

## Journal Surveys

### I. Theory, Methodology and Literature

- I-1 Walvin, James. "Sport, Social History and the Historian," *British Journal of Sports History*, 1, No 1 (May 1984), 5-13.

British historians previously steeped in the traditional Oxford-Cambridge background are now beginning to move in the direction of broader social history-which includes sports. Walvin maintains sport history must avoid isolating itself from the broader historical framework, lest it become fragmented. Sport should reflect society at large. Included for future research in Britain would be women and sport, the role of athleticism in the public schools, working class sport, and children's games particularly independent, recreational activities in British society. Walvin appeals to the imagination of researchers to make sport history a viable area of study. No notes.

-John Schleppei

- I-2 Malcolmson, Robert W. "Sports in Society: A Historical Perspective," *British Journal of Sports History*, 1, No. 1 (May 1984), 60-72.

English sport in the 1700s for proper understanding must be situated with the complexities of the social experiences of that time because three groups with quite distinct attitudes clashed. First, were the ways plebeian sport related to the constraints of labor for the working classes as often work and recreation were mixed. Gaiety, opportunities for sexual encounters and social cohesiveness, drinking, and various diversions, often at public houses, alleviated some of life's monotony and drabness. Patrician or patrician-sponsored sport, as a second factor, ensured social discipline and popular quiescence of the masses. Many genteel recreations also were occasions for theatrical display and exhibitions of power and status. Third, religious zealots, such as the Puritans, opposed popular leisure activities as distractions from basic social and religious duties. As a result, recreational customs that had been accepted in 1700 were vigorously condemned in the early to mid-1800s. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 32 notes.

-Angela Lumpkin

- I-3 Mott, Morris. "Canadian Sports History: Some Comments to Urban Historians," *Urban History Review*, 12, No. 2 (October 1983), 25-30.

In the last ten to fifteen years a considerable number of publications on the history of Canadian sport have appeared. The bulk of these items are of little consequence to serious scholars. A few, however, are useful and informative to urban historians. The existence of several exemplary studies on the history of sport and leisure in Great Britain and the United States, together with the current acceptance of the idea that

good sports history can be good social or cultural history, should encourage more and better studies of Canadian sporting developments. Based upon secondary works. (Reprinted with permission)

-Morris Mott

I-4 Jebsen, Harry Jr., "Integrating Sports History into American History Courses," *The Social Studies* (March-April 1984), 62-67.

The turmoil of the 1960s led to significant alterations in the ways that history is researched and taught. Most important was the New Social History and under this rubric historians became much more active in the world of sports history. Two themes show how sports history can contribute to the teaching of American history in general: the experiences of Jack Johnson, Jackie Robinson and other black sports figures shed useful light on the history of racism in society; the early history of professional baseball and the rise of athletic clubs illustrate the emergence of a highly bureaucratized social structure by the early twentieth century. Based on secondary works; 18 notes.

—H. W. Emerson, Jr.

I-5 Redmond, Gerald. "Sport History in Academe: Reflections on a Half-Century of Peculiar Progress," *British Journal of Sports History*, 1, No. 1 (May 1984), 25-41.

Contributions in the creation of sport history have come mainly from two groups; well-respected historians and the not always so highly regarded 'jock stream,' persons associated with physical education. The stigma that sport is an "intellectually inferior vehicle" is breaking down and in terms of quality and quantity "the present status of sport history in academia is greater now than ever before." The year 1930 has been designated as the legitimate beginning of sport history because that is when E. Norman Gardiner published *Athletics of the Ancient World*, a classical work used extensively by later researchers. Earlier works, such as *Annals of American Sport* by John Krout, are cited as the foundation upon which sport history has been written and rewritten. Numerous other works written by Canadian, German and British authors are also cited. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 75 notes.

—Cathy Buell

I-6 Rubinstein, David. "Sport and the Sociologist 1890-1914," *British Journal of Sports History*, 1, No. 1 (May 1984), 14-23.

