MAY 2015
A CATALOGUE OF BOOKS AND IMAGES RELATED TO TENNIS (REAL/ROYAL/COURT)
LE JEU DE PAUME
RACKETS/RACQUETS

BOOKS WITH RACKETS/RACQUETS CONTENT
NEPTUNE BOOK OF TENNIS AND RACKETS 2015 by James Bruce (001)
THE BOOK OF RACQUETS 1872 by J R Atkins: exceptionally rare book on Rackets (002)
FIRST STEPS TO RACKETS 1926 by Noel & Bruce (003)
WILLIS FABER BOOK OF TENNIS AND RACKETS 1980: a multi-signed copy (004)
ATHLETIC SPORTS, TENNIS, RACKETS AND OTHER BALL GAMES 1936 (008)
COURT TENNIS, RACKETS AND SQUASH 1909 by Tompkins (013)
THE RACQUET GAME 1930 by Allison Danzig in very rare dust-wrapper (036)
RACQUETS, TENNIS & SQUASH 1903 by Eustace Miles (037)

IMPORTANT BOOKS ABOUT REAL/COURT TENNIS
THE ANNALS OF TENNIS 1878 by Julian Marshall (006)
THE ART OF THE TENNIS-RACKET-MAKER AND OF TENNIS 1938 by de Garsault (007)
HAZARD CHASE 1964 by Jeremy Potter (022)
A HISTORY OF TENNIS 1924 2 volumes by Noel and Clark (024)
HOW TO MAKE THE REAL TENNIS BALL FROM CORE TO COVER 1977 (028)
LE JEU DE LA PAULME AVEC SES REGLES 1776 (029)
PIERRE’S BOOK 1971 signed by Pierre Etchebaster (034)
TENNIS ORIGINS AND MYSTERIES 1932 by Whitman (052)
THE TENNIS PLAYERS 1979 by Tom Todd (053)
SCAINO ON TENNIS 1951 (057)
A TREATISE ON TENNIS 1985 & 2012 by Samuel Smith Travers (058)

CLUB HISTORIES
Bristol & Bath (012); Old Etonians (017); Leamington (025); Melbourne (027); T & RA (033);
The Queen’s Club (035); Royal Tennis Court (043); Oxford (048); Newmarket (061)

IMAGES
DAS BALLSPIELHAUS ZU VERSAILLES 1800: German view of the Tennis Court Oath (062)
Mr. WILLIAM HART DYKE 1875 Vanity Fair image and signed slip (067)
PAUMIER 1767: the series of famous wood engravings of 18th century Tennis (068)
REMAINS OF GIBBON’S TENNIS COURT1809 (070)
INTERIOR OF THE FLEET PRISON….THE RACKET-COURT 1850 (072)

INTRODUCTION
Since the publication in February 2015 of the “Neptune Book of Tennis and Rackets”, (see 001 below0, many new names have been added to my substantial e-mail contact list. It is a couple of years since I loaded a new Real Tennis and Rackets catalogue onto my website. Over the last 12 months, I have gradually accumulated a quantity of titles, mostly (though not exclusively) of the 20th century.

The main feature of the last 30 years as far as such books are concerned has been the publication of a range of excellent new titles issued in comparatively short print runs, often of 250 copies or fewer. Most of those print runs sell out quite quickly and go into firm hands. Just occasionally the odd copy reappears and many of those are listed in this catalogue. This catalogue therefore presents an excellent opportunity for new collectors to make a strategic multiple investment and for established collectors to close off a few gaps. And here and there, you will find a small number of the great and very rare Real Tennis and Rackets classic titles.

EXPLANATORY NOTE RE BOOK DESCRIPTIONS
I try to use standard and easy to understand terms when describing my books. “12mo” is about 14cm x 16cm; “8vo” is about 14cm x 21cm; “4to” is about 21cm x 26cm; and “folio” or “elephant folio” is generally anything larger than 4to. All books offered for sale are in at least very good condition and where there are faults, these are described. Any purchase may be returned within two weeks for a full and complete refund if there is a sound reason for this. Please note that in the case of out-of-print books, it is most likely that I will only have one copy. Do let me know if you are looking for any particular book.
ORDERS AND PAYMENT FOR BOOKS

Books can be ordered:
** by telephone to +44 (0) 1730-816116 or mobile +44 (0) 7860-395798 or FAX to +44 (0) 870-7052288
** by letter to Oaklands Farm Cottage, Oaklands Lane, West Lavington, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 0EJ, England
** by E-mail to alan@tennisbookshop.com

Books can be paid for:
** by sterling cheque drawn on a UK bank payable to “Alan Chalmers” or “The Tennis Bookshop”
** by US$ check payable to “Alan Chalmers”
** by Visa, MasterCard or Debit Card (16 numbers, expiry date and three figure code)
** by PayPal to alan@tennisbookshop.com

Books and images in this catalogue are mostly offered at prices which include UK postage; worldwide airmail postage (or surface by request) will be added to invoices as incurred.

THE NEW AND BIG-SELLING BOOK ON INTERNATIONAL TENNIS AND RACKETS

001 (a): “THE NEPTUNE BOOK OF TENNIS AND RACKETS”
by James Bruce

1st de luxe edition of 2015 (100 numbered copies) in large 4to red leather boards, internally marbled and with 448 pages, gilt page edges. The book contains a special numbered book-plate internally with the buyer’s name listed and signed by the author. The book opens with a preface by HRH The Earl of Wessex.

Originally published in 1980 (“The Willis Faber Book of Tennis and Rackets” by Lord Aberdare) and then updated in 2001 (“The J.T. Faber Book of Tennis and Rackets” also by Lord Aberdare), here is the brand new edition, completely re-written, updated, corrected and revised. Published only in February, sales so far have achieved considerable numbers with over 650 sales out of the print run of 900 copies.

This book has long been considered as one of the most authoritative book on Tennis and Rackets for decades, and this new edition is surely going to be the major historical work for many years to come. It is bursting with over 300 new colour photographs of people, players, courts and much more. The century by century histories of Tennis and Rackets have been restructured and considerably expanded.

Major sections include a new chapter on building courts and a comprehensive chapter on Ladies’ Rackets. There is also a fascinating chapter on Courts being created and revived as well as a chapter on Disused Courts. And finally the extensive record of major championships at Tennis and Rackets has been brought right up to the end of 2014.

This is a magnificent new title which every player and devotee of Tennis and Rackets will greatly enjoy.

The de luxe edition will be delivered in a postal box and in mint condition. It is offered at £350

Postage and packing to be added is £13 UK, £20 for Europe and £35 for worldwide airmail.
1st standard edition (900 copies) of 2015 in large 4to hard boards and dust-wrapper with 448 pages. More than 650 copies have been sold worldwide already.

This standard edition is in mint condition, delivered in a postal box, and it is offered at £35.

Postage and packing to be added is £13 for UK, £17 for Europe and £30 for worldwide airmail.
BOOKS ABOUT RACKETS/RACQUETS

Books solely about Rackets/Racquets can be numbered on some of the fingers of one hand! There are a few titles which contain a chapter about all of the so-called minor racket sports and Rackets is usually one of those. But in reality, there are only two major titles about this fascinating and fastest of all ball sports. And by a strange stroke of luck, I am able to offer one example of both titles.

002: “(The) BOOK OF RACQUETS
A Practical Guide
To
the Game and Its History
And to
The Different Courts in which it is Played”
By (John) R(ingwood) Atkins

THE EXCEPTIONALLY RARE AND THE ONLY 19th CENTURY BOOK ON RACKETS/RACQUETS
1st edition of 1872 published by Frederick Warne and Co. in England (and by Scribner, Welford in the USA) in small 8vo highly decorative boards with 108 pages. (I have never seen a USA edition. Has anyone?)

This copy is in predominately dark red boards. I have seen it in similarly highly decorative but predominately blue boards. A facsimile edition of 250 numbered copies was published in 1981 by Racquetier Publications Ltd. in England.

This title is the black tulip for Rackets/Racquets collectors. It is the only book on the sport of the nineteenth century and bearing in mind the sport was first played towards the end of the eighteenth century, it was almost one hundred years before this the first title appeared.

The book’s contents are as follows:

A preface dated London, April, 1872 written by an unnamed person
CHAPTER I: Historical Introduction
CHAPTER II: The Courts and the Game
CHAPTER III: The Close Court
CHAPTER IV: Various Courts, Viz: The Open Side-wall Court; The Grand Match Gallery Court; The American Wooden Court; The Tent Court; The Covered Open or Tournament Court; and the Gaslight Close Court
CHAPTER V: Domestic and School Courts
CHAPTER VI: Costume and Training
CHAPTER VII: Racquets, Balls, and “Bats”

The book’s 108 pages are crammed full with the sum total of the information and wisdom acquired by this experienced Rackets professional over many years of coaching. His descriptions of the various types of court at Chapter IV are fascinating to those who think Rackets was always played in a large closed and roofed court.

It is interesting to note the regular use of the word “Racquet” to denote the game rather than today’s more acceptable word “Racquets”. I will not interfere in the spelling of the word as “Racquets” or “Rackets”, save to say that the former seems to be the American term whereas the latter is the English term.

Noel and Bruce’s “First Steps to Rackets” 1926 says at page 121: “The book is now excessively rare, and indeed, we only know of one copy in a private collection.”

This copy is in good condition internally; externally it is somewhat worn and darkened though the marvellous external Rackets cartouches are clearly seen. It is offered at £1975
003: “FIRST STEPS TO RACKETS”
By Evan Baillie Noel (born 23 January 1879; died 22 December 1928)
and The Hon. Clarence Napier Bruce (born 02 August 1885; died 04 October 1957)


This is in the “First Steps to...” Series of sports books which was so popular in the 1920s. Both authors were leading players; Noel was Olympic champion in 1908 and Bruce a multiple winner of the Amateur Doubles.

There is a preface by the Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart Dyke, P.C. who was World Champion 1862/3 (see item 067).

The VII chapters cover:
I: The History of Rackets
II: Clothes and Implements for the Game
III: Training (by Major-General S.H. Sheppard, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.)
IV: The Grip of the Racket and Some Simple Principles of Hitting the Ball
V: Definitions and the Laws of Rackets
VI: Tactics of the Game 1: Service; 2 The Return of Service; 3: The Rally in the Single Game and the Double Game
VII: Concerning the Referee

APPENDICES:
A. The Literature of Rackets
B. Championships:
   - The World’s Championship; The Amateur Singles Championship; The Amateur Doubles Championship
   - The Public Schools Championship

The book has 14 pages of black and white photographs with Peter Latham, Charles Read and the Hon. C.N. Bruce demonstrating the major strokes.

It is a long time since I had a copy of this very rare title; this one is in very good clean condition and it is offered at £150
Lord Aberdare was a talented player of Tennis and Rackets with a passionate interest in the history of both sports. His first major Tennis title was published in 1958 and I am sure that the success of that spurred him on to write the major works for which he is so well known in racket sports circles. It has long been agreed that as far as the twentieth century is concerned, Noel and Clark’s “History of Tennis” 1924 and Aberdare’s “Willis Faber Book of Tennis & Rackets” 1980 are the two leading books on their subject. This passion for history has now been exhibited by his son the Hon. James Bruce and his new title at item 001.

