

THE YORKER

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THE YORKER



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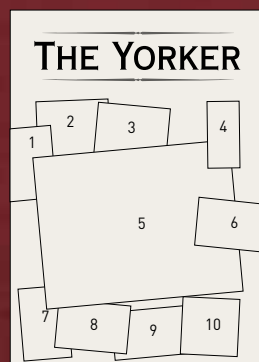
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COVER IMAGERY



1,3,5-6,8-9. Hans Emden 1956 Olympic Games
photograph album, MCC Library collection.

2, 10. Keith Pittard collection, MCC Library.

4. Iris Kelly collection, MCC Library.

7. Ken Smith collection, MCC Library.

In this issue

As we have been inspired by some memorable performances at the London Olympic and Paralympic Games, we celebrate our quadrennial Olympic Games themed issue of *The Yorker* by looking back at Melbourne and the MCG as an Olympic venue in 1956 and 2000.

The first two articles by Trevor Ruddell and David Studham feature some 1956 Olympic items that have been donated to the collection over the years, including some recent donations. Roy Hay has written about the two Olympic Football tournaments in Australia and the matches played at the MCG, while Ross Perry has examined the career of American discus thrower Al Oerter, the first man to win the same event at four consecutive Games starting at Melbourne and going through to Mexico City.

Our regular contingent of reviewers has been joined by Barbara Nicholls, a Library Technician practicum student on placement in the library during the second semester of 2012.

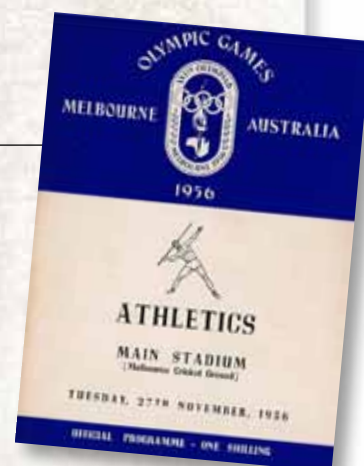
David Studham, MCC Librarian

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Our new Style Guide

From the Summer 2012/13 issue of *The Yorker* we will be using the new *Style Guide for MCC Library Publications*. A copy of this can be viewed and downloaded from <http://tinyurl.com/mccyorker> We always welcome submissions of articles and reviews for *The Yorker*, but please adhere to the new style.

Published three times a year, the Summer issue traditionally has a cricket feature, the Autumn issue has a leading article on football, while the Spring issue is multi-sport focused. We accept supporting articles on other sports or general sport related topics. Contact the library to discuss your contributions.

Links In A Chain: The Haines *of* the MCG



During the 1950s Barbara Haines met her husband Ken Smith. Ken was a budding photographer and his romance with Barbara allowed him to take slides of the MCG's transformation into an Olympic stadium.

Barbara was the daughter of the MCG's carpenter Bert Haines, who had inherited the job from his father Hugh. Hugh worked at the ground for more than three decades but stepped down in 1932¹ at the height of the Great Depression to give his son a steady income to start a family.



Top: "Crowd at the Olympic Games", Ken Smith collection, MCC Library.
Bottom: Ken and Barbara Smith (nee Haines) on their wedding day. To the right of the couple are Barbara's parents Gladys and Bert Haines. [Courtesy Andrea Quanchi].



The Haines family, Bert, Gladys and Barbara at home at Jolimont Terrace (third from the corner with Jolimont Street) during the 1940s. (Courtesy Andrea Quanchi).



Barbara Haines with her infant sister Janice. (Courtesy Andrea Quanchi).



BATS MEN		OUT	FALL OF WKTS.	BATSMEN	RUNS	BOWLERS	WKTS R
CHRISTY	C4	0	12	VINCENT	8	1	NASH
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CURNOW	C2	16	30	AUSTRALIA	153	6	O'REILLY
MORXEL	C2	0	30	1ST INNINGS	17	7	MCCABE
CAMERON	C4	0	32	2ND INNINGS	8	8	KIPPAX
TAYLOR	C2	2	32	ST AFRICA	36	9	BRADMAN
VILJOEN	C4	0	33	1ST INNINGS	10	10	WOODFULL
MEMILLAN	C2	0	33	2ND INNINGS			FINGLETOI
QUINN	C2	5	45				

The MCG's ground staff stand on the 1907 wooden scoreboard in February 1932. They are (left to right) Hugh Haines, Ted Morton, Jack Leith, "Dolly" Gray and "Goosie" Lewis. (Courtesy Andrea Quanchi).



Three of Ken Smith's slides combined into a panorama of the MCG. Taken on September 29, 1955, it shows the regrading of the MCG and construction of the Northern Stand for the Olympics, Ken Smith collection, MCC Library.

Bert's career at the MCG is associated with the old wooden scoreboard that stood at the ground from 1907 to 1981.² He designed a system to alter the scores using bicycle chains. Alan Stewart noted:

"Melbourne Cricket Ground is probably the only place in the world where football scores come by bicycle chain. Every goal kicked during this month's VFL finals will be flashed on the big VFL scoreboard by a man turning a handle driving a bicycle chain around a sprocket.

The sprockets turn rollers which wind up long strips of numbered fabric like holland blinds. It is these white numbers on a black background which bring tens of thousands of spectators an up-to-the-minute record of the state of the match."³

The old board still keeps the score at Manuka Oval, Canberra. Bert's working life was tied to the MCG and he was instrumental to the ground's maintenance. Bert's granddaughter Andrea Quanchi wrote that most of the ground staff departed during the Second World War but Bert and Joe Kinnear "were retained to maintain facilities" after the stadium was requisitioned by the Commonwealth as a base for quartering military personnel from April 3, 1942 to October 29, 1945.

According to family lore, Andrea continued, "when Bert tried to enlist in the R.A.A.F., his application was blocked by the M.C.C. on the grounds that he was needed back at the ground."⁴

Bert lived with his wife Gladys and children Barbara (b.1936) and Janice (b.1944) across the road from the MCG. The family became friends with a number of US Marines when the First Regiment of the First Division was stationed at the cricket ground from January to October, 1943.

Andrea wrote: "Many of them frequently visited Glad and Bert's flat in Jolimont Terrance for supper. Often they brought with them commodities such as coffee which was rationed to us but plentiful on the base."⁵

Barbara, then aged seven, crossed the road with Bert's lunch regularly. "Always she was greeted in a warm welcoming way by the Marines, even though it was a restricted military area and she had no business being there. Often she was carried round to the workshop on the shoulders of some friendly

Marine. When the R.A.A.F. took over [from November 3, 1943] no such welcome was extended and she was not allowed to enter until her credentials were checked."⁶

After the war the family's familiarity with the ground presented Ken Smith with an opportunity to take colour slides of the oval's regrading and the construction of the Northern Stand (later the Olympic Stand) in 1955. Ken also snapped events leading to and during the opening ceremony of the 1956 Games.

In March 2011 Ken's daughter Andrea Quanchi donated his slides to the MCC Library, and a selection of them are displayed in this issue of *The Yorker* on pages 3 to 10.

Slides include Olympic-themed displays about Melbourne, the torch approaching the MCG, preparations on the Punt Road Oval which was used as a staging area for the teams prior to the opening ceremony, and even Ron Clarke lighting the Olympic Cauldron from *outside* the ground.

However, the 1956 Games also saw the end of Bert's employment with the MCC. On October 22, 1955 he suffered a heart attack while his services were on loan to Roche Bros, the firm that regraded the ground for the Olympics. The illness left him unable to work and he passed away a few years later.⁷ Despite a protracted workers' compensation claim, the links the Haines family forged at the ground ensure that the MCG is an integral part of the family's story.

