Tennis: The Story of a Sport - an exhibition celebrating the William D. Haggard III Tennis Collection

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TENNIS

THE STORY OF A SPORT

an exhibition celebrating the

WILLIAM D. HAGGARD III

TENNIS COLLECTION

Mezzanine Exhibition Gallery
Thomas Cooper Library
University of South Carolina

May-August 2005
The William D. Haggard III Collection brings to Thomas Cooper Library its first major collection of rare books about sports history. Billy Haggard, who died early last year, was a champion equestrian from Aiken, SC. Aiken boasts one of only ten courts in the U.S. for traditional tennis ("court tennis" or "real tennis"), at which Mr. Haggard became an outstanding competitor. He was also a renowned collector of rare books relating to the sports that he enjoyed. In 1998, he loaned some of his court tennis books for an exhibition here, and he visited the library several times. His tennis collection came to the University through the support of some of Mr. Haggard’s friends and with a matching grant from the Lucy Hampton Bostick Trust, with additional recent gifts by Janet Haggard Harkins.

This exhibition tells the story of tennis over the past seven centuries, beginning with a first edition of the first book about tennis (1555). The earlier cases illustrate the development of tennis from its medieval origins in cloister and royal palace, through its central role in the Renaissance and pre-Revolutionary France. The second half of the exhibition follows the reshaping of tennis in France, England, and America in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as court tennis stubbornly survived alongside its upstart younger cousin lawn tennis, and as lawn tennis mutated from country-house recreation to suburban club sport, professional career, the rise of media stardom, and a new democratization.

1: THE EARLIEST TENNIS BOOK

* Tennis: from an illuminated manuscript, ca. 1450.
* Scaino, Tratto del Givoco della Palla. Facsimile, Salerno, n.d.
* The Royal Tennis Court, Falkland Palace, Fife, Scotland. S.l.: n.d.
* The First Picture of a Tennis Net, ca.1600.
* A College Tennis Court, ca.1600.

2: TENNIS AS A ROYAL GAME

3: THE ART OF THE PAUMIER-RAQUETIER
* A Modern Court Tennis Racket.
* The Stages of Making a Tennis Ball.

4: ENLIGHTENMENT & REVOLUTION
* Diderot, Denis, Encyclopédie . . . des sciences, des arts et des métiers. Paris [etc.], 1751-65. The collection has two sets of the plates depicting tennis.
* David, Jacques-Louis, La Serment du Jeu de Paume. From the engraving by Jazet, 1822.
* David, from Versailles Sketch-book.

5: 19TH CENTURY COURT TENNIS
* Bromley, William, Barre. Mezzotint engraving. S.l., [1849].
* [Lukin, Robert], A Treatise on Tennis, by a

* Games with the Ball—Tennis: the Court at Lord’s. Chromolithograph. London, n.d.
* Diagram intended to Explain the Game of Tennis. Reproduced from a 19th century print in the Manchester Tennis and Racquet Club.

6: BEGINNINGS OF LAWN TENNIS
* “Major Walter Clopton Wingfield.”
* Lawn Tennis in cartoons: Punch (Oct. 10, 1874, and Sept. 23, 1876).
* Brewtnall, E. F. Tea and Tennis. 1890.

7: FROM RECREATION TO COMPETITION
* Williams, Paul B. United States Lawn
Tennis Association and the World War. New York, 1921.
* Wills, Helen. Tennis, with illustrations by the author. New York, 1929.

8: SOME COURT TENNIS RARITIES

9: STARS OF MODERN TENNIS

10: THE SURVIVAL OF COURT TENNIS
* Aberdare, Clarence, 3rd Baron, ed. Rackets,

11: BILLY HAGGARD: SPORTSMAN & BOOKMAN
* The Manchester Tennis Court.

For further details on the Department of Rare Books & Special Collections, with web­exhibits and links to the on-line catalogue and Thomas Cooper Library, see:
http://www.sc.edu/library/spcoll/rarebook.html