

96

Table Tennis History Journal

February
2022

Excellent reading for Historians, Collectors,
and all Lovers of our Great Sport



Rare photograph of an early Table Tennis scene, featuring gentlemen wearing vests and ties playing on an extended dining table. Great to have a look at the interior of a c.1902 era home. This shows a variation of the doubles game, where both sides hand off their rackets to their teammate after each shot! The player in the right foreground, who is passing the racket to his partner, has his sleeves rolled up - a vigorous game! Page 26

Table Tennis History Journal



No. 96

February 2022

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Feb 1 **Submit articles by Jan 15**
Jun 1 **Submit articles by May 15**
Oct 1 **Submit articles by Sep 15**

From the Editor

Dear Friends, Happy Chinese New Year !

An 80-page **96th edition** of the *Table Tennis History Journal* awaits our readers! For our **centenary edition** I am preparing a celebratory 100-page retrospective, an evolution of the Journal.

A big welcome and special thanks to several new contributors to the History Journal, including the renowned **New York Times** Crossword Puzzle Editor **Will Shortz**, who writes from his enormous Westchester Table Tennis Center. Also philatelic collectors **Bohua Liu** (SWE) and **Fabio Bisogno** (ITA) share photos of their fine collections. Great to hear from **Russ Walker** (USA), who reports on his recent finds.

Fabio presents more fabulous **New Discoveries, Old Treasures**, and **Alan Duke (ENG)** sends a piece about Hon. **Ivor Montagu**, and adds addenda to his fine research on early newspapers.

Jorge Arango (COL) continues his new series, focusing on children's games during the Ping Pong era. **Bruno Lancon (FRA)** looks at the Stiga Cybershape & Tibhar Swing blades. **Auction Action** reports on recent trends, with some surprising discoveries and prices.

Hope you enjoy the new issue. Feedback always welcomed. Next edition will be **June 1, 2022**. Please send any inputs by May 15.

For our sport, Table Tennis. For All. For Life. *Chuck*

Jorge Arango

Our friend and major collector Jorge Arango (COL) reports an unfortunate incident involving a rare Japanese book that he purchased for his museum. This beautiful book was shown on the back page of TT History Journal #93. I mentioned that I would love to find another example of this book for the ITTF Museum. Jorge says the mailing from Japan was stolen en route!? Perhaps the thief was tempted by the Customs declaration? Unaware of this theft, I was contacted (perhaps via google search) by someone offering the same book title! Of course I was interested, but I never heard from him again. Jorge reports he now has recovered the book. I do not yet know if the person who contacted me was the thief, or perhaps a dealer who was contacted by the thief. Sad.

In this issue ...



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Back Page:



New TT book
English History



2021 World Championships Houston, Texas USA November 23-29

The 2021 World Championship Finals made history in many great ways. It was the 1st time the USA hosted the event, 1st time outside of Europe or Asia, the 1st new World Finals format, the 50th anniversary of Ping Pong Diplomacy celebrated, with China's Lin Gaoyuan and Wang Manyu pairing respectively with USA's Lily Zhang and Kanak Jha in the Mixed Doubles, and a new ITTF President was elected, Petra Sorling (SWE), the 1st woman to serve as ITTF President. Congratulations to the Champions, organizers & volunteers for a truly historic event. Nice touch with the cowboy hats !



Fan Zhendong (CHN), Men's Singles Champion



Men's Doubles Gold: Matthias Falck /K.Karlsson (SWE)



Wang Manyu (CHN) Women's Singles Champion



Women's Doubles Gold: Wang Manyu/Sun Yingsha (CHN)



Mixed Doubles Gold: Wang Chuqin/Sun Yingsha (CHN)



Will Shortz Puzzle King

Will Shortz has been the New York *Times* Crossword Puzzle editor since 1993. He is a passionate collector, with over 25,000 puzzle books and magazines dating back to the 1500s! Another passion is Table Tennis - he is owner of the huge Westchester Table Tennis Center. A strong player as well as a dedicated TT collector, Will has kindly shared some photos for our readers to enjoy. Keep up the great work!



Will's spectacular Westchester Table Tennis Center, New York (USA), with 21,000 square feet (1951 sq. Meters) and 30 tables.



Will has discovered two names for the game that have previously not appeared in the Journal: Bing Bang, and Kwish-Kwash !





Large display case showing a variety of Will's collection items. He is especially interested in books and magazines. Note the rare game of Bing Bang, right middle, made by Clark & Sowdon (USA).



Another display case at his fabulous Westchester Table Tennis Center.



1902 book, *How to Win at Table Tennis* published by The Evening News, London. One of the more difficult early books to find.



Early Russian books, 1928-1930. The left & center books use the name Ping-Pong



Special issue of The Table Tennis Monthly magazine, on the 1956 World Championships

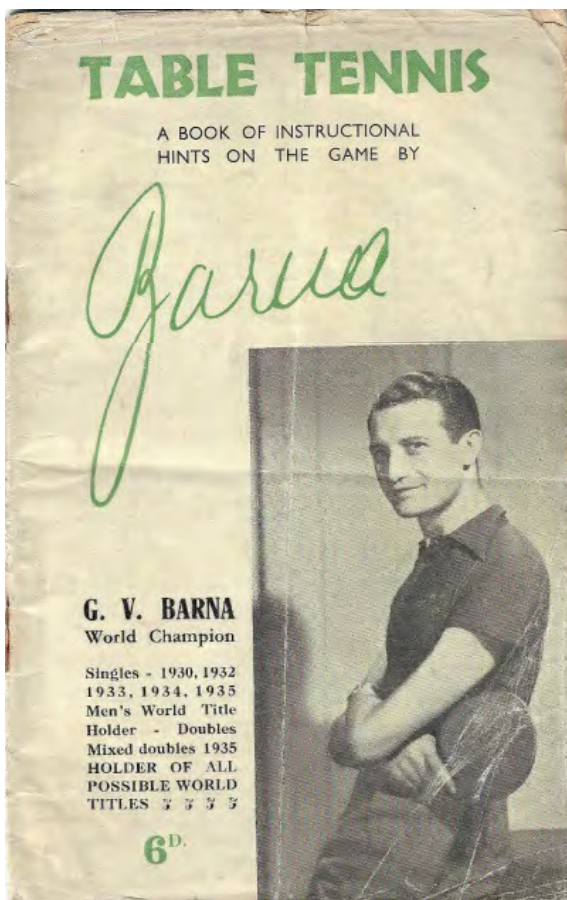


The Pyongyang Times, series of special issues for the 1979 World Championships, in English



1940-42 issues of Table Tennis Topics, the USTTA official magazine. Will is searching for pre-1960 issues

Pewter trophy, with engraving:
 The Stroller's Club Weekly
 Handicap Christmas Cup
 December 23rd, 1902
 Won by Louis Mansfield Ogden.
 Will adds that 'The Strollers was
 a club for wealthy socialites in
 New York City. Louis Mansfield
 Ogden (1867-1946) was a
 lawyer in New York. He and his
 wife were on the Carpathia, the
 ship that rescued survivors of
 the Titanic in 1913'.



1936 edition of Victor Barna's instructional book, *Table Tennis*



Fine medal from the 1937 World Championships in Baden. Inscribed T. III, in original box. Such medals use the abbreviation H or HE (Herren Einzel) for Men's Singles, D or DE for women, S for Swaythling ... The T is likely for Trost, meaning Consolation.

