nd ed. (Sydney : William Brooks, 1925)

We have a good collection of books on how to handle horses. It is difficult for us to realise how all-pervasive the horse was before the advent of motor cars. It was the main form of transport, and most families had a stable in their back yard with one or two horses.

Training and looking after racehorses is a specialised business, though most devotees of the turf have strong opinions on such matters. William Muggridge, himself a successful jockey and trainer, acknowledges in his Introduction that “In undertaking this work I fully recognise that I lay myself open to a deal of criticism.” His advice is unfailingly practical, and he has a shrewd grasp of both equine and human nature.

His chapter on “Lameness” begins,

> It is a remarkable fact that a trainer is slow to acknowledge that a horse under his care is showing signs of soreness, or that, when the animal limps a little, it is slightly lame. It is always a terrible blow to a horse-preparer to see a horse displaying their first indication of unsoundness, no matter how insignificant the ailment may turn out to be. The fear of “break-downs” continually haunts him, and thus it is that the business of a public trainer has, perhaps, more worry attached to it than any other trade or profession. (p. 114)

He even has a chapter on the problems consequent upon “Masturbation” among entires. Apparently, once it becomes a habit, it is almost impossible to break. It has a weakening effect and makes the horse difficult to train. They lighten in condition, “and become so sore all round that the trainer is compelled to ‘throw them out of work.’” (p. 116)

59. Delaware

*Betting to win with a small bank /* by "Delaware" (Mosman, N. S. W. : C. G. Simons, [1930?])

Many and varied are the supposedly infallible betting systems which have been devised and peddled to the gullible. “Delaware” has his own system to put forward, which involves a formula for wagering different amounts on the first, second or third favourites depending on the starting prices.

What is interesting though is the first chapter, “The average man at the races”, described almost with a novelist’s eye,

> The citizen, astute enough in his everyday avocation or business, is nowhere seen to less advantage than when he is attempting to pick winners.

> We are all familiar with the sight of the buoyant, eager thousands on their way to Randwick, each man very “knowing” and confident of good fortune – and we all know too, how the greater proportion of these punters come home with depleted pockets, volubly explaining how they “got put off” this or that “good thing,” or how with any luck in running their fancy would have romped home in front, instead of making his dash too late and just missing a place.

> Of course, they are not disheartened – they have noted one or two horses which should be certain winners next time; and the following Saturday will see them setting off, just as jaunty as before – with the same old result, in all likelihood, at the end of the day. (p. 5)


This flier was produced as part of the campaign by animal liberationists against jumps racing in 2002. Racing over obstacles, i.e. hurdles, or, in steeplechases, fences, takes place in Australia in Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia.

As a result of the campaign, authorities have modified the type of obstacle the horses have to face, and falls in the past year or two have become much less common.
Harness Racing

61. Care and training of trotters / prepared by the editorial staff of "The Horseman and Spirit of the Times" from information furnished by the leading trainers and drivers of the day. (Chicago : Chicago Horseman Newspaper Co., 1914)

62. Dullard, V. L.

Globe Derby's greatness / by V.L. Dullard. (Melbourne : Wellman Printing, 1942)

63. Souvenir of Western Australia. ([Perth, W.A.] : W.A. Sportsmen's Organising Council for Patriotic Funds, [1945?])

Harness racing, or “trotting” as it is often called is very popular in the United States where it originated, Canada, France, Italy, and Scandinavia. Australia and New Zealand are the two countries where it is popular in the southern hemisphere.

Globe Derby was a champion pacer in Australia from 1916 to 1926, but his reputation stands mainly on his success at stud, establishing one of the pre-eminent sire lines in the country. The harness racing track in Adelaide is named Globe Derby Park.

The Western Australian item centres on the war effort and has information and photographs of Perth's trotting track, Gloucester Park, used as a troop encampment during World War II.

Displayed with this material is a nineteenth century colour print of the finish of a harness race in America in 1874 (on loan from John Dean)

Boxing

64. Sullivan, John Lawrence, 1858-1918.

Life and reminiscences of a nineteenth century gladiator / by John L. Sullivan ; with reports of physical examinations and measurements, illustrated by full-page half-tone plates and by anthropometrical chart by Dudley A. Sargent. (London ; New York : George Routledge and Sons, 1892)

John L. Sullivan was born in Boston. He began fighting in 1878 and turned professional in 1880. Most fights in America at the time were bare-knuckle affairs, fought under London Prize Ring rules. In 1882 he won the title of Heavyweight Champion of the United States. He became World heavyweight champion after winning a 75-round fight against Jake Kilrain on 8 July 1889.
Sullivan fought many exhibition matches and toured extensively in the US and Britain. In 1891 he was in Australia where he appeared on stage as a boxer in the play, *Honest hearts and willing hands* at the Opera House in Bourke Street, Melbourne. After retiring from the ring in 1892 he became a professional actor and vaudeville performer.

65. Lynch, John Gilbert Bohun, 1854-

_The prize ring_ by Bohun Lynch. (London : Country Life Ltd., 1925)

This is a history of boxing reproducing many of the classic prints by such artists as Gillray and Rowlandson. It is open at a colour reproduction of the 1743 Rules of boxing. The caption reads, “The first rules of the prize ring: drawn up at Broughton’s Amphitheatre in 1743.” They were fairly simple and left much to the interpretation of the judges, but were in force until 1838 when more elaborate rules were drawn up after the fight between Owen Swift and Brighton Bill “which ended fatally for the latter.”

