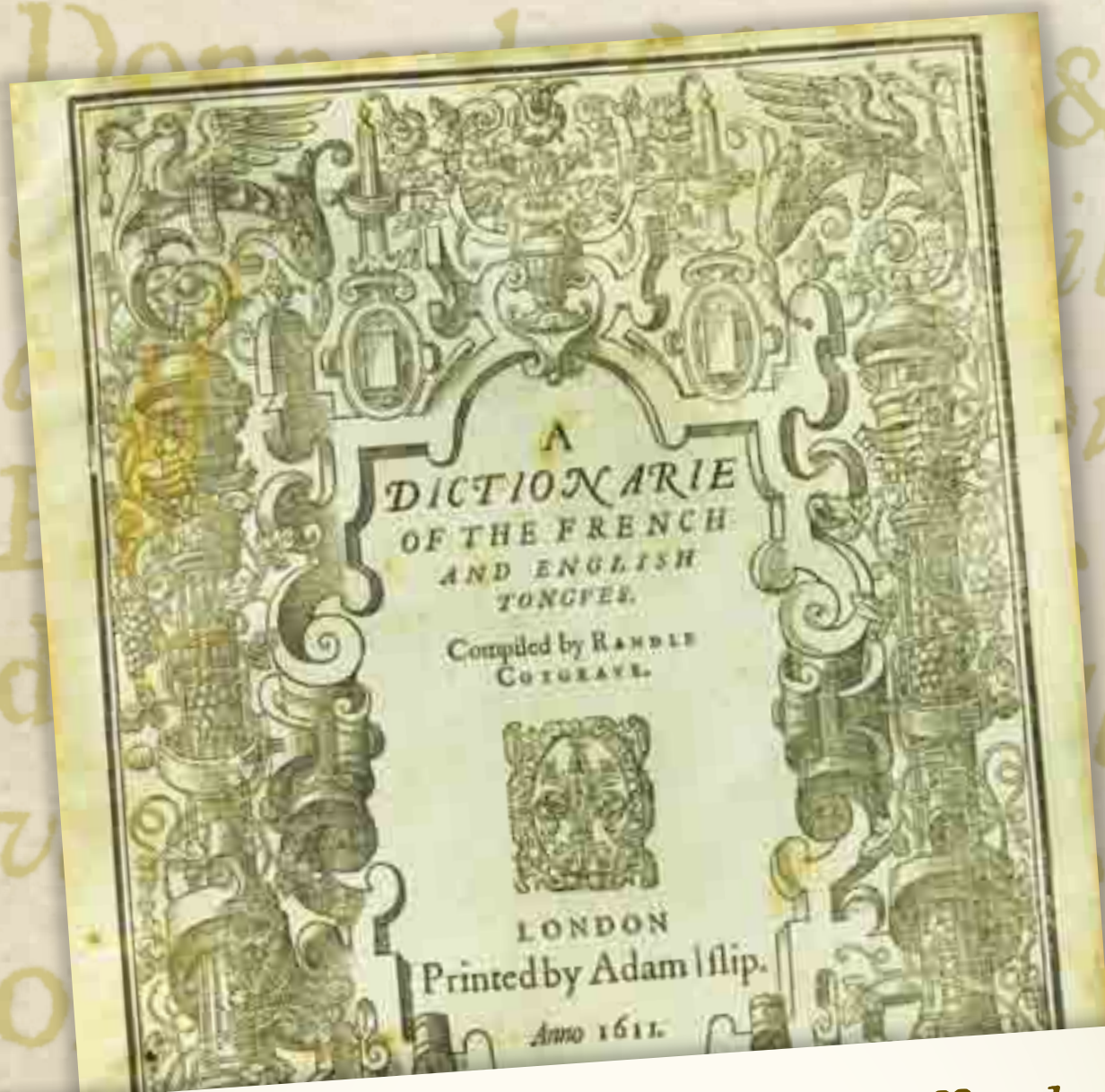


THE YORKER

JOURNAL OF THE MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB LIBRARY
ISSUE 43, SUMMER 2010/2011



Crofse: f. A Crosier, or Bishops staffe; also, a crooked staffe wherewith boyes play at cricket.

THIS ISSUE: Celebrating the 400th anniversary of our oldest item, Ashes to Ashes, Some notes on the Long Room, and Mollydookers in Australian Test Cricket

LIBRARY NEWS

The new cataloguing team has swung into action.

This year has seen a commitment by the club to the cataloguing of the substantial backlog of items in the library collection with the appointment of three new staff members – Celia Drummond, Samuel Gibbard and Sandra Messina.

Celia, who recently graduated as a librarian, joined us at the start of the year and has been working with Deborah Schrader, the cataloguing team leader. They have been joined by another librarian in Samuel, who has worked in a range of academic and specialist libraries in the UK, the USA and Australia.

Celia and Sandra, a library technician, both undertook practicum placements in the MCC Library as part of their professional and paraprofessional training. It promises to be a productive six months as Deborah's team sort, catalogue, process and store a veritable treasure trove of items.



Alf Batchelder wins his second Pollard Trophy for *Hugh Trumble: a cricketer's life*

We are very pleased to announce that at the annual general meeting of the Australian Cricket Society on September 1, 2010, MCC Library volunteer Alf Batchelder was awarded the

Jack Pollard Trophy for the best Australian cricket book to be published in the previous 12 months "for his fine book on the life of that great cricketer and administrator of yesteryear entitled *Hugh Trumble: a cricketer's life*."

Alf was presented with the perpetual trophy (which will be on display for 12 months in the MCC Library) and a plaque. All in the library congratulate Alf on becoming just the fifth multiple winner of this award.

The MCC Library was pleased to join Australian Scholarly Publishing in co-publishing this two-volume work in a limited edition of 200. A few copies remain for sale at \$220.00, either from ASP <http://www.scholarly.info> or from the MCC Library 9657 8876 or library@mcc.org.au.

MCC Library visits MCC Library

From December 6, 2010 to February 4, 2011, staff in the MCC Library will be hosting a colleague from our reciprocal club in London, Neil Robinson, research officer at the Marylebone Cricket Club's Arts and Library Department. This visit will be an important opportunity for both Neil's professional development, as he observes the weekday and event day operations of library staff and volunteers, as well as paving the way for further collaboration between the two sister libraries.

Neil was born on Tyneside and studied librarianship at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen. He has worked at the Marylebone Cricket Club Library since 2006 and is the first professionally trained librarian to be appointed. He has written for *Wisden Cricket Monthly*, *The Journal of The Cricket Society* and www.abcofcricket.com. In 2007 he published *Long Promised Road*, a book about a walk across Europe. He is also the creator of the "Robinson formula" a solution to Test match draws.

As well as taking part in the day-to-day work of our library, Neil will be assisting with a range of activities including the co-curation of the second rotation of displays in the *Crooked Staffe: Four Centuries of Cricket in Print* exhibition, assisting with tours of the exhibition and public programs and exploring potential co-operation between the two clubs' libraries in the creation of a comprehensive Online Bibliography of Cricket.

Neil will also be investigating the possibility of forming a global enquiry response team and seeking to develop further lines of potential co-operation between the two libraries and other partners such as the C.C. Morris Cricket Library in Pennsylvania, USA.

Neil's time here promises to be a very busy and exciting few months. If you are visiting the library, please introduce yourself to him. I know our regular clientele will join the staff and volunteers in making him feel most welcome and a valuable member of our team for the summer.

David Studham
Melbourne Cricket Club Librarian



"HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE A QUADRICENTENNIAL?"

With an exhibition celebrating four centuries of cricket in print

A range of articles in this edition of *The Yorker* complement the new exhibition commemorating the 400th anniversary of the publication of the oldest book in the MCC Library, Randle Cotgrave's *Dictionarie of the French and English tongues*, published in London in 1611, the same year as the *King James Bible* and the premiere of Shakespeare's last solo play, *The Tempest*.

The *Dictionarie* is a scarce book, but not especially rare. It is a key work to collectors of cricket items as it contains the first printed references and definition of the game of cricket. The book was donated to the MCC Library by Anthony Baer in 1968.

The Crooked Staffe exhibition celebrates the diverse history of cricket as depicted in various forms of print: books, magazines, programs, menus, sheet music, lithographs, tickets, china, labels, cards and so on over the past four centuries.

Staff and volunteers have delved into the treasures of the MCC Library and Museum's cricket collections to shine some light upon some of the rare and famous works and unique personal items, including some that are frivolous and ephemeral.

Across the 12 months of the celebrations there will be three different exhibitions: the opening blockbuster for the Ashes series (2010/11), then exhibitions specialising in different areas of cricket in print including programs, menus, cards, children's books and literature.

The opening display runs from December 13, 2010 to February 28, 2011. It offers an eclectic range of items that give an insight into the way the game has been portrayed in print over the last four centuries.

Highlights include:

- Cotgrave's *Dictionarie of the French and English tongues* from 1611.
- First printed rules of cricket - on a handkerchief from 1744.
- First references to cricket being played in Australia - Sydney Mail of January 1804.
- First Australian cricket book - Biers & Fairfax's *Australian Cricket Annual* 1856/57.
- The "Demon" Spofforth's player's ticket from the Australian 1882 tour of England, the famous Ashes Test at Kennington Oval and his copy of Reynold's famous book of the 1878 Australians' tour to England and North America.

- The famous Ashes obituaries published in *Cricket, a weekly record of the game*, and *Sporting Times* in 1882 and the verse pasted on to the Darnley Ashes Urn printed in Melbourne *Punch* in 1883.
- The large paper edition of W.G. Grace's book that he presented to the Melbourne Cricket Club during his tour in 1892/93 as captain of Lord Sheffield's England team.

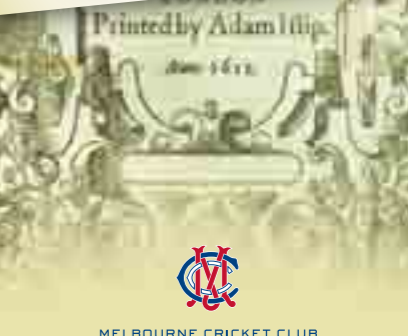
The exhibition is located in and near the MCC Library on Level 3 of the Members Reserve. MCC members and their guests may enter via Gate 2.

The Crooked Staffe:

an Exhibition Celebrating Four Centuries of Cricket in Print

MCC Library, Level 3, Members Pavilion

Crofse: f. A Crofser, or Bishops staffe; also, a crooked staffe wherewith boyes play at cricket.



Cotgrave, Randle. *Dictionarie of the French and English Tongues*. London: Adam Islip, 1611. MCC Library's Anthony Baer Collection, donated 1968. Record #1780, RARE 911.01 DIC

“THE CROOKED STAFFE”

Randle Cotgrave and his *Dictionarie of the French and English Tongues*



Crosse: f. A Crosier, or Bishops staffe; also, a Cricket-staffe; or, the crooked staffe wherewith boyes play at Cricket.

One of the most fascinating volumes in the MCC Library is undoubtedly Cotgrave's *Dictionarie of the French and English Tongues*, published in 1611. Like so many of the club's treasures, the dictionary came from the collection of Tony Baer, who purchased it in May 1961. Previously, it had belonged to Joseph Wolfe Goldman, a London solicitor who in 1933 won more than £100 in a day by backing horses ridden by Gordon Richards. He claimed to have "had 15 'doubles,' and they all won." Though his skilful punting brought some renown, Goldman is better remembered as owning one of the finest cricket book collections ever assembled.

A bookplate inside the cover reveals that Goldman's copy of the *Dictionarie* had once belonged to a Marquess of Lansdowne. However, it is hard to be sure which marquess was the first owner. Possibly, it belonged to William Fitzmaurice Petty, the Earl of Shelburne and Prime Minister of England, whose greatest political achievement lay in negotiating peace after the American War of Independence ended in 1783. As a reward, he was created Marquess of Lansdowne in 1784. Though his family had then resided at Bowood in Wiltshire for 30 years, his title in the Peerage of Great Britain was taken from Lansdowne Hill, Somerset.

Lord Lansdowne had been collecting books, mainly on history and politics, since about 1765, when he had purchased a residence in London's Berkeley Square. Among the books gathered by the marquess were several which had belonged to Sir Julius Caesar, a judge and politician who had been Chancellor and Under Treasurer of the Exchequer between 1606 and 1614. From the same era, Lansdowne also acquired many books that had been owned by Lord Burghley. It is

possible, therefore, that his copy of Cotgrave came from one of these sources.

The fact that Lord Lansdowne had two sumptuously decorated houses raises a question: where did he keep his copy of Cotgrave? It is tempting to imagine the *Dictionarie* sitting in Bowood's library, where the family and their guests gathered to read, play chess, sing and discuss politics and other topics of the day. Perhaps the book was on the shelves when the youthful Jeremy Bentham frequented Bowood. The great reformer and philosopher reputedly "passed his time at falling unsuccessfully in love with all the ladies of the house, whom he courted with a clumsy jocularly, while playing chess with them or giving them lessons on the harpsichord." Bentham's visits must have been quite memorable – to the end of his life in 1832 he could not hear of Bowood "without tears swimming in his eyes".

By then, the *Dictionarie* was probably no longer held by the Lansdownes. The second Marquess, who died in 1809, had sold almost all of the collections to pay off his father's debts, leaving Bowood temporarily uninhabitable. Since the sale included even the historic equipment that Dr Joseph Priestley had used at Bowood in discovering oxygen in 1774, it is highly likely that the Cotgrave volume was also sold at that time.

Few visitors to the MCC Library are unimpressed by the dictionary's publication date of 1611, the year in which the King James Version of the Bible was published. It is believed that Shakespeare's play *The Tempest* was first performed around the same time. Cotgrave's volume appeared only four years after the first English settlement in North America was established at Jamestown, and five years after Willem

THE FIRST PUBLISHED DEFINITIONS OF CRICKET FROM 1611

*Croce. A Crosier, or Bishops staffe; also, a kind of game; See Crosse.
Crocer. as Crosier; To play at Cricket.
Envoyer crocer. To send packing; See Crosier.*

*Crosse: f. A Crosier, or Bishops staffe; also, a Cricket-staffe; or, the crooked staffe wherewith boyes play at Cricket.
Donner la Mitre, & la crosse à. To authorise, or beare out, by the priuiledge of a religious function; to couer with the specious cloake of Religion.
Evesque d'or crosse de bois, crosse d'or Evesque de bois: Prov. The lesse a Bishops staffe, the more his vertue, shines; pompe first corrupted Prelacie.
Crosier. To play at Cricket.*

Cotgrave, Randle
A dictionarie of the French and English tongues
London: Printed by Adam Islip, 1611
Record #1780 *913.01 DIC

MCC Library's Anthony Baer Collection, donated 1968
Provenance: Marquess of Lansdowne, unknown, JW Goldman, Anthony Baer

Janszoon had become the first European known to have mapped part of the Australian coastline.

However, in the context of dictionaries, 1611 is a relatively recent date. In Mesopotamia, bilingual Sumerian and Akkadian wordlists had appeared on cuneiform tablets around 2300BC. At Nineveh, in about 640 BC, the library of King Ashurbanipal contained clay tablets that can be regarded as the first recorded form of dictionary, while the *Erh ya* of the third century BC has been viewed as the earliest Chinese lexicon. In England, the earliest dictionary-like tools were the tenth century "glosses" that gave Anglo-Saxon readers easier

access to the Lindisfarne Gospels by inserting word-for-word Old English translations between the lines of the Latin text.

In 1582, Richard Mulcaster, the founder of English language lexicography and the sixteenth century's greatest advocate of the benefits of "footeball", had called for a dictionary that would provide the correct spelling of words as well as "their naturall force, and their proper use". However, the notion of a comprehensive English dictionary was still rather radical. Indeed, the notion that native speakers needed guidance in their own tongue was considered absurd and even demeaning. Nevertheless, the influx of words from foreign languages caused problems for many readers. Consequently, many of the earliest English reference works were not dictionaries in the

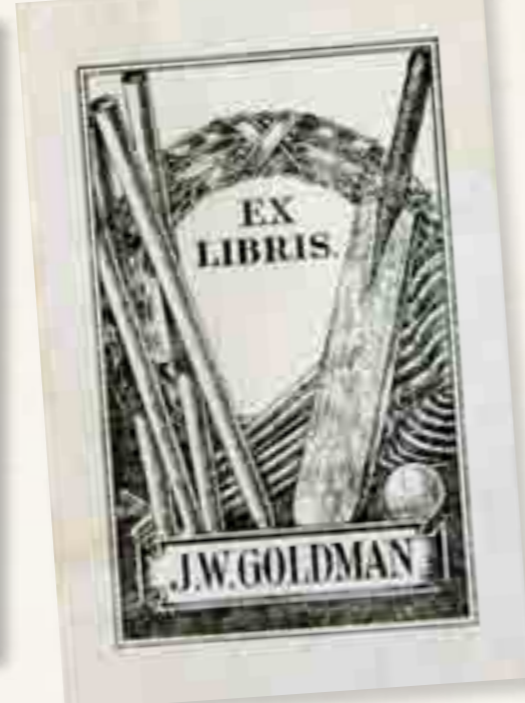


A bookplate of the arms of a Marquess of Lansdowne, contained in the front of our copy of Cotgrave's *Dictionarie*.

modern sense but lists of difficult words, like Edmund Coote's *The English Schoolmaster*, published in 1596. In 1604, Robert Cawdrey produced *A Table Alphabeticall ... of hard usuall English wordes, borrowed from the Hebrew, Greeke, Latin, or French, etc. ... gathered for the benefit and help of Ladies, Gentlewomen, or any other unskilful persons*. There were also lists of Latin words and their English equivalents, such as Thomas' *Dictionarium Linguae Latinae et Anglicanae* of 1587.