New Discoveries, Old Treasures

Fabio Marcotulli



Set of 6 magic lantern slides c. 1902



Silver pencil case c.1902



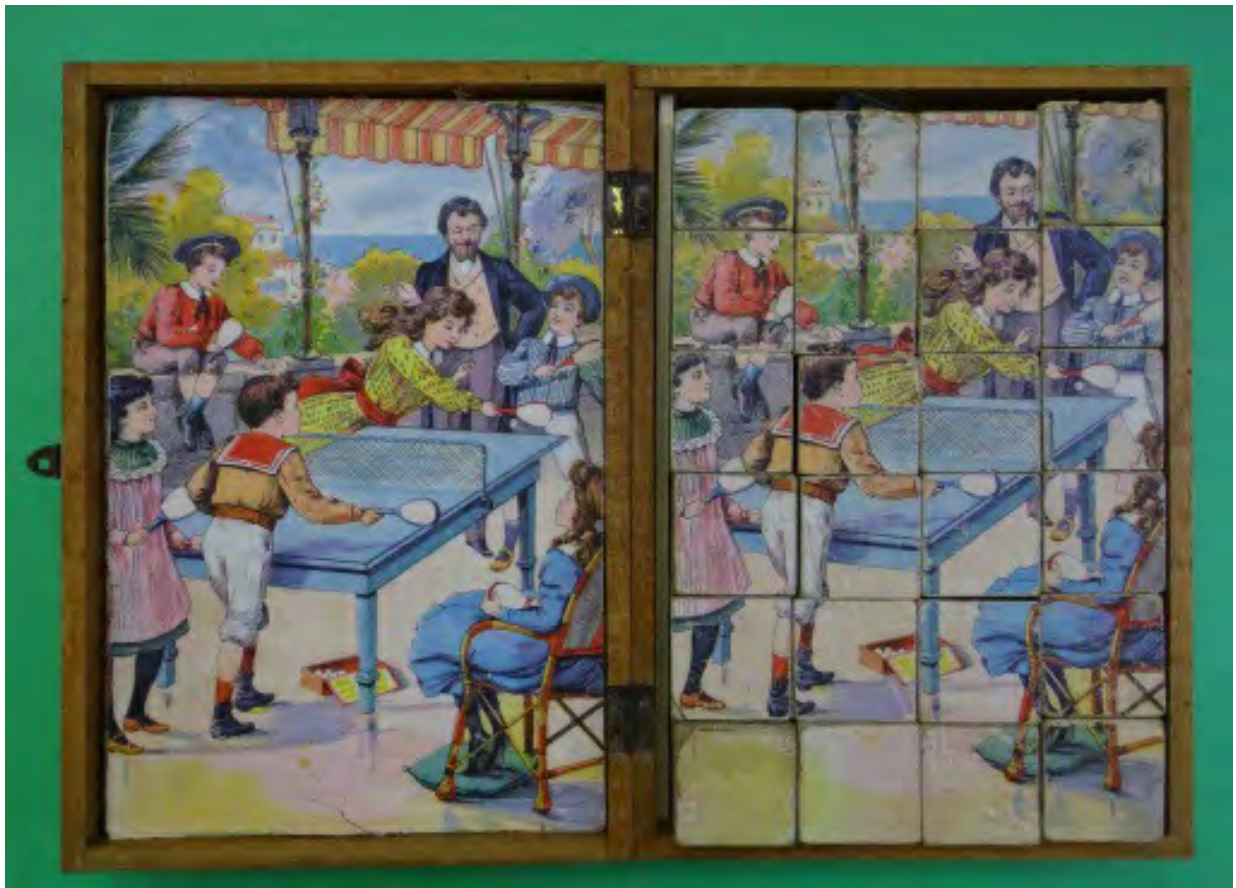
Rare Ayres cloth-covered ball
Unusual for a cloth-covered ball to have a logo - all others I have seen have no logo.



A combination of the unusual and beautiful, a Japanese net apparatus with a wonderful swirled design. 3 pieces interconnect and fit into the rounded bases, which stabilize the net without need of clamps. Two vertical pieces of the same swirled pattern hold the wide mesh net. I've not seen this before. Can any of our readers offer further information?



Fine French set in wood box with decorated net posts



French block puzzle



Old celluloid ball-making tools. The technique was described: “Celluloid hemispheres are placed in each half of the mould with a little solvent on each edge. The closed mould is then heated with steam to expand the air inside and produce a ball exactly round and 38mm diameter.”



Table Tennis boxed bet by Wylie Hill of Glasgow, with rare pair of Gossima style wood net posts, including the white belt strap for securing the net under the table.



Gossima or Ping Pong set



French Pim-Pam
Vellum drum
rackets, bulbous
handles. c.1902



Rare Stigma hardbats with playing card symbols:
 Heart: Erlau model, Spade: Match model.
 The clip from the Stiga book shows the Diamond:
 Tema model, and the most sought after model,
 Club: Barna I am confident Fabio will complete
 this set !



Angelica Rozeanu hardbat, very well preserved.



Mini Barna bat



ALFA Fushi thick sponge bat, Model Trude Prizzi c. 1950s





Japanese thick sponge bat, c. 1950s



Aluminum blade bat



Pair of Slazenger hardbats named after 1931 World Men's Singles Champion, Miklos Szabados (HUN)



Framed collection of Japanese medals



"1. Komp. Meister 1958 Frohj"



Trophy: 1959 - 1961 Melbourne



Above: Vienna bronze, cats playing table tennis
Left: Elvir Otto Austrian figurine 12 in.(30 cm)



Anatomic bat, plies extending into the handle



"Read All About It" – ADDENDA

by Alan Duke

This follow-up to the series catches up on a few items for which there wasn't room, or were discovered since publication of the relevant part. One article of particular interest is an interview with James Gibb, the only one that I have so far seen (and interesting in its confirmation of many of the 'facts' associated with him in previous articles, but just as interesting in what is not said - for example, there is no claim for his 'discovery' of the celluloid ball).

Baltimore Sun

11 January 1886

GAMES.—Go Bang, Tri Bang, Ambuscade, Bulls and Bears, Pilgrim's Progress, Table Tennis, Table Croquet, Floor Croquet, Parcheesi, Dominoes, Lotto, Chess, &c. **HITCHENS, 144 Lexington st.**

An early example of the use of the term 'Table Tennis', but, as with others of that era, probably not as we know the term (perhaps a board game?).

Liverpool Mercury

11 July 1889

Report of a Patent Application: "10,471, E. H. Banner, Liverpool, game called table tennis". This application, for an indoor game, was received on 3rd July 1889 from Edward Harmood Banner. As it was Abandoned on 25th June 1890 no details of the game are known, but it may well have been for another tiddlywink game, popular around that period.

Maitland Mercury (Australia)

5 August 1890

At the opening of the newly-formed Boys Club in West Maitland, "the boys set at once to amuse themselves with the entertainments provided; ... a new game, parlour tennis, had many votaries."

Brisbane Courier

20 June 1892

ROYAL RED ARCADE
SALE.
Winter Games, Parlour Croquet, Parlour Tennis, and dozens of others at ridiculous prices.