Rule 7, the final rule, reads:

_That no person is to hit his Adversary when he is down, or seize him by the ham, the breeches, or any part below the waist : a man on his knees to be reckoned down._

66. Pheasant-Richardson glove contest: (police report respecting glove contest between Thomas Pheasant and James Richardson.) (Sydney, N.S.W. : Govt. Printer, 1892)

67. Corris, Peter, 1942-

_Lords of the ring_ / Peter Corris. North Ryde, N.S.W. : Cassell Australia, 1980.

As Peter Corris points out in his history of boxing in Australia, bouts have been fought here since the landing of the first fleet. However, there has often been a level of public disquiet about the spectacle of violence. The Pheasant-Richardson match, held at the Darlinghurst Skating Rink on the night of 6th September 1892 was a case in point. It was the subject of a lurid account in the Sydney _Evening News_ and a question was asked in Parliament. The Police, who were present, tendered their report. This gives us an eye-witness of what was presumably a typical fight of the period, in a makeshift ring. The report was written by Inspector James Bremner

_Sir, I have the honour to report that Sub-Inspector Robinson and myself were present on the 6th instant, when a glove contest took place at the Darlinghurst Skating Rink between Thomas Pheasant and James Richardson._

_The contest was carried out under the Marquis of Queensberry rules; they boxed with gloves about 5 oz., padded with horse-hair, which is about the usual size used at boxing contests. The ring was 24 feet, and ropes passing through studded posts about 4 feet high, which gave way when the combatants were clinched and pressed heavily against the ropes; in consequence they fell off the stage, which is a little over 2 feet 6 inches high. The studding was again partly fixed, but not sufficiently to prevent it giving way when they pressed heavily against the ropes._

_The contestants boxed eight rounds, of three minutes each round, and one minute being allowed between rounds. Each of them was knocked down, or fell, several times during the contest; they fell twice when clinched through slipping on the boards. At the conclusion of the contest Richardson had a slight discoloration of one eye, otherwise he was unmarked. Pheasant’s nose was bleeding from a blow he got in the sixth round; his upper lip was swollen; he was struck several times about the ribs, but none of the blows appeared to be severe. There were about 600 persons present at the contest, and during the last two rounds most of them were standing on chairs round the ring, and, as Mr. Robinson and myself were outside the chairs we could not see all that took place._

Exhibition catalogue: Sport
Pheasant and a man named Heffernan boxed in the same hall last month. On that occasion I stopped the contest after the seventh round, and on this occasion I was going to the referee to request him to stop the contest when Pheasant was counted out; he was knocked down and did not get up before 10 seconds.

On two occasions proceedings were taken against persons for boxing under similar rules; the cases were dismissed. It is difficult to know when to stop glove contests, as the greatest amount of punishments in the first five or six rounds, after that it is more a matter of endurance. I think that all glove contests for prizes should be stopped, as it has a demoralising effect on youths who frequent these places.

I have been informed that a glove contest will take place at the same hall, on the 13th instant, between a man named Barron and Michael Ives, under the Marquis of Queensberry rules.

PS – The detailed report in the *Evening News* of the boxing contest is exaggerated in describing the punishment which the combatants inflicted upon each other. The number of falls is correctly given, but it occurred mostly through the combatants’ feet slipping on the boards, and not by being knocked down.

The cleverly-titled Peter Corris’s book was written before he began his career as a crime writer. His first detective novel, *The dying trade*, was published later in 1980. He had completed his MA at Monash in 1966, on *Aborigines and Europeans in Western Victoria, from first contacts to 1860*; then proceeded to his Ph. D. at ANU, on “blackbirding”, *Passage, port and plantation: a history of Solomon Islands labour migration, 1870-1914*.


69. *Jack Read's complete Australian boxing annual*. [Sydney]: J. Read, 1945

Phar Lap is usually remembered as the most notorious instance of an Australian champion going overseas and dying in mysterious circumstances, but before the famous race-horse, there was the case of the boxer Les Darcy (1895-1917). In 1915 and 1916 Darcy won twenty-two consecutive fights, and decided to go to the US in an attempt to win enough to make him financially secure.

Unfortunately, the issue of conscription was inflaming public opinion at the time. Darcy’s intention of going abroad to fight was seen by many as shirking. The fact that he was of Irish extraction only served to exacerbate the issue. Accompanied by his promoter, he left Australia clandestinely, sailing from Newcastle on 27 October 1916, the day before the conscription referendum.

He was pilloried in the Australian press and when he reached America, found that fights were cancelled because of the unpatriotic way he had left Australia. On 5th April 1917 he took out American citizenship and soon after volunteered for the Army. However, on 27th April he collapsed while training for a fight in Memphis. He was diagnosed with septicaemia, from infected teeth. He developed pneumonia, and died on 24th May 1917.

His body was brought back to Sydney, and, after a large funeral procession he was buried in his home town of Maitland. He quickly came to be considered by the Australian public as a nationalist martyr.