During the Renaissance, the expansion of European trade and commerce generated a mass movement of people that triggered a growing need to learn and master foreign languages. As a result, English scholars produced, between 1530 and 1599, several bi-lingual and multi-lingual dictionaries that translated French, Spanish and Italian words into English. Of those languages, none was more important than French, which played a dominant role in the education of the nobility and gentry. When Claudius Holyband fled France in 1565, he found that London's wealthy mercantile classes wanted their sons to be able to speak French. To meet that demand, the Huguenot refugee opened no fewer than three schools at various times, and published two teaching manuals, *The French Littleton* and *The French Schoolmaster*. Both works contained lengthy vocabulary lists that Holyband expanded into his 1593 *Dictionary French and English*, a volume that provided an important foundation for Cotgrave and his *Dictionarie* of 1611.

Randle Cotgrave had entered St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1587. Subsequently, he became secretary to William Cecil who, from 1605 to 1623, was the third Lord Burghley. Cotgrave claimed that he owed "all that he is or has been for many years" to His Lordship. Indeed, it would have been impossible to devote the "many houres" demanded by his lexicon without His Lordship's support and approval. Though Cotgrave had dedicated the *Dictionarie* to "my very good Lord and Master" whose "goodnesse" had allowed the scholar "time to finish" his lengthy task, he could not imagine "a Worke of lesse use for your Lordship, the French being already so well understood by you and yours." Despite this disclaimer, Cotgrave was not too ashamed of his efforts to send a copy of the *Dictionarie* to 17-year-old Prince Henry of Wales, who responded with a gift of 10 pounds.



The bookplate of J.W. Goldman, a previous owner of the *Dictionarie*, is arguably the most sort-after by cricket collectors.

Cotgrave had good reason to be proud of his work. Though it contains some serious errors, the *Dictionarie* was the product of careful and intelligent research. As he compiled what would become the most extensive French word-list of his time, he had shipped sections of the manuscript to Paris for checking, as well as sharing it with some scholars in London. While Cotgrave's tome is invaluable for researchers interested in the finer points of Shakespearian language, it is even more significant as a time capsule, providing definitions that illuminate countless aspects of early seventeenth century life. Many of these, such as the various card games and the many varieties of bread, are quite mundane matters. However, the explanation of the term "Quartier", for example, is more serious: "quarter, or faire war, wherein souldiers are taken prisoners and ransomed at a certain rate." Thus, when no quarter was given, the unfortunate prisoners more than likely faced a death sentence.

As a thorough cross-section of its time, the *Dictionarie* contains many words that were making their first appearance in print, though they had probably been in use orally for generations. For example, the *Oxford English Dictionary* notes that the noun "obesity" was first seen in Cotgrave. Another first sighting related to the French word "Haumelette", which was defined as "an Omelet, or Pancake of egges". The *Dictionarie* also reveals an old sense of the adjective "square": "Vn ferial beuveur" was "a square drinker, a faithfull drunkard; one that will take his liquor soundly." Cotgrave's explanation of the French noun "Tirelire" is thought to shed light on the evolution of the later term "Boxing Day": "a Christmas box; a box having a cleft on the lid, or in the side, for money to it; used in France by begging Fryers, and here by Butlers, and Prentices, etc."

For the MCC collection, the great significance of the *Dictionarie of the French and English Tongues* is that it contains a very early usage in print of the word "cricket". The meaning of the French verb "Crosier" is given as "To play at cricket", while the entry for the feminine noun "Crosse" refers to "A Crosier or Bishops staffe; also, a Cricket-staffe; or, the crooked staffe wherewith boyes play at cricket."



Cotgrave had served as secretary to the third Lord Burghley, to whom he dedicated his work.

Cotgrave's view that cricket was a boy's game was probably correct when he was carrying out his research. In 1598, a court case confirmed that boys from the Royal Grammar School had played "creckett" on a certain plot of land in Guildford, Surrey, around 1550. However, by the time the *Dictionarie* appeared, the game was attracting adult participation. Ecclesiastical records from 1611 show that two Sidlesham parishioners in West Sussex had played cricket instead of attending church on Easter Sunday. They were fined 12 pence and made to do penance, which probably involved confessing their sins to the entire congregation.

Some authorities claim that Cotgrave's reference to the game was preceded by an Italian-English dictionary of 1598, in which Giovanni Florio's explanation of "cricket" as an insect was followed by "to play cricket-a-wicket, and be merry". This is often interpreted as referring to the game, but in his 1997 *History of Cricket*, Peter Wynne-Thomas says that any such connection is "debatable". This view is supported by Florio's 1611 edition, which raises the possibility that "cricket-a-wicket" relates to a concept defined as "to thrum a wench lustily ..."

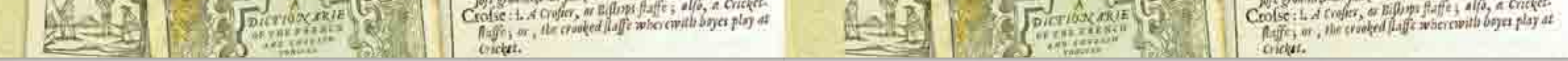
The inclusion of cricket in a French-English dictionary has surprised many visitors to the MCC Library. A disparaging comment is frequently heard: "What would the French know about cricket?" In the modern era, it is all too readily forgotten that, between the Norman Conquest of 1066 and the fall of Calais in 1558, England had a significant military, political and commercial presence in France. During the five centuries in which those conditions prevailed, it would have been highly surprising if early forms of cricket had not crossed the Channel, along with a host of other activities and ideas. However, the direction in which the game made that journey is another matter, as etymologists and sociologists have raised the possibility of the game having continental roots. In 2002, former president of the French Cricket Association Didier Marchois claimed to have found evidence that cricket "was born in the north of France and taken across the Channel by English soldiers who picked it up during the Hundred Years War". His claims were not taken seriously in England, with the Society of Antiquaries of London labelling them "amusing" and not very "credible". Subsequently, Australian National University academic Paul Campbell argued that the 1533 poem "The Image of Ipcrisie" supports claims that the game was brought to England by Flemish weavers. Moreover, Dr Heiner Gillmeister of Bonn University suggests that the term cricket originated from the Flemish phrase "met de krik ketsen", meaning "to chase with a curved stick".

While it is rather ironic that an Australian and a German have made such findings about what is regarded as the great English game, it must be remembered that, in 1611, Randle Cotgrave was not making a statement about cricket's origins. By the time of his research, Catholic refugees were certainly playing the game in the region now known as northern France. For example, when the Jesuit College opened at St Omer in 1593, in what was then the Spanish Netherlands, it was established under the patronage of Philip II of Spain to educate boys who were unable to receive Catholic instruction in Elizabethan England. The students reputedly played a form of the game that the college's founder, Fr Robert Persons SJ, had enjoyed in his youth. Conceivably, other expatriates enjoyed similar recreational activity. Consequently, Cotgrave's primary concern was the fact that cricket had certainly found a place in the French language.

Apart from his achievements as a lexicographer, little is known about Randle Cotgrave. He produced a second version of his *Dictionarie* in 1632, with further editions appearing in 1650, 1660 and 1673. He was possibly the "Randal Cotgreve" who later became registrar to the Bishop of Chester. Uncertainty also exists about the date of his death, which is given as either 1634 or 1652. What is known is that his scholarly labours exacted a sad price – after years of researching documents, he lost his eyesight.

In his wildest dreams, Randle Cotgrave would never have imagined that, four centuries after he first published it, his *Dictionarie of the French and English Tongues* would be a famed exhibit in the library of a huge sporting club on the other side of the world. He certainly would not have expected his great work to be the centrepiece of a display tracing the history of "Cricket In Print".

Alf Batchelder



TONY BAER:

The man who donated Cotgrave's 1611 Dictionarie

The Melbourne Cricket Club is indebted to Anthony Baer (1938-2005), a passionate collector of cricket-related ceramics, artworks, trophies and curios whose generous donation of his collection led to the establishment of the Melbourne Cricket Club Museum in 1968.

During his English childhood Tony developed a love for all things cricket and many items of his collection relate to the game during his youth. Over the years he amassed a treasure trove of porcelain, china, silverware, pottery, oil paintings, watercolours, prints, photographs, books, pamphlets and ephemera. The collection is unsurpassed for its diversity, quality and depth.

When his London house was overflowing with cricketana in the late 1960s, he kindly offered his collection to the Melbourne Cricket Club, a club with which he had developed an affinity during his many visits to Melbourne. The Baer material was a ready-made exhibition containing over 1200 pieces of the history and development of the game. Importantly, it perfectly complemented the club's rich holdings on colonial and Australian cricket history.

Some of the rarest cricket books and annuals were among the 250 items that made up Anthony's rare book collection which was donated to the MCC Library. It is interesting to note that Tony did not want to just collect cricket books. He wanted only the rarest and finest cricket books. Many of these he acquired from J.W. Goldman, another of the great cricket collectors who was dispersing his collection in the 1960s.

Tony maintained his interest in collecting to the end, especially his beloved ceramics, and through a series of donations he was a valued benefactor of both the MCC and other cricket institutions in Australia and overseas. He retained his love of the game despite deteriorating health and relished regular contact with a circle of cricketing friends that he had made over the years.

In the words of cricket writer Mike Coward, "Tony Baer was Australian cricket's least-known but most magnanimous benefactor. His legacy is the world's finest cricket collection outside of Lord's. It is a gift to the people of this sports-loving nation."

David Studham
Melbourne Cricket Club Librarian

Tony Baer with sections of his collection as previously housed in parts of his London flat (above and left) and now in the MCC Museum (Below)



SOME THOUGHTS ON FOUR CENTURIES OF CRICKET IN PRINT

Cricket, s. (an Infect)
Grillon. (a sort of Play)
La crosse, sorte de Jeu.
(a low Stool) Un petit

Frontispiece from *The Young Cricketers Tutor*, 1833, MCCCL

IN THE YEAR 1784 SET OF BELTING BELIEVED TO THE MOON, AND HER BROTHER, AND I AM TO HER, SAID I, THY WAS AND THE AND SHE SAYS TO ME, OH, MR. PUTMAN, DON'T SAY I'M A 'LASSY BIRD', IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING, DON'T YOU KNOW?

WHO'S ON THE CRICKET FIELD?
TUNE: "What's at the Window?"
Who's on the cricket field, who, who?
Who's on the cricket field, who, who?
Who but leave 'em high,
Come here boldly to try
To stem the blue ribbon snow, snow,
To stain the blue ribbon snow.

With him come his comrade to help,
With willow and leather to help, to help,
And as he has well won,
So each man has well done.
His feet and his hands to help, to help,
The army of Marlock to help.

Oh, great Mother England, hurrah, hurrah!
Our famous Old England, hurrah, hurrah!
We true children of Great
Must not feel when you shiver,
P'raps our blue coats a little on the row, the row,
A few gentle raps on the row.

When 'ee goes back with the net, the net!
Stool, stool, stool and Tylavote return,
The walkin will ring loud,
The great crowd will feel proud,
Singing Barlow and Bates with the net, the net,
And the red coming home with the net.

Australia a howling have got—a lot!
For the first time our feet don't slip—had let!
At Barlow and Bates!
We're dreadfully "licked!"
Delicious, delicious lot, won't that,
White Barlow and Bates found "the spot."

But comdock, great Marlock, your day, your day,
Is not over yet, not for you, for you,
You have had a good inning,
Fall easy a time winning!
Now frankly to 'ee give way, give way,
While his brows got a hint of the day!

JOHNSTON'S MATURED SUNBURY WINE.
BRAND OF No. 11 B.L.L.



Who's on the Cricket field, Melbourne *Punch* 1883. The fourth stanza is pasted onto the Darnley Ashes Urn, displayed at Marylebone Cricket Club Museum. MCCCL

In 1941, the cover of William Pollock's latest book carried the inscription "The next best thing to cricket is a good book about cricket". Primarily, cricket is a game for the players. Nevertheless, Sir Robert Menzies believed that it also belongs to the onlooker, who can gather indelible memories that "do so much to enrich the reflective and retrospective mind of the cricket lover."

In treasuring his recollections of Walter Hammond doing a "square drive" at Melbourne or Ted McDonald's run-up, flowing "like silk running over a spool", Menzies was not unique. Every cricket lover clutches a hoard of such memories. In most cases, these remain relatively private, but countless scenes from the past have been shared and preserved through published writings about the game. As poet Edmund Blunden asked,

Have you not ever felt the urge to write
Of all the cricket that has blessed your sight?

Thus, John Arlott noted that "virtually every book" written about the game "is, in essence, historical." He could also have added that, to endure, a cricket book must reflect the writer's passion for the game.¹

However, the oldest work in the MCC Library collection was not intended to meet this criterion. In referring to "the crooked staffe wherewith boyes play at cricket", Randle Cotgrave's 1611 *Dictionarie of the French and English Tongues* contains what is arguably the earliest printed usage of the word "cricket" in its modern form. A similar entry appears in *The Royal Dictionary Abridged in Two Parts*, published in 1715. While acknowledging the early existence of the game, such works merely aimed to define terms.

Written evidence of any enthusiasm for the game emerged slowly. The 1676 Diary of Henry Teonge, published in 1825, relates how English residents in the Syrian city of Aleppo

enjoyed, in "a fine vally by a river side ... severall pastimes and sports, as duck hunting, fishing, shooting, handball, krickett, scrofilo ..." When James Dance, under the pseudonym "James Love", commemorated the 1744 match between All-England and Kent in various editions of *Cricket: An Heroic Poem*, the writer's feelings about cricket were plainly evident:

Hail Cricket! Manly British game!
First of all sports! Be first alike in fame!

Works published in the ensuing decades showed that Dance was not alone in his zest. Samuel Britcher, William Epps and Henry Bentley published compilations of scores, while Thomas Boxall and William Lambert produced books of rules and instructions.²

By the early 19th century, cricket had become a prominent feature in English life. This was bizarrely illustrated in Richard Dagley's *Death's Doings*, an 1826 collection of "Original Compositions" on the relationship between the symbolic figure of Death and various common activities. Along with the influence of the Marylebone Cricket Club, the game's eminence owed much to the men who had "raised the game into an art" on Hambledon's Broadhalfpenny Down.

In 1833, they were immortalised in cricket's first literary classic, *The Young Cricketer's Tutor*, written by John Nyren and Charles Cowden Clarke. The authors' empathy for the game and its players produced a vivid account of the "high-feasting held on Broad-Halfpenny, during the solemnity of our grand matches". The book's portrait of Tom Walker, one of the great batsmen of his day and probably the originator of round-arm bowling, is a treasure:

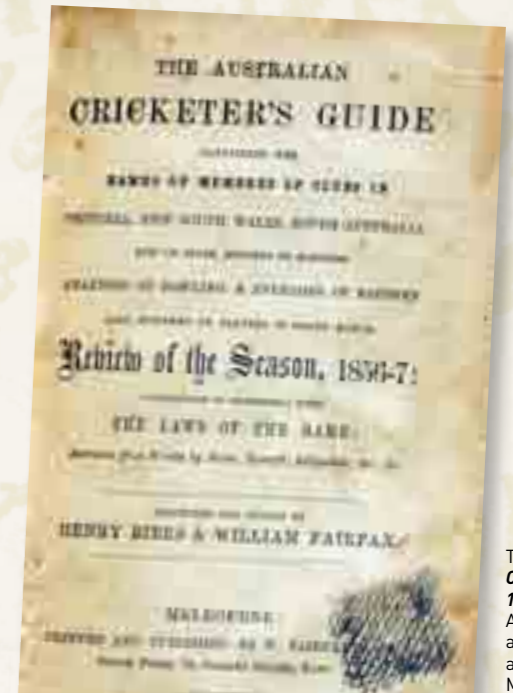
Tom's hard ungain, scrag-of-mutton frame; wilted apple-john face ... his long spider legs, as thick at the ankles as at the hips, and perfectly straight all the way down. Tom was the driest and most rigid-limbed chap I ever knew; his skin was like the rind of an old oak, and as sapless. I have seen his knuckles handsomely knocked about from Harris's bowling; but never saw any blood upon his hands – you might just as well attempt to phlebotomise a mummy.³

Cricket's popularity brought a proliferation of books. In 1846, William Denison provided *Sketches of the Players*. A year earlier, Kent left-hander Nicholas Wanostrucht published *Felix on the Bat*, an illustrated instruction book that blended humour and wise advice "with occasional built-in moral overtones".⁴

In 1842, while still a schoolboy at Harrow, Arthur Haygarth had started compiling his *Scores and Biographies*, with his work on the game between 1744 and 1826 eventually becoming the main reference on that period. Publication of Haygarth's fourteen volumes commenced in 1862, two years before John Wisden produced his first *Cricketers' Almanack*.

In Australia, some short-lived periodicals repeated this trend. H. Biers and William Fairfax published their first *Australian Cricketer's Guide* in 1856. W.J. Hammersley's *Victorian Cricketers' Guide* survived from 1859 until 1862. In 1864, he produced *The Cricketers' Register*, "containing the scores of the principal matches played in Victoria during the season 1863-4" including "an account of the second visit of the All England Eleven".

