

# THE YORKER

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THE NEW  
HANDSHAKE



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

## In This Issue

Welcome to West Indies: 1930/31

Looking for the Origins of the MCC

Boyle & Scott: The Cup, the Cricket, and the Custodians

The MCC Library's Golf Collection

Treasures of the MCC: Decorative Boxes

WELLS

Wells expresses the view of the Australian cricket public on the appearance of the West Indian cricketers.

# THE YORKER



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Submissions can be made to The Editor, *The Yorker*, MCC Library PO Box 175 East Melbourne 8002 or via email to [library@mcc.org.au](mailto:library@mcc.org.au)

## COVER IMAGERY

Samuel Wells, "The New Handshake: Well's expresses the view of the Australian cricket public on the appearance of the West Indian Cricketers." *Stan Richards Scrapbook 1930-31*, p.3. Sam Wells was drawing for the *Herald* at the time of the West Indies tour.

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## Library News

On October 22 the MCC Library's online catalogue was presented with an International Sports Heritage Association (ISHA) Communication Award in the website category. It was the fourth "ISHY" the MCC Library has received in five years, *The Yorker* having won in the 2011, 2012 and 2013 for "best programme, annual report or magazine".

In 2015 the ISHYs were presented at ISHA's Annual Conference, this year held at the World of Little League Museum in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Other recipients of ISHY's this year were the 49ers Museum (San Francisco), the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame, National College Baseball Hall of Fame, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame Museum, the NASCAR Hall of Fame, the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame, Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame, the St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Fame Museum, and the US Golf Association Museum.

The introduction of an online catalogue had been agitated for by both MCC Library staff and clients for over a decade. The catalogue was formally launched early this year after a particularly rigorous software selection process in 2013 and 2014. The cloud hosted Liberty Library Management System, as implemented by Softlink, was determined to best suit the MCC Library's unique collection and security requirements, and is now a part of an award winning partnership.



The MCC Library catalogue is available online at [tinyurl.com/mcclcatalogue](http://tinyurl.com/mcclcatalogue) and through the MCC Library webpage at [tinyurl.com/melbccl](http://tinyurl.com/melbccl)

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## THE YORKER

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## “A Party of Gents...”

### Looking for the Origins of the Melbourne Cricket Club

By James Brear and Stephen Flemming.

The MCC has traditionally dated its foundation as November 15, 1838. However, doubts have been raised about the foundation date of the Melbourne Cricket Club since an article was published by R.R. McNicoll in the *Victorian Historical Journal* for May 1975.<sup>1</sup> Four decades since the publication it is apt to revisit the primary evidence available, particularly as recent articles have echoed McNicoll’s argument without demonstrating much new perspective.

Two of our MCC Library volunteers, James Brear and Stephen Flemming, had a fresh look at the primary evidence regarding the MCC’s origins collated since 2005, when Alf Batchelder’s two-volume *Pavilions in the Park* was published.<sup>2</sup> Ten years on it remains the most thoroughly researched and comprehensive history of the MCC. However, historical research never lies fallow. Using digital and hard-copy resources that have only been readily accessible over the last decade (some digitised within the last five years), James and Stephen demonstrate that although a definite claim to any specific foundation date for the club is yet to be confirmed, the available evidence is consistent with the traditional date, as the MCC was undoubtedly established during the summer of 1838/39.

In November, 2013, the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Melbourne Cricket Club focused attention on the key dates, personnel and events that took place in November, 1838. Attention has been drawn to these elements of the club’s history before, namely on the centenary and 150<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. As our knowledge and ability to trace our history in the digital age rapidly expands, it is timely to review what we do and do not know about the club’s origins.

The date that the club has traditionally regarded as being its foundation date is November 15, 1838. This is the date on the receipt for “2 batts, balls and stumps” purchased by Donald

G. McArthur from Henry Davis, the receipt being signed by J. Barnett. A copy of this document is in the State Library of Victoria, and with it a document headed “...proposed to form a Cricket Club” (the top left and bottom left corners of this document are missing). This document lists the names of the men who have long been regarded as the five founders of the Melbourne Cricket Club, and a list of, what appears to be, 16 prospective members. It is undated. The first five named are those considered to be the founders, Frederick Armand Powlett, Robert Russell, Alfred Miller Mundy, Charles Fitzroy Miller Mundy, and George Brunswick Smyth.

Top: Melbourne was still a village during the summer of 1838/39 when the MCC was founded. *Melbourne from the South Side of the Yarra Yarra 1839*, drawn by John Adamson. (State Library of Victoria).

...the persuaded me, and in old down to school  
and running against the captain and myself...

This "proposal" document is an intriguing and controversial piece of history. The original, in the State Library of Victoria, is in ink and pencil. Apart from the list of names, the other information provided is as follows:

**Subscription fee.**

At the top of the page different thoughts are recorded as to the initial subscription fee. Initially "half a guinea" was written in ink, but this has been crossed out, and replaced by a "pound", also crossed out, and then a "guinea", both written in pencil.

**The mysterious "tick".**

Against Russell and the two Mundy's names there is a "tick", again in ink. What does this mean?

**"Paid" status.**

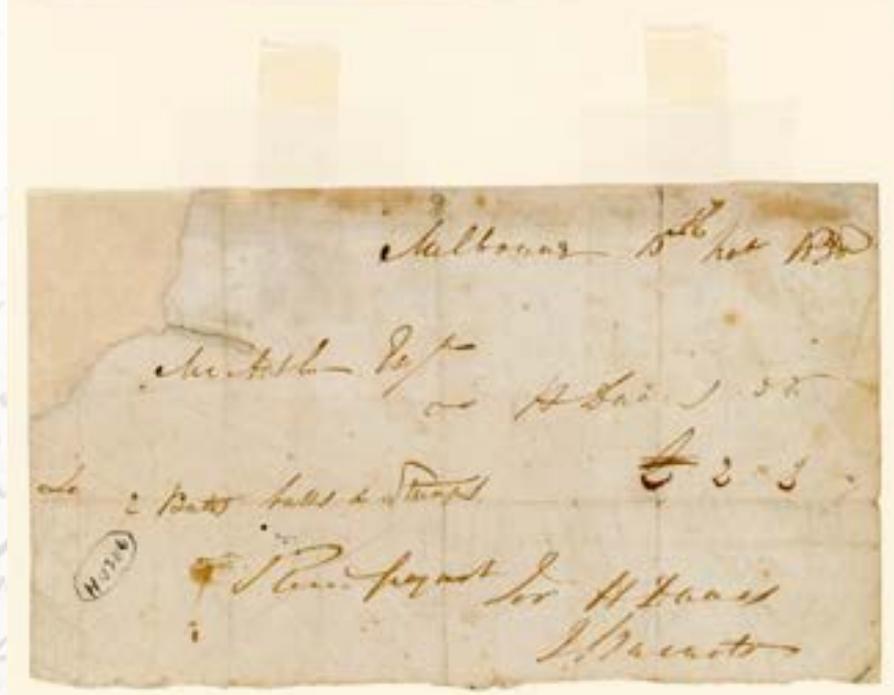
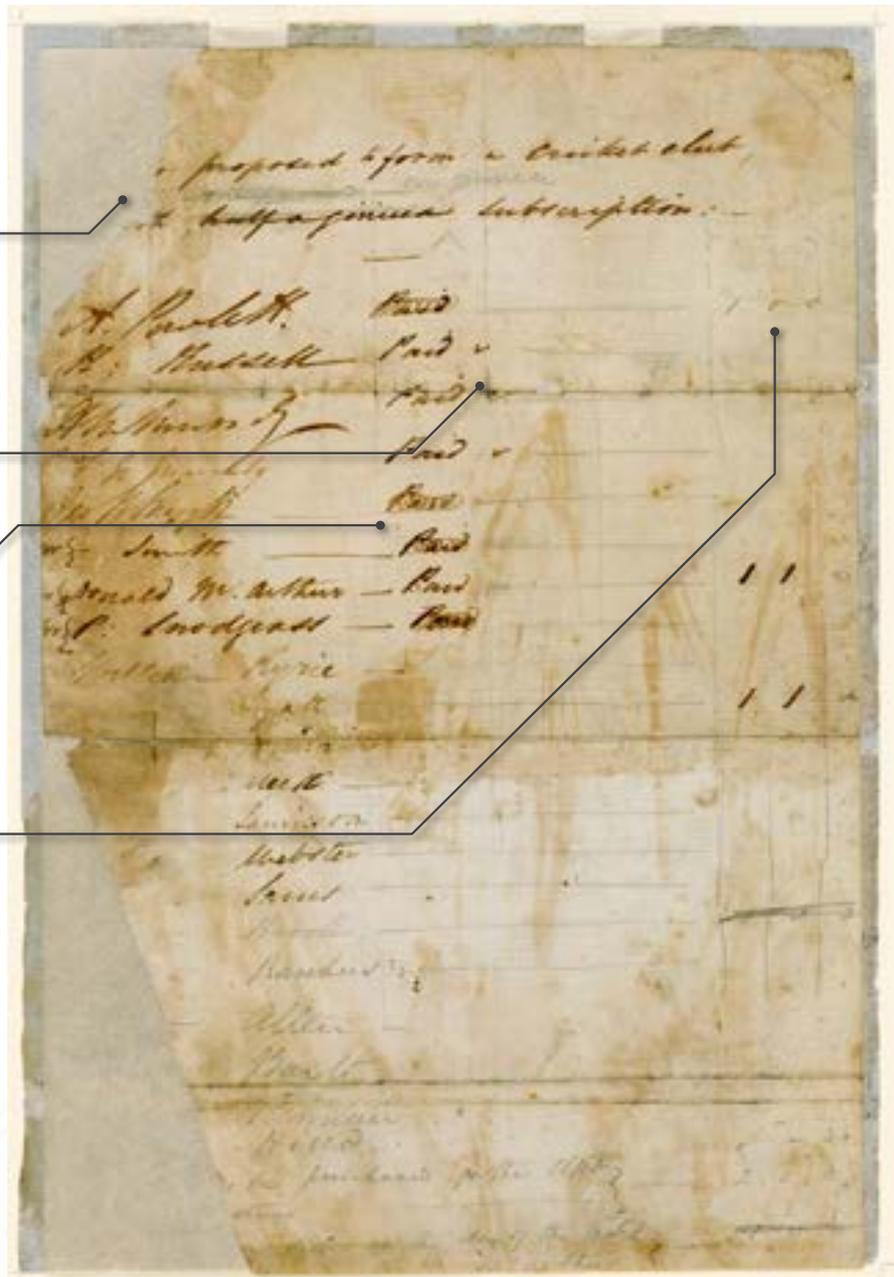
Originally, next to the first five names, and also adjacent to the next three names, Smith, Donald McArthur, and P. Snodgrass, "Paid" was written in ink. Four of the names, Powlett, Smyth, Smith and Snodgrass have had their "Paid" status crossed out, also in ink.

**Monies paid.**

The right hand side of the document contains figures in three columns, pounds, shillings, and pence, and appears to have been used for some basic accounting. Against Powlett's name is recorded 1-0-0 (one pound) in ink, while against McArthur and Hyatt, 1-1-0 (one pound one shilling - a guinea) is written in ink over the top of 1-0-0 (one pound) that was originally written in pencil. Against Brock's name 1-0-0 (one pound) was written in pencil and then crossed out.

Clearly this was a working document, and from a comparison with a copy of this document presented to the club in 1869 by Robert Russell, it would appear that he was the original author.

At the bottom of the document beneath all the names are three lines of great significance. In many of the photographs of this document these lines are omitted, the photographer concentrating on the names above. The first line reads "...to be purchased for the club". This is bracketed with a word that is difficult to make out, due to the missing corner. Against these lines in the money column is written 2-0-0 (two pounds). Then follows "...side on the day of the match", bracketed with "for Mr. McArthur", and against this entry in the money column 1-0-0 (one pound) has been crossed out. These lines, and the last six



Right: The Melbourne Cricket Club "proposal" document (top right) and Donald G. McArthur's invoice (bottom right) held by the State Library of Victoria are clearly two separate documents. [State Library of Victoria]

names, are all in pencil. The line "...to be purchased for the club" indicates that the proposal to form a club has indeed been acted upon and that a club is now in existence.

Two days after the purchase of equipment on Saturday November 17, a cricket match was played between the Gentlemen and the Military. The *Port Phillip Gazette* gave notice on November 10 that this match was to take place,<sup>3</sup> but, despite giving the match a small mention on November 24,<sup>4</sup> and making an apology, did not report on the event until December 1.<sup>5</sup> Among those mentioned in the *Port Phillip Gazette's* report were Smyth, Powlett, McArthur and Russell, but there were no scores, cricket being, it seems, merely an "amusement". In recent years we have learnt the scores thanks to the Peter

Nicholls' publication of Robert Wrede's journal, *A Wonderful Change: The Story of Robert Wrede Including his Journal 1837-1841*. Wrede recorded that the Military "had the first innings and marked 25; our side then marked 88 and then our opponents had their second innings, and with their former 25 only marked 58, so that in one innings we beat them by 30."<sup>6</sup> Wrede's description of the scene is very similar to the report in the *Port Phillip Gazette*, from which it appears that this was the first match of note in Melbourne, but neither source makes any mention of the name of any club. From Wrede we also learn that it was definitely not the first match, as he recorded on November 14, 1838, "Played a game of cricket with a party of gents who insisted on me playing a match with them against the Military on Saturday."<sup>7</sup> Wrede mentions frequent episodes of "cricketing" but does not always mention match details, some events may well have been practice.

It was not long before a public mention was made of the name of a cricket club. From information currently available the first club mentioned was the Melbourne Union Cricket Club. They placed an advertisement in the *Port Phillip Gazette* on December 22, 1838,<sup>8</sup> that stated,

MELBOURNE  
UNION CRICKET CLUB.  
THE Members of the Club will meet  
at Mr. Peter Scott's, on Monday Evening  
next, at seven o'clock precisely.  
W. J. SUGDEN,  
Secretary.  
Melbourne,  
December 20, 1838

Not long after came the first mention of the Melbourne Cricket Club, with the club also placing an advertisement in the *Port Phillip Gazette*, on February 2, 1839,<sup>9</sup>

MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB.  
A MEETING of the Members will  
be held at the Lamb Inn, after the match  
on Saturday next, the 9th February.

This reference, that appears to have been overlooked by previous historians researching the MCC, clearly demonstrates that the Melbourne Cricket Club, and its members, existed before February 2, 1839 and took part in matches in the 1838/39 "season".