The subject of this offer is a standard edition of Lord Aberdare’s iconic book THE WILLIS FABER BOOK OF TENNIS & RACKETS published in 1980 in large format 4to hard boards and dust-wrapper with 368 pages. The book and its contents need no major introduction and description here, as most Tennis and Rackets players will be familiar with it and later editions.

This copy however is unique in that internally can be found the autographs of 81 great male and female champions in the worlds of Tennis and Rackets. The autographs have been obtained personally by the book’s owner over 30 years of attending major events in England.

Several of these signatories have now died, others have left their games, and many are from clubs outside the UK, whose signatures have been obtained on fleeting visits to the UK.

The earliest player is from the 1930s, and the plethora of autographs transcends the decades from then to the modern day. The autographs are by players of both Rackets and Tennis, from the UK, the USA and Australia.

When viewing these autographs, you will note that after most of them is a location attribution as to which club many of them were attached at the time. The clubs with which these players associated themselves are as written by the players at the time of signing.

I have added below further biographical detail for your interest and information. Many of the Professionals will have moved on to other clubs since signing. Thus where attached clubs are shown and since changed, it will give a rough idea of how long ago the autographs were obtained.

There now follows a list of the autographs in the order in which they appear on the front end-papers of the book. Where I have added championship wins, I have mostly (but not exclusively) concentrated on World Titles won. World Champions can certainly be reckoned to have gathered in a fair number of national titles in the UK, the USA, Australia and France. I have tried to include as many of those as records and space allow.

LEFT COLUMN:

Runner-up World Tennis Singles 1995, 1997, 1999
03: Kate Leeming (Oratory)….Assistant Professional, now Assistant Professional at RMTC
Runner-up UK Open Tennis Doubles 1999
04: Max Robertson (Haileybury)……Winner Public Schools Rackets Doubles 1934
BBC Radio commentator
05: Martyn Jones (Petworth)……..Assistant Professional; now retired
06: Howard Angus (Queen’s Club)……..Assistant Professional; now retired
Winner World Tennis Singles 1976, 1977, 1979
Winner UK Amateur Tennis Singles 1966 to 1980, 1982
Runner-up Public Schools Rackets Doubles (Winchester) 1962, 1963
Winner World Rackets Singles 1973
Winner UK Open Rackets Singles 1971 to 1976, 1978
Winner Public Schools Rackets Singles (Winchester) 1963
Winner UK Amateur Rackets Singles 1972 to 1975
07: Andrew Davis (Oxford).................Head Professional
08: Michael Gooding (Burroughs Club)….Head Professional
Runner-up European Open Tennis Singles 1995
Winner UK Open Tennis Singles 1996
Winner UK Professional Tennis Doubles 1996 to 1999, 2002 to 2005
09: Alistair Curley (Hobart RTC)…..Leading Australian Amateur player
MIDDLE COLUMN:
10: Katrina Allen (Queen’s)……….Runner-up World Tennis Singles 1987
Winner World Tennis Doubles 1987
Winner UK Open Tennis Singles 1983 to 1986
Winner UK Open Tennis Singles 1994
12: Ned Danby (Seacourt)…………….Club proprietor; (born 15 January 1915; died 22 July 2005)
13: Mark Coghlan (Petworth)……….Assistant Professional; now retired
Runner-up World Tennis Singles 2010, 2012
Winner UK Open Tennis Doubles 1999, 2001, 2002
Winner UK Professional Tennis Singles 1999, 2005
16: Rod McNaughton (Burroughs Club)…..Professional
Winner UK Professional Tennis Doubles 2007
17: Charles Swallow…………….Runner-up UK Amateur Rackets Doubles 1960, 1963
Winner UK Amateur Rackets Singles 1964, 1970
Winner UK Amateur Rackets Doubles (Malvern) 1959, 1960
18: Mark Seigneur (Leamington TCC)…..Assistant Professional
19: Andrew Lyons (Queen’s Club)……….Assistant Professional; now Head Professional

RIGHT COLUMN:
20: A Snelgrove (Canford)……….Assistant Professional; now retired
21: David Johnson (Queen’s Club)……….Head Professional; now retired
22: Rob Fahey (Hobart)……….Winner World Tennis Singles 1994 to 2014
Winner World Tennis Doubles 2003 to 2009
23: Lachlan Deuchar (Harbour Club)……..Head Professional; now retired
24: D W Cull (Lords)…………….Head Professional; now retired
Winner UK Open Tennis Doubles 1976
25: Jonathan Howell (The Oratory)……….Manager; now Deputy Head Professional at the RMTC
Winner UK Professional Tennis Doubles 1995
Runner-up UK Open Tennis Doubles 1988, 1989
26: Adam Phillips (Hartfield House)……….Head Professional; now Manager at MCC (Lord’s)
27: Julian Snow (Queen’s)……….Runner-up World Tennis Singles 1998
Winner World Tennis Doubles 2001
Winner UK Open Tennis Singles 1992 to 1994, 1998
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<tr>
<th>Column</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Left</td>
<td>Peter Ashford (Winchester)</td>
<td>Rackets Professional; now retired</td>
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<td>Tim Chisholm (Racquet &amp; Tennis Club)</td>
<td>Assistant Professional; now Head Professional at The Tuxedo Club</td>
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<td>Nick Wood (The Royal Tennis Court)</td>
<td>Head Professional, Winner UK Open Tennis Doubles 2000, 2004</td>
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<td>Nick Wood (The Royal Tennis Court)</td>
<td>Winner UK Professional Tennis Doubles 2001 to 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peter Dawes (Seacourt)</td>
<td>Head Professional, now retired</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kenneth Wagg</td>
<td>(born 06 March 1909; died January 2000)</td>
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<td>K Sheldon (Leamington TCC)</td>
<td>Head Professional, Winner UK Open Tennis Doubles 1988, 1989</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Clary Pell (National Tennis Club R.I.)</td>
<td>Winner USA Amateur Rackets Doubles 1937 to 1939, 1941, 1946, 1959</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>Chris Bray (Petworth)</td>
<td>Head Professional, Runner-up European Open Tennis Singles 1996, 1998, 2004</td>
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<td>Roddy Bloomfield</td>
<td>Winner Public Schools Rackets Singles (Harrow) 1954, Runner-up UK Amateur Tennis Singles 1971, 1972</td>
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<td>Adam Phillips (Hatfield)</td>
<td>see also 26, Winner Public Schools Rackets Doubles (Eton) 1944</td>
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<td>Richard Greenwood</td>
<td>Runner-up Public Schools Rackets Doubles (Eton) 1944</td>
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T & RA President (born 18 March 1926; died 29 May 2014)

Winner MCC Gold Racquet 1954 to 1958
Lord Morys George Lyndhurst (born 16 January 1919; died 23 January 2005); T & RA President

54: Hugh Latham (Queen’s Club)………..Assistant Professional; now retired

55: Andrew Myrtle………Winner Public Schools Rackets Singles (Winchester) 1951, 1952
Winner Public Schools Rackets Doubles 1944, 1945 (Winchester); T & RA Chief Executive retired

56: Mick Dean (Radley)……..Rackets Master in Charge

57: Steve Ronaldson (Canford)……..Head Professional
Winner UK Professional Tennis Doubles 1984, 1985, 1988

58: Lesley Ronaldson (Royal Tennis Court)…Assistant Professional
Runner-up World Tennis Singles 1985
Winner USA Open Tennis Singles 1984

59: Ben Ronaldson (R.T.C.)……….Head Professional; now Head Professional at The Hyde

60: Chris Ronaldson (R.T.C.)……….Head Professional; now Head Professional at Radley College
Winner UK Open Tennis Singles 1980 to 1985

61: Sally Jones (Moreton Morrell)……Winner World Tennis Singles 1993
Winner World Tennis Doubles 1989, 1991
Winner UK Open Tennis Singles 1988, 1990
Winner USA Open Tennis Singles 1986, 1989
Winner USA Open Tennis Doubles 1986, 1989

62: Camden Riviere (Aiken)…Runner-up World Tennis Singles 2008, 2014
Winner USA Open Tennis Singles 2009, 2013, 2014
Winner USA Open Tennis Doubles 2006, 2009
Winner French Open Tennis Singles 2012 to 2014

LEFT COLUMN:

Winner MCC Gold Racquet 1993 to 1996
Winner USA Amateur Tennis Singles 1994, 1996 to 1999, 2004

64: Roman Krzanic (Oxford)……Runner-up UK Amateur Tennis Singles 2008

65: Derek Barrett (ex-Wellington College)…..Rackets Professional; now retired

66: Michael Happell (RMTC)……….Winner UK Open Tennis Doubles 1996
Runner-up UK Amateur Tennis Singles 1989
Winner UK Amateur Tennis Doubles 1989, 1990
Winner MCC Gold Racquet 1990

67: Neil Smith (RCT NY)……….Winner World Rackets Singles 1999

68: Colin Lumley……….Winner UK Professional Tennis Doubles 1991
Winner Australian Open Tennis Singles 1980, 1981
Winner Australian Open Tennis Doubles 1978

MIDDLE COLUMN:

69: Kevin King (Bristol & Bath)……..Head Professional
Runner-up UK Professional Tennis Doubles 1991

70: Ben Matthews (Hampton Court Palace)……..Assistant Professional; now Head Professional at the Leamington TCC

71: Martin Crosby (Charterhouse)……….Rackets Professional

72: B D Sayers (Seacourt)……Assistant Professional; now Assistant professional at The Queen’s Club
Runner-up British Open Tennis Singles 2013
Winner British Open Tennis Doubles 2013

73: Doug Grant (RMTC)……..Assistant Professional; now retired

74: James Male (Queen’s Club)……..Amateur Tennis and Rackets player
RACKETS: Winner Public Schools Doubles (Radley) 1982
Winner Public Schools Singles 1980, 1981

TENNIS: Winner UK Open Singles 1989
Winner UK Amateur Singles 1990
Winner UK Professional Doubles 2000
Winner USA Professional Singles 1997, 1999
RIGHT COLUMN:
75: Mark Eadle (Oratory)……….Assistant Professional; now Assistant Professional at Radley College
76: Anthony Scratchley (Fontainebleau)……..Professional, now retired
Winner World Over 60s Tennis Singles 1989, 1992
Winner World Over 60s Tennis Doubles 1989
79: Claire Vigrass (Prested Hall)………Head Professional Holyport RTC
Winner World Tennis Singles 2011, 2013
Winner World Tennis Doubles 2011, 2013
Winner UK Open Tennis Singles 2010 to 2014
Winner UK Open Tennis Doubles 2010, 2012 to 2014
Winner USA Open Tennis Singles 2008, 2010 to 2012, 2014
Winner USA Open Tennis Doubles 2010 to 2012, 2014
Winner Australian Open Tennis Singles 2010 to 2012, 2014
Winner Australian Open Tennis Doubles 2010 to 2012, 2014
Winner French Open Tennis Singles 2010 to 2013
Winner French Open Tennis Doubles 2009 to 2013
80: John Prenn (Queen’s)…..Winner World Rackets Singles 1981, 1986
Winner World Rackets Doubles 1990
Winner UK Open Rackets Doubles 1986 to 1990, 1993
Winner USA Open Rackets Singles 1980
Winner USA Amateur Rackets Singles 1999
Winner Canadian Amateur Rackets Singles 1979, 1981 to 1986, 1992
Winner Public Schools Rackets Doubles (Harrow) 1971
81: James Stout (NYRTC)…..Winner UK Open Rackets Singles 2008, 2009
Winner Public Schools Rackets Singles 2011
Winner USA Open Racquets Doubles 2013

005: “(An) ACCOUNT OF THE JESTERS CLUB 1928-1978”
By J.F. Burnet and other authors
This is the 50th anniversary history of the Jesters Club written mainly by Burnet but with major contributions by other prominent Jesters and from contributors from overseas branches. It was published in 1979 in small 8vo paper covers with 36 pages.
It provides a fascinating insight into the early days and their pioneers whose names live on. The expansion from peripatetic cricket side to a multi sports club is well described with the rule of only encompassing sports that were played within walls.
This copy is the first I have seen; it is in very good clean condition and is offered at £20
006 (a): “(The) ANNALS OF TENNIS”
By Julian Marshall (born 1836; died 21 November 1903)
THE MOST IMPORTANT ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOK ON TENNIS IN THE 19TH CENTURY


Copies have also been seen in green, blue, and black boards. The probable reason for this is as a result of a phenomenon extant in late Victorian times. This book remained in publication for around 30 years. What probably happened is that the initial print run was published in green boards, by far the most common colour seen, and it eventually sold out but the book continued to be advertised. Printers in those days would often print sufficient quires for the first print run and a surplus quantity. They would then warehouse additional orders until they had accumulated sufficient to make it worth their while to cut and bind an additional quantity, which was then bound into a different coloured board.

