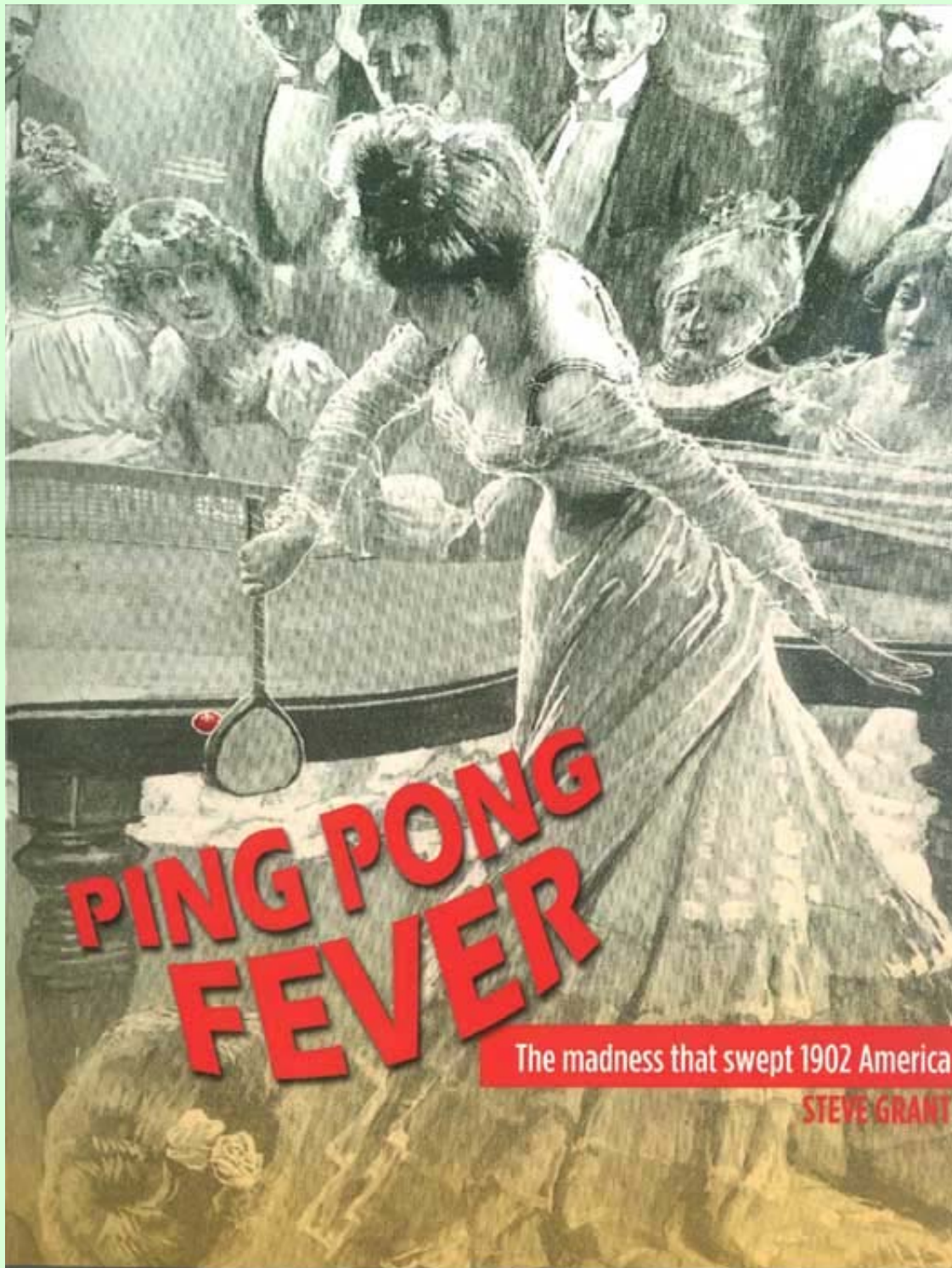


The Table Tennis Collector

64

May
2012



Steve Grant's new book, *Ping Pong Fever*
See our Cover Story on page 4

The Table Tennis Collector



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From the Editor

Hello Friends, and welcome to the May 2012 issue. I am delighted to announce a new and important book by Steve Grant (USA), *Ping Pong Fever - The madness that swept 1902 America*. This sensational research identifies the inventor of Table Tennis and traces the origins of the name Ping Pong to 1884. Congratulations Steve !

I am pleased to report on another successful ITTF Museum exhibition at the recent World Team Championships in Dortmund. Great to renew old acquaintances and meet other collectors. I was especially happy to see so many young people taking an interest in the history of our sport.

Master researcher **Alan Duke** presents another fascinating update, and **Gunter Straub** continues his series on the history of Table Tennis defense.

Our **philatelic update** will suffer from the retirement of our Dutch friends, Jan and Jos. Will try my best to prepare this report, but will be dependent upon news from the readers for current philatelic information.

Great Shots features a vintage photo from the historic meeting in Berlin, January 1926. Our auction report reviews the latest trends, and the racket report shows some increased activity. We also have some new **Table Tennis books** to report.

We close with our traditional **Heavy Metal** page, presenting a new set of pins from the Dortmund 2012 World Championships, along with a bit of German World Championship nostalgia from Dortmund 1959 and 1989.

Constructive feedback is always welcome. Hope you enjoy the issue.



Special Announcement

The Founder of the Table Tennis Collectors' Society, **Gerald Gurney**, has received a high honour: an invitation to Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Garden Party. He will be accompanied by his wife, Joan. His name was put forward by The Department of Culture, Media and Sport, in recognition of his "Outstanding services to British Sports History". Congratulations Gerald !

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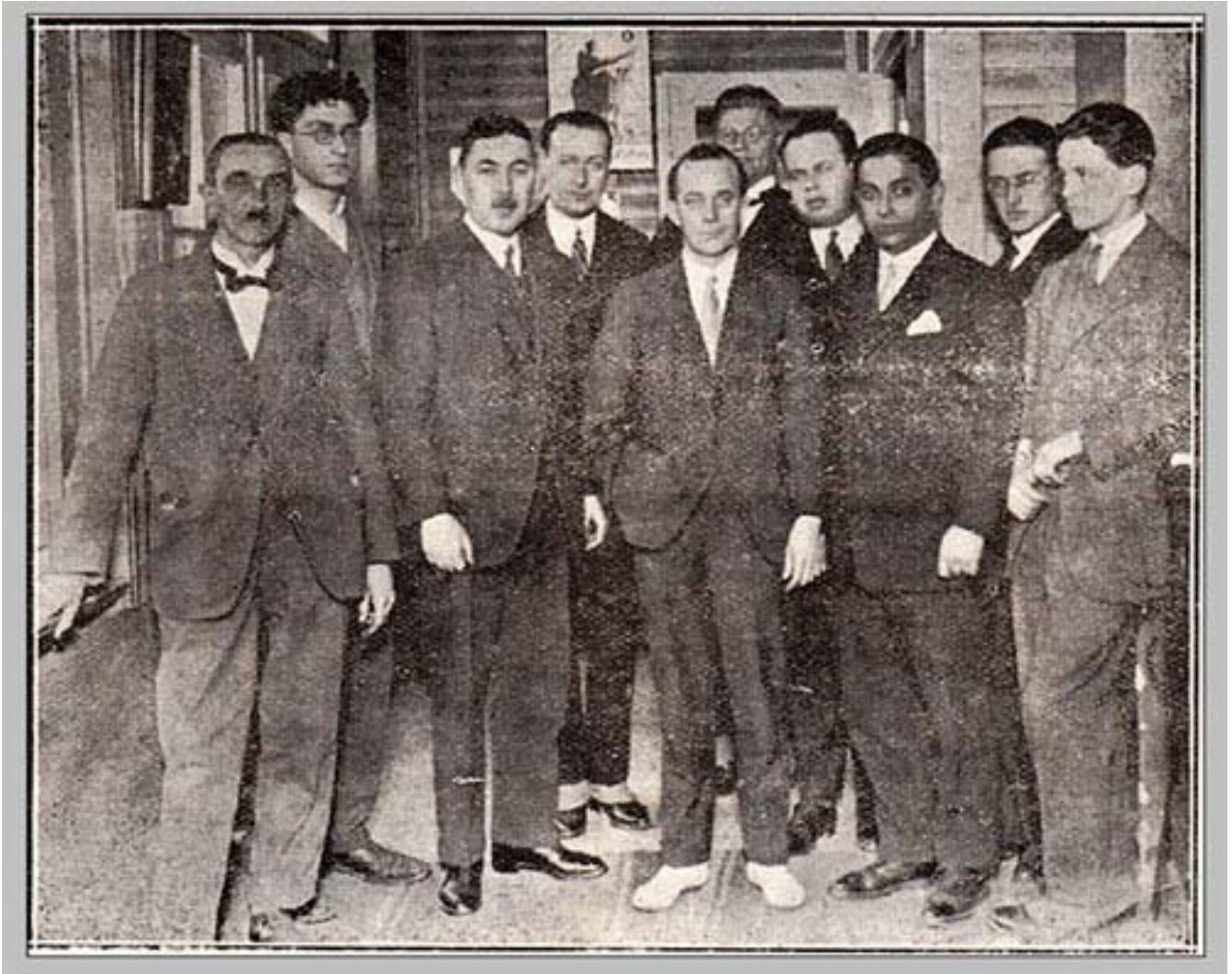


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Great Shots: Historic Photographs



This historic photo was featured in my exhibition at the 2012 World Team Championships in Dortmund, where it drew much attention, especially from local fans and officials. The photo shows the group invited by Dr. Lehmann (3rd from left, who was then Chairman of the German TT Federation, or DTTB) to discuss the future of international Table Tennis.