On January 12 and 19, 1839, matches were played between the Gentlemen and the Tradesmen. These were almost certainly matches between the Melbourne Cricket Club and the Melbourne Union Cricket Club, but despite mentioning the heroics of Powlett – 120 runs, and James Webster, who "met with an unfortunate injury"; neither club was mentioned by the *Port Phillip Gazette*.<sup>10</sup> Neither were they mentioned by Wrede who wrote in his journal on January 12, 1839, "I played in a cricket match against the Tradesmen of Melbourne – we beat them in one innings."<sup>11</sup>

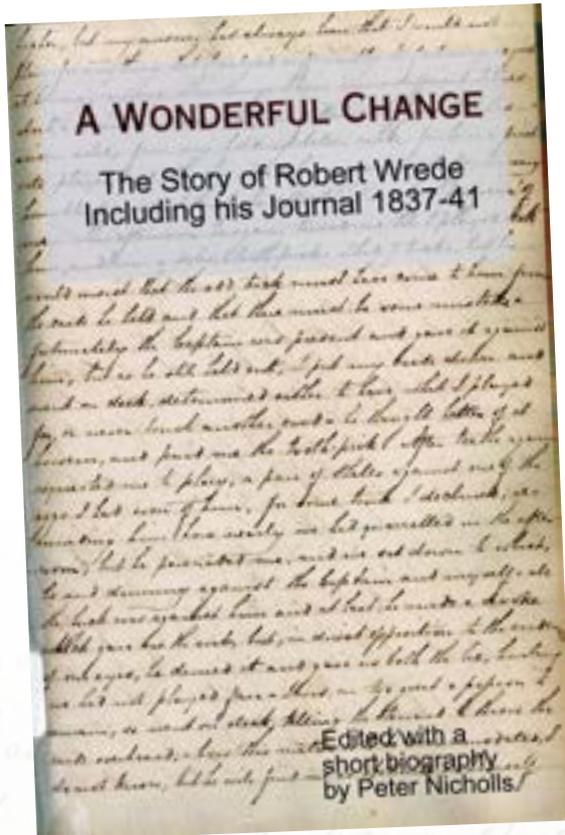
Despite newspaper reports of several matches, the next public mention of the club does not appear until January 29, 1840. The *Port Phillip Gazette* reported,

The Melbourne Cricket Club, established during the last year, are about to commence the current season.<sup>12</sup>

From these two newspaper references, February 2, 1839, and January 29, 1840, the question arises as to why there is nearly a year between them. The answer may lie in George Arden's book, *Latest Information with Regard to Australia Felix... Advice to Immigrants* published in 1840. Arden wrote,

"Besides these are Clubs established for the purposes more strictly, of amusement and sport, such as for Cricket, Races, Billiards, Regattas, etc., but are usually **formed and dissolved** according to the season most appropriate to their objects."<sup>13</sup> Arden had observed the 1838/39 and 1839/40 "seasons", his comment referring to the absence of activity during the winter months, when the club would literally "shut up shop". It should be noted that the club did not have a permanent ground during these early years. There were no clubrooms, and the organisation of the handful of matches that took place was very much a casual and haphazard affair. The *Port Phillip Gazette* advertisement (February 2, 1839) did not even list a contact name at the club. Cricket was a pleasant distraction and reminded the populace of civilised life at "home", it was not an organised and competitive sport. In addition, with the exception of matches against the Melbourne Union Cricket Club, assuming that is who the "Tradesmen" were, the rest of the matches were intra-club.

Centre: *A Wonderful Change: The Story of Robert Wrede including his Journal 1837-1841*, Peter Nicholls' self published and annotated transcript of Robert Wrede's journal.



...the persuaded me, and in old alone to...  
...drumming against the captain and myself...  
...the... the... the...

**Cabinet**  
BURNETT & SHIPPARD

**Portrait**  
PHOTOGRAPHERS

Arden's explanation of the practice of sporting clubs reforming each season is also supported by the experience of the Melbourne Union Cricket Club. This club placed an advertisement in the *Port Phillip Gazette* on December 21, 1839, as follows,<sup>14</sup>

**THE Members of the Melbourne Union Cricket Club, are requested to meet at the "William Tell," on MONDAY Evening, the 21st instant, for the purpose of again forming the Club, for the ensuing year. Persons desirous of becoming Members are respectfully invited to attend, at 7 o'clock, seven o'clock, on Monday, Dec 21st 1839.**

Although the "proposal" document is undated, there are two key names that also help place it in an approximate time span. These are the names of brothers Alfred Miller Mundy and Charles Fitzroy Miller Mundy. Alfred arrived in Melbourne in mid 1838, having resigned from the military and his position as officer in charge of the mounted police in Hobart.<sup>15</sup> Charles arrived later, in August 1838 aboard the *Paul Pry* from Sydney.<sup>16</sup> He was on two years leave from the Bengal Staff Corps,<sup>17</sup> and later departed from Sydney for Calcutta on May 8, 1840.<sup>18</sup>

Alfred appears to have been a man in a hurry as, apart from his involvement with the Melbourne Cricket Club, he was also a founding member of the Melbourne Club. He and fellow MCC founding member Brunswick Smyth sold cattle to South Australia,<sup>19</sup> while Mundy, together with Joseph Hawdon drove a "tandem" from Melbourne to Adelaide in July, 1839,<sup>20</sup> to show that it was possible for an overland mail service to be established. By October, 1839, Alfred was ensconced in Adelaide, attending the funeral of Colonel Light<sup>21</sup> and being invited to a Governor's dinner to celebrate the anniversary of the province.<sup>22</sup> Later Mundy would team with Edward John Eyre to take cattle by sea to Western Australia, before returning to South Australia<sup>23</sup> to become, in July 1840, Clerk of Council<sup>24</sup> and eventually be appointed Colonial Secretary. In 1849, upon the death of his brother, who had no heir, Alfred returned to Derbyshire to inherit the Shipley Estate. If one accepts the names on the "proposal" document then it must date from the 1838-39 "season", as this was the only time the two brothers were together in Melbourne.

Unlike the Mundys, Daniel Stodhart Campbell's name is not on the proposal document. He did, however, play a much more significant part in the early history of the club, being an integral part of the reformation of the club in 1841, and 1846. In 1841 he was appointed as a committee member at the meeting that saw Powlett become the first known President of the club,<sup>25</sup> and in 1846 he moved the motion "That a cricket club to be called the Melbourne Cricket Club be formed in Melbourne."<sup>26</sup> Coinciding with the establishment of a permanent cricket ground south of the Yarra, this was the last

Left: The earliest known advertisement for the Melbourne Cricket Club is near the base of the first column in the February 2, 1839, *Port Phillip Gazette*.



reforming of the club. *The Argus*, perhaps tongue-in-cheek, noted "Another effort is being made for the establishment of a Cricket Club in Melbourne, being about the twentieth attempt of the same kind."<sup>27</sup> MCC President from 1855 to 1859, following his death in 1875 *The Argus* called Campbell, "an enthusiastic supporter of cricket, and was regarded as the father of cricket in this colony."<sup>28</sup> Recent research has discovered that in 1866, *The Argus*, reported that he was invited to attend the Mayor's Fancy Dress Ball, the premier social event of the day. Next to the name of each attendee was a brief description, Campbell's reading "Cricketeer of the Melbourne Cricket Club, of **twenty-seven years** standing."<sup>29</sup> This reference also places the club as being in operation in the 1838/39 "season", and was published well before Russell drafted his copy of the "proposal" document in 1869.

As has been shown with the publication of Wrede's journal, the recent correct identification of Charles Fitzroy Miller Mundy in 2013,<sup>30</sup> the more recent discovery of his photographic portrait (left), and the above reference to Campbell's MCC membership, there is still much information to be discovered. Hopefully in the not too distant future, other journals, diaries, and letters will come to light to expand our knowledge of the club in its formative days.

**James Brear** and **Stephen Flemming** are MCC Library Volunteers

Left: Charles Fitzroy Miller Mundy, courtesy of the Derbyshire Record Office.

Endnotes

- 1 R.R. McNicoll, "Melbourne's Two Oldest Clubs", *Victorian Historical Journal: Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria*, vol. 46 no. 2 (May 1975), pp. 409-417.
- 2 Alf Batchelder, *Pavilions in the Park: A History of the Melbourne Cricket Club and its Ground*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2005.
- 3 *Port Phillip Gazette*, November 10, 1838, p.3 [1011]. The Stanford University Library's bound volume of the *Port Phillip Gazette*, vol. 1, October 27, 1838 to July 3, 1839, has been digitised and is publicly accessible online through Google Books.
- 4 *Port Phillip Gazette*, November 24, 1838, p.3 [1019].
- 5 *Port Phillip Gazette*, December 1, 1838, p.3 [1023].
- 6 Peter Nicholls (ed.), *A Wonderful Change, the Story of Robert Wrede, inc. his Journal 1837-1841*, Peter Nicholls, [Melbourne], 2012, pp.136-135. Wrede's journal and its importance to the record of early cricket in Melbourne came to light through the agency of Peter Nicholls, who transcribed, annotated, and in 2012, published the account.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 *Port Phillip Gazette*, December 22, 1838, p.1 [1033].
- 9 *Port Phillip Gazette*, February 2, 1839, p.1 [1057].
- 10 *Port Phillip Gazette*, January 26, 1839, p.3 [1055].
- 11 Peter Nicholls (ed.), *A Wonderful Change, the Story of Robert Wrede, inc. his Journal 1837-1841*, Peter Nicholls, [Melbourne], 2012. pp.153-154.
- 12 *Port Phillip Gazette*, January 29, 1840, p.3 [3143]. It is in the fourth column, sixth paragraph from the top. The paragraph was also transcribed by the Sydney based *Australian Chronicle*, February 18, 1840, p.2. The *Australian Chronicle* (unlike this issue of the *Port Phillip Gazette*), is publicly accessible on the National Library of Australia's Trove Digitised Australian Newspapers online database. The *Port Phillip Gazette* and *Port Phillip Patriot* are to be delivered to Trove by June 2016.
- 13 George Arden, *Latest information with regard to Australia Felix, the finest province of the great territory of New South Wales; including the history, geography, natural resources, government, commerce, and finances of Port Phillip; sketches of the Aboriginal population and advice to immigrants*, Arden and Strode Printers, Melbourne, 1840, p.86.
- 14 *Port Phillip Gazette*, December 21, 1839, p.1 [3079].
- 15 *Launceston Advertiser*, June 28, 1838, p.4.
- 16 *The Australian*, August 24, 1838, p.2.
- 17 *Calcutta Monthly Journal and General Register of Occurrences Throughout the British Dominions in the East, Forming an Epitome of the Indian Press for the Year 1838*, Samuel Smith & Co., 1839, p.26.
- 18 *The Colonist*, May 9, 1840, p.2.
- 19 *South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register*, March 9, 1839, p.7.
- 20 *Southern Australian*, August 28, 1839, p.4.
- 21 *South Australian Register*, October 12, 1839, p.4.
- 22 *South Australian Register*, November 30, 1839, p.2.
- 23 *The Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal*, April 18, 1840, p.2.
- 24 *South Australian Register*, July 4, 1840, p.5.
- 25 *Port Phillip Herald*, November 2, 1841, p.4.
- 26 *Melbourne Cricket Club Minutes*, September 22, 1846.
- 27 *The Argus*, September 25, 1846, p.2.
- 28 *The Argus*, May 17, 1875, p.15.
- 29 *The Argus*, September 21, 1866, p.5.
- 30 James Brear, "The Mundy Family and the Melbourne Cricket Club", *The Yorker*, iss. 51 (Spring 2013), pp.3-5.



# BOYLE & SCOTT



## The Cup, the cricket and the custodians A story about Boyle & Scott – and the men who ran the store.

By Louise Zedda-Sampson

### The Boys from Bendigo: When H.H. Stephenson Comes to Play

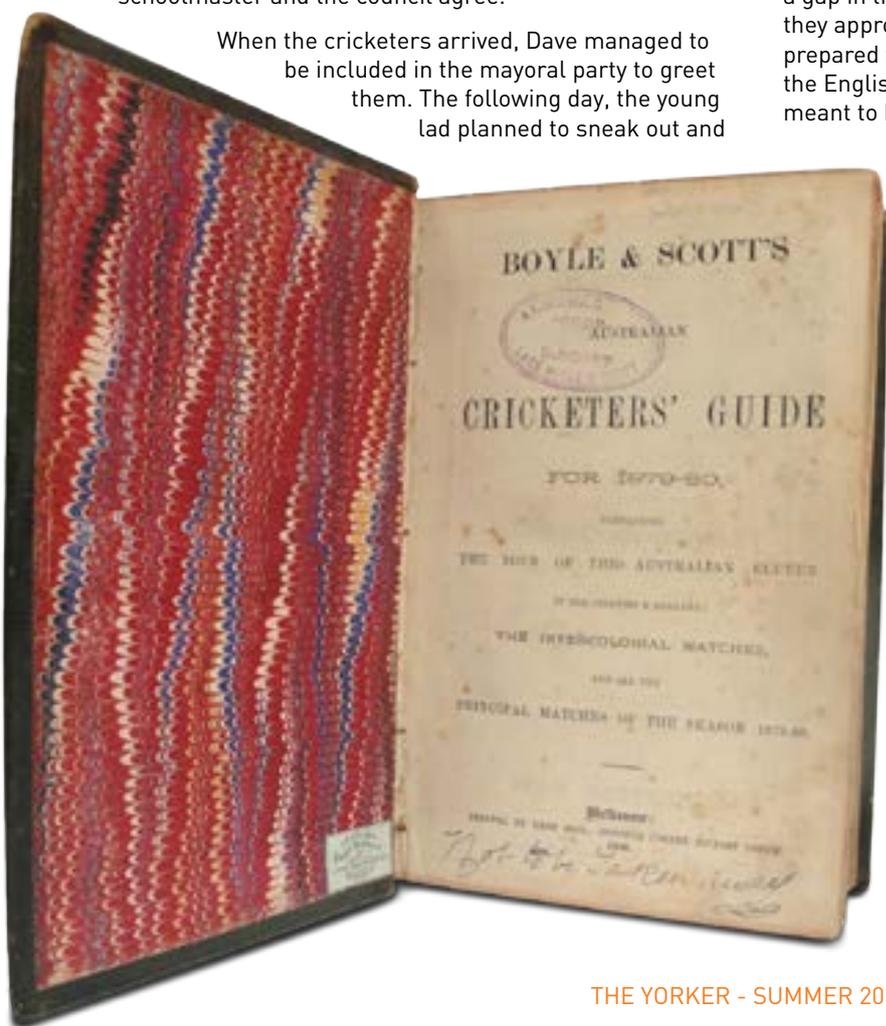
The first English cricket team visited Victoria in 1862. In Bendigo, a 14-year-old Scottish-born lad by the name of David (Dave) Scott negotiated with the schoolmaster to have a half-day off school to meet them when they came to Bendigo. The schoolmaster agreed and Scott goes a step further to ask that parents and children who were “Britishers” have another day off to watch the match. To the 14-year-old’s credit, the schoolmaster and the council agree.

When the cricketers arrived, Dave managed to be included in the mayoral party to greet them. The following day, the young lad planned to sneak out and

see the match while his father thought he was at school. But his plans were foiled. His father knew of the day off and set him to work building railings. Not being one to give up, Dave told his father he needed nails and instead of going to the store, went to a friend’s house and changed clothes and went to the cricket.

Dave arrived at the ground without the entrance fee, and not finding anyone to give it to him, had to sneak in through a gap in the fence. The spotters saw him immediately. As they approached, he ran directly at the two captains as they prepared for the toss and shook the hand of H.H. Stephenson, the English captain. The spotters retreated thinking Scott is meant to be there after all. Stephenson invites him to be his guest at the game for the whole day. Dave even joins the cricketers for lunch. This was perhaps a defining moment for Dave Scott, one that certainly earned him a good thrashing that evening by his father, but also one that cemented his passion for the game of cricket.<sup>1</sup>

Dave was apprenticed to Henry Jackson’s Ironmongery and Sporting Warehouse in Bendigo and no longer had time for sport. He worked from 7:00am to 7:00pm on weekdays and until 10:00am on Saturdays. It is not until he moved to Melbourne to work for James McEwan Ironmongers that he had time to rekindle his passion. For several years he played cricket in various junior teams, one of which was Carlton Imperial Cricket Club alongside John (Jack) Healy, who went on to be a first-class cricketer and secretary of the Victorian Cricket Association (VCA).<sup>2</sup> Scott joined East Melbourne Cricket Club in 1872, and not much later, he induced Harry Boyle to come from Bendigo and join the team.



**Top:** The Boyle & Scott trademark, was a ball that featured an Australian kangaroo bowling to and English lion at the East Melbourne Cricket Ground.

**Right:** The first edition of *Boyle & Scott's Australian Cricketers' Guide*. (MCC Library Collection).



Harry Boyle with the 1878 Australians. The team wore uniforms that were identical to the blue and white of the East Melbourne Cricket Club.

**Back row:** F.R. Spofforth, J. Conway (manager), F.E. Allan.

**Middle row:** G.H. Bailey, T.P. Horan, T.W. Garrett, D.W. Gregory (captain), A.C. Bannerman, H.F. Boyle.

**Front row:** C. Bannerman, W.L. Murdoch, J.M. Blackham.

### An Australian Cricketer Comes of Age

In the same year that Dave was sneaking through fences to see famous cricketers, Harry Boyle was on his way to becoming one. At just 15 he was one of the 22 Sandhurst and District (Bendigo region) cricketers selected to play the visiting Victorian Intercolonial Eleven. In this match he took 4 wickets for 9 runs in the first innings, and 4 for 11 in the second.<sup>3</sup>

In January 1867, Harry Boyle and the Bendigo United C.C. played against the famous Aboriginal cricket XI.<sup>4</sup> This indigenous team was also Australia's first intercontinental cricket team, travelling to England in 1868. Boyle's career did not really take off until 1872 when he was selected to play in an intercolonial match against NSW.<sup>5</sup> Alfred E. Clarke, a prominent and well-resourced committee member of the East Melbourne C.C., began funding Harry Boyle's trips from Sandhurst every Saturday to play cricket for East Melbourne C.C.<sup>6</sup>

In 1873 Harry was chosen as one of the 15 to represent Victoria against England at the MCG. After only a few overs, he clean bowled the great man and captain, W.G. Grace. This match has been regarded as a turning point in Boyle's career.

