

*International
Journal of the
History of Sport*

Book Review Register
February 2012

Compiled by Rob Hess

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Reviewing Guidelines for the *International Journal of the History of Sport*

1.) The target length for reviews is 800-1,000 words per title. Only exceed the upper limit if there are good reasons for doing so, and let me know in advance if you intend to do so.

Remember that the audience for the review is international in nature, so some contextual information may be required in the review.

2.) Deadlines are flexible, but it is good for the journal and the authors concerned to see reviews in print as soon as possible after the release of books.

3.) Please send the review as a Word email attachment to: Robert.Hess@vu.edu.au. I will acknowledge the receipt of your review in a return email.

4.) The manuscript should be double-spaced and left-aligned. Single, not double, spaces should follow full stops. Use details on the imprint page to provide the following information at the head of the review: Author, title, place of publication, publisher, date of publication, numbers of Roman and Arabic pages, index, hardback and paperback prices, and hardback and paperback ISBNs. Please use punctuation and spacing as set out below.

Example:

Lionel Frost, *Immortals: Football People and the Evolution of Australian Rules* (Brisbane: John Wiley & Sons, 2005). Pp.xv + 312, index, AUS\$34.95 (pb). ISBN 1-74031-104-3.

Provide the following information at the foot of the review: your name and institutional affiliation or location.

Example:

MARY SMITH
University of ...

Or

JOHN SMITH
Independent scholar, Perth

6.) References to pages of the work under review should be made in the text, thus: (p.22).

Some sample reviews, already published, are appended below.

Thank you in anticipation of your review.

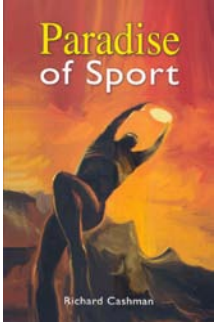
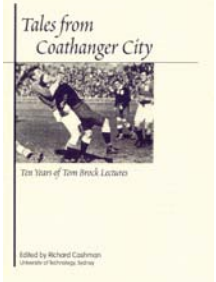
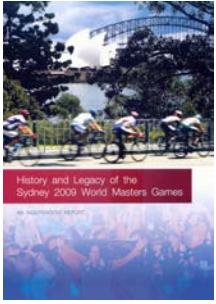

Rob Hess
Victoria University
Robert.Hess@vu.edu.au


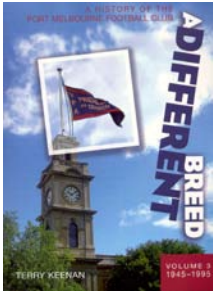
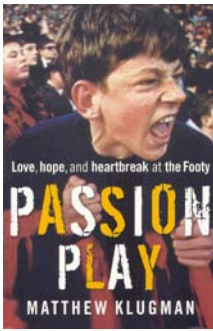
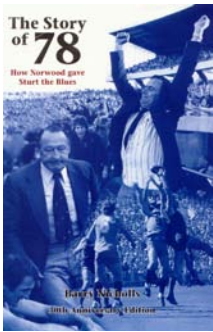
Note: Publishers or authors should send copies of books for review purposes to:

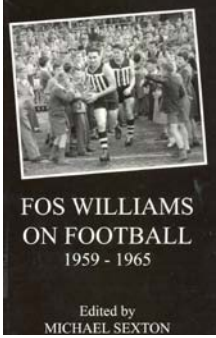
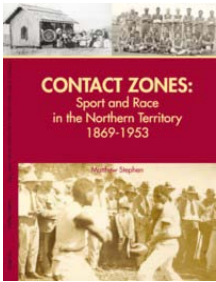

Dr Rob Hess
School of Sport and Exercise Science, Room L134
Footscray Park Campus, Victoria University
PO Box 14428, Melbourne, Vic. 8001
Australia