He appears on the cover of the 1945 issue of *Read’s boxing records (Jack Read's complete Australian boxing annual)* with the caption, “Les Darcy. The late “Maitland marvel,” who is rated as Australia’s greatest boxer of this century.”
70. Driscoll, Jim, 1880-1925


71. Rose, Charles

Boxing taught through the slow motion film : Carpentier, Beckett, Drake, Wells, Lewis, Berry and other methods / by C. Rose. (London : Athletic Publications, [1924])

Jim Driscoll won the British featherweight title in 1906 and became European featherweight champion in 1912. He toured the USA in 1908-1909 and earned the nickname “Peerless Jim” from the legendary Bat Masterson, who, having retired from his gun-slinging role of US Marshall in Dodge City, was now a sports journalist.

Driscoll was an Irishman, born in Wales. After he died of tuberculosis, aged 44, at his home in the Duke of Edinburgh Hotel in Cardiff, 100,000 mourners accompanied his coffin, draped in the union flag and carried behind a gun carriage.

Charles Rose’s book is notable for its use of the “Pathe slow-motion pictures” to analyse the styles and ringcraft of the champions of the day such as Driscoll and “Bombardier” Wells.


73. Mitchell, Ray.


These are part of our collection of Australian pulp publications. We have, for example, a very large number of Horwitz publications; Scripts was an imprint of Horwitz.

The Sands brothers were Aboriginal boxers from Kempsey (NSW). They held a variety of titles; Clem, was the New South Wales Welterweight champion from 1947 to 1951 and Alfie the NSW middleweight champ from 1952-1954. But Dave was regarded as the best of the six brothers. On 6 September he defeated Dick Turpin in London in 2 minutes, 35 seconds for the British Empire middleweight title. He also fought successfully in the US, but on 11 August 1952 was killed in a car-crash near Dungog, NSW.

Ray Mitchell’s book gives details of deaths in the ring. This continues to be a contentious issue with calls periodically to ban the sport. Mitchell lists twenty “reforms” which in his opinion would limit the risks involved. They mainly deal with the need for basic skills, strict policing of boxers being “over-matched”, and rigorous medical checks. Many of the deaths he records came about after older boxers had made come-backs. This he sees as a major risk, and lists specific clauses to cover the situation,

13. That no boxer having retired, be granted a licence to renew his career (make a comeback) if, at the time of his initial retirement from boxing, he was past his prime, or where the initial retirement had followed severe headaches, concussion, symptoms of impending mental impairment, or the slowing down of the reflexes.

14. That no boxer who has suffered a severe head injury, in or out of boxing, be allowed to box again.

15. That boxers’ licences be taken from them permanently when they are past their prime. (p. 116-117)
Wall Case 1.

In the first of the wall cases is a framed group portrait of the Collingwood Football Club premiership winning team of 1928 (on display by courtesy of Mick Stone, Camberwell Books), with a selection of football ephemera, including some old “Football records”, and a publication from the anti-Apartheid demonstrations during the Springbok tour in 1971, The whole world watched : anti-apartheid, Queensland, Australia, 1971 / by Mark Steer (Torwood, Q. : K. Howard, 1971) This was the local response to the tour of the South African Rugby Union team.

Wall Case 2.

Here we see a poster for the Ballarat Miners’ Races, Friday October 25th, 1912, (on loan from John Dean); two board games, Parlour Steeple Chase, from the late Victorian period; and Steeplechase from the 1950s; as well as various race books. There is a copy of House News, the Herald and Weekly Times staff magazine. The issue on display (v. 27, no. 2, Feb.-Mar. 1957) has on the cover the famous triple dead-heat photograph. This was taken by the Sun photographer, George Bugden, and features the horses, Pandie Sun, Ark Royal and Fighting Force passing the post in the 1956 Hotham Handicap at Flemington.

The sheet music for O dem golden slippers is also on display. This is an old Negro minstrel song which Gerald Murnane has chosen to use as the title of the horse racing novel he is currently completing; the Golden Slipper being the premier two-year race in Australia.

Wall Case 3.

This Wall Case is devoted to the 1956 Olympics. It includes a metal wall map, Broadbent’s Melbourne to and fro, Olympic Special, showing the venues for the sports as well as an inset map of the Olympic Village in West Heidelberg.

Among the memorabilia and Olympic ephemera is on display are programmes for the opening and closing ceremonies and some of the daily events as well as tickets to the Games. The closing ceremony was preceded by the Olympic Soccer final between USSR and Yugoslavia.

Also included are ABC Olympic Books for Munich 1972 (featuring Shane Gould on the cover), and Los Angeles 1984 (featuring Robert de Castella).

Wall Case 4.

This wall case includes a portrait of Bill Woodfull, the front page of The Sydney Mail, 7 Feb., 1934 (on loan from John Dean). Woodfull first played for Australia in the 1926 team to tour England. He headed the Australian batting averages and was named one of Wisden’s top five cricketers of the year. He became the Australian captain in the 1930 tour, playing as opening batsman and regaining the ashes.

He was captain during the “bodyline” series of 1932-33 in Australia, famously remarking that “there are two teams out there but only one of them is playing cricket.” He then captained the touring side to England in 1934, afterwards retiring, with an average of 46.

Woodfull was a school-teacher, and was Principal of Melbourne High School from 1956 to 1962.

Also in the case are some items of cricket ephemera, including two booklets from the 1934 tour, one of which gives all of Bradman’s statistics, and a contemporary account of the body-line tests.
Fishing

74. Senior, William, 1839?-1920.

*Near and far: an angler's sketches of home sport and colonial life* / by William Senior. New and cheaper ed. (London: Sampson Low, Marston, Searle, & Rivington, 1890)

Angling or the sport of catching fish has long been a popular pastime. It is “sport” both in the sense of hunting and as a more organised competition.

