



Discussing their latest research projects at the wine and cheese party were George Eisen, Dave Zang, Alar Lipping, John Schleppi, and Dave Wiggins.

Networks of Power: People and Positions at the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association During the Nineteenth Century

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The Montreal Amateur Athletic Association (M.A.A.A.) was formed in 1881 out of the legal confluence of 3 major sports clubs, the Montreal Snow Shoe Club, the Montreal Lacrosse Club and the Montreal Bicycle Club. In effect, it became the foster-parent of Montreal - and in some cases, Canadian-sport; not only was it the right institution at the right place at the right time, but it assumed a major leadership role in organized sport in the late 19th century. In so doing, it became the “powerhouse” of Canadian sport.

Previous research on the topic of power related to the M.A.A.A. has examined the Association's organizational excellence, its power-as-influence and the structure and dynamics of power with the institution. This paper focuses upon the hierarchical nature of the power structure with the M.A.A.A. and examines the networks of power related to occupational position of the general membership, the Board of Directors and selected athletic teams. Lovell's *Directories of Montreal* were used to extract name and occupation samples for the years 1882-1883, 1890-1891 and 1899-1900. The samples were drawn using a random number's table but no statistical level of confidence/significance could be achieved due to missing data, the tremendous sample sizes required for significance and the very strict rules of name linkage which are well described in historical sampling techniques. Inferences were made from the data to show trends from the samples obtained.

The results showed that the M.A.A.A. membership generally was a solid business-occupation, mercantile group with very little working class representation. Major occupational groups included clerk, manager/owner of a small business, general agent, manufacturer, bookkeeper, attorney and accountant. General Montreal population, by contrast, tended to be laborer, clerk, commercial traveller, grocer/bookkeeper etc. in occupational listing. The various Boards of Directors were concentrated into the distinct mercantile categories of occupations while strong athletic teams tended to be composed of working class occupations as well as mercantile occupations.

Conclusions from the study were difficult to draw because of sample size, the problems of associating occupation with class and the inferential nature of the results. The data do support the necessity of further research to look at the theoretical bases of power especially as it relates to conflict theory (contested, achieved power) and Marxian analysis. Continued research will be directed toward the concept, process and theory of power related to sport using the M.A.A.A. as a case study.