Queensland Times

24 December 1894

Cribb & Foote's
GRAND
Santa Claus
CARNIVAL,
GAMES! GAMES! GAMES!
AN FOLLOWS:—
Croquet (Lawn and Table), Race Game, Halma, Dominoes, Draughts, Fish-Pond, Flirting Couples, Old Maid and Bachelor, Tick-tock, Twaddles, Sociable Snake, Pilgrim's Progress, Flipperly-Flip, Table Tennis, Table Football, Louisa, Rival Doctors, Good Old Aunt, Nelly Bly, Kings and Queens, Klymo, Lotto, Counter Jumperv, and a great of others.

London Evening News

3 May 1901

PING PONG.

Its Inventor Relates the History of the Popular Game.

Mr. James Gibb, of the well-known engineering firm in Fenchurch-street, is the originator of the fascinating game that has bewitched English society. [TTC 67]

To an EVENING NEWS representative Mr. Gibb courteously told the story of the evolution of ping pong from the time when, some years ago, its mysteries and delights were known only to a few personal friends living at Croydon.

"I don't know that we began with champagne corks, as has been stated," said Mr. Gibb, "but we certainly played at first with rubber balls, which we soon superseded with celluloid, and these greatly improved the style of play, demanding more quickness, lightness, and dexterity of touch than their forerunners.

"We used to amuse ourselves in the evening sometimes, without any great pretensions to skill or expertness in play, and certainly without the remotest idea that we were the pioneers of a society craze.

"No. I am not an expert player myself—in fact, I seldom play at all now; my business engrosses all my time, and there are hundreds—perhaps thousands—of people who could easily give me points.

"The origin of the name? Well, I can't give you any elaborate dissertation on that point. The name is opposite [*sic*, apposite], and indicative of the sound produced by the contact of the ball with battledore and table, and, so, I suppose, was evolved out of the fitness of things. We got in the way of saying

'PING PONG'

as the ball sped backwards and forwards, and gradually the term came into use among us as a distinctive appellation.

"Yes, the popularity of the game is phenomenal. Of course, you understand I have no pecuniary interest in the sale or manufacture of ping pong, either direct or indirect, and I have never sought or asked for any.

"Mr. Jaques, of Hatton-garden, whose firm manufactures the game, is one of my intimate friends, and, despite the French cynic's dictum, I am pleased for his sake that the thing has caught on; beyond that its success or failure is of no interest to me.

"I notice that one of your contemporaries informs its readers I am an old Cambridge athlete; that is not quite correct. I used to favour athletics, and was at one time the long distance champion, but I am not a Cantab, though I have often attended the 'Varsity sports."

EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

At Messrs. Jaques's establishment our representative learnt that the demand for ping pong still far exceeds the possibilities of present supply. The enormous popularity of the game has revived an almost obsolete industry — the manufacture of battledores. So great and sudden has been the call for parchment and vellum that the legal profession has become alarmed, and rumours are in the air of a motion to restrict the profanation of these forensic requisites.

“Halma and tiddleywink,” Mr. Jaques remarked, “although immensely popular, are eclipsed by pingpong, which exercises its fascinations on all classes, and the demand for which is increasing by leaps and bounds.”

Westminster Gazette

14 December 1901

TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION FORMED.

... Devotees of the new pastime [ping-pong] will be interested to hear that a Table Tennis Association was formally established at the Aquarium yesterday, a representative number of gentlemen having promised to serve on the committee. It is whispered that a rival organisation—to be known as the Ping-Pong Association—is also in course of being—if, indeed, it has not already been—organised.

... From what the leading contestants [at the Aquarium last night] said, it may be assumed that an attempt will shortly be made to introduce the delights and perils of volleying—though if this is done, there will have to be a line drawn half way from the net to the edge of the table, beyond which the player will not be allowed to volley...

Westminster Gazette

9 January 1902

THE PING-PONG EPIDEMIC.

While disputes and discussions as to names, rules, and associations are still in progress, the game of ping-pong is spreading more rapidly than any of the other epidemics that are engaging our attention at present, and the players, though neither “flannelled” nor “muddied”—a contemporary has hinted that “cross-eyed” will shortly be an appropriate adjective ...—are growing more and more numerous. Some 300 of them have designs on the title of the Champion of England, and these gathered together to settle the matter, more or less amicably, at the Aquarium yesterday, and the settlement is not likely to be arrived at until late on Saturday night.

Since they were given an opportunity of playing in public they have been advancing rapidly. Still more new and weird varieties of racquets have been introduced—solid wood, perforated wood, aluminium, cork-faced, and rubber-faced ones among them. The little celluloid balls have been increased slightly in weight. Methods of play have become more scientific, and the gentle patting of the ball to and fro over the net has given way to the insidious service dear to the lawn-tennis player, and to the vicious “smash” that a weak return occasionally makes possible.

And even when tournaments are not in progress, the sound of the ping-pong will not be missed at the Aquarium, for, as was only to be expected, an “All-England Table-Tennis and International Games Club” has been started, and it will find its headquarters there.

Westminster Gazette

13 January 1902

THE TABLE-TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP.

The table-tennis enthusiasts who have followed the fortunes of the competitors in the All-England Championship at the Aquarium assembled in unprecedented force on Saturday evening to witness the final rounds; there was not a vacant chair and the unseated spectators massed themselves round the tables. Mr. H. S. Mahoney, ex-lawn-tennis champion of England, was but one of the many prominent tennis players watching the conclusion of the competition, whose presence was not improbably due to Mr. G. Greville's anticipated appearance in the final bout. And, true to expectation, the Chiswick Park player not only won the section which qualified him to figure in the semi-finals, but he vanquished Mr. Fuller in the penultimate round, and met and defeated Mr. Parker, the Queens's Hall champion, in the final. Yet the hero of the evening, who may be said to have brought to bear upon the “ping-pong” table the scientific principles which experience on the lawn-tennis court has ingrained, met with one reverse—at the hands of Mr. H. Portlock—which, under the scoring regulations prevailing, nearly resulted in disaster.

The myriad table-tennis supply manufacturers who have sprung up like mushrooms in the night, will have some cause to regard Mr. Greville's success with suspicion, for the champion disdained all the alluring inventions of “ideal” bats which are now on the market, and played throughout the tournament with a somewhat crude wooden bat, created, it is said, by his own hands. But he wielded this unconventional fan-shaped instrument with such dexterity and effect, persistently playing down the sides of the tables, never trying experiments—such as his opponent seemed to be doing—and maintaining throughout a very even pace, that the spectators were rewarded by witnessing a very sound and scientific display. Mr. Greville eventually defeated Mr. Parker by two games to love, the scores being 20–9 and 20–17, figures which, like those at lawn-tennis, give but little indication of the many protracted and exciting rallies which ensued.

Both players, by the way, played in white shirts, which are said to exercise some subtle influence over the direction of the ball, making it difficult to follow. If the game is professionally developed, which may safely be taken for granted, this point of dress will doubtless come under serious consideration—a “mourning” costume may probably become imperative.

There was no contest between the two beaten competitors in the semi-finals for the determination of third-prize winner, Mr. Brame Hillyard, who had previously made a very plucky and dashing fight with Mr. Parker, only suffering defeat after creeping very near to victory, scratching to Mr. Fuller, who was therefore awarded third place.