### The Cricket Explosion – The Rise of Cricket after the 1872 English Tour

News spread far and wide of the Victorian team's success against England, and before long it seemed every business and suburb in the state was clamouring for a pitch. New clubs were springing up everywhere. By 1875 teams such as Jas McEwan's and Co. Junior C.C. v the Singer C.C. were listed alongside Albert-park C.C. v Brunswick C.C. in the "cricket appointments" for the afternoon.<sup>7</sup> That same year, it is believed, Dave Scott was nominated for hon. secretary of a newly formed Ironmongers C.C. The club was formed by players from the leading firms and had amassed 150 signatures of interest to commence play in the upcoming 1875-6 season.<sup>8</sup> This one club meeting attested to the growing popularity of the sport.

In 1878 Boyle was a member of the Australian team which toured England. This included another great win for the Australians when they defeated the Marylebone Cricket Club at Lord's in a single day, with Marylebone all out for 33 runs. The two most notable players being Spofforth and Boyle; Boyle taking nine wickets for 17 runs, and one of the nine "the best cricketer in the world," W.G. Grace. The Londoners were disgusted. If the 1873 England v Victoria match had lit a fire in Australia's belly for cricket, this 1878 win set the country ablaze.

### Boyle & Scott – The Sporting Goods Company

Celebrating his new found celebrity status and career, in August the following year "Harry Boyle & Co." opened for business at 41 Bourke Street east. The business was advertised as a sporting goods store with separate meeting rooms for the use of cricket clubs and their secretaries, and for the convenience of country cricketers.<sup>9</sup>

Within the first three months of operation a "Boyle & Scott Cup" had been introduced for junior cricketers, a cricketing booklet

with schedules and tips for cricketers had been produced, and juniors were scheduled to play against the Victorian intercolonial practice team.<sup>10</sup> Even though it was called a sporting store, it was fast becoming much more. When Boyle was overseas he was able to commission suppliers and look for the latest merchandise, hence the shop was always stocked with a vast array of quality equipment. Within six months of opening, Dave Scott stepped in to look after affairs while Boyle went on the 1880 English tour. The store was renamed Boyle & Scott.<sup>11</sup>

One of Boyle & Scott's major promotional achievements during the 13 years of operation was the organisation of the Cup matches. Interested junior clubs would register, then a meeting would be held for and a draw would take place to schedule the games. Teams would play for the coveted cup and there were also prizes for runners-up, best batsman, bowler, and many more categories. Many a promising player was



Right: Harry Boyle.

## The People Behind Boyle & Scott



### Henry (Harry) Frederick Boyle, 1847-1907

Boyle was a keen sportsman and mainly known for his success with cricket. He also played baseball for East Melbourne and football for Carlton. In his career as a cricketer, Boyle represented Victoria against NSW between 1875 and 1888, and was captain of the team six times. He travelled to England in 1878, '80,

'82, '84, '88, and in 1890 as manager. He was also a selector for the Australian team for a number of years. He started with the East Melbourne C.C. in the 1871/72 season, and played his final game in the 1896/97 season, totalling 26 years of senior and professional first-class cricket. He was also a member of the Civil Service C.C. in the 1870s.

When he wasn't touring, Boyle would share the day-to-day business tasks with Scott; managing the store and attending meetings and presentations. When overseas, he would negotiate with suppliers and select the finest sporting equipment and the best merchandise while Scott ran the store and attended engagements.

C.A. Reid, writing as "Umpire" for the *Mail* in 1924, tells us a little of Boyle's nature as a, "true cricketer, who takes good and bad fortune without a murmur, works hard from first to last, and sinks his own personal feelings in the interest of his side and the match."<sup>12</sup> This sentiment is also supported in Dave Scott's reminiscences who wrote, "It may not be generally known that when W.L. Murdoch made 153 (not out) in the test match Boyle sacrificed his wicket in a run out, and said, 'Billy, you are better than I am'."<sup>13</sup>



### David "the Almanac" Scott, 1847-1922

Scott was known as the Almanac because of his immense knowledge of cricketing facts. He could recount many things from memory and would often hold lectures and presentations without any written notes. He was the more sociable of the duo and known for his outgoing personality and his good natured demeanour.

If there was a gathering, Scott would likely be the chairperson or in the centre of proceedings; both in sport and in a number of areas in the suburb of Parkville in which he lived. He was a very active figure in his own community; a member of the Parkville Debating Society, and for a time president and a prize-giver of Parkville C.C.<sup>14</sup> He was chairperson at several community meetings and social events, including a protest about the placement of the Parkville post office and a meeting for the local member's candidature, John Laurens, MLA.<sup>15</sup> In an 1886 meeting of the Debating Society, Scott advocated strongly, with detailed and well-presented facts, for the rights of women to vote.<sup>16</sup>

Although Scott's cricketing career was not as illustrious as his partner's, it was certainly full and varied. He was a member of East Melbourne C.C. from 1872 to 1886 and during this time had a number of roles within the club. He went from a player in the second elevens to the second's secretary, to then become a general committee member and play in what were called either "non-player" or "muff" matches.<sup>17</sup> The Almanacs C.C. was a mid-week team Scott formed in 1883 that played until 1890. The team usually had an ex-player or two from an Australian XI, and the games were known to be enjoyable and entertaining. Another long term commitment was to the VCA as a delegate for the Bendigo United C.C. from 1879-94. He was an active participant, often raising or seconding matters at meetings. One instance sees Scott negotiating on behalf of the Victorian Eleven for a better rate of pay.<sup>18</sup>

Scott was involved in many cricketing circles. He was often a member of the planning group and amongst the welcoming committee to greet the cricketers from London, or welcome the Australians back home.<sup>19</sup> He knew all the great cricketers of the time. In 1886 he travelled with the Victorian team; once to Sydney as scorer, and once to Adelaide as manager.<sup>20</sup> In his role at Boyle & Scott, he also had opportunity to captain the occasional junior team.<sup>21</sup> He was well respected in the sporting community for his genial nature, his support of cricket and his memory for facts. Dave was also an avid writer and letters and columns signed by "Almanac" can be found in many Victorian and Australian papers.

### Ninion "Nin" Batchelor, 1853 -1938

Nin Batchelor was the third person in the Boyle & Scott firm. He was the secretary of the Boyle & Scott matches and the VJCA, and a prominent cricket player for the Capulet C.C. In his time with Boyle & Scott he organised the cup matches and the juniors. He was also one of the selection committee for the junior intercolonial teams and responsible for organising the Boyle & Scott matches against South Australia and New South Wales juniors from 1883-92. Matches were also organised with the juniors against the Victorian Eleven as practice. There juniors also competed against the English Eleven in 1888 and 1892.<sup>22</sup> Harry Hedley succinctly sums up Batchelor's contribution to junior cricket,

By the exercise of energy, courtesy, tact and unwavering impartiality, Mr Batchelor, who is unmistakably the cornerstone of junior cricket, has succeeded in conducting these interesting competitions through a term of [at the time] over 10 years with amazing success and an absence of bickering and dispute, which considering the excitement amidst these matches are played, is not a little remarkable... The height of his ambition was reached when 15 juniors selected from clubs competing for Boyle & Scott's Cup played a credible drawn match against Shrewsbury's powerful English eleven.<sup>23</sup>

It must have been Batchelor's absolute pride to once again lead the Boyle & Scott juniors into a match against Lord Sheffield's team in January, 1892 and see O'Shannassy, a junior from the Coburg team, bowl W.G. Grace for a single in his first innings. Another highlight of Nin's cricketing career was when he accompanied Harry Boyle and the Australian team to England in 1890.<sup>24</sup>



Marshall's Cricket and Football Depot, Isard's Cricketing and Football Warehouse, and the Carlton Cricket and Football Depot. By assuming the role as publisher of *The Footballer* Boyle & Scott prevented such rivals from advertising in its pages.

Boyle & Scott was more than a cricket equipment shop and catered for popular sports such as football, lawn bowls and boxing, as well as many novel sports that were then finding a place in the Victorian community like lawn tennis, lacrosse,

croquet, fencing, baseball, "and all kinds of in and out-door games".<sup>27</sup> After the baseball tour in 1888, Harry Simpson, the personal secretary of the tour's backer and sporting goods manufacturer Albert Spalding, stayed on with Boyle & Scott to help promote the game of baseball in Australia. Baseball proved to be a popular winter sport and a number of the Australian XI would play it (as well as football) in the

off season.<sup>28</sup> But cricket remained the main passion of the owners.

In 1887 the VCA finally accepted a proposal to form a junior association. The following month Dave Scott announced its formation to over 600 representatives of junior clubs. He stated that after a conference with the senior association was likely to benefit both senior and junior clubs and, it was more than

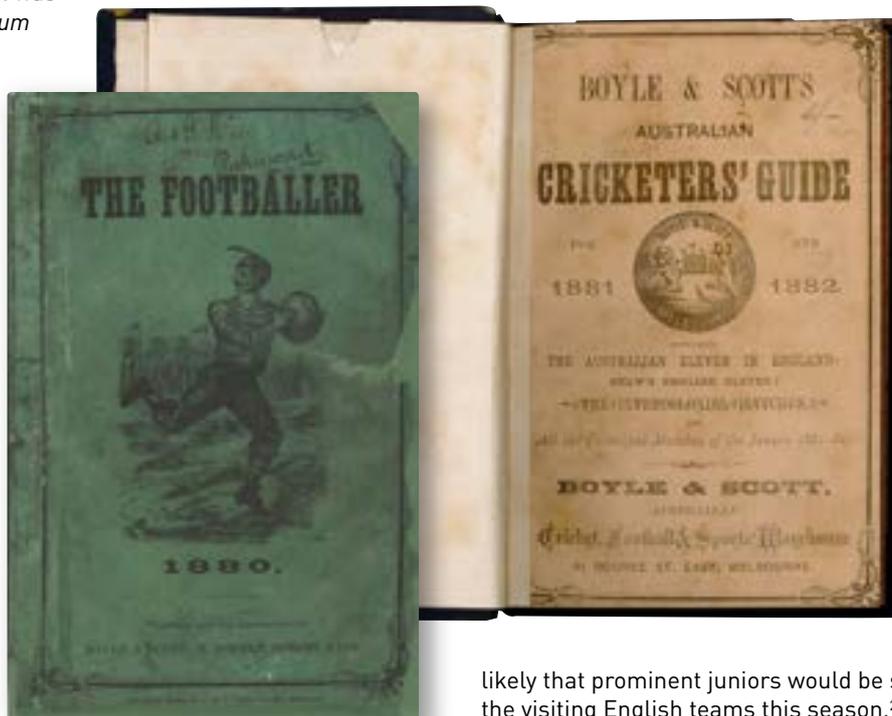
likely that prominent juniors would be selected to play against the visiting English teams this season.<sup>29</sup> Nin Bachelor, a prominent player of the Capulet team and secretary already to the Boyle & Scott Cup matches, was nominated the association's secretary.<sup>30</sup>

In the late 1880s, interest in senior cricket dwindled while crowds swelled at the junior matches. It is mentioned in an article how the crowds flocked in the thousands to see the junior cricket where the senior matches attracted empty benches.<sup>31</sup>

promoted through the ranks over the years including Harry Trott, the McLeod brothers and Jim Kelly. John (Jack) Ryder Snr. was an old Boyle & Scott Cup cricketer. Even though it was only one of several sponsored cup matches at the time, another being the Sports Depot trophy, it was the "good old days of the Boyle & Scott juniors" that was remembered by cricketers many years later.<sup>25</sup>

Another achievement was the cricket *vade mecum* first published in 1879. It was the first in the series of the *Australian Cricketers' Guides* printed each year for five years. In this first edition, Boyle recounted games with England, both in Melbourne and overseas. Scott, who was the main author of the booklet, included many tips and cricketing curiosities for the interested cricketer or fan. The guide also contained names of clubs and addresses of secretaries. It was favourably compared to Lillywhite's cricket publication in England in an article written in *The Queenslander* newspaper on November 6, 1880.<sup>26</sup> This initial volume cost sixpence but was sent to the newspapers in each state free of charge.

During the winter months Boyle & Scott Cup matches were also run for the junior football clubs and the *Footballer*, an annual established in 1875, was published for the Victorian Football Association by Boyle & Scott in 1880 and 1881. In the 1879 edition of *The Footballer* Boyle & Scott shared advertising space with well established sports goods retailers like



**Top:** The Pavilion at the East Melbourne Cricket Ground that featured on the Boyle & Scott trademark.

**Centre:** *The Footballer* of 1880, the first edition of this annual published by Boyle & Scott, and *Boyle & Scott's Australian Cricketers' Guide* for 1881/82. (MCC Library collection.)



Another writer referred to the state of Victorian cricket as “depressed”, and to junior cricket as “never having been more prosperous”.<sup>32</sup> Harry Hedley as “Mid-On” wrote of a meeting he attended regarding the Boyle & Scott Cup matches,

“I found nine gentlemen assembled, and while listening to their deliberations I solved the secret of at least one great difference between senior and junior cricket in Victoria.”

Hedley described the meeting in detail where all grievances were listened to respectfully and discussed with a complete absence of personal feeling and an aim to “work a point”. He further suggested this could be a lesson in reviving the interest in senior cricket:

“Why senior cricket should wallow in the slough of despond while the junior matches interest and attract thousands weekly has for some seasons been asked in vain. I cannot help thinking that I have struck it in the explanation that while the juniors work amicably, with a desire to make their game popular, nearly every member of the senior association seems to be intent on grinding his own axe.”<sup>33</sup>

After an account such as this, it is easy to see why Boyle & Scott’s shop in Bourke Street soon became *the* gathering place in Melbourne for cricketers and sportsmen.

### The End of an Era

Boyle & Scott ran a successful business from its inception in 1879 until it changed hands 13 years later to become the Victorian Cricketing and Sports Company Ltd. The Boyle & Scott competitions still ran for several years under the new ownership, but the founders were rarely involved. The reason for the cessation of the business is not known, and can only be speculated. In the early 1890s an economic depression gripped the eastern colonies of Australia and there was barely money for food let alone an entrance fee for sports or to buy sporting equipment. Perhaps this was a factor that contributed to the closure of the business, or perhaps Tom Horan, in an article written three months prior, discussed another possible cause for dissent.

