

Recent Dissertations

Abrams, Lynn Carole. "Aspects of Popular Culture, Leisure and Recreation in Imperial Germany with Particular Reference to Bochum and Dusseldorf." (University of East Anglia, U.K., 1988).

This dissertation enumerated and described leisure activities enjoyed by workers between 1870 and 1920 in two towns in North-Rhine Westphalia: Bochum and Dusseldorf. In the light of evidence of the non-work activities of working-class men and women in the industrial era, this study questioned the widely held belief that most working people experienced leisure within the orbit of the labor movement. While accepting that the Social Democratic Party and the socialist trade unions did exert a formative influence over some workers through their club activities, leisure for the majority of urban inhabitants was spent either at home, in a non-political organization like the church or local society, or partaking of entertainment provided by commercial enterprises and municipal authorities. In this context the working-class culture debate was addressed and a distinction was drawn between the professed culture of the labor movement and the culture of the everyday life of the working class. Concluding the research was a discussion of the mass commercial leisure forms characterizing the 1920s.

Alexandrakis, Dimitris S. "The Education of Children from Birth to Age Fourteen in Classical Athens (500-300 B.C.)." (Boston College, 1987).

In his discussion of the education of children in classical Athens, Alexandrakis noted that the Athenians considered education the birthright of a child and an indispensable part of life. During this period education was never technical but instead was utilized to develop intellectual, physical, moral and cultural qualities. Examined in the study were the roles of stories and play among preschool children; education of girls; the curriculum; the profession of teaching; and the aim of the school. It was concluded that the Athenian elementary schools sought to mold the child into an integrated personality through the cultivation of all aspects of his nature.

Dyreson, Mark Sanford. "America's Athletic Missionaries: The Olympic Games and the Creation of a National Culture, 1896-1936." (University of Arizona, 1989).

Dyreson examined the relationship between political and physical culture, the uses of athletic ideology in the construction of American civilization, and the function of sport as a cultural tool. The idea of the sporting republic united politics and the strenuous life. In the Olympics Americans discovered a particularly rich environment for both athletic and political demonstrations. American Olympic teams earned the title "America's athletic missionaries" for their performances at the first five Olympic Games. American Olympians enjoyed the active support of the political, business and academic elite. Lionized by the press and showered with public acclaim, the Olympians became symbols of the power of sport in channeling human energy in socially productive directions.

During the 1920s the role of the sporting republic underwent a transformation and

the political nature of sport changed. The press depicted the Olympic Games of the 1920s as sensational spectacles, without any significant political overtones. By the 1930s Americans had rediscovered the political uses of sport. Much of the world had come to view the Olympic Games as tests of national strength and many countries devoted great resources in the pursuit of athletic conquest.

Gems, Jerry. "The Emergence of Women in the Sporting Culture: Chicago, 1880-1940." (University of Maryland, 1989).

In the years following the Civil War women's participation in sports often offended Victorian sensibilities and contemporary standards of morality. Female pedestrians, baseball players, boxers, and cyclists were classed with actresses, i.e. akin to the prostitutes who displayed their bodies for immoral purposes. By the turn of the century, women assumed a more active role as co-participants in sporting ventures. Particular sports such as archery, croquet, cycling and golf became more acceptable and allowed for greater interaction between the sexes. During this period high school and college women began to organize leagues for competitive play.

By 1910 women were competing in track and field activities in the parks, playgrounds, and industrial recreation programs, as well as in interscholastic basketball and softball. They organized their own bowling association with money prizes and a national tournament. During the ensuing years women reassessed their relationships with the male hierarchy, and divided over philosophical issues; however, they no longer served as objects for male amusement. By the advent of World War II women had established the roots of their own sporting culture.

Hooker, Jane Howles. "A History of the Women's Sports Program at Memphis State University, 1912-1938." (University of Mississippi, 1988).

