

II. English Sport, Physical Education, and Leisure

- II-1 Atkinson, Paul. "Strong Minds and Weak Bodies: Sports, Gymnastics and the Medicalization of Women's Education," *The British Journal of Sports History*, 2, No. 1 (May 1985), 62-71.

During the nineteenth century in both England and America, education for young women, particularly in women's colleges, included instruction and care in health and

physical fitness. The motive for this was the concern for the supposed stress that girls were under in the academic world. The primary method to develop physical fitness was Ling's Swedish System because of its therapeutic value. In spite of an entrenched male bias to the contrary, most women were successful and healthy in the academic world. The rigid fitness programs opened one area to women, that of physical activity, but imposed another social control into the twentieth century, namely, the system of gymnastics and medical inspection. 19 notes.

— John Schleppe

II-3 Bailey, Victor. "Scouting for Empire," *History Today*, 32 (July 1982), 5-9.

Scouting became the most popular youth movement in England due to its appealing blend of outdoor woodcraft and patriotism and to the charismatic leadership of Robert Baden-Powell. This tended to obscure the fact that it was an authentic cultural expression of the pervasive Edwardian anxieties for the future of the British Empire. Scouting's emphasis upon self-reliance and discipline, thrift, and class cooperation linked its ideology with the Edwardian creeds of social Darwinism, national efficiency, and social imperialism. These ideologies were also central to the imperialistic political movements such as the Tariff Reform League, Territorial Army, and the National Service League, some of whose leaders were financial supporters of scouting and dominated the Boy Scouts Governing Council. Consequently scouting was criticized as a quasi-military movement, which to some extent was confirmed as scouting proved to be very useful during World War I. However, it was the carnage of World War I that led to an abrupt change with scouting embracing internationalism symbolized by its "jamborees" stressing international brotherhood and demonstrating an adaptability that remains scouting's greatest strength. Based on primary sources and secondary sources; no notes.

— James Peckman

II-4 Fletcher, Sheila. "The Making and Breaking of a Female Tradition: Women's Physical Education in England 1880-1980," *The British Journal of Sports History*, 2, No. 1 (May 1985), 31-39.

Organized physical education, particularly the Ling System, was pioneered by Madame Öterberg in the late nineteenth century in England. The college she founded and other women's colleges, contributed to the emancipation and independence for women in the physical education field. The incorporation of games into their college programs aided women moving into the male-dominated world. The women's colleges led the way for physical education until men's institutions offered training courses in the 1930s. The Ling System dominated until the Laban and movement programs made inroads into traditional offerings in the 1940s. Women's influence waned with the absorption of private schools into public schools and the movement of physical education into general education in the 1970s. 39 notes.

— John Schleppe

II-5 Hargraves, Jennifer A. "'Playing like Gentlemen while Behaving like Ladies': Contradictory Features of Women's Sport," *The British Journal of Sports History*, 2, No. 1 (May 1985), 40-52.

The period from mid-nineteenth to early twentieth century in England saw women's participation in sports and games acceptable, but still considered subordinate to men's in society. The mores and education of the period perpetuated this view. The women's

colleges in particular maintained the belief of the weaker sex and guarded their morality and other womanly virtues.

Women's gradual involvement in games came first as spectators glorifying men's sport. Eventually light exercises and games to strengthen, but not strain, the constitution for childbearing appeared. Any activity had to be modest and feminine in dress and action. As women's sports became more strenuous (as in cricket, hockey, or badminton), women were accepted as long as they played with feminine pace, their activities were conducted with other women, and their programs did not threaten male-female relationships. 50 notes,

— John Schleppe

II-6 Lowerson, John. "Scottish Croquet' the English Golf Boom, 1880-1914," *History Today*, 33 (May 1983), 25-30.

The Victorian era witnessed an unprecedented growth in golf with the number of clubs increasing from one, the 200-year old Blackheath in 1850, to over 1,200 by 1914. Golf satisfied a new middle-class need for recreation and a nostalgia for a vanishing rural world. It was affordable and could be played in any weather by varying age groups of both sexes. The use of common land for golf restricted its accessibility and often resulted in demonstrations and prolonged litigation. As with other Victorian sports, questions regarding amateur versus professional standards had to be resolved. Golf became extremely popular with women, and early attempts were made to limit their participation or relegate their play to "hen runs," i.e. nine-hole women's courses. However, due to women's efforts and the development of handicapping, which allowed people of varying abilities to play together, women were integrated into the game by 1914. Fears were raised that the energetic pursuit of golf was sapping the moral fibre of English manhood, and objections were made to playing on Sunday; however, golf gave major impetus to the attack on Sabbatarianism. Golf made a quick transition from fad to established sport. and with its widespread appeal may have had a more lasting effect as a middle-class legacy than other Victorian sports. Based on primary sources and secondary works; no notes.

— James Peckman

II-7 Park, Roberta. "Sport, Gender and Society in a Transatlantic Victorian Perspective," *The British Journal of Sports History*, 2, No. 1 (May 1985), 5-27.

