

John Daly, *Elysian Fields: Sport, Class and Community in Colonial South Australia*, the author, Adelaide, 1982., illus., tables, maps, index, pp.225. \$28.95.

Sport historians and sociologists are well aware of the dearth of readily accessible reference material reflecting Australian social content, There is an ever increasing need for scholars to gather Australian material and to draw theoretical explanations based upon the indigenous evidence. John Daly's work is a major step in overcoming this shortfall as it provides researchers with an appreciation of the development of sporting traditions of South Australia, or more specifically, Adelaide and surrounding districts.

Daly provides his reader with a thorough background of the society of nineteenth century South Australia. During this period South Australia was founded upon a distinct social, economic and migrant pattern which included a cross section of British social hierarchy along with the later arrival of immigrants with a distinct German background.

Daly calls upon the recognised work of others (such as Delebere Blaine and Joseph Strutt) to explain the role that sport played in British society at the time of colonial establishment, He then systematically links the migration of Britons, and specific groups from Ireland and Scotland, with their associated sporting behaviours. Daly also explores how various sports reflected the social status and interests of different classes in colonial South Australia. This is portrayed under such sub-headings as 'Rational' Sports for the 'Lower Orders', Sport - 'theatre for the masses' and 'Sport and the Gentry - 'play and display'. Tables displaying the national origin, sex, occupation, and church affiliation enhance the description of the social make-up of this unique colonial society. Daly shows realistically how developments are a mirror of society.

By separating the text from the footnotes and bibliography the book is more inviting for the recreational reader. The most positive contribution of this book is to reveal a wealth of relevant primary resources in official documents, directories and manuscripts, housed in Adelaide. This book will prove to be a valuable spring-board for all future research in this area.

One major limitation of this book is the society chosen, The social composition of colonial South Australia most definitely does not mirror the society of colonial Australia. The social structure of this initial settlement was unique. It is hoped that readers of this text appreciate this fact and do not misconstrue this research as a representative example of the introduction and development of sporting traditions in all Australian colonies, The title 'Elysian Fields' refers to South Australia's utopian ideals, which were not evident in those other colonies founded upon a convict social base,

Elysian Fields is a well documented social history of colonial South Australians at play which will enhance any future research on this subject.

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