Book Review Register for the *International Journal of the History of Sport*

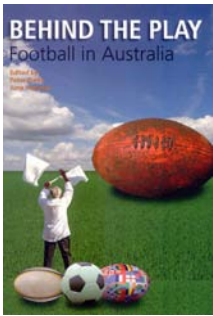
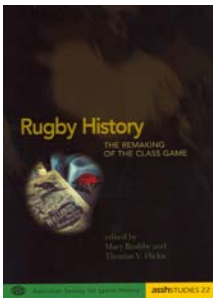
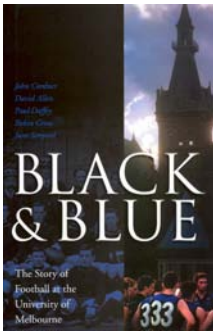
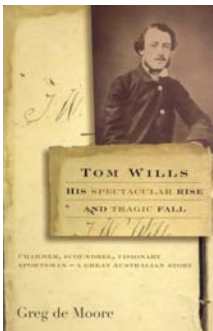
The policy is to allocate no more than one book at a time per reviewer. This will hopefully improve the turnover time for reviews and potentially broaden the pool of reviewers.

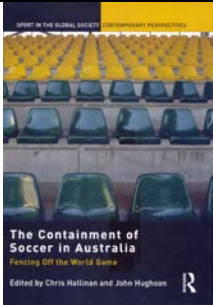
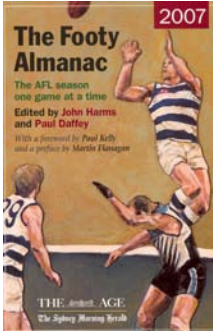

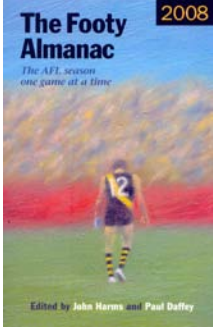
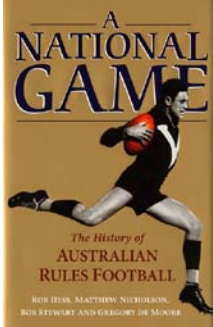
<i>Author(s)/Editor(s)</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Scan of Cover</i>	<i>Reviewer</i>	<i>Distributed or Commissioned</i>
Cashman, Richard	<i>Paradise of Sport: A History of Australian Sport</i> , Sydney: Walla Walla Press, 2010.		Scully, Richard	07 February 2012
Cashman, Richard (ed.)	<i>Tales From Coathanger City: Ten Years of Tom Brock Lectures</i> , Sydney: ASSH and Tom Brock Bequest Committee, 2010.		Reviewer required – contact Rob Hess	
Cashman, Richard and Adair, Daryl	<i>History and Legacy of the Sydney 2009 World Masters Games: An Independent Report</i> , Sydney: Sydney 2009 World Masters Games Organising Committee, 2010.		Reviewer required – contact Rob Hess	
Fitzpatrick, Jim	<i>Major Taylor in Australia</i> , Kilcoy: Star Hill Studio, 2011.		Toohey, Michael	12 November 2011
Hess, Rob <i>et al.</i> (eds)	<i>Football</i>		Shellcott,	December

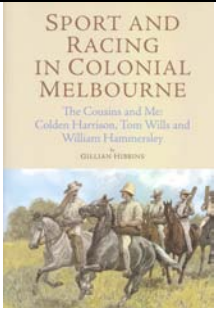
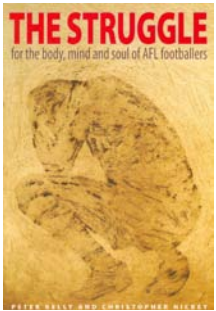
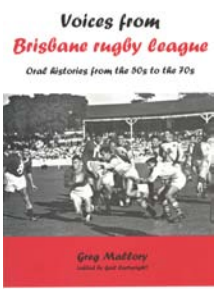
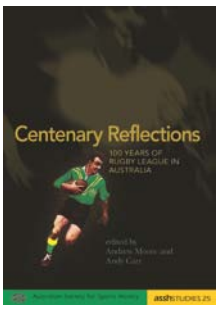
	<i>Fever: Crossing Boundaries.</i>		Tim	2006 Reminder: 22 April 2009 Reminder; 29 September 2009
Hickie, Thomas, V. et al. (eds)	<i>Essays in Sport and the Law</i> , Melbourne: Australian Society for Sports History, 2008.		Reviewer required – contact Rob Hess	
Keenan, Terry	<i>A Different Breed: A History of the Port Melbourne Football Club, Vol. 3, 1945-1995</i> , Port Melbourne: Eucalyptus Press, 2008		Nadel, Dave	9 November 2008 Reminder: 22 April 2009 Reminder 29 September 2009
Klugman, Matthew	<i>Passion Play: Love, Hope, and Heartbreak at the Footy</i> , Melbourne: Hunter Publishers, 2009.		Frost, Lionel	20 July 2011
Nicholls, Barry	<i>The Story of 78: How Norwood Gave Sturt the Blues – 30th Anniversary Edition</i> , Alice Springs: Centrebar Publishing, 2008.		Reviewer required – contact Rob Hess	
Sexton, Michael (ed.)	<i>Fos Williams on Football, 1959-1965</i> ,		Frost, Lionel	20 July 2011