William Senior was the angling editor of *The Field*. Part II of *Near and far* describes the author’s visit to the Australian colonies in the 1880s; the book originally appeared in 1888.

Among the fish he caught were dugong and schnapper off the Queensland coast.

75. Welsby, Thomas, 1858-1941.

*Schnappering and fishing in the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay waters: also included a wandering discourse on fishing generally* / by Thos. Welsby. (Brisbane: Outridge Printing, 1905)

Schnapper was a popular catch in Brisbane’s Moreton Bay, and Welsby deals with other fish from Queensland waters such as mullet, whiting and flathead, as well as the reef fish from the northern parts of the state.

76. Blackwood, R. L. (Robert Leslie)

*The quest of the trout* / by Robert Leslie Blackwood. (Melbourne: Robertson and Mullens, 1926)

Trout fishing is the classic angling pursuit, memorably described by Izaak Walton in his *Compleat Angler or, the contemplative man’s recreation* (1653). Tasmania is the Australian state which offers the best trout fishing but, as Robert Blackwood, points out, the Alpine streams of Victoria and New South Wales also offer good sport.

*The English Brown Trout* (*Salmo favio*), after many unsuccessful attempts, was introduced into Victoria in the year 1864, and was soon established in the neighbouring States of Tasmania and New South Wales. Later consignments of that fine fighter, the Rainbow Trout (*Salmo irideus Shasta*), were received from California, and it may also be found in the states mentioned. (p. 99)
77. Taggerty.

The Australian fishing manual : with hints on camping / by Taggerty. (Melbourne : Reviews Pty. Ltd., [1929])

78. Gregory's N.S.W. official fishing guide : telling how to fish, where to fish, and how to get there. (Sydney : Gregory’s Guides and Maps, Pty. Ltd. [1947?])

“Taggerty” was the pen-name of J. E. Pyke, a cricketer and journalist, who was the editor of the Victorian Fly-fisher’s Association Newsletter. He begins his book with “What the old angler told the author”.

The best angler is never COMPLETE. He has an open mind and open eyes. He is not dogmatic about his own theories, because he must often have seen them confounded. He is still, no matter what his years, in the stage of finding out things. He is old enough – in temperament – to be a thorough sportsman; and young enough to learn and like to learn. (p. 8)

79. Float and fly.

Fishing matches : and how to win them / by "Float and fly." (London : Bazaar, Exchange & Mart Ltd., [1927])

The author claims that this is the first book to be written on “match fishing”. In general the matches are decided by the size of the catch at the end of an allotted period.

Displayed with the fishing books is a brass fishing reel, on loan from Ian and Jill Wilson.

Golf

80. Success at golf : hints for the player of moderate ability / by Harry Vardon, Alex Herd, George Duncan, Wilfrid E. Reid, Jack White, Tom Ball and Lawrence Ayton ; with an introduction by R.E. Howard ... Illustrated with action photographs specially taken by Humphrey Joel. ([London] : Fry's magazine Ltd., [1914])

Harry Vardon (1870-1937) won the British Open six times (1896, 1898, 1899, 1903, 1911 and 1914) and the US Open once (1900). He was known as the Napoleon of Golf and was considered unbeatable in the early years of the century.
81. Campbell, Guy,

_Golf for beginners_ / by Major Guy Campbell. 2nd ed. (London : C.A. Pearson Ltd., 1923)

As well as the usual chapters on technique, Major Campbell includes a summary of the principles of “course construction” and on managing a club.

82. Whitton, Ivo, (1893-1967)

_Golf : with special high-speed photographs and slow motion cinema slips_ / by Ivo Whitton. (Melbourne : Herald and Weekly Times, [1930?])

Ivo Whitten won the Australian Open five times between 1912 and 1931. His memory survives in his book, hugely popular among Australian golfers between the wars, and in two trophies, the Victorian Golfing Association’s Ivo Whitten Trophy, awarded annually to the best amateur, and the Royal Melbourne Golf Club’s Ivo Whitten Cup.

The background to the golfing books is a painted advertisement for “Champion shirts”, which would have been displayed in men’s clothes shops in the 1920s and 1930s, showing two men playing golf in shirts, ties and hats, though not in Ivo Whitten’s plus-fours

83. Lyon, C. J. (Charles Jobson)

_History of St. Andrews : episcopal, monastic, academic, and civil, comprising the principal part of the ecclesiastical history of Scotland, from the earliest age till the present time_ / by C. J. Lyon. (Edinburgh : William Tait, 1843)

Golf is supposed to have originated in Scotland. The earliest references to it appear in the Scottish Acts of Parliament from the second half of the 15th century (1457 and 1471). It was banned along with football as being useless. The Scots were exhorted to practise archery instead as being a sport necessary for defending the country.