Trevor Ruddell

Notes

- 1 'Injury Pay for Olympic Worker', *The Herald*, 4 May, 1957.
- 2 Vin Maskell, 'Melbourne Cricket Ground Victoria' *Scoreboard Pressure*, 20 December 2011, <http://scoreboardpressure.com/2011/12/20/melbourne-cricket-ground-victoria/>, accessed 13 September 2012.
- 3 Alan Stewart, 'He winds up the score', [*The Herald*, circa September 1960], MCC Library collection.
- 4 Andrea Quanchi, 'Barbara A. Smith recollections of the MCG', Unpublished manuscript, MCC Library collection, 2011.
- 5 Quanchi. 'Barbara A. Smith recollections of the MCG'.
- 6 Quanchi. 'Barbara A. Smith recollections of the MCG'.
- 7 'Injury Pay for Olympic Worker', *The Herald*, May 4, 1957.





Top: Her Majesty's Theatre Exhibition Street, decorated with the Olympic rings, Ken Smith collection, MCC Library.
 Centre Left: Olympic themed floral carpet at the Independent Church, Collins Street, Ken Smith collection, MCC Library.
 Bottom Left: Melbourne from the MCG footbridge, Ken Smith collection, MCC Library.
 Bottom Right: An Olympic themed light show above a diorama of John Batman at Coles, Bourke Street, Ken Smith collection, MCC Library



Two of Ken Smith's slides combined into a panorama of the Punt Road Oval, the athletes' assembly point prior to their entrance into the MCG for the opening ceremony, Ken Smith collection, MCC Library.



The last mile of the torch relay, Ken Smith collection, MCC Library.



The Northern Stand and Olympic cauldron prior to being lit on the opening day, Ken Smith collection, MCC Library.



Three slides taken from outside the stadium showing Ron Clarke approach and light the cauldron, Ken Smith collection, MCC Library.



The opening ceremony of the 1956 Olympic Games. The Olympic pool and Government House are seen behind the MCG's Southern Stand, Ken Smith collection, MCC Library.

Top and Bottom Left: The competing nations are lined up at the opening of the 1956 Olympic Games, Ken Smith collection, MCC Library.



Top and Centre Right:
The start of the marathon,
Ken Smith collection,
MCC Library.



The view many had of the Olympic Games from the packed Northern Stand in 1956, Ken Smith collection, MCC Library.

The Faces in the Crowd

One of the joys of working in a collection such as the MCC Library is dealing with the potential donations and the donors. You can run the whole gamut from A to Z with pedestrian offerings of stock standard items, which we have to respectfully decline due to duplication or being outside our collection policy, mixed through with some true gems.

The genesis of this article came from some of those gems – some fascinating Olympic Games-themed items related to late-1956 when the Melbourne Cricket Ground captured the world's attention as the main stadium for the Games of the XVI Olympiad.

The previous article in this issue, Links in a Chain by Trevor Ruddell on the Haines family, was structured around the generous donation of material from Andrea Quanchi. This included some of her father's slides from the 1956 Olympic Games.

The three collections that have been donated to the library that are described in this article explore some of the stories behind the other faces in the crowds at "the friendly games".



Women's 200m final from the Hans Emden 1956 Olympic Games photograph album, MCC Library collection.





THE SOUVENIR PATCHES FROM THE ONE AND ONLY VISIT TO THE MCG

When she was clearing up her mother's papers, Frances Henke came across two Olympic Games patches. She wrote a short piece explaining her mother's background and the significance of the items and forwarded them to the MCC Library as a donation.

The earliest of the four donations we are covering in this article, it was the last we rediscovered as we researched other material. However Frances' letter entitled "a face in the crowd" was the inspiration for the title of this article and deserves to be reprinted in full.



MELBOURNE OLYMPICS PATCHES COLLECTED BY IRIS KELLY

These patches, one Melbourne 1956, one Canadian 1956, were found among my mother's papers on her death in 2001. Iris Cristina Kelly, nee Downer (b.9.9.1918) had been given tickets to the Melbourne Games as respite from caring 24/7 for her two severely disabled daughters. Her first daughter contracted poliomyelitis in 1946 and the second, Janet, was born in 1947 with cerebral palsy, totally dependent on her parents.

Iris Downer of Ballarat had been a talented classical pianist, winning South Street competitions and performing once with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra as part of an award. She was a student of the legendary Chopin specialist Dr A.E. Floyd. Before her marriage in the 1930s to stock and station agent James Kelly of Beaufort, she had taken up flying. They both loved early motor cars.

Iris dropped those interests to care for her children, dedicating her time to treatment and searching for cures. Janet died in 1958. Iris was able to take up the piano again, composing and teaching young people having difficulty at school, changing their lives. She briefly tried to get her pilot's licence again.

And just once in 1956, she went to the MCG to attend the Melbourne Olympics - one of the beautiful faces in a huge crowd, having a small break from a difficult life at that time. She brought home two patches, after apparently sitting next to a Canadian.

Frances Henke, 2005



We will never know who Iris sat next to that day. However, the fact that she kept these two little patches for the rest of her life as a memento of her one and only visit to the MCG shows that the day spent watching the Olympic Games, and chatting to someone who had travelled all the way from Canada, obviously meant something to her.

The patches that were swapped and cherished are an example of how sport can bring people together, to entertain and connect them, even if only fleetingly.



Photograph and patches from the Iris Kelly collection, MCC Library.

THE IMMIGRANT'S PHOTO ALBUM

Early in 2012 the library staff received a phone call from a lady in Tasmania inquiring whether we would be interested in the donation of an album of photographs that her late husband took as a visitor to Melbourne in 1956 for the Olympic Games.

During the discussion we realised that while it covered some of the major ceremonies and events at the MCG, the compiler, Hans Emden, had attended and photographed other events such as the wrestling at the Royal Exhibition Building.

We were very happy to accept the donation and upon the arrival of the parcel were thrilled to see that the album itself was a 1956 Olympic souvenir photographic album in excellent condition. As well as 78 photographs relating to the Games or street decorations (with a couple of young ladies admiring the decorations), the album also includes 20 social photos relating to his time in Melbourne, five Olympic philatelic items and four tickets to the athletics, boxing and wrestling.

So who was Hans Emden, the dashing young man identified in a few of the photographs? His widow Carolyn kindly supplied us with some background information.



HANS EMDEN, FEBRUARY 12, 1934 - NOVEMBER 22, 2009

Hans' early years, World War II and post-war years were spent in the German city of Wuppertal and were involved in the movement between safe out-of-town farms and intermittent schooling "in which the study of Schiller and math seemed to dominate".

His teen years, along with deprivations of the times, were busy with training as an engineering patternmaker, soccer and choir practice, dance school and adventurous alpine cycling tours into Austria, Switzerland and Italy.

It was the lure of adventure that led to his migration to Australia in 1956, together with all the excitement of the Melbourne Olympics. Despite early challenges of finding work in his specialist field and getting a grip on the vernacular, Hans settled happily in Adelaide and was soon exploring outback Australia, singing in Australia's oldest male choir (Adelaide Liedertafel 1858) and frequenting dance halls.

Visiting a friend in hospital resulted in a fateful meeting with the young registered nurse on duty and a 41-year marriage – filled with more adventurous travel, a growing love of nature and photography, concerts, a hard-earned Diploma in Gemmology, 20 years of farm life in the Adelaide Hills plus unwavering support of Carol's career as a nurse and university academic.

These years were also marked by mounting health issues (including multiple injuries from a fall on the way to Mt Everest Base Camp in 1980), all of which he managed to take in his stride.

In later years, a long-held dream of moving to Tasmania came true in 2005 after heart surgery. Hans and Carol loved the natural beauty, waterways and weather of Tassie! And they found a bush block with a running stream and reasonable proximity to Hobart in the Huon Valley where they had four very happy years up to Hans' sudden passing in 2009 on the anniversary of the opening of the 1956 Olympic Games.