	2007.	 <p>FOS WILLIAMS ON FOOTBALL 1959 - 1965 Edited by MICHAEL SEXTON</p>		
Stephen, Matthew	<i>Contact Zones: Sport and Race in the Northern Territory, 1869-1953</i> , Darwin: Charles Darwin University Press, 2010.	 <p>CONTACT ZONES: Sport and Race in the Northern Territory 1869-1953</p>	Cazaly, Ciannon	20 January 2011
Ward, Tony	<i>Sport in Australian National Identity: Kicking Goals</i> , London: Routledge, 2010.	 <p>Sport in Australian National Identity Kicking Goals Tony Ward</p>	Leng, Ho Keat	05 August 2011

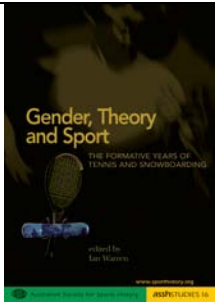
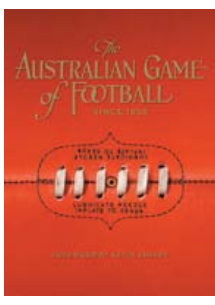
Reviews Received for the *International Journal of the History of Sport*

<i>Author(s)/Editor(s)</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Scan of Cover</i>	<i>Reviewer</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Burke, Peter and Senyard, June (eds)	<i>Behind the Play: Football in Australia</i> , Hawthorn: Maribyrnong Press, 2008.		Stark, Nigel	Commissioned 12 January 2009. Completed 16 February 2009. Published in vol. 27, no. 11, August 2010, pp. 1988-89.
Bushby, Mary and Hickie, T. V. (eds)	<i>Rugby History</i> .		Horton, Peter	Commissioned 17 December 2007. Completed 28 January 2008. Published in vol. 26, no. 5, April 2009, pp. 693-95.
Cordner, John <i>et al.</i>	<i>Black & Blue: The Story of Football at the University of Melbourne</i> , 2007.		Frost, Lionel	Commissioned 17 December 2007. Completed 17 October 2008. Published in vol. 26, no. 9, July 2009, pp. 1296-8.
De Moore, Greg	<i>Tom Wills; His Spectacular Rise and Tragic Fall</i> , Crows Nest: Allen & Unwin, 2008.		Whimpress, Bernard	Commissioned 05 January 2009. Completed 15 April 2009.
Hallinan, Chris and Hughson, John (eds)	<i>The Containment of Soccer in Australia: Fencing Off the World Game</i> , London: Routledge,		Dabscheck, Braham	Commissioned 18 June 2010 Completed 21 September 2010.