The meeting was held in Berlin on January 16, 1926. It was clear that for the sport to make progress, the rules must be standardized. At the time the table size, net height and other rules were different from one country to the next in Europe. The group agreed in concept to form an international Table Tennis federation. Herr Gruber of the DTTB was appointed as Honorable General Secretary of the ITTF until the ITTF became formalized.

The concept became a reality in December of 1926 in London, when a Constitution and a set of rules were adopted, largely based on the English Table Tennis Association model. Hon. Ivor Montagu was unanimously elected Chairman. The ITTF was born.

Shown left to right in the photo are: Mr. G.J. Ross (England), Hon. I.G.S. Montagu (President, English T.T.A.), Dr. Lehmann (Chairman, DTTB), Dr. Jacobi (Hungary), Mr. W.J. Pope (Hon. Sec'y English T.T.A.), Herr Gruber (DTTB), The DTTB Treasurer, Herr Zoltan Mechlowitz (Hungary), Herr Wilhelm (DTTB), Herr Freudenheim (Austria)

Cover Story



Steve Grant has the *Fever!*

Master researcher Steve Grant of New York City, whose work we have enjoyed for years in the TT Collector, has published a ground-breaking new book on the early years of Table Tennis. ***Ping Pong Fever - the madness that swept 1902 America***, has some major surprises for the historian, such as tracing the name Ping Pong back to 1884, and announcing the real inventor of the game, one James Devonshire of England, in 1885. Actually it was no less than John Jaques III who revealed the identity of the inventor, in a 1901 interview in *The Echo* (May 9):

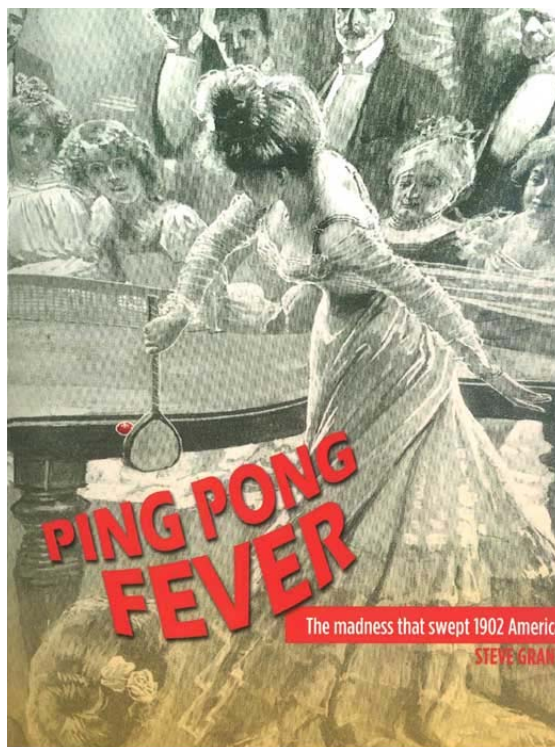
“A lot of people are claiming to have invented the game, but it was a Mr. James Devonshire, an electrician, who invented it. Mr. Gibb also claims to have had a hand in it, but he was the first to have thought about changing the indiarubber ball to celluloid.”

Absolutely sensational news, and from such an authoritative voice - I wonder how the current head of Jaques, who often claims that Jaques invented the game, will react to his great-great-grandfather's statement.

<p><small>A. WOODS, MANCHESTER.</small> Packing for the Glass Tubes of Water Gauges.—H. Hall- worth and J. L. Shorrocks, 4, St. Ann's Square, Manchester. [11073 Parlour Lawn Tennis.—J. Devonshire, 40, Gordon Square, London. [12012 Paving.—J. Leathwaite, 100, Fleet Street, London. [11790 Perforated Fire-clay Bottom for Ranges and Stoves.—M. Bouw-</p>	
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Excerpt from *Iron* magazine, October 16, 1885, showing the entry for British patent #12012, by James Devonshire. Alan Duke has since found that a Provisional Patent for his “Table Tennis” was granted on November 24, 1885. In 1887 the patent was “abandoned”.

Ping-Pong Fever is available via **Amazon** at:
<http://www.amazon.com/Ping-Pong-Fever/dp/1475018606>
or just do a search for Ping Pong Fever on amazon.com in their Books category.



Steve made very effective use of the latest online search tools, successfully exploring massive archives of major libraries, newspapers and magazines. He presents his findings in this structure:

- Part I. Going Viral** (2 chapters)
Erupting in 1900 London, ping pong fever soon hits America hard.
- Part II. Changing Lives** (6 chapters)
Ping pong infiltrates every side of daily life.
- Part III. The Victims and Their Gatherings** 7 Ch.
Few are immune, and the feverish seek company
- Part IV. Serious Cases** (7 chapters)
Lawn tennis aces (and others) win serious ping pong events.
- Part V. How it All Started** (2 chapters)
Inventors try for two decades to bring tennis indoors in miniature.
- Part VI. How it All Ended** (2 chapters)
“Men, it has been well said, think in herds; it will be seen that they go mad in herds, while they only recover their senses slowly, and one by one.”
- Epilogue** (4 Appendices)

The book is very well illustrated with pictures on most every page. He also includes 10 sub-chapters named Side-Spin, each with a variation on a special theme.

Conclusion: This fantastic contribution to the literature of our sport is a must have for everyone interested in its early history. Please join me in congratulating Steve for his masterful research. Bravo !

Chuck

New Discoveries
Old Treasures:
1902 Caricature Lithograph



Copyright 1902 by Taber Prang Art Co. Springfield, Mass.

This colorful caricature style lithograph was published in 1902 by Taber Prang Art Company in Springfield Massachusetts (USA). Generously sized at 21 x 15 inches, it sold for \$473 on eBay. A humorous depiction of an upper-crust Ping Pong party, done in a sophisticated caricature style, the best of that genre I have ever seen from the early days. signed by the artist, Russell Daniell.

Louis Prang (1824-1909) was also known for his Christmas and greeting cards, and he was a pioneer of the American advertising card industry. Taber Prang Art Co. was formed in 1897.



ITTF Museum Exhibition World Team Championships Dortmund

The ITTF Museum staged a 273m2 exhibition at the recent World Team Championships in Dortmund, our seventh major exhibition. This year I honored the host country by featuring a 9-showcase German zone in the exhibition, to highlight the long tradition of Table Tennis in Germany. This was much appreciated by the local fans.

Featured were the previous World Championships in Dortmund 1959, Munich 1969, Dortmund 1989 and Bremen 2006, with the original programs, pins & medallions (see Heavy Metal, back page) and related philatelic items.

Besides the German zone, the main components of the exhibition included the ITTF Timeline history, detailing the winners of all World Championships and Olympics events, and our always popular Celebrity Photo Gallery. A series of display cases featured old and unusual rackets, a celebration of the 40th anniversary of Ping Pong Diplomacy, London 2012 Olympics, a children's exhibit, and two exhibits about Para Table Tennis. including the specially adapted racket of legendary Paralympian Rainer Schmidt of Germany.

Attendance was especially high on opening day, when I was pleased to see many young people taking an interest in the history of our sport. They are familiar only with the current players, and were surprised to see so many superstars of the past. As expected, the exhibition was packed during the final weekend.

A special salute to our Tour sponsor LIEBHERR, and to the Organizers, especially Kolja Rottmann (DTTB), without whose help these exhibitions would not be possible. Also our volunteers - of particular merit was the charming Ina Gercken of Dortmund, whose multi-lingual and people skills, hard work and enthusiasm were fantastic.

Several philatelic items were issued for the event, and two master collectors, Winfried Engelbrecht (GER) and Yao Zhenxu (CHN) were at the exhibition conducting exchanges. Nice to see Gunther Straub (GER) again, author of a series in the TT Collector magazine about the history of defense.

Some donations to report: ITTF Deputy President Neil Harwood conveyed a great album of press clippings, along with original flyers about 1902 Table Tennis events. Michael Bachtler of Joola kindly donated the Joola Most Valuable Player award for the team event at the 1995 World

Championships in Tianjin. Mike Cavanaugh, CEO of USA Table Tennis, presented the Museum with mementos from the 40th anniversary of Ping Pong Diplomacy. Other donations included rackets, pins and books. Thank you all for your thoughtful gifts.