Though the premier cups have now been won, the tournament has still two days to run, and will be continued to-day, when the ladies are to be pitted against the gentlemen in what should prove a series of interesting matches. [TTC 67]

EARLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Albuquerque Daily Citizen, US 20 January 1902

PING-PONG'S FAD.

The Little Game of Indoor Tennis
that is all the Rage.

Kansas City has gone ping pong mad, says the Star. The fascinating game has taken such a hold here that dealers in ping pong sets are entirely unable to supply the demand. They are a week behind in their orders. Not even circulars or descriptive matter of the game are to be had. ...

Ping pong is an English game. It has London by the ears and is rapidly making headway in Canada. In the United States its progress has been somewhat slow, but it promises to be before long the most popular of all indoor games. ...

The title of "table tennis," under which the game is more commonly known on this side of the water, is fully descriptive. Practically all its rules and features follow tennis very closely. ...

And in thinking of ping pong one begins to wonder where he has seen the game before. Has it not been popular before, perhaps in a slightly different form? It would seem so. Most probably it is the old game of battledore and shuttlecock come to life again, with just a touch of tennis. It is a merger of the two games. The game that little English princes and ladies played centuries ago in their walled gardens, combined with one of the greatest outdoor sports ever devised, has given us the ping pong of the present. From present indications it should have a greater vogue than most of its predecessors.

Westminster Gazette

6 February 1902

... We learn ... that ping-pong makes a public *début* at Cambridge on Monday, when a tournament is to be held in the Corn Exchange. It has "caught on" with the undergraduates.

Can it be that, smarting under Mr. Kipling's sneer that footballers are "muddied oafs," the disconsolate students are drowning their pique in an orgy of ping-pong? We learn from other sources that a lady is writing a novel in which ping-pong forms the *leit-motif*. It is sarcastic and epigrammatic, and opens with the words "Ping-pong players are the milk puddings of life."

PING-PONG AT THE NATIONAL SPORTING CLUB. To the EDITOR of THE WESTMINSTER GAZETTE.

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of to-day, under the heading of "Ping-pong: 'Tis for £1,000," you state that £2,000 changed hands as the result of a match at the National Sporting Club on Tuesday night. As the misguided loser I must ask you to give equal publicity to the fact that the inference that I lost £2,000 is entirely incorrect. The stakes were £25 a-side only. I am loth to spoil a good story, but, as a relatively poor man and a quite indifferent ping-pong performer, the above paragraph might easily suggest to my friends symptoms of incipient insanity on my part. [TTH 90/39]

Thanking you in advance for allaying their fears, —I remain, yours very truly, DURHAM STOKES. [February 5.]

Falmouth Packet

16 May 1903

PING PONG or Table Tennis. LAKE & CO.
only keep one quality—the best. Prices from
2/- to 21/-. Loose racquets and balls always on
sale.—Advt.

Philadelphia Inquirer

8 December 1907

... In the summer of 1900 there were whispers of a new game called table tennis. A little later some of the papers of Europe printed descriptions of the new game with some pictures, and by Christmas time it was estimated that there was a ping pong outfit at work in two-thirds of the homes of the cities of Europe and America.

Never was there such a craze. Factories were at work day and night manufacturing the apparatus of the game. A man who patented a process for turning out perfectly globular ping-pong balls made a large fortune in a few months. Ping-pong was played in the saloons of Atlantic liners and on the floor of the Stock Exchange. The very street urchins in the East End of London were seen playing ping-pong on the pavement with home-made racquets cut out of soap box lids and balls of worsted. A paper was started devoted to the interests of the new game.

An article was written seven years ago by a devotee of the game in which he prophesied the adoption of ping-pong by the British nation as the "best of indoor pastimes."

Alas! where is ping-pong today? Only a week ago the writer, burrowing in an unused closet beneath the stairs, found it floored with a six-foot square of papier-mache, which he recognized as part of a table made especially for table-tennis. The game is dead, and no longer does the monotonous ping-pong of the little, crackly celluloid ball meet one's ear as one enters the hall door on a wet afternoon.

Northampton Mercury

2 December 1921

Christmas
Gifts at
BRICE'S
Come In and See the Toy Bazaar
BRICE & SONS, LTD., THE DRAPERY, NORTHAMPTON

PING PONG or Table
Tennis, including well-
finished bats, net, clamp,
and balls.
Price, each,
per set, 12/6, 7/6

Daily Mirror

6 November 1922

The Hon. I. G. S. Montagu, who is the pioneer of the game at Cambridge University, is another entrant [in the championships], and he is taking a prominent part in helping *The Daily Mirror* championships as a means of fostering the game. He hopes to secure a large number of entries from his university.

Daily Mirror

22 November 1922

"An apple a day keeps the doctor away; table tennis at night keeps the family right," is the amended proverb sent by Colonel Bartlett ... of the National Institute for the Blind, co-operating in the organisation of the championships in various parts of the country.



Russ Walker New Discoveries Old Treasures

Russ Walker (USA) is a long time member who specializes in early equipment and memorabilia. He shares some photos of his recent discoveries.



Spalding sets in wood box with beautiful color lithograph 1902



Early boxed set with fine vellum drum rackets, by John W. Iliff



Early photograph of a gentleman playing Table Tennis scene on an extended dining table. This shows a variation of the doubles game, in which both pairs hand off the racket after each shot !



Table Tennis - The Popular English Game, cork bats, flared handles



Russ suggests that these strung rackets are probably from the 1897 Pillow-Dex Tennis game by Parker Brothers.



Very rare single vellum racket by FAO Schwarz 1902. Known for their high quality toys, they also offered sets with strung rackets



McLoughlin Bros. (USA) ball retriever, with 3 related documents. The left document refers to an unusual name: 'Whisk-in-skie'

CHILDREN'S GAMES - PART 3

by Jorge Arango

This is the third article of my series about antique ping-pong/table tennis children's games.

MISFITS GAME

An amusing and exciting game for 2 to 6 players, for children of all ages and the family circle. Players form comic characters (Misfits) piece by piece from the 60 cards supplied (all interchangeable). This antique set is composed by 20 three-card puzzles of the Misfits game with illustrations of toys, people from different nations, etc., such as Baby, Ping-Pong, Boy Doll, House Maid, Dutch Doll, Dinah, Soldier, Golliwog, Pierrot, Red Riding Hood, Punch, N. American Indian, Turkish, Swiss, Scotch Boy, Grace Darling, Burmese, Boulogne Girl, Hollander and Norwegian. Believed to have been published by Faulkner in 1905.

I don't know the rules of the antique game, but adapting those of the modern game of Misfits, I think the rules I present here are similar to the real antique rules.

RULES

Before commencing play carefully separate characters into 60 pieces. Each new character must begin with a head and **players must play a card each turn if** at all possible.

- 1- Shuffle the cards and deal out seven to each player, leaving the remaining in a pile downwards from which to draw.
- 2- The starter is the player who shouts first that he has a head in his hand of cards. He does not say how many he has.
- 3- He plays his first card which must be a head, placing its face upwards in the centre of the table and draws a card from the pile to keep seven in his hand. (So every time a card is placed, another is drawn from the pile to replace it).
- 4- The next player can add a card with a body (any body) to fit under the head, or start another character with another head. If he cannot do either he has to "pass".
- 5- It does not matter how many characters are being built at a time, but pieces must be always be laid in the correct order: the head, body and legs. No matter how comical a character is formed.
- 6- The player who places the legs completed the character, gathers up the pieces and keeps them at one side for final scoring.
- 7- When the pile of cards is used up, play continues until all the cards have been placed.
- 8- The winner is the player who has completed the greater number of characters,

I think these cards can be played in several forms, different from Misfits, for example, as a set of simple puzzles.