	2010.			
Harms, John and Daffey, Paul (eds)	<i>The Footy Almanac: The AFL Season One Game at a Time</i> , Melbourne: Malarkey Publications, 2007.		Klugman, Matthew	Commissioned 11 February 2008. Completed 17 January 2009. Published in vol. 26, no. 9, July 2009, pp. 1295-6.
Hess, Rob (ed.)	<i>Making Histories</i> .		Embrey, Lynn	Commissioned 13 February 2009. Completed 10 April 2009
Harms, John and Daffey, Paul (eds)	<i>The Footy Almanac 2008: The AFL Season One Game at a Time</i> , Camberwell: Penguin/Viking, 2008.		Hogan, Tim	Commissioned 17 December 2008
Hess, Rob, Nicholson, Matthew, Stewart, Bob and de Moore, Gregory	<i>A National Game: The History of Australian Rules Football</i> , Camberwell: Penguin/Viking, 2008.		Richardson, Nick	04 January 2010 Completed February 2010 Published in
Hibbins, Gillian	<i>Sport and</i>		de Moore,	17 August

	<i>Racing in Colonial Melbourne.</i>		Gregory	2007 Reminder 29 September 2009 Completed 01 March 2010
Kelly, Peter and Hickey, Christopher	<i>The Struggle for the Mind and Soul of AFL Footballers, North Melbourne, Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2008.</i>		Dabscheck, Braham	15 July 2009 Completed 29 October 2009
Mallory, Greg	<i>Voices from Brisbane Rugby League: Oral Histories from the 50s to the 70s, Annerley: Greg Mallory, 2009.</i>		McConville, Chris	17 May 2011 Completed 30 August 2011
McConville, Chris (ed.)	<i>A Global Racecourse: Work, Culture and Horse Sports, Melbourne: Australian Society for Sports History, 2008.</i>		Huggins, Mike	Commissioned 04 February 2009 Completed March 2009 Published in
Moore, Andrew and Carr, Andy (eds)	<i>Centenary Reflections: 100 Years of Rugby League in Australia, Melbourne: Australian Society for Sports History, 2008.</i>		McConville, Chris	17 May 2011 Completed 16 September 2011
Murray, Bill and Hay, Roy (eds)	<i>The World Game Downunder.</i>		Booth, Ross	December 2006 Reminder: 11

				January 2009 Reminder 29 September 2009 Completed February 2010
Muyt, Adam	<i>Maroon and Blue: Recollections and Tales of the Fitzroy Football Club</i> , Melbourne: Vulgar Press, 2006		Hess, Rob	Commissioned 06 December 2006 – Completed 10 March 2009
Napper, Monica and Eve, Peter	<i>Tiwi Footy</i>		Stephen, Matthew	Commissioned 24 April 2008. Completed 18 February 2009. Published in vol. 26, no. 11, September 2009, pp. 1170-72.
Simpson, Clare (ed.)	<i>Scorchers, Ramblers and Rovers: Australasian Cycling Stories</i> , Melbourne: ASSH, 2006.		McConville, Chris	17 May 2011 Completed 16 September 2011
Warren, Ian (ed.)	<i>Buoyant Nationalism</i>		Winterton, Rachel	Commissioned December 2006. Completed 28 January 2008. Published in vol. 26, no. 5, April 2009, pp. 708-09.
Warren, Ian (ed.)	<i>Gender, Theory and Sport</i> .		Litchfield, Chelsea	December 2006 Reminder: 22 April 2009

				Reminder 29 September 2009 Completed 15 December 2009
Weston, James (ed.)	<i>The Australian Game of Football Since 1858, GSP, Melbourne, 2008.</i>		Vincent, Geoff	Commissioned 11 April 2008. Completed 01 October 2008
Kelly, Peter and Hickey, Christopher	<i>The Struggle for the Mind and Soul of AFL Footballers, Australian Scholarly Publishing, North Melbourne, 2008.</i>		Macdonald, Robert	15 July 2009 Published May 2011

Sample Book Reviews for the *International Journal of the History of Sport*

Lionel Frost, *Immortals: Football People and the Evolution of Australian Rules* (Brisbane: John Wiley & Sons, 2005). Pp.xv + 312, index, AUS\$34.95 (pb). ISBN 1-74031-104-3.