The earliest scene of people playing golf in Scotland occurs in an oil painting of 1680 which shows four players and two caddies against the backdrop of the town of St. Andrews. The section of golf in the History of St. Andrews on display deals with golf in Appendix LX,

A history of St. Andrews would be incomplete without some reference to the national game of golf, which is played here in greater perfection than any part of Scotland. The extent and inequities of the links are peculiarly adapted for the purpose. The club originated in the year 1750, and consists of about 400 noblemen and gentlemen. … There are nine holes on the links, three of four hundred yards apart; and the object of the players, in going out and returning, is to drive their balls into these holes at the smallest number of strokes. But I will not enter into the rules of the game, nor the laws of the club; because description is unnecessary to those who play, and would, perhaps, be both uninteresting and unintelligible to those who do not. (v. 2, p. 420)

The author gives the list of Captains and Prize-holders of the Club from 1806 to 1842, along with the number of strokes taken to win the tournament each year. It is interesting to note that only three people went around in less than 100 strokes, the best being 97 in 1834.
Wrestling

84. Voigt, E. R.

*Modern wrestling holds* / by E.R. Voigt. (Sydney : The Author, [1933])

85. The Arcadia fine cut book of wrestling. [Melbourne : Carreras, 194-?]  

86. *World Championship Wrestling holds*. (South Melbourne : Fostad Pty. Ltd., [196-?])

Wrestling in the “Cumberland or Westmoreland fashion” or “Cornish-style”, has long been practised in Australia. Matches are recorded among convicts and soldiers and on the goldfields. From the 1880s we find evidence of professional wrestling in Australia, many of the bouts being conducted “Greaco-Roman style”.

However, the growth in public interest in the sport is the result of promoters bringing troupes of wrestlers from America. This trend was started by Jack Munro of Stadiums Ltd. in the 1920s and has continued ever since, with a pause during World War II.

During the 1930s wrestling bouts were broadcast. The cover of Voigt’s book shows the 2KY commentator ringside while Leon Labriola applies a reverse headlock on his opponent.

The golden era came during the late 1960s and early 1970s when the “World Championship Wrestling” bouts were televised every week. The major names were cult heroes such as Mario Milano, Killer Kowalski and Skull Murphy. The two wrestlers featured on the cover of *Wrestling holds* are Red Bastien (left) and Mario Milano (right).

Also on display are copies of the World Championship Wrestling magazine, *Wrestling News*.

Jiu-jitsu

87. Hancock, H. Irving (Harrie Irving), 1868-1922.

*Jiu-jitsu combat tricks; Japanese feats of attack and defence in personal encounter* / by H. Irving Hancock ... illus. with thirty-two photographs taken from life by A. B. Phelan and others. (New York and London, G.P. Putnam's sons 1904)

88. Ohashi, Mori, 1861-

*Scientific jiu-jitsu : the Japanese system of physical culture, showing defensive and offensive movements* / By M. Ohashi. (New York : Richard K. Fox Publ. Co., [1912])
89. Longhurst, Percy, 1874-


91. McLaglan, Leo.
   *Capt. Leo McLaglan’s modernised learn-as-you-look jiu-jitsu lessons.* (Sydney : Leo McLaglan, [19--])

Jiu-jitsu was the system of martial arts practiced by the Samurai. The holds were incorporated into “Judo”, a form of unarmed combat devised by Dr. Jigoro Kano in his Kodokan School in 1882. It was accepted as an Olympic sport in 1964 for the Tokyo Olympics.

It has long been promoted as a means of self-defence, and Captain Leo McLaglen’s book, published in Sydney, includes several photographs of a woman overcoming her male attacker using various holds.

Coursing and Greyhound racing


93. *Coursing and falconry* / with illustrations by John Charlton ... [et al.] ; with a new introduction by Colin Laurie McKelvie. (London : Longmans, Green, 1892) (Badminton Library)

94. Dighton, Adair.
   *The greyhound and coursing* / by Adair Dighton. (London : Grant Richards Ltd., 1921)

Coursing was first described about AD 150 by the Greek philosopher and historian Arrian in his *Cynegeticus* (translated as *Arrian on Hunting*). The sport usually consists of two greyhounds being pitted against each other to catch a hare.

It has been popular in Britain since at least the 16th century and the first Waterloo Cup was run in 1836, near Liverpool. The National Coursing Club was set up in 1858.

In Australia during the 19th century, coursing was popular in the country and on the outskirts of the cities. Hares, rabbits and wallabies were used. By the 1960s however, public opinion had turned against the use of live animals. Greyhound racing on tracks with electric lures has become the rule now in most countries which still follow the sport.
Rat-catching

95. Matthews, Ike.

*Full revelations of a professional rat-catcher, after 25 years' experience / by Ike Matthews. (Manchester, Eng., The Friendly Societies' Printing Co., Ltd., 1898)*

96. Barkley, Henry C.


Rat catching matches were held between two dogs, usually fox terriers. Each would be set in a pit with an agreed number of rats and timed to see which dog could kill the rats the fastest. Alternatively a dog would be placed in the pit with rats and given a set time, the winner being the dog which killed the most rats.

It was a popular sport in England and in Australia in the 19th century.

An advertisement in *Bell's life in Victoria and sporting chronicle* (2 December 1865) informs “the fancy” that a new glass rat pit has been built at the Butcher's Arms, 97 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, specially for ratting, sparring, and other sports. During the past week the killing at the Butchers' Arms has been of first-rate description. Gentlemen desirous of trying their territory will always find a plentiful supply of rats and native cats. A good stock of ferrets on hand for sale. The building has been erected in consequence of the inefficiency of the old rat pit, where 20,000 rats have been killed every year for the last six years. The new building is provided with a glass pit, has two galleries with cushioned seats, is lighted with gas according to the latest and most improved principle, and has everything conducive to the comfort and enjoyment of patrons.