The head of the ping-pong character is a ping-pong ball. Dimensions of the cards: width, 9.2 cm; height, 6.8 cm.

Ping-Pong and some other characters of the game:



J. W. S & S. BOXED SET

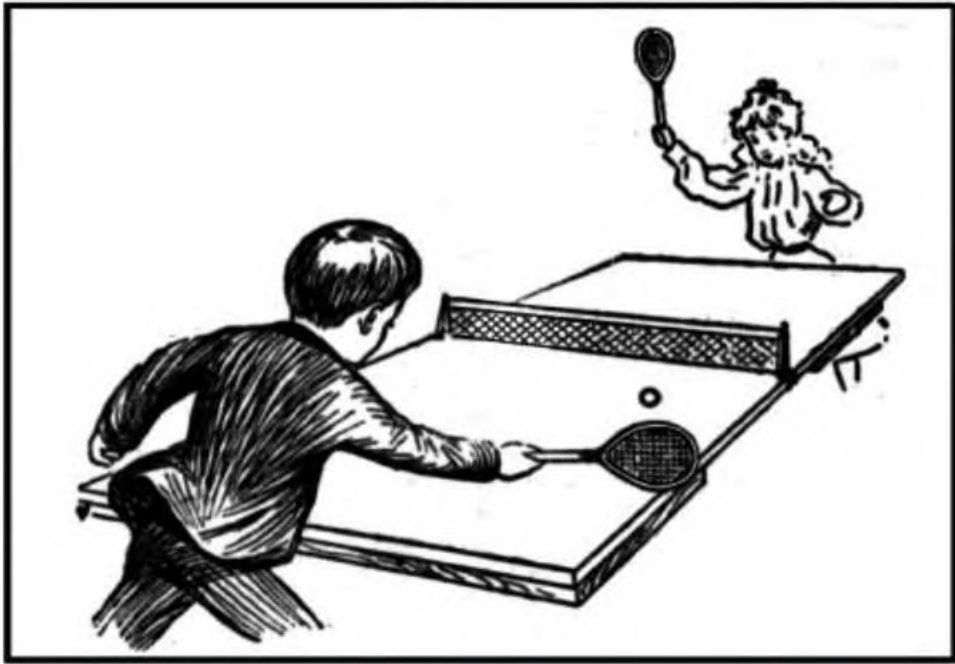
The game is for children. Dimensions of the box (cm): l., 31.2; w., 13.4; h., 4.2. The rackets are small, 23.5 x 12 cm, and the ball is 3.0 cm in diameter. The net height is only 10 cm. Inside the lid are the rules of the game, and there is a list of "games specially recommended for children."



CHILDREN PLAYERS (almost all the illustrations have been presented in TTC/TTH)







To be continued

Montagu Miscellanea - Part 2

by Alan Duke

TIMELINE (Continued)

- January 1937 Employed as journalist on *Daily Worker*; later Foreign Editor.
- February 1937 **Invited to become first President of ITTF.**
- 17 Dec. 1937 Chairman, *Daily Worker* editorial board.
- 1938 Member of Central Committee of Communist Party of Great Britain.
- Nov. 1938 Management of film production for Kino Films Ltd.
- 31 Dec. 1938 Last ann. return of Brunel & Montagu Ltd.
- October 1939 Moved to 'Knowle', Bucks Hill, near Kings Langley (Tel: Kings Langley 7702), opposite the 'Rose & Crown'.
- 26 Jan. 1940 Application for Exit Visa to visit Soviet Union for *Daily Worker* (permission refused by Home Office, 2 February).
- 14 May 1940 Secretary of State for War, Anthony Eden, broadcast an appeal for reasonably fit, British subjects between the ages of 17 and 65 to volunteer for the newly created Local Defence Volunteers (later christened the Home Guard). Montagu put his name forward within a few days of the appeal, firstly at Watford, his nearest town, and later at nearer villages.
- 11 June 1940 Kino Films Ltd voluntarily wound up.
- 25 July 1940 Possibly around this time recruited to GRU (Soviet military intelligence agency), Covername **INTELLIGENTSIA** (at the time of Russia-Germany non-aggression pact).
- 18 Jan. 1941 Registered at St Albans for military service, stating a preference for the RAF.
- 28 April 1941 Calling-up papers received.
- 9 May 1941 Enlistment notice withdrawn at intervention of MI5.
- 27 Mar. 1942 'Resigned' from position as Chairman of his local Invasion Committee.
- 26 Oct. 1942 Member of editorial staff of *Daily Worker*, following the lifting of the ban on publication imposed in January 1941 by the Home Office, after warnings were ignored that the paper's pacifist line contravened Defence Regulations.
- 1942 Working for Soviet Film Agency at Denham Studios.
- 2 Sept. 1943 Member of *Daily Worker* Executive.
- 21 July 1944 Application for Press Pass approved.
- 30 Oct. 1944 Elected to CPGB Executive Committee.
- 15 Sept. 1945 Covered Belsen military tribunal for *Daily Worker*.
- 23 Oct. 1945 Departed Croydon for Hamburg, as *Daily Worker* War Correspondent. Civilian correspondents were not yet permitted; ban on *Daily Worker* War Correspondent was removed on 10 September.



24.5.34:



Birmingham Daily Gazette 9 February 1935

[At the World Championships in London] The French had walked off as a protest against a decision given against them in a final game with Sweden. ... An excited knot of competitors gathered round the Hon. Ivor Montagu, who was interpreting and might almost have wished his mother, Lady Swaythling, had never given a table tennis trophy.

He appealed to them to respect the umpire's decision... Quarter of an hour later play had started again peaceably.

Hampshire Advertiser 16 February 1935

The Swaythling Cup

... The Swaythling Cup, which stands in table tennis for what the Davis Cup does in lawn tennis and the Ryder Cup in golf, was the gift of Lady Swaythling. One of her sons, the Hon. Ivor Montagu, is concerned with international table tennis administration as one of the two British representatives. ...

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23 February 1935

INDIAN "STAR" ARRIVES

Mr. J. Dass, the Indian table tennis champion and Middlesex champion, arrived in Birmingham from London yesterday to take part in the Midland Table Tennis Championship.

Mr. Dass, who led the All-India table tennis team for the world championship in London recently, told the *Gazette* that he is endeavoring to establish an Empire Table Tennis Federation, consisting of all table tennis teams in the British Empire.

He has referred the matter to the Hon. Ivor Montagu, the president of the English section of the International Table Tennis Federation, who agreed to his proposal. If he achieves his object, Mr. Dass said he would go to India to organise the first Empire Table Tennis Championship in India on the occasion of the King's Silver Jubilee [May 1935].

Mr. Dass is the only Indian member of the Advisory Council of the International Table Tennis Federation [1933-35].