Sporting biographies can be a lacklustre genre, particularly when there is a narrow focus directed at on-field exploits. In the case of Australian Rules football, as in many other sports around the world, a large amount of literature is made up of biographical or autobiographical material. There is a natural tendency for these works to be hagiographic in nature, and it is rare to find objective analysis, critical observations or attempts at wider contextualization in such books. This flaw has the potential to be both multiplied and magnified in collective biographical works, and it is to the credit of Lionel Frost that he has, for the most part, avoided the sin of sycophancy in his study of fourteen players, coaches and administrators from Australia's pre-eminent winter code of football.

In effect, the book is a national history of the game. Frost wisely avoids an over-concentration on Victoria (the state that spawned and still continues to drive much of the development of the code), and casts his net across all major states in Australia, featuring selected personalities from different eras. Frost is to be commended, therefore, for his succinct weaving together of the game's evolution into four coherent and accessible sections made up of three chapters each. Importantly, the narrative is not exclusively biographical in focus, and each section is prefaced by a condensed summary of the social and economic forces that impacted on sport generally and Australian Rules football specifically. The reader is therefore well primed to appreciate not only the differences between each particular periodization, but the manner in which events and attitudes outside the world of football had an influence on those who played, watched or managed the game. In this respect, Frost's training as an economist and his professional interest in the urban and regional history of Australia underpins his skills as a football biographer. With only fourteen personalities selected from almost 150 years of the game's history there could have been notable gaps in the narrative (and endless arguments about the merits of who might have been included). However, his selection of those deserving the sobriquet of 'immortal' has not been based on elite level performance alone, but predicated on how well the careers of the chosen few have served to illuminate broader themes. Thus, for example, the exploits of an under-rated journeyman player and coach, Phil Matson, are used to explore the sometimes testy relationship between Western Australia and Victoria, and background on the Collier brothers not only helps to explain the mystique of the Collingwood Football Club, but also illuminates the impact of the Great Depression on sport. Significantly, Frost also devotes coverage to the post-career activities of the personalities he has selected, and this enables some assessment to be made of the overall impact of football on their life histories.

Apart from the occasional loose citation and a few unattributed quotations, the only slightly dissatisfying aspect of Frost's work is his tendency to skim over episodes that might be deserving of more attention. John Kennedy, for instance, had a stellar career at the Hawthorn Football Club, but his time as coach of the North Melbourne Football Club is hardly mentioned. Similarly, only one paragraph is devoted to Tim Watson's

disastrous coaching stint at the St Kilda Football Club, but several paragraphs are devoted to particular games that he played. Overall, though, Frost's thoughtful selection of 'immortal' football people, and his efforts to trace the evolution of the Australian game through a series of biographies, sets a new standard for works of this nature.

ROB HESS
Victoria University

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**Tim Hogan (ed.), *Reading the Game: An Annotated Guide to the Literature and Films of Australian Rules Football*. (Melbourne: Australian Society for Sports History, 2005). Pp.vi + 236, photographs, AUS\$28.00 (cloth). ISBN 0-9757616-5-X.**

The first official game of Australian Rules football was played in 1858. It is what we Australians refer to as 'a game of our own', and it is the nation's most popular and successful team sport. Like other sports, both in Australia and across the globe, it has moved persons to record events associated with its production, the various persons who have strutted its stage and to muse about its broader significance for different aspects of Australian society. 'Record' here mainly refers to the written word, but also to the use of film and other forms of 'communicating' associated with the increasing spread of new technologies.

While Australian Rules football has been widely and popularly supported throughout its history, especially since the formation of the Victorian Football League in 1897, it has not, until approximately the 1980s, generated a literature of any significance. For example, the State Library of Victoria, 'probably the largest repository of Australian Rules football material' (p. 1), held less than 20 books published before 1945. Only a few more were added to the collection before the 1980s. In that decade 119 books were added to the State Library of Victoria's holdings; 107 in the 1990s and a further 160 titles between 2001 to 2005 (p. 3).