In the same issue of *Bell's Life*, the column, “Sporting Information”, describes “A Match at the Butchers' Arms”,

The match between Mr Urquhart's and Mr Dodd's dogs for 10 pounds - rats for weight, came off last Monday night in the presence of a good muster of the Fancy. Mr. Urquhart's killed her 16 rats in 1 minute 54 seconds, and Mr. Dodd's dog her 10 in 1 minute 58 seconds. The former, therefore, won by 4 seconds. Pip, the winner, had previously won the gold collar. Rosy, a white bull-terrier, killed 200 rats in 20 minutes.'

Ike Matthews, in his book, tells us that Rat-catchers are generally called upon to supply rats for the rat coursings usually held at beerhouses, &c. on Saturday afternoons, which one often sees advertised. (p. 46)

He gives a graphic account such coursings before “perhaps 500 spectators.” But new legislation had been recently introduced which has, practically stopped rat coursing, … This was about the worst thing that the authorities could do for Manchester and District, for at that time I was supplying for coursings about 100 rats per week, and at the same time sending 50 rats per week into Yorkshire, and all the rats I supplied were caught within 15 miles of Manchester. (p. 48)

He remarks that “at the present time … there is not much sale for live rats. The trade is not what it was several years ago when rat pits were allowed.” (p. 50-51)

Barkley’s *Studies in the art of rat-catching* first appeared in 1891. His Introduction is “addressed to all schoolboys” although in his preface he admits,

*I don't anticipate that head-masters will very generally adopt the book in their schools; but I hope it may, in some few instances, give boys a taste for a wholesome country pastime.”* (p. iv)
Swimming

97. Steedman, Charles.

*Manual of swimming: including bathing, plunging, diving, floating, scientific swimming, training, drowning, and rescuing* / by Charles Steedman. (Melbourne: Henry Tolman Dwight, 1867)

Charles Steedman was an English swimming champion who migrated to Melbourne during the gold-rush, arriving in July 1854. He took part in swimming competitions in the colonies and became the Australian champion. When he wrote this book he was the proprietor of the Railway Baths at Sandridge (Port Melbourne).

In his introduction he claims that this is the first book solely devoted to swimming.

Books of the last century were devoted, in a great measure, to the elucidation of one subject; but among them, and the myriads of books issuing from the press at the present time, there is not one comprehensive work in the English language on the subject treated in the following pages. Certainly, something is said about the art of Swimming in every encyclopedia, in each work on “Manly Sports,” and in every “Boy’s own Book,” but it is said simply because such publications would not be deemed complete without it, rather than because their compilers believed they had anything both new and true to communicate. Now this latter condition the writer conceives to be his case; the fact of his having obtained the honourable position of Champion Swimmer both in England and Australia, and his having maintained that position for several years, he submits is a sufficient guarantee both of his knowledge and mastery of the subject he undertakes to teach. (p. vi-vii)

98. Sinclair, Archibald, 1866-1922.

*Swimming* / by Archibald Sinclair and William Henry; with illustrations by S. T. Dadd and from photographs by G. Mitchell. (London: Longmans, Green, 1893) (Badminton Library)

This general work on swimming is notable partly for the illustrations of the various patented devices for aiding people to swim. These include flippers for the feet, webbings for the hands and pedal driven propellers.

99. Sterrett, James H.

*How to swim: being a practical treatise on swimming by a practical swimmer and a guide to the novice as well as expert* / by James H. Sterrett... illustrated with 12 line drawings and 19 half-tone engravings (New York: American Sports Pub. Co., 1903)

100. Daniels, C. M.

*How to swim and save life* / by C. M. Daniels, H. Johannson and Archibald Sinclair (London: British Sports Publishing Co., 1907)

These are part of the Spalding’s Athletic Library.

*Physical beauty : how to keep it* / by Annette Kellermann. (London : Heinemann, 1919)


*How to swim* / by Annette Kellermann. (London : Heinemann, 1919)

Annette Kellermann was born in Sydney in 1886 and learned to swim at Dick Cavill's Baths on Sydney Harbour, near the present site of the Sydney Opera House, and by 1900 she was the champion female swimmer of New South Wales. The family moved to Melbourne, and Annette began to perform in aquatic displays, including high diving performances with Wirth's Olympia, near Prince's Bridge. Stage shows followed and Annette moved to England and Europe. In 1907 she moved to the United States where she continued her stage and exhibition appearances. She married a movie cameraman in 1912 and from 1916 began to appear in movies.

Annette was a celebrity swimmer and, in her book on *Physical beauty*, stresses the importance of strenuous sport for women,

> I insist that swimming is not only a splendid sport for women but that it is the sport for women – the one sport, in fact, with the possible exception of dancing, in which she can fully compete with men. (p. 85)

103. Hellrich, Dudley.

*How to swim correctly* / by Dudley Hellrich. (Sydney : Caxton Printing Works, 1929)

Dudley Heimrich was the swimming coach for the New South Wales Amateur Swimming Association. The 1920s was an important period in the history of swimming in Australia. The most notable local champion was “Boy” Charlton. “Boy’s” portrait and a list of his achievements are included in Heimrich’s book. He won the 1500 metres final at the Paris Olympics in 1924, setting a new world record.