In 1870, Tom Wills published *The Australian Cricketers Guide*. In Philadelphia, *The American Cricketer* began more than half a century of publication in 1877. By then, cricket in England was enjoying a remarkable period of expansion and consolidation,



The *Australian Cricketer's Guide* 1856/57, the first Australian cricket annual contains a list of MCC members. MCCCL



Hand coloured lithographs of Wisden and Felix, MCCM

The late intense weather has been very favorable to the amateurs of Cricket, who have scarcely lost a day for the last month. The frequent immoderate heats might have been considered inimical to the amusement, but were productive of very opposite consequences, as the state of the atmosphere might always regulate the portion of exercise necessary to the ends this laborious diversion was originally intended to answer.

To the Printer of the Sydney Gazette.



The first references to cricket being played in the Australian colonies, Sydney Gazette, January 1804

due mainly to the "towering and authoritative phenomenon" that was W.G. Grace. As Ronald Mason has written,

... nobody in the history of the whole multifarious game can compete with the comprehensiveness of this man's contribution to the history of cricket and the social history of England. By force of skill he made a well-established game into something infinitely varied and resourceful; by fortune of physique and energy of personality he presented to his country a transformed pastime, half spectacle and half science, with the power to entrap at times the imaginative sympathies of a whole nation ...⁵

Cricket's growth was aided by revolutionary developments in rail and sea transport, as well as by the opening of telegraph networks. However, it was the philosophy of "muscular Christianity", with its emphasis on the value of games in character building, that made cricket an essential part of the Empire's fabric. Growing literacy and the rise of the popular press further stimulated the market for books about the game.

In 1891, Dr Grace published various editions of *Cricket*. Though ghost-written, WG's authoritative imprint is evident throughout, from his view that cricketers are "not born" but must develop their skills through coaching and practice to his recommendation that cricketers should not "go into the field with a cigarette or pipe in your mouth".

From 1859, the reliability of steamships permitted English teams to travel overseas, first to North America and later to Australia. As a result, a new form of writing about the game emerged: the tour book. In 1860, Fred Lillywhite produced *The English Cricketers' Trip to Canada and the United States*, a work that John Arlott described as "a genuinely illuminating – and, to the modern reader, often surprising – account".⁶

When Dr Grace went with a team to Canada in 1872, Marylebone secretary R.A. Fitzgerald light-heartedly described the visit in *Wickets in the West*. The travels of the 1878 Australian Eleven under Dave Gregory were recorded

by P.E. Reynolds in *The Australian Cricketers' Tour through Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain, 1878-79*, as well as in *The tour of the Australian Eleven through England, America, and colonies*, published with John Conway's 1877-78 *Australian Cricketers' Annual*.

In 1883, R.D. Beeston's *St. Ivo and the Ashes* provided "A correct true particular and humorous history of the Hon Ivo Bligh's campaign" during the previous Australian summer. Clarence Moody later rekindled the Ashes notion in the colonies with his 1894 book *Australian Cricket and Cricketers*, but the sustained revival of English interest in the concept dates from Pelham Warner's 1904 account of the first Marylebone tour to Australia in *How We Recovered The Ashes*.

The spread of cricket throughout Britain's many colonies was usually seen as strengthening the bonds of Empire. When C. Aubrey Smith's team arrived at a Port Elizabeth reception in 1888-89, they were welcomed by "a Union Jack supported by two cricket bats, and alongside was a large framed picture of W.G. himself!"⁷

The imperial connection was highlighted in 1897, the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, when K.S. Ranjitsinhji published *The Jubilee Book of Cricket*. Aided by ghost-writer C.B. Fry, Ranji blended shrewd technical advice with interesting historical insights, revealing, for example, that Fred Spofforth stayed "awake at night wrestling with bowling problems, and trying to think how best to get rid of certain batsmen."

In 1905, Albert Chevallier Taylor, with text by George Beldam, published a popular folio of 48 drawings depicting *The Empire's Cricketers*. Even more impressive, though, was Pelham Warner's 1912 sumptuous *Imperial Cricket*, dedicated by "gracious permission" to the King-Emperor, George V.

As the 19th century neared its end, a few autobiographical works appeared. In 1899, "Terrible Billy" Caffyn recalled his career as a professional in England and Australia with *71 Not Out*. In the same year, in *WG*, Dr Grace mixed "Cricketing



CRICKET CHATTER.
By FELIX.

Shipping	Shipping	Shipping	Racing
Shipping	Shipping	Shipping	Racing

Reminiscences and Personal Recollections" with statistics and hints for young players. George Giffen's *With Bat and Ball* took a similar approach, while Frank Laver's 1905 *An Australian Cricketer On Tour* contained his "reminiscences, impressions and experiences of two trips, with records of matches and views on English cricket".

In the same era, photographs replaced engravings as the favourite method of publishing images of players. In 1898, Clarence Moody published an album of *Noted Australian Cricketers*. However, such pioneering works were overshadowed by the efforts of George Beldam, sport's father of action photography.

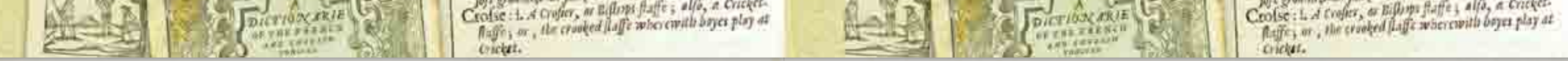
In 1905, Beldam released *Great Batsmen - Their Methods at a Glance, Illustrated by 600 photographs*. Two years later, he published *Great Bowlers and Fieldsmen*. Accompanied by the insightful text of C.B. Fry, Beldam's superb images capture the players and techniques of the period that hindsight saw as cricket's golden age.

After the First World War, the number of tours steadily increased, accompanied by a corresponding rise in the flow of tour books. In this, the denizens of the press and commentary boxes gradually became the dominant force, though tour manager Sydney Smith's 1922 *With the 15th Australian Eleven* was an exception to that trend. In *Defending The Ashes 1932-33*, R.W.E. Wilmot provided a valuable account of the "Bodyline" summer.

More sustained reporting came in Monty Noble's astute volumes, published between 1925 and 1929, and with Percy Fender's analyses of Anglo-Australian contests from 1920 to 1934. Jack Fingleton later chronicled several Ashes series, producing in *Brightly Fades The Don* an outstanding portrait of the 1948 "Invincibles" and their experiences in post-war Britain.

Felix reflects on the origins of cricket in Melbourne in 1838, from the *Australasian*, April 1898.

talk about until all is blue. Freshened by the rest, we reached Melbourne without turning a hair. On the way out we stopped to have a peep at the late D. C. Macarthur's place. He was a supporter of cricket, if you like, and the champion W. G. Grace to this day talks about the hospitality extended to him and his wife by Mr. Macarthur in 1873. Mr. Macarthur was one of the founders of the Melbourne Cricket Club. The story goes that about 1838 the first wicket pitched in Victoria was by Donald Gordon Macarthur and Isaac Hind, at the foot of Batman's Hill. The first races were run in that locality, and old Isaacs officiated at the scales before he went to the beautiful Flemington course. They had no lancewood and brass topped wickets in 1838. The wickets and bails were were of ti-tree, which grew thickly on the river bank in those days. There was, however, a really genuine bat and ball. How were they looked after in summer, and greased and laid-up in lavender during the winter. Not another bat and ball to be had in Victoria. Subsequently a supply of material was obtained from Hobart, and the few gentlemen who took an active part in the play formed the nucleus of the now celebrated Melbourne Cricket Club, second only to the Marylebone Club. Mr. D. C. Macarthur was one of the first to commence practice, and associated with him were Messrs. D. S. Campbell, G. Cavenagh, Marsden, Webster, and Powlett, with Mr. M'Vitie hon. secretary.

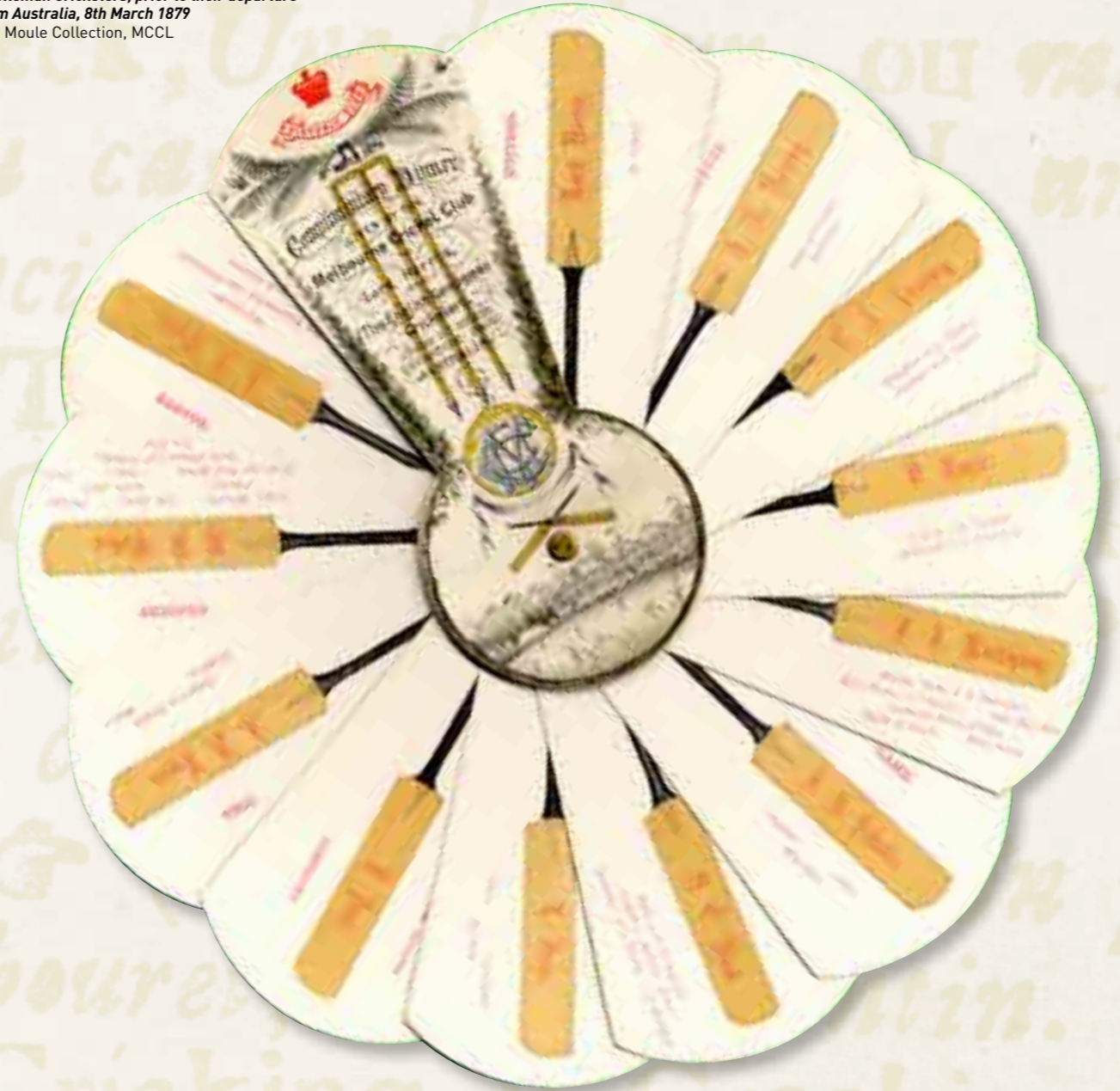


Page 159
 First reference to cricket
 ("kicket") played outside
 England 1676
 see "Dates in Cricket"
 History - HS Alltham
 hidden 1955.
 This is the first publication
 from Teague's MSS.
 John Arlott



The Diary of Henry Teonge 1675-1679, 1825. John Arlott's annotated copy. MCCL

Complimentary dinner given by the Melbourne Cricket Club to Lord Harris, and the English Gentleman Cricketers, prior to their departure from Australia, 8th March 1879
 WH Moule Collection, MCCL



6 This morning early (as it is the custom all our mer lodge) at the least 40 of the English, with us worship the Consall, rod out of the certy about 4 miles to the Greene Platt, a fine vally by the syde, to recreate them selves. Where a princely tent was pitched; and wee had severall pastimes and sports, as duck-hunting, fishing, shooting, hand ball, krickett, serolto; and then a noble dinner brought thither, with greate plenty of all sorts of wines, punch, and lemonnads; and at 6 wee retorne all home in good order, but soundly tyrod and weury.

Occasionally, books like Harold Larwood's *Bodyline?* and Douglas Jardine's *In Quest of The Ashes* outlined tours from the viewpoint of participants, but works by players were usually narratives published after a substantial time in the game. Len Hutton, for example, was 33 when *Cricket Is My Life* appeared in 1949. Don Bradman's 1950 *Farewell To Cricket* was a careful reflection at the end of an unrivalled career.

Eight years later, his mastery of the game was displayed in *The Art of Cricket*, described by Hubert Doggart as "a remarkable book by a remarkable man". However, The Don's first appearance in print, *Don Bradman's Book - The Story of My Cricketing Life with Hints on Batting, Bowling and Fielding*, was the work of a 22-year-old of whom the Sunday Dispatch said in 1930 that "it is questionable whether reading him is as advantageous as watching him."⁸

Probably, no reader ever viewed reading the innovative works of Neville Cardus as "questionable". Over more than 50 years, Cardus transformed cricket writing. As John Arlott put it: "Before him, cricket was reported ... with him it was for the first time appreciated, felt, and imaginatively described". The great author was never better than when he recalled how, on a Manchester "sticky", England lost the Fourth Test in 1902:

Hugh Trumble seemed suddenly to become terrible in my affrighted schoolboy eyes. I'll swear he grew taller and taller, like an evil genie just released from a bottle ... I pressed my fevered brow on an iron rail which separated the crowd from the sacred turf - and I implored God to win the match for England and to do something about this awful man Trumble.

In *Australian Summer*, Cardus's eyewitness account of the night that Don Bradman lost his first-born is equally vivid, as well as deeply moving. Whether they have realised it or not, the best cricket writers that followed have all come under the Cardus spell, for he "showed what could be done."⁹

Sadly, there have also been many on whom this vital lesson was lost. After the Second World War, cricket books, particularly on major tours, were "turned out, at a pace which only professional writers could maintain", leading John Arlott to complain that "too many hastily written books, prepared for a quick-buying, quick-forgetting market, were no more than paraphrases of paraphrases".¹⁰

In many books about Bradman, for example, the failure of writers to research primary sources enables an experienced reader to predict with certainty which familiar details or anecdotes will appear on the next page.

Like Cardus, John Arlott had "an enviable ability to 'bring alive' any incident or situation, and yet place it in perspective with brevity." Apart from his memorable broadcasting skills, Arlott had a deep understanding of cricket history, literature and art. His many books varied considerably in content, ranging from anthology and his 1953 *Test Match Diary* to history, poetry and biography. It has been said that his 1971 "almost psychological study" of Fred Trueman "reveals not only the subject ... but also the author at his most compelling."¹¹

Though not as prolific as Cardus or Arlott, Ray Robinson made a powerful contribution to cricket writing in Australia. Warwick Franks maintains that Robinson's strength was his skill "in providing the cultural, personal and statistical context of his

subjects so that his portrayal of cricket and its players had a great breadth." While *Between Wickets*, his 1945 account of Test cricket around the world, was the first popular Australian cricket book, he is best remembered for *On Top Down Under*, his 1976 survey of Australia's Test captains.¹²

Many of those leaders went on to write about the game in differing degrees. In 1957, just as he took over as MCC secretary, Ian Johnson presented a thoughtful view of *Cricket At The Crossroads*. In several books, Ian Chappell journeyed from coaching hints and tour accounts to humour and autobiography, usually with typically forthright comment.

In his 1961 *Way of Cricket*, Richie Benaud expounded his views on the game, its players and the laws of the time. Though he has generally followed that pattern ever since, he changed his approach for *A Tale of Two Tests*. In one of the best books written during a playing career, he related the on-field action

of the 1960 Tied Test and the Old Trafford Test of 1961 with remarkable clarity.

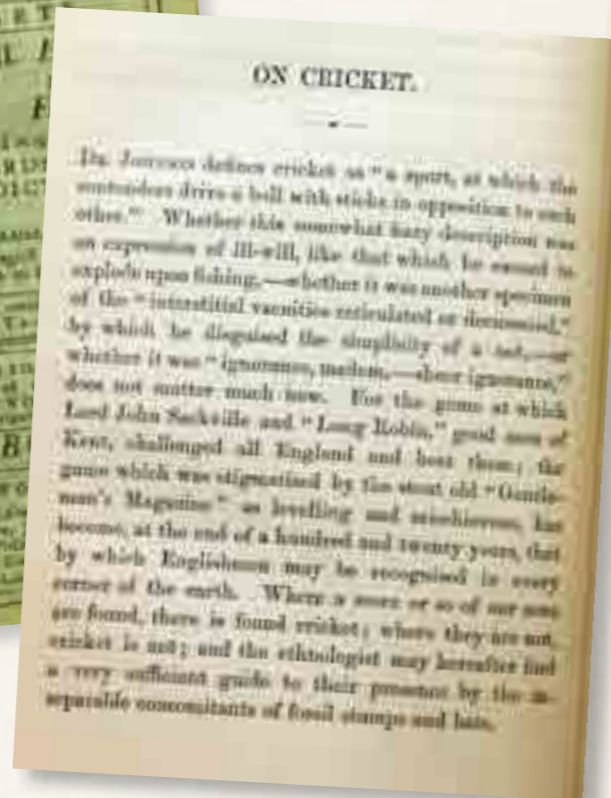
More recently, Steve Waugh released his massive autobiography *Out of My Comfort Zone* as well as several diary accounts of seasons and tours. Since 2003, Ricky Ponting has annually published similar diaries.