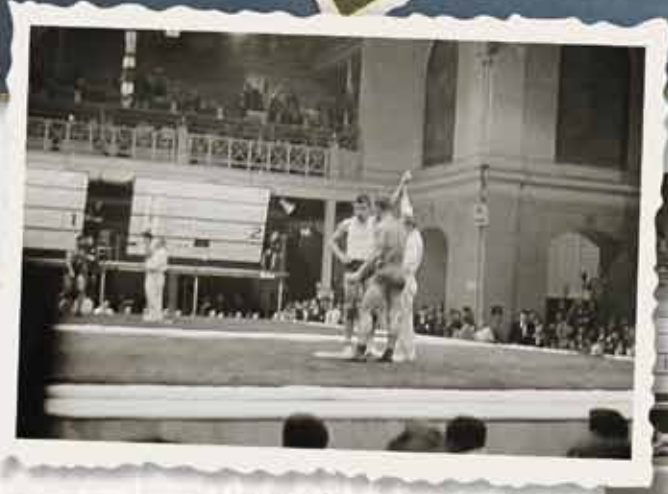
Carolyn Emden, 2012



Photographs, Hans Emden 1956 Olympic Games photograph album, MCC Library collection.



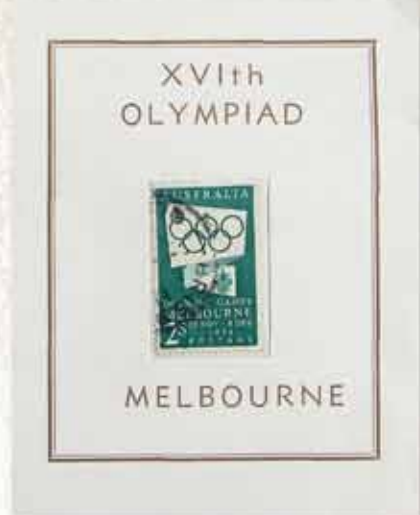
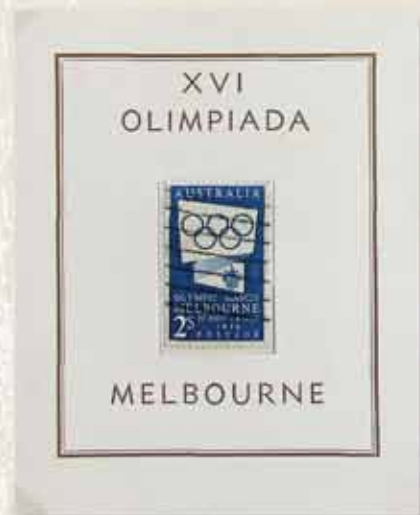
Hans' sense of fun and adventure can be well and truly seen through the photographs that he took in 1956. What a magical place and time Melbourne must have been to him after a childhood during the war years in Germany.





During his time in Melbourne for the Olympic Games, Hans (centre) and friends attended the wrestling at the Royal Exhibition Buildings on November 28, the track and field events at the MCG on November 29 and 30 and the boxing at West Melbourne stadium on November 30. Hans' album also includes a range of souvenir items from the 1956 Olympic Games, including several franked stamps.

Hans Emden 1956 Olympic Games photograph album, MCC Library collection.

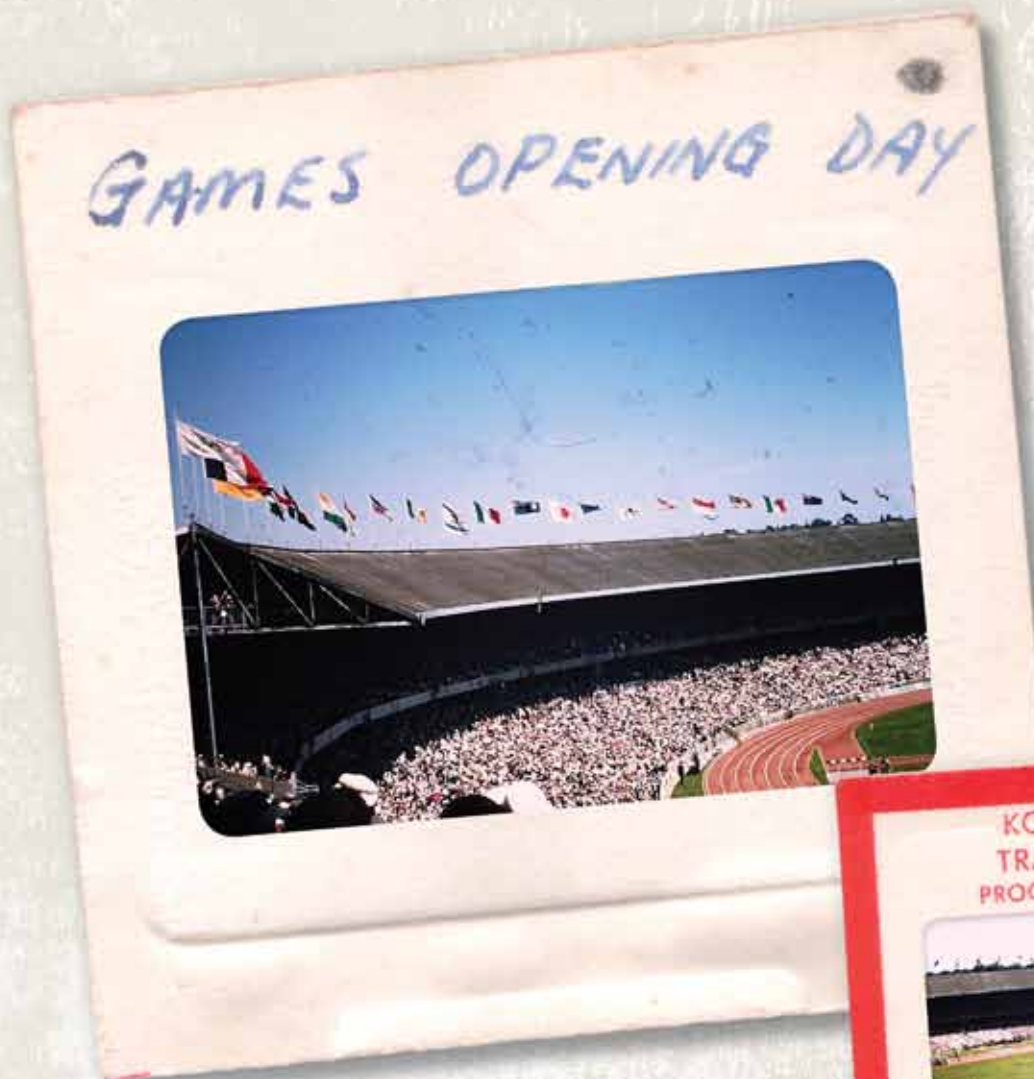




Only a handful of Hans' 78 photographs was in colour. While the majority of photographs document the sporting events many of the images also covered the social side of his visit to Melbourne for the Olympic Games.

Hans Emden 1956 Olympic Games photograph album, MCC Library collection.





During the opening ceremony of the 1956 Olympic Games Keith Pittard and his future wife Anne took a range of Kodak slides. These document the crowd, the marching into the MCG of different national teams, the reading of the athletes' oath, the arrival of the Olympic torch bearer and lighting of the flame. Keith Pittard collection, MCC Library



THE MCG VOLUNTEER'S SLIDES

Keith Pittard (1930-2007) was a volunteer MCC Museum guide for about 10 years after he retired from his job as a supply manager at an air conditioning company. Keith was an ardent sailor at the Sandringham Yacht Club. He took part in many Melbourne to Devonport and Sydney to Hobart races.

He grew his beard during one of the latter events and never shaved it off. Keith's MCG interests grew from being a passionate Melbourne Football Club supporter and he was an MCC member from 1980 until his passing.

He had attended the 1956 Olympic Games with his future wife Anne, and in 2005 he donated to the MCC Library 32 slides he took at the opening ceremony and of Olympic street decorations. Keith was not well at the time and having spent years talking to visitors about the collection in the old MCC Museum he understood the interest in historical events.