Swimming has continued to be a strong Australian sport in the Olympics, the Commonwealth games, and other international competitions.

**Lawn Bowls**

104. Ayers, Edward Thomas.

*Bowls, bowling greens, bowl playing* / by Edward T. Ayers. 2nd ed. (London : Jarrold, [1894].)


*Handbook of the sixth Australian bowling carnival held under the auspices of the Australian Bowling Council, and conducted by the Victorian Bowling Association at Melbourne, Vic., from 22nd December, 1927 to 7th January 1928 / compiled by John P. Monro. (Melbourne : Victorian Bowling Association, 1927)*
Lawn bowls has been popular in England, and especially Scotland, at least since Tudor times. Many country houses had sections of their grounds set out as bowling greens, but organised lawn bowls as a competitive sport dates from the Victorian period.

In Australia it seems to have been played from about the 1840s. Some hotels had greens attached, although skittles was probably more popular. The sport was included in the Empire Games from 1930 to 1962, and was re-instated as a sport in the Commonwealth Games in 1972. The Games coverage, as well as the ABC television programme *Jack High* and Mick Molloy's movie *Crackerjack* (2003) have combined to keep the sport in the public eye locally. Most Australian suburbs and towns have their local bowls clubs.

**Croquet**

107. Tollemache, Bentley Lyonel John Tollemache, 1883-

*Croquet* / by Lord Tollemache. (London : Stanley Paul, 1914)


109. Lincoln, Fanny, b. 1861.

*Shots and strokes in croquet* / by "Fanwy Llyn". (Melbourne : Robertson & Mullens, 1948)

Croquet derives from a French game, “Pall-Mall”, and was first played in England in the sixteenth century.

The most famous literary instance of croquet occurs in Lewis Carroll’s *Alice in Wonderland* when the Red Queen plays, using flamingos as mallets.

More recently the game was given a popular boost when Winona Ryder and her friends play it in the 1989 cult movie *Heathers*.

**Billiards**

110. Roberts, John, 1823-1893.

*Roberts on billiards* / Edited by Henry Buck; with 20 diagrams, showing in a novel manner the mode of "playing breaks". (London : Stanley Rivers and Co., [1869])

111. Roberts, John, 1847- .

Billiards, snooker and pool are all played on the same green baize covered, slate-based tables. Billiards is the oldest of these games. It is supposedly French in origin, and was popularised after Louis XIV took up the game in the mid-seventeenth century, after his doctor had prescribed him some exercise after meals.

It was established in Australia after Henry Alcock set up a factory in Fitzroy, Melbourne to manufacture billiard tables. Alcock’s is still the major firm in the business in Australia.

It has been claimed that snooker was originally devised in Australia, but it seems to have been brought here by visiting Army officers from India.

Walter Lindrum is the most famous of the Lindrum family. His father Fred snr., his brother Fred and his sister Violet were all Australian champions, and his nephew Horace was a champion at both billiards and snooker. Walter’s grave at Melbourne General Cemetery is a billiard table made of marble.

Yachting


Reminiscences of twenty-five years yachting in Australia : an essay on manly sports, a cruise on shore etc. : notes of a voyage to China and Japan / by W. H. Bundey. (Adelaide : E. S. Wigg & Sons, 1888)

Bundey was an Adelaide lawyer, expert on Admiralty Law. He was one of the founders of the South Australian Yacht Squadron. His reminiscences include accounts of various early yacht races in Australian waters, and local regattas.
Competitive sailing began in the Australian colonies of Tasmania and New South Wales in 1827 at the Hobart and Sydney regattas. These included both rowing and yachting races. From 1877 there were many inter-colonial and inter-state yachting competitions held, particularly in Sydney Harbour. New Zealand boats sailed across the Tasman to take part.

The main Australian ocean-going race is the Sydney to Hobart yacht race which starts in Sydney Harbour on Boxing Day. The first of these was held in December 1945.

The stretch of water across Bass Strait, the route described in the book on display, is considered one of the most testing in the world.

Yachting is a rich man’s sport and nowhere is this more in evidence than in the America's Cup. The event is held every three years. Australia won it in 1983 with John Bertrand at the helm of *Australia II*. The designer of the yacht's revolutionary “winged keel” was Ben Lexcen (1936-1988). Lexcen, whose original name was Bob Miller, had designed the *Southern Cross*, beaten in 1974, and the *Australia* beaten in 1977 and 1980. He had said in the 1960s when still designing 18-foot boats, "Someday, someone will give me enough money to design the winner of the America's Cup."

As well as skating, this book from the Badminton Library series includes chapters on Curling, Tobogganing, Ice-Sailing and Bandy, an early form of ice-hockey.