For two decades, Gideon Haigh has set very high standards for all cricket writers. A tenacious researcher, he has followed his masterly account of the Packer *Cricket War* with fine biographies of *Mystery Spinner* Jack Iverson and *The Big Ship* Warwick Armstrong. *The Summer Game*, his account of Australian cricket after Bradman, broke much new ground. Haigh's passion for playing the game is at the heart of *The Vincibles*, his 2002 gem about the deeds of the "Yarras" whose scorer he still manages to trouble on a regular basis.

"The great I play : Cricket" leaf from... Newbury, John. *A Little Pretty Pocket-Book, intended for the instruction and amusement of little Master Tommy.* London : J Newbury c.1760. MCC Museum's Anthony Baer collection, donated 1968. MCCC M7006



The Royal dictionary abridged in two parts : French and English; English and French, 1715, MCCL



Anthony Trollope on cricket in *British sports and pastimes*, 1868, MCCL

Cricket, s. (an Infect)
Grillon. (a sort of Play)

In the last hundred years, cricket publishing's most striking feature has been its growing diversity. A vast gulf stretches from *Beyond A Boundary*, C.L.R. James's exceptional study of Caribbean cricket and racial politics, to *Warwick Todd Goes The Tonk*, Tom Gleisner's clever satire on the modern Australian game. From wherever cricket is played, volumes of all shapes and sizes have appeared in remarkable abundance. Amid such a flood, quality naturally varies considerably.

There have been detailed histories, from the valiant attempts of Harry Altham and Jim Swanton to present *A History of Cricket*, down to treatises on clubs, local associations, grounds and schools. Art books, like Sir Jeremiah Colman's *The Noble Game of Cricket* (1941), vie for shelf space with pictorial essays on almost every facet of the game, from illustrated biographies and histories to the skills of cricket photography.

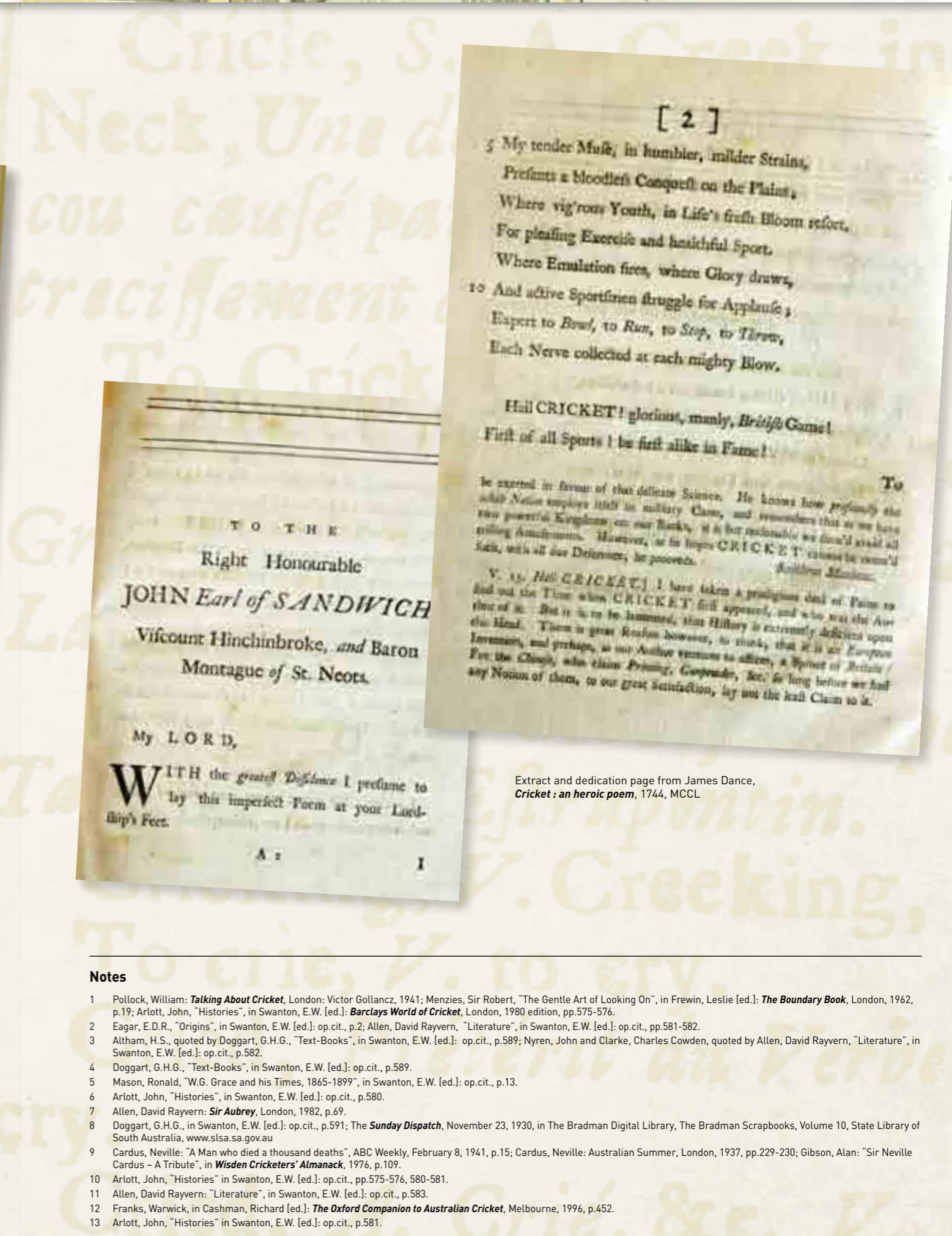
Coaching books, novels, collections of poems and cartoons, even cookery books, stand alongside countless statistical works and biographies of players from bygone eras. There is even a book examining the link between statistics and zodiac signs. Arlott once observed that there were "now so many titles that *The Bibliography of Cricket* is the only valid guide."¹³

However, not even E.W. Padwick, the initial author of that outstanding contribution to cricket literature, could provide a complete list, with the result that the phrase "Not in Padwick" is not uncommon in dealers' catalogues.

Some worrying trends have also emerged. In seeking to maximise their returns, publishers heavily promote works by big names, with signing sessions and literary events, but such a climate makes it difficult for scholarly studies to receive an opportunity. Moreover, the endless blur of Tests, one-day internationals and Twenty20 contests leaves little time for the reflection and reminiscence that has been so integral to producing and enjoying good cricket writing.

In *Spheres of Influence*, Gideon Haigh has recently depicted India's rapidly growing authority over the game. It is evident that a mighty struggle for cricket's soul is underway. One can only wonder how its outcome will affect cricket writing.

Alf Batchelder



[2]
5 My tender Muse, in humbler, milder Strains,
Presents a bloodless Conquest on the Plains,
Where vig'rous Youth, in Life's fresh Bloom resort,
For pleasing Exercise and healthful Sport,
Where Emulation fires, where Glory draws,
10 And active Sportsmen struggle for Applause;
Expert to Bowl, to Run, to Stop, to Throw,
Each Nerve collected at each mighty Blow.

Hail CRICKET! glorious, manly, British Game!
First of all Sports I be first alike in Fame!

To be exacted in favour of that delicate Science. He knows how profusely the whole Nation employs itself in military Campaigns, and remembers that as we have two powerful Kingdoms on our Banks, it is but reasonable we should avoid all trifling Amusements. However, as he hopes CRICKET cannot be count'd such, with all due Detraction, he proceeds.

V. 13. Hail CRICKET! I have taken a prodigious deal of Pains to find out the Time when CRICKET first appeared, and who was the Author of it. But it is to be lamented, that History is extremely deficient upon this Head. There is great Reason however, to think, that it is an European Invention, and perhaps, as our Author ventures to affirm, a Sport of Britain / For the Church, who thins Preaching, Gospellers, Sec. so long before we had any Notion of them, to our great Satisfaction, lay not the least Claim to it.

Extract and dedication page from James Dance, *Cricket : an heroic poem*, 1744, MCCL

TO THE
Right Honourable
JOHN Earl of SANDWICH
Viscount Hinchinbroke, and Baron
Montague of St. Neots.

My LORD,
WITH the greatest Diffidence I presume to lay this imperfect Poem at your Lordship's Feet.

Notes

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- 2 Eagar, E.D.R., "Origins", in Swanton, E.W. [ed.]: op.cit., p.2; Allen, David Rayvern, "Literature", in Swanton, E.W. [ed.]: op.cit., pp.581-582.
- 3 Altham, H.S., quoted by Doggart, G.H.G., "Text-Books", in Swanton, E.W. [ed.]: op.cit., p.589; Nyren, John and Clarke, Charles Cowden, quoted by Allen, David Rayvern, "Literature", in Swanton, E.W. [ed.]: op.cit., p.582.
- 4 Doggart, G.H.G., "Text-Books", in Swanton, E.W. [ed.]: op.cit., p.589.
- 5 Mason, Ronald, "W.G. Grace and his Times, 1865-1899", in Swanton, E.W. [ed.]: op.cit., p.13.
- 6 Arlott, John, "Histories", in Swanton, E.W. [ed.]: op.cit., p.580.
- 7 Allen, David Rayvern: *Sir Aubrey*, London, 1982, p.69.
- 8 Doggart, G.H.G., in Swanton, E.W. [ed.]: op.cit., p.591; The *Sunday Dispatch*, November 23, 1930, in The Bradman Digital Library, The Bradman Scrapbooks, Volume 10, State Library of South Australia, www.slsa.sa.gov.au
- 9 Cardus, Neville: "A Man who died a thousand deaths", ABC Weekly, February 8, 1941, p.15; Cardus, Neville: *Australian Summer*, London, 1937, pp.229-230; Gibson, Alan: "Sir Neville Cardus - A Tribute", in *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*, 1976, p.109.
- 10 Arlott, John, "Histories" in Swanton, E.W. [ed.]: op.cit., pp.575-576, 580-581.
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- 12 Franks, Warwick, in Cashman, Richard [ed.]: *The Oxford Companion to Australian Cricket*, Melbourne, 1996, p.452.
- 13 Arlott, John, "Histories" in Swanton, E.W. [ed.]: op.cit., p.581.

ASHES TO ASHES: *Cricket's Cracking Rivalry*



Some of the 79 pieces on display in the National Sports Museum's *Ashes to Ashes* exhibition, one artefact for every Anglo-Australian cricket tour since the first in 1861/62.



Former Australian captain and outstanding batsman Greg Chappell launched a new exhibition in November in the National Sports Museum at the MCG which traces the history of cricket's cracking rivalry - The Ashes.

Officially opened to the public on Friday November 12, *Ashes to Ashes: Cricket's Cracking Rivalry* pays homage to one of cricket's oldest and most famous rivalries with a unique collection of memorabilia. Each item in the exhibition represents one of the series played between Australia and England, dating back to the earliest international tour in 1861/62. The objects are drawn from the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) Museum and Library collections, the Australian Gallery of Sport and Olympic Museum and the National Sports Museum.

The collection includes two very special pieces recently acquired by the MCC - an engraved gold cravat pin from the Hon. George Coppin MLC, and Bruce French's Bicentennial Test cap (1988) - which were unveiled for the first time at the launch.

The cravat pin was presented by Coppin in 1862 and has his name engraved on the reverse. Coppin was instrumental in setting up the first international tour, encouraging Messrs Spiers and Pond to bring the English cricketers to Australia.

English cricketer Bruce French's Bicentennial Test cap is a rare example of the Test caps awarded to members of both the Australian and English teams who played in the one-off Test match at the SCG in January 1988 to commemorate Australia's Bicentenary. Presenting the cap to both teams was symbolic of the strong binding link cricket had brought the two countries.

"It is extraordinary that the MCC's collections can display an item from each of the 79 series played between Australia and England to date," said Bob Lloyd, vice-president of the MCC.

"These highly significant new items make wonderful additions to our Ashes exhibition. I encourage everyone with an interest in cricket to visit this show over the summer," he said.



Other highlights of the exhibition include:

- A gold and diamond brooch containing leather cut from the ball with which Australia first defeated England on English soil (at The Oval in 1882). The brooch was made for Australian wicketkeeper Jack Blackham to present to his employer.
- Caricatures from the Australian press in the 1880s and 1890s.
- A selection of delicate silk handkerchiefs produced to commemorate the Australian teams of the 1880s and 1900s.
- A bat used by Victor Trumper in 1899 and his diary from the 1902 Ashes tour of England.
- A trophy presented to Hugh Trumble in 1902 to commemorate the first of his two magnificent Test hat-tricks against England at the MCG.

- Iconic baggy green caps belonging to leg-spinner Clarrie Grimmett (1926) and fast bowler Alan Connolly (1968).
- England cricket team touring cap worn by Bill Voce, who took 17 wickets in the first two Tests in 1936.

Ashes to Ashes: Cricket's Cracking Rivalry

National Sports Museum

November 12, 2010 - March 20, 2011

Entry is included in general museum admission

Helen Walpole

Curator

MCC Museum and National Sports Museum

THE LONG ROOM

Third and Fourth MCC Members Pavilions

Some Historical Notes

David Studham
Melbourne Cricket Club Librarian



The Melbourne Cricket Club's Third Members' Pavilion was built in 1928, with the foundation stone laid by club president Sir Leo Cussen on February 25, 1928. The structure was completed and ready for use for the Australia versus England Test starting on December 29, 1928.

That structure replaced a brick pavilion built in 1881. It was more of a traditional clubhouse than a spectator facility, containing changerooms, a billiard room, committee room, dining room and bar. The foundation stone from the second pavilion was located in the Western end of the old Long Room in the Third Pavilion and has been transferred to the central pillar of the new room in the Fourth Pavilion.

The area that older members fondly remember as "The Long Room" was originally known as the "Members' Lounge" with the back section of the room the "Members' Dining Room". These were the traditional names from the opening in 1928 until both were renamed the "Long Room" in 1958 during the secretaryship of Mr Ian Johnson.

Throughout its existence the room was the physical heart and soul of the Melbourne Cricket Club. It was traditional focal point for the gathering of the members on event days, and a wonderful place to celebrate club milestones and achievements.

The room was even a centrepiece for events during the short periods when the club did not have control of the pavilion. When the MCG was occupied by USAAFs, US Marine Corps and the RAAF in the Second World War, the officers took over the pavilion including the members' lounge and dining room area and a dance was reputedly held on some Saturday nights (this was an early example of ladies in the Long Room).

In 1956 the Pavilion was used by the International Olympic Committee for their officials and the media and while the IOC's VIPs used the members lounge, the dining room was part of the media centre. Instead of the familiar sound of cutlery and wine glasses, the tap-tap of typewriters predominated throughout the room for those 15 days in 1956. (image above)

Originally the room was very plain and spare. The photograph of the room upon its completion in 1928 (left) shows a simple polished wooden floor, with the familiar long blue couches, some of which now sit in tribute to the past at both ends of the new Long Room and in the galleries on either side of the room. There were also matching long backless benches placed further back in the middle of the room, with some of the shorter benches transferred from the second pavilion, re-covered at the time over the top of their "dated" Victorian era studded splendour. (One example, reupholstered to its original 1880s condition sits in the gallery between the Long Room and Committee Room.) A large wall clock – not the clock that is installed in the new Long Room – rested on the Northern end wall that divided the room from the Committee Room. The dining area contained the oak tables that survived until the room's demolition, with matching oak chairs, long since replaced, most probably in the renovations carried out in 1973-74.

Initially the room had no heritage decorations besides the Foundation Stone from the second pavilion. Soon after, portraits from the club's collection including those of H.C.A. Harrison, Sir Leo Cussen (both by Longstaff) and Ben Wardill were installed in the room. Over the years these were added to, mostly with the commissioning of a series of paintings of past presidents in the 1960s and then progressively added to until today.

After the formal renaming as the Long Room in 1958 a number of heritage display items were installed, among them a copy of the club foundation document, MCC cricket premiership shields, Warwick Armstrong's shirt, shoes, bat and pads and the marble bust of Lord Sheffield, as well as a case of facsimiles of famous cricket bats on display at Lord's. This display can be seen as a forerunner of the MCC Museum, which was established in 1968 (opposite centre).

The 1970s refurbishment left the Long Room in its final configuration (top left & right). The doors into the old dining room were removed and the floor was finally fully covered with the very decorative MCC cypher carpet. The ceiling fans and chandeliers were mounted, while a bar was installed in the rear dining section with a wooden ledge placed behind the old couches so members could stand and enjoy a drink while watching the game. During this period the old small windows were replaced by large pillarless sliding glass panes which gave a clearer view of the action on the arena and the blue leather couches were recovered... in vinyl!

Like the final displays in the old Long Room, the new room contains oil portraits of a number of past presidents, a vice-president and secretaries of the club (as well as photographs of the remainder of the club's presidents, now hung on the mezzanine level of the new room - photo bottom left). Also displayed is a collection of cricket bats and balls from cricketers and cricket matches relating to the MCG and other grounds around the world, some dating back 150 years (bottom right).