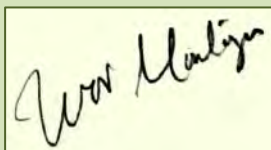
Bradford Observer 30 June 1936

TABLE TENNIS—By Ivor Montagu—*Pitman, 2s. 6d.*

PITMAN'S have published a new series of books for sports men and women offering wonderful value, the price being within the reach of everyone at 2s. 6d. per copy. It is the Games and Recreations Series. ...

Montagu Miscellanea

- 1 Dec. 1945 Covered Nuremberg War Crimes Trial for *Daily Worker* (until relieved on 2 January, suffering from pneumonia).
- 30 Mar. 1946 Elected to National Council of British Soviet Society.
- 5 June 1946 Application for Exit Permit for Europe for *Daily Worker* (Journalist and Film Technician).
- 16 Sept. 1946 Completed Enquiry Form regarding Military Permit representing *Daily Worker*
- 30 Sept. 1946 Left Croydon for European tour (Berlin, Vienna, Budapest, Bucharest) for *Daily Worker* (returned 27 November).
- 1947-48 Associate Producer at Ealing Studios, with Michael Balcon.
- 31 Mar. 1948 New British passport issued (843270), previous one (428132) having been lost.
- 1948 Member of Secretariat and Bureau of World Council of Peace (until 1967; Presidential Committee from 1969-72).
- 5 Jan. 1949 Assistant Producer at Denham Studios.
- April 1949 Delegate at 1st World Peace Conference (Paris and Prague).
- May 1949 Elected member of Executive of the British Peace Committee.
- 1952 Awarded Order of Liberation, 1st Class (Bulgaria).
- 1 Oct. 1952 First visit to China (World Peace Council).
- 1 May 1959 Awarded Lenin Peace Prize.
- 1963 Awarded Order of Pole Star (Mongolia).
- 1964 Member of Writers Guild.
- 10 April 1967 Living at Old Timbers, Verdure Close, Bucknalls Lane, Garston, Watford.
- April 1967 **Appointed Founder-President of ITTF** (following retirement after 40 years as President).
- 1968 Honorary Member of ACT.
- Late 1960s Summers at Digro, Rousay, Orkney.
- 1970 Honorary Member of Association of Cine and Television Technicians.
- 1970 **'The Youngest Son' published** (Lawrence & Wishart)
- 1970 Awarded Lenin Centenary Commemoration Medal.
- 1972 Awarded Dimitrov Anniversary Medal.
- 1973 Awarded Mongolian Peace Medal.
- 1973 President of SCR (until 1982).
- 1983 Awarded Dimitrov Centenary Medal.
- 1984 Awarded Star of Int. Friendship (GDR).
- 1984 Inducted into International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.
- 5 Nov. 1984 Back at Old Timbers, Verdure Close, died peacefully in his sleep, a few weeks after his wife (2 October), leaving £137,138.
- 1995 **Inducted into the ITTF Hall of Fame.**



Mr. Montagu's book on "Table Tennis," the fastest of all ball games, gives every item of interest to the player, whether he is an amateur who plays on the dining-room table or a budding entrant for international championships. The author describes the equipment and methods of play in a manner that will enable every enthusiast to develop his own style and technique on the right lines.

July 1936: "MONTAGU has apparently written a book on table tennis."

Clitheroe Advertiser 27 November 1936

**"Table Tennis," by Hon. Ivor Montagu.
Price 2s.6d.**

The striking dust cover of Ivor Montagu's treatise on table tennis bears a representation of that well-known equestrian sculpture "Physical Energy." Having explored between the covers I am amazed at the E.T.T.A. chairman's mental energy, which has covered a wide field, from the birth of the game to last year's world championships, together with a discourse on the rules and tactics, in all occupying over 130 pages. No fewer than 72 photographs and diagrams appear, and strip photographs of typical strokes of past and present masters of the game are worth studying.

As befits a man versed in the film industry, Mr. Montagu uses his strip photographs to explain stroke production...

7.1.37: Metropolitan Police report:

During the past three years he has been well known in the film industry as an associate producer of Gaumont British Picture Corporation Ltd., and assisted Alfred Hitchcock, the well known director, in the making of several full length films ...

Montagu is still keenly interested in many extremist organisations and frequently acts as chairman at their meetings. ...

Daily Herald 28 January 1938

NON-PLAYING captain of the British table tennis team playing in London [at the World Championships] is **Ivor Montagu**, bound for Spain to film life behind the lines.

Brother of banker Lord Swaythling, Montagu founded the Film Society and as a boy once discovered an extinct monster on his own.

31.1.38: Daily Worker report:

[12th World Championships in London]

The "Daily Worker" said that with the success of the recent Table Tennis Tournament, and his visit to Spain for filming purposes, MONTAGU has been often in the news lately,

Montagu Miscellanea

but the papers do not mention his exceptional abilities as a journalist as witnessed by the many articles he writes for their paper.

29.11.38: Metropolitan Police report:

... In connection with these Russian films, MONTAGU, who is a capable Russian linguist, generally writes the English dialogue which is superimposed on the films to make them intelligible to English film-goers.

He is a skilled technician in every branch of the film production industry. He is well regarded in the trade and often used a camera to photograph demonstrations in and around London.

He is the chairman of the English Table Tennis Association, 64 High Holborn, W.C.1.

Midland Daily Telegraph 31 March 1939

The chief guest at last night's function [the annual dinner of the Coventry and District Table Tennis League] was the Hon. Ivor Montagu (Chairman of the English Table Tennis Association and of the International Table Tennis Federation).

In speaking of table tennis as a game with a world-wide influence, [he] remarked that the International Federation could now boast that it had at least one country affiliated in every Continent of the world.

He gave several instances of the game's increasing popularity, mentioning the fact that it had obtained such a hold in China that soldiers in the Chinese

army were known to have carried their own tables about with them when engaged in various field operations. In Spain, too, its popularity was so great that he himself knew of instances where tables had been used for spreading out maps used in connection with the civil war and of table tennis halls being used as places of refuge during bombing raids.

"There can be no doubt that table tennis has become part of the general life of the whole world, and if we can help to maintain the many friendships which have been made amongst other nations by means of table tennis we shall have accomplished a really fine work," he added. ...

23.1.40: Letter from Montagu to the Passport Office:

I have been requested by the newspaper "Daily Worker" to undertake an assignment as special correspondent in the U.S.S.R. for a period, during the situation created by the present hostilities in northern Europe, and I am adjusting my engagements to make this possible.

25.1.40: Application for Grant of Exit Permit:

My professional speciality is as film producer, film director and film scenarist, though concurrently with this I engage in considerable and various "free-lance" writing work, including special reporting such as that referred to in the Application. Except for this latter I am at this date not employed.

26.1.40: Extracts from Ivor Montagu's Application Form:

APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF EXIT PERMIT.

PARTICULARS OF PASSPORT OR IDENTITY DOCUMENT.

(A) Number ... 428.132

(B) Place of Issue... Foreign Office, London

(C) Date of Issue... 30 March 1938

(D) Date of Expiry... 30 March 1942

1. Name (IN FULL) MONTAGU, Ivor Goldsmid James

(Surname in block capitals.)

2. Nationality British

3. Place of birth... London

Date of birth... 23 April 1904

Height... 5 feet... 11 1/2 inches.