This is certainly the most important English language book on Tennis of the nineteenth century and it is often quoted or referred to in later Tennis titles. (The first English book of the nineteenth century was Lukin’s “A Treatise on Tennis” of 1822 but there was nothing of note in between these titles, thus a gap of some 56 years).

Marshall was a great exponent of Tennis and won the M.C.C. Silver Racquet in 1867, its first year; he was also Rackets champion at Harrow. In later life he was Secretary of the All England Lawn Tennis Club and on the committee which set up the first Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championship in 1877. In 1886 he was Championships referee for that year. He was also a great expert on the rules of Lawn Tennis and produced several editions as the rules changed.

This book is a very competent study of the subject written in five chapters; it is a coming together of a series of stand-alone articles written by Marshall and published over a period in The Field magazine.

“Tennis Abroad” talks about the game as played in Europe, mostly France, through the ages.
“Tennis in England” is very interesting as it traces all he has learned about the game in England from the earliest times. This must have been a tough job as English Tennis was not well documented as at the mid-nineteenth century.
“The Court and the Implements” is where he makes extensive use of the engravings in the de Garsault and talks much about the development and the manufacture of the ball and the racket.
“The Laws and Their History” discusses at length the derivation of fifteen in Tennis and the system of chases, going back as far as Scaino (1555). And finally in this chapter he lists the definitions and laws as at 1878.
“The Game” describes how to play the game; style, strategy and tactics are much discussed. Each of the strokes in Tennis is discussed and described, and recommendations as to the appropriate stroke in certain circumstances can be found here.

This copy is in good condition, external colours sharp and clear; spine a little separated; it is offered at £975

006 (b): “(The) ANNALS OF TENNIS”
1st facsimile edition of 1973 published by Racquet Sports Information & Services Inc. in the USA in small 4to green and gilt decorated boards with 226 pages.

This book is in very good condition with a previous owner’s inscription on the front end paper. It is offered at £75
The 1st French edition of 1767 was published as an integral part of “Description des Arts et metiers, faite ou approve par MM De L'Academie des Sciences” in a series of large volumes between 1761 and 1789. It was dated 1767 and there was a later edition. There is also a German language edition called “Die Kunst der Ball-und Raquettenmacher und vom Ballspiele” published in 1768. It is exceptionally rare.

This is the 1st English translation of 1938 by Catherine W. Leftwich, B.A., published by the Royal Tennis Court in small 4to red hardboards, originally wrapped in a clear cellophane, with 50 pages in an edition of 200 numbered copies, the first 150 of which were reserved for members of the RTC. The crest of the RTC is handsomely embossed on the front board in gold blocking.

The translation shows just how similar the game in 1767 was as to how it was played in the late 1930s and indeed as it is still played today, even down to the fact that the choice of server was decided by the spin of the racket and the call of rough or smooth, though lately replaced by the spin of a coin to deter predictive racket spinners!

This copy is number 3/150 so very much the earliest number I have seen. All copies are signed internally by C(hristopher) B. Gabriel, the Hon Sec. and Treasurer of the RTC. In addition this copy bears the following inscription on the front end paper: “

E. Latham
with best wishes
Revelstoke
June 16 1938”

Frank Emil Latham was the son of Peter Latham, the World Tennis Champion 1895-1907, and World Rackets Champion 1887-1902; he is the only man to hold both championships simultaneously.

Frank trained at Lord’s and in 1920 went to Paris as Professional, establishing good French connections. From 1927 to 1937, he was back at Lord’s and in 1933 he won the Browning Cup. He was listed as playing for Petworth in 1939, though it is unclear whether he was at Petworth in 1938 when this book was dedicated.

Lord Revelstoke was then the owner of Lambay Island and its court, thus a very important man in 1930s Tennis circles.

Employment for Latham at Petworth ended abruptly with the onset of the 2nd World War. He re-emerges once more at Lord’s in the 1950s, and attended the reopening of the Petworth Court in April 1960, where he occasionally marked matches until his death in 1964.

This book is in lovely condition and it is offered at £250
007 (b): The ART OF THE TENNIS-RACKET-MAKER AND OF TENNIS

This is the facsimile of the 1938 edition as published in the USA in 1977 in identical size (4to red hardboards) but also in a red card slipcase in an edition of 750 numbered copies.

This copy is in very good clean condition and it is offered at £50

008: “ATHLETIC SPORTS, TENNIS, RACKETS AND OTHER BALL GAMES

EXCELLENT RACKETS AND TENNIS CONTENT

1st edition of c1936 published by Sports & Sportsmen Ltd. in England presented in elephant folio size in plush red leather boards and elaborate gilt engraved spine with 421 pages, all page edges gilt. The authors of the various articles are not identified.

This book is part of a large series of similar books on the whole range of field and athletic sports, edited in conjunction with The Sporting Life. It is a most elaborate publication and would grace any library. It was published in two editions, namely an edition grand de luxe of c200 copies and this the standard edition of 1000 numbered copies.

The sports covered are many forms of running, jumping, throwing etc.; then the Olympic Games, Boxing, Swimming, and Fencing. Following these are the racket sports of Tennis, Lawn Tennis, Rackets, Squash Rackets, Fives and Badminton; then Bowls, Croquet, and finally Highland Games.

The book is illustrated with magnificent portraits of great exponents of the game (each protected with a tissue guard), as well as occasional line diagrams. The Racket Sports sections start with a splendid history of Tennis suggesting that the game became established in England around the end of the fourteenth century and the European dominance is described. As with all the sports covered in this book, there is a very large number of famous names mentioned. These are mainly players who featured in the great competitions, but historically, the Tennis section lists players as far back as 1800.

The Lawn Tennis section is an excellent history, as the game can be identified as starting at an almost exact date, whereas Tennis gradually evolved over many centuries. The very earliest competitions are described as are the various changes in the rules of the game; there were several important changes in that period until the rules settled down into what we know today. Clearly the Wimbledon Championships take up much of the text.

The Rackets section is a rare text, and the Squash-Rackets section is an early text. Neither of these sports was well endowed with books etc. at that time. The early history of Rackets from the late eighteenth century onwards is always an interesting read for Rackets players. There is a great many championship match results here. Similarly Squash-Rackets, which had the shortest history of these racket sports, states that Rugby School is the originator of the game! That is a new theory to me.

I have never read about the Grasmere and Highland Sports but here are two articles describing them.

And finally there is a section called “Some Notable Personalities” with player biographies including Lord (Clarence) Aberdare, E. M. Baerlein, and H E Crawley (Tennis and Rackets), H W Austin, H Roper Barrett, and W C Crawley (Lawn Tennis), and Victor Cazalet (Squash-Rackets), and many other greats from the wide range of sports detailed in this book.

This copy is in very good condition and it is offered (+ postage) at £175
009: “BALL, BAT AND BISHOP:
The Origin of Ball Games”
By Robert W. Henderson (born 25 December 1888; died 18 August 1985)

As the fly-leaf says (and I could not): “Here is the story of baseball from Thotmes III, King of Egypt in ancient days, to Babe Ruth, King of Swat in modern times, intertwined with the stories of tennis, football, and other sports. Now, for the first time, we have the whole fascinating story showing without a shadow of doubt that all competitive ball games came from one common source: an ancient fertility rite observed by Priest-Kings in the Egypt of the Pyramids.” You read it here and now you know!

There are 26 chapters each dealing with origins, different sports especially Tennis, Racquets and Lawn Tennis, and of course Baseball, all mostly from an American point of view. Henderson was a scholar who became the Librarian at the Racquet & Tennis Club (NY) where his name is still mentioned with great reverence. He published many articles on ball sports and constructed the Bibliographies of Tennis and Lawn Tennis as published in Malcolm Whitman’s fine book “Tennis Origins and Mysteries” (see 052).

With this book is a typed letter signed by Henderson from the Racquet & Tennis Club sent with this copy of the book in 1971.

This copy is in very good condition as is the delightful dust-wrapper and it is offered at £200
1st edition of 2009 published by Ronaldson Publications in England in small 8vo hardboards in dust-wrapper with 196 pages in a print run of 300 copies. There was also a de luxe edition of 50 numbered copies.

With a foreword by H.R.H. The Prince Edward and a preface by the author, this is a scholarly treatise highlighting and examining the many references to Tennis in English literature over the centuries. Most Tennis people are aware of Shakespeare’s occasional references but our language is actually much fuller of Tennis than most might think.

Chapter headings to tease your brain include:

1: Introductory...tennis past and present
2: The Tennis balls episode in Shakespeare’s Henry V
3: The medieval beginnings
4: Attitudes to tennis in the Renaissance
5: Tennis as imagery and metaphor in the Renaissance
6: Post Renaissance to the rise of lawn tennis
7: Perceptions of tennis from 1874 to the present

There are some beautiful photographs; also included is an index to the Allusions to Tennis in English Literature.

This book is in unused condition and it is offered at £20
011: “(The) BOOK OF THE BALL”
By Alfred Ernest Crawley (born 11 July 1869; died 21 October 1924)

This is an odd book as far as the choice of subject is concerned. It is a study of the ball and its properties in a wide range of sports which include the racket sports such as pallone, pelota, tennis, fives, rackets, and lawn tennis.

The ball is analysed as to its natural history, propulsion, impact, flight, trajectories, rotation, swerves in the air, breaks from the ground, etc. Famous exponents who contribute to this lovely book include Peter Latham and Edgar Baerlein.

There is lots of good ball play history here and some interesting photographs and diagrams.

