

Editorial Preface

It has been a privilege to edit thirteen issues of *Sporting Traditions* and to work closely with over 60 authors. During my term there has been a marked improvement in the variety, range and quality of articles coming across my desk. A particularly pleasing feature has been the number of articles published by postgraduates and recent graduates.

The main change in the journal during my term has been the introduction of an International Editorial Review Board making the journal a fully refereed one. Special thanks are due to all the members of this Board for their prompt and critical comments which have improved the quality of many articles. The other change has been the introduction of a cover illustration drawn from one of the articles published. I think this innovation has also worked well.

Thanks are also due to the Editorial Board, particular to two retiring members, John Nauright and Braham Dabscheck (after he has produced the June 1999 Bulletin). John has expanded the Reviews Section to include longer review articles and symposia and thematic reviews — providing scope for extended reflective pieces. He has also enhanced the international dimensions of the Reviews. Braham has been the longest-serving ASSH *Bulletin* Editor, which has always had some lively, idiosyncratic and even controversial elements. Who can forget the piece on the reputed Chinese origins of golf which caused shock waves in Scotland and reverberated around the world?

Sporting Traditions is now fifteen years old and changed markedly since the first issue in November 1984 and since my first issue in May 1993. While the focus is still on Australian sport, there have been more articles on New Zealand, South Africa and even Canada because Australian sport does not exist in a vacuum. New Zealand reactions to the Bodyline tour for instance throw further light on New Zealand reactions to an 'Australian' sporting event and reveal what New Zealanders thought of Australian sporting culture. Along with articles on sports history there have also been a growing number of articles on sports studies, sports sociology, sports theory and contemporary sport. My policy has been an eclectic one, to publish the best articles that come across my desk and to balance the interests of what has become a more

diverse, interesting and occasionally fractious sports history community. Some articles, which have been heavily econometric, have been rejected because they were judged outside the interests of the core members of ASSH.

It is good to hand over to a 'team' with a blend of experience in John O'Hara (Editor), and rising stars in Murray Phillips (Reviews Editor) and Tara Magdalinski (Bulletin). I wish them well.

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