In 2003 it was proposed to hold a Members' Farewell Long Room dinner. This proved so popular that the club ended up

holding six dinners to cope with the demand. The room was seen out in style during this series of memorable evenings.

The new Long Room aims to replicate, in a modern style, aspects of the old room: simple elegant lines, leather couches, monogrammed carpet, as well as the heritage elements of the foundation stone, the portraits and the cricket bats.

Traditions continue to be established. In the dining section of the old Long Room hung a series of paintings and prints of famous cricket grounds from around the world. One of these was a print of the Long Room at Lord's, which has been reinstated at the top of the staircase to the mezzanine level. Marylebone is of course one of our reciprocal clubs and to honour each of these six clubs, we requested an image of their own long room and/or pavilion to display here in the heart of our club, the new Long Room.

Of interest from a social history viewpoint is the access of women to the Long Room. Ladies were first admitted as MCC members in July 1984 (opposite top right). Prior to that time a Centenary Ball (commemorating 100 years of the MCC and including female guests) was held in the room in 1938. Women were admitted on the two occasions referred to above - during WWII and at the 1956 Olympic Games. Later, during the Centenary of Test Cricket celebrations in 1977, a series of "open house" evenings was held where ladies were welcome to enter the Long Room. During the afternoon of the final day's play of the Centenary Test, HM Queen Elizabeth II visited the Long Room where she invested Sir Robert Menzies with his Knighthood of the Order of Australia. At this function, wives of trustees and committee members, as well as female journalists, were also present. Photos MCC Collection

A POSTCARD FROM BEN

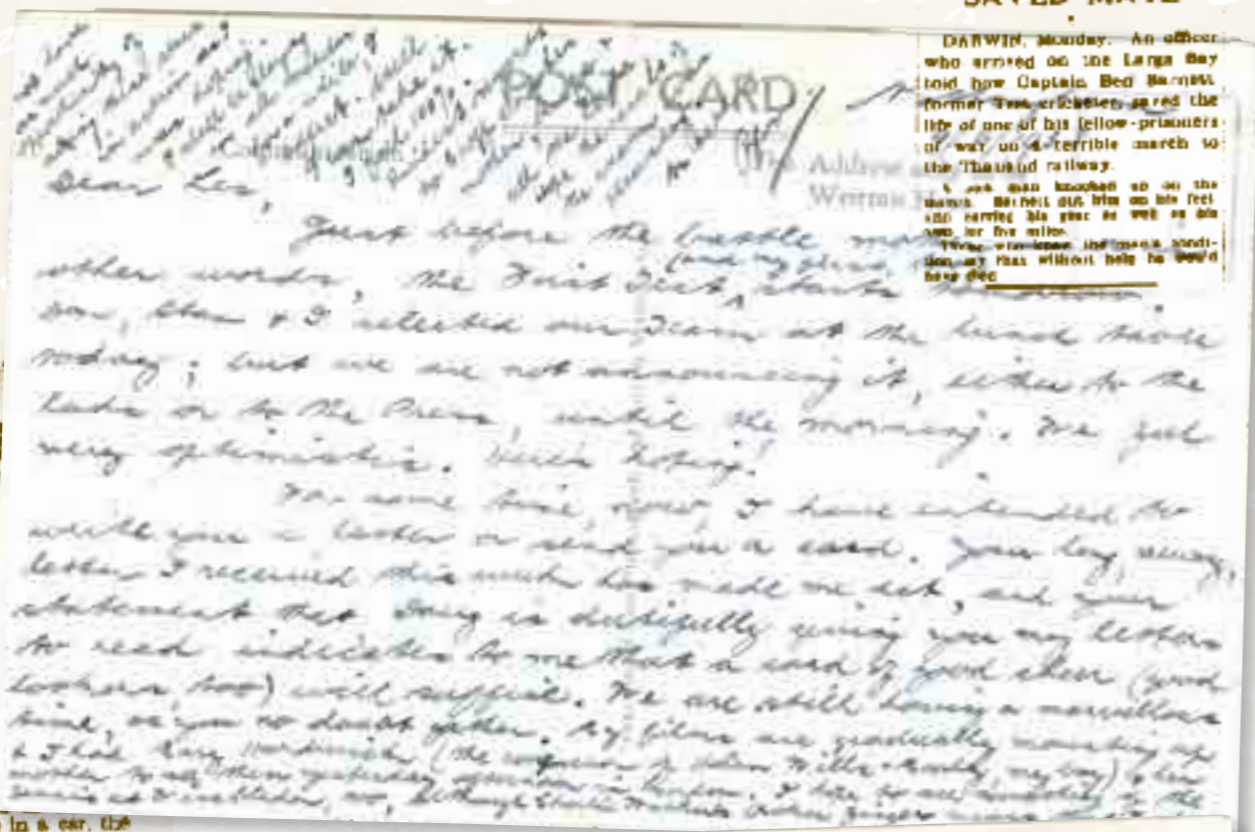
ANOTHER WELCOME TO POW

Buses Give Better View

Bus-loads of wildly cheering people in the home yet accorded trip to Melbourne. Use of the street crowds to get of the men than was closed cars were used. Spurred on by the enthusiasm of a crowd instead of two or three in a car, the troops bent down from the bus windows and grasped hands with the people in the street, embracing friends and strangers alike. They joined in wholeheartedly with the spirit of the crowd. To cries of "Welcome home, son," which came from hundreds of people all along the route, they responded with "You beasts. We are back again."

Confetti, flowers, fruit, beer, chocolates, and money were thrown into the buses by people eager to give the boys a royal welcome. At the intersection of Bourke and Queen a grand if brief welcome was given to the Test wicketkeeper Ben Barnett, by members of the Victorian Cricket Association. A bouquet of flowers and a large pineapple were handed up to him and later in the Agricultural Hall at the Snowgrounds he spoke of his deep appreciation of this gesture.

"I feel 100%," he said. "I will play cricket again for Hawthorn-East Melbourne" (which he will captain), "but what I want to do right now is to get to know my small son. He was five months when I left in July, 1941, now he is a young man. I have to get to know him. I think that is what most of us men coming back want most of all. We don't want to talk about the things that have happened to us. We want to know all about home."



Pope family collection, MCCL

Nottingham
9/6/1938

Dear Les,

Just before the battle, mother – or in other words, the First Test (and my first, too) starts tomorrow. Don, Stan and I selected our Team at the lunch table today; but we are not announcing it, either to the lads or to the Press, until the morning. We feel very optimistic. Here's hoping!

For some time, now, I have intended to write you a letter or send you a card. Your long, newsy, letter I received this week has made me act, and your statement that Doug is dutifully giving you my letters to read indicates to me that a card of good cheer (good looks, too) will suffice. We are still having a marvellous time, as you no doubt gather. My films are gradually mounting up and I had Mary Hardwick (the conqueror of Helen Wills-Moody, my boy) & her mother to see them yesterday afternoon in London. I hope to see something of the Tennis at Wimbledon, too, although Charlie Walker's broken finger means that I shall not have as much opportunity of seeing these stars in action as I was hoping. I shall be playing in all matches for a while, I expect. Still, I can take it. I feel 100%.

Kindest regards to Geoff and his mother, Rupe and all the lads. Hope the results of the exam was pleasing to all.

Ben.

Recently, Geoff, Jim and Philip Pope donated some items from the scrapbook of their father Les, who had once worked at the T&G Mutual Life Assurance Society with Test wicketkeeper Ben Barnett. Perhaps the most fascinating piece was a postcard with several lines from Barnett on the back of a picture of the 1938 Australian team.

In the days before he wrote the card at Nottingham on Thursday June 9, Barnett had enjoyed a little free time. Along with Don Bradman, Bill O'Reilly, Ernie McCormick and Sid Barnes, he did not play against Essex at Southend on the previous weekend. The Australians had wrapped the match up in only two days, taking only 95 minutes to end the Essex second innings.

Unfortunately, victory came at a cost. In stumping opener Denys Wilcox, reserve wicketkeeper Charlie Walker had fractured his finger. For the moment, Jack Fingleton took over behind the stumps, but the injury left Barnett fearing that he would have to play in most matches until Walker recovered. (His fears were well justified – he was named in every match for the next month, getting a rest only in mid-July when Sid Barnes "jumped at the chance" to take the gloves.¹)

Just before the Australians travelled to Southend, English tennis player Mary Hardwick had scored an unexpected three-set win over the great Helen Wills-Moody in the quarter-finals of the Weybridge tournament. On his final day in London, Ben Barnett had entertained 24-year-old Miss Hardwick and her mother by showing them some of his photographic efforts from the tour.

Despite the considerable social changes that had followed the Great War, it was still common for young ladies to be accompanied by a chaperone on such occasions. In 1940, *The Cricketer* acknowledged that Ben Barnett was "an enthusiastic photographer" whose "splendid collection of pictures" taken

on his tours abroad "has enabled him to give some excellent illustrated lectures." The magazine added that all of these lectures "have been given for charitable and other causes, for Barnett says that cricket has given him so many pleasures that he feels that he should do something in return."²

Ben Barnett's card to Les Pope was written after lunch on the day before the First Test at Trent Bridge. His opening line, "Just before the battle, mother", came from a famous American Civil War song that, in an age where families still gathered around the piano, had become popular throughout the British Empire.

Before concluding with thoughts about family and friends, Ben touched on a slight conflict that had occurred earlier in the day. Though he had not played in a Test before, his experience with Bill Woodfull's 1934 team led to his appointment as a selector, with Don Bradman and vice-captain Stan McCabe, for what would prove to be his only series at the highest level.

In their lunchtime selection meeting, Bradman believed that only one spinner, Fleetwood-Smith, was needed to support O'Reilly. However, Frank Ward's form against Essex had produced a feeling "within the team" that he also deserved a chance. The decision to include both Ward and Fleetwood-Smith produced an unbalanced attack that was unable to dismiss the opposition. On a pitch that offered no sympathy to spin, England declared at 8/658.³

The third day began with Australia struggling at 3/138. When Barnett joined McCabe at the crease, the score was 6/194. Though he made only 22, Ben produced "an innings of real merit" that enabled his partner to alter "the whole aspect of affairs" with one of the greatest Test innings ever played.

In 235 minutes, McCabe compiled a chanceless 232, belting "tremendously hard" drives and hooking short balls "with certainty and power". The whirlwind bewildered fast bowler Ken Farnes. After watching the new ball sail over the fence,

he asked Bill O'Reilly: "What can you do with this chap?" The Australian had no real answer. "Son, the best thing you can do is ask him for an autograph."⁴

Fortunately, the Australians managed to draw the match. By the Fifth Test they led the series 1-0, but the final contest at The Oval was one that Ben Barnett in particular would not remember with any affection. England opener Len Hutton had scored 40 when he missed an apparently straightforward delivery from Fleetwood-Smith.

With the batsmen at least half a metre out of his crease, Ben was so convinced that the ball would break the wicket that he made no attempt to take it for an easy stumping. Not only did the ball miss the stumps, but Hutton added another 324 runs before falling to O'Reilly for a record 364.⁵

Four years later, Ben's memories of postcards and the entire 1938 tour seemed a lifetime away. Indeed, they belonged to another world that was now incredibly distant. In 1942, Captain Benjamin Arthur Barnett, of the Australian Army's 8th Division Signals, was one of 14,972 Australians among 100,000 captives held by the Japanese after the fall of Singapore. Initially, the prisoners were housed at Changi, but in April 1943 Captain Barnett was among 3662 Australians sent to Thailand as part of F Force to work on construction of the Burma-Thailand Railway.

On the Railway, Barnett was adjutant to the 712 prisoners led by MCC member Lieutenant-Colonel "Saf" Pond. Captain Roy Mills felt that the former Test cricketer was ideal for the position, for he was "a gentle person" whose "steady unflinching gaze masked a steel resolve." A man who "possessed a brain capable of quick analyses", Ben "was not only trusted, but admired, by all ranks." In the months ahead, his qualities would be tested to the limit, for it has been said that Pond's Party "collectively possibly had a harder time than all groups on the line."⁶

Captain Mills was the only doctor serving with Pond's men. Once, he was bashed with a piece of burning wood by a Japanese sergeant. In mid-October, he wrote in his diary:

Amazing scene of human activity – pushing forward at the rate of 3-5 kilos per day ... The men are absolutely worn out – no resistance – hot dry days – breaking stone – flies bad – all up and down the line the ground is fouled by the thousands who have been working on it ...

Amid this nightmare, Captain Barnett worked closely with Mills, who would daily assess how many of the men were fit to work. Once informed of the number available, Ben would try

to meet the Japanese demands for labour: "He would barter; sometimes he would succeed; most times he would not ... If the demands were absolutely unreasonable Ben Barnett would stand up for the men and as likely as not, sustain a beating ..." Before their work was done, 29 per cent of F Force would be dead. As Ray Robinson noted in 1946, "a man died for every three sleepers laid".⁷

Inevitably, Barnett himself became unwell. One night, sleeping "on the ground under the open sky", he became "so angry" when Mills "sympathised with him when he was suffering the rigors of malaria." At such times, men struggling to survive turned to their memories of distant and far happier times. In their mind's eye, they could, for a few moments at least, escape the Hell in which they were caught.

Ben undoubtedly recalled his friends from the T&G, his photography and the company of the Hardwick ladies. Whenever he thought of Charlie Walker, he would have had no idea that his fellow 'keeper had been the mid-upper-gunner on a Lancaster lost over Soltau in December 1942 or that the South Australian had no known grave.

Roy Mills remembered persuading Barnett "to tell cricket stories, especially of his pre-war trips to England with the Australian team" and of "the superb batting of Bradman and the outstanding bowling of O'Reilly."⁸

On his return home aboard the *Largs Bay* in October 1945, Captain Barnett's cheeks "were rather drawn and his tunic collar too roomy". Two months later, he was playing again for Victoria, but, as Roy Mills explained, "the three and a half years as a prisoner of war had taken their toll. Prolonged starvation, prolonged untreated illnesses, prolonged physical and mental stress had robbed him of that vital physical spark."⁹

Business interests eventually took Barnett and his family to England, where he represented Australia on the International Cricket Council. From 1969 to 1971, he was president of the International Lawn Tennis Federation. When they returned to Australia in 1974, Ben and Mollie Barnett lived in Box Hill. Five years later, on a trip to visit Roy Mills in Newcastle, Ben suffered a fatal heart attack. He was 71.

Alf Batchelder

Notes

1. Barnes, Sid: *It Isn't Cricket*, Sydney, 1953, p.78.
2. *The Sydney Morning Herald*, June 4, 1938, p.13; *The Cricketer*, May 11, 1940.
3. Growden, Greg: *Wayward Genius*, Crows Nest, 1991, pp.143-144.
4. *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack* 1939, pp.218-221; Moyes, A.G.: *Australian Batsmen*, Sydney, 1954, p.133; Growden, Greg: *op.cit.*, p. 144.
5. Growden, Greg: *op.cit.*, pp. 150-151.
6. Mills, Roy: *Doctor's Diary and Memoirs*, New Lambton, 1994, pp.190-193; <http://www.pows-of-japan.net/articles/80.htm>.
7. <http://www.pows-of-japan.net/articles/80.htm>; Mills, Roy: *op.cit.*, pp.88-89, 118-119; Robinson, Ray, in *The Cricketer Annual*, 1945-46.
8. Mills, Roy: *op.cit.*, pp.131-132.
9. Robinson, Ray, in *The Cricketer Annual*, 1945-46; Mills, Roy: *op.cit.*, pp.190-193.

OUR FIRST PUBLICATIONS:

Two significant items not included in The Crooked Staffe exhibition

Our first publications:
two significant items not included in The Crooked Staffe exhibition

There were many hours of discussion among the working group on the selection of items for display in *The Crooked Staffe* exhibition. Our colleagues in the MCC Museum have been extremely supportive in loaning items to enhance the library holdings and to assist in showing the diversity of cricket in print.

Two highly significant publications are currently on display in the MCC Museum (located on Level B1 of the Pavilion). These are the Melbourne Cricket Club's two earliest publications – *The Laws of Cricket* (1841) and *Regulations of the Melbourne Cricket Club* (1846).

It was decided that they form such an integral part of the MCC story that it was best they stay where they are so we didn't ask for their temporary relocation. However, they are worth highlighting and we recommend members and guests inspect them on their next visit to the museum.