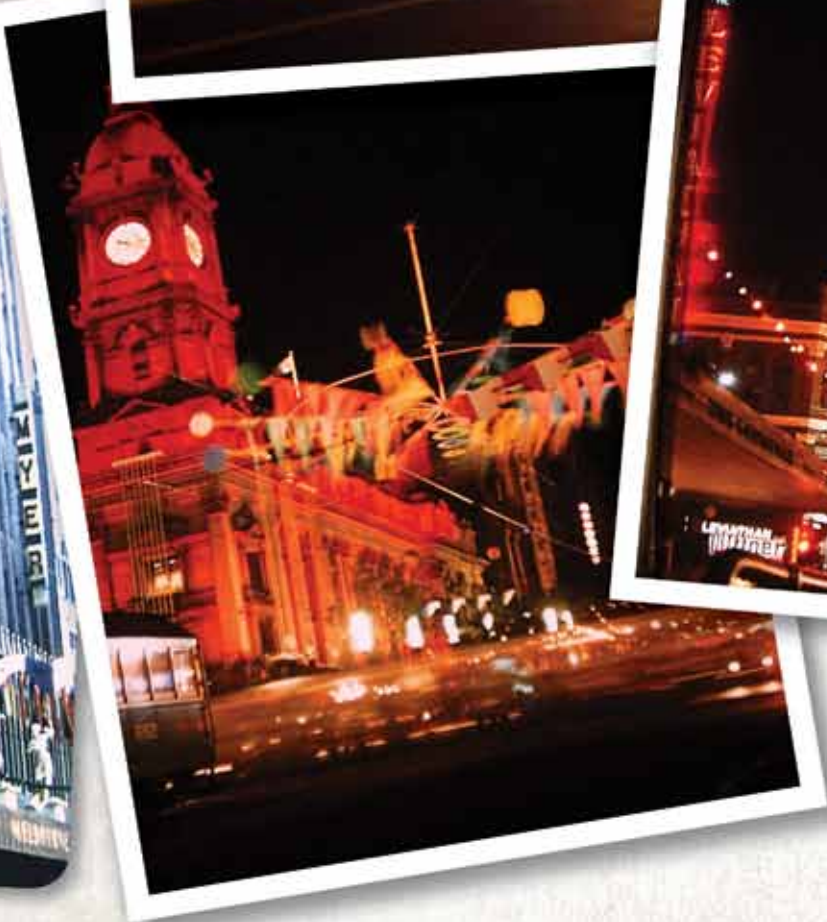
He wanted the slides to go somewhere they would be available for general use and research. A private, modest man who liked to visit the library on match days, Keith would have been quietly pleased to see his Olympic images shared with readers of *The Yorker*.

David Studham





In an era before Olympic partners and licensing restrictions, the city of Melbourne dressed up in her finest for the 1956 Games. Civic buildings and department stores such as Coles and Myer were festooned with Olympic decorations, flags or bunting. While Foy & Gibson retained their traditional Father Christmas, his finger beckoning children inside their store, he was surmounted by the Olympic rings and surrounded by the flags of participating nations. A giant gas torch burned in the night sky at the intersection of Flinders and Swanston Streets. Keith Pittard collection, MCC Library



The first two articles in this issue would not have been possible without the generosity of the donors of these collections to the MCC Library and their desire for the items to be available for research or to be shared with others. If you have items that may be of benefit for the library collection and you are considering a donation, please contact the library staff using our contacts on page 2.

David Studham, MCC Librarian

The Olympic Games, football and the Melbourne Cricket Ground



1956 Olympic football final at the MCG. (Courtesy of Roy Hay)

The Melbourne Cricket Ground has hosted two Olympic Games football (soccer) tournaments. The more recent was in 2000, when Sydney was awarded the 25th Olympiad, while the earlier occasion was in 1956 when Melbourne was the host and all the matches were played at venues in the city. The 1956 final between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia drew a crowd of more than 100,000, though it has to be said that most were there for the closing ceremony rather than the football.

Often in major tournaments the semi-finals are very cagey affairs and quite poor spectacles as neither participant wants to miss the chance of playing in the peak game. In 1956, however, the semi-final between USSR and Bulgaria was a splendid encounter, won by the former by two goals to one and full of high-quality attacking play. Bulgaria led for most of the match but conceded twice in the last six minutes.

In the final there was only a single goal, scored by the Soviet winger Anatoly Ilyin. Zlatko Papec, who had scored twice in the semi-final for Yugoslavia, had the ball in the net for his side, only to have it disallowed for off-side by the Australian referee Ron Wright. When Papec came back to Australia with the Hajduk Split youth team in 1994 he still believed the decision was wrong.

Australia won its opening match against Japan but then succumbed to an Indian team it had beaten prior to the games proper. The Indians played with bandaged feet rather than boots, but still the robust Australians could not overcome them. It was two-all at half-time, but the Australians lost two more in the second period. As Ted Smith says: "It was our game to lose, and we did. So we missed the semi-final and the chance of a medal."

Smith was a rarity in Australian teams at that time – a player born here – though for the Olympic football, which then was an amateur competition, the recent migrants from continental Europe were not selected for fear that they might be considered professionals. Len Young was appointed coach at the last minute and though he worked hard to bring the squad up to speed they did not progress as had been hoped.

By 2000 the football at the Olympic Games was no longer amateur, but the governing body of the game FIFA (Fédération International de Football Association), fearing that it would compete with its own World Cup, had limited the performers to Under-23 players.

As a concession, four over-age players were allowed in each national squad. The IOC (International Olympic Committee) chafed at that limitation but could not risk losing football, which always drew the largest aggregate attendance at each Olympic Games. Women had been fighting for recognition on the football pitch and were included in the Olympic Games for the first time in 1996 at Atlanta. Australia did not qualify for the women's tournament that year but appeared as host in 2000.

Australia opened the men's 2000 tournament at the MCG on September 13 with a match against Italy which drew 93,200, this time solely for the football. It was a great game and very close until Hadyn Foxe dwelt on the ball in defence and was robbed and Andrea Pirlo scored the only goal in the 82nd minute.

Many of those who took part in that match went on to be stars of their respective national sides, including Lucas Neill, Brett Emerton, Marco Bresciano and Mark Viduka for the Socceroos and Pirlo, Gennaro Gattuso, Gianluca Zambrotta and Massimo Ambrosini for the Azzurri. Australia's other games were played in Sydney and resulted in narrow losses to Nigeria and, most disappointingly, to Honduras in its final match.

Other male group matches at the MCG in 2000 included Chile's four-one demolition of Morocco on September 14, backed up by a three-one defeat of Spain three days later. Spain recovered to post a two-nil win over Morocco on September 20, while the previous evening the United States had overcome Kuwait by three goals to one.

Chile was back at the MCG for its quarter-final clash with Nigeria and emerged as comfortable four-one winners on September 23. Ivan Zamorano was Chile's star as a 33-year-old and ended as top scorer in the tournament with six goals. The pressure on the Chileans finally told in the semi-final at the MCG on September 26 when they succumbed to



Left to Right: 1956 and 2000 Olympic Football programs and MCC News' coverage of the 2000 matches at the MCG. MCC Library collection.

Cameroon by two goals to one. All three goals came in the last 12 minutes. Cameroon conceded an own goal then replied through Patrick Mboma and won a penalty converted by Lauren in the last minute. Though there were no Australians taking part, the semi-final drew 64,338 to the MCG.

In 2000 several of the qualifying matches were played as double-headers with games in the women's tournament, which remains open to players of all ages. So on opening night in Melbourne the fans also watched and enjoyed a high-quality match between Brazil and Sweden, which the South Americans won by two goals to nil, through Pretinha and Katia. The following night the powerful United States team beat Norway two-nil. Tiffeny Milbrett and superstar Mia Hamm were on target.

The United States found it much harder going against China on September 17. Julie Foudy put the Americans ahead in the first half, but Sun Wen, a future FIFA world player of the century, equalised midway through the second period. Sun Wen was top scorer in the tournament with four goals. On September 19 Germany scored with only two minutes left to play to beat Sweden, thanks to Ariane Hingst's goal.

