

Lumpkin, Angela. *A Guide to the Literature of Tennis*. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1985. Pp. xv, 235. \$29.95.

Greenwood Press targets their book "for the tennis buff and for . . . libraries with collections on . . . sports, biography, and fitness." Professor Lumpkin strives to "help individuals locate the books they need to enhance their understanding of tennis as well as their performance levels," by enumerating "over 950 English-language titles about tennis . . . [existing] in 1984 [of which] 475 partially or completely deal with playing techniques." Three chapters contain the instructionals and others cover, in frequency order, films, biography, juveniles, history, players and their performances, psychological aspects, rules, administration, facilities, humor, tennis in periodicals, tennis in general works, fitness, promotional organizations, travel, and equipment. Titles with multiple subjects repeat in different chapters. Fiction and unpublished materials appear excluded. Following short overviews, the chapters list their items twice, in narratives usually allotting zero to three sentences to each item (making tedious reading) and then in bibliographies (author, title, city, publisher, year). This format and lack of a title index handicap finding specific titles quickly. Only one publication year per book is stated although many listed books underwent numerous editions and revisions.

Undisclosed sources probably included the Library of Congress (mentioned once) and general library aids and holdings. I doubt that the author used special collections like The Kenneth Ritchie Wimbledon Library, The International Tennis Hall of Fame Library, The William Fischer Collection at St. John's University (Jamaica, NY), and The Racquet and Tennis Club Library (New York, NY). I count over 100 eligible titles omitted and over fifty factual mistakes in the text plus twenty more in the appendices. A habit in the narratives, not incorrect but disconcerting, is identifying by given names a dozen writers who never used first names. Three great tennis writers, S. Wallis Merrihew, A. Wallis Myers, and J. Parmly Paret become "Stephen Merrihew", "Arthur

Myers”, and “Jahail Paret” (who detested the “Jahail” inherited from a grandfather).

Professor Lumpkin accepts the “Outerbridge-first” story, per her 1981 women’s tennis documentary, but it seems incongruous for her to say Whitman in *Tennis Origins and Mysteries* “proves . . . Mary . . . first brought tennis . . . to the United States,” yet in the same paragraph ignore the convincing deflations of that proof provided by George Alexander and Tom Todd in their respective 1974 and 1979 books.

Two books the professor omits together form a solid lawn tennis bibliography: (1) Henderson, Robert W. *A Dictionary of the Library of Sport in the Racquet and Tennis Club with Special Collections on Tennis, Lawn Tennis*. (Boston: G.K. Hall, 1971), and (2) Peele, David A. *Racket and Paddle Games, a guide to information sources* (Detroit: Gale, 1980). The latter covers mostly the same post-1968 books as Lumpkin but with fuller bibliographic details, ample annotations, a fiction section, all standard indices, and a logical format.

The items the author omits cover twelve decades and most English-speaking nations but mainly are pre-1950 and English. As a general example, the 1927-dated oversights include De Alvarez, Lily. *Modern Lawn Tennis* (London); MacGregor, A. W. ed. *Fifty Years of Lawn Tennis in Scotland* (Edinburgh); and Wood, Pat. O’Hara. *the World’s Tennis Stars*. . . (Melbourne)-certainly not obscure books.

Lastly, concerning errors, Wingfield’s first booklet was not *The Game of Sphairistike* nor his second *The Major’s Game of Lawn Tennis*; it was the reverse. The professor incorrectly identifies the first rules, the first published tournament schedule, the first player biographical sketches, the first American guide annual, and the first USLTA umpires’ manual. Some other eye-catching mistakes: Ollie Campbell wrote neither *Care and Construction of Tennis Courts* (1927), nor *Campbell’s Lawn Tennis and the Way to Play It* (pirated from an 1889 English book); V. G. Hall’s two books, 1888 and 1889, are condensed into one; Mulloy’s autobiography, *Advantage Striker* (London, 1959), is treated as two books without recognizing *The Will to Win* (New York, 1960) was just a changed title for a different market; and, curiously, A. S. Pier’s essay on the joys of tennis, “Lawn Tennis” in his book *The Young in Heart* (1907), is converted into a book and misplaced under general tennis technique.

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