David Studham
MCC Librarian



Regulations of the Melbourne Cricket Club 1846

Manuscript

Printed by W. Clarke, Herald Office, Melbourne
MCC Museum (M9078)

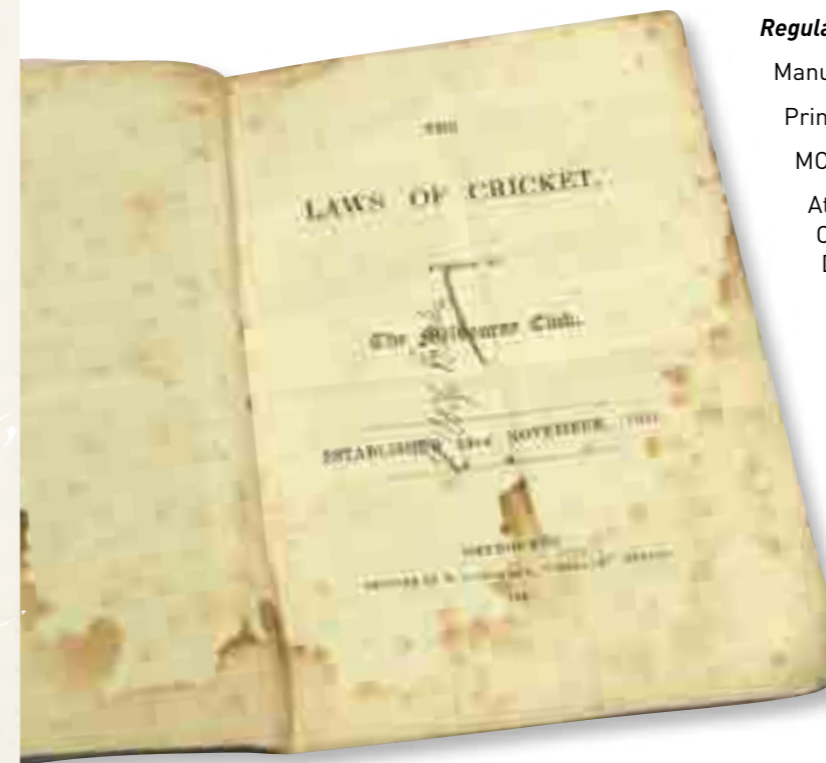
At the Royal Hotel on Tuesday September 22, 1846 George Cavenagh chaired a meeting which unanimously supported D.S. Campbell's motion "that a Cricket club to be called the Melbourne Cricket Club be formed in Melbourne...". The MCC has existed continuously from this date. Previously the club dissolved at the end of each cricket season and re-formed at the start of the next. At this meeting, it was moved by Mr Gilles, seconded by Mr Murphy, and carried unanimously "That the Committee be instructed to draw up a set of Laws for the government of the club; to select a ground for the club's practice, and to defray from the club's funds any expenses necessary for the purchase of bats, balls &c".

The Laws of Cricket 1841

Manuscript

Printed by R.J. Howard, 'Herald' office
MCC Museum (M9904)

The Club published *The Laws of Cricket* for the benefit of its members. This is the first known club publication.





Clem Hill, Matthew Hayden and Alan Davidson



Adam Gilchrist, Neil Harvey and Arthur Morris



“MOLLYDOOKERS” in Australian Test Cricket 1877-2010

Ed Wright, in *A Left-handed History of the World* (2007), contends that “Left-handers have a disproportionate presence in the history of the world”. He continues:

Try to imagine the Italian renaissance without Leonardo, Michelangelo and Raphael, science without Isaac Newton and Marie Curie, the American novel without Mark Twain, the computer without Alan Turing and Bill Gates, baseball without the Babe. (p1)

As well, four of the past seven presidents of the USA have been defined as being left-handed. In sport, with the exceptions of golf and hockey, left-handers appear to have a disproportionate number of successful players.

In the literature, there has been much confusion and complexity about “handiness” in general and “left-handedness” in particular. This introduction presents some, but certainly not all, the findings on the subject.

Throughout history, there has been discrimination against left-handers. Professor Kate Burridge, chair of linguistics at Monash University, in *Blooming English* (2002), states there is:

...a view of the left side as weak, feeble, worthless [at best] and untrustworthy, shameful, even evil [at worst]....The word *right*, by contrast, has all the positive associations of strength, efficiency, skill, correctness, trustworthiness and reliability. (p223-4)

Hence we have, for example, Right Reverend, Right Honourable and righteous and, of course, the political terms of right-wing and left-wing, with the latter often referred as being “the political rabble”. The right hand has historically been associated with skill from the Latin word, *dexter*, meaning “right-hand”, as in dexterity, with its positive connotations of being skilful.

Burridge continues:

There is also an array of appalling words to describe left-handers. Molly-dooker derives from molly ‘weak worthless fellow, simpleton’ and dook ‘fist, hand’. There’s cackhanded, of course, and watty-handed – the list goes on. Southpaws doesn’t sound too bad, but where are all the northpaws? Perhaps even more disturbing, though, is how

once-innocent little words simply meaning ‘left’ deteriorate over time. *Gauche* [a French word] originally meant ‘left’ but has now come to mean ‘clumsy, awkward’. *Sinister*, the Latin word for ‘left’, has become ‘wicked, evil’. (p224)

There are many examples, from other countries, where words originally referring to left-handedness are now regarded negatively.

An excellent example of this arises from heraldry where, as Friar points out:

... the terms *dexter* and *sinister* originated in the right-hand and left-hand of the knight who actually held the shield before him. (p316)

Hence, from his perspective, *dexter* is on the right while *sinister* is on the left. He continues:

Charges, crests, helmets etc., always face the *dexter* unless otherwise specified ... (p316)

The armorist, therefore, reads the shield with *dexter* on his left and *sinister* on his right.

The Macquarie Dictionary defines left-handed as:

1. Using the left hand more than the right
2. For use by or preferred by the left hand
3. Insecure or doubtful
4. awkward, clumsy.

Items 3 and 4 clearly relate to the above words, *gauche* and *sinister*.

For the purpose of this paper, the definition chosen is:

2. For use by or preferred by the left hand.

This enables left-handed cricketers to be placed into three categories, namely, those who:

- Bat left-hand and bowl/throw left-arm – genuine mollydookers such as Allan Border, Alan Davidson and Mitchell Johnson
- Bat left-hand but bowl/throw right-arm – partial mollydookers (Jack Gregory, Neil Harvey and Matthew Hayden)
- Bat right-hand but bowl/throw left-arm – partial mollydookers (Michael Clarke, Geoff Dymock and Charles Macartney).

These categories enable comparisons to be made between left-handed batsmen and left-arm bowlers since the initial Test match in 1877. This definition specifically clarifies the situation for cricket as, for example, Allan Border played his cricket left-handed, but does most other things, like handwriting and hammering, with his right-hand.

As many left-handed cricketers write with their right hand, should Border be defined as being as a right-hander in the “real” world? An article by Peter Roebuck, “A batty idea but shows it’s right to switch left” in *The Age*, outlines the increasing number of cricketers who are right-handed in most things, but bat left-handed. He calls it “` to switch-over”.

Overall, whatever definition is used, research tells us that between 10-12 per cent of the total population is deemed to be left-handed. Using the three categories, of the 416 capped Australian Test players, with the latest being Peter George, the figures show:

- Bat left-hand and bowl/throw left-arm (50/416 or 12.02%)
- Bat left-hand and bowl/throw right-arm (39/416 or 9.38%)
- Bat right-hand and bowl/throw left-arm (20/416 or 4.81%).

Therefore, 109/416 (26.2%) of Australian Test players fall into one of these three categories, well above that of the total population as indicated above. If you consider left-hand batsmen and left-arm bowlers/throwers separately, the outcome is:



Lindsay Kline, Justin Langer and John Ferris

- Bat left-hand 89/416 [21.37%]
- Bowl left-arm 70/416 [16.83%].

There are three factors that have an influence on left-handedness in general. These are:

- Neurological
- Cultural
- Structural/Strategic.

There is a theory on how being left-handed affects the way a person thinks, and divides handedness into two camps – visual stimulation and linear sequential. Accordingly, left-handers appear to favour visual stimulation, while right-handers favour linear sequential. The reason given for this is that the right side of the brain influences those who are left-handed.

Wright identifies 10 traits related to left-handers – initiative, empathetic, visual-spatial ability, lateral thinking, hot-tempered, solitary, iconoclastic, self-taught, experimental and fantasist. He then relates these traits to the lives of a number of famous left-handers.

There is also some evidence that left-handedness is not particularly advantageous in life. The following quote provides some evidence of the complexity of the subject of left-handedness:

Indeed, some scientists have linked left-handedness with speech impediments, schizophrenia, learning difficulties and drug problems. Some cultures actively discourage left-handedness as it is regarded as a bad habit and historically some religious movements considered the left to be evil – the word “sinister” ... which has led to numerous superstitions relating the left to the devil. [Gatward p46]

Historically, cultures have encouraged/forced left-handers to use their right-hand, especially in writing. There are many examples of people who write with their right-hand but do most other activities with their left-hand. This seems to have been particularly prevalent in England in the 1800s and early 1900s and probably had quite an influence on cricket.

In the Middle East and the southern countries of Asia, people used their right-hand to eat with and the left-hand for other hygiene purposes, hence “cack-handed”. This may be a reason

for the lack of selection of left-handed batsmen and left-arm bowlers in Test teams from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, until recently.

There is also strong evidence that the world has been designed for the right-hander. If you consider the structure of a house, it is designed to suit a right-hander to negotiate. Perhaps this is why many left-handers have learnt to use their right-hand – to eat with a knife and fork, to use the mouse at the computer and to handle such things as opening doors and managing locks.

It is generally acknowledged that golf courses have been designed for right-handers. Hence, only two highly regarded current world golfers are left-handed – Phil Mickelson (USA) and Mike Weir (Canada). In Australian golf, Greg Chalmers and Richard Green are the two leading left-handers.

Left-handed people have been placed at a disadvantage by the prevalence of right-handed tools and instruments in society. For example, many tools and devices were designed to be comfortable when used by right-handers. These include farming implements, musical instruments, computer installations and house devices such as scissors and knives.

The left-hander has had to adapt to these factors. When manufacturers have developed left-handed tools/instruments, these have been in smaller numbers and, hence, have been much dearer to purchase.

Psychiatrists claim that “although ambidexterity is rare at birth, it can be learned”. There is some evidence to suggest that left-handers are more likely to be ambidextrous than right-handers. This may be due to left-handers being “forced” into using the right-hand as well. From a straw poll, it would appear to be so. People have been asked what hand they use as a batsman or bowler/thrower and at tennis and/or golf, and for writing, plus the reasons they use a particular hand.

There have been some interesting responses. For example, a number of people stated that when they use a single hand, such as for writing and playing tennis, they use their right-hand, but when using both hands they tend to be left-handed. A question to be asked is why do many cricketers bat left-hand when their dominant hand for most activities is the right, while for golfers few actually play left-handed.

Left-handers in World Cricket

The Times in London in 1913 called for a ban on left-handed batsmen, a revolutionary idea, but one worthy of consideration because it would speed up the game. It claimed that:

Left-handed batsmen are a nuisance to all, but his own side.... Bowlers do not as a rule perform well against them; there is great trouble in changing the field during overs and it is difficult to arrange it scientifically for both right-handed and left-handed batsmen without the necessity of long journeys for some of the fieldsmen. (Pollard p35-6)

Fortunately, this idea failed to be taken up as we would not have had the pleasure and awe of watching great batsmen such Allan Border, Brian Lara and Graeme Pollock, all-rounders such as Alan Davidson, Gary Sobers and Wasim Akram, and bowlers such as Bishen Bedi, Bill Johnston and Derek Underwood. The Australian team for the recent Test series against India included Doug Bollinger, Michael Clarke, Michael Hussey, Michael Johnson, Marcus North and Simon Katich, who bat left-hand and/or bowl/throw left-arm.

As Arthur Morris, a highly regarded Australian left-hand opening batsman in the 1940s and 50s, remarked:

There aren't many of us – the right-handers have the numbers – but we left-handers have been a force in cricket ever since the game started. I am sure right-handers don't like us that much, so be prepared for a certain amount of unpopularity when you next go in to bat. The fieldsmen have to change positions [with a right-hander at the other end] every time you hit a single. The bowler glares at you because he has to change direction, and even the square leg umpire has to change his position. Thus you have caused a lot of trouble before you even hit the ball. You will feel the hostility all around you.

(Pollard p122)

That situation appears to have changed dramatically in the last 20 years with the number of left-hand batsmen in most countries growing rapidly in that time. For example, in 2000, when the West Indies travelled to England, they included seven left-handers in the first eight batsmen, basically to counter the influence of the off-spin bowling of Peter Such.

In 1956, a special committee of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) looked into improving scoring in county cricket, as crowds were not attending games because of defensive tactics used by teams. It changed the rules to state:

... that the number of on-side fieldsmen shall not exceed five, of whom not more than two may be behind the wicket at the instant of the bowler's delivery. (Berry p47)

This decision had an immediate impact on the performance of left-hand batsmen at the expense of right-arm swing bowlers. It is interesting to note that the first recognised English left-handed opening batsman was Peter Richardson who played Test cricket between 1956-63. Richardson actually started batting as a right-hander – a “switch-over”.

Conventional coaching wisdom suggests that the dominant hand should be on the bottom of the bat handle. That is, for a left-handed batsman the lower hand will be the left-hand. This is good for power but not for control, as it can push through, thus spooning the ball.

However, there are many who now argue that Brian Lara's way of batting is the ideal technique, with his dominant hand – the right-hand – being used on the top of the bat handle, which

enables the batsman to have greater control of the bat, thus eliminating the spooning of the ball.

World Statistics Relating to Left-handedness

• Batsmen: Two left-handed batsmen, Brian Lara (11,953) and Allan Border (11,174) are in the top 10 batsmen for aggregate runs, while 25 left-handed batsmen are among the 101 batsmen (25%) who have scored 4000 runs or more. One, Gary Sobers, who averaged 57.78 in 93 Tests, is in the top 10 batsmen on averages.

• Bowlers: There have been 149 bowlers to take 100 wickets or more in Tests, with 29 (19.48%) being Australian cricketers. Four Australian left-arm bowlers have taken 100 wickets or more – Alan Davidson (186), Mitchell Johnson (166), Bill Johnston (160) and Bruce Reid (113). One left-arm bowler, Wasim Akram, features in the top 10 wicket-takers with 414 wickets in 104 Tests (3.98 wickets per Test) at an average of 23.62 and a best performance of 7/119. He also took hat-tricks in two consecutive Tests against Sri Lanka in 1999.

Left-handers in Australian Test Cricket

To October, 2010 there have been 416 Australian cricketers who have been presented with a baggy green cap. In order to make an analysis of the success of left-handed cricketers, four eras have been chosen:

- Pre-World War 1 (1977-1914)
- Between the Wars (1919-1939)
- Post-World War 11 to the Centenary Test (1946-1977)
- The Modern Era (1978- present day).

The reason for selecting these eras is because of the changes in cricket over time, such as:

- The nature and preparation of wickets and the size of grounds
- The number of Tests played in each era and by each cricketer and the strength of the opposition
- Equipment, such as in bats, balls and protective gear
- Techniques and coaching methods and the professionalism of players
- Our individual knowledge of and interest in various periods of cricket, including the introduction of the shorter forms of the game.

Peter Roebuck (*The Age* 4/1/2010) illustrates these differences in the following:

In the 1990s only four batsmen averaged over 50, a mark regarded as a reliable definition of greatness. In the decade completed last week, the figure rose by leaps and bounds to 21. It is an astonishing change that long ago ought to have alarmed those responsible for retaining the balance between bat and ball.

Imagine the wickets Clem Hill and Neil Harvey batted on before they were covered. These differences, therefore, make it extremely difficult to make any objective comparison between players of the various eras.

Pre-World War 1 (1877-1914)

In this era, 105 cricketers from Charles Bannerman (1) to Richard Mayne (105)] were capped to wear the Baggy Green, of whom 21 (20%) would be defined as being left-handed. Of the 21 players, nine played 10 Tests or more, including four very good batsmen – Warren Bardsley, Joe Darling, Clem Hill and Vernon Ransford.

Two left-arm bowlers stood out – Jack Saunders, who took 79 wickets in 14 Tests (5.65 per Test) at an average of 22.78, with a best performance of 7/34, and Bill Whitty who took 65 wickets in 14 Tests (4.65 per Test) at an average of 21.12, with a best performance of 6/17. Another left-arm bowler, Tom Kendall, took 7/55 in the first Test match in 1877.

An interesting cricketer in this era was John Ferris, who played in nine Tests (eight for Australia and one for England). For Australia, he took 48 wickets from eight Tests (six wickets per Test) and for England he took 13 wickets for 91 in his only Test. One can only wonder why he only played one Test for England?

A significant fact is that before WW1, in Tests between Australia and England, 27 English batsmen scored 50 centuries, with only one being scored by a left-hander – Frank Woolley 133* in 1912. In the same period, 22 Australian batsmen scored 42 centuries, with 10 being scored by left-handers – Bardsley (2), Darling (3), Hill (4) and Ransford (1).

Hill scored two of his centuries on the MCG – 188 in 1898 and 100 in 1911. A possible reason for this difference between the two countries is that there were stricter attitudes in England “in forcing children to use their right hand” for most activities.

Between the Wars (1920-1940)

In this era, 54 cricketers from Herb Collins (106) to 163 Syd Barnes (163) were capped, of whom 12 (20.7%) would be defined as being left-handed. Of the 12 players, seven played in 10 Tests or more. This was certainly an era where there was a dearth of left-handed cricketers in Australia. Two centuries were scored by left-handers – Jack Gregory 100 at the MCG in 1921 and Warren Bardsley 193* at Sydney in 1926.

Many commentators support the view that Clem Hill was the best left-handed batsman in the world before WWII and believe Victor Trumper was the best Australian batsman after Don Bradman. However, Bernard Whimpress puts a strong case for Hill being considered to be at least equal to Trumper.

He also contends that Hill's performances were superior to those of Frank Woolley (England). He established a unique, if not necessarily desirable, record in scoring 99, 98 and 97 in consecutive Test innings – a good example of the term “the nervous nineties”.

In this era, there were two successful left-arm bowlers – Bert Ironmonger took 74 wickets in 14 Tests (5.28 wickets per Test) at an average of 17.9 per wicket, with a best performance of 7/23, and Les “Chuck” Fleetwood-Smith took 42 wickets in 10 Tests (4.2 wickets per Test) at an average of 37.38, with a best performance of 6/110.