The next ITTF Museum exhibition will be at the London 2012 Olympic Games, July 28- August 8. See you there!

Chuck



The exhibition was well attended, especially after a German team match concluded. On the Kids Days many young people came in to enjoy the exhibition.



The Joola Trophy for the **Most Valuable Player** in the Team Competition of the 1995 World Championships, Tianjin, China. Kindly donated by Michael Bachtler of Joola.



Just before the World Championships in Dortmund the ITTF Museum also had a small exhibition of 76 items at the prestigious German Sport & Olympics Museum in Cologne. Then the items were sent to include in the Dortmund exhibition.



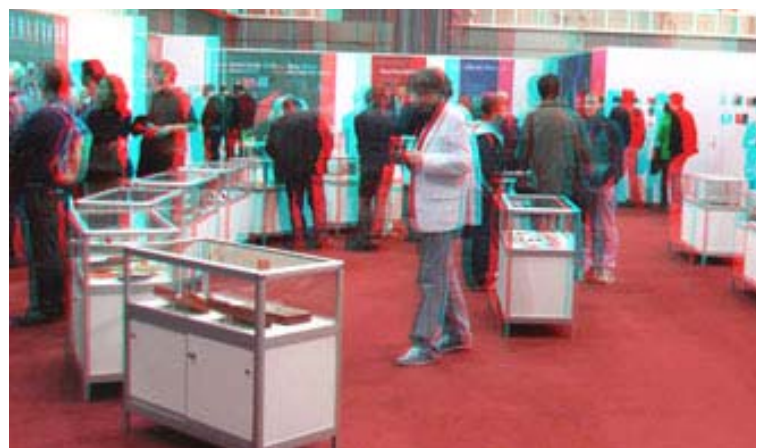
The ITTF Timeline history was a big hit with the fans, many of whom were familiar with only the current top players. The Timeline presents all of Table Tennis history in just 17 meters, showing all Olympic & World Singles Champions, + historical milestones.



The Celebrity Photo Gallery, with 100 photos (right)



The great Eberhard Schöler came to the exhibition and was delighted to see a special exhibit about the German superstar of the 1960s & 70s



This is a special 3D view, for which you will need 3D glasses to best appreciate. For other 3D views visit: ittf.com/museum/dortmund3D/dortmund3D.html

EARLY TOURNAMENT REPORTS: NO. 1
THE FIRST ROYAL AQUARIUM TOURNAMENT

by Alan Duke

An article in February 1902 proclaimed that "Tournaments at public halls and places of entertainment follow each other thick and fast", but unfortunately most of these were not very well documented. There is a record of an event at Chiswick Town Hall in October 1901 (possibly the first-ever tournament), and another on 29 November at The Institute, Upper Clapton. The next known events are better documented (see *The Times* extracts in TTC53 and 54), and the following is the first of a short series of articles featuring newspaper reports of some of those events.

From *The Daily Graphic* of 12 December 1901:

TABLE TENNIS AT THE AQUARIUM.

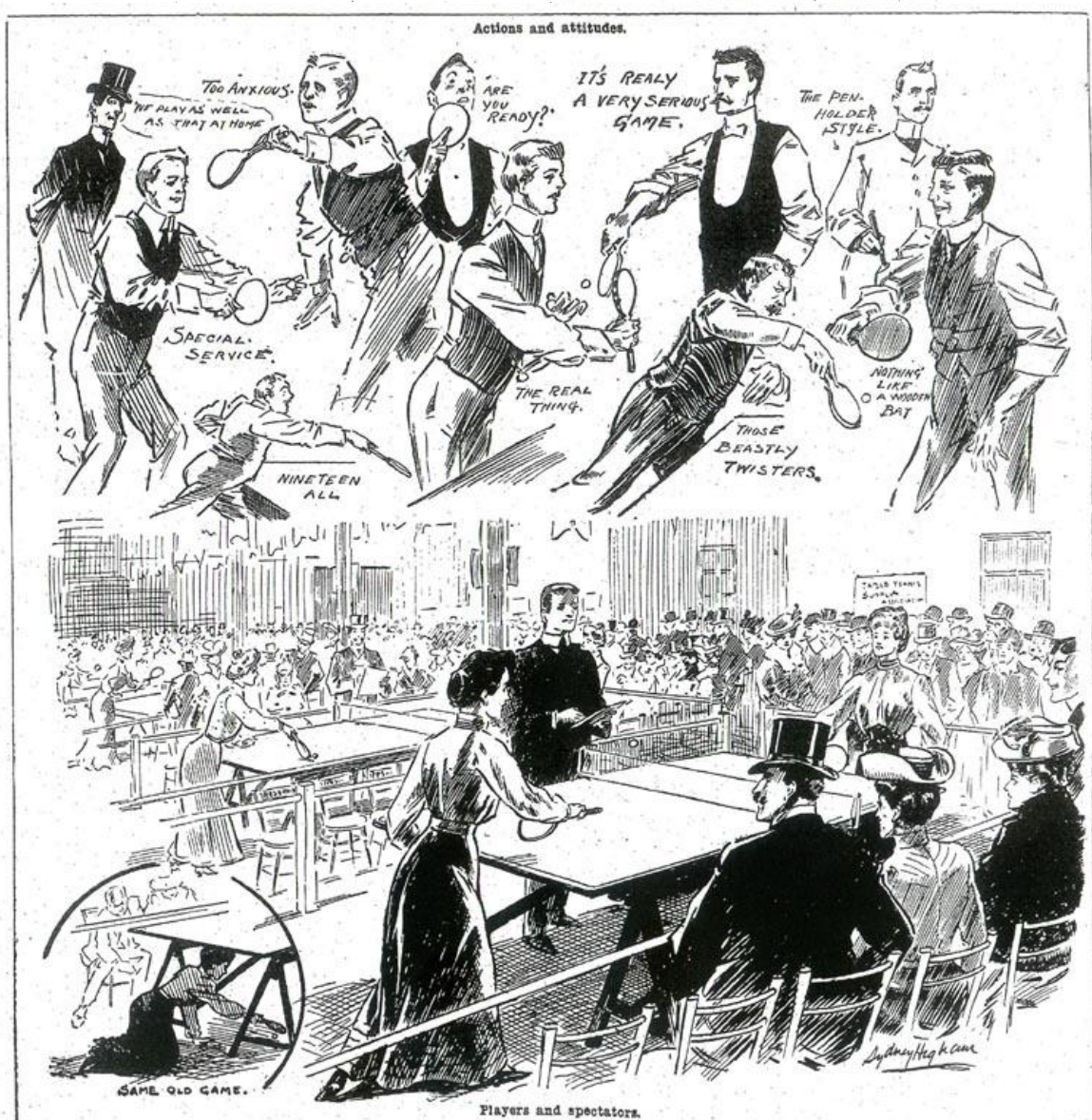
The management of the Royal Aquarium have scored a great success with their first table tennis tournament, play in which commenced yesterday afternoon for the ladies, and in the evening for the gentlemen. Forty-eight ladies are competing, and they play in eight sections of six each. The men's entries number

192, and they are divided up into 24 sections of eight each. Play will be commenced each afternoon at three for the ladies, and at seven in the evening for men, and it is hoped that the various sections will all be played off by tomorrow, so that the winners can compete in the finals for the championship on Saturday.

Crowds of people watched the play yesterday, and although, of course, the tournament does not become most interesting until the finals stage is reached the spectators were very keen yesterday in

recognising and applauding the best players, especially Miss Good, who scored brilliantly. Nearly all the players belong to one or other of the many table tennis clubs established in or near London, while many of the men are well-known lawn tennis players. Mr. C. P. Dixon was down to play in one of the sections last night. The winner of each section is to receive a medal, and four prizes, in addition to a challenge cup value twenty guineas, are offered in competition for both sexes.

THE DAILY GRAPHIC, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1901.

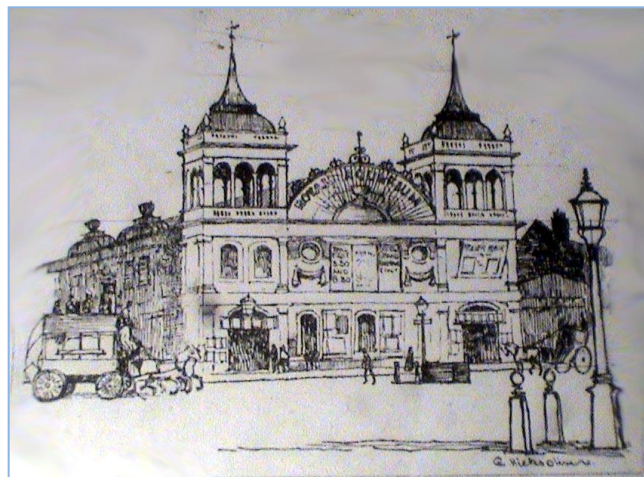


"PING PONG" PROGRESS: THE FIRST TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT AT THE ROYAL AQUARIUM.

