

Peek, Hedley and Aflalo, F.G. (eds.), *The Encyclopaedia of Sport*, Vols. I and II, *The Earl of Suffolk end Berkshire*, (First published in London, by Lawrence and Bullen, Ltd., in 1897; Republished by Gale Research Company of Detroit, 1976.) 1,087 pp. in 2 vols., Illustrated.

Sport historians have been gratified in recent years by the increasing willingness of publishers to re-issue important earlier works in the history of sport area, books which were not easily obtainable and for which a long search was sometimes necessary. To be sure, such reprints must not be considered entirely a contemporary development. A facsimile reproduction of Guts Muths' *Gymnastik fur die Jugend*, first published in 1793, appeared in 1928; and Cotton's *The Cornpleat Gamester*, of 1674, was republished as *Games and Gamesters of the Restoration*, in 1930. These are but two examples of prominent reprints over a long period of time, other examples could include: *The Book of Lawful Sport* (1618, 1633, and 1860); *Tre-ditional Games of England, Ireland, end Scotland* (1094, 1098, and 1964); *Palio and Ponte* (1904, and 1969); *Old Sporting Sprints* (1908, and 1970); and *The History and Bibliography of Swimming* (1868, and 1904). Fortunately the trend has continued with more recent first editions. Greenwood Press of Connecticut has issued facsimile reproductions of many interesting books, such as Burke's *History of Archery* and Weaver's *Amusements and Sports in American Life*. Other American publishers have performed similar service with recent re-issues of works like Butler's *Sport in Classic Times*, Krout's *Annals of American Sport*, and Madden's *A Chapter of Mediaeval History — The Fathers of the Literature of Field Sport and Horses*. Perhaps most gratitude for reprinting sport history, however, should be reserved for the Gale Research Company of Detroit. Besides publishing many books of quality in the sport domain, it was this Company in 1974 which re-published an edition of Robert W. Henderson, *Ball, Bat and Bishop* (first published in Rockport Press in 1947) and thus placed many students of sport history in its debt. The appreciative audience should increase with its latest offering in the *genre*, the significant *Encyclopaedia of Sport*, first published in England in 1897.

In the Preface, Suffolk and Berkshire noted that: "Lovers of Sport cannot complain that in recent years their interests have been neglected by English publishers", and of course he was correct. By the close of the nineteenth-century, the sport explosion was largely reflected in the literature, of which the well-known Badminton Series of Sport books was but one important example. But the Earl went on to claim that his work and that of his editorial colleagues might be termed the first

serious effort to produce "a national *Encyclopaedia of Sport*". Tribute was graciously paid to Blaine's *Encyclopaedia of Rural Sports* (1840) and its predecessor, Strutt's *The Sports and Pastimes of the People of England* (1801) — works, incidentally which also could have been included with the reprints mentioned in the first paragraph, since Blaine's work was published down to 1870 and Strutt's to 1898 — but it was felt that their day was past:

Football was so slightly regarded when Blaine's work appeared that he actually makes no mention of a game which is now among the most popular of our recreations. Some sports, cricket for example, have been completely revolutionized during the last fifty years; and others, Badger-baiting and the like, described by Blaine, have disappeared from the catalogue of national amusements, and are here relegated to the article on Obsolete Sport.

It was also noted that Blaine and Strutt labored "single-handed" to produce each noble opus, whereas for the 1897 *Encyclopaedia* ". . . it is obvious that if an attempt is to be made to cover the whole range of sport, scores of experts must collaborate". One of the virtues of the finished product, in fact, is that many "leading authorities" were responsible for each entry. Thus the reader can enjoy such diverse and entertaining authors as Montague Shearman, C. B. Fry, Theodore Roosevelt, Count Schlick, W. Baden Powell, the Reverend J. Keir, Prince Demidoff, Caspar Whitney, and Lord Dunraven, among many others.

Too many varieties of "Sport" are included to mention them all, but popular sports such as angling, badminton, croquet, curling, football, Highland Games, lacrosse, mountaineering, polo and yachting are dealt with quite extensively. The section entitled "Obsolete Sport" already mentioned contains articles on badger-baiting, bear and bull-baiting, cock-fighting, football in the streets, pall mall, and Tournaments. Even such "corollary topics of interest to sportsmen" are also treated, such as first aid, taxidermy, and various aspects of natural history. But perhaps this is not too surprising when one considers that the first entry is "Aard-vaark or Earth Hog (*Oryctevopus*)" and the last entry is 'Zebra"; or that no less than 32 of the forty Plates feature animal or hunting scenes! Most articles are sufficiently comprehensive to satisfy most tastes. For example, the section under the title of "angling" provides a definition of the term, a brief history of angling, reference to its older literature, discussion of different kinds of fish, and instruction on methods of fishing. Those articles dealing with games provide the rules of each game, a glossary of terms, a history of the game, and instruction on the technique of playing the game. In addition to the 40 full-page Plates, there are

numerous smaller illustrations throughout the text.

Since Blaine's *Encyclopaedia of Rural Sports* first appeared in 1840, to be followed by J. H. Walsh's work of the same title (under the pseudonym "Stonehenge"), Encyclopaedias dealing specifically with sport have greatly increased in number, this fact being yet another indication of the status of sport in the modern world. At present there is almost a glut of such publications, in fact. Certainly it would take a very large bookcase, perhaps even a small library, to accommodate all such titles today. It is difficult now to find a popular sport — basketball, cricket, chess, football (all types), golf, hockey, skiing, or whatever — which does not have at least one Encyclopaedia devoted to it. Indeed, it appears there is evident rivalry among Publishers to produce *the* most authoritative Encyclopaedia source. Harold Classen's *Encyclopaedia of Football* (1961) was succeeded by Roger Treat's *The Official Encyclopaedia of Football* (1972). But even these were preceded by the specialist offering of J. H. Allen, i.e. *The Encyclopaedia of Football Drills* (1954); and naturally an *Encyclopaedia of Basketball Drills*, followed in 1958. Who would dare argue with: *The United States Lawn Tennis Association Official Encyclopaedia of Tennis*, published in 1972, or with the various other such *Official* works? What climber worth his salt would be without *The Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Mountaineering* (1969)? To these specific Encyclopaedias, of course, may be added more *general* works, such as Frank Menke's *The Encyclopaedia of Sports* and *The Encyclopaedia of the Olympic Games*. And other contemporary works of an encyclopaedic nature to do with sport are available, such as John Arlott's *The Oxford Companion to Sports and Games* (1975) and Erich Kamper's *Who's Who at the Olympics* (1975).

It is difficult to "review" a work which first appeared 79 years ago, most books are reviewed at the time the first edition appears. In the case of encyclopaedias, which can rapidly become out-of-date in the light of new knowledge, the situation is even more critical. As they are overtaken by events, their contents can easily take on a quaint or even humorous appearance for the later reader. However, the serious student of sport history will undoubtedly welcome this 1976 edition of the *Encyclopaedia of Sport* (1897) as a valuable source of reference. Among the many significant reprints now available in the area, encyclopedias or otherwise, some might even pay it the ultimate compliment of describing it as an indispensable source. Even when such tomes as "The Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Little League Baseball Athletes and Officials" or "The New Official Encyclopaedia of Broomball Drills" inevitably descend upon us in future years, and we are spoilt by abundant encyclopaedic sporting choice, this 1897 (and 1976) work will

still be worthy of space and note.

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