Philosophical, physiological and sociological factors which influenced the direction and development of women's sports programs at Memphis State University were the basis of this study. From 1912 to 1919, the women's sports program evolved as a self-organized, interclass program in tennis and basketball with sporadic interscholastic competition in basketball. Between 1919 and 1922, a full-time, trained women's physical educator introduced the first coaching class for women students and taught swimming on a seasonal basis. The interscholastic form of competition still prevailed and the first intercollegiate basketball game was scheduled.

From 1922 to 1929 women participated intercollegiately in basketball, competed in conference tournaments, received all-star recognition, and played in the national AAU basketball tournament. Intercollegiate basketball and tennis continued until 1936 when the college joined an athletic conference which did not provide membership opportunities for women. By 1936 the major type of competition was intramural although advanced players participated in a separate league and organized a team to play in local and regional tournaments outside the college jurisdiction.

Loomis, Barbara Diane. "Piety and Play: Young Women's Leisure in an Era of Evangelical Religion, 1790-1840." (University of California, Berkeley, 1988).

Religion and recreation are not necessarily incompatible but in the early decades of the nineteenth century the particular tenets of the evangelical denominations in the United States forced their followers to choose between the pursuit of amusements and the habits of a truly devout life. The issue of young women's leisure surfaced in this

period in ways that revealed tensions which were unique. Changes that had been a long time in the making suddenly crystallized, especially changes in the ways in which young people met and selected a partner for life. Alterations in the nature of parental authority, the increasing power of the peer group in guiding young people's behavior, uncertainties about what was proper in the interaction between the sexes, fears about widening class differences and new habits of consumption; all of these developments were reflected in the belief of evangelical church leaders that feminine leisure activities constituted an urgent problem. Evangelicals stood squarely opposed to the frivolous youth subculture that had become increasingly conspicuous by the end of the eighteenth century.

Murfin, Glynis Lyn. "Popular Leisure in Cumbria, 1870-1939." (University of Lancaster, U.K., 1987).

Included in this research was examination of the following major topics: leisure activities in the home; changes in the celebration of highdays and holidays; the recreational role of the public house; recreational activities organized by churches; and an analysis of the region's sport. Sport expanded markedly during the period. and Cumbria's distinctiveness was partially undermined as team games and social sports drew popular support away from older regional sporting activities. It was concluded that the range of leisure activities in Cumbria widened considerably during the period. Women began to take a more active part in recreational activity, and children also became more central to leisure culture. The region's leisure became increasingly commercialized and increasingly integrated into the national pattern of recreation.

Neel, Richard Lee. "America's Game in Middletown USA: Baseball in Muncie, Indiana, 1876-1953." (Ball State University, 1989).

Neel argued that since baseball is "America's National Game" and Muncie, Indiana, is commonly perceived as "Middletown, USA" that Muncie baseball should be reflective of the national game and serve as a microcosm for both national and local social changes. The reason for the success of Muncie baseball was the constant availability of quality baseball parks and that appears to be an important criteria for a successful semi-professional baseball club. Muncie was reflective of the national game as the Pittsburgh Pirates held spring training there during World War II and the Cincinnati Reds supported a Class D farm club from 1946 to 1950. Such national attention from major league clubs was a product of the rich Muncie baseball tradition.

Newsome, Ron J. "Amos Alonzo Stagg: His Football Coaching Career at the University of Chicago." (East Texas State University, 1988).

The purpose of Newsome's study was to discover and report information about the life and professional career of Amos Alonzo Stagg and his contributions to American collegiate football during his forty-one years as head football coach at the University of Chicago. An inability to speak before audiences was the factor which turned Stagg from the ministry to athletics. His decision in 1889 to pursue athletics was the beginning of a career which led him to the Springfield Y.M.C.A. Training School to the University of Chicago and, finally, to the College of the Pacific.