A GENTLE ART.

PING PONG AT THE AQUARIUM.

Ping Pong, as played at the Aquarium, is something more than a game; it is a revelation of the progress of a great movement. When woman began in the last century to compete in a businesslike way with man, she felt that in order to win his respect she must meet him on equal terms in his games. This was not possible in football or cricket, where the skirt proved an insuperable bar to equality, and even the new-found game of golf still found man in his position of hateful superiority. Lawn tennis seemed to promise well for woman. She lagged behind, but she was decreasing the gap. Then some genius—it was certainly a woman—thought of lawn tennis for the home—table tennis! The thing was done. Table tennis, under the trifling pseudonym of Ping Pong, has usurped the home. It is as permanent there as a baby; and the reason for its welcome is disclosed at the Aquarium tournament. Woman can play the game better than man! The results of the tournament cannot be made known until Saturday night, for, with a view to imparting a continuous interest to the contest, the competitors are arranged in twenty-four sections of eight players each. In each of these sections every player plays every one else in his or her section; and it will not be until to-morrow that the highest scorers in each section will be filtered out to play off the finals among themselves. There are sixty-four lady competitors, from all parts of London—Streatham, Putney, Wimbledon, Hampstead, Kensington, Sydenham—and consequently eight sections. Therefore there will be eight highest scorers to play on Saturday. Among the men there will be sixteen highest scorers left in the final; and, seeing that they include a fair number of well-known lawn tennis players, such as Messrs. C. G. Eames, Dixon, Lewis, H. L. Brown, and Frost, the matches ought to be interesting. But they will not be as interesting as the ladies' games, and they will not be so interesting as they would be if ladies and men competed together. If that were the case there would be some rather unpleasant surprises in store for the sturdier sex. The truth is Ping Pong is not a game of strength, but of placing. The chief feature of the men's game, as seen hitherto in this



tournament, is a hard service. But many a hard server, when confronted with the adamant rule of the Aquarium that the serve must be underhand, finds that the semi-overhand service with which he has become the pride of suburban circles, simply penalises him here with a fault. Furthermore, a hard service, once mastered by an opponent, is not the un-takable thing on a nine-foot-by-five table that it is on a lawn tennis court. It is above all things necessary to vary the service. That is what many of the lady players did with great effect yesterday; but so far as could be seen from an inspection of the eight tables—crowded with eager spectators—very few of the men players varied their service. The other two things for success at ping-pong are placing and quickness. Some of the lady players placed beautifully, quite as well as any of the other sex, and good placing is not to be beaten by any hardness of return. It cannot be said that the public which thronged the tables were very discriminating in their applause; for the thing that was chiefly applauded was a long "rally," irrespective of the quality of the placing, whereas a long rally, as every tennis player knows, often means nothing more than feebleness on both sides. But Ping Pong is a science in which the onlookers do not see the most of the game. All the contests were worth watching, as a revelation of many styles and many methods, for table tennis is a pastime in process of evolution. Even the material of the racquet is not yet settled. One lady used a metal weapon. Others were variously of wood, vellum, and catgut. The game was first called ping-pong because of the sound of the celluloid balls against the racquets; and some players were evidently disconcerted yesterday by missing part of the familiar echo when playing against a rival with a racquet of material different from their own. A player accustomed to hear "ping!"—"pong!" following one on the other is put off when the responsive "pong!" is lost against a catgut racket, or changed to a different sound against a wooden one.



A SUGGESTION
TO
MESSRS
GAMAGE
WHY NOT
HAVE A
SMALL MIRROR
ON THE BACK
OF THE
RACQUET





THE FIRST "PING PONG" TOURNAMENT: PLAY IN THE FINAL COMPETITIONS AT THE ROYAL AQUARIUM.

THE TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT.

CLOSE FINISHES.

The first table tennis tournament ever played is now over, and lovers of the game have sufficient matter for discussion to last until the next tournament begins. The excitement that prevailed when the preliminary games were in progress during the week at the Aquarium culminated in an outburst of enthusiasm on Saturday, when the semi-finals and finals were played off. The gallery at the Aquarium was crowded with spectators both in the afternoon and evening. It will be remembered that there were eight sections in the ladies' tournament.

The four ladies left in the semi-finals were Mrs. Marvin, Mrs. Thomas, Miss Good—whose play on the opening day was so much admired—and Miss V. Eames. Mrs. Thomas beat Mrs. Marvin, and Miss Eames beat Miss Good. Then came the final match, between Miss Eames and Mrs. Thomas. It had been arranged that they should play the best of three games of 20 points up, and the spectators were treated to a very fine performance. Some idea of the excitement with which the play was watched may be imagined from the fact that each player won a game, and therefore the tournament had to be decided on one game. Both players were very cautious and long rallies resulted. Neither player could maintain a lead, and at last the game stood 19 all. It was too much to expect that the tournament should be decided on the next stroke, and therefore it was decided that the players should go on for another five points. Miss Eames made a last effort,

and, to the accompaniment of loud cheering, scored the next three points, and thus won the tournament. Miss Eames is a Streatham player, and her victory appeared to be very popular. Mrs. Thomas, who was a very good second, was known before her marriage as Miss Maud Shackle, one of the best lady players of lawn tennis in England. Mrs. Marvin was third in the tournament, and Miss Good fourth.

Entries in the men's tournament being much more numerous than in the ladies', players were arranged in twenty-four sections of eight each. The four to be left in the semi-finals were G. Baker, G. Greville (the well-known lawn tennis player), C. W. Vining, and R. D. Ayling. Greville was beaten by Ayling, and Baker beat Vining. Thus Baker and Ayling were left to play off the final—the best of three games of 30 points up. In the first game Baker scored 30 to Ayling's 22. The next game was something of a surprise, Ayling winning by 30 to 23. Excitement ran high when the final game was begun. Neither player gave the slightest chance to his opponent, and, to show the stubborn way in which the game was contested, it may be mentioned that the scores were: 3 all, 4 all, 5 all, 6 all, 7 all. Then, in the next few strokes, Ayling managed to increase his score to 10. Baker won the next point, bringing the score to 10-8; then Baker added another 1, and the score stood 10-9. Spectators were holding their breath when Ayling served the next ball. Possibly he was over-anxious and nervous, for he did what we believe was not once done by any of the players in the semi-finals—he served the ball right off the table. The fault brought the score up to 10 all, and Baker's supporters breathed freely once more. After the next four strokes the score stood 12 all. Then Ayling increased his lead and the score was 14-12. Baker replied with two brilliant strokes, which brought the score to 14 all. So the game went on. Baker never seemed able to make the supreme effort until Ayling was two points ahead. Later on, the score stood at 25 all. Ayling added 4 more points while Baker was putting on 1, and the score was therefore: Ayling 29, Baker 26. After a comparatively short rally Baker played a ball into the net, and Ayling thus won by 4 points amid the greatest possible enthusiasm. Greville was third and Vining fourth.

Some notes about the play of the first and second men may serve as a lesson to enthusiastic "ping-pongers." Ayling played the "stonewall" game. He used a vellum racket with a long handle, and he held the racquet almost perpendicularly. He did not appear to be over-particular about the pace or placing of the balls; his one object seemed to be to get them over the net, and no doubt by this patient playing he simply wore his opponent down. Baker had a much prettier style. He, too, had a vellum racquet, but its handle was very short and he held it nearly in a horizontal position. Baker went in for fast returns. After a long rally he would suddenly send the ball back very swiftly. It did not always get over the net, but when it did Ayling "blocked" it—not without some difficulty—back again. Baker generally had his chance then and took it, his second return being tremendously fast, and beating Ayling. There was no doubt that Baker's brilliant play was more admired than the patient, persevering method of Ayling, but Ayling's system paid the better of the two. Ayling comes from Stroud Green and Baker from the Upper Clapton Club—a club that sent several good players to the tournament. Near the end of the tournament there was a "162 rally"—that is to say, each player hit the ball 81 times—a remarkable performance. The makers of the game, who claim in their catalogue that a "40 rally" is possible, are too modest in their assertion.

The next tournament at the Aquarium begins on January 8th, 1902.



The Daily Chronicle, also on 16 Dec. 1901, reported:

The table tennis or "ping-pong" tournament, which concluded on Saturday night at the Royal Aquarium, has not only attracted large crowds, but it has created an interest in the game which never before existed. "Ping-pong" is now a recognised indoor "sport", and the manufacturers of sporting articles have not been slow in taking advantage of the boom.

That enthusiasm can be aroused in a game like ping-pong, was shown on Saturday night at the Royal Aquarium, when the concluding stages in the gentlemen's sections of the tournament were played. The three tables in use were surrounded ten deep by people cheering the players and watching their various strokes. Mr. R. D. Ayling eventually won the challenge cup, and the winners of the silver vases were Mr. G. Baker, Mr. G. Greville, and Mr. C. W. Vining. Owing to the lateness of the hour these gentlemen in the semi-finals only played one game, but the concluding tourney of Messrs. Ayling and Baker was gone through according to the regulations, there being three games of thirty points each.