This book is quite rare and this copy is in overall very good condition, slightly foxed internally; it is offered at £175

A RECENTLY PUBLISHED CLUB HISTORY

The first meeting to discuss the formation of the club was held on 16th December 1985 in the home of John Barford in Clifton. And it was Clifton that became the site for the new court which was not to be opened for another thirteen years with actual building commencing in April 1997. The official opening was on 14th February 1998 when H.R.H. The Prince Edward unveiled the commemorative plaque and then struck the first service.

Before the court was built, the BBTC was a peripatetic club using the Hardwick House court as its home base. Many matches were played there and I have good memories of the hospitality offered!

The book continues after the opening of the court and details the various stages of progress from building up its membership from scratch, mostly with new players, and then some of the team visits both home and away; then the appointment of the Professional Kevin King soon to be supported by Charlotte Cornwallis as Aspro,

This is a very good story of achievement by a small number of utterly dedicated men with a vision which eventually and to their great credit became a reality. Well done to them all.

This copy is in unused condition and it is offered at £15

013: “COURT TENNIS, RACQUETS AND SQUASH”
By Frederick Charles Tompkins
1st edition of April 1909 published by J.B. Lippincott Company in the USA in 16mo blue hardboards with 115 pages. Also seen in red hardboards. Internally this book is also titled “COURT TENNIS with notes on Racquets and Squash-Racquets”.

The author is described as “Instructor to the Philadelphia Racquet Club, U.S.A., to His Grace the late Duke of Wellington, Strathfieldsaye, England; to the Royal Tennis Court, Brighton, England; to Prince’s Tennis and Racquet Club, London, England; to the Royal Naval Officers Court, Malta; to the Army Racquet Court, Curragh Camp, Ireland.” So obviously a very busy man!

This little book concentrates mostly on Court (or Real) Tennis and its first 100 pages are on that sport. He deals with the “Court and Accessories” “Theory of Play and Scoring” “Form” “Services” “General Hints” There is also a glossary of terms used.

Racquets takes up 10 pages, and finally Squash-Racquets takes up nearly 5 pages. The Tennis section is very well illustrated with photos of the author demonstrating the shots.

This little book is in good condition, a little worn externally and it is offered at £175
1st standard edition of 2009 published by Ronaldson Publications in England in tall 4to hardboards and dust-wrapper with 240 pages in a print run of 300 copies. There was also a de luxe edition of 50 numbered copies.

The authors are both very competent Tennis players and highly knowledgeable on their subject. This lovely book is a large collection of Tennis trivia and miscellanea from across the centuries. It is one of those books into which you can dip at random and guarantee to find a short story which will entertain you.

Chapter headings tell their own story and amongst those, you will find
“The Mysteries of the Haymarket”
“The Tennis Courts of Lincoln’s Inn”
“The Prince’s Club”
“The Tennis Courts of Bristol”
“Fives in Tennis Courts”
“Pugilism in Tennis Courts”
“Troublesome Services”
“Julian Marshall”, and more.

The pages are peppered with short but amazing stories mostly never previously published. And here you will also find facts about many now defunct Tennis courts, the existence of which was long forgotten. The book is beautifully illustrated with a huge number of photos and other images from Tennis history. This book is in unused condition and it is offered at £30
THE HISTORY OF THE REAL TENNIS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SINCE 1740

1st edition of 2010 published by Ronaldson Publications in England in large 4to hardboards and dust-wrapper with 218 pages in a print run of 350 copies. There was also a de luxe edition of 53 numbered copies.

This was a book which was desperately needed as it recounts the history of the World title going all the way back to around 1740 with Clerge.

The chapter headings are:

History of the Men’s Championships
The Early Matches

And here are the champions and the years they held the ultimate title:
Rene Clerge c1740 ..............Antoine-Henry Masson c1765 .................Joseph Barcellon c1785 ................Jean-Etienne Marchisio 1816-1819
Tom Pettitt 1885-1890 ..........Charles Saunders 1891-1895 ..........Peter Latham 1895-1905, 1907-1908
The Men’s Challengers; The Ladies’ Championship, and finally three appendices

Each champion has his dates of birth and death, and the years he held the title. Each champion also is the study of a short biography mainly focusing on his Tennis career, with details of the important matches in his challenge series. The book is nicely illustrated with plenty of portrait photos of these great names.

This book is in unused condition and it is offered at £45
016: “(The) FIRST BEAUTIFUL GAME:
Stories of obsession in Real Tennis”
By Roman Krznaric

1st standard edition of 2006 published by Ronaldson Publications in England in 8vo paper covers with 181 pages in a print run of 670 copies. There was also a de luxe edition of 70 copies.

Krznaric is a top ranked player at Oxford and has a deep knowledge of the game, which is evident by reading this fascinating book. It can be read from cover to cover or by dipping in at chapter headings. The contents are a marvellous amalgam of all that is strange, odd and yet interesting in Tennis throughout its long history.

Chapter headings include:

The Wordless Conversation
From Abbots to Zealots
Life in Court
Serving to Gentlemen
The Missionary
Adventures with my Father

As Roman says: “Bent rackets, painted crowns, penthouses and giraffes, hand-stitched balls that ricochet around a court shaped like a medieval cloister, fanatical players dedicated to a sport that has hardly changed for centuries….welcome to Real Tennis.”

This book is in unused condition and it is offered at £20

017: “(The) FIRST FIFTY YEARS:
a Jubilee History of the Old Etonian Racquets and Tennis Club 1960-2010”
By John Ford


From a very small beginning in 1960, the OERTC has grown and grown to the extent that it now has some 1300 members, who play all the racket sports, either in OERTC competitions or when representing the OERTC in matches against other clubs. It is clear that the late Richard Greenwood was the driving force behind the success of the club acting in many capacities, and his dedication to the task is evident. There are lots of records of champions etc.

This book is in unused condition and it is offered at £20
018: “FRED COVEY WORLD CHAMPION OF TENNIS"
Edited by Neil Covey

1st standard edition of 1994 published in the UK by Ronaldson Publications in tall 4to hard boards and dust-wrapper with 125 pages in a print run of 100 copies. There is also a de luxe edition in a print run of 60 copies.

This unusual book replicates a large number of press cuttings which tell the story of Covey's many championship Tennis matches from 1902 through to 1928, a period during which he was involved in World Championship matches, some of which he won and some of which he lost. He was a fine Tennis player and champion and is truly one of the legendary Professionals of British Tennis.

This copy is in very good clean condition and it is offered at £25
Collectors’ Edition (Australia) of 2007 in small 8vo decorative boards with 161 pages. This was issued in a run of 40 copies, each bearing the list of prior subscribers and this copy is inscribed to a previous owner. There was also a standard edition of 400 copies.

The 5 chapters are the texts of talks given at the Royal Melbourne Tennis Club on major Tennis personalities of history.

1: Pierre Etchebaster given by Richard Travers
2: Jay Gould and Eustace Miles given by Richard Travers
3: Neville Lytton, Judith Blunt and Fred Covey of Crabbet Park by Richard Travers
4: “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Literary and Popular Notions of Real Tennis from Medieval to Modern Times” by Geoffrey Hiller
5: Tennis Memories, Tennis Style by Graham Hyland

There are also learned appendices fleshing out some of the text.

The book is in very good clean condition and is also signed internally by the three authors; it is offered at £75
This is the English translation by Richard Travers from the original title of 1862 called “Le Jeu de Paume: Son Histoire et Sa Description” published by Didier & Cie. in Paris. This English translation was published by Historical Publications in Victoria, Australia in November 2006 in a print run of 350 copies. It is in large 8vo brown leatherette boards externally gilt decorated and with 94 pages.

The French edition of 1862 is an exceptionally rare title appearing in two formats, the first being a larger (small 4to) with 14 (or 16) tipped-in plates, and the second being a smaller (about 8vo) with 6 (or 8) tipped-in plates, both in a variety of board colourings.

The book is an historical treatise on Le Jeu de Paume and is also an important source of information on many of the Paumiers of the period, both French and English, and locations of courts. The rules are included as are hints on how to play the game. And finally the full set of plates is reproduced throughout the book.

This book is in good condition with a small amount of damage on the title page which also has a previous owner’s dedication; it is offered at £150.
ILLUSTRATING & DESCRIBING LAWN TENNIS DOUBLES 35 YEARS BEFORE IT WAS INVENTED BY MAJOR WINGFIELD!
Edition of 1837 in 12mo hardboards with 388 pages all page edges gilt. Several editions of this book were published between 1830 and 1865 each with differing content. This edition of 1837 is the only one with racket sports content.

There are many editions of English and French books in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries which deal with multiple sports and games. This one however stands out a mile from the rest as a major title on the racket sports. The reasons for this are:

1: It has unique engravings of “Racket” (sic), “Tennis” and “Long or Open Tennis”.

2: It was published in a period from 1822 (Lukin) to 1872 (Atkins) when there was no other title on any of these three sports.

3: It is the first major tract on Rackets/Racquets, here called “Racket”.

4: It describes (pages 298 to 307) and illustrates (opposite page 298) this mysterious sport called “Long or Open Tennis”.

Longue Paume had been played in Europe for many years but Long Tennis is nothing like Longue Paume. Looking at the engraving, it is quite clear that what is being played is a men’s doubles on open ground in what can only be an early form of Lawn Tennis. The principles of play are taken straight from the (Real) Tennis court as were the principles of play in 1873/4 when Lawn Tennis was invented by Major Wingfield.

In this 1837 version (36 years before Wingfield had his eureka moment!), strings on short poles are set up to delineate the field of play outside of which the players may not stray, as if the strings were there to mark out where the walls on the Real Tennis court were. The scoring system remains the same, i.e. points of 15 up to 4 points or 60, thus game won, and many of the playing rules of Real Tennis are adopted, save for chases.

The section on Racket (sic) is pages 255 to 257 with as early an engraving of the game as you will find anywhere.

The pages also contain a short but important paragraph on Fives; for me this is the earliest text on Fives so far.

The section on Tennis is from pages 258 to 297 and it contains an action engraving as well as a delineated floor plan. There is introductory text such as spinning the racket to decide service, and then much advice on how to play the shots, handicaps and bisques and then the rules of play.

I regard this quite rare book as the missing link between early 19th century racket sports and the 1870s, when both Wingfield and Marshall marked out that decade as the pivotal decade for Lawn and Real Tennis.

The racket sports sections take up 52 pages of the 388 pages; other sports covered include a whole range of indoor games for people of all ages, as well as golf, football, curling and much more.

This copy is in very good condition in probably contemporary boards; it is offered at £275
022: “HAZARD CHASE”  
By Jeremy Potter (died 15 November 1997)  

This is the first major novel on Tennis (there now being two such titles) and its publicity leaflet tells us that it: “...is a fast-moving thriller with the most unusual and intriguing of background, the royal and ancient game of real tennis. Alfred Pratt (!), the shady cockney millionaire, is all smiles when he ceremonially re-opens the tennis court on the High Cheney estate.....”

Needless to say a murder takes place on the court (at which chase is not noted).

This copy comes with the original publicity leaflet; it is in very good clean condition and it is offered at £75

023: “HISTOIRE DU JEU DE PAUME DE PARIS 1908-2008”  
By Hubert Demory  

This is the story of the Paris court in the Rue Lauriston opened in 1826. It is a marvellous old building with plenty of good Tennis history, and this is well described and illustrated.