Colour of eyes... Brown ... Colour of hair... Dark Brown

Visible distinguishing marks

Ivor J. Montagu

26.1.40: Memo from B.4.a. to Home Office:

His main interests have been in films and publicity and he has done a great deal of work for the Communist Party Propaganda department. As a Journalist he has a long association with the Daily Worker and was elected Chairman of the Editorial Board at the end of 1937. Since the war, and especially since the out-break of fighting in Finland he has come out uncompromisingly in support of the Soviet Union, and has written in the Daily Worker, the Labour Monthly and World News and Views on this subject.

In our opinion a Communist Party member of his standing should not be allowed to leave the country at present, nor is there any good journalistic reason for his visit, as the Daily Worker can already get all the material it needs from the Soviet Union. It does not seem desirable to allow the Communist Party to have a courier travelling from this country to Moscow. There can be no doubt that the Party would use MONTAGU for this purpose.

Belfast Telegraph

16 February 1940

Versatile Young Gentleman.

MR. MONTAGU was anxious to go to Russia as the representative of "The Daily Worker," but the Home Office had taken the view that he had not been able to show that his visit was in the national interest. This Left Wing brother of Lord Swaythling and descendant of a very wealthy family of Jew bankers, is a remarkably versatile young gentleman.

He is a Fellow of the Zoological Society, ... dabbled in journalism, produced films, translated

French plays, and engaged in a host of other activities.

At table tennis he is a top notcher, and has captained the English team in international matches. He has made a collection of rare rats and mice, for which he has scoured the Balkans, the Hebrides and the Caucasus. He was also founder of the Film Society which has exhibited, among other unusual films, several banned ones from Russia.

Now 36 years old, he has held Communist views for a long time. In 1927 he married Miss Eileen Hellstern, then a typist, his parents being unaware of the wedding until some days after the ceremony.

25.5.40: Watford Police report on Montagu at Knowle, Bucks Hill:

He is a leading Communist and recently spoke at a Communist Meeting at the Watford Town Hall. He is also believed to address meetings in Hyde Park.

He rents the above house from a Mr Spiers of Sarratt at £2 per week and has been living there since just after the out-break of war. He is in possession of a car and appears to have plenty of money. He describes himself as a playwright and journalist and was recently at a conference at Bournemouth for four days. His wife told a local resident that they were motoring to Bournemouth and when asked how they got the petrol, replied that her husband could get plenty.

Montague's wife is believed to be English. She has a daughter, Rona, aged 18 years, of a previous marriage. This girl is employed at Sellicks Motors of Watford. She frequents the Rose and Crown P.H. Bucks Hill with various men including soldiers. She has been heard to say that her grandmother was Lady Swathling and lived at Kensington Court, London. She was also heard to say that her mother did not get much sleep as her father got up at all hours of the night.

He is a keen table tennis enthusiast and is believed to be an official of the Table Tennis Association.

Village gossip is that his proper name is the Hon. Montague SWATHLING and the local people are very suspicious of him especially after his speech at the Watford Town Hall.

TOP SECRET VENONA

VENONA was the codename allocated to a Top Secret combined US-UK project ('The Greatest Secret of the Cold War' according to the sub-title of Nigel West's book) created to decrypt and analyse messages passing between the Soviet Foreign Ministry and its missions abroad. This material was declassified in 1995, although the redaction policies of the two countries differed. This results in blanked-out sections in US (online) copies of the documents below, that content shown here as shaded from the complete UK version.

All messages below were from London to Moscow, addressed to DIRECTOR [Chief of GRU, Soviet Military Intelligence]. The earlier messages were from BARCH [Simon Davidovitch Kremer; official title Secretary to the Soviet Military Attaché in London, 1937-46], the last three from BRION [Colonel (Lt. Col. In the final message!) Ivan A Sklyarov, Soviet Military and Air Attaché in London, 1940-46]. Each report included as much of the message that could be decrypted (with missing 'groups' of text identified with an explanation when decryption was unsuccessful for any number of reasons), together with Footnotes and Comments, based on information from other sources. Bold text in square brackets was added by the interpreter, italics by me.

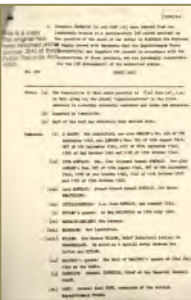
25.7.40 (No. 812) The first paragraph of this first message introducing INTELLIGENTSIA is shown in full, but the later messages have been transcribed for ease of reading.

THE HON. IVOR MONTAGU (COVERNAME INTELLIGENTSIA) AND THE X GROUP (1940)

I have met representatives of the X GROUP [GRUPPA IKS] . This is [a] IVOR MONTAGU [MONTEGYu][ii] (brother of Lord MONTAGU [iii]), the well-known local communist, journalist and lecturer. He has [1 group unidentified] contacts through his influential relatives. He reported that he had been detailed to organise work with me, but that he had not yet obtained a single contact. I came to an agreement with him about the work and pointed out the importance of speed. He (INTELLIGENTSIA [INTELLIGENTSIA][iv]) reported the following: [Summarised below]



- HITLER'S speech [v] will not make a great impression here. The press has taken it unfavourably. ... INTELLIGENTSIA considers that there is an anti-SAUSAGE-DEALER mood in the army and the knowledge [of this] is so strong that the Conservative Party is afraid of risking talking about peace. They might start talks if Britain were to suffer some serious defeat of if the SAUSAGE-DEALERS start effective bombing. CHURCHILL continues to stay the main figure of the war in the SAUSAGE-DEALERS' eyes ...
- Generals IRONSIDE [x] and GORT [xi] were removed from the leadership ... [Another source had provided further details the previous day].



Note: [a] The translation of this could possibly be "[In] this is", i.e. in this group is; the plural "representatives" in the first sentence is certainly correctly recovered and seems odd otherwise.

Comments: [ii] IVOR MONTAGU: Hon. Ivor Goldsmid Samuel MONTAGU. See also LONDON's Nos. 895 of 16th August 1940, 987 of 6th September 1940, 1099 of 2nd October 1940, 1149 of 11th October 1940 and 1165 of 15th October 1940.

[iii] Lord MONTAGU: Stuart Albert Samuel MONTAGU, 3rd Baron SWAYTHLING.

[iv] INTELLIGENTSIA: i.e. Ivor MONTAGU, see comment [ii].

[v] HITLER's speech: to the REICHSTAG on 19th July 1940.

[vi] SAUSAGE-DEALERS: the Germans.

[x] General IRONSIDE, Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

[xi] General Lord GORT, commander of the British Expeditionary Force.

[Covername INTELLIGENTSIA: When Nigel West in *Venona* identified "for the first time the real names of several important Soviet British spies", members of the X Group (a GRU network operating in London), he allocated INTELLIGENTSIA to Professor John Haldane, and NOBILITY to Ivor Montagu (commenting that the latter is appropriate given his background). Either covername could equally have applied to either person (Haldane's father being Lord Haldane), but the messages below refer to INTELLIGENTSIA delivering material from Professor Haldane. I believe also that the statement that INTELLIGENTSIA "lives in the provinces" is further support for this being Montagu (Haldane was at Fitzroy Road, near Regent's Park in Central London). Montagu's Lenin Peace Prize citation even described him as "a progressive representative of the Western intelligentsia"! It could just be that West's book was published prior to the release of non-redacted copies of the relevant documents. Haldane (born in Oxford on 5 November 1892), known to Montagu from his college days, and later as a fellow contributor to the *Daily Worker*, was possibly later recruited to the Soviet cause (with his much closer military connections), but not as INTELLIGENTSIA (or NOBILITY) !]