He wrote many junior clubs would recruit senior players to help them win. This was a practice that Boyle & Scott did not subscribe to, however, rules to stop this appeared difficult to enforce. He also stated that while Boyle & Scott would aspire to promote juniors to senior ranks, the attitude in senior circles was, “Once a junior, always a junior”.<sup>34</sup> The opinion regarding the clear division of junior and senior players was reiterated in later years by J.T. Sitch, chairman of the VJCA, where he claimed there was “little interest of the VCA in looking out for

promising players.”<sup>35</sup> Whatever the reason for the company’s change of hands, it was not made public at the time. Horan paid Boyle & Scott a great tribute when he announced the company’s closure:

“The news that the well-known cricket firm of Boyle and Scott have given up business has caused surprise and regret in cricket circles in Melbourne, and I doubt not a similar feeling will obtain in country districts and in other colonies, where their names are as familiar as household words... The remarkable development of junior cricket will ever be remembered to the credit of the firm... Personally, I feel as if an old friend has gone never to come back.”<sup>36</sup>

### “To the green fields of the Great Unknown”<sup>37</sup>

– Dave Scott (1917)

The “Boyle & Scott Cup” matches continued after the company closed, but only for a few years. The men who had been instrumental in supporting all things cricket went their separate ways. Little is known of Batchelor after his days with the company. His obituary states he was a lacrosse pioneer, and a newsagent in Fitzroy for many years. He was acknowledged after his death in 1938 as being an “old-time enthusiast” and “prominent in the management” of the Boyle & Scott competition.<sup>38</sup>

Boyle started a new venture with an old colleague from his days before cricket fame at the Land and Mines Department. The company is called “Miller and Boyle”, specialising as, “Legal managers, mining, financial and land agents and so forth.”<sup>39</sup> In 1894 Boyle also took up the role that Scott relinquished on the VCA as Bendigo United C.C. representative. Between 1894 and before his death in 1907, Boyle had many roles other than what he was famous for. He lived in Queensland and Tasmania where he played the odd cricket game, and for a time lived in the mountains of Walhalla.<sup>40</sup> Whilst in Walhalla he was a superintendent of a large area of unexplored territory in Gippsland; his job to accept or reject the construction of bridle tracks around the mountains. He also had employment as a “collector for the benevolent asylum” in 1903 and in 1894 had taken up 200 acres for alluvial working in Bacchus Marsh.<sup>41</sup> Boyle died in 1907 after a battle with cancer. The papers later remembered him as, the first man to bowl Dr W.G. Grace in Australia.<sup>42</sup>

Within a few months of the company closure, it was reported Scott opened a boot shop in the former Boyle & Scott building in Bourke Street.<sup>43</sup> But, he is not done with cricket. In 1893 Scott applies to the Australian



Left: The inaugural Boyle & Scott Challenge Cup won by Capulet Cricket Club, 1879-80. [Kindly on loan to the MCC Museum from the Collingwood Football Club.]



Cricket Council to manage the Australian Eleven in England in 1896. His request is unsuccessful and unlike his colleagues Batchelor and Boyle, Scott never makes it out of Australia.<sup>44</sup> Later that year, Scott travelled to Rutherglen where he roused up the locals into organised cricket. He opened a new Sports Depot store and initiated an "Almanac and Shamrock Trophy".<sup>45</sup> The next account of Scott's employment is not until 1900 when he is back in Melbourne and employed at Foy and Gibson's in the Sports Depot.<sup>46</sup>

In 1910 Scott reopened the "Boyle and Scott" sports depot with his son David J. Scott. A new "Boyle and Scott Association" was formed and junior matches once again scheduled.<sup>47</sup> In 1915 the Great War called young David J. Scott and many other young lads to war, and the store and the games ceased once again. In 1916 Scott donated much of his cricket memorabilia to charity auctions to support the war efforts. In 1922, just

after the start of the cricket season, Scott dies at the age of 75.

For a little over a decade, nothing was heard of "Boyle & Scott" unless in fond reminiscence. That is, until an excerpt of a letter is printed in *The Age* newspaper in support of Larwood's character regarding "Leg-theory bowling", better known in Australia as the Bodyline scandal of 1933.<sup>48</sup> The original copy of letter, signed "Boyle and Scotts" may be found on file at the Bradman Museum at Bowral, NSW, and with it, a forwarding note to Larwood advising him to, "Tell England all Australians do not think alike," signed by W.H.K. (verified as Wm. H. Kosky).<sup>49</sup> No connection can be made between Kosky and any of Scott's descendants, but the letter shows that even 40 years after the company's closure the name of Boyle & Scott is still being used as an authority on all things cricket.

**Louise Zedda-Sampson** is a Melbourne-based writer and editor.

## Showcasing the "Boyle & Scott Challenge Cup" in the Melbourne Cricket Club Museum

*By Megan Rowland*

On October 5, 1879, a Melbourne newspaper reported that "a handsome cup, the bowl formed of an emu egg surrounded with fern decorations, has been offered by Messrs. H.F. Boyle and Co., for competition amongst the leading clubs of Melbourne and suburbs."<sup>50</sup> Thus began what would soon be known as the Boyle & Scott Challenge Cup, one of Victoria's most popular cricket competitions of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Unlike many other popular sporting trophies of the time, the prize of the Boyle & Scott Challenge Cup was not a perpetual one. Instead, the proprietors of Boyle & Scott's Australian Cricket, Football and Sports Warehouse donated a new, elaborate trophy each season. Varying in materials and style year-to-year, it wasn't long before some of the more successful junior clubs amassed quite a collection. Indeed, the Collingwood-based Capulet Cricket Club dominated the early years of the competition, claiming the title four times in the first five years. The Melbourne Cricket Club Museum is fortunate to have the first, third and fourth of these trophies currently on loan from the Collingwood Football Club, including the aforementioned 1879/80 emu egg trophy – the inaugural Challenge Cup.

For each season between 1884/85 and 1889/90, at the height of the competition's popularity, an ornate silver cup was also donated by Oliver McLean to the runners up. Known as the McLean Cup, the wealthy co-



founder of Melbourne ironmongery and hardware firm McLean Bros & Rigg showed his fine taste in the intricate electroplated silver cups he selected. Often more delicate and detailed than the main prize – though never larger – the McLean Cup was traditionally displayed alongside the Challenge Cup in the shop window of Boyle & Scott before being presented. In 1890, *The Age* wrote of the two prizes:

"The principal trophy is a splendid piece of plate wrought in silver and gold. It stands about 2 feet high on its pedestal, and is surmounted by the figure of a cricketer keeping wickets and in the act of "taking" a ball... The other cup is of distinctly different design, and, of course, is not of the same imposing character. It is, however, a very handsome trophy, and will be a worthy memorial of the plucky manner in which runners up fought for first place in the list."<sup>51</sup>

**The 1889/90 Challenge Cup and McLean Cup described above, in addition to many other highly decorative 19th century Boyle & Scott trophies, can be viewed on display in the MCC Museum from December 2.**

**Megan Rowland** is the Curator of the NSM's Boyle & Scott display.

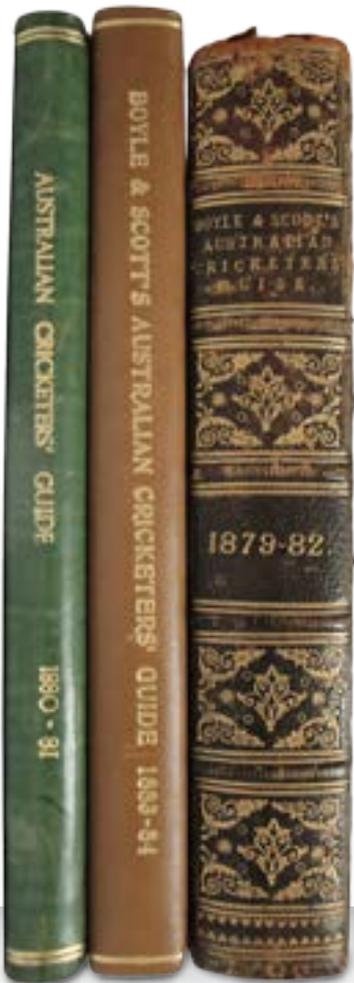
**Left:** McLean Cup presented to Hawksburn Cricket Club as the runners up in the Boyle & Scott Challenge Cup, 1889-90. (MCC Museum collection M13255.)



Above: The a panorama of the East Melbourne Cricket Ground in the 1880s.  
 Below: A selection of Boyle & Scott's Australian Cricketers' Guides in the MCC Library collection.

**Endnotes**

- 1 "Dave Scott, the Almanac. How he planned to see H.H. Stephenson's Eleven", *Referee*, February 13, 1918, p.12.
- 2 Dave Scott, "Tribute from one of the old brigade", *Referee*, May 24, 1916, p. 13.
- 3 Dave Scott, "Some reminiscences", *The Argus*, November 22, 1907, p.4. "Notable Sportsmen. Mr Henry Frederick Boyle", *Queenscliff Sentinel, Drysdale, Portarlington and Sorrento Advertiser*, June 1, 1889, p.3.
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- 5 "New South Wales v. Sandhurst", *Leader*, April 13, 1872, p.11.
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- 18 Felix [Tom Horan], "Cricket Chatter", *Australasian*, November 27, 1880, p.44.
- 19 "Sports and games", *Advocate*, October 30, 1880, p.15. Felix [Tom Horan], "Cricket Chatter", *Australasian*, December 8, 1883, pp.11-12.
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- 21 Felix [Tom Horan], "Cricket Chatter", *Australasian*, November 27, 1880, p.11.
- 22 "Lillywhite's Eleven v Eighteen Juniors. A draw in favour of the juniors", *The Age*, January 9, 1888, p.5. Felix [Tom Horan], "Among the juniors", *Australasian*, January 30, 1892, p.18.
- 23 Mid-On [Harry Hedley], "The Juniors in the Cricket Field", *The Age*, March 24, 1890, p.6.
- 24 "Obituary. Mr Ninion Bachelor", *The Argus*, April 5, 1938, p.11. Special Correspondent, "The Seventh Australian Eleven in England", *Australasian*, July 19, 1890, p.11.
- 25 Not Out [J C Davis], "Boys of the old Brigade", *Referee*, February 9, 1916, p. 12.
- 26 "Australian Cricketers' Guide", *The Queenslander*, November 6, 1880, p.590. It is unclear if the writer is referring to James Lillywhite's *Cricketers' Annual*, or John Lillywhite's *Cricketers' Companion*, or both.
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- 33 Mid-On [Harry Hedley], "Cricket. Cricket Gossip", *Leader*, October 5, 1889, p.19.
- 34 Felix [Tom Horan], "Cricket Chatter", *Australasian*, December 12, 1891, pp.17-18.
- 35 "Boyle and Scott v VJCA", *The Age*, January 31, 1912, p.13.
- 36 Felix [Tom Horan], "Cricket Chatter", *Australasian*, March 5, 1892, pp.18-19.
- 37 Dave Scott (the Almanac), "More Reminiscences", *The Referee*, May 23, 1917, p.13.
- 38 "Nin Batchelor passes. Old-time enthusiast", *Sporting Globe*, April 6, 1938, p.3.
- 39 Olympus [George Bowen], "Sport and Play", *Melbourne Punch*, December 28, 1893, pp.10-11.
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- 42 Mid-On [Harry Hedley], "Death of Mr H.F. Boyle. A Famous Cricketer", *The Age*, November 22, 1907, p.5.
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# Welcome to West Indies

The West Indies first Australian Test tour in 1930/31.

The MCC Library match day fact sheets for each day of the 2015 Boxing Day Test cover one of the five Test matches from the West Indies first Test tour of Australia in 1930/31. Although the series was won by Australia 4-1 there was great interest in the visit of the team from the Caribbean.

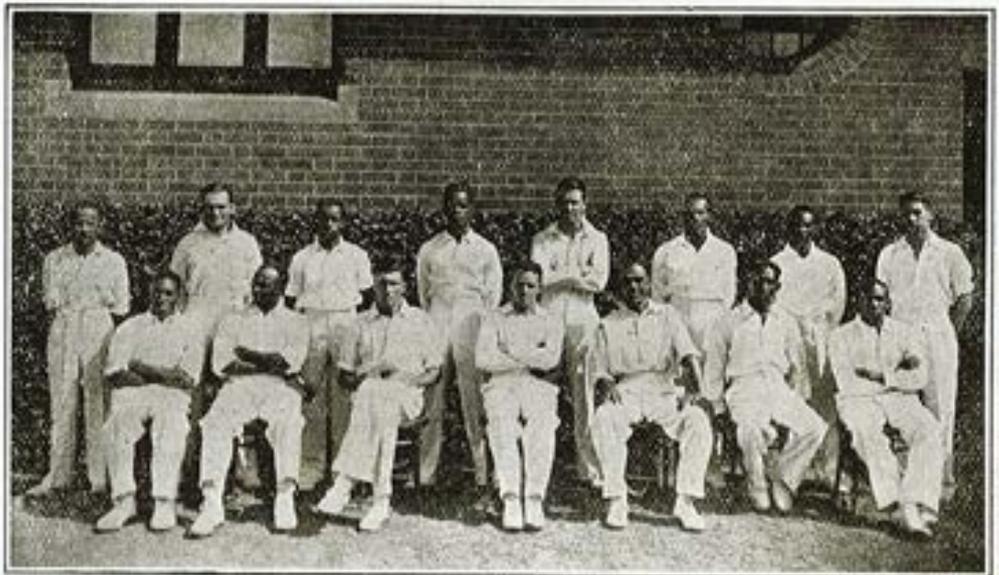
The Library collection contains two scrapbooks on the tour. One was compiled by Les R. Hill of Mount Gambier and came to the library as part of the famous P.J. "Pat" Mullins collection in 1988. The other was from the magnificent series of scrapbooks donated by Mr Stan Richards in 2004.<sup>1</sup>

The tour was announced on September 18, 1929 at the Australian Board of Control's annual meeting.

The West Indies Board had written requesting the opportunity to tour. As the Australian Board had already locked in a tour by South Africa in 1931/32 they opted to invited the West Indies in 1930/31 after the Australians had returned home from their 1930 Ashes tour of England.

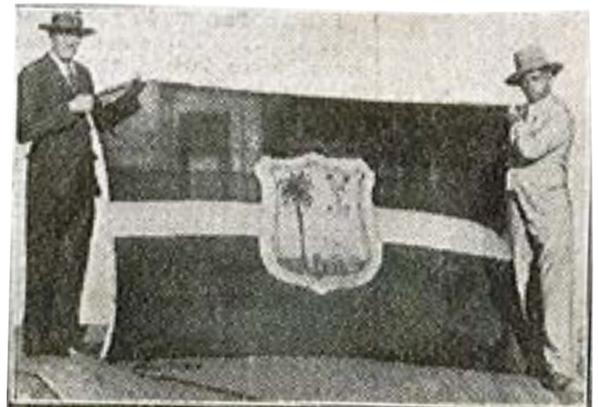
This was the heyday of the "White Australia" immigration policy that was strongly enforced the Australian Cricket Board had to vouch to the Commonwealth government that the black members of the West Indian team would leave the country at the end of the tour. Indeed, in spite of West Indian Board of Control informing the Australian Board that all their players should reside at the same hotels, after arriving in Sydney at the beginning of their tour the team found separate lodgings had been arranged. The West Indian Board formally complained to the Australian authorities about the team accommodation being split between hotels on racial lines and this was rectified for the rest of the tour.

## West Indies Touring Team 1930 - 31



**Back Row :** E. L. Bartlett, O. S. Wight, J. E. D. Sealy, E. Hunte, F. I. DeCaires, E. St. Hill, G. Headley, I. Barrow.

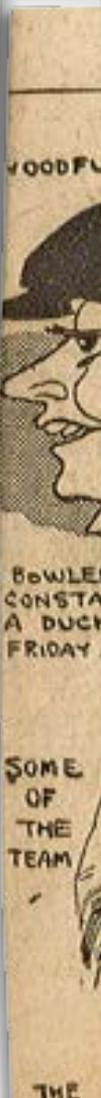
**Front Row :** G. Francis, H. C. Griffith, L. S. Birkett, (Vice-Capt.), G. C. Grant, (Capt.), O. C. Scott, C. A. Roach, L. N. Constantine.