This copy is in very good clean condition and it is offered at £20
1st edition of 1924 published by The Oxford University Press in England in two large 4to volumes in grey dust-wrappers with coloured engraving tipped onto the front cover, volume 1 with 281 pages and volume 2 with 299 pages.

There was also a special de luxe edition of 20 sets, some bound into green leather boards. These were specially produced for Clark who gave most of them away to those who had helped with the financing of the book and the search for detail. It seems that Clark (owner of the court at Troon) had arranged the finance etc., while Noel did most of the work, travel and writing.

When originally published, the books were in a print run of 800 sets at five guineas. After about ten years, the OUP decided that, having failed to sell many even at the heavily discounted price of half a guinea, the balance was then pulped. That fact means that the original print run of 800 is now a print run of about 345 sets.

This book is the most significant title on Tennis since Marshall’s “Annals of Tennis” in 1878 and its authority lasts all the way up to Lord Aberdare’s “Willis Faber Book of Tennis & Rackets” of 1960, despite the fact that the history stops at 1924. I believe that the various chapters had been published previously as stand-alone articles in The Times, the Morning Post, the National Review and The Field between the years 1910 and 1922. It is presented in 12 parts (XII) as follows:

Volume 1:
Part I: The Early History of Tennis up to 1800
Part II: General History of English Tennis Since 1800
Part III: General Sketch of French and Continental Tennis Since 1800
Part IV: Tennis in Australasia
Part V: Tennis in America
Part VI: History of the Championship up to January 1923
Part VII: History of Amateur Championships with Careers of the Winners
Part VIII: History of the University Matches

Volume 2:
Part IX: The Literature of Tennis
Part X: The Laws of Tennis
Part XI: Modern Improvements in the Implements of the Game, and the Construction of Courts
Part XII: Hints on the Game …and Remarkable Feats; Handicaps and Handicapping

Appendix 1: Tennis Courts and Clubs of the World
Appendix II: Winners of Events
Appendix III: Professional Players, Masters, Keepers and managers of Courts; Tennis Families
Appendix IV: A Register of Some of the Best Known Amateur Tennis Players; Tennis Families
Appendix V: Dimensions of Courts (large fold-out chart of known court dimensions)
Appendix VI: The Season of 1923
Appendix VII: The Name and System of Scoring of Tennis (by A.E. Crawley)

The books are heavily illustrated with engravings and photos, mostly showing famous players in action or as portraits.

In thirty years of dealing, this is only the second set I have seen in the original dust-wrappers, which to me is very significant. The habit in those days was generally to discard the dust-wrappers as soon as the books were ready to go on the shelf at home.

This set is in its original and extremely rare dust-wrappers; on volume 1, the dust-wraper has slight loss at the top of the front board and the spine. Otherwise the books are in very good condition and are offered at £2500

De Luxe edition of 1991 published by Gerald Duckworth & Co. Ltd in England in an edition of 150 numbered copies. The book is presented in beautiful blue leather boards, the spine being ribbed and gilt decorated with the title and authors. Internally the boards are luxuriously marbled and all page edges are gilt. The book is presented in a blue card slip-case.

Whereas this was advertised as a run of 150 copies, the reality was that the book was not a success. Initially Duckworth printed the pages for all 150 copies but only cut and bound 45 copies. When I approached them several years after 1991 to buy more copies, they informed me that they had pulped all the remainder pages in order to save space in their warehouse. And yes when Duckworth pulped the unsold, they also pulped all the remaining signed sheets, sheets signed by seven world champions!

On the page where the list of past Tennis Champions of the World is listed can be found the signatures of the World Champions still living at 1991. These were
Jack Johnson (1957)
Norty Knox (1959)
Pete Bostwick (1969)
Jimmy Bostwick (1972)
Howard Angus (1976)
Chris Ronaldson (1981)

This copy is in beautiful condition and as one of 45 copies, it is offered at £975


This copy is in unused condition and it is offered (+ postage) at £75
HISTORY OF THE OLDEST REAL TENNIS CLUB IN THE WORLD; 1 OF 60 COPIES

1st de luxe edition of 1996 published by Ronaldson Publications in England in 8vo hardboards and dust-wrapper with 213 pages, all page edges gilt, in a print run of 60 numbered Library copies, signed by the author. There was also a standard edition in a print run of 550 copies.

This is easily the oldest members’ Tennis club in the UK and Leamington’s history since foundation in 1846 makes very interesting reading. Queen Victoria had not yet been on the throne for ten years when this old club was formed at Bedford Street. If you were in trade, you had no chance of joining the exclusive club, where women were unwelcome until only a few years ago.

The club went through several financial crises and gradually changed in social content until it became what it is today, a Midlands centre of Tennis excellence.

The author invented the handicap system for Tennis and this has been adopted on a worldwide basis.

This copy is in unused condition and it is offered at £125
"(A) HISTORY OF THE ROYAL GAME OF TENNIS"
By Albert Philippe Ferdinand de Luze (born 21 June 1873; died 24 June 1934)
Translated by Sir Robert Charles Richard Caradoc Hamilton, Bart (born 8 September 1911; died 27 September 2001)
A MARVELLOUS HISTORY OF TENNIS IN FRANCE AND GREAT BRITAIN

1st standard English translation of 1979 published by the Roundwood Press in the USA in large 4to hardboards and blue card slip-case; in an edition of 500 numbered copies in blue leatherette boards externally decorated and with 395 pages top page edges gilt; signed internally by Richard Hamilton.

This is a translation of de Luze's important title "La Magnifique Histoire du Jeu de Paume" published by Editions Delmas in France in 1933. It was in large 4to paper covers often found with pages uncut and this translation mirrors the format well. The book was in several formats, mainly however the standard edition which was in a numbered print run of 1000 copies. This translation was by Sir Richard Hamilton with corrections by Tony Negretti.

De Luze was a good player as a young man but became unwell and his condition seriously hampered his playing ability. He used the Bordeaux court and was a very knowledgeable man about Le Jeu de Paume at a time when a fellow Frenchman, Pierre Etchebaster, was world champion, so French Tennis was on a high at that period.

This large book is in two main sections as follows:

Historical Section: This covers the origins of Tennis on a century by century basis, tennis in the theatre, courts in Paris, tennis courts throughout France, and finally tennis courts outside France.

Technical Section and Record of Sports: This is a detailed study of Quarre and Dedans courts, their layout, the various galleries, the laws, the chase, the service, the method of scoring, the equipment, the maitre-paumiers, famous players, world championships, reminiscences, results of championships and more.

It is a huge source of Tennis history not just in France but there is also much to say about Tennis in England.

This book is in very good condition, the spine slightly frayed at the top edge and it is offered at £250
027: "(A) HISTORY OF THE ROYAL MELBOURNE TENNIS CLUB 1881 TO 1974"
By Vernon Mussell (born 1921; died 1994)
This is the 2nd edition/reprint which exactly mirrors the 1st edition which sold out owing to a print run of fewer than 100 copies. It is in small 8vo paper covers with 52 pages. It was published to celebrate the club’s move to a new 2-court site in Sherwood.

It describes the club’s parlous financial situation through several notable crises, then the plans to move and the major personalities who steered the move to what is now a thriving club.

This copy is in very good clean condition and it is offered at £20

028 (a): “HOW TO MAKE THE REAL TENNIS BALL FROM CORE TO COVER”
By Richard Hamilton and Anthony Hobson

At last the centuries old mysteries of how the Professional makes a tennis ball are laid bare. Reference to the de Garsault shows that the manner of making Tennis balls has hardly changed over the centuries, though recent changes have been seen with regard to a made-up core while various experiments with overseas manufacture are being analysed.

But the true Professional still ties and stitches new balls in the ages-old manner and all the stages are described and illustrated in this little book.

This book is now very rare in hardboards; this copy is in unused condition and it is offered at £75

028 (b): "HOW TO MAKE THE REAL TENNIS BALL FROM CORE TO COVER”
By Richard Hamilton and Anthony Hobson

This copy is in very good clean condition and it is offered at £40
A PREVIOUSLY UNRECORDED FRENCH LANGUAGE TEXT ON PAULME FROM THE 18th CENTURY
Edition of 1776 in French published Chez Bollen, Fils in Belgium with 14 pages. (Note this title consistently uses “Paulme” and not “Paume”.)

This unlisted book appears to be a series of separately published pamphlets, the first of which is a 14 page essay about “Le Jeu de la Paulme”; subsequent subjects in this book are Piquet with 32 pages, Whist with 64 pages, and Billiards with 16 pages. The pamphlets have been united into one small 8vo book with hard boards marbled externally and internally, with a beautifully decorated leather spine.

After a short historical introduction, there is discussion about Courte and Longue Paulme and then follow the laws of play. Next comes discussion about how to run a prize match, and finally there are two pages on Courte Paulme.

I am not aware of any other copies of this rare text on Paulme; the book is in very nice condition and it is offered at £3000

"JEU DES ROIS, ROI DES JEUX:
Le Jeu de Paume en France"
Compiled by Yves Carlier and Thierry Bernard-Tambour
FONTAINEBLEAU ILLUSTRATED EXHIBITION CATALOGUE AND HISTORY

This marvellous book was published to accompany and illustrate an exhibition of memorabilia related to Paume that was staged at the Chateau of Fontainebleau, outside Paris. The range of objects was very broad and comprehensive and this catalogue has become an important integral part of the Tennis bibliography.

Paume is of course very ingrained into French culture as can be gauged by the enormous number of towns and villages which still have a Place or a Rue de la Paume. Many of the words used in Tennis today have a clear French origin, e.g. dedans, tambour, reste, etc.

The exhibits included books, ceramics, engravings, equipment, furniture, photographs, etc. and all of the highest quality and rarity. All these are well described and illustrated for posterity.

This book is in unused condition and it is offered at £50
Melbourne to Myopia: Reflections on my visits to the Real Tennis Courts of the 20th Century
By George Edwin Limb (born 16 November 1935; died 07 March 2009)
1st standard edition of 470 copies (Australia) of 2002 in 8vo hardboards (no dust-wrapper issued) with 170 pages. There was also a de luxe edition of 50 copies.

This was an eccentric’s dream trip, going all over the world with his tennis racket always to hand. He took many years to accomplish this feat and at each of the courts where he played, he manages to write a couple of pages of amusing and perceptive reports.

This copy is signed internally by the author; it is in very good clean condition and it is offered at £75

MORE THAN A YARD WORSE.....
By Jonathan Howell
1st standard edition of 1995 published by Ronaldson Publications in small 8vo hard boards and dust-wrapper with 173 pages; in a print run of 700 copies. There was also a de luxe edition of 50 copies.

Jonathan Howell is a tennis professional, currently at the Royal Melbourne Tennis Club. His previous clubs include Moreton Morrell, Bordeaux and The Oratory. At each he has been pivotal in building up the memberships at the same time as touring the world to compete in Professional events, at which he was also very successful.

His easy to read life story takes us to places and personalities he has experienced in the Real Tennis world on his journeys. He also provides some worthy comments on great players of his era.

This copy is in good clean condition with a somewhat faded spine; it is offered at £25
This was a centenary book that was really needed as it told such a fascinating story about two games which are followed by a relatively small number of players but who do so in a passionate manner. The governing body is accepted across the world where the games are played.