Miss V. Eames, of Streatham, proved to be the champion lady "ping-pong" player, her chief opponents being Mrs. M. Thomas, Mrs. Marvin, and Miss Good. These contests were decided in the afternoon.

Another tournament will be started at the Royal Aquarium on Jan. 8. A "Table Tennis Association" has been formed, with Mr. J. G. Ritchie as hon. secretary, to which the leading clubs will be affiliated. The next meeting of the association will be held at the Royal Aquarium at half-past seven to-morrow.

Mr. Robert Newman announces a "ping-pong" tournament in the Queen's (large) Hall on Dec. 26 and following afternoons from one till seven p.m. each day, ladies' competitions being from one till four p.m. and gentlemen's from four till seven p.m. Entries close on Dec. 24. Full particulars and entry forms at Queen's Hall.

The Daily Graphic considered the event of sufficient importance to include in its Events of the Year Supplement of 3 January 1902: This summary would be incomplete without a reference to a Ping-pong tournament held at the Aquarium in December. This was accompanied by a small version of the sketch shown on the previous page, now captioned: **The Final Competitions in the First "Ping Pong" Tournament, Royal Aquarium, December 14th.**



Thanks to Gerald Gurney for details of the very earliest events. All the other extracts are the results of numerous visits to the British Library Newspaper Collection, Colindale, London.

In the Beginning was the Half-Volley: The History of Defence Play in Table Tennis

Part II

by Gunter Straub (GER)



4. Hardbat versus Sponge - "The Future belongs to Offensive Play" (1952 - 1959)

At the 1952 World Championships, sponge as a surface for a racket took centre stage. Sponge enabled the athlete to play faster and prevented that the opponent could hear the bounce of the ball on the bat. Some of the Japanese players were equipped with this modern material, and athletes from Japan won four out of five gold medals. Throughout the following years there was a political dispute in the world of table tennis about this rather new kind of equipment, and only a part of the players changed to this innovation (Uzorinac, 2001). In addition, table tennis tactics and technique were developed further by the players from the Far East. They showed a game which was rendered conspicuous by powerful shots and a very good footwork (Östh & Fellke, 1992). After the 1954 World Championships, the former General Secretary of the German Table Tennis Association, Jupp Schlaf, was quoted as saying: "The future belongs to offensive play!" (Eckert, 1954, p. 72)

The European top players Ferenc Sido (Hungary) and Ivan Andreadis (Czechoslovakia) showed traditional playing styles. They faced each other in the men's singles final of the 1953 World Championships and won medals as well at the end of this particular decade. Andreadis was a steady attacker whose game was based on variation including half-volleying (Eckert, 1954; Uzorinac, 2001), and Sido was an allround player with a solid defence and a strong back

hand attack (Uzorinac, 2001). The most successful female player of the 1950s was Angelica Rozeanu (Romania) who was a defensive player. She won the gold medal in the women's singles event of the world championships six times in a row (1950-1955). Beside other things, this series of wins was due to fact that she improved her offensive game in her late twenties (Uzorinac, 2001).



The Power of Defence: Angelica Rozeanu won 17 gold medals at World Championships

The first European champion in men's singles was a defensive player, too. Zoltan Berczik (Hungary) won the gold medal in 1958 and successfully defended his title two years later. Berczik was a very passive player who could produce strong backspin (Uzorinac, 2001; Hudetz, 2008). After the 1959 World Championships surfaces made of pure sponge were abandoned. From now on the blade of a bat had to be covered with pimples or sandwich rubbers (Clemett, n.d.).

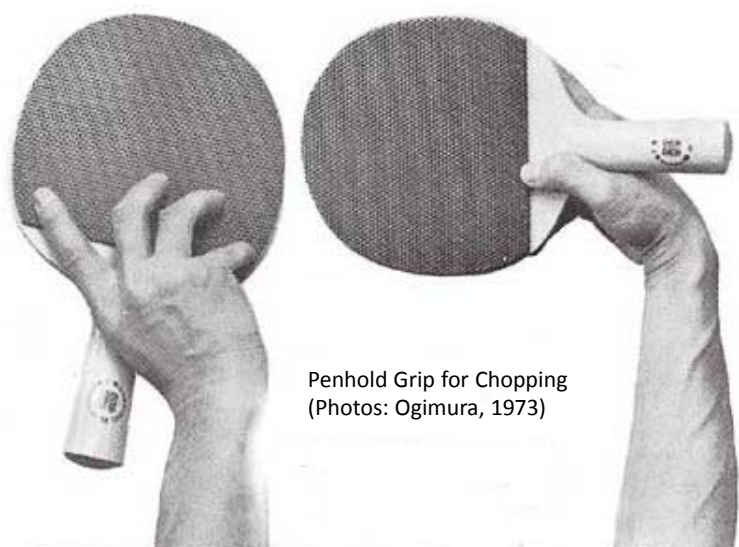
5. The Rise of the Loop (1960 - 1969)

In 1960, the Japanese national team played some matches against a European squad and showed a new technique, the so-called loop or topspin shot (Hudetz, 2008). The term topspin had been part and parcel of competitive table tennis since its beginning (TTPP 1, 1902), and words like "topspin drive" or "topspin attack" had been in use over the past decades (Friederich, 1988; Leach, 1953). The term loop, or topspin stroke in its modern definition, names an offensive stroke whereby the racket movement is distinctly marked from down

behind to up and forward. The racket hits the ball tangentially producing a strong topspin. The development of the loop benefited from sandwich rubbers with sticky pips-in surfaces which had been invented in Japan in the 1940s (Östh & Fellke, 1992). Originally, the topspin stroke had been developed as a technical mean against defensive play and made the Japanese players quite successful at the beginning. However, the defenders learnt to compensate heavy topspin as time went by (Hudetz, 2008).

In the 1960s, new options were created for defensive players in regard to equipment. Usually, defenders played with two inverted rubbers or one pips-in rubber combined with pips-out but no sponge (Uzorinac, 2001; James, 2009; Nelson, 2010). At the 1968 National Championships of Austria, Anton "Toni" Hold advanced to the final in men's singles using a self-made anti-topspin rubber. Over the course of the following years he distributed this rubber through in-house production (Nelson, 2009). The anti-topspin rubber most notably comprises of a non-sticky pips-in surface which deactivates spin. In subsequent years, this kind of material was produced by diverse firms. By Hold's own account, the anti-topspin rubber was already existing since 1965 (Hold, 2011). Trupkovic (1978) tells about a player from Yugoslavia named Stolcer who played some kind of anti-spin rubber in 1960 or shortly after. Hudetz (2004) refers to the Hungarian defender Janos Börzsey who played in the singles final of the 1968 European Championships using an anti-topspin rubber.

A long pimples rubber was used for the very first time around the year 1960 by Zhang Xielin (China) who was a defender playing the penhold grip. A penhold defender in those days used one and same side of the racket for forehand and backhand strokes. In those



Penhold Grip for Chopping
(Photos: Ogimura, 1973)

days, a special penhold grip for defenders was taught which enabled the player to hit forehand and backhand strokes with the same side of the racket (Ogimura, 1973). The very first national champion of China, Chiang Yung-Ning (1952), was a penhold chopper, too. At the 1953 World Championships, Chiang defeated two-times world singles champion Johnny Leach. This was the first time an athlete from China beat a world champion in any sport whatsoever (James, 2010).

Zhang came across long pimples rather accidentally in Shanghai during the severe Chinese economic crisis resulting from the Great Leap Forward. In the spring of 1959, Zhang was in search of a substitute for his old worn pips-out rubber and found a topsheet of an inverted rubber in the waste of a factory which produced table tennis equipment. This topsheet had rather long pimples which originally had been glued to a sponge. The penhold defender from China did this the other way round: He glued this topsheet to his racket so that the pimples faced the outside (James, 2009).