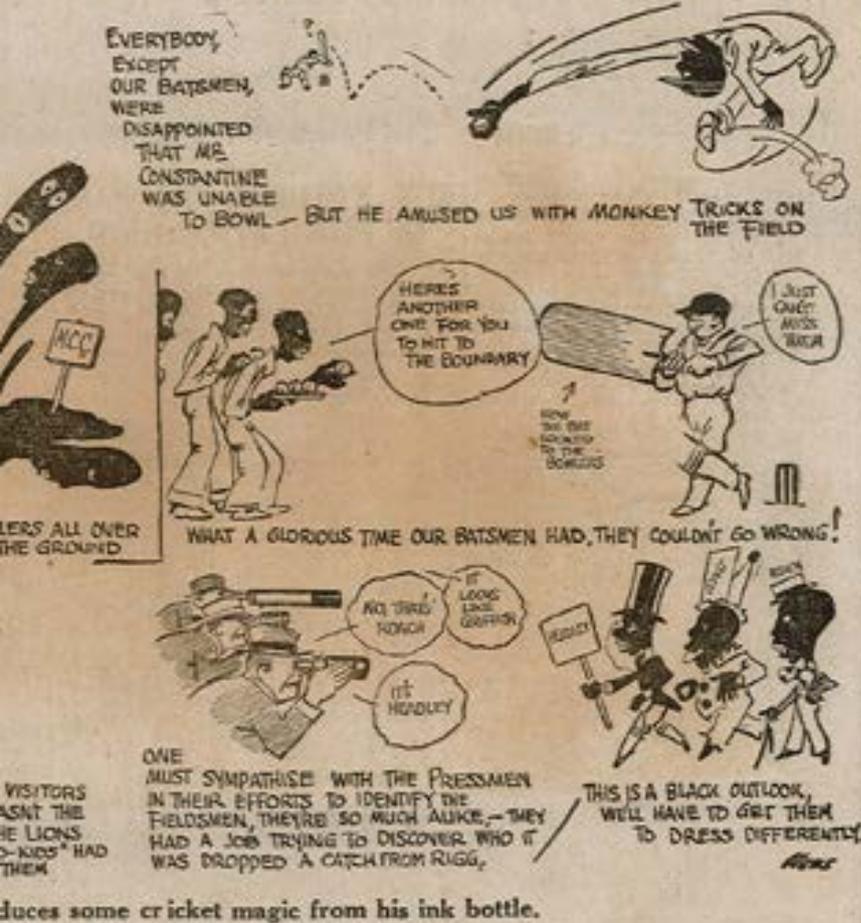
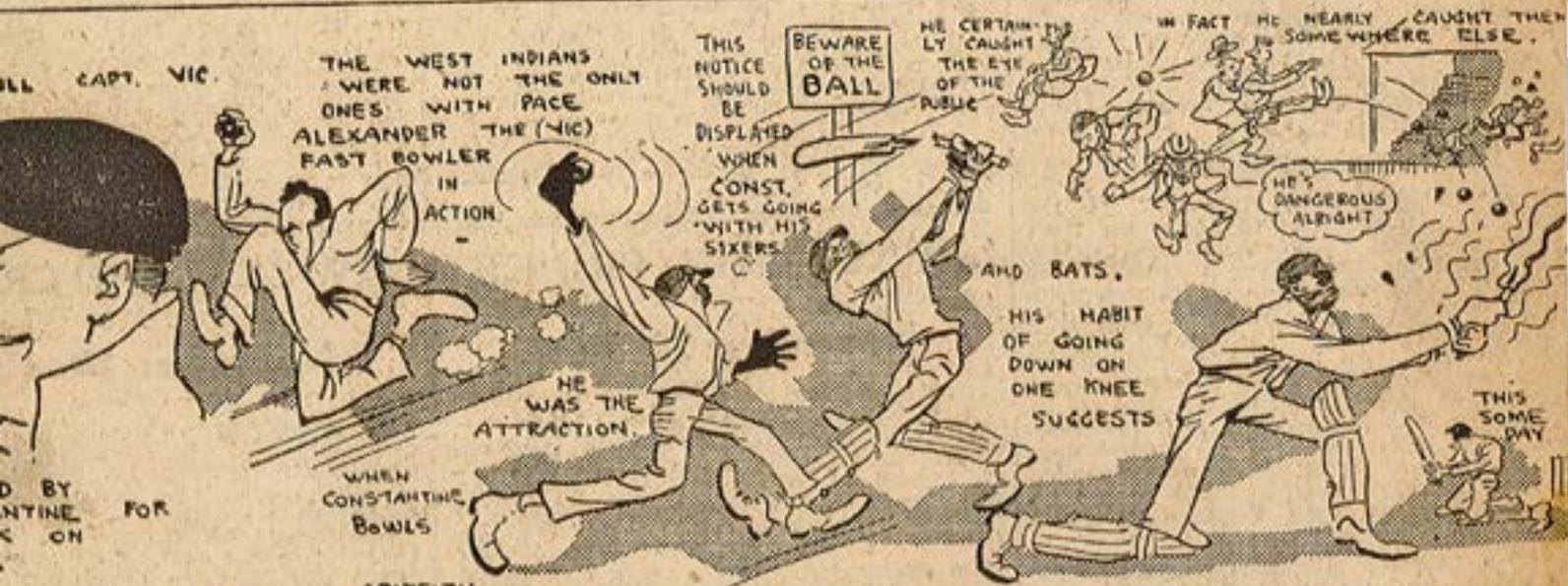
Members of the West Indies team photographed with their flag. L. S. Birkett (left) and J. E. D. Sealy.

The West Indies touring party to Australia comprised 16 players; seven whites and 11 "natives". In an era where the teams were always captained by white men, Hubert Preston noted in the 1932 Wisden that 24 year old "G. C. Grant carried out his duties as captain with judgment and headed the batting averages."

The scrapbooks contain a range of cartoons and caricatures, many of which would seem politically incorrect to today's readers, and in some cases blatantly racist to our standards, but they encapsulate the attitudes of the time in Australia long past. However, they also contain some charming sketches by "Zip" and Well's example of good will shown in his cartoon, *The New Handshake*, captioned "Wells expresses the view of the Australian cricket public on the appearance of the West Indian Cricketers."



"ZIP" SEES THE WEST INDIES MEN AT PLAY



### The Colored Bradman

"THE colored Bradman," as G. Headley is known, is one of the most popular members of the popular West Indian cricket team. The title was bestowed upon him after the visit of the last English team to the West Indies. In four Tests he made four centuries. Two of them were compiled in one match, and in the last Test he showed that he had contracted the Bradman habit by knocking up 233.

Headley, who is only 21, is nothing if not a class batsman. Experts say that his batting is prettier than that of Bradman. He makes his strokes in a more attractive way than Australia's wonder cricketer.



G. Headley

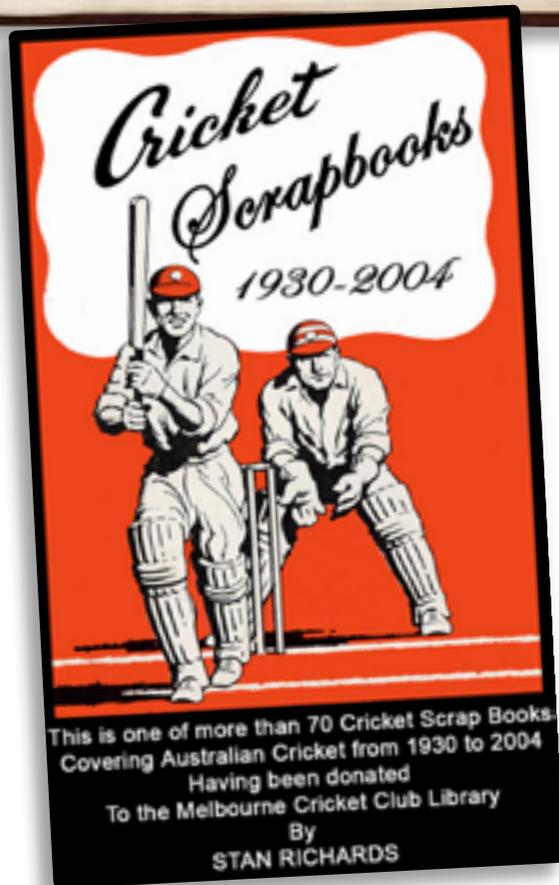


In the very spirit of Wells' cartoon and in contrast to the "White Australia" policy, the team received a very positive reception from the Australia public throughout the tour. The two scrap books contain many photographs of the players signing autographs for boys and girls, with one report noting that "The M.C.C. [MCG] has become a happy hunting ground for autograph collectors, and members of the West Indies cricket team have their patience tested daily by a host of demands"<sup>5</sup> while another recorded that "besieged by autograph hunters, members of the West Indies cricket team obliged good-humoredly with their signatures at the M.C.C. yesterday Here is George Headley surrounded by hero-worshippers."<sup>6</sup>



The cricketing public came to appreciate the efforts of the players including greats of the game such as Leary Constantine and George Headley.

For more details on the five Tests matches played during the 1930/31 West Indies tour of Australia, collect the Library Factsheets for Days 1-5 of the 2015 Boxing Day Test which are available from the MCC library or off the MCC Webpage.



**Endnotes**

- 1 Mr Richards produced 72 scrapbooks between 1930 and 2004. He attended Melbourne high School where he studied under Bill Woodfull and played a range of different sports with Keith Miller and baseball with "Bluey" Truscott.
- 2 <http://www.espnricinfo.com/wisdenalmanack/content/story/155210.html>
- 3 Les Hill, *British West Indies tour of Australia 1930-1*, p.22.
- 4 Stan Richards Scrapbook, *West Indian Tour of Australia 1930-31*, p.3.
- 5 *Ibid*, p.9.
- 6 *Ibid*, p.6.

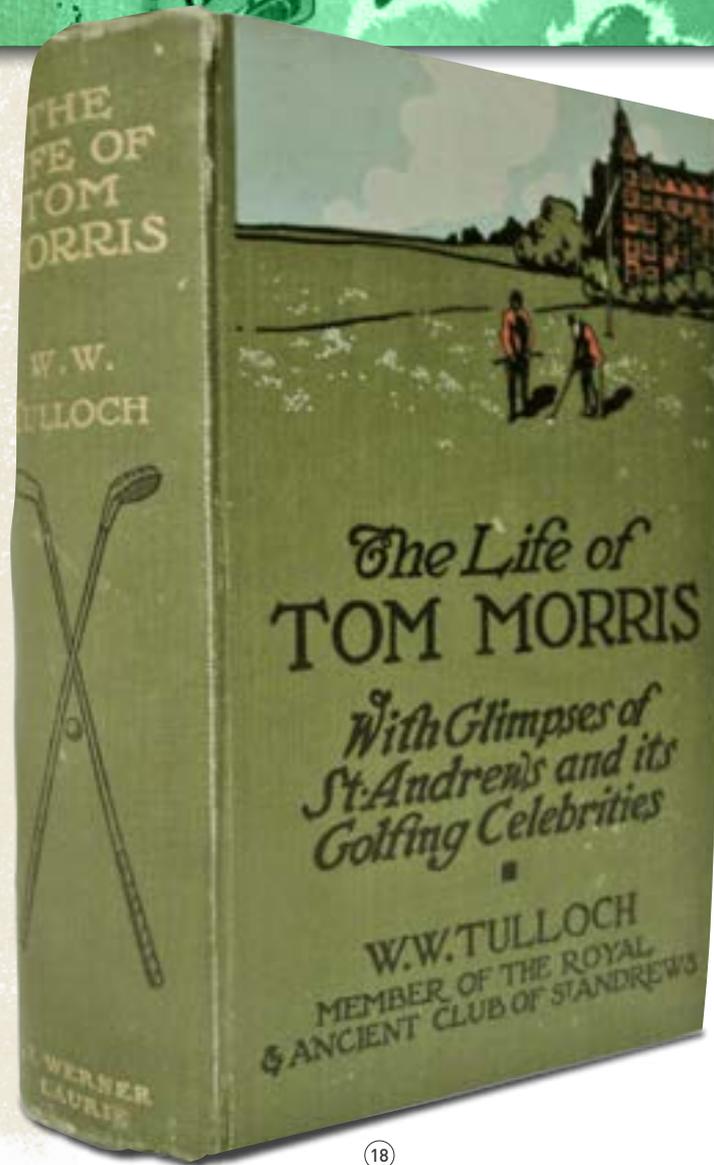
# MCC Library's golf collection

Earlier this year we were fortunate to have Jennifer Jaeger from Ankh Antiquarian Books<sup>1</sup> assist us with the acquisition of a range of items from Australian golf book collector Paul Daley which help supplement the MCC Library's golf holdings.

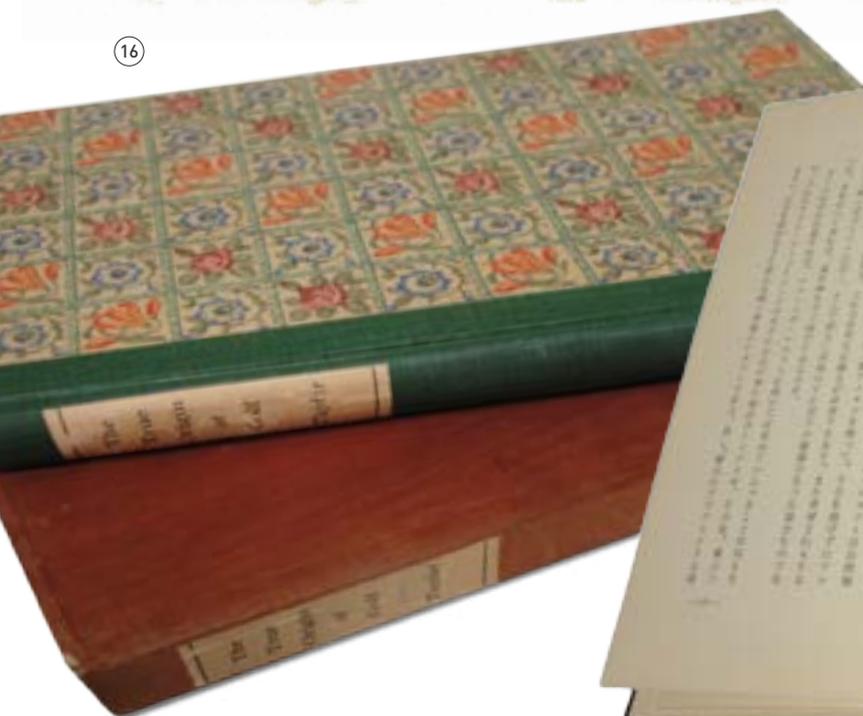
While the MCC Golf Section was founded in 1998 as a special interest group, and became a full sporting section of the club in 2003, the Library has collected golf books since the early 1970s, with the donation of the MINTERLIB (Municipal Interlibrary Committee) collection of sporting books and the Fr F.M. Chamberlin, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral. A wide range of MCC members are golfers and the library staff regularly receive requests from them regarding the acquisition of golf books.

These holdings were supplemented by the Margaret Armitstead and Beverley Savige Cultural Gifts donation of golfing material from the estate of Geoffrey Vincent Walter in April 1995 (121 items in total). Walter was the long time golf professional for the Melbourne Sports Depot. In his position he collected a wide range of golf material, both technique and historical. Many of his books were US publications, not readily available in Australia, and these filled gaps in the library collection.

The items that the club were offered from the Daley collection also filled gaps, with many rare and scarce items published in Australia, Great Britain, the USA. There is even one from Japan; a translation of Abe Mitchell's *Down to Scratch*.<sup>2</sup>



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## Endnotes

- 1 <http://ankhantiquarianbooks.com.au>
- 2 For many year Abe Mitchell was Sam Ryder's personal golf instructor and the golfing figure depicted on the top of the Ryder Cup trophy reflects the

image of Mitchell who was due to captain the inaugural British team in 1927. However, a bout of appendicitis prevented Mitchell from competing. He did return to compete for Great Britain in 1929, 1931 and 1933.

The Daley material covers a variety of golfing themes, including fiction, an area that was not covered by the Walter collection. These include Pentland Peile's *Clanbrae: a golfing idyll* (Edinburgh, 1908), Gerald Batchelor's *Golf Stories* (London, 1914) P.G. Wodehouse's *The clicking of Cuthbert* (London, 1922), Cecil Finn Tucker's *19<sup>th</sup> hole romances* (Melbourne, 1927), John Ressich's *Thir Braw Days* (London, 1933), Joseph T Shaw's *Out of the rough* (Sydney, 1937) and K.R.G. Browne's *As we lie* (London, 1937).

The instructional works include items such as Horace Hutchinson's *Golfing* (London, 1893) the charming little *Golf do's and dont's* by "Stancliffe" (London, 1902) P.A.Vaile's *Modern Golf* (London, 1909) and *The New Golf* (New York, 1916), H.B. Martin's *What's wrong with your game?* (London, 1930) and May Hazlett's *Ladies' Golf* (London, 1904).