“On 18 December 1907, a group of men with a deep passion for the games of Tennis and Rackets met at The Queen’s Club in West Kensington and founded the Tennis and Rackets Association. Their principal aim was to form a central authority to administer the two games. Until then, three leading London clubs (Marylebone Cricket Club, Prince’s Club and Queen’s Club) had been vying with each other to control the two games.”

Best has spent hours delving into the minute books of the T & RA and come up with a splendid account of how the embryonic association grew to the substantial body it is today.

Here can be found the many strong personalities who have been involved over the 100 years either as players or administrators, and often as both. They are mostly shown in portrait photos and all are listed on the page of Major Office Holders.

What some may consider a potentially boring subject has been skilfully turned into a very readable book peppered with anecdotes and the great names of Tennis and Rackets since the start of the twentieth century.

This book is in unused condition and it is offered at £85

This copy is offered in unused condition at £10
034: “PIERRE’S BOOK:
The Game of Court Tennis”
By Pierre Etchebaster (born 08 December 1893; died 24 March 1980)
A beautifully dedicated and signed copy
THE GREAT BASQUE WORLD CHAMPION’S LIFE STORY AND COACHING MANUAL; 1 of 500 COPIES

The book is in several sections.

THE GAME by George Plimpton consists of nine pages wherein Plimpton explains the game and how it is played, with two excellent court diagrams.

INTRODUCTION by George Plimpton who describes in ten pages Pierre’s early life in the Pays Basque, his 1st World War service, his introduction to Tennis, and his fast move through the ranks to become World Champion.

FOREWORD by Pierre Etchebaster wherein he describes the purpose of his book.

THE GAME OF SINGLES is where Pierre lays out for all to read his philosophy about the various aspects of how to play one against one. One common feature of his writing is his rather quaint almost pigeon English style, and in his summary this can be seen with such advice as “Do not abuse for the dedans” or “Do not abuse playing the volley. Let the ball go to the backwall.” There are some splendid court diagrams from the long wall looking into the court where he shows off various serves including one new to me i.e. “the Poop Service.”

THE GAME OF DOUBLES starts off with “I would like to say first about the doubles game that you must enter the court with a different concept in mind than that of singles play.” How often do you hear the Pro commenting that so much doubles play at the less than good player level seems like watching four singles players playing individually?

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS is an opportunity for RTC members to put question to Pierre via Plimpton.

PIERRE REMEMBERED is a short series of personal comments and reminiscences from some of his leading opponents, as well as other RTC members whom he coached. And here can be found some personal photos of Pierre at various ages.

This copy has the following inscription on the title page: “To Mr. H. Munroe in souvenir of our game in Paris. With my best wishes Pierre Etchebaster May 31 1972”

This book is in very good condition (dust-wrapper has small rip at the base of the spine) and it is offered at £375
McKelvie was a fine squash player, a member of The Queen’s Club for many years and a life-long journalist who specialised in reporting racket sports. This is a very well researched history of the club from its earliest days in the late Victorian era to 1986. So many different sports and activities have taken place over the 100 years of its life and all are nicely described and illustrated with photos or engravings.

The emphasis is on the various racket sports played there, especially lawn tennis, real tennis and rackets. The twenty-five years of the Stella Artois tennis tournament (now sponsored by Aegon) have been a major feature in the club’s annual programme and this took over from what was called the London Grass Court Championships which had been played there for decades.

This is a book in which I had more than a hand as I was a good friend of McKelvie and did most of the research for him on The Queen’s Club and its involvement in squash from the earliest days.

The book also charts the progress of the many staff members both administrative and sporting as well as the many people who served on committees. At the end of the book is a lengthy section detailing the results of all the club events held there.

This book is in very good condition and it is offered at £35
Danzig was a life-time sports journalist in New York whose speciality was the racket/racquet sports, Lawn and Court Tennis, Rackets/Racquets, and Squash Racquets. He was very highly thought-of and attended and reported on a huge number of top matches in all these sports. His preference was for Court Tennis as he wrote two excellent books dedicated to the game. Here is his first, the second being “The Wining Gallery: Court Tennis Matches and Memories” in 1985.

This book from 1930 recounts in great detail the origins of the sports, the court and equipment needed, and the history of the sport in the USA. He deals with some of the great championship matches he has watched and the leading players who featured in them. Much of what he writes refers to matches in the famous Eastern Seaboard courts such as New York, Boston, and Philadelphia.

He illustrates the book with plenty of photos of courts, champions, professionals etc. And most importantly to the contents, the large fold-out group photo at page 52 of those who attended the opening of the Green Tree Tennis Court on January 10 1915 is present in fine condition.

This book is in very good condition in exceptionally rare pictorial dust-wrapper and it is offered at £500.
037: “RACQUETS, TENNIS & SQUASH”
By Eustace Hamilton Miles (born 22 September 1868; died 20 June 1948)
FIRST BOOK OF THE 20th CENTURY ON RACKET SPORTS
1st edition of 1903 published by D. Appleton and Company in the USA in small 8vo green decorative hardboards with 336 pages. There is also a UK edition of 1902.

This is I believe the first major book on racket sports (other than Lawn Tennis) of the twentieth century. Miles was variously amateur singles and doubles world champion at Racquets (sic), and USA amateur champion at squash-tennis.

As a great supporter of fitness and regime, Miles spends quite a lot of time talking about diet, breathing, exercising, massage and rest. I suspect he was well ahead of his time in this respect, when there was an opinion that a gentleman did not train or have lessons!

In his tracts on the sports, he makes much of foot-work and positioning prior to making a stroke. Thus to him, technique was everything, pretty much as it is today.

His book is in six parts:
I: HINTS ON TRAINING: breathing, food, massage, rest
II: RACQUETS, TENNIS, AND SQUASH: features common to all 3, strokes and movement, practice, hints on match-play
III: RACQUETS: court & implements, rules of play, handicaps, grips, service, doubles
IV: TENNIS: court & implements, rules & etiquette, handicaps, service, practice & hints for play
V: HISTORICAL AND PERSONAL: ball-games in general, players in England and America
VI: SUGGESTIVE: handicapping & scoring, clubs and evening play, hints to markers & teachers

The book is heavily illustrated with many demonstrative photos mostly of him showing the shots, and there are a few court diagrams.

This copy is good condition a little darkened externally, a previous owner’s inscription internally. It is offered at £250

038: “(The) RAILING TENNIS COLLECTION”
This is the catalogue for the amazing sale of Real Tennis books, images and rackets as assembled over many decades by the Railing family. The sale was staged at Christie’s South Kensington on Thursday 17 November 2005, during which time some unimaginable prices were fetched.

But whereas the prices were very strong, the range of many of the books and images was way beyond what most seasoned collectors had seen previously. Illustrative of this was the hammer price of £26,000 fetched by Pierre Barcellon’s “Regles et Principes de Paume” of 1800. Only four copies are currently known to exist.

This copy of the catalogue is unmarked and it is offered at £20

039: “REAL TENNIS”
By Kathryn McNicoll

Part of a very large series of informative books on a huge range of subjects, the author deftly summarises and describes all aspects of this ancient game in a very concise and yet understandable manner. The origins of the game, the equipment used, the rules, other similar games, and much more is described.

This book is in unused condition and it is offered at £5

040: “REAL TENNIS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2010 PROGRAMME”
AUTOGRAPHED BY ROB FAHEY, STEVE VIRGONA AND ANDREW LYONS
The programme as issued for the challenge at the Royal Melbourne Tennis Club 4th to 8th May 2010 when Rob Fahey once again held off a stiff challenge from Steve Virgona. This booklet is small 8vo with 34 pages

Signed internally by Rob Fahey, Steve Virgona and the marker, Andrew Lyons; it is offered at £20

041: “(Le) REBOT ET AUTRES JEUX DE PELOTE BASQUE”
By Dr A. Vergely
A RARE TITLE ON PELOTE, TRINQUET, AND REBOT

This little paperback may be small in stature but it is big in content as it is one of those very rare titles which describes the ball games played in the Pays Basque in south-west France. Here can be found brief descriptions of the histories of the games, then text on Le Pelote Basque, Les Jeux de Trinquet, Les Jeux de Rebot, with a small number of lovely line drawings showing the courts.

This copy is in very good condition with most pages still uncut; it is offered at £35
**042 (a): “(The) ROYAL GAME”**
Edited by L. St.J. Butler and P.J. Wordie

1st edition of 1989 published by the Falkland Palace Real Tennis Club in Scotland in broad 8vo hard boards and dust-wrapper with 144 pages. This copy is signed internally by both editors.

With a foreword by H.R.H. Prince Edward, this is an interesting tour through the ages with chapters including

- The Origins of Tennis
- Tennis in Scotland
- The Royal Tennis Court at Falkland
- The Court Quarre
- Tennis in the Emblem books and in English Literature
- The Development of the Ball and Racket in Tennis
- The Origin of Scoring in Tennis
- The Service
- European Derivatives of Tennis
- The Genesis of Lawn Tennis.

This book is in very good clean condition and it is offered at £50

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**042 (b): “THE ROYAL GAME”**


This book is in very good clean condition and it is offered at £10

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**043: “(The) ROYAL TENNIS COURT: A History of Tennis at Hampton Court Palace”**
By David Best

1st standard edition of 2002 published by Ronaldson Publications in England in tall 4to hardboards and dust-wrapper with 331 pages in a print run of 600 copies. There was also a de luxe edition of 70 numbered copies.

This is probably the most famous Tennis court in the world and certainly the court with the most colourful history. English monarchs with whom this court can be directly associated include Henry VIII, Charles I, Charles II, William III, and George I.

The author details many of the diverse and occasionally eccentric people who have played on the court over the centuries, the world championship matches played there, and discusses the many architectural changes.

Most interesting are the sections on the various markers, professionals and leading amateurs as well as the many officers who have served on the committee.

The book is illustrated with more than 150 photos and other images, quite a few of which have not been published previously.

This book is in unused condition and it is offered at £35

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**044: “ROYAL TENNIS IN RENAISSANCE ITALY”**
By Cees de Bondt

1st edition in English published by Brepols Publishers in Belgium in 2006 in 8vo hardboards and dust-wrapper with 290 pages in a print run of 750 copies.

De Bondt is a very knowledgeable writer on matters related to Tennis with a particular fascination for this period, the research for which has taken him into many libraries especially in Italy. Thus this book from its title can be said to chart the game through the centuries in the major tennis courts of Italy in great detail with a myriad of photographs, diagrams and other images. Scaino and his famous book are well discussed; there are lengthy and learned appendices on various aspects of Tennis of the period.

This book has a previous owner’s inscription from the author; it is in very good condition and is offered at £75

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**045: “RULES & PRINCIPLES OF TENNIS”**
By Pierre Barcellon
Translated by Sir Richard Hamilton, Bt.

1st standard English translation of 1987 published by Ronaldson Publications in small 8vo hardboards and dust-wrapper with 47 pages. There was also a short run of a de luxe edition.