British society first came under the scrutiny of social scientists during the period from 1890 to 1914. There were many studies done during this time emphasizing conditions of working-class life in the cities. Leisure was of secondary importance; it was a subject often ignored or found hidden in discussions of other topics. Despite this fact, some information concerning leisure behavior can be gleaned from the research. Arguments for and against the public houses are presented and the growth of holiday outings, the stage (theatre, music hall and cinema), sponsorship of sport by employers and religious and educational institutions, and the popularity of football are discussed. Based upon secondary works.

—John Neville

I-7 Michael Oriad, "On the Current Status of Sports Fiction," *Arete: The Journal of Sport Literature*, 1, No. 1 (Fall 1983) 7-20.

Despite the excellence of sports fiction by writers such as Lardner, Roth, and Malamud, the sports novelist has yet to achieve total acceptance. Sport and the sport novel

have always played an ambivalent role in American culture, yet the ambivalence results from many cultural values and conflicts which would make excellent subjects for sports novels. Race, women's sports, and sport abuses are among the potential topics to be explored. However, a true sports novel has certain limitations. "A novel in which the protagonist is an athlete or in which athletic activity is given considerable space would not truly be a 'sports novel' if something else could be substituted for the sports element without radically changing the novel." (p. 13) Nonetheless, for the sport novelist the current literary situation has potential. Based upon sports novels, book reviews, articles, and sport history; 17 notes.

—Mary Lou LeCompte

- I-8 Keller, Richard D. "The Man in Charge: Coaches in Modern Literature," *Arete: The Journal of Sport Literature*, 1, No. 1 (Spring 1984) 139-50.

Creative writers usually use the coach as a symbol or didactic weapon, and several types have been found repeatedly in the literature. A classic example of the harmless, ineffectual "bumbler" type is Pop Fisher in Bernard Malamud's *The Natural* (1952). Much more ominous is the ignorant and brutal "destroyer" epitomized by Coach Popper in Larry McMurdy's *The Last Picture Show*. (1966). Rarely, as in some of James Dickey's poems like "The Bee," is the coach portrayed as a human being with whom the readers can empathize. This dearth of humane fictional coaches may be a reflection of reality. The most accurate portrayal is perhaps found in Jason Miller's *That Championship Season* (1972). There, Coach is still preaching hate, brutality, and dishonesty to his "boys" twenty years after their last game. Based upon the literary works analyzed; 15 notes.

—Mary Lou LeCompte

- I-9 Umphlett, Wiley Lee. "The Dynamics of Fiction on the Aesthetics of the Sport Film," *Arete: The Journal of Sport Literature*, 1, No. 2 (Spring 1984). 113-21.

The negative reputation of sport film from 1920-1970 needs to be reexamined in light of films released subsequent to that period. The major criticism of sport film has been the superficial treatment of sport as a subject and the inability of film directors to integrate the drama of the sport experience with the larger drama of human relationships. Since 1970 a number of films have been released that demonstrate increasing skill in combining the descriptive qualities of fiction with the technical advances in visualizing the story. Sport films as a work of art has a promising future now that these problems have been solved. Based upon secondary works; 9 notes; illustrations.

—John Neville

- I-10 Lessa, Richard. "'Our Nervous, Sporadic Games' Sports in *The Great Gatsby*," *Arete: The Journal of Sports Literature*, 1, No. 2 (Spring 1984). 69-79.

Lessa explores Fitzgerald's work in showing how this carefully written novel included the sport phenomenon to develop or delineate its character or plot. Fitzgerald used games to show order and rules of behavior. These were transferred to social order (one conducts his life by "playing the game") and one may bend or break these in life's game. Life occurs within boundaries—whether on the athletic field or the parameters of Long Island. Fitzgerald used football to develop the gruffness of Tom Buchanan, and the finesse game of golf to show the litesome, tanned Jordan Baker. Gatsby tries to "fix" life the way the character Wolfsheim claims to have fixed the 1919 World Series. Fitzgerald subtly uses sport to build the larger tale of Gatsby 5 notes.

—John Schleppei