With increasing growth and commercial success, there has been an unprecedented growth in writings and films on Australian Rules football. Much of this has been at the popular level, with works on teams, coaches and star players, as well as information and statistical publications on different aspects of the game. In addition, and more significantly, there has been a steady stream of academic writings concerned with more thematic and conceptual issues. Much of this can be traced back to the first 'Sporting Traditions' conference held at the University of New South Wales in 1977 (see Richard Cashman and Michael McKernan (eds.), *Sport in History: The Making of Modern Sporting Traditions*, St Lucia: University of Queensland Press, 1979), the subsequent formation of the Australian Society for Sports History (ASSH) in 1983, and its journal *Sporting Traditions*, which first appeared in 1984, and *ASSH Studies*, of which this volume is the most recent example.

In *Reading the Game*, Tim Hogan, the newspaper librarian of the State Library of Victoria, has provided a comprehensive guide to various writings and films devoted to Australian Rules football. The material is organised thematically. It covers anecdotes and humour; business, economic, legal and demographic works; major and minor

clubs and leagues; cultural and social aspects; educational aids; films and recordings; general and historical works; hobbies and pastimes; literary and dramatic works; manuscripts and archival material; memorabilia and ephemera; newspapers and magazines; personalities; reference works; theory and practice (which is about coaching, training and umpiring) and unpublished theses.

Each section, or rather chapter, has a brief introduction providing an outline of the material contained and identification of key or seminal works contained in each section. Annotations are provided for a number of items contained in various sections. Selection has been based on their 'importance' in documenting or providing a 'fresh' approach to understanding 'our game', or because of a decision to 'focus on early historical sources, as this type of material is held in only a few special collections and is less accessible to the general public than recently published work' (p. 5). The presentation and overall attractiveness of *Reading the Game* is enhanced by the inclusion of scans of numerous book covers and other material.

Hogan says that his 'aim throughout has been to list all significant published works or manuscript collections held by major libraries' (p. 5). Material such as newspaper articles (their number being too numerous), music, oral history tapes, government documents, sports medicine and general legal writings have been omitted. In addition, websites have not been surveyed in any detail (p. 5). In what is possibly the only criticism of this splendid collection - and it is a minor criticism at that - is it has missed or omitted publications in economic and related publications. One suspects that future editions of this bibliography will contain separate chapters on business, economic and legal writings.

Ian Warren, the ASSH Series Editor, in introducing *Reading the Game*, says that it 'is the first major bibliography with Australian Rules football as the principal focus, and is set to find a place on the bookshelves of all scholars with a serious interest in the great Australian game' (p. v). This is a monumental and significant work. It provides a wealth of information on various strands of material that have documented and commented on Australia's distinctive contribution to world sport. The scope of the material included is breathtaking. Tim Hogan and all those who supported him are to be congratulated for providing such a well organised and accessible bibliography on a game which has become so integral to the Australian way of life.

BRAHAM DABSCHECK  
University of Melbourne

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Adrian McGregor, *Wally Lewis: Forever the King* (Brisbane: University of Queensland Press, Brisbane, 2004). Pp.viii + 341, AUS\$29.95. ISBN 0-7022-3436-6.

Wally Lewis is an ideal subject for a sports biographer because he was such a prominent and controversial player who was instrumental in altering the landscape of Australian rugby league. Lewis was, first of all, a great player in his own right who was innovative and dominant in his era. He possessed, as McGregor noted, 'strategic match vision and on-field generalship'. He was, in addition, a charismatic figure and a great actor on the field who played to the audience. 'If it's a full house and it's a big

occasion', McGregor added, 'the bloke gives you an Oscar winning performance' (p. 291). More than that 'he led Queensland back to equality with NSW' and made the annual State of Origin contest the star attraction of the Australian rugby league season after its commencement in 1980. Wally virtually single-handedly took on the 'burden of Queensland's sporting past' and for a decade Wally 'acted out Queensland's most basic prejudices, hang-ups, paranoia and xenophobia' so that he had a cathartic influence on the local population (pp. 322–3). 'Such was his genius', McGregor noted, that his 'star climbed and climbed, from 1981 to 1988, with scarcely a setback' (p. 324). It was no wonder that Wally became known as the 'King' and then as the 'Emperor' — as if he needed a further accolade — and a life-sized bronze statue of him, supported by a public subscription, was unveiled at Lang Park in 1992.