The United States completed its qualification for the semi-finals with a three-one win over Nigeria on September 20. Brandi Chastain, Kristine Lilly and Shannon MacMillan scored, while Mercy Akide replied for Nigeria. Attendances are published for the women's games and probably they are taken at kick-off or early in the match because by the end of the encounter there were many more in the ground.

Even so, there were a reported 32,500 for the United States versus China match and the atmosphere in the stadium was superb. Four sets of supporters shouting for their national teams, plus plenty of Australian soccer fans and a sometimes bemused number of Olympic attendees meeting the world game for the first time, made for a marvellous mixture at these games.

Australia's women's team, the Matildas, played all their matches in Canberra and Sydney, going down to Germany by three-nil in the opening game, drawing with Sweden and losing narrowly to Brazil.

There were excellent crowds at all the Australian games, but Chris Tanzey's team, which included a number of Australia's best-ever women players – Julie Murray, Dianne Alagich, Cheryl Salisbury and Heather Garriock – were unable to turn good play into victories. Given that this was the Matildas' first time at the Games it was a reasonable start and since then they have put in some remarkable performances.

Cameroon and Spain reached the final of the men's tournament and the Africans won on penalties after a two-all draw before 98,212 at the Olympic Stadium at Homebush. In the women's final at the Sydney Football Stadium Norway caused a big upset by defeating the United States by three goals to two after extra time. Norway had always been a powerhouse in the women's game, but this was a superb achievement. Tiffeny Milbrett put the USA in front after only five minutes, but Gro Espeseth equalised just before half-time.

Ragnhild Gulbrandsen gave Norway the lead in 78 minutes and it was two minutes into injury time when Milbrett scored her second goal to force the match into extra time. Substitute Dagny Mellgren became the heroine for Norway with the decisive goal in the 102nd minute. Around this time FIFA was using the "golden goal" concept where the first team to score in extra time was declared the winner and the match stopped at that point. It was dramatic and appropriate that this "golden goal" led to gold medals for the Norwegians.

Football remains the highest-drawing sport at the Olympic Games with attendances in the millions for tournaments including Moscow 1980 (1.8 million), Los Angeles 1984 (1.4m) and Beijing 2008 (1.4m). In 2000 the total attendance for the men's tournament was 1.02 million with average crowds of 32,000.

Since 2005 Australia has been a member of the Asian Football Confederation and this has made qualification for the Olympic Games much more competitive for both men's and women's teams. Given that fewer countries play in the final Olympic tournaments than in World Cups, it is arguable that it is more difficult for the Olyroos and the Matildas to reach the final stages. Unfortunately neither of the Australian teams made it to London in 2012. Australia had three representatives at the football tournament, however, as referees Ben Williams, Hakan Anaz and Matthew Cream officiated in this year's event.

Roy Hay

Encyclopedia of Australian Cricket Players

New from Ken Piesse Cricket Books

Encyclopedia of Australian Cricket Players



Ken Piesse & Charles Davis

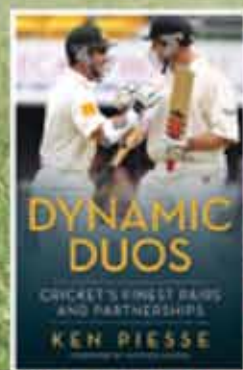
This truly comprehensive, highly-entertaining who's who of Australian cricket covers every Australia's first-class and representative cricketer in a single volume.

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A Sneak Peek - TERRY ALDERMAN: *'After England's Robin Smith slammed him to the offside fence for a boundary in 1989, he walked back to his mark and yelled: 'You're not going to get me'. Returning from shoulder surgery, he took 41 wickets including Graham Gooch four times, prompting Gooch to record a home phone message: 'Sorry, I'm out at the moment, lbro Alderman.'*

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Al Oerter: The Man with the Discus



Al Oerter competing at the 1956 Summer Olympics.
New York Times 1956 Olympic Games scrapbook,
MCC Library collection.

The Olympics of the modern era beginning in Athens in 1896 have been graced by numerous memorable performances from outstanding athletes. Few if any, however, have surpassed the deeds of Al Oerter.

Oerter won the gold medal in the discus throw competing for the United States of America (USA) at the Melbourne Olympics in 1956 and, despite the vicissitudes he encountered in his life, went on to win gold at the three following Olympics – Rome 1960, Tokyo 1964 and Mexico City 1968.

He became the first track and field athlete to win four consecutive Olympic titles in the same event. While this feat was subsequently equalled by the great Carl Lewis, Oerter's additional achievement of setting a new Olympic record each time he won still stands as a monument to his greatness.

Alfred Adolf Oerter (who became known as Al) was born in 1936 in the Astoria district of Queens in New York. His mother was Czechoslovakian and his father German. He grew up on Long Island in West Islip.

While on the athletics track at high school as a 15-year-old, a discus landed at his feet and he threw it back so far that his coach persuaded him to try out in the discus-throwing ring and his sporting life changed. He became American high school discus recordholder in 1954, throwing a lighter than senior competition discus 56.13m. (Discus composition and weights are discussed in the notes at the end of the article as well as a means of converting metric distances to imperial).

He then went on to study at the University of Kansas on a scholarship. He continued to make progress while at university but few predicted that he would be Olympic champion and a stellar career would be launched.

While at university the 19-year-old Oerter competed at the 1956 US Olympic Trials in Los Angeles. He was included in the

US team with only one throw meeting the qualifying distance. Such was the story of this amazing man's Olympic career – never did he win at Olympic trials nor was he the favoured one in his event before an Olympic campaign.

At the 1956 Melbourne Olympics Oerter, then barely 20 years old but standing 1.93m and weighing 100kg (220lbs), took on the reigning world recordholder and teammate Fortune Gordien (34) and the Italian veteran Adolfo Consolini (39) who had won the gold medal in 1948. Oerter was nervous as both these competitors had thrown well over 58m at training whereas his previous best was 56m with wind assistance.

The competition, however, proved a triumph for the big American. With his first throw he produced a new Olympic record of 56.36m. None of his subsequent throws or those of his competitors could match that distance and he won by more than 1.5m. Oerter later announced that he would not quit until he had won five gold medals! Gordien, hurt by the result, trained his son in the event and more than 20 years later at a meeting in America Oerter, then 43, beat him.

Oerter had only mixed success in 1957 and 1958 but improved his place in the world rankings from fourth to second. Injuries from a near-fatal car accident in 1957 had affected his performances. However, he did manage to win two National Collegiate Athletics titles in those years. He raised his personal record in 1959 and was first in the world rankings. In the US Olympic trials Rink Babka beat Oerter into second place and questions were asked whether he could repeat his Melbourne triumph.

The dramatic discus throw event at the 1960 Rome Olympics provided an ideal stage for Oerter. In a warm-up he threw 60.51m, more than 1.25m longer than Edmund Piatkowski's world record, but in the final his first four throws were all short of Babka's first throw (58.02m). He then rose to the



Left: Al Oerter's fourth gold medal, from Mexico City, 1968. Smithsonian Castle: *American Heroes of the Olympic Spirit* exhibition. Flickr, Creative Commons.

Right: How the United States Olympic Committee reported on Oerter's 1956 win. *United States 1956 Olympic book*, USOC, New Haven, Conn, 1957. MCC Library collection.

occasion and threw 59.18m, broke his Olympic record and left Babka in his wake. He had defended his crown and greater fame lay ahead.

The period between the Rome and Tokyo Games was to be one of triumph and despair for Oerter. In 1962 at Los Angeles he set his first world record with a throw of 61.10m (200 feet ½ inch). He held the record for only 17 days before losing it to Russian Vladimir Trusenyov but later in the year won the title back with a throw of 62.45m. He had then made five of the six throws in history over the 200 feet mark and he was ranked first in the world.

In 1963 he again set a new world mark with a throw of 62.63m. In the lead up to the 1964 Tokyo Olympics Oerter set his fourth and last world record (62.94m) but his teammate Jay Silvester became a threat to him with some excellent performances and his world record was smashed by nearly two metres by Ludwig Danek of Czechoslovakia. His woes were now compounded by a chronic cervical disc injury which left him wearing a neck harness, plus the tearing of a cartilage in his lower ribs a week before the Games.