Zhang Xielin - the Magician

Zhang won the bronze medal twice in men's singles at world championships in 1961 and 1963. He earned the nickname "the Magician" because his uncommon way of playing compelled his opponents to make many mistakes which defied any explanation. On the backwash of Zhang, there were further Chinese players in those days who started using the so-called combination bat, that is a racket covered with two different types of rubbers (Liang, 1981; James, 2009). Long pimples rubbers have the effect to twist if the player strikes the ball tangentially so that the spin is reinforced by this catapult-like mechanism (Geske & Mueller, 1999). Not only German table tennis supporters remember Zhang Xielin because at the 1965 World Championships in Ljubljana he faced Eberhard Schöler in the "most thrilling table tennis match in history" (Brucker, 1983, p. 117). About 10.000 spectators watched this men's singles quarter-final which lasted



Diane Schöler while watching the match of her husband against Zhang Xielin in the quarter-finals of the 1965 World Championships

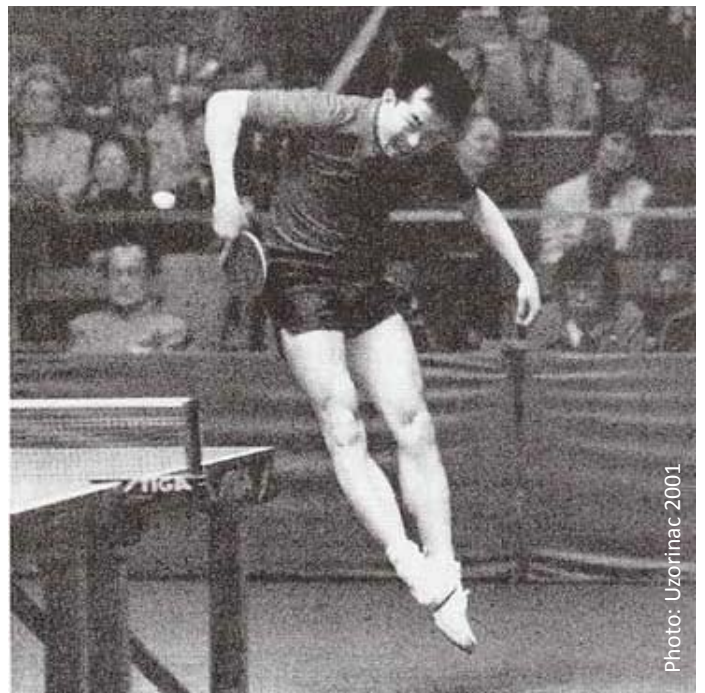
more than two hours and was won by the German in the decisive set by 27-25 (Riess, 1970; Gäb & Schneider, 1977).

In 1963, Zhang Xielin became world doubles champion. This was the first doubles title for China at world table tennis championships. Zhang Xielin's partner Zhang Zhiliang, who was a shakehand retriever, used two inverted rubbers and perfected the variation of chop and float balls. Zhang Zhiliang was the first world-class defender who "celebrated [...] the art of radical and hard to read backspin variation." (James, 2010) The idea of varying the amount of backspin is much older, though (Fuller, 1942). A peak in the history of defensive play was the silver medal of Eberhard Schöler (Germany) at the 1969 World Championships in Munich. In 1965 and 1967, he already had won the bronze medal in men's singles.

6. The Combination Bat Players are coming (1971 - 1984)

At the 1971 World Championships, the rather unknown Frenchman Jean-Paul Weber defeated some world-class players using an anti-topspin rubber. Weber was good at feinting: he relied on a distinct arm movement and feigned heavy backspin chops which actually had only little spin (Östh & Fellke, 1992). Apart from the anti-topspin rubber, long pimples became a permanent feature in the table tennis world of the 1970s. At the 1971 World Championships, Liang Geliang (China) used a combina-

tion bat covered with an inverted rubber and a semi-long pimples rubber (Gotsch & Ziegler, 1998). After the 1975 World Championships long pimples rubbers became effectively popular (Tamasu Co., n.d.). Shakehand players who preferred the defensive style usually employed two different types of rubbers which had the same colour. Combination bat players began to twiddle their racket during the rally or shortly before the serve so that the forehand rubber became the backhand rubber and vice versa (Uzorinac, 2001; Östh & Fellke, 1992). By doing this the defensive player could vary their game even more. Additionally, their opponents had problems to see which rubber was actually used because, back then, both sides of the racket usually had the same colour. Later in this period, combination bat players began to stamp a foot in order to disguise the sound a ball made when it contacted the rubber (Glatzer, 1982; Sklorz, 1983). The combination bat was used by some offensive players, too (Liang, 1981).



Liang Geliang, the All-rounder among the defenders.

During the 1970s the best defensive players in the world increasingly used offensive strokes (Östh & Fellke, 1992). Again, a leading figure was the Chinese defender Liang Geliang who saw himself forced to give up playing his semi-long pimples after 1971. Jiang Qing who was the fourth and influential wife of Mao Zedong considered the use of long pimples rubbers as unfriendly. At the 1973 World Championships, Liang was a pure offensive player. Later on he returned to the defensive style (Gotsch & Ziegler, 1998). Liang did not only perform effective offensive shots but also worked on shortening the arm movement when

playing the chop (Uzorinac, 2001; Gotsch & Ziegler, 1998; Freise, 1986).

Simultaneously, the topspin stroke became a mainstream technique in the 1970s mainly due to the young generation of Hungarian and Yugoslavian players. The traditional offensive style which was based on direct plain-hit or counter strokes lost ground. Playing topspin was closely linked to the change of rotation and speed as well as varying placement (Hudetz, 2008). In the second half of the 1970s fresh-gluing came up (Fellke, 2008; Östh & Fellke, 1992). More and more offensive players applied fresh glue to the sponge before playing. The emitted gas of the fresh glue infiltrated the sponge and the surface of the rubber which resulted in a tension and a catapult effect when the ball touched the rubber. Controlling a fresh glued rubber was rather difficult, but by fresh-gluing a topspin shot gained much more spin and speed.

At the end of the 1983 World Championships, Martin Sklorz, the former National Coach Education Manager of the German Table Tennis Association, concluded:

"According to Chinese accounts 20 to 25% of all players in China are defenders, after all. [...] Defensive play has become more popular. Whenever possible, good long-range defenders take the opportunity to smash a badly placed drop shot. Occasionally counter looping belongs to the tactic of some defensive players in order to throw the offensive player out of his rhythm." (Sklorz, 1983, p. 28)

In the 1970s, there was another famous Chinese player who performed defensive strokes while playing the penhold grip. The female athlete Ge Xinai occurred at world championships for the first time in 1975 and

became world champion in women's singles in 1979 (Uzorinac, 2001). Ge Xinai did not play the classic defensive style but frequently liked to attack and block close to the table (Uzorinac, 2001; Jeler, 2011). Eight years ago, at the 1971 World Championships, Lin Huiqing (China) had already won the title in women's singles by using an orthodox defensive style (Uzorinac, 2001). In 1981, Tong Ling (China) won the singles world championship title, and this was the last time so far the women's singles crown was captured by a defensive player. All three world champions, even penhold player Ge Xinei, used combination bats with pips-in and long pimples (Schmicker, 2000; Uzorinac, 2001).

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The last defender who took the Women's Singles title at World Championships: Tong Ling

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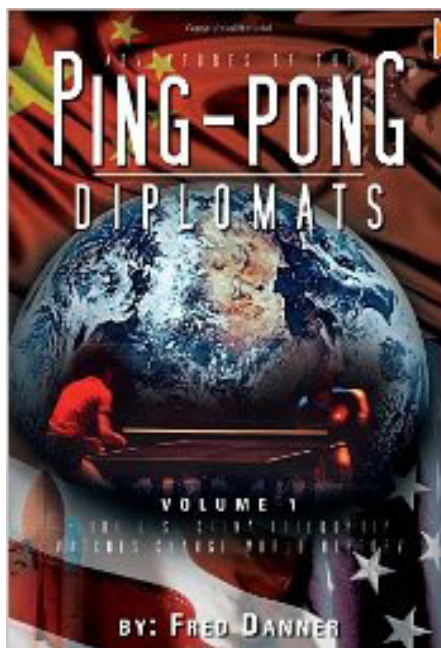
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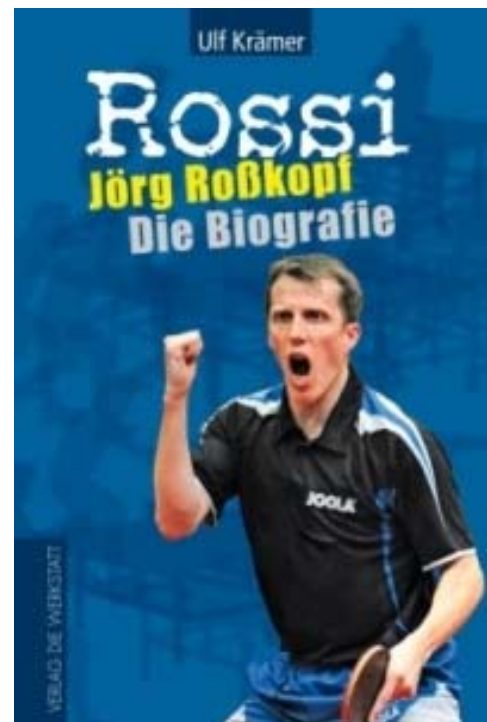
Zhang Xielin - the Magic Chopper. Available online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ld0o6oMRpXc>



Book Update



Fred Danner (USA) begins a series about Ping Pong Diplomacy with Volume 1: Adventures of the Ping-Pong Diplomats



1989 World Doubles Champion Jürg Roskopf's new biography, in German, by Ulf Krämer. Rossi is now coach of the German men's team, Silver Medalists in the 2010 and 2012 World Championships.