This book is from the French of 1800, in which the famous paumier describes how Paume was played in the period just after the French Revolution, a happening that actually decimated the game and its previous popularity. His headings include the court, the balls, the rackets, and then the rules as at 1800. His is a foremost technical manual and it is surprising how the game then is so similar to the game today, save perhaps for today’s great increase of pace.

There are only 4 known copies of the 1800 edition, all in safe hands, so the original is really the black tulip of the tennis bibliography.

This translation is in very good clean condition and it is offered at £15
046: “TENNIS: A CULTURAL HISTORY
By Heiner Gillmeister

1st English edition of 1998 published by the Leicester University Press in large 8vo paper covers with 452 pages. This is from the original German published in 1997.

Gillmeister is a Ph. D in several European languages and has a passion for the history of ball sports, on which he has written several books. His studies of ancient literature always produce books of great depth and intellect. In this big selling title, he examines tennis in the medieval period, alleged foundation stories including the monks in cloisters (now in serious doubt), tennis in literature, tennis in Germany and then into how the game gave birth to the new game of lawn tennis. There are many illustrations and a large number of reference notes.

This copy is in very good clean condition and it is offered at £35
047: "TENNIS: A CUT ABOVE THE REST"
By Christopher Ronaldson

THE MOST POPULAR REAL TENNIS COACHING MANUAL

1st edition of 1985 published by Ronaldson Publications in England in small 8vo hardboards and dust-wrapper with 172 pages in a print run of 500 copies. There was also a de luxe edition of 100 numbered copies presented in leather boards.

This is the first Tennis coaching title to be published since the 1930s and therefore it was long overdue. This was well proved by the fact that it is now in its fifth edition, all previous editions having been of 500 copies.

As a world champion, Chris is more qualified than most to write this book which also contains a very readable section on his own life and times in Tennis.

The coaching chapters are nicely illustrated with clearly understandable line drawings supported by many photos of Chris demonstrating the services and the shots he describes.

I have 2 copies both are in good clean condition; one is signed by the author, the other is dedicated to a fellow professional. Each is offered at £25

048: "TENNIS ANECDOTES AND SKETCHES"
By Michael P Garnett

1st edition (Australia) of 2010 in large 8vo blue leatherette boards externally gilt decorated with 384 pages; in a print run of 244 copies half of which were in blue boards and half in red boards.

“This title follows on from “A Tennis Miscellany” of 2006 and includes many new findings in the world of royal and lawn tennis.”

There is lots of text about great players of earlier eras such as Pettitt, Lambert, Fairs and many more. Photographs of long demolished courts are here. The book is another of those where you can open it at any page and be sure to be educated and interested by the contents of its 128 short and punchy chapters.

This copy is in unused condition and it is offered at £75
049: “TENNIS AND OXFORD”
By Jeremy Potter (died 15 November 1997)


With a foreword by The Rt. Hon. Lord Aberdare KBE, this book digs as far back into history as any I have seen on Tennis, as it seems that there was a Tennis court somewhere in Oxford from the mid-fifteenth century. The book considers the development of the game and entwines the history of Oxford tennis into the general context.

It tells of the origins of the game, and how it was/is played, of the medieval laws restricting play to the privileged classes; of its early days in Oxford; of the college ball courts which were a feature of undergraduate life for two centuries during Tennis's Golden Age; of the nineteenth century Renaissance of Tennis; and of Oxford Tennis in modern times.

Here also is the first full account of the three best known Oxford courts and their professional keepers. There is discussion about the royal connection with two kings playing: King Charles I when Oxford was his capital and Edward VII as an undergraduate.

This book is in very good condition, and it is offered at £25
050 "TENNIS ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES"
By Jeanne Cherry with photography by Jim Cherry

1st USA edition of 1995 in large 4to paper covers with 200 pages.

This marvellous book illustrates a huge quantity of the tennis antiques in the private collection of the Cherry family, a collection formed over a great many years.

The sections cover history of tennis, rackets, balls and cans, other tennis equipment, fashion, ceramics and silver, books, prints and other images, and photography. The vast majority of the items illustrated refer to Lawn rather than to Real/Court Tennis but the central theme is of interest to all collectors of racket sports items.

This copy is in very good clean condition and it is offered at £30

051: "(A) TENNIS MISCELLANY"
By Michael Pearson Garnett

1st edition (Australia) of 2006 in large 8vo brown leatherette hardboards externally gilt decorated, and with 284 pages.

One of a number of marvellous Tennis titles from Melbourne, this one contains 69 short chapters on a huge range of Tennis orientated facts and stories, all beautifully illustrated. The bibliography is updated, and many new stories appear, mostly sourced from obscure places, all patiently dug up by the author.

The stories cover all countries where the game is played and are arranged in such a fashion that you can open the book anywhere and find a short story to fascinate you. The book does not need to be read in the order in which the chapters appear.

This book is inscribed to a previous owner by the author, and otherwise in very good clean condition; offered at £95
1st edition of 1932 published by The Derrydale Press in the USA in 8vo hardboards (leatherette spine) originally in a glassine dust-wrapper with rough cut pages edges and 258 pages in a print run of 450 copies.

Whitman was a very pivotal person in the administration of USA Court and Lawn Tennis and a good player of both. His interest was the bibliography of both games and his book is thus split into three sections:

The first section contains chapters indicating the origin and meaning of the terms used in Tennis as follows:

The word “Tennis”
The Game of Tennis
Court Tennis in America
“Love” in scoring
“Fifteen” in scoring
The Double Service
The Let
The Ball
The Racquet
Lawn Tennis
Lawn Tennis in America
The Catgut Mystery
The Influence of the word “Love”
Tennis in the Life of Tomorrow

The second and the third sections consist of lengthy bibliographies of Court and Lawn Tennis; for collectors of such titles, this is one of the most important reference works that exists. Henderson's research into this field is extensive and it set the foundation for the later lists to be found in Garnett’s titles.

The book has been reprinted several times in 1968, 2002 and 2004, but the last two without the bibliographies.

This book is in very good condition and it is offered at £500
053: “(The) TENNIS PLAYERS: from pagan rites to strawberries and cream”
By Tom Todd (born 11 November 1911; died 19 June 1984)

1st UK edition of 1979 in large 4to hardboards with dust-wrapper and 240 pages very well illustrated with many black and white photographs.

This is something of a foundation book for historians of racket sports with much emphasis on the early history of Lawn Tennis. The author describes the history of ball games and tells us how what he calls “the kingly game” gave birth to the little bastard game called “lawn tennis”. Indeed it is believed that because of the new game in 1874, the real game, previously called “Tennis”, now had to be restyled “Real Tennis” to differentiate it from its progeny.

Todd describes the early days with Major Walter Clopton Wingfield appearing on the scene and patenting his new game of “Sphairistike”, soon to be called “Lawn Tennis”.

It is certain that all the early players of the new game were previously either Rackets or (Real) Tennis players, and indeed three of the first Wimbledon champions were Old Harrovian rackets players, one of whom having won the championship in 1877, described the new game as rather stupid, would not catch on and he did not visit the All England Club again until the 50th anniversary in 1926!

If you have this period of the early days of lawn tennis as a passion, then this is the book for you. Todd was also an early collector of lawn tennis antiques and when he died he left his collection to the All England Club and this now forms the basis of their amazing range of tennisiana.

In a print run of 500 copies, and in very good clean condition, this quite rare book is offered at £375
TENNIS REFLECTIONS IN TIME
By Michael Garnett

1st edition (Australia) of 2014 in large 8vo red leatherette boards with 442 pages. This was in a print run of only 150 copies of which the first 75 copies were presold with a buyer’s list internally.

This is the last of the 3 titles in Garnett’s trilogy of ever-expanding titles covering an enormous range of topics on the game of tennis, its history, its courts, its personalities, its oddities, its happenings and much more. It is profusely illustrated with a huge number of photographs.

The book’s 98 mini-chapters can be read in any order and every one of them will tell you something about Tennis that you did not know.

This copy is in very good clean condition and it is offered at £95

TENNIS: The Development of the European Ball Game
by Dr Roger Morgan (born 22 June 1929; died 01 March 2003)


Morgan devoted many years of study into how the game of Tennis and its unique court evolved. It had been thought that Tennis came out of the cloisters of medieval monasteries where it was certainly played. Morgan realised there were problems with that theory and looked elsewhere.

He then began to consider that the game might be older than generally thought and had evolved from a game played in the streets of villages in Italy with boys using the awnings from shop fronts as crude penthouses, down which they rolled their tennis balls. He now proposes that this was where tennis came from and became the game we all know today.

His book is profusely illustrated with a large number of engravings, photos, street plans etc. and all this combines to make a fascinating historical tour.

This book is in unused condition and it is offered at £35
056: “TENNIS WITH REAL ATTITUDE”
Edited by Richard Seymour Mead

This is a collection of original modern art related to the game of Tennis. A wide range of images can be seen here, mostly quite amusing showing happenings on the court and some of the characters who have graced our courts.

This book is in unused condition and it is offered at £10

“TRATTATO DEL GIVOCO DELLA PALLA”
THE 16th CENTURY ITALIAN FOUNDATION TITLE
By Antonio Scaino de Salo (born 1524; died 1612)

The original book from 1555 rarely appears; I have traded five copies in the last twenty-five years. My research from quite a few years ago disclosed the likely existence of about forty-five copies, mostly in European institutional libraries such as the Vatican and Bibliotheque Nationale. I know of only six copies in private hands.

The book was published by Gabriele Giolito de’Ferrari and brothers in Venice; it was dedicated to Alfonso d’Este (born 1535; died 1595), last Duke of Ferrara, grandson on his mother’s side of Louis XII of France, and on his father’s side of Lucrezia Borgia. It is small 12mo usually in cream calf covers though often later bound into leather boards. Scaino, a priest and doctor of theology, was only 31 when this book was published. It contains six double page wood-cuts showing the court and the instruments.

057: “SCAINO ON TENNIS”
1 of 250 COPIES

This is the first English translation of Scaino’s 1555 work, here published in 1951 in England in 12mo hardboards with 319 pages plus historical notes.

The frontispiece states that this translation was done “by W.W. Kershaw at the instance of C.B. Gabriel Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of The Royal Tennis Court 1932-1947, with acknowledgements, corrigenda and historical notes by P.A. Negretti. Limited to two hundred and fifty copies”, all of which were numbered and signed by Negretti.

It is remarkable that with all the pre-nineteenth century books on Tennis, just how similar the game is today as it was then. This book can hardly be described as good bed-time reading but the translation shows us that the game was popular and often considered to be good for you in terms of physical exercise.

The translation appears to follow the original faithfully and the six wood engravings of the court and the playing equipment are shown.

This copy is in very good condition and is offered at £150
This is the first facsimile reprint published in 1985 by Historical Publications in Australia in small 8vo hardboards, internally marbled with 140 pages in a print run of 388 copies. There was also a de luxe edition in leather boards of 12 copies only.

Smith Travers was an Englishman from London. He is noted as the father of real (called royal) tennis in Australia. He published this book in 1875, which is the same year that he built the court in Davey Street in Hobart. It is the first book on Tennis in Australia and the original is exceptionally rare with fewer than ten copies known.

The book’s 140 pages contain 14 plates and woodcuts. It is both a book about (classical) Tennis history and a book about how to play the game, though Travers himself was no more than an average player, employing the professional Thomas Stone to do the work on court.