Against doctors' advice Oerter competed in the 1964 Games but, limited in his wind up and in pain when he threw, lay in fourth position after four throws with the favoured Danek and Silvester both ahead of him.

Oerter concluded that he had been throwing too low earlier and for his fifth throw decided to stretch his tendons to achieve greater height and threw the discus 61.00m, a new Olympic record. Danek, whose best throw was 60.50m at that stage failed on his last chance and Oerter, against the odds, had won his third gold medal.

Oerter experienced mixed results in the lead up to the 1968 Mexico City Games. In 1966 he was for the sixth time first in world ranking but a poor year followed in 1967 when he threw only once over the magical 200 feet. His teammate Jay Silvester was by 1968 the world recordholder and won the Olympic trials. Once again Oerter went into an Olympics with few thinking he could again win gold.



Ferry O'Brien, USA's world record holder, gets off a toss that wins first place in the Olympic final.

OFFICIAL SUMMARIES

Placing	Name of Competitor	Representing	Distance
1st	ALFRED OERTER	UNITED STATES	186' 10 1/2"
2nd	FORTUNE GORDIEN	UNITED STATES	179' 9 1/2"
3rd	DESMOND KOCH	UNITED STATES	178' 5 1/2"
4th	Mark Pharris	Great Britain	175' 0 1/2"
5th	Otto Gaigalka	Russia	171' 9 1/2"
6th	Adolfo Consolini	Italy	171' 5 1/2"

* New Olympic mark, old record was 180' 0 1/2".

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Discus throwing bosses were unopposed by USA athletes. At left is Desmond Koch, bronze medalist; in the center is champion Al Oerter, and at the right is Fortune Gordien.

All three medals in the discus throw were taken by Americans but there were some surprises. Al Oerter, 20 year old Kansas University athlete, broke the Olympic mark to beat out teammate Fortune Gordien who was making his third quest for a gold medal, and Des Koch, Adolfo Consolini, Italy, who had won in 1948 and was runner-up in 1952, could only place sixth.

Oerter broke the Olympic mark of 180' 6 1/2" set in 1952 by USA's Sam Iness on his first throw, then improved the mark to 184' 10 1/2" on his fourth attempt, that figure standing up to conclusion.

Gordien, who holds the world mark of 194' 6", had placed third in 1948 and fourth in 1952, made his best Olympic showing, twice bettering 179' feet, with his top attempt to fourth place by the end of five rounds but missed the plateau 178' 1/2" on his final attempt to edge Great Britain's Mike Pharris who had 178' 0 1/2" for his best.



LEFT—Three-time Olympic competitor Fortune Gordien contemplates missing out again on gold medal success; RIGHT—Discus champion Al Oerter, USA, gets off his winning toss for an Olympic record.



The Olympic trial was delayed by rain. After the start of competition Oerter found himself in fourth place after two throws. With his third try, however, he threw 64.78m, more than 1.5m longer than his previous best and exceeding the then leader Silvester's mark by about the same length.

Silvester and his other main competitor, Danek, continued to threaten but could not match that great third throw. Oerter finished the competition with the three best Olympic throws of his life and set a new Olympic record along the way. He had made history.

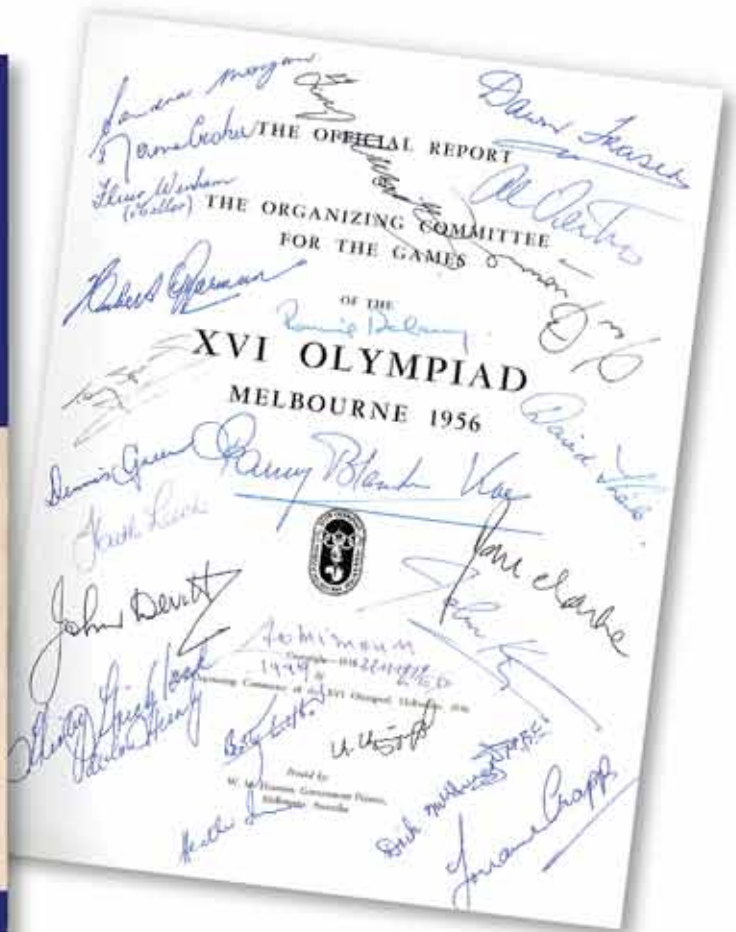
Oerter retired after the 1968 Olympics but did make a comeback in the mid-1970s. He threw a personal best of 69.46m in May 1980 and at 43 ran fourth in the US trials for the 1980 Moscow Olympics. He was denied any chance to try for a fifth gold medal following his country's decision to boycott the Games in protest against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979.

Al Oerter graduated from Kansas University in 1959 with a business degree. He worked for 26 years with the Grumman Aircraft Corporation as a computer specialist and later for Reebok. He was a family man with two children and three grandchildren and had little time for the concept of full-time professional sport. He advocated the leading of a full life with his sport being complemented by family and business responsibilities. Later in his life he toured as a public and motivational speaker and took up abstract painting. He was



Left: Daily program from 1956 discuss event on the MCG.

Right: When he returned to Melbourne for the 30th anniversary celebrations Oerter signed the title page of the 1956 Olympic Games' Official Report (beneath Dawn Fraser, top right). MCC Library collection.



Notes:

The discus throw was an event at the ancient Olympics and has carried through to the modern era.

The discus is made of metal and wood and shaped like two saucers joined together.

The Greek standing throw method has been superseded by the turning throw, introducing principles of rotation and weight transfer.

The throwing circle was standardised at 2.50m in 1912.

The men's discus weighs 2kg and is 22cm in diameter.

For conversion of metric distances to imperial: 1metre = 3.281 feet

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one of the founders of Art of the Olympians, a program to help fellow Olympians promote their artwork.

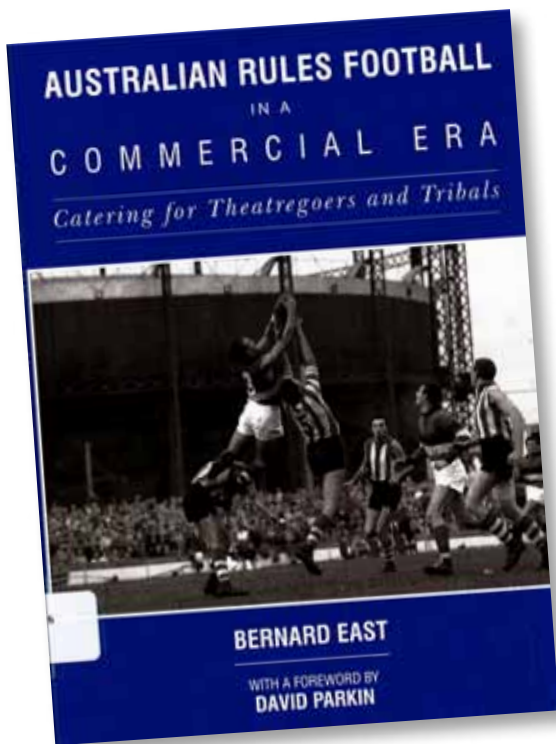
Oerter passed away on October 1, 2007 at Fort Myers Florida USA aged 71. In 2009 the US\$50million Al Oerter Recreation Centre at Flushing, Queens, New York was opened in his honour.