Gerald Gurney's article in TTC 63 about the use of second hand vellum for ping pong battledores demonstrates how imaginative the makers of Ping Pong equipment could be when sourcing material. I have two battledores from a Jaques' Table Tennis set. The vellum is perfect with no tears making it difficult to read the writing which is on the inside. With judicious use of back light and a mirror, I made out that the vellum came from old Share Certificates for the Drogheda Water Works Company (Drogheda is a town in Ireland North of Dublin). This company was formed under the Drogheda Waterworks Company Act 1864 and these words can be distinguished on the vellum. The battledores would have been made some time after this company had dissolved in the late 19th Century.

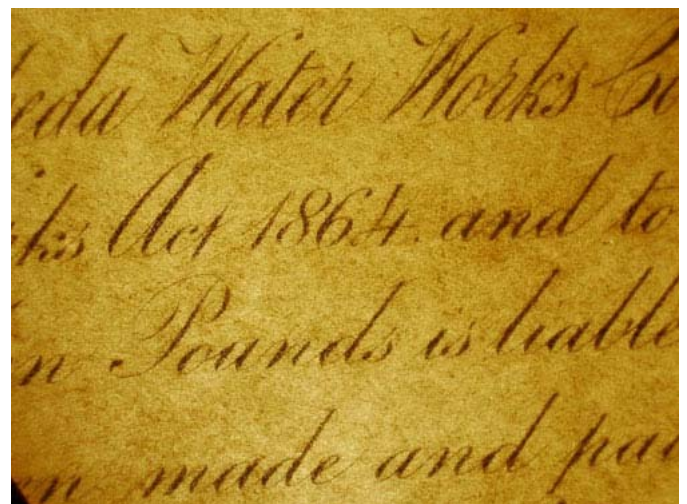
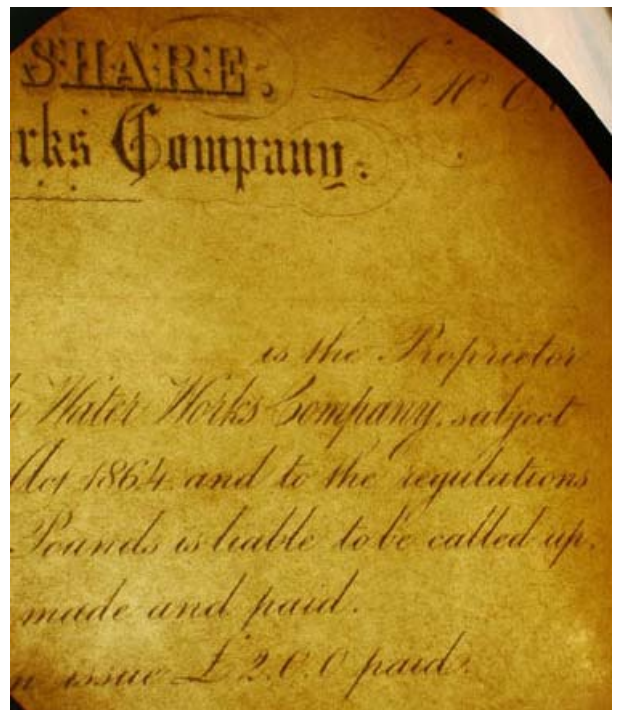
The photograph shows the text on one of the battledores. From close inspection of the two in the set, I have deciphered the following text:

.... SHARE. £10.0.0
works Company
 is the Proprietor
Drogheda Water Works Company, subject to the provisions
 works Act 1864 and the regulations
 Ten Pounds is liable to be called up
 made and paid
 issue £2.0.0 paid.

The Jaques' boxed set with these battledores is unusual. It was bought from San Diego, USA in 2002. Collectors will be familiar with the green label with pixies and goblins on the regular Jaques sets with the name The new Table game of PING PONG OR GOSSIMA. This one is completely different. The label has been redesigned with a mock Chinese theme and the name has been changed to THE GREAT GAME OF TABLE TENNIS. The normal Jaques's sets are marked Sole Publishers & Manufacturers, J. JAQUES & SON LTD & HAMLEY BROS, Jointly Concerned and the address is given as 102 HATTON GARDEN, LONDON. This one has MANUFACTURED BY JOHN JAQUES & SON LTD, 102 HATTON GARDEN, LONDON, ENGLAND. The addition of the word England denotes that the set was made for export to the USA. (The McKinley Tariff Act of 1890 required that all imports to America must carry labelling as to their country of origin).

To sell to the lucrative USA market, Jaques had no alternative but to change the name of the game to Table Tennis. Otherwise they would have infringed the Trade Mark for the USA for Ping Pong registered by Parker Brothers on 8th June 1901.

Michael Thomson



Gerald Gurney Pingpongomanie



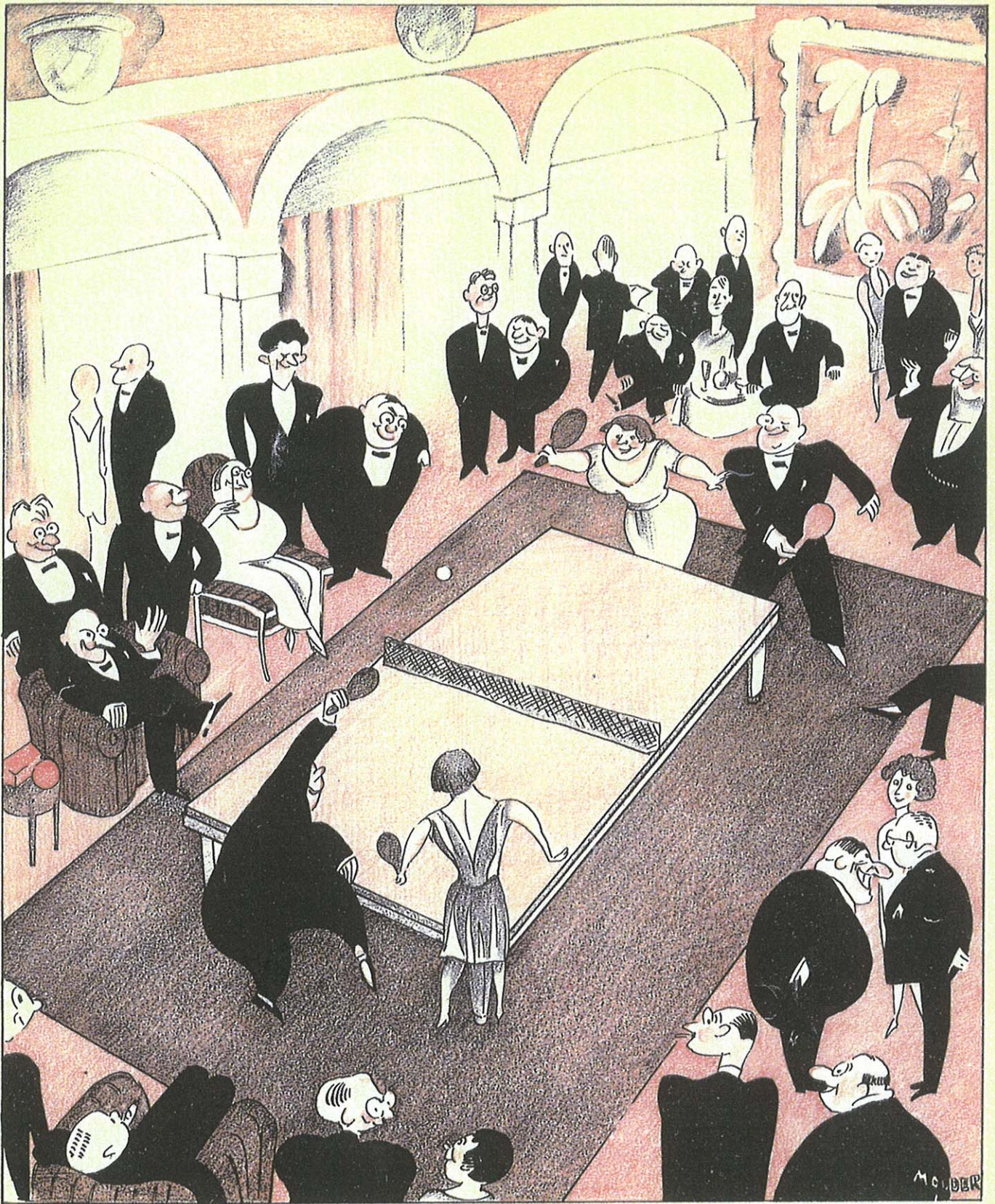
Excellent action scenes from a 1932 French publication, *match*. The article, entitled **Pingpongomanie**, cites the great benefits of Table Tennis:

très belles qualités, de maîtrise, de rapidité, de jugement, de réflexes, de volonté, d'esprit sportif ... Que de trésors d'énergie, de patience, et d'ingéniosité à déployer !

...

The graphics really capture a strong sense the motion in Table Tennis.





Dutch lithograph after a drawing by Mouders.
With thanks to Gerald Gurney.