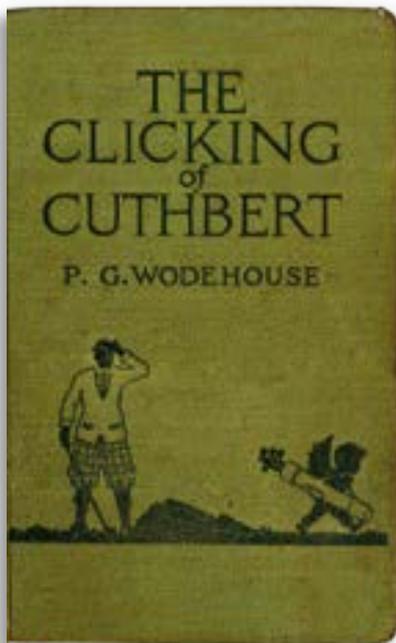
Golf course histories includes H.S.C. Everard's *A history of the Royal & Ancient Golf club St Andrews from 1754-1900* (Edinburgh, 1907) and Bernard Darwin's *The golf courses of*

*the British Isles* (London, 1920) which was lavishly illustrated by Harry Rowntree, while one of the highlights of the items on golf course design is Dr Alister Mackenzie's *Golf architecture* (London, 1920). Biographies include *The life of Tom Morris* by W.W. Tulloch (London, 1908) and J.H. Taylor's *Golf: my life's work* (London, 1943), which contains a charming frontispiece of Taylor and W.G. Grace in their golfing attire.

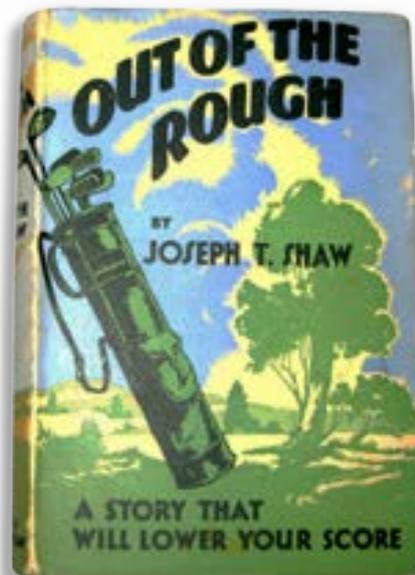
Visitors to the library that wish to examine some of these items will find most of the golf books on the open shelves in the Multi Sports section of the library, with the rare items displayed in the glass cabinets and some of the more fragile items located in golf storage.

David Studham

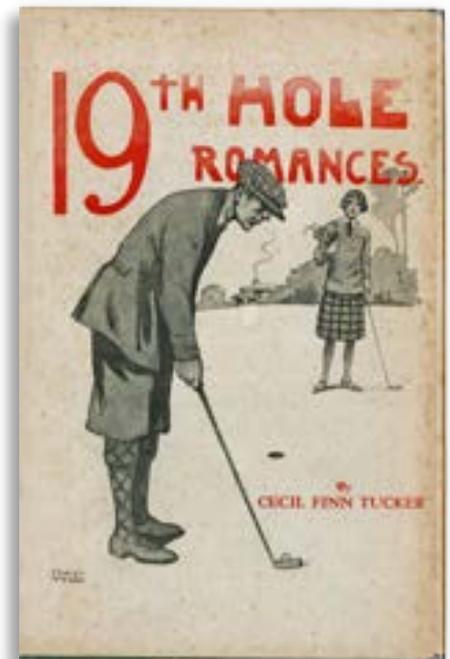
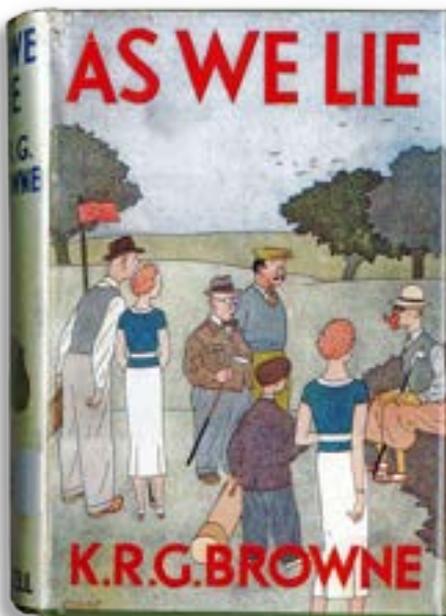
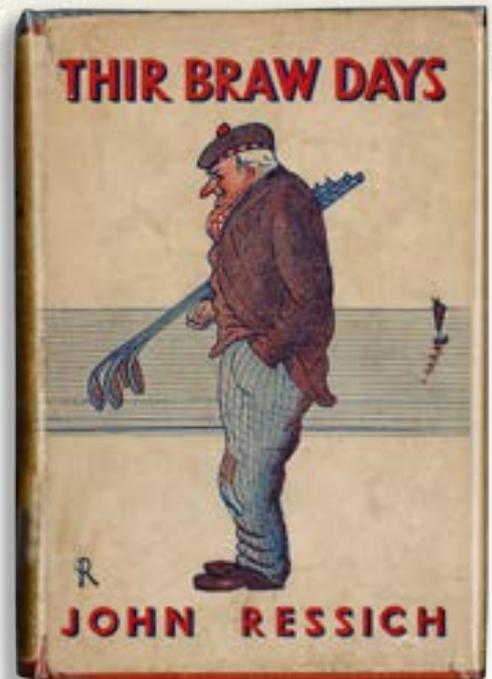
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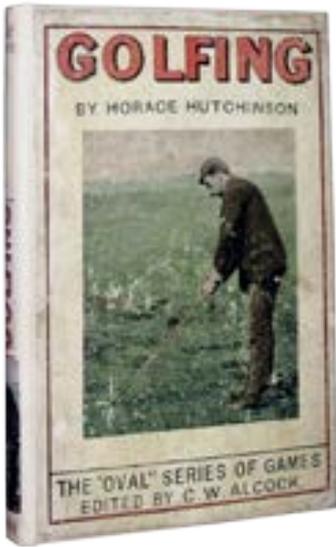


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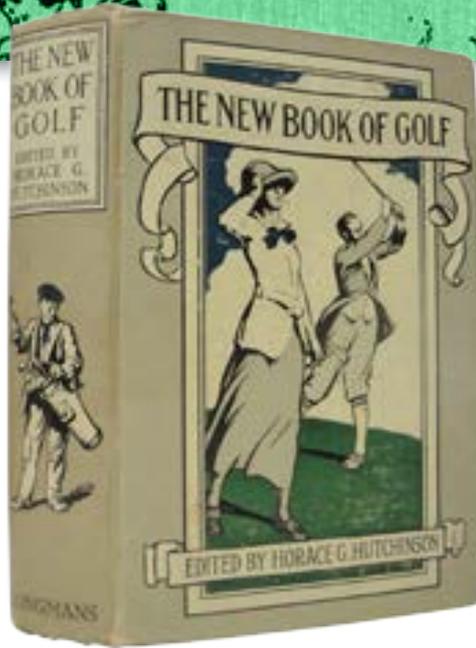
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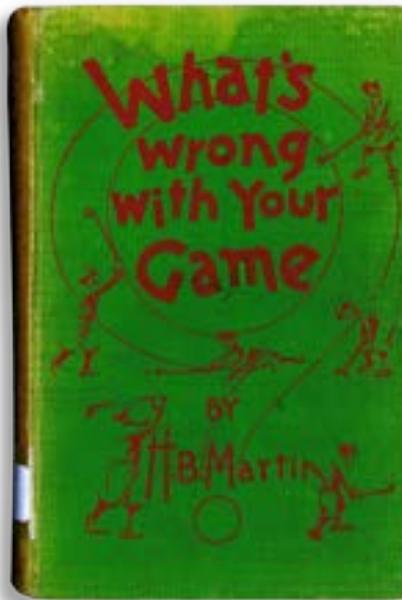
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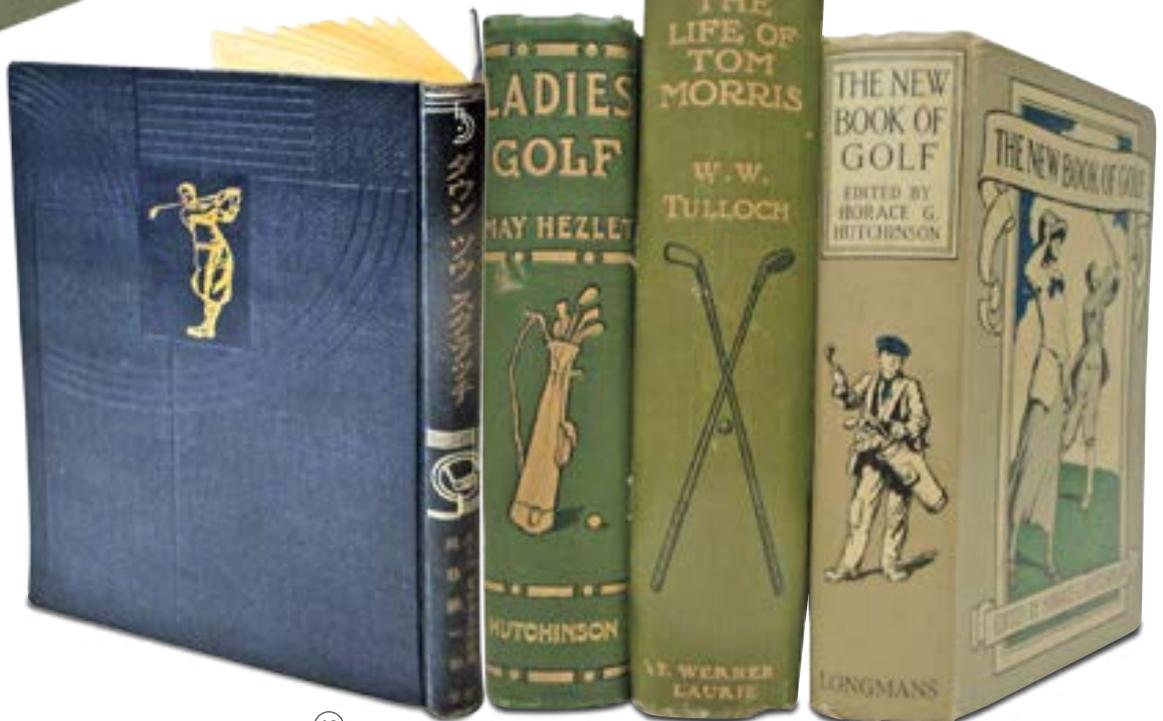
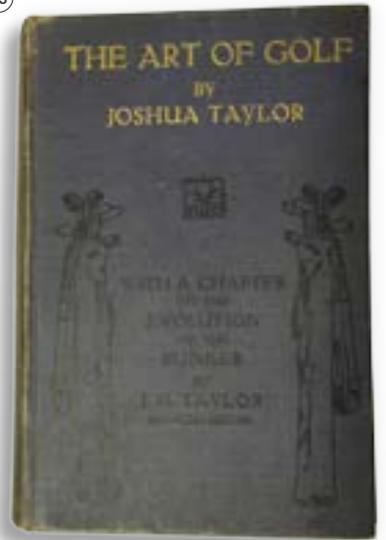
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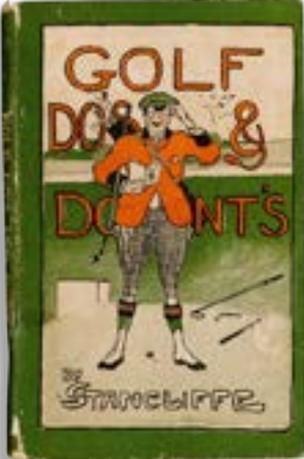
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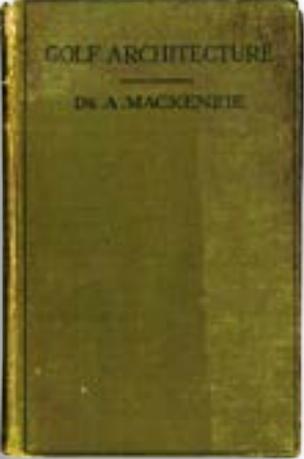
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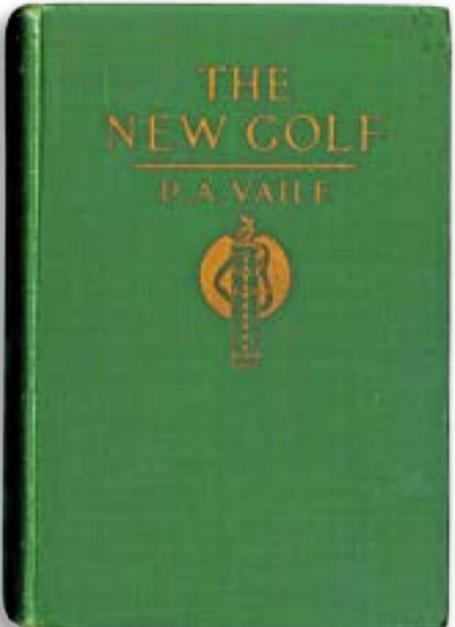
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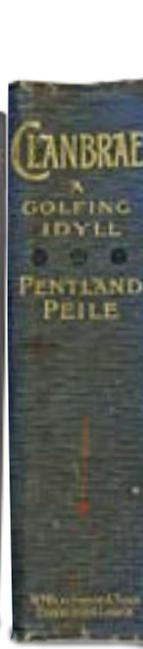
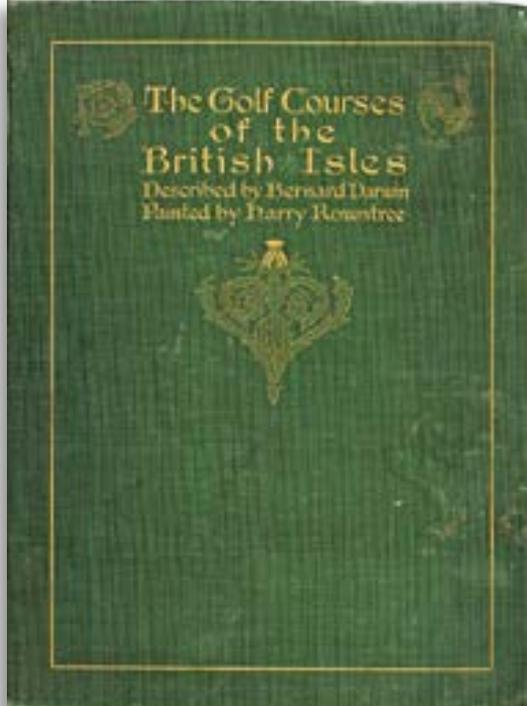
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# Treasures of the MCC Collection

## Decorative Boxes

By Ann Rusden

Among the treasures of the MCC Collection are a number of little decorative boxes with a cricket theme. These are variously described as snuff boxes, patch boxes or pill boxes but all have in common a decorated lid. Some were produced to celebrate important dates in the history of cricket while others were obviously made for the collectors' market but each one is a beautiful work of art.

One of the first examples of a commercial souvenir is an eighteenth century Bilston patch box from the Anthony Baer Collection (top right). This little box is enamelled copper, transfer-printed and hand painted. The lid features a cricket match and has the inscription "Sevenoaks Vine". The Sevenoaks Vine Cricket Club is a very active club today. Its website informs readers that it "plays Premier League cricket on one of the most historic grounds in the country with a heritage stretching back to 1734 and before." (It is noted that they were Champions of Kent 2014.)

The painting that was reproduced on the lid, *A Cricket Match at Mary-le-bone Fields*, was painted in 1740 by Francis Hayman, R.A. (1708-1776) and is in the collection at Lord's.

The painting (right) has traditionally been believed to depict Marylebone Fields (now Regent's Park). It shows the early traits of the game of cricket – the curved bat, two stump wicket, underarm bowling, umpires carrying bats, and two scorers in the foreground, notching scores on to sticks. Hayman's painting acted as the template for many of the eighteenth and early nineteenth century depictions of cricket. However its early history is still a mystery and it is not known who commissioned it or when it first hung at



Above: [MCC Museum collection M5368]



Lord's. Francis Hayman was a founder member of the Royal Academy in 1768 and a set painter at the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane. Together with William Hogarth he is credited with the other early depiction of cricket which decorated one of the supper boxes at the famously disreputable Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens.