The social roles of men and women in the Victorian period in both England and America were reflected in their sport involvement. The two cultures affected each other, but the English influence was especially strong due to the number of British sports transported to America.

Sports helped define the male attitude (rugged sport as the province of men) and male values (the importance of effort and ability) in the culture. The male interpretation also placed women in a secondary, sedentary position prior to the American Civil War. After that period, concern for females' fitness led to encouragement of activity for women. Women moved from a fitness orientation through calisthenics to participation in games as they demonstrated they could cope with an active life. Yet, even with

successful participation, women's sport remained secondary to men's well into the twentieth century. 76 notes.

— John Schleppe

II-8 Poole, Robert. "Lancashire Wakes Week," *History Today*, 34 (August 1984), 22-29.

This article described the popular, traditional festivals of the Lancashire Wakes and their transformation into mass industrial holidays during the Industrial Revolution. In spite of massive opposition from reform groups and severe periodic economic dislocations in the Lancashire cotton industry, the Wakes demonstrated a surprising resilience, especially during periods of economic prosperity. The various elements of the wakes with particular emphasis on the rushbearing pageant and the rush cart and elaborately designed carts which symbolized the Wake's celebrations were examined. While these carts diminished in number, they became more elaborately designed, consistent with the "commercialization of custom" noted by Victorian folklorists. Other important elements of the Wakes, such as the hospitality, homebrewing, and travelling fairs, also remained integral parts of the celebrations. Railroad transportation initially did not destroy, but often enhanced the Wakes by making them more accessible to both participants and travelling commercial entertainments. Eventually cheap transportation and a rising standard of living caused these celebrations to be transferred to the English seaside. The author suggests that we carefully re-examine the commonly-held idea that the Industrial Revolution brought about a massive cultural break with the past and also that we re-evaluate its effects on traditional forms of leisure and culture. Based on primary works and secondary sources; no notes.

— James Peckman

II-9 Riordan, Jim. "The Social Emancipation of Women through Sport," *The British Journal of Sports History*, 2, No. 1 (May 1985), 53-61.

Women have gained a measure of uneven social freedom through participation in sports and games in spite of males' interpretation of femininity and proper sports for women. Examples included western and eastern European women influencing each other; i.e., the West taking track and field, gymnastics, and rowing from the East and eastern women taking distance running, soccer, and horse racing from the West to gain recognition in the sports world.

Developing African nations and predominantly Muslim countries have seen women overcome strong prejudices against females through their sports accomplishments. The determining factor of women's sport success and acceptance hinged on whether other societal goals (such as nationalism) overcame males' prejudicial ideas of womanhood. 15 notes.

— John Schleppe

II-10 Stewart, Gordon T. "Whymper of the Matterhorn. A Victorian Tragedy," *History Today*, 33 (February 1983), 5-13.

The first successful ascent of the Matterhorn in 1865 was struck by tragedy when four of the seven climbers were killed in a fall during the descent. Stewart documents the events surrounding the most dramatic and controversial event in the history of mountaineering and the subsequent career of one of the survivors, Edward Whymper. While Whymper was to become England's greatest climber and a well-known explorer, he was forced to spend much of his time defending his actions and replying to numer-

ous detractors due to this incident. His behavior and, at times, contradictory reactions to the event have been evaluated in terms of his social position and feeling of status inferiority brought about by the social composition of the early Alpinists. The year 1871 saw the publication of Whymper's *Scrambles among the Alps* and Leslie Stephen's *Pluxground of Europe*. Whymper's book became far more influential with its emphasis upon technique and man's conquest of nature. However, Stephen's work was much more representative of the values of the early Victorian Alpinists. Greatly influenced by Ruskin, early Alpinism emphasized the spiritual and aesthetic elements of climbing, saw climbing as an escape from the drudgery of urban industrial society, and resented the introduction of the businesslike efficiency of the new type of climber. the "climbing monomaniacs." This article provides numerous descriptions of early English Alpinism, an important, though neglected, area of Victorian sporting ideology. Based on primary sources and secondary works; no notes.

— James Peckman

II-11 Thomas, Keith. "No Compassion for 'The Brute Creation.'" *History Today*. 33 (April 1983), 5-10.

Prior to the mid-18th century, the English were observed to be notoriously cruel to "The Brute Creation." This article describes varying acts of violence to animals which appears to have affected every strata of society and was essentially due to an indifference to the suffering of animals. Yet by mid-century, a marked change in sensibility occurred with numerous philosophical essays and popular tracts being published to inculcate a more benevolent attitude toward animals. These sentiments were continually given expression by England's "unacknowledged legislators," its poets. This extension of moral concern toward lower species was, however, man centered; that cruelty to animals would eventually lead to cruelty to one's fellow man was best typified by William Hogarth's "Four Stages of Cruelty." Regardless of orientation, such concerns over the treatment of animals became one of the most distinctive features of late 18th century middle-class culture. Excerpted from *Man and the Nuturul World, Changing Attitudes in England 1500-1800*.

— James Peckman.