This copy is the first I have seen in the market since publication date; it is in unused condition and it is offered at £250.
This is the second facsimile reprint published in 2012 by Historical Publications in Australia in small brown 8vo hardboards with 140 pages. This second reprint is in an edition of 150 copies of which the first 75 subscription copies are numbered 1 to 75 and these have been allocated to buyers whose names are contained in a list at the front of the book.

In this latest edition, in addition to the original text, there is also a foreword by Dr. Richard Travers as well as a portrait of the author and photos of the Hobart court. The original gold-blocking and marbled end-papers have been replicated.

This copy is in unused condition and it is offered at £125
This book is an English translation of de Manivieux's 1783 title “Traite sur la Connaissance du Royal Jeu de Paume, et ses principes” This is amongst the rarest books on Tennis. De Manivieux unfortunately lost his head on the guillotine in Lyon in December 1793.

In his preamble, the author claims not to be aware of any earlier book on Paume. But he has put together an amazing contemporary record of the great names of the pre-revolution period, after which Paume was very much frowned on by the authorities, hence his own demise.

He advises on how to play the game, despite being an average player himself. He also appeals for further information on the game and courts in France, but as is seen events overtook him so no second edition was published. Thus the only edition of 1783 is exceptionally rare.

This book (signed internally by Richard Travers) is in unused condition and it is offered at £100
060: “TUDOR TENNIS: A Miscellany”  
By Roger Morgan (born 22 June 1929; died 01 March 2003)  
1st standard edition of 2001 in tall 4to hard boards and dust-wrapper with 175 pages; in a print run of 400 copies. There is also a de luxe edition of 60 copies.

The author examines in great detail what he now proposes as the origins of our game, going back before monks in cloisters and proposing that the game originated in the streets with youths rolling balls down shop awnings and making up rules as they went along. His detective work is fascinating to read and to follow and there are photographs, maps and engravings to back up his theory.

This copy is in very good clean condition and it is offered at £45

061: “TWO CENTURIES OF REAL TENNIS”  
By John Shneerson  
THE STORY OF THE COURT AT NEWMARKET  
1 of 300 COPIES

1st edition of 1997 published by Ronaldson Publications in England in 8vo hardboards and dust-wrapper with 86 pages in a print run of 300 copies. There was also a de luxe edition of 50 numbered copies.

This is mainly the story of the Tennis court at Newmarket in Suffolk which fell into disuse, was converted into a garage and then a warehouse, and then was rescued by a dedicated team of enthusiasts who raised the finance and over a period of some eight years, gradually brought the old court back into use as a Tennis club.

In addition to this story, Shneerson recounts the fortunes of Tennis in Tudor times, and focuses on Sir Charles Rose, the owner of Hardwick House where there are two Tennis courts. This is a fascinating account of perhaps forgotten aspects of Tennis in England.

This book is in unused condition and it is offered at £50
IMAGES

062: “(Das) BALLSPIELHAUS ZU VERSAILLES”
The Tennis Court at Versailles
Showing
The Tennis Court Oath

Taken from a contemporary German book around 1800, and the view is a well-known view of the inside of the Tennis court at Versailles where the Deputies met to vote, as the King had shut the Estates-General on 20th June 1789.

The classic view of this historic occasion is by Jacques-Louis David and the view here is one of a number of alternatives. This view shows the penthouses to good advantage. I have not previously seen a German version.

The image measures 13.5cm x 9cm, is in good condition and it is offered at £50

063: “EEDVERBINDNIS IN DE KAATSBAAN, TE VERSAILLES, OP DEN AOPTEN VAN ZOMERMAAND 1789.”
The Tennis Court at Versailles
Showing
The Tennis Court Oath

Taken from a near contemporary Dutch book around 1800, and the view is a well-known view of the inside of the Tennis court at Versailles where the Deputies met to vote, as the King had shut the Estates-General on 20th June 1789.

The classic view of this historic occasion is by Jacques-Louis David and the view here is one of a number of alternatives. This view shows the penthouses to good advantage. I have not previously seen a Dutch version.

The image measures 19.75cm x 16cm; is has been folded but not to any great detriment. It is offered at £50
The Tennis Court Oath
Taken for a large folio sized French book around 1800, and the view is a well known view of the inside of the Tennis court at Versailles where the Deputies met to vote, as the King had shut the Estates-General on 20th June 1789.

The classic view of this historic occasion is by Jacques-Louis David and the view here is one of a number of alternatives. This view shows the penthouses to good advantage.

The image measures 23.5cm x 18cm, is in good condition and it is offered at £30

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065: “TENNIS COURT, AT STRATHFIELDSAYE”
This is an original sheet taken from “The Illustrated London News” and dated February 1, 1845. It shows a scene of doubles, and from the short text, it seems to describe the Prince of Wales as enjoying his game on the occasion of his visit to the Duke of Wellington’s country home.

The image measures 15cm x 13.5cm and is in good clean condition; it is offered at £20

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066: “DERNIER JEU DE PAUME A PARIS, PASSAGE CENDRIER, DEMOLI EN 1861.”
An original sheet taken from a French book or magazine showing a men’s doubles match from the dedans.

The image measures 22.5cm x 14cm and is in very good clean condition; it is offered at £20

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067: “MR. WILLIAM HART DYKE, M.P.”
His Vanity Fair portrait published on Sept 4 1875
Plus an autographed slip
The subject of this large image is a well-known Victorian racket players who was World Champion in 1860, as well as winning plenty of other rackets events He was a prominent Member of Parliament and played in a famous experimental lawn tennis match in 1873. He was also part of the MCC rules committee which in 1875 tabled the original rules of lawn tennis. Also present is in the accompanying sheet which carries a brief biography of the subject. This concentrates on his political future.

This is accompanied by a slip of paper clipped from a hand-written letter and this slip bears his signature.

The print image measures 15.5cm x 31cm and is in very good clean condition. It is offered at £50
By Denis Diderot (Born 05 October 1713; died 31 July 1784)
and Jean-le-Rond d'Alembert (born 16 November 1717; died 29 October 1783)

THE ICONIC SERIES OF NINE WOOD ENGRAVINGS SHOWING 18th CENTURY TENNIS

1st edition of 1767 taken from the “Encyclopedie des Arts at Sciences” in large 4to size with nine plates. There was a later edition published in 1771.

(As a matter of incidental information, d'Alembert was named Jean-le-Rond because he was found on the steps of a church named St. Jean-le-Rond and it was the custom at the time to name foundlings after the patron saint of the church where they were found.)

The nine plates are very tastefully bound into later green boards. The plates remain together as one unit.

I: Paulmerie, Jeu de Paulme et Construction de la Raquette
II: Paulmerie, Instrumens de Paulme
III: Paulmerie, Instrumens de Paulme
IV: Paulmerie, Instrumens de Paulme et de Billard
V: Paulmerie, Salle de Billard et Instrumens de Billard
VI: Paulmerie, Plan au Rez de Chaussee d'un Jeu de Paulme quarrre et Salle de Billard
VII: Paulmerie, Plan audesous des murs du Jeu de Paulme quarrre
VIII: Paulmerie, Coupes du Jeu de paulme quarrre
IX: Paulmerie, Plans du Rez de Chaussee et audessus des murs d'un Jeu de Paulme a dedans

This set is still bound together in tasteful green boards and can be kept as such or separated for mounting/matting and framing behind glass. The condition is excellent.

This set is in beautiful clean condition and it is offered at £350

069: “OPENING OF THE NEW PRINCE'S CLUB, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, BY THE PRINCE OF WALES
The Tennis match between Mr. A. Lyttleton and C. Saunders”

An original sheet from “The Graphic” magazine dated May 25, 1889. The view is from the hazard end, the marker at the net and indistinctly a full gallery watching.

The image measures 22cm x 18cm and is in good clean condition; it is offered at £20
070: “REMAINS OF GIBBON’S TENNIS COURT as it appeared after the Fire 17, September 1809”
“used in 1660 as the first THEATRE of the KINGS COMPANY of COMEDIANS, until the Erection of the Theatre Royal Drury Lane; and in 1695 again, opened by BETTERTON’S COMPANY, WITH THE Play of “Love for Love” &c.”
An original undated sheet from the early part of the 19th century showing the tennis court in ruins.

The image measures 21.5cm x 27cm and is in good condition; it is offered at £35

071: “M. EDMOND BARRE, ANCIEN PAUMIER DE LA COUR DE FRANCE.”
An original engraving from a mid-19th century French magazine showing the great paumier leaning somewhat nonchalantly against a pillar, his racket in his hand and some tennis balls at his feet.

The oval image measures at its maximum 13cm x 17cm; it is in very good condition and it is offered at £20
072: “INTERIOR OF THE FLEET PRISON...THE RACKET-COURT”
This is an original engraving taken from “London Old and New”, a six volume set showing 1000s of views of London in the centuries pre-1850. This view shows the courtyard inside the walls with prisoners, male and female. In the background are men playing an early form of rackets against the retaining wall of the prison. It is often thought that such players were in fact bankrupted Tennis players unable to pay their wages who were cast into the Fleet and took with them their rackets and balls which they used against the wall out of which the game of rackets eventually emerged.

The image measures 20.75 cm x 14.5cm and is ready for framing. On the reverse is part of an article called “The Fleet Prison”.

This lovely view is offered at £75

073: “TYPED LETTER FROM THE QUEEN’S CLUB SIGNED BY E.B.NOEL”
Noel was at the time (May 18th 1928), the Secretary of The Queen’s Club. This is short letter, probably to someone in the USA as Noel uses the expression “Court Tennis”. Noel died only 6 months later.

This letter is in good condition save for some minor absence at the foot; it is offered at £25
074: “YE 393RD MEETING OF YE SETTE OF ODD VOLUMES HOLDEN AT YE IMPERIAL RESTAURANT (ODDENINO’S) ON TUESDAY, YE 26TH OF FEBRUARY, 1924.”

This rather strange item is a pictorial dinner menu which seems to be staged to celebrate the state of Real Tennis in the 1920s. The front page shows a cartoon image of E.B. Noel wearing “tails”, standing as if making a speech, real tennis racket under his arm reading from a text headed “Oddities Of Tennis”. Internally is a grandiose dinner menu of 7 courses, a list of tennis orientated toasts, and a poem entitled “An Odd Survey of the Royal Game of Tennis”.

Accompanying this dinner menu is a separate sheet which shows a diagram (as from the dedans) of the Eastern or Baron’s Court at The Queen’s Club. All the text is written in ancient English.

This unusual item is in very good condition and it is offered at £50

075: “A GAME OF TENNIS IN THE TIME OF HENRY VII”

Sub-titled: “THE EARLY DAYS OF SPORT…No. III., TENNIS: THE ANCESTOR OF MODERN LAWN TENNIS”

This is a mythical scene showing a rudimentary tennis court in the grounds of a castle, the side galleries with spectators, and a three handed match being played.

The page is an original sheet taken from “The Illustrated London News” and dated “Sept. 30 1905”

The image measures 32cm x 24cn and is in very good clean condition; it is offered at £25

FOR INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO ORDERING AND PAYMENT FOR ITEMS ON THIS LIST, PLEASE REFER TO THE INTRODUCTION.