Ironmonger put in two outstanding performances at the MCG – 7/23 in 1931 and 5/6 and 6/18 in 1932. He was 46 years of age when he played his first Test and, at 50, played all five Tests in the series.

From World War II to the Centenary Test (1946-1977)

In this era, 119 cricketers from Ian Johnson (164) to Michael Malone (282) were capped, of whom 31 (26%) would be defined as being left-handed. Of the 31 players, 16 played in 10 Tests or more. There were 55 centuries scored by left-handed batsmen – Neil Harvey (21), Bill Lawry (13), Arthur Morris (12), Bob Cowper (5), Rod Marsh (3) and Gary Gilmour (1).

Scores of 200 runs or more by left-handers were Cowper (307), Lawry (210 and 205), Morris (206) and Harvey (205) with two – Morris and Lawry – being opening batsmen. This era highlighted the successful right/left-hand opening partnerships between Bob Simpson and Lawry.

There were two very successful left-arm bowlers in this era – Alan Davidson who took 186 wickets from 44 Tests (4.22 wickets per Test) at an average of 20.53, with a best performance of 7/93, and Bill Johnston, 160 wickets from 40 Tests (four wickets per Test) at an average of 23.91, with a best performance of 6/44.

In this era, two left-arm bowlers claimed seven wickets in a Test innings – Davidson (7/93) and Lindsay Kline (7/75). Davidson holds a unique record in that in 44 Tests he took five wickets in an innings 15 times. Kline is the only Australian left-arm bowler who has taken a hat-trick in a Test when he took 3/18 at Cape Town in 1958.

From the Centenary Test (1977) to the Present Day

In this era, 133 cricketers from Wayne Clark (283) to Peter George (416) were capped, of whom 42 (31.6%) would be defined as being left-handed. Of the 42 players, 18 played in 10 Tests or more. This era could be called the period of the left-handed batsmen.

There were 183 centuries scored by left-handers, including Matthew Hayden (30), Allan Border (27), Justin Langer (23), Mark Taylor (19), Adam Gilchrist (17), Michael Hussey (11), Simon Katich (10), Graeme Wood (9), Graeme Yallop (8), Darren Lehmann and Marcus North (5), Kepler Wessels (4), Matthew Elliot, Phil Jaques and Rod Marsh (3), Phillip Hughes and Wayne Phillips (2) and David Hookey and Tony Mann (1).

Scores of 200 runs or more by left-handed batsmen were Hayden (380), Taylor (334*), Langer (250), Border (210 and 205) and Gilchrist (204*), while Elliott scored 199.

There were two very successful left-arm bowlers in this era – Mitchell Johnson with 166 wickets in 38 Tests (4.37 wickets per Test) at an average of 29.06, with a best performance of 8/61, and Bruce Reid with 113 wickets in 27 Tests (4.2 wickets per Test) at an average of 24.63 per wicket and a best performance of 7/51.

Overall Performances – Batsmen

The top 10 left-handed batsmen, who have played a minimum of 10 Tests, are listed in order of performance within each of the following categories. For detailed information on each player please refer to Appendix One.

Don Bradman is clearly the leading batsman in Australian cricket. However, it is probably more appropriate to use the statistics of Ricky Ponting as the benchmark for Australian batsmen. Ponting has played 148 Tests and scored 12,250 runs, including 39 centuries (one in every 3.7 Tests) at an average of 54.68.

On the Aggregate Number of Runs Scored in Tests

- Allan Border – 11,174 runs in 156 Tests
- Matthew Hayden – 8625 runs in 103 Tests
- Justin Langer – 7625 runs in 104 Tests
- Mark Taylor – 7525 runs in 104 Tests
- Neil Harvey – 6149 runs in 79 Tests
- Adam Gilchrist – 5570 runs in 96 Tests
- Bill Lawry – 5234 runs in 68 Tests
- Simon Katich – 4091 runs in 54 Tests

Simon Katich and Bert Ironmonger



- Michael Hussey – 4080 runs in 54 Tests
- Rod Marsh – 3633 runs in 97 Tests.

Other left-handed batsmen to score 3000 runs or more in Tests are Arthur Morris (3533), Graeme Wood (3374) and Clem Hill (3143).

On Batting Averages (runs per innings)

- Matthew Hayden – 50.74
- Allan Border – 50.56
- Michael Hussey – 49.75
- Neil Harvey – 48.42
- Phil Jaques – 47.47 in 11 Tests
- Adam Gilchrist – 47.60
- Bill Lawry – 47.35
- Bob Cowper – 46.84 in 27 Tests
- Arthur Morris – 46.49 in 46 Tests
- Simon Katich – 44.96.

Other left-hand batsmen with an average of 40 runs or more are Justin Langer (45.27), Darren Lehmann (44.95), Mark Taylor (43.50), Graeme Yallop (41.13), Greg Matthews (41.08) and Warren Bardsley (40.48). In addition, Clem Hill, who played before WWI, had an average of 39.21 and Phillip Hughes has scored 615 runs in seven Tests at an average of 51.25.



On Number of Centuries Scored

- Matthew Hayden – 30 (one in every 3.43 Tests)
- Allan Border – 27 (one in 5.77)
- Justin Langer – 23 (one in 4.56)
- Neil Harvey – 21 (one in 3.76)
- Mark Taylor – 19 (one in 5.47)
- Adam Gilchrist – 17 (one in 5.64)
- Bill Lawry – 13 (one in 5.15)
- Arthur Morris – 12 (one in 3.80)
- Michael Hussey – 11 (one in 4.72)
- Simon Katich – 10 (one in 5.20).

Graeme Wood scored nine centuries in 59 Tests (one in 6.5 Tests) and

Clem Hill scored seven centuries in 49 Tests (one in seven Tests).

On Highest Scores in Test Cricket

- Matthew Hayden – 380 v Zimbabwe at Perth in 2003
- Mark Taylor – 334* v Pakistan at Peshawar in 1998
- Bob Cowper – 307 v England at the MCG in 1966
- Graeme Yallop – 268 v Pakistan at the MCG in 1984
- Justin Langer – 250 v England at the MCG in 2002
- Bill Lawry – 210 v West Indies in Barbados in 1964/5
- Arthur Morris – 206 v England at Adelaide in 1954/5
- Alan Border – 205 v New Zealand at Adelaide in 1987
- Neil Harvey – 205 v South Africa at the MCG in 1953
- Adam Gilchrist – 204* v South Africa at Johannesburg in 2001.

Other left-handed batsmen with a highest score of 175 or more runs in an innings have been Matthew Elliott (199), Warren Bardsley (193*), Clem Hill (191), Michael Hussey (182), Kepler Wessels (179), Joe Darling (178) and Darren Lehmann (177).



Bob Cowper and Mitchell Johnson

Top 10 Australian Left-handed Batsmen (10 Tests or more, in alphabetical order)

- Warren Bardsley
- Allan Border
- Neil Harvey
- Matthew Hayden
- Clem Hill
- Michael Hussey
- Justin Langer
- Bill Lawry
- Arthur Morris
- Mark Taylor

Other left-handed batsmen considered for inclusion were Bob Cowper, Adam Gilchrist, Simon Katich, Graeme Wood and Graeme Yallop.

An analysis of the criteria outlined above and the data in Appendix One suggests that four left-handed batsmen stand out – Allan Border, Neil Harvey, Matthew Hayden and Clem Hill. After due consideration of the data and taking into account differences in wickets, equipment, coaching methods and the quality of the opposition, Neil Harvey deserves the title of the best left-handed batsman Australia has produced.

Overall Performances – Bowlers

The top 10 left-arm bowlers who played 10 Tests or more are listed in order of performance within each of the following categories. For detailed information on each player, please refer to Appendix Two.

As a benchmark for comparison, our leading bowler has been Shane Warne, who played 144 Tests and took 708 wickets (4.91 per Test) at an average of 25.41.

Number of Wickets Taken

- Alan Davidson took 186 wickets in 44 Tests (4.20 wickets per Test)
- Mitchell Johnson took 166 wickets in 38 Tests (4.37 per Test)
- Bill Johnston took 160 wickets in 40 Tests (4.00 per Test)

- Bruce Reid took 113 wickets in 27 Tests (4.20 per Test)
- Jack Saunders took 79 wickets in 14 Tests (5.60 per Test)
- Geoff Dymock took 78 wickets in 21 Tests (3.70 per Test)
- Bert Ironmonger took 74 wickets in 14 Tests (5.20 per Test)
- Bill Whitty took 65 wickets in 14 Tests (4.60 per Test)
- Gary Gilmour took 54 wickets in 15 Tests (3.60 per Test)
- Ray Bright took 53 wickets in 25 Tests (2.10 per Test)

Other left-arm bowlers who have taken 45 wickets or more are Doug Bollinger (49), John Ferris (48 in eight Tests), Ern Toshack (47), Charles Macartney (45) and Ian Meckiff (45).

On Averages (runs per wicket)

- Bert Ironmonger – 17.97
- Alan Davidson – 20.53
- Ern Toshack – 21.04 in 12 Tests
- Bill Whitty – 21.12
- Jack Saunders – 22.78
- Lindsay Kline – 22.82 in 13 Tests
- Doug Bollinger – 23.79 in 11 Tests
- Bill Johnston – 23.91
- Bruce Reid – 24.64
- Gary Gilmour – 26.04.

Other left-arm bowlers who have an average of 30 runs per wicket or less are Geoff Dymock (27.13), Charles Macartney (27.56) and Mitchell Johnson (29.06).

On Best Performances in an Innings

- Mitchell Johnson – 8/61 v South Africa at Perth in 2008
- Bert Ironmonger – 7/23 v England at MCG in 1932
- Michael Whitney – 7/27 v India at Perth in 1992
- Jack Saunders – 7/34 v South Africa in Johannesburg in 1902
- Allan Border – 7/46 v West Indies at the SCG in 1989
- Bruce Reid – 7/51 v England at MCG in 1992
- Tom Kendall – 7/55 v England at MCG in 1877
- Charles Macartney – 7/58 v England at Leeds in 1909
- Geoff Dymock – 7/67 v India at Kanpur in 1979
- Lindsay Kline – 7/75 v Pakistan at Lahore in 1959.

Other left-arm bowlers who have taken seven wickets in an innings are Ray Bright (7/87), Percy Hornibrook (7/92) and Alan Davidson (7/93).

On 10-Wicket Hauls in a Test

There have been 89 occasions when an Australian bowler has taken 10 or more wickets in a Test, with 15 (16.8%) by a left-arm bowler. The three main bowlers have been Shane Warne, 10 times in 145 Tests (one in every 14.5 Tests), Clarrie Grimmett, seven times in 37 Tests (one in 5.30 Tests) and Dennis Lillee, six times in 70 Tests (one in 11.70 Tests). Four left-arm bowlers have achieved this feat twice:

- Alan Davidson – 5/31 & 7/93 in 1959 and 5/135 & 6/87 in 1960
- Bert Ironmonger – 7/23 & 4/56 in 1931 and 5/6 & 6/18 in 1932
- Mitchell Johnson – 8/61 & 3/98 in 2008 and 4/59 & 6/73 in 2010
- Bruce Reid – 6/97 & 7/51 in 1990 and 6/66 & 6/64 in 1991.

Other left-arm bowlers who have taken a 10-wicket haul in a Test are:

- Michael Bevan – 4/31 & 6/82 at Adelaide in 1997
- Allan Border – 7/46 & 4/50 at Sydney in 1989
- Ray Bright – 7/87 & 3/24 at Karachi in 1979
- Geoff Dymock – 5/99 & 7/65 at Kanpur in 1979
- Les Fleetwood-Smith – 5/107 & 5/94 at Trent Bridge in 1930
- Mitchell Johnson – 8/61 & 3/98 at Perth in 2008
- Charles Macartney – 7/58 & 4/27 at Headingley in 1909
- Ern Toshack – 5/2 & 6/29 at Brisbane in 1947
- Michael Whitney – 4/68 & 7/27 at Perth in 1991.

On Wickets per Test Match

- Jack Saunders – 5.65
- Bert Ironmonger – 5.14
- Bill Whitty – 4.65
- Doug Bollinger – 4.45
- Mitchell Johnson – 4.37
- Alan Davidson – 4.22
- Les Fleetwood-Smith – 4.20
- Bruce Reid – 4.20
- Bill Johnston – 4.00
- Geoff Dymock – 3.70.

Top 10 Australian Left-arm Bowlers (10 Tests or more, in alphabetical order)

- Ray Bright
- Alan Davidson
- Geoff Dymock
- Gary Gilmour
- Bert Ironmonger
- Mitchell Johnson
- Bill Johnston
- Bruce Reid
- John Saunders
- Bill Whitty.

Other left-arm bowlers considered were Les Fleetwood-Smith, Lindsay Kline, Charles Macartney, Ian Meckiff and Michael Whitney.

An analysis of the criteria, as outlined above and using the data in Appendix Two relating to left-arm bowlers, shows that Alan Davidson is clearly the best-performed left-arm bowler to this stage. Mitchell Johnson is rapidly establishing himself as a quality bowler and a handy left-handed batsman, while Bruce Reid may have been a strong contender had his Test career not been curtailed by serious back complaints.

The leading genuine mollydookers who bat left-handed and bowl left-arm are:

- Michael Bevan
- Allan Border
- Alan Davidson
- Gary Gilmour
- Mitchell Johnson
- Simon Katich.

The following wicketkeepers are all partial mollydookers in that they bat left-handed, but threw right-arm – Ben Barnett, William Carkeet, Adam Gilchrist and Rod Marsh.

Conclusion

To draw comparisons between players of different eras is very difficult, if not impossible. Statistics provide you with a sound base to work from, but in the end it comes down to a certain amount of subjective judgment, hence the selection of both Harvey and Davidson.

On batsmen who have scored 3000 or more runs in Test cricket

It is evident that there have been many more left-handed batsmen in the latter period from 1977 than occurred previously, especially before the Second World War. When you consider batsmen before WWII, with the exception of Don Bradman (99.94) no Australian batsman averaged more than 50 runs per innings.

Those who averaged more than 45 were Bill Ponsford (48.23), Stan McCabe (48.21), Bill Woodfull (46) and Herb Collins (45.07). The leading left-hander was Warren Bardsley (40.48), while Clem Hill had an average of 39.21. When you look at figures for English batsmen, three – Bert Sutcliffe (60.73), Walter Hammond (58.45) and Jack Hobbs (56.94) – exceeded 50 runs per innings.

Since WWII, there have been many batsmen who have averaged better than 50 runs per innings. This is particularly so since 1990. Peter Roebuck states that in the early 1990s, only five batsmen averaged more than 50 runs per innings, while in the 2000s this had increased to 21 players. Why? It is likely to be due to better prepared wickets, more advanced equipment, particularly bats and protective gear, more professional coaching and preparation and, in many cases, weaker opposition.

Australia has had eight batsmen who have averaged 50 runs or more per innings in Tests – Don Bradman (99.94), Ricky Ponting (55.22), Greg Chappell (53.86), Jack Ryder (51.63), Michael Clarke (51.47), Steve Waugh (51.06), Matthew Hayden (50.74) and Allan Border (50.56).

On bowlers who have taken 100 or more wickets in Test cricket

Six bowlers have taken 100 wickets or more in Test cricket and have averaged less than 20 runs per wicket, with the lowest being George Lohmann (England) taking 112 wickets in 18 Tests at an average of 10.75. These six bowlers, five from England with one left-arm bowler, John Briggs, played prior to WWI. Charles Turner, the only Australian, took 101 wickets in 17 Tests (5.94 wickets per Test) at an average of 16.53.

For Australia, there have been another three bowlers with an average of less than 20 who were prolific wicket-takers in Tests – John Ferris (61 wickets in nine Tests at 12.70), Fred Spofforth (94 in 18 Tests at 18.41) and Bert Ironmonger (74 wickets at 17.97). Ferris and Ironmonger were both left-arm bowlers, and all played before WWII.

After the war, the best average has been England's John Wardle (102 wickets in 28 Tests at 20.39). For Australia, Alan Davidson has the best average (186 wickets in 44 Tests at 20.53). This suggests that before WWII, bowlers had the advantage over batsmen, most likely due to uncovered and under-prepared wickets. Another factor that probably contributed was the basic nature of equipment for batsmen, especially the bats, and the lack of protective equipment.

It is obvious that there have been considerable changes over time, rendering it near impossible to make comparisons between players. One conclusion that could be drawn is that the altered conditions appear to favour the batsman in contrast to the bowlers. Perhaps, for the sake of the game, there needs to be some thought in providing more assistance to bowlers, such as changing the LBW rule and/or increasing the height and/or width of the stumps. There is room for much debate!

Indeed, this paper probably contains more questions than it provides answers about "handedness" in general and "left-handedness" as it applies to cricket.

John McArthur

Further Reading

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HEALY, Anne M., *Loving Lefties – How to raise your left-handed child in a right-hand world*, Pocket Books, New York, 2001.

WOLMAN David, *A Left-Hand Turn Around the World – Chasing the Mystery and Meaning in a right-handed world*, De Capo Press, 2005.

Mollydookers in Australian Test Cricket - Left-hand Batsmen.