The frontispiece shows a figure-skating movement, the “forward rocker”, involving two men and two women; the men are wearing top hats and tails. The title-page vignette shows a “bandy” player.
119. Caulfield, Vivian

_How to Ski and how not to_ / by Vivian Caulfield (London, Nisbet, 1924)

The first edition of this book appeared in 1911. It opens with a chapter on "The Englishman as a ski-runner". He considers the benefits of skiing,

> With regard to the possibilities of ski-running considered purely as a sport, it may be said that a good runner, descending a steep hill where the ground is open, will often cover a considerable distance at an average rate of 45 miles an hour: that when moving at half that speed he can thread his way among obstacles or stop suddenly; and that the present record for a jump on skis is about 154 feet. I need hardly say, therefore, that the opportunities afforded by the sport for the exercise not only of the runner's nerve, but of his skill and judgment are almost unlimited. (p. 3)

He has a low opinion of his countrymen as skiers, compared to Europeans, quoting a remark he heard from some Swiss skiers, criticising,

> an exhibition of unusual awkwardness and timidity on the part of one of their own countrymen in the words, "He skies like an Englishman." (p. 6)

120. Benson, E. F. (Edward Frederic), 1867-1940.

_Winter sports in Switzerland_ / by E.F. Benson ... illustrations in colour by C. Fleming Williams ... from photographs by Mrs. Aubrey Le Blond. (London : George Allen & Co., 1913)

In addition to skiing, this book covers skating, ice hockey, tobogganing and curling.


122. Ward, G. R. T. (George Robert Ticehurst)


Skiing as a sport in Australia began in the 1860s when some Norwegian miners introduced it at Kiandra in NSW. Early in the 20th century an Alpine Club of New South Wales was set up at the same location. In 1909 the Hotel Kosciusko was built at Mt. Kosciusko, NSW, and in 1910 the Chalet was opened at Mt. Buffalo in Victoria. The sport has grown from there, with a regular ski season in the Australian Alps and in Tasmania.
Nat Gould and sporting novels

Nat Gould was an English journalist who migrated to Australia in 1884 and worked for the Brisbane Telegraph. His main work was as sports writer, specialising in horse-racing. In late 1887 he moved to Sydney and began work on the sports newspaper, The Referee. He had a column each week under the name of “Verax” in which he gave tips and wrote sketches. His first racing serial, “Blue and white” appeared in the paper from 8 March to 3 May 1888. Another, “With the tide”, ran in early 1890 and was published by Routledge in 1891 as The Double Event. The book was released in Australia at the time of the Melbourne Cup that year, a fact to which Gould attributed its success. It was adapted for the stage by George Darrell, and achieved a measure of fame for the twenty horses which are brought on stage for the final scene.

He continued to work in Sydney, writing eight more serials, all of which were published in book form, then, in January 1895, he resigned and returned to England. Carbine, the winner of the 1890 Melbourne Cup, travelled over on the same boat.

Back in England he wrote four novels per year and new titles were still appearing well after his death in 1919. In all he wrote 130 novels, 22 of which were published posthumously. Most of his books appeared as “yellowbacks”. They centre on racing, and include elements of detective fiction and romance. He was the Dick Francis of his time. His books have sold more than twenty-four million copies.


On and off the turf in Australia / by Nat Gould. (London : Routledge, [1895])


Town and bush : stray notes on Australia / by Nat Gould. (London : Routledge, 1896)


Sporting sketches being recollections and reflections on a variety of subjects connected with sport horses and horsemen, never before published / by Nat. Gould. (London : Everett, 1900)


These were Gould’s autobiographical and non-fiction works.

*Running it off or hard hit* / by "Verax" (Nat Gould). (London : George Routledge, 1892)


*The famous match : being the story of a great race* / by Nat Gould. (London : George Routledge, [1898?])


*A racecourse tragedy* / by Nat Gould. (London : Everett, [1901])


*Charger and chaser* / by Nat Gould. (London : John Long, [1907?])


*The top weight* / by Nat Gould. (London : John Long, [1908?])

On display is a selection from the 130 novels Gould wrote, forty of which were set in Australia.
Arthur Wright and other sports novelists

133. Williams, H. Noel (Hugh Noel), 1870-1925.
   

134. Breaker, Leon.
   

   
   *A rogue's luck* / by Arthur Wright. (Sydney : Bookstall, 1911)

   
   *In the last stride* / with illus. by Lionel Lindsay. 3rd edition. (Sydney : N.S.W. Bookstall Co., 1919)

   
   *The breed holds good* / by Arthur Wright. (Sydney : Bookstall, 1923)

   
   *A game of chance* / by Arthur Wright ; illustrations by Percy Lindsay. (Sydney : N.S.W. Bookstall, 1927)

Arthur Wright was born near Bathurst. He wrote twenty-two novels, most of which have a racing background, though, as can be seen from its cover, *In the last stride* also features boxing.

His publisher was the New South Wales Bookstall Company, the Australian equivalent to the English yellowback publishers. Many of the illustrations were done by the Lindsays, Norman, Percy, or Lionel.

As with Nat Gould, Wright included elements of crime and romance in his plots. All of his books are set in Australia.

Magazines

It would be possible to do an entire exhibition on this subject using only magazines. We have good holdings of titles such as *Sporting life, Sports novels, The Ring, Wrestling News*. In addition we hold long runs of magazines such as *Parade, Pix, People* and *Australasian Post* which regularly carried sporting stories.

A selection of the covers have been reproduced for the screens which accompany the exhibition.

Children’s Books

In the wall cases in the corridor outside the Rare Books Reading Room we have on display some of the material from our Lindsay Shaw Children’s Collection. The covers of the novels, annuals and gift books often featured people playing sport. Most often soccer and cricket, but we can also see sports such as cycling, lacrosse, basketball, swimming and golf being played. The books range in date from the Victorian period to the 1950s.
This image is of the cover of *The Saturday Evening Post, 5 Sept., 1936*, which is one of the magazines featured on a screen in the Exhibition area.