In 1978 Oerter was awarded a Bronze Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee. He has been inducted into 18 halls of fame including the US Olympic Hall of Fame in 1983. His deeds are commemorated in the collections of the National Sports Museum and the MCC Library. Items include a signed discus from the Melbourne 1956 Olympics, books and periodicals.

Al Oerter was the quintessential competitor. The Olympics was his stage and he never failed to perform when greatness beckoned. He once said that if we strive to be the best we can be each day, we can do some wonderful things on this earth. This blond giant was arguably the greatest field athlete of the twentieth century. But he also deserves to be remembered as a man of integrity and courage.

Ross Perry

Book Reviews



Bernard East

***Australian Rules in a Commercial Era:
Catering for Theatregoers and Tribals***

Walla Walla Press, Petersham (NSW), 2012
ISBN: 9781876718114

The past three or four decades have seen momentous changes in Australian Football. Before the Swans moved north to Sydney in 1982, the Victorian Football League (VFL) administered six games each Saturday afternoon at venues in Melbourne and Geelong. Most fans stood at these grounds, except at the MCG. Portions of some matches were broadcast in Victoria by one commercial television network and the ABC that evening and only the grand final (since 1977) or the odd exhibition match in Sydney or Brisbane was televised live.

Today in the re-titled Australian Football League (AFL) nine matches are played over a whole weekend and some weekday evenings. Its clubs and stadia are distributed throughout the entire continent but only two venues are in Melbourne, the 100,000-capacity MCG and the 50,000-plus Docklands (opened in 2000). All matches can be viewed live on free to air or pay television channels and then replayed in full during the following week. The game has never been more popular.

What prompted this change and has it been detrimental to football's core culture? Bernard East examines the motivations and reasoning behind football's restructuring and comes to the conclusion that turning football into a commodity has changed the game for the betterment of the sport and a majority of its followers.

East reminds us that our often nostalgic perception of the game before the changes may have hidden a brutal and irresponsible club ethos. Cowardly assaults on opponents were committed by players for their team and club communities were solidified by shared vitriol and lubricated by grog.

He also reminds the reader of what an exclusive community the barrackers were due to the small spectator capacities and spartan facilities at suburban venues, the MCG being a notable exception. Spectators had to be truly devoted to their club to watch their team week in and week out and this spawned a type of spectator East calls "tribal".

In 1985, the recently empowered VFL Commission (which replaced the club delegate system) decided to tap a market soon to be labelled "theatregoers". East uses the VFL's 1985 Carter Report to define them as patrons who "attend a few matches each year as part of their leisure activity that may also include a movie, children's activities or a barbeque in the hills".

The VFL's courtship of theatregoers began by rationalising its venues. The league advocated co-tenancy and fixtured large-drawing games at grounds that could support them, such as the MCG and Waverley Park. The VFL Commission also sought to even the competition by making clubs recruit players via a draft and limit player payments, later subsidising clubs that performed poorly in the marketplace.

At the time of the Carter Report many clubs were deeply in debt and although the motivations behind football's change may be a cynical way to maximise income and limit expenditure, such measures shielded some clubs and their heritage from oblivion.

The increasing attendances in the 1990s, coupled with a growth in television viewers, led to increased revenue and a larger pot to be shared among players and the clubs. It also increased the game's professionalisation with the growth of specialised support staff and administrators.

Still, some of the old club ethos persists, and it is epitomised by players who decide to take a reduction in pay for their club's and their teammates' benefit. Football treads a path between the cold quest to maximise profit while maintaining enough of the traditional and emotional aspects of the game to keep its tribal supporters sated.

Football has also seen cultural changes as the league sought to protect its brand by limiting the on-field and off-field actions of players, officials and spectators. The increased media exposure and sponsor pressures have forced the league to rid itself of its more repugnant behaviours, and even innocuous private on-field banter now risks sanction. Every slur is captured by microphones and broadcast live to a national audience in the hundreds of thousands.

The book is laced with sociological jargon and terms, and East's ideas are buttressed with the philosophies of sociologists, particularly Max Weber and Emile Durkheim. However, their ideas are explained and summarised for laymen. The lesson East draws from his study is: "Commodification in Australian Rules football... can be read as a series of changes around ongoing tensions of the 'old' and the 'new' and the development of fresher, newer sets of guiding principles that engage both tribals and theatregoers".

By doing so, East recognises that it is lazy to see football's commercialisation as destroying the game's culture. His approach is nuanced and though he recognises some

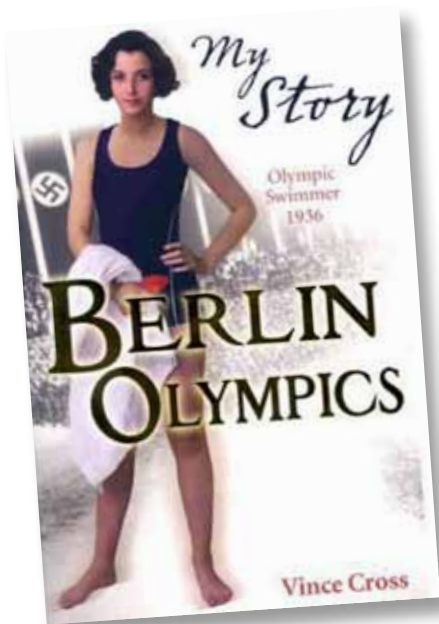


traditions are lost (and many of these aspects were deleterious to football and its supporters), the league also sought to retain and promote much of the game's cherished heritage.

Still, although the league sells the game's rich character and resolutely maintains some traditions like the Saturday afternoon grand final, many promotions seem cynical. I cannot help but think that something has been lost when the AFL commission – people outside the club structure – can dictate what a club can or cannot do and uses its authority to impinge on matters not obviously related to balance sheets or audience numbers.

Although I sometimes feel my team is just the yellow and black "Tigers" franchise of the AFL, Ben East's considered and well researched approach is important and enlightening. He tackles a subject often given to passionate polemics and complaints about how the game isn't what it used to be, with a reasoned appraisal of commercialism, documenting what has been gained and what we have lost. It is an important resource for anyone interested in an overview of football's management in the commercial era.

Trevor Ruddell



Vince Cross

My Story Berlin Olympics: Olympic Swimmer 1936

Scholastic Children's Books, London, 2012

ISBN: 9781407130354

This book is junior teen fiction written in a diary format from June 29, 1935 to August 10, 1940. Fourteen-year-old Eleanor (Ellie) Rhys Davies lives in England in 1935. She is a very good swimmer, but not very academic. Her English teacher encourages her to keep a diary.

In the diary, she describes school, her swimming training and her friends, Sarah Rosenthal and Tara, a new girl whose father

is an American diplomat. Sarah's family is Jewish and Sarah is worried about her relatives who still live in Germany and have been affected by laws passed about citizens' rights after the Nuremberg rally in 1935.

As the girls' swimming progresses, the swimming teacher Mrs Williams suggests that they work harder so that they have a chance to be selected for the British swimming team in the (English) national swimming team trials for the 1936 Olympics.

Parallel to this, the girls observe a stand-off between British Union of Fascists members and Jewish shopkeepers in Hackney after helping with a jumble sale for the school. Additionally, Eleanor's father speaks up in church about anti-Jewish comments made during the sermon and subsequently loses his position as church warden.