Stagg's contributions to football began as a player and spanned nearly all of his seventy-one years as an active coach. For those contributions, Stagg received many honors and awards, including the national Coach of the Year Award in 1943 at the age of eighty-one. Stagg is the only person in history to be voted into the College Football

Hall of Fame as a player and as a coach. He is also a member of the College Basketball Hall of Fame. Based on the findings of this study, Amos Alonzo Stagg was truly a pioneer in the development of college football.

Ren, Hai. "A Comparative Analysis of Ancient Greek and Chinese Sport." (University of Alberta, 1988).

Ren examined the significance of sport in two major ancient civilizations by using an historical and cross-cultural analysis. There were evident differences between ancient Greek and Chinese sport in the following aspects: ancient Greek sports were more centralized and more standardized in their forms while ancient Chinese sports were mainly decentralized and less standardized. With respect to the nature of sport, ancient Greek sports were strongly competitive while ancient Chinese sports were more non-competitive. In terms of a focus on physical exercise, the ancient Greeks paid much more attention to the external muscular development, while the ancient Chinese regarded the internal body functions as more important. With regard to the pattern of physical movements, ancient Chinese sport demonstrated a strong biomedical character while its Greek counterpart did not do so. Ren concluded that the differences between sports in the two ancient cultures was the result of the interaction of various social factors.

Tsuchiya, Hiroko. "The Making of Hard Playing Americans: The Legitimization of Working Class Leisure, 1890-1929." (Columbia University, 1986).

Until the 1890s employers remained either indifferent or hostile to leisure for industrial and menial workers. By the end of the 1920s however, leisure and recreation were inseparable from ideas of American material well-being and the American style of living. This dissertation dealt with the forces behind these changes. The organizations and institutions that responded to the necessity for leisure included professional organizations of engineers and psychologists, employers' organizations and the War Department as well as settlement houses and recreation associations. Leisure, as well as work, was the result of a conscious choice of social policy of political and economic decision making, and of conflicts in values and interests among the organizations of employers, workers, professional recreation organizers and an interested public: leisure was not an organic growth nurtured in the soil of the so called "mass" society. Its ideology and practice was both class-determined, because leisure, just as work, was an object of control. Leisure as it is now understood is a product of this era.

Wallace, William Gordon. "Race Walking in America: Past and Present." (University of Texas at Austin, 1989).

Beginning with professional pedestrianism in England and America until its demise in the 1880s, Wallace traced the development of both competitive and recreational walking with an emphasis on walking as a sport. Included in the development were the ebb and flow of amateur race walking through the 1980s; groups and individuals connected with the sport; problems within the activity, especially judging; and the current status of walking. Threaded throughout the study was a concern with the social implications which arose as pedestrianism and race walking made their way over the 19th and 20th centuries.

Williams, Linda Darnette. "An Analysis of American Sportswomen in Two Negro Newspapers: *The Pittsburgh Courier*, 1924-1948 and the *Chicago Defender*, 1932-1948." (Ohio State University, 1987).

Every issue of the *Pittsburgh Courier* and the *Chicago Defender* was analyzed based on four categories: the extent of coverage, the type of coverage, the style of coverage, and the production of the media. Although the coverage was never equivalent to men's, both papers reported women's sporting activities as well as sponsored athletic leagues or tournaments. The *Defender* carried more items about sportswomen than the *Courier*. More than 60% of the issues in the *Defender* contained some coverage of sportswomen while less than half of the *Courier's* editions featured such stories. The *Defender's* 1741 bulletins on women's sports constituted more than twice the number appearing in the *Courier* (771). Ninety-two percent of these items in the *Courier* and 85% in the *Defender* appeared on the first and second pages of the sports section. The news content in both papers focused on athletic performance and achievement. Less than 10% of all stories in both papers contained negative innuendos about women athletes and each paper included photographs of sportswomen. However, there were more than three times as many pictures in the *Defender*. Basketball, tennis and track and field accounted for almost two-thirds of the items in the *Defender* and for more than three-fourths of the items in the *Courier*.