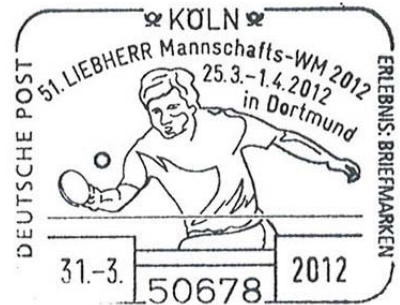


Our philatelic update features the recent World Team Championship in Dortmund, Germany. I had the genuine pleasure of sharing some time with world renowned philatelists Winfried Engelbrecht, and Yao Zhenxu. Winfried kindly provided some examples of several thematic items: a postmark from Dortmund, another from Köln, and a postcard with the logo of the Championships (a "Pluskarte Individuell", a limited edition of only 100 cards!). A Table Tennis stamp was also issued, on 12 April, along with a special "Erstausgabe" postmark from Bonn, showing a Table Tennis table surface diagram and ball on the left. Special thanks to Winfried Engelbrecht, Hans-Peter Trautmann, and Marc Templereau for their update information. These pages depend upon our readers and collectors, so please keep the updates coming: e-mail to: museum@ittf.com



Machine slogan postmark in black, used 1-30 March at Letter Center 44 in Dortmund, for the LIEBHERR Team World Championship, with logo of the event.

Front & back of a "Pluskarte Individuell", with the World Championship logo, printed logo stamp & a logo sticker. For the German Sport & Olympic Museum in Cologne, in a limited edition of 100. Actual size is 16.2 cm x 11.4 cm.



Hand-stamp postmark used in Cologne in honor of the World Championships in Dortmund, 25.3 - 1.4.2012



German stamp issued 12 April 2012 for the World Team TT Championships in Dortmund. 1 of 3 stamps in the Für den Sport series., and a 1st day mark from Bonn.





Issued in sheets of 10 on March 13, 2012, for "75 years Luxembourg TT Federation"

"PlusbriefIndividual" - Personalized Postal Stationery ordered through IMOS - Internationale Motivgruppen Olympiaden und Sport e.V. by the GERMAN POST AG. The design of the printed stamp was adapted from China 1995 issue for the World Championships in Tianjin.



Personalized stamp from France, issued for the Europe Top 12, Lyon 4-5 Feb.

"Marke Individuell", a personalized self-adhesive stamp ordered through IMOS - Internationale Motivgruppen Olympiaden und Sport e.V. by the GERMAN POST AG. The design was adapted from the familiar TT stamp issued by Hungary in 1958.



Macao stamps & postmark, for the 20th Asian TT Championships

Looking forward to your updates!

Chuck

Auction Action



Ball pick-up device, £155

This edition of Auction Action features a range of interesting items. Especially rare is the early ball pick-up device, and the 36mm white cork ball is tantalizing - perhaps a ball for early versions of Table Tennis. The stickpin engraved Ping Pong is another good piece, a likely prize for a Table Tennis event or party. The Louis Wain card was made in several varieties, greeting cards & advertising trade cards. Quite a few early boxed sets surfaced at mostly reasonable prices, including a fine example of the Excelsior Table Tennis Game, with folding free-standing bamboo style net holder & short handle drum rackets.



Cork ball, 36mm, possibly for early TT use £52



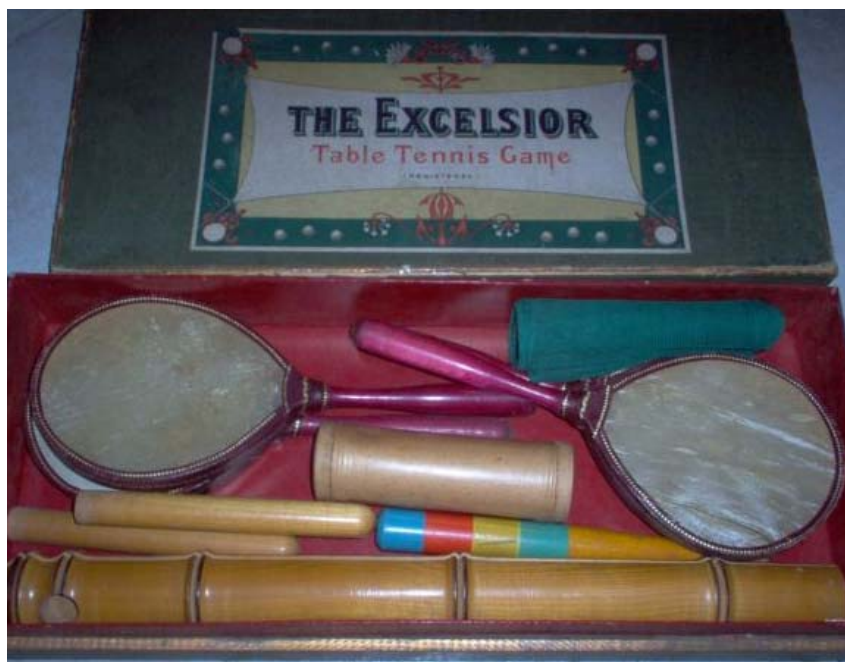
Louis Wain, folding greeting card, well priced at \$56



Johnny Leach & Diane Rowe, two of the game's great stars from England, autographed. £12



Stickpin with Ping Pong etched around the edge. Agate set in gold, possibly a prize for an early tournament or Ping Pong party. £17.



Fine Excelsior TT set, 4 drum rackets, tube of balls and folding free-standing net base in bamboo style. €411



Tube of Williams (Paris) balls, c.1902



The Popular English Game Table Tennis, with fine boxlid lithograph, in wood box. \$326



Coin operated ball vending machine, \$190



Ayres Cavendish set, with the usual components, \$180



Mortimer's Table Tennis, complete boxed set, c.1902. £237



Vintage painted wood racket sold for only \$1.50 !

This edition of the Racket Report shows a variety of early rackets, plus a fine selection of rackets from the 1950s onward. The painted bat was quite a bargain, and the wood bats with bulbous handles have a curious throat construction.

Two of the beautiful Butterfly Anatomic rackets were found, along with a superb example of a 1950s STIGA Ehrlich waffle sponge. A couple of Barnas & two English internationalist rackets made for a satisfying selection.



Pair of rather ordinary pyrography rackets in rough condition, yet they commanded quite a high price in a competitive auction



Plain wood bats with bulbous handles and interesting throat shape. \$83



Pair of Spalding drum rackets in very well-preserved condition. From a boxed set



Fine example of a Stiga Ehrlich waffle sponge, 3739SEK



Butterfly Anatomic, \$294. A 2nd example sold for \$214



Butterfly Jonyer H \$158



Fine Aubrey Simons hardbat, £112. Simons was an English international in the 1950s, winning 1 Gold, 2 Silvers & 3 Bronze in W.Ch.



Fine Barna thick sponge, 1950s. £351



Barna hardbat, rubber distressed, but fine ivorine inset. £92



Harry Venner racket, £103. Venner was an English international in the 1950s



Butterfly Firehand Style, £146
Was 'Forehand Style' intended?

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German boxed sets & bats; TT pins

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programmes ebay ID: sircules

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Seeking STIGA Stipancic rackets

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Barna rackets, TT items from all eras

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History of Table Tennis

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cancels WC, EC, EC-Youth, Top-12

Robert Op de Beeck ☎ +03/455.41.59

J.F.Willemstraat 66 2530 Boechout BELGIUM

Florian Pagel Germany flo.p@gmx.net

Older bats: Banda, Stiga, Joola, Butterfly, Imperial

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Seeks old Stiga blades & catalogues

Luigi Simeoni luigi_simeoni@libero.it

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Hans-Peter Trautmann

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hpt@hpraumann.de ebay ID: hpt146
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color proofs, minister/artist sheets, postmarks,
errors, red/blue meters

Graham Trimming Rosemount Juniper Lane

Wooburn Green, Bucks HP10 ODE England
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graham.trimming@virgin.net pre-1939 TT items,
esp c.1900s. Acquire: Gossima 1891; early unusual
items; early World Ch items.

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Books, pins, stamps, cancellations

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Early 1900s equipment & boxed sets

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Anton Zwiebel In Memoriam

**Dr. Fabio Colombo (ITA), member of the
ITTF Sports Sciences Committee, seeks
Stiga Stipancic rackets. Contact Fabio by
e-mail at: drfabioc@gmail.com Visit his
website: <http://drfabicolombo.ilbello.com>**



Mystery Photo Issue #63

The Mystery Photo in our previous
issue is a scene from the 1955
World Championships in Utrecht.
L-R: Koczian, Sido, Tokar, unknown,
and Andreadis. Thanks to Libuse
Uhrova (CZE) for this photo.

Heavy Metal

Dortmund World Championships



At the recent World Championships in Dortmund, Germany, a set of 3 pins was issued, representing the 3 World Championships held in Dortmund, in 1959, 1989 and 2012. They are shown here with black background, along with the original pins & medallions from 1959 & 1989. The 1959 re-make is based on a scene on the cover of the official program. The 1989 re-make is very similar to the original pin, except the color is changed from black to white. The 2012 pin is based on the official logo for this highly successful event.