Possibly the oldest box in the collection is an oval-shaped one made from tin with a copper lid. This lid has an engraved image of a cricketer whose dress and bat denote the eighteenth century. The words "Oxfordshire Cricket Club" are engraved around the edge of the lid (left). A similar image appears on an Oxfordshire C.C. admission ticket for 1787.

Left: [MCC Museum collection M6637.2]



## Regency and Victorian Boxes

Nineteenth century boxes are well represented in the collection. Most were a part of the Baer donation. Tony Baer had amassed an extensive collection of cricketana and his generous donation to the MCC in 1966 was instrumental to the establishment of a dedicated MCC museum.

A box from the Baer collection is painted with a design inspired by another Francis Hayman cricket painting, *Cricket on the Artillery Ground, Finsbury, 1743*. The lid is decorated with a scene of early players using a curved bat and a wicket with two stumps.

Some boxes in the collection are made of papier mache such as the circular one top right. The lid painting shows the wicket with three stumps and it possibly dates from around 1830.

Cricket scenes that were printed on paper were also used to decorate boxes thematically. The two oval-shaped boxes showing boys playing cricket are part of a set dating circa 1850. The complete scene decorated a third oblong box.

A variety of media was also utilised to decorate boxes with cricket scenes and iconography. Also dating from the mid-nineteenth century is a black rectangular box featuring a miniature oil painting of a cricket match complete with spectators and pavilions.

The black oblong box has a raised metallic logo of a wicket with two crossed bats and a ball probably dated to circa 1870.

This black painted papier mache circular box has a glass covered metal roundel with a painted image of a batsman. This dates from circa 1860.



(MCC Museum collection M7063)



(MCC Museum collection M7065.1)



(MCC Museum collection M7062)



(MCC Museum collection M7061)



(MCC Museum collection M7066)



(MCC Museum collection M7064)



(MCC Museum collection M7058)



(MCC Museum collection M7057.1)

## Modern Revival

Late in the twentieth century cricket themed boxes were designed for the commemorative and memorabilia market.

To celebrate 100 years of Test cricket between England and Australia, Toye, Kenning & Spencer, one of the premier craft companies of the world, produced a limited edition of a box with a nostalgic scene of the First Test Match played at Kennington Oval in September 1880 (near right). The lid which the advertisement for sale describes as: "With consummate skill our artist has captured the atmosphere and excitement of that first contest. Inside the lid, hand-painted in full colour, is the official anniversary emblem surrounded by the commemorative legend".

In 1986 the firm Crummles & Co. made a series of four enamelled patch boxes illustrating famous cricketers. Donald Bradman, W G Grace, Leonard Hutton and Denis Compton (below centre).



[MCC Museum collection M8039]



[MCC Museum collection M6795]



[MCC Museum collection M8037]



[MCC Museum collection M8035]



[MCC Museum collection M8036]



[MCC Museum collection M8034]

Crummles & Co. also produced a box in 1994 to mark the 1994 International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal. The inscription on the inside of the lid is in both English and French (right).

To commemorate the Bicentenary of the Marylebone Cricket Club 1787-1987 the firm Halcyon Days Enamels, Bilston, England produced a beautiful box. On the enamelled lid is depicted the famous match between the North and the South of England which was held to celebrate the Jubilee of Marylebone Cricket Club in 1837. The South won by five wickets (top right).

Around the outside of the base two previous pavilions are illustrated. The inside of the lid has the commemorative inscription.

**Ann Rusden** is a MCC Library Volunteer and MCG Tour Guide



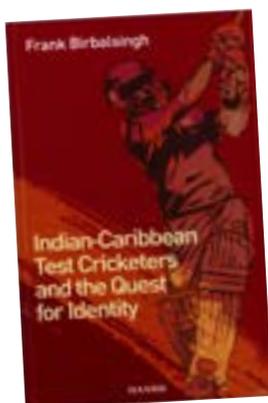
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# Book Reviews



Frank Birbalsingh  
***Indian-Caribbean test cricketers and the quest for identity***  
Hanslib Publications: Hertfordshire (UK), 2014  
ISBN: 9781906190743

The author of this interesting book is an Indian-Caribbean academic, who has spent 33 years at York University in Toronto, Canada, as a professor of English. He has written extensively on Caribbean affairs and the history of the region from the perspective of class divisions. Amongst other

books, he is the author of *Passion and Exile: Essays in Caribbean Literature* (Hansib, 1988), and *The People's Progressive Party of Guyana 1950-1992: An Oral History* (Hansib, 2007). Like CLR James, he also has a deep interest in cricket and this book follows *The Rise of Indo-West Indian Cricket* (Hansib, 1996).

The book is in three sections, an introduction, giving the background to the history of the West Indies and the place of the Indian-Caribbeans in the hierarchy of the society. There follows short biographies of the 33 Indian-Caribbeans who have played Test Cricket, and then at the end 16 appendices, which are short reviews of other publications related to West Indian Cricket.

The introduction explains that the colonisation of the Caribbean by Spain, Britain, France, Holland and Portugal established English-speaking colonies in many islands including Jamaica, Trinidad (now Trinidad and Tobago), Barbados and two mainland territories British Guiana (now Guyana) and British Honduras (now Belize). The indigenous populations were either wiped out completely or fled into the deep jungle of the interior. The colonists brought in millions of African slaves over the next two to three centuries to work on the plantations. When slavery was abolished in 1838, the plantation owners brought in Indians as indentured labourers into Trinidad and Guyana, but not to other islands. So the hierarchy was established as white, mixed race, African descent, and Indians at the bottom. This was to remain so until the middle of the twentieth century. Cricket was played all over these islands, but it was not until 1950 that an Indian-Caribbean was chosen to play in the West Indies side. That man was Sonny Ramadhin.

The main part of the book is divided into eight chapters, six dealing with the more famous Indian-Caribbean cricketers, namely Ramadhin, Kanhai, Solomon, Kallicharan, Chanderpaul and Sarwan. The other two chapters cover the other 27 who played Test cricket.

Ramadhin made his name on the tour of England in 1950. At Lord's in the second Test, West Indies has a momentous victory with Ramadhin taking eleven wickets in the match. West Indies went on to win the series 3-1. His career best came seven years later at Edgbaston, taking 7 for 49 in the first innings. In the second innings May and Cowdrey had a partnership of 411 and played Ramadhin by placing their pads outside the line of the off stump, only playing a shot when

Ramadhin strayed in length. This tactic was heavily criticised and eventually led to the law being changed in 1972. Ramadhin was never to be so dangerous again.

Rohan Kanhai was a self-taught cricketer from a plantation in Port Mourant. He never saw first-class cricket until he was selected for his first match for Guyana in 1954, aged 18. Kanhai was a fine cricketer and the author makes a case that he was a better batsman than Sobers. His impetuosity resulted in fewer high scores than Sobers, but he was always entertaining. It says something that Sunil Gavaskar named his son Rohan after him. Some have likened Kanhai as a romantic, like Trumper.

Joey Solomon gets a chapter to himself because of one afternoon in Brisbane when he ran out two Australian batsmen in the first ever tied Test Match in December 1960. It provides the author the opportunity to describe in detail the climax of the match and Wesley Hall's last over.

Alvin Kallicharran was another fine cricketer from Port Mourant. He was the leading Indian Caribbean batsman of the 1970s. After the West Indian defections to Packer's World Series Cricket he was made captain. Once the Packer matter had been resolved, he lost the captaincy and his form started to deteriorate. Kallicharran joined the rebel tour to South Africa in 1981 and was subsequently banned from Test cricket. He continued to play first class cricket for Warwickshire for another ten years.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul has been the most successful Indian-Caribbean Test batsman in terms of runs scored and longevity in the game. Mike Brearley in *The Observer*, June 16, 2007, describes Chanderpaul using a boxing metaphor:

He is like an awkward southpaw who cleverly negotiates his opponent's attack, swaying this way and that, while delivering deft touches, landing like afterthoughts. He kills by a thousand scratches.

Chanderpaul saved the West Indies time and time again with slow obdurate innings. The author, however, rightly gives great praise for his epic innings in the first Test at Bourda against the Australians in 2003. Coming in at a score of 5 for 95, he scored a hundred off 69 balls.

Ramnaresh Sarwan has played 87 Test matches at an average of 40.01. His career was full of ups and downs and he played at a time when West Indies cricket was at a low ebb. This may have affected his patchy form, but when he was in form he was a magnificent cricketer to watch.

From Ramadhin to Sarwan, Birbalsingh traces the history of Indian-Caribbean cricketers. He points out that at the strongest point in West Indies cricket between 1982 and 1994 no Indian-Caribbean appeared in a Test. Since 1994, however, there has been an increasing number. In 2012 there were six Indian-Caribbean cricketers in the one team. He makes the argument that there was discrimination against his people in regard to selection, and this almost certainly was true until independence. The fact that Kanhai, Kallicharran, Chanderpaul, Sarwan and now Denesh Ramdin have all been made captain suggests that the claim is not altogether proven.

**Jim Blair**



Steve James  
**The Art of Centuries**  
Bantam Press: London, 2015  
ISBN: 9780593072929

*The Art of Centuries* is certainly an apt title for this latest book by Steve James who confesses initially that the idea for the book was not his own but his publishers'. However he has explored every aspect of batting which can lead to the "magical" score of one hundred for a batsman. James uses his own extensive

experience (he scored 47 first class centuries) but he also draws on the insights of many great batsmen from Jack Hobbs and Don Bradman to Viv Richards, Sachin Tendulkar and Ricky Ponting and also notably Graham Gooch.

Steve James cricket was played with the county of Glamorgan after winning a Blue at Cambridge where he played in the team captained by Mike Atherton. He was in the Glamorgan side for eighteen years scoring nearly 16,000 runs with an average of over 40. He captained them for three seasons and in 1997 helped them win the County Championship for the first time in nearly thirty years. So he was well qualified to address the topic of scoring a century.

The book is introduced with an account of James own first century at the age of 12 and the advice his father had given him "Any batsman wishing to be recognized at any level had to score hundreds, lots of them, and big ones if possible". As James says his father knew what was required of a batsman even though he himself was a bowler.

Centuries are special in all walks of life but as Boycott is quoted "It may be illogical but in cricket a century has its own magic". Boycott made 151 first class centuries. Any century is special. The great cricket writer, Gideon Haigh's first century came in 2013 after playing cricket for many years. It was in England where he was playing for Old Sawbuttkene against Frieth CC in Buckinghamshire. Haigh told James he was rather perplexed to find how excited his Aussie team mates from the Yarras were for him.

Steve James goes on to describe in great detail how a batsman should prepare both mentally and physically for an innings. James illustrates his points by many examples of the ways different successful batsmen have done this showing that he undertook much research for his subject (there is a bibliography at the end). He interviewed many players past and present so has been able to quote many events in recent matches as well as historical games. The index of players' names quoted is testimony to this.

The contents indicate chapters on Luck, Superstition, Love and Hate and Technique as well as one written with advice and suggestions for opening batsmen. Converting a hundred to a "big" hundred also "Daddy Hundreds", defined as those greater than 150, are later chapters and the concluding two are the Nervous Nineties and Celebration Time.

Throughout this book Steve James draws on his own playing career and those he played with and against so that it is fitting that as he is now retired from playing that he concludes with the reflection that he misses the thrill of scoring a century. "It is a feeling you simply cannot replicate, but, goodness, I miss it".

This book is recommended for any batsman aspiring to score the "magical three figures".

**Ann Rusden**

# ROGER PAGE

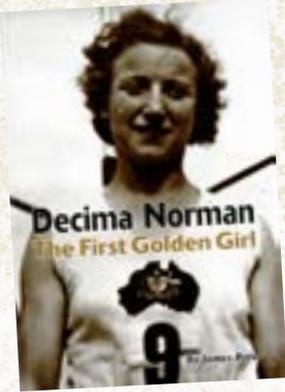
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James Brear  
***Decima Norman: The First Golden Girl***

James Brear: [Melbourne], 2015  
 ISBN: 9780646941578

Reviewing a book written by James Brear is quite an assignment. James is a volunteer in the MCC Library, a Tour Guide at the 'G, and a NSM Volunteer. Consequently, many at the MCG have watched the development of this book with great interest, right through to its destination. It is a

privilege not only to watch the way James works, but also do the review.

*Decima Norman: The First Golden Girl* is a comprehensive, magnificently researched dialogue which traces the life of little known Decima Norman, from the circumstances of her birth, her struggle for women athletes in Western Australia, through to her final years, with the emphasis being on her incredible career as an athlete. "Decima who?" should never be asked. Decima was very clearly one of the greats, and Brear reveals why.

Statistics, times and records (both official and unofficial) are extensively detailed, and utilised to compare Decima with her contemporaries. Her performances were outstanding and the range of her athletic talents is remarkable, the 100 yards sprint, the 220 yards, relays, long jump, hockey, tennis, and life saving. However, it is her determination to compete, and the adversities she faced, which give insight into her true character.

Brear follows the trail of women's fight to compete in athletics, from Alice Milliat (France) in 1922. It was a battle, with women almost achieving equal representation by the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. Decima was at the forefront on

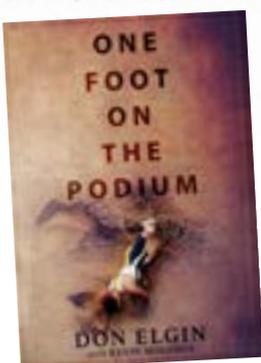
behalf of women in Western Australia. To compete, women were obliged to belong to an Association, something which did not exist in Western Australia. Decima, with the help of friends and trainer Frank Preston, set up three women's athletic clubs, thus giving them eligibility to belong to the Association, which in turn enabled Western Australian girls to compete in international competitions. Unfortunately, after all her efforts, World War II prevented Decima from competing in an Olympics, her dream for many years.

This must have been an enormous disappointment. Male dominated officialdom, which believed women should not be engaged in certain sports, frequently thwarted attempts at change and would have been another area of angst. Brear, once more, gives a comprehensive account of these struggles.

Brear also examines the social aspects that surround Decima's story. Beginning with her adoption and all that entailed, to the hardships of her adoptive family, first in Adelaide and then in Western Australia. The subject of pregnant unmarried girls, how they were treated, along with newspaper advertisements for their illegitimate babies, leaves a lasting impression. Brear has linked Decima's adoptive family to the Norman Family Wine group in Adelaide. He also describes a journey to the markets which resulted in death and provides us with an image of conditions at the time.

Decima appeared to have had an exceptional relationship with her family. She was well educated, which was unusual for a girl in that period, and her sporting activities were seemingly encouraged. Frank Preston, a former senior footballer in Western Australia, also played a very significant role in Decima's life.

Possibly the defining moment of Decima's career was the 1938 Empire Games at Sydney. Decima was the first person to win three or more gold at a major international meet – she won five. Brear covers Decima's events with his usual depth. Brear also reveals an interesting aside. A New Zealand flag was folded in such a way as to emulate an Australian flag during a podium ceremony, the organisers had insufficient Australian



Don Elgin with Kevin Moloney  
***One Foot On The Podium***

Don Elgin [donelgin.com.au](http://donelgin.com.au): Dingley Village, 2015.  
 ISBN: 9780994229618

The Paralympic Games provides many inspirational stories of contestants overcoming seemingly abundant obstacles to perform on that world stage. Don Elgin's entertaining account is a shining example of one person's triumph

over a birth deformity. Elgin was born with the condition, "Amniotic Band Syndrome". In his case, there was no left leg below the knee and most of his fingers were fused together.

After a childhood growing up in Tocumwal in quite humble circumstances, his story illustrates his quest to be an elite athlete and all the trials and tribulations he endures along the way. His parents gave him every assistance they could and Elgin makes constant references to their total and unequivocal support. His father was his coach and mentor, and gave him a promising start with his early athletic training. He was a

hard task master but his methods, which seemed cruel and harsh at times, gave Elgin resilience and endurance and certainly helped shape him into the elite athlete he was later to become.

A constant theme through the book is of the author getting on with life – a glass half full attitude, being ambitious and extrovert by nature, and overcoming the school yard taunts, whilst at the same time enduring various intrusive operations and the rudimentary artificial leg.