Eleanor and Sarah are chosen to be part of a women's demonstration team for younger swimmers, not actually in the Olympics, but Tara is unable to compete because of her father's status as a diplomat.

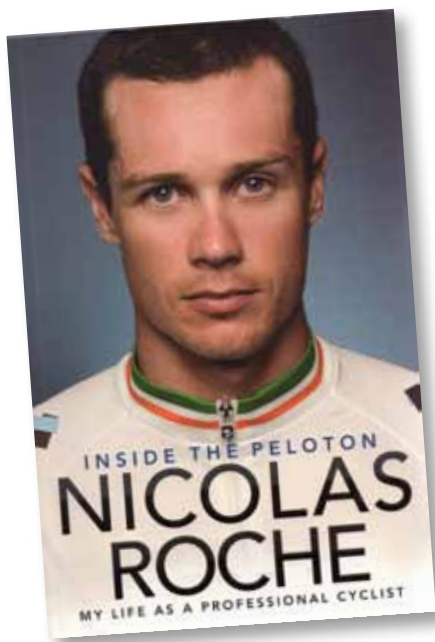
They travel to Berlin a few days after the Olympic swimming team and stay at the Reichsportsfeld, rather than the Olympic Village. Tara comes to visit and gets tickets for them to view the athletics finals.

The girls attend a party hosted (unknown to them) by Hitler Youth and Eleanor makes a point of engaging a "boy scout" in discussion about the Jewish situation, revealing that Sarah is Jewish. Sarah is poisoned after eating some chocolates and she is unable to compete at all.

The story ends rather abruptly in August 1936, as Eleanor is about to compete in her race. It is concluded in 1940, when Eleanor is a nurse and has left swimming behind her. Details about early competitive sport, various races of the Ancient Greeks and the Modern Olympics are left to the historical notes at the back of the book.

The diary is more about school life and swimming, not the Berlin Olympics. The cover shows a dark-haired Sarah, who is not the main focus of the story. Eleanor, by contrast, has blonde hair with blue eyes. Some of the details would be more familiar to an English audience and it is part of a series aimed at promoting London 2012.

Barbara Nicholls



Nicolas Roche with Gerard Cromwell
Inside the Peloton: My Life as a Professional Cyclist
 Transworld Ireland, London, 2011
 ISBN: 9781848271104

This biography of professional cyclist Nicolas Roche has its basis in the diary pieces he wrote for the *Irish Independent*, while on various grand tours, including the Tour de France. I suggest you read this if you really want to know about:

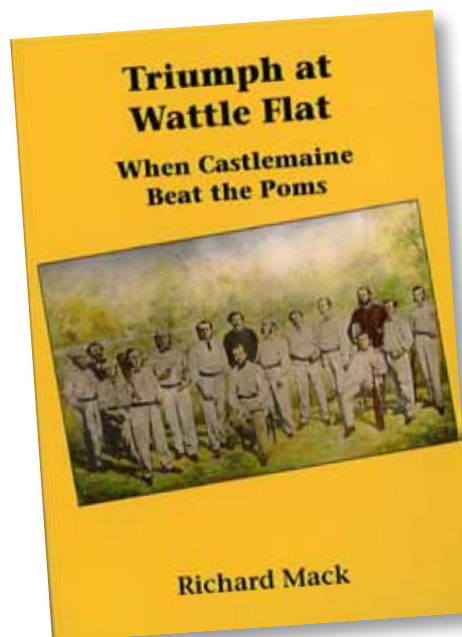
- The politics within the peloton, including the “sitting up” to wait for riders after crashes or mechanical incidents (and what the riders think of this), or neutralising a stage (where the riders are basically protesting against race organisers).
- The politics within a team and how this extends to the tactics employed within a race. Or even what happens when personal agendas overtake the professional agenda.
- What it takes to become a professional cyclist and the commitment needed to stay in racing form, including what sacrifices both personal and professional cyclists make to remain in the sport.

This is relatively easy reading and lives up to its title of taking you inside the peloton. However, it is also a broader account of Nicolas Roche’s life from a young age until the end of the 2011 riding season. You genuinely get a feel for how important family, friends and supporters are to him.

Nicolas comes from a family that has strong ties with professional cycling, and I think because of these ties they understood what was required to get to an elite level. His father, Stephen Roche, won a world road race championship and the Tour de France in the same year (1987).

His cousin Dan Martin is a professional cyclist riding in the peloton for an opposing team. Perhaps these ties have applied a different pressure to Nicolas compared to others within the peloton and he is the first to admit that he’s very critical of his own performances. But join him for a ride in the peloton anyway!

Jane Wiles



Richard Mack
Triumph at Wattle Flat: When Castlemaine Beat the Poms
 Deniliquin Newspapers Ltd, Deniliquin, 2012
 ISBN: 978 9871409 6 8

On March 14, 15 and 17, 1862, a team of 22 cricketers drawn from the central Victorian goldfields town of Castlemaine and its surrounds defeated H.H. Stephenson’s touring English XI by three wickets. It was one of only two defeats suffered by the Englishmen during their three-month pioneering tour of the Australian colonies, and the only one at the hands of a local, as opposed to colonial side, the other defeat having been inflicted by a combined Victoria/New South Wales XXII at the Sydney Domain a month earlier.

All but the first of the tourists’ matches, in which they defeated the XVIII of Victoria by an innings in a contest commencing at the MCG on New Year’s Day, were played against twenty-twos, each of whom was not only allowed to bat and bowl, but to field as well. This made runscoring for the tourists a difficult task, especially in view of the rough pitches that were typical of the era. In the Castlemaine match, the Englishmen were bowled out for only 80 and 68, in reply to which the locals managed 54 and 18/96 to claim victory by three wickets.

Making extensive use of contemporary sources, especially the *Mount Alexander Mail*, cricket devotee and Castlemaine resident Richard Mack has written a fascinating and detailed account of the match, complete with full scores and an extensive coverage of events leading up to it and its aftermath. He has recaptured the excitement created by the arrival of the Englishmen in town and by the match itself, the result of which was in doubt to the very end. Much original research has been undertaken, including tracking down biographical details of the local players who took part, of whom 15 came from Castlemaine itself, three from Fryer’s Creek, two from Taradale and one each from Newstead and Tarrangower.

Two of the Castlemaine players, Ben Butterworth and Charlie Makinson, were also intercolonial representatives. Butterworth, the co-owner of a general store in the town, was considered to be the finest longstop (then regarded as a key fielding position) in the colony and was appointed captain, while Makinson, a solicitor from the nearby township of Taradale, was a stylish top-order batsman. Both contributed to the local team’s famous victory, Butterworth earning high praise for his backstopping

(he allowed only four byes in the two England innings) while Makinson's innings of 36 on the last day formed the basis of the home side's successful run-chase.

Other stars for the locals were John Amos, who captured 7/15 in the tourists' first innings, and John Brooker, who took the remarkable figures of 6/6 in the second. It was left to the youngest player in the match, 18-year-old Joe Dolphin, to hit the winning runs, however, after which he was "elevated on to the shoulders of some of the victorious twenty-two, and chaired to the tent".

The book is well illustrated and contains a bibliography and detailed end-notes, but no index. Unfortunately, the author does not appear to have consulted historian Alf Batchelder's two-volume history of the Melbourne Cricket Club, *Pavilions in the Park*, or his articles in relation to Stephenson's tour in previous issues of the *Yorker*, with the consequence that some old myths have been repeated.

For example, the Melbourne to Sandridge railway did not pass "through the middle" of the Melbourne Cricket Club's previous ground (p.9) as claimed, for cricket matches continued to be played there for several years after the MCC left for its present site, and the invitation by the tour's promoters, Felix Spiers and Christopher Pond, for Charles Dickens to make a reading and lecture tour of the Australian colonies (p.19) was made after and not before Stephenson's tour took place.

Quibbles aside, this is a most interesting and readable book and the author is to be commended for bringing back to life events from a significant period in the formative years of Australian cricket.

Ken Williams

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