

II. Sport in Europe and the British Commonwealth

- II-1 Keele, Alan Frank. "Childhood Toys, Sporting Games, and the Seeds of War: A View From Postwar German Literature," *Soundings*, 25, No. 1 (Spring 1982), 146-67.

Post-war German writers, especially the "Group of 47" includes Günter Grass and Heinrich Böll, often reflected the process by which seemingly harmless games and sports nurture sentiments and mentalities conducive to war. This phenomenon is not limited merely to the German experience, but is a universal problem. The very structure of games and sport contribute to their evolution to war in that normal rules of society are suspended for more abstract and arbitrary rules. Such a detachment from reality nourishes a chauvinistic dualism, an "us" versus "them" syndrome, to which the young are particularly susceptible and which acts as an incubator for aggressive/antagonistic behavior, contributing to a more ready acceptance of war. Several European countries have attempted to move away from this syndrome by banning war games and toys. The rise of recreational "eco-sports," such as frisbee, cross-country skiing, and hiking are an encouraging example of individualistic, cooperative, and non-aggressive activities. Further suggestions are offered by which both games and sports might be further disassociated from war. Based upon literary sources and secondary works; 50 notes.

—James Peckman

- II-2 Lansbury, Coral. "Sporting Humor in Victorian Literature," *Mosaic*, 9, No. 4 (Summer 1976), 65-75.

Sporting humor reflected changes in the social and cultural values of Victorian England. Early nineteenth-century sporting humorists often accepted cruelty as natural to the human condition. While approving of the traditional blood sports, authors used various literary devices to make these events more palatable to their readers. By mid-century sporting humor changed due to the growing concern over issues of cruelty and social disorder. Traditional sports and their adherents were often depicted as crude and vulgar; cruelty to animals was no longer portrayed graphically. Aristocratic and social climbing middle class sportsmen were constantly satirized in periodicals such as *Punch*; several decades later women bore the brunt of similar lampoons for their involvement in sports. By the end of the century, the development of a "games ideology" made sports a model for behavior and an antidote for war; humorists used sports, especially cricket, as a standard by which to judge both personal

conduct and society. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 38 notes.

—James Peckman

II-3 Sandiford, Keith A.P. "Cricket and the Victorian Society," *Journal of Social History*, 17 (Winter 1983), 303-17.

Cricket is analyzed as the quintessential Victorian sport which typified all that was best in British culture and society. It was a key part of the wider culture of athleticism, yet was an exclusively Anglo-Saxon contribution. Cricket was played "seriously" by Victorians of all social backgrounds who sought physical, spiritual, and mental regeneration. Unlike other contemporary sports, the emphasis was on continuity rather than change and modernization. This was exemplified by the failure to utilize technological innovations to improve bats and balls. The continuity of cricket provided a feeling of stability for a society in an era of great flux. Some perceived the sport as advancing social harmony by acting as a safety-valve, although no effort was made to use the sport to bridge class divisions. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 66 notes.

—Steve A. Riess

II-4 Mandle, W.F. "The Professional Cricketer in England in the Nineteenth Century." *Labour History*, 23 (November 1972), 1-16.

Many professional cricketers in the eighteenth century were estate workers. employed because of their cricketing prowess in an age when cricket-playing gentry wagered high sums on matches. For a brief period in the mid-nineteenth century, it seemed that professional cricketers might run their own sport. but their peripatetic teams lost favour with the public and, as county organisations came to dominate the cricketing scene. the professional once more became a servant. They were recruited mainly from the upper echelons of the working class and increasingly from industrial areas. Most relied on groundstaff wages and match fees but some could supplement, and others supplant. this income by coaching. Additionally, there was talent money for the good professional and a benefit match for the loyal one. Labour relations were generally harmonious, though there were occasional strikes. Over time professionals became better paid and more respectable. but cricket remained an insecure occupation. Based upon newspapers and secondary works; 121 notes; 5 tables.

—Wray Vamplew

II-5 Cieszkowski, Krysztof Z. "Bendigo the Boxer," *History Today*, 34 (February 1984), 25-30.

William Thompson, known as Bendigo, was one of early Victorian England's most widely known sporting figures. Bendigo's career spanned fifteen years during which he twice won the championship of England: after his retirement he spent the next twenty years as a habitual drunk. However, he con-

verted to evangelical Christianity and became a popular preacher and an associate of the evangelists General Booth and Jemmy Dupe. His accomplishments both as a boxer and preacher were quickly transformed into legend; numerous episodes of his life appeared in periodicals and books as well as being depicted in popular ballads and poems, the most famous being "Bendy's Sermon" by A. Conan Doyle. This article provides useful descriptions of boxing prior to the introduction of the Marquess of Queensbury rules in 1867. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; no notes.

—James Peckman

- II-6 Daly, John A. "Play and Display: A Study of the Sporting Behaviour of a Colonial Upper Class," *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia*, No. 5 (1978), 3-18.

Colonial South Australia was settled by English migrants who hoped to establish a "new Britannia in the antipodes." To some, the incipient gentry, emerging along the lines of the English class system, attempted to demonstrate its position in the social hierarchy. It flaunted a leisure life-style that included yachting, hunting, horse-racing and, later, polo and archery. All those activities remained in the exclusive domain of the elite group. Toward the end of the century, however, sport had become more democratic, and the gentry opted to be patrons rather than participants. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 15 notes; illustrated.

—Wray Vamplew

- II-7 Mandle, W.F. "Cricket and Australian Nationalism in the Nineteenth Century," *Journal of the Royal Historical Society (Australia)*, 59, No. 4 (September 1973), 225-46.

Cricket has been a major source of Australian national heroes, and cricket matches, particularly against England, have been a yardstick by which Australians have judged their international standing. Details of nineteenth century tours of Australia by English sides are used to trace phases in the development of Australia's cricketing nationalism. First, the 1860s when the attitudes expressed were those of humility and deference; then came some victories which lessened fears of colonial degeneration; and finally the cricketing confidence of the 1890s which showed what colonial cooperation on the cricket field could achieve and which lent support to the movement for political federation. Based upon newspapers and secondary works; 86 notes.

—Wray Vamplew

- II-8 Caldwell, Geoffrey. "Sport and the Australian Identity," *Hemisphere*, 16, No. 6 (June 1972), 9-16.

Australians have an obsession with sport which has filled the gap in the nation's cultural heritage. It has helped overcome class divisions and, unlike in Canada, has created a national identity. Attempts are made to explain why Australians participate in sport and there is a brief application to Australia of

Caillois' classification of types of sport. Based upon secondary works; no notes.

—Wray Vamplew

II-9 Caldwell, G.T. "Sport and Australian Culture: A Note," *Politics*, 7. No. 2 (1972), 180-84.

Successful participation in international sport has helped foster a sense of Australian identity. Historically cricket has contributed most to such a development. Sport in Australia has been relatively classless with, for example, golf and tennis, being less exclusive than in many countries. Australians compete more willingly in sport than in business, but they increasingly prefer to compete against the environment than against each other. Based upon secondary works; 21 notes.

—Wray Vamplew

II-10 Obojski, Robert and Reeves, Tom. "Baseball Fever Spreads in Australia," *Baseball Research Journal* (1979), 73-77.

Although major league baseball missionaries of 1888-89 staged baseball games that drew well, the game's slow popularization in Australia stemmed mostly from school and college programs. By the 1960s the Australian Baseball Federation included five member leagues with teams and players mostly recruited from school and college performers. Although commercialization has yet to appear, the groundswell of Australian baseball interest augurs well for the continuing internationalization of baseball. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; no notes.

—David Q. Voigt