When Elgin asked, "Why me?" (referring to his disability), his father answered, "Why not?" Football, swimming and athletics all consumed his time. He never thought of himself as disabled – even after a friend at school suggested he enter the "disabled games". He had to join the NSW Amputee Association to compete in the championships. Training was extremely painful with the artificial leg causing great friction to his blistered and bleeding stump.

Having set himself for the Barcelona Paralympics in 1992, Elgin conveys the deep disappointment on missing selection. He was competing in almost all of the swimming and athletics events. However, his exclusion from the Barcelona Games made him focus on track and field.

flags! Brear's quest to find Decima's five gold medals from this meet led to the discovery (through good luck, not good management apparently) of a treasure trove of memorabilia kept in the safe hands of one Ed Dewar. The find included the much sought after medals.

Decima was the darling of both the crowd and her fellow competitors. She turned-down a position when she first moved to Sydney after she learned another girl had lost her job to make way. With such principles being so important to her it is little wonder she was so popular.

The *First Golden Girl* is the perfect read for anyone interested in the evolution of women's athletics, particularly in Western Australia. Brear manages to include a number of gems. An example, the first ever torch relay from the MCG to the Adelaide Oval for the Third Australian Games, almost a trial run for the Berlin Olympics in 1936, which, incidentally, had no Australian women sprinters competing. Brear also mentions the controversial Stanislaw Walasiewicz – was she a man?

Perhaps the most charming chapter of Brear's book contains his musings over Decima's paternity. Conjecture over time lines, the physical comparisons, the range of athletic talent, along with other factors, lead Brear to ponder whether Snowy Baker might have been Decima's father.

Brear travelled extensively from Western Australia to Sydney and Adelaide in his search of this story. His research is meticulous. He has crafted a book which celebrates a remarkable woman, a woman with courage and determination whose sporting abilities are second to none. Brear also shows us a lady with a warm, humble personality, recognised in many arenas for her service to athletics – such as her role as custodian of the Queen's Baton for the Brisbane Commonwealth Games in 1982. Shirley Strickland described Decima as "our first and greatest star in athletics" No one would disagree. A great read!

**Lesley Smith**

International competition in China and Germany was a stepping stone for him being selected for the 1996 Paralympics in Atlanta. Elgin, at this point in his story, goes into some detail at his naivety in coping with travel and everything from the cuisine to transport and the language differences. It was a huge learning curve for the boy from Tocumwal. His home town was involved in substantial fundraising enabling the local boy, of whom they were so proud, to compete on the international athletic stage.

At the Atlanta Paralympics, Elgin competed in the Pentathlon, finishing fourth but was unsuccessful in individual events. He expected to take out a medal and was extremely disappointed. He doubted that he had achieved his goal of doing his very best. He then set his target for the 2000 Sydney Paralympics where he won the Pentathlon bronze medal.

Having two complete legs, he says, he would not have had the opportunity to compete at the Paralympics. "What some might call a disadvantage was, in fact, my great advantage." This amazing attitude was a great foundation for his current role as a motivational speaker. Elgin has, indeed, "Walked the walk"!

**Edward Cohen**

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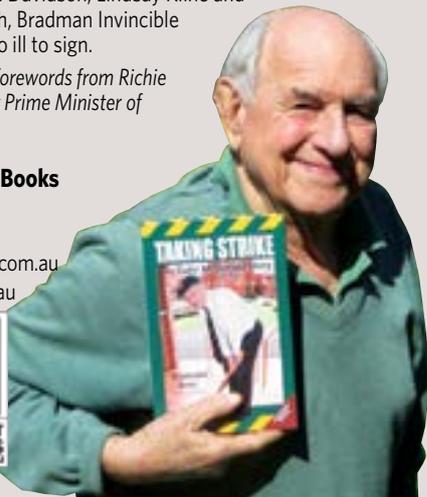
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Neil Robinson  
**Long Shot Summer: The Year of the Four England Cricket Captains**  
 Amberley Publishing:  
 Gloucestershire (UK), 2015  
 ISBN: 978144563758

Neil Robinson has chosen to write this interesting book about the English cricket season of 1988. He sets the scene.

"West Indies are about to tour England, having won their last two series against them five zero.

However, their fast bowling stocks are depleted. Michael Holding, Andy

Roberts, Colin Croft, Joel Garner and Wayne Daniels had all gone and now a new batch of fast bowlers is to be given its chance. Courtney Walsh, Curtley Ambrose, Winston Benjamin, and Ian Bishop were chosen to accompany the ageing Malcolm Marshall and the still inexperienced Patrick Patterson. The batting, too could be suspect. Viv Richards was 36, and Clive Lloyd and Larry Gomes had retired. They had not won any of their last four Test series and narrowly defeated Pakistan by two wickets in Barbados to draw the last series. Not since 1973 had they been run so close at home."

England, on the other hand, had gone 13 Tests without a win, since their splendid Ashes victory in 1986-87. They had come off an acrimonious tour of Pakistan and a lacklustre tour of New Zealand. Robinson covers these events, highlighting captain Gattings confrontation with umpire Rana in Pakistan and complaints about the conduct of the team in New Zealand.

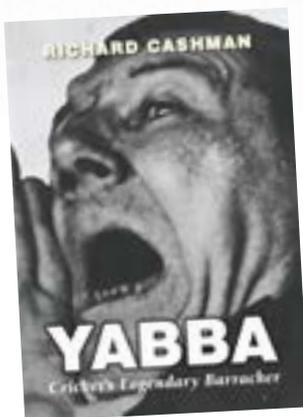
So, the turbulent 1988 season gets underway. Robinson uses contemporary accounts complemented by recent interviews with the four captains used and other main protagonists. The first Test at Trent Bridge was drawn. Then came the scandal involving the captain Mike Gatting and a young barmaid named Louise Shipman. Sensational stories in the tabloid press followed. Robinson has now been able to find and interview Louise Shipman 27 years later. Gatting, who had been appointed for the first two Tests only, was now stood down for the next Test and would not captain England again.

After this England appointed first John Emburey, then Chris Cowdrey and finally Graham Gooch as captain of the team. England would use 28 players in the summer. The following summer they would use 29, exceeded only by the 30 players used in the disastrous 1921 series. They lost the last four Tests against the West Indies before beating a weak Sri Lankan side in the last Test of the summer.

England's summer of four captains left Peter May's credibility as Chairman of Selectors totally undermined, and it came as no surprise when, after seven years in the job, May stepped down on 25 November." May stated that he had retired to concentrate on his business affairs but one cannot but say that the timing would have been influenced by the events of the summer.

I recommend this book to people wanting to find the facts behind a turbulent time in English cricket. If I have any quibbles it would be that I would have liked the scorecards attached as an appendix, and also an index.

**Jim Blair**



Richard Cashman  
**Yabba. Cricket's Legendary Barracker,**  
 Walla Walla Press: Petersham  
 (NSW), 2015.  
 ISBN: 9781876718237

In this book Richard Cashman returns to his long-time interest in cricket crowds, the subject of two books on Australian crowds he wrote in 1984. In his research for these books, Cashman identified "Yabba" (Stephen Harold Gascoigne 1878-1942) as a significant figure in the history of crowds in Australia.

As Cashman explains early in the book, this is not a biography of Yabba as little is known about his life before he became a celebrated barracker, especially its first 20 years. Nevertheless, Cashman uses what information is available to provide a brief sketch of Yabba's his life in Chapter 2 and to answer questions such as: 1) What kind of man was he?; 2) What was his milieu and how did he operate within it?; 3) How and why did he develop such a lofty reputation in his lifetime?; and 4) How was it sustained afterwards?

Although Yabba's barracking, which took place at rugby league and grade cricket matches as well as on the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) Hill at tests and first class cricket matches, most probably began in the early 1900s he was not

really established as a celebrity until the 1930s. Yabba was commissioned to provide exclusive articles for the *Sunday Sun* in Sydney during the 1932-33 Ashes series (the famous Bodyline series) and for the *Truth* during the 1936-37 Ashes series and, even though these may have been ghost written, the content is certainly Yabba's and Chapter 4 of the book uses them try to gain a sense of how he spoke and thought.

Cashman also delves into the origins of the term "barracking" and traces the history of barracking in Australia and in cricket in Australia, in particular. While there were many other barrackers at Australian cricket grounds in Yabba's time (and before) he has clearly become the most celebrated as is shown by the installation of a bronze statue of him at the SCG. Chapter 6 explains how this project came about and the process that led to Yabba "taking his seat" at the SCG on December 7, 2008. Cashman also provides as an appendix the text of play (written by Rodney Cavalier and directed by Dean Carey) that was performed in front of an invited audience when Yabba's statue was unveiled.

While the book runs to less than 100 pages it provides plenty of interesting information about Yabba and worthwhile discussion on barracking at Australian cricket grounds. With changes in the nature of the game and in the facilities offered at grounds it not only offers a glimpse into Yabba's life but also into Australian cricket crowds when the "entertainment" at matches was restricted to the action itself and what could be generated by members of the crowd.

**Ian Wilkinson**

William Tibbits' 16.5 x 10.8cm watercolour of the second MCC Members' Pavilion. (Royal Historical Society of Victoria - ART-0205)



# A Final Word: Scoreboards Revisited

## Two Images Shed Light on the MCG's Scoreboard Past.

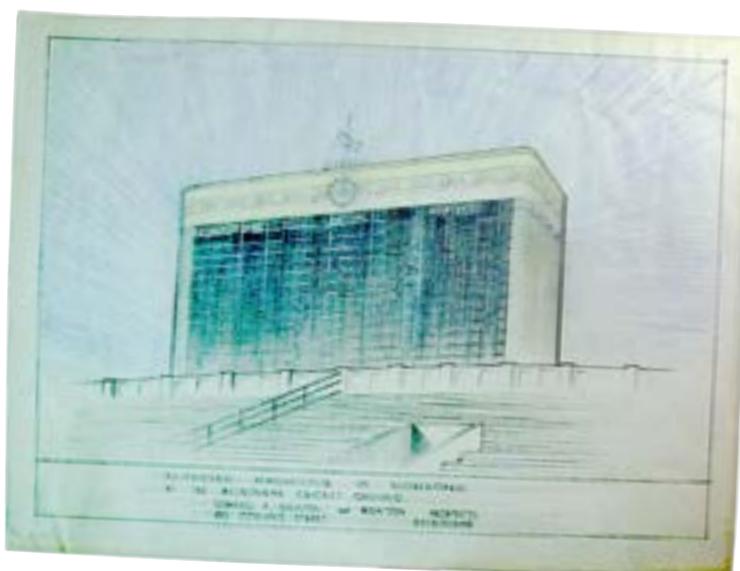
*By The Editor*

The lead article in the previous issue of *The Yorker*, Spring 2015 (no. 57), concerned scoreboards at the MCG by James Brear. Since then two images of scoreboards have been drawn to the editor's attention. One illuminates the early history of scoreboards at the MCG, while the other was a MCG scoreboard design that never was.

A watercolour of the MCC Pavilion, including the scoreboard by William Taylor Smith Tibbits (1837-1906) was reproduced in the March 1983 (vol. 54 no. 1) edition of the *Royal Historical Society of Victoria Journal*. The painting is held in the collection of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, and illustrated an article on the artist by his "distant relative" George Tibbits. The scoreboard is shown to the left of the second Members' Pavilion that was completed in December 1881. It seems to be a dark board on an approximately three metre high frame shaped like pi - [] - that presumably allowed the scores to be changed at ground level, and then hoisted up so spectators may view it above people standing in the Members' Reserve. George Tibbits wrote that the watercolour was, "probably painted to celebrate the completion of the stand."<sup>1</sup>

The other image is held in the MCC Museum collection. The "Proposed Re-modelling of Scoreboard at the Melbourne Cricket Ground" was drawn in pencil on heavy tracing paper by Edward F. Billson and Newton Architects.<sup>2</sup> Geoffrey Newton was admitted into a partnership with Billson in April

1939 and the company was still active in 1941.<sup>3</sup> The Second World War forced a closure of the building industry that year, and therefore, the axonometric projection was likely drawn during that three year window. The design would have given the scoreboard an Art Deco facade, and a look not unlike an enormous bakelite radio.



[MCC Museum collection M8250]

### Endnotes

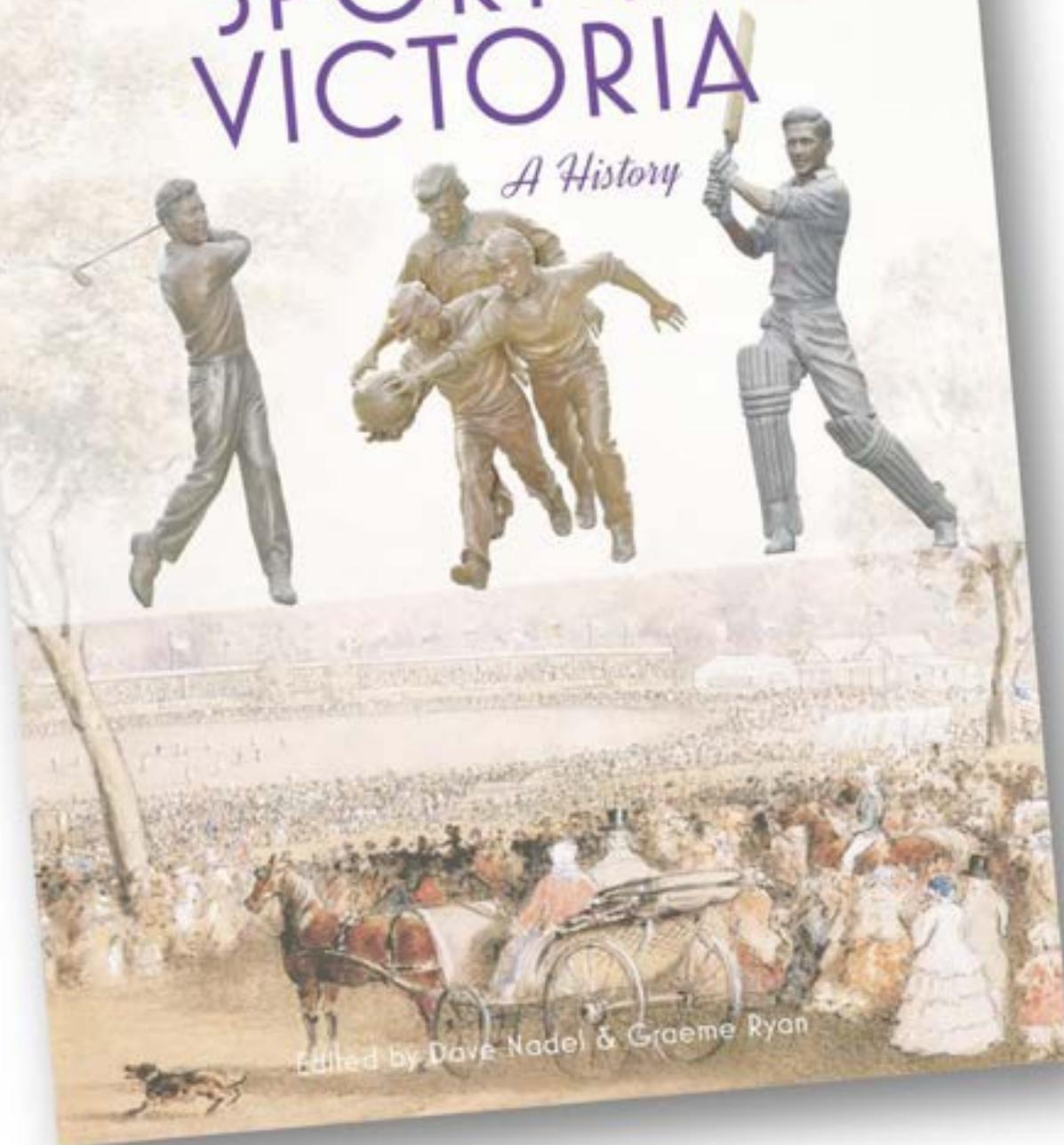
1 George Tibbits, "William Tibbits and His Watercolours", *Royal Historical Society of Victoria Journal* vol. 54 no. 1 (March 1983), pp.54-57.

2 MCC Museum Collection M8250.

3 "Building and Architecture", *The Age*, April 25, 1939, p.6.

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