Then there was a spectacular fall from grace when Wally reached 30 and the Brisbane Broncos sacked him. Lewis was 'bewildered' and 'shattered' by his changed circumstances because 'he had never any mechanism for coping with adversity of great magnitude' (p. 325). His disaffection with rugby league coincided with the discovery that his daughter Jamie-Lee was profoundly deaf. How the Lewis family dealt with crisis is another chapter in the Wally Lewis saga.

The character of Lewis is also of great interest because he was a controversial figure who provided unending copy for the tabloid media. Although he donated jerseys to charity, supported young children with terminal illnesses and had a strong sense of family, he was no moral exemplar. Some regarded him as arrogant, prickly and unhelpful and his first professional agent, Peter Hickey, sought to change his image from 'Mr Trouble' to 'Mr Nice Guy' after his appointment to this role in 1991 (pp. 266-7). A celebrated clash between Wally Lewis and Mark Geyer at half-time in the 1991 origin clash demonstrated a surly side of this star. Sydney journalist Ian Heads stated that 'Lewis' snarling, inflammatory display ... will most likely see him struck off as [future] captaincy material' (pp. 274–5).

It is not surprising then that Adrian McGregor has written four biographies of this King-Emperor. *Wally Lewis: Forever the King* combines a trilogy of previous biographies: *King Wally* (1986), *Wally and the Broncos* (1989) and *The Emperor, Wally Lewis* (1993). When McGregor wrote *King Wally* in 1986 he stated that he had no idea that a book about this enigmatic Queenslander would capture the public imagination because no biography of a rugby league player had been published for 25 years. It became rugby league's best-selling biography and, in the process, became 'a publishing trailblazer for scores of rugby league books that followed' (p. viii).

McGregor makes some lofty claims about Lewis in the preface to this biography stating that he was the 'greatest rugby league player of the modern era' and 'the power he gave to Queensland was more spiritual than material' (p. 323). He added that his status 'exceeded that of a mere sportsman and touched the heart of the nation'. He also added that 'the trilogy must have made him the most written-about sportsman since Don Bradman'. This itself is no mere achievement given the paucity of writing on rugby league before 1986.

There are intriguing suggestions throughout the biography that Lewis can be compared to Bradman — as well as to Walter Lindrum and Dawn Fraser. Some comparison is appropriate, at least in part, because Lewis stood head and shoulders

above his peers, had a singular influence on the code and attracted public adulation in some quarters. He elevated the State of Origin competition and he also revolutionised the way that the game was played. He acted like a quarterback in American football, standing well back so that it was difficult for opponents to tackle him, and directing play with bullet-like passes of 30 metres supplemented by astute kicks.

However, there must be some question about whether Lewis ‘touched the national heart’ because rugby league is dominant in just two states of the country. It is unlikely that the sports fans of the southern and western states knew or cared much about Wally Lewis — unlike Bradman who was a national symbol. Lewis is a good example of a parochial hero — which McGregor acknowledges — in that Lewis gained his status as the symbol of a resurgent Queensland (against New South Wales). It was only later that he was admired in New South Wales and became recognised as an outstanding Australian player and leader. Ian Heads also made an interesting comment when he wrote that Lewis has been ‘State of Origin’s football Bradman’ (p. 282) — which suggested that he only matched Bradman at one level.

It would be interesting to know the proportion of sales of the biographies in Queensland, versus those in New South Wales and the rest of Australia. One suspects that the majority of sales might be in Queensland, followed with significant sales in New South Wales (and the Australian Capital Territory) and much smaller numbers elsewhere.

This is an excellent and well-written biography that provides significant insights into a fascinating character of Queensland and Australian sport in the late twentieth century. Ultimately King Wally was an enigmatic figure that defies neat categorisation: he was a hero to Queenslanders but was also a celebrity who relished controversy, he controlled the destiny of Brisbane and Queensland yet he was overwhelmed midway through his career by his own success. He also led a renaissance in rugby league.

RICHARD CASHMAN
University of Technology, Sydney