Test Cap	Name	Career	Tests	Runs	Av.	100's	Tests/100	Highest Score	Captain	Other
94	Warren Bardsley	1909-1926	41	2,469	40.47	6	6.8	193* v England at Lords in 1926	2	Wisden 1910
299	Allan Border	1978/9-1993/4	156	11,174	50.56	27	5.8	205 v NZ at Adelaide in 1987	93	Wisden 1982
229	Bob Cowper	1964/5-1968	27	2,061	46.84	5	5.4	307 v England at MCG in 1966		
64	Joe Darling	1894/5-1905	34	1,657	28.56	3	11.33	178 v England at Adelaide in 1899	21	Wisden 1900
381	Adam Gilchrist	1999/00-2007/8	96	5,570	47.6	17	5.64	204* v South Africa at Johannesburg in 2002	6	Wisden 2002
178	Neil Harvey	1947/8-1962/3	79	6,149	48.42	21	3.8	205 v South Africa at MCG in 1953	1	Wisden 1954
359	Matthew Hayden	1993/4-2008/9	103	8,625	50.73	30	3.4	380 v Zimbabwe at Perth in 2003		Wisden 2003
74	Clem Hill	1886-1911/12	49	3,412	39.21	7	7	191 v South Africa at SCG in 1910	10	Wisden 1900
407	Phillip Hughes	2008/9-	7	615	51.25	2	3.5	150 v South Africa at Durban in 2009		
393	Michael Hussey	2005/6-	54	4,080	49.75	11	4.91	182 v Bangladesh in Chittagong in 2006		
395	Phil Jaques	2005/6-	11	902	47.47	3	3.67	150 v South Africa at Durban in 2009		
384	Simon Katich	2003/4-	54	4,091	45.96	10	5.4	157 v WI at Bridgetown in 2008		
354	Justin Langer	1992/3-2006/7	105	7,696	45.27	23	4.6	250 v England at MCG in 2002		Wisden 2001
219	Bill Lawry	1961-1970/1	68	5,234	47.35	13	5.2	210 v WI at Bridgetown in 1965	25	Wisden 1962
378	Darren Lehmann	1997/8-2004/5	27	1,798	44.85	5		177 v Bangalore at Cairns in 2003		Wisden 2001
249	Rod Marsh	1970/1-1983/4	97	3,633	26.51	3	32.33	132 v NZ at Wellington in 1974		Wisden 1982
322	Greg Matthews	1983/4-1992/3	33	1,849	41.08	4	8.35	130 v NZ at Wellington in 1986		
171	Arthur Morris	1946/7-1954/5	46	5,234	46.49	12	3.83	206 v England at	2	Wisden 1950
408	Marcus North	2008/9-	19	1,122	37.4	5	3.8	125* v England at		
346	Mark Taylor	1988/9-1998/9	104	7,525	43.5	19	4.48	334* v Pakistan at	50	Wisden 1990
317	Kepler Wessels**	1982/3-1995	24	1,761	42.95	4	6	179 v Pakistan in		Wisden 1995
293	Graeme Wood	1977/8-1988/9	59	3,374	31.83	9	6.55	172 v England in		
273	Graham Yallop	1975/6-1984/5	39	2,756	41.13	8	4.87	268 v Pakistan at	7	

** Kepler Wessels also played 15 Tests for South Africa scoring 1,027 runs at an average of 38.03.

Mollydookers in Australian Test Cricket - Left-arm Bowlers

Test Cap	Name	Career	Tests	Wickets	Av.	Best Performance	Wkts / Test	10 Wkts /Test	5 Wkt / Innings	Other
360	Michael Bevan	1994/5-1997/8	18	24	24.24	6 for 82 v WI at Adelaide in 1997	1.33	1	1	
406	Doug Bollinger	2008/9-	11	49	23.79	5 for 28 v NZ in Wellington in 2010	4.45		2	
299	Allan Border	1978/9-1993/4	156	39	39.1	7 for 46 v WI at SCG in 1989	0.25	1	2	Wisden 1982
280	Ray Bright	1977-1986/7	25	53	41.13	7 for 87 v Pakistan at Karachi in 1980	2.12	1	1	
195	Alan Davidson	1953-1962/3	44	186	20.53	7 for 93 v India at Kanpur in 1969	4.22	2	15	
268	Geoff Dymock	1973/4-1979/80	21	78	27.13	7 for 67 v India at Kanpur in 1979	3.7	1	1	
44	John Ferris**	1886/7-1891/2	8	48	14.25	5 for 26 v England at Lords in 1888	6	1	2	Wisden 1889
153	Les Fleetwood-Smith	1935/6-1938	10	42	37.38	6 for 110 v England at Adelaide in 1937	4.2	1	2	
267	Gary Gilmour	1973/4-1976/7	15	54	25.03	6 for 85 v England at Leeds in 1975	3.6		3	
132	Percy Hornibrook	1928/9-1930	6	17	39.06	7 for 92 v England at The Oval in 1930	2.83		1	
125	Bert Ironmonger	1928/9-1932/3	14	74	17.97	7 for 23 v WI at MCG in 1931	5.14	2	4	
398	Mitchell Johnson	2007/8	38	166	29.06	8 for 61 v South Africa in Peth in 2008	4.36	2	5	
177	Bill Johnston	1947/8-1954	40	160	23.91	6 for 44 v South Africa in J/burg in 1949	4		7	
9	Tom Kendall	1876/77	2	14	15.36	7 for 55 v England at MCG in 1977	7		1	
207	Lindsay Kline	1957/8-1960/1	13	34	22.82	7 for 75 v Pakistan at Lahore in 1959	2.62		1	Hat-trick 3 for 18 v South Africa in Cape Town in 1957
90	Charles Macartney	1907/8-1926	35	45	27.55	7 for 58 v England at Leeds in 1909	1.28	1	2	Wisden 1922
208	Ian Meckiff	1957/8-1963/4	18	45	31.62	6 for 38 v England at MCG in 1959	2.5		2	
334	Bruce Reid	1984/5-1992/3	27	113	24.63	7 for 51 v England at MCG in 1990	4.2	2	5	
83	John Saunders	1901/2-1907/8	14	79	22.78	7 for 34 v South Africa in J/burg in 1902	5.65		6	
170	Ern Toshack	1945/6-1948	12	47	21.04	6 for 29 v India at	3.92	1	4	
313	Michael Whitney	1981-1992/3	12	39	33.97	7 for 27 v India at Perth in 1992	3.25	1	2	
95	Bill Whitty	1909-1912	14	65	21.12	6 for 17 v South Africa at MCG in 1910	4.65		3	

** John Ferris also played one Test for England against South Africa in 1892, taking 7 for 37 and 6 for 54 [13 wickets for 91 at an average of 7]

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PIESSE Ken, 'Left is Right', *Australian Cricket*, Mar-April 1998, pp10-12.

POLLARD Jack, *Mollydookers – The World's Greatest Left-handed Batsmen*, The Five Mile Press, 1995.

WHIMPRESS Bernard [ed], *Clem Hill's Reminiscences, [The 'Unwritten History' of his Test Career: 1896-1912]*, ACS Publications, 2007;

In addition, there have been many autobiographies/biographies written about left-handed cricketers.

Websites:

www.cricketarchive.co.uk

www.cricket.com.au

Google: 'Handedness' or 'Left-handedness' and 'Left-handedness in Cricket'.

Photographs : Hayden, Gilchrist, Langer, Katich and Johnson, courtesy Geoff Sando collection, the rest MCC Collections.

BOOK REVIEWS

J. Neville Turner

Addicted to cricket: essays on the game

Warburton : Bernard Whimpress, 2010

Limited edition of 200. ISBN 9780975049150

I have worked in the MCC Library since January 2, 1994. It is my father's birthday, so it makes the day very easy to remember. However, I can't remember when I first met J. Neville. He was a regular researcher and visitor to the library and when I think about it, he is one of those people who is always there.

If there is a major cricket match, you can be sure J. Neville will be somewhere to be found. If it's at the MCG he could be either in a regular seat in the Great Southern Stand behind the bowler's arm, or visiting the Members' Pavilion as guest of one of his many colleagues and fellow devotees of the glorious summer game.

However, if you are fortunate to attend a Test match interstate or following the Australians overseas and you are a betting man (or woman) you would have pretty good odds on Neville being a fellow spectator.

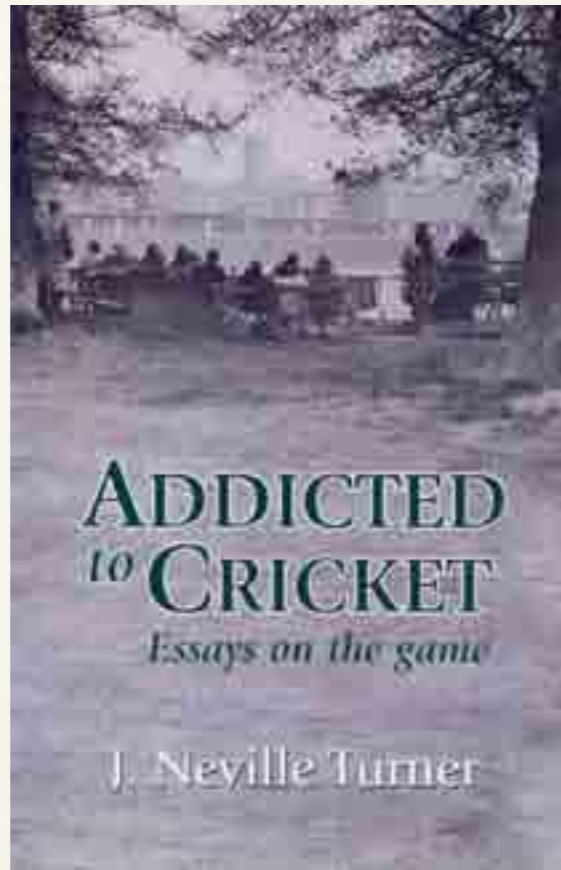
I remember being present at the launch of his last sporting book and was shocked to think it was in 1999! Far too long between books, Neville!

However, this does not mean that I have not had the pleasure of reading Neville's work, for he is one of the prolific authors, columnists and reviewers and his work appears in a wide range of publications, as the contents of *Addicted to cricket: essays on the game* can attest. Contributions to *Cricket Lore*, the *Journal of the Cricket Society*, *Pavilion*, *Baggy Green* and even a piece from *The Yorker* have all been selected.

This book is a delightful compendium of truly eclectic articles and reviews a diverse range of cricket-related topics. If you know Neville you will expect to find some of the topics like the section on cricket and the law entitled "The Laws and the law", as well as the pieces on Sir Neville Cardus: "Music Cricket and Cricket Writer" and "From Beethoven to Bollywood". No surprises there.

But all of these essays are a delight to read. Neville's free-flowing style and narrative prose keep the reader interested and entertained. This is the perfect bedtime book, one to pick up, allow to fall open and then begin reading at the start of that entry. There are some short vignettes and morsel-sized dishes that are satisfying and refreshing.

Neville's writing can be profound, deeply thought-provoking, not afraid to be controversial or tackle any injustice head-on but always entertaining (read his entries on the MCG redevelopment or the way the SCG treats its "clients"). I was thrilled to see the inclusion in the volume of "The One-Day Game: Cricket or Codswallop" from *The Journal of the Cricket Society* and the *Best Australian Sportswriting*, where Neville dissects the ODI



with the "Inartistic Nature of One-Day Cricket" and the "Defects of the one-day game". I can't wait for his critique of T20 and the "New and Improved" format of the Ryobi One-Day Cup.

"A Winter Wonderland" brings back vivid memories of one of the coldest days of my life...watching an ODI at "Colonial Stadium" in a Melbourne winter. It is pieces like his "Statham the Exemplar", "The Pursuits of the MCG" and "Le Cricket De Paradis". The latter title had me expecting Faure's requiem to cricket, but it is a truly delightful account of the traditions of women's cricket in New Caledonia with a follow-up essay on the Federation Francaise de Cricket Nouvelle Caledonie! that shows Neville at his best with witty asides and commentary. Where else will be read about *les batteuses*, *les lanceuses* and players out "captee"?

Whenever you read a piece by Neville you are sure to be educated, entertained and amused. His love of the game is infectious and I am sure you will all enjoy his writings as much as I have.

David Studham

Beth Hise

Swinging Away: How Cricket and Baseball Connect

London : Scala Publishers Ltd, 2010

ISBN 978-1857596441

Recently I was offered a free ticket to the American comedian Robin Williams. I declined on the principle that he had once described cricket as "baseball on valium". I was only kidding. A true cricket lover rather enjoys the incomprehension of Americans.

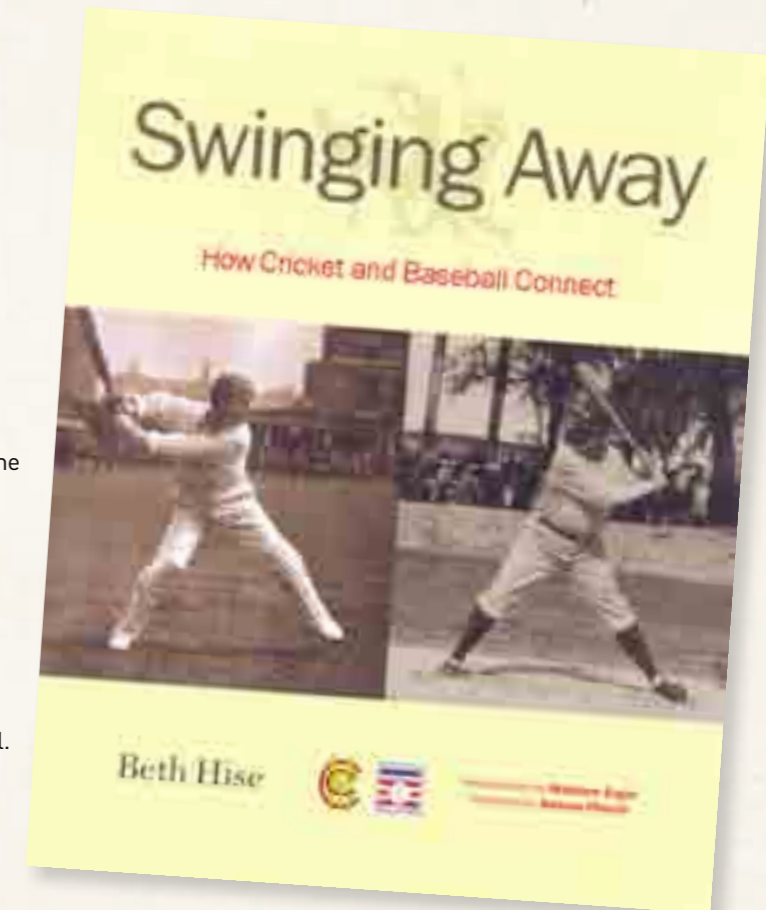
"It sure is swell," Groucho Marx is meant to have said after watching the first hour of a game at Lord's. "But when's the game itself going to start?" Such anecdotes appeal to our senses of exclusivity, and a belief in the subtlety of cricket's pleasures.

Beth Hise has an appealing task in *Swinging Away*, the catalogue to an exhibition exploring the parallels and contrasts of cricket and baseball curated under the aegis of the Marylebone Cricket Club and the National Baseball Hall of Fame. The games have, she reliably informs us, "no direct evolutionary relationship", but their paths have intersected often and fruitfully enough to provide grist for a historian's mill.

Contra the nativist creation myths concocted in the US, both games look to have English origins: Hise shows us a 1760 English children's volume called the *Little Pretty Pocket Book*, *Intended for the Instruction and Amusement of Little Master Tommy and Pretty Polly* delineating both games in verse. She then surveys their respective social histories, setups, functions, folklore, founding clubs (Marylebone, Knickerbocker), liveries and *lares et penates* (the Ashes, the Doubleday Ball). Egos too: both W. G. Grace and Babe Ruth thought they would have excelled at each other's sports.

Perhaps the most instructive complementarities are technical. Baseball, for example, originally involved an appeal, and catchers, like keepers, went back and forward in according the pitching until 1902. The first catcher to wear shinguards five years later, Roger Bresnahan, first used cricket pads. Bart King, meanwhile, whom Plum Warner thought in the world's best XI in 1912, brought from baseball an approach in which he held both hands behind his head, a legacy of his pitching career.

Overlooked areas of overlap include the question of ball tampering, baseball having abolished the spitter but cricket having condoned with some equivocation reverse swing, and the slide onto base which may well have influenced the grass surfing now popular in cricket outfielders.



Baseball was nourished in the US by cricket's own hand, even if its champions could hardly have foreseen, and may not entirely have approved of, the way it would eclipse the original game. Henry Chadwick, cricket writer for the *New York Times*, became a passionate advocate for baseball after watching a "particularly spirited" game in 1856, although he maintained an allegiance to cricket as a "field sport for gentleman".

George Wright, the only American to play top-grade baseball and first-class cricket, became one of the national pastime's foremost champions, while thinking the other game superior: "There is really more science and enjoyment for the player in cricket."

A disappointment from an antipodean perspective is that more is not made of connections in Australia, where the baseball tradition is long, strong and continuous, and cricketers have been part of it at home and abroad. Still, the production is handsome and the publication is timely, in time of Indian Premier League, Champions League and Big Bash. What would Robin Williams make of T20? "Cricket on amphetamines"?

Gideon Haigh

*Crosse : f. A Crosier, or Bishops
staffe; or, the crooked staffe;
Cricket.*

*Donner la Mitre, & la cro
beare out, by the priuiledge of
couer with the specious cloake
Evesque d'or crosse de bois.
de bois: Prov. The lesse a Bis
vertue, shines; pompe first cor
Crosier. To play at Cricket.*



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