16.8.40 (No. 895) INTELLIGENTSIA, PROFESSOR HALDANE AND THE X GROUP

1. INTELLIGENTSIA has not yet found the [or any] people in the military [War Office Finance Department?]. He has been given the address of one officer but he has not found him yet. He has promised to [repeatedly?] deliver documentary material from Professor HALDANE [ii] who is working on an Admiralty assignment concerned with submarines and their operation. I have taken the opportunity of pointing out to the X GROUP that we need a man of a different calibre and one who is bolder than INTELLIGENTSIA. Comment [ii]: Professor J.B.S. HALDANE, then Professor of Biometry, University College, LONDON.

6.9.40 (No. 987) INTELLIGENTSIA, PROFESSOR HALDANE, NOBILITY AND THE X GROUP

2. INTELLIGENTSIA has handed over a copy of Professor HALDANE'S report to the Admiralty on his experience [or experiment] relating to the length of time a man can stay underwater. However he does not deny the main point that for a month he has not been in touch with the British Army colonel picked out for work with us although the latter does come to LONDON. I have told the X GROUP via NOBILITY [viii] to give us someone else because of this [or to do this]. INTELLIGENTSIA lives in the provinces [ix] and it is difficult to contact him.

Comments [viii]: Unidentified covername.

[ix]: At this time Ivor MONTAGU was living in WATFORD.

2.10.40 (No. 1099) BREAKING OF A SOVIET CODE REPORTED BY INTELLIGENTSIA ...

2. INTELLIGENTSIA has reported that the X GROUP has reported to him that a girl working in a government establishment noticed in one document that the British had broken some Soviet code or other [Top Secret] and apparently she noticed in a/the document the following [words:] "Soviet Embassy in Germany". I stated that this was a matter of exceptional importance and he should put to the group the question of developing this report [further].

11.10.40 (No. 1149)

3. INTELLIGENTSIA confirms that the British really do render delayed-action bombs safe by freezing [the Russian term may be taken literally or metaphorically] the bombs' exploder mechanism.

15.10.40 (No. 1165)

2. INTELLIGENTSIA has reported [the following] as a result of a conversation with an officer of the Air Ministry:

The shortage of trained night navigators is confirmed by the fact that the SAUSAGE-DEALERS have not used strong forces of aircraft in night air-raids on Britain. He stated that the British pilots who fly by night over Germany have an extra four months' training in addition to the usual six months' training. Apparently when there has been no [anti-aircraft] fire the SAUSAGE-DEALERS have been bombing from a height of up to 5,000 metres and at a speed of 290 kph, and from 6,000-7,000 metres at a speed of 400 kph when there has been no firing. He considers that the SAUSAGE-DEALERS proceed towards the target along a radio beam [highly classified].

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4.11.40 (No. 1255)

WAR DAMAGE REPORTS FROM:

1. INTELLIGENTSIA [i] has reported that his friend, a serviceman in a LIVERPOOL regiment [a] which is stationed in North WALES, [has handed over or is handing over] ... [47 groups unrecovered]... German exercise, with dive-bombers taking part. Note [a]: Presumably a regiment recruited in LIVERPOOL. However, "The LIVERPOOL Regiment" is also possible ... and it might be a regiment with LIVERPOOL in the title ...

Comment [i]: Hon. Ivor MONTAGU, British film producer and journalist.

[Whilst Montagu would appear not to have come up to the expectations of his handler (*rezident*), he did none-the-less provide some important snippets of information. As with a number of his contemporaries, he could be labelled an ideological spy. He was strongly anti-fascist and in all ways very pro-Russian. But the unquestioning following of Russian doctrines overlooked the German-Russian anti-aggression pact of August 1939 (something Hitler overlooked too in June 1941!), with the resulting possibility that any information provided to Russia, not strictly a treasonous offence, could well have been shared with Germany, a rather different matter].

5.11.40: Memo on Montagu from B.4.a to Box 500:

His activities have been recorded on our files since 1926. He has repeatedly been engaged upon various enterprises connected with the film-industry including the introduction of Soviet films into this country, and the Association of Ciné Technicians, which is or was a sort of Communist-controlled Trade Union for film-workers.

He has also been a keen supporter of the Society for Cultural Relations with Russia and the Friends of the Soviet Union, which he used partly as a means of furthering an Anti-War Campaign in 1933.

As a journalist, the Honourable Ivor has long been associated with the Daily Worker, and was elected to the Editorial Board of that paper in 1937, while he has done a good deal of work for the Propaganda Department of the Communist Party. ...

21.11.40: Watford Police report:

The "KNOWLE" is well furnished, and MONTAGUE has four wireless sets. These are fitted in various rooms.

He is always very keen to listen to the Foreign News, especially at 20.00, 12 midnight, and 08.00 hours.

He has a wooden hut at the bottom of the garden, which is used as a library, and is well stocked with books.

The hut is fitted with a telephone extension, and he has a wireless set in the hut.

He is in possession of a "Ford" 10 Motor Car... He goes to London daily, and is described as a Journalist and is interested in the Films.

18.1.41:

MONTAGU registered at St. Albans for military service. He passed his medical and stated he would prefer to serve in the Air Force. He has not been called up yet, but seems anxious to be so.

says "I will not fight", is not in any way advancing the remedy. That is why I say "Don't refuse Military Service".'

26.4.41: Report from Chief Constable of West Sussex of a speech at Horsham:

Ivor MONTAGUE said 'I myself have registered, and I am ready to join up, and I hope if I get in I shall make a 'ruddy' good soldier. What I want to do is to influence the others. I don't believe in the least, in this business of individual action, which does not advance your cause. An individual who

18.4.41:

Memo from B.4a to West Sussex Constabulary:

The Hon. Ivor Goldsmid Samuel MONTAGU.

Born: 23:iv:04 at Kensington.

British.

Height: 6 ft.

Stout, well built.

Dark brown eyes.

Black, thick, curly hair.

Very round, full face.

Clean shaven.

Hooked nose.

Broad-shouldered.

Jewish appearance.

Generally rather dirty and untidy.

Montagu Miscellanea

28.4.41: Result of telephone check:

"Ivor MONTAGUE has had his calling-up papers for the 9th."

6.5.41: Memo from B.41 to B.1 on speech of 26 April: "This also shows MONTAGU's attitude towards his calling-up."

8.5.41 Letter from B.1 to Ministry of Labour:

We have considerable information about this man, dating back to 1926, and it appears most undesirable that he should be allowed to serve in H.M. Forces. If therefore, he is not already in the Army, we propose to apply for the necessary authority for the permanent suspension of his calling up notice.

9.5.41: Result of conversation with the Ministry of Labour and National Service:

Spoke with Mr. Harmer, who told me that [Montagu] was due to report as an armourer trainee, in the R.A.F. to-morrow. I explained that after consideration it had been decided to prevent this man from enlisting in the Army, and that certainly therefore he would not be [acceptable?] to the R.A.F. ...

9.5.41: In a phone call, Montagu stated "that he had had a telegram to say that his 'enlistment notice' had been cancelled (much laughter)."

24.5.41: Confirmation from Ministry of Labour and National Service to B.1:

With reference to your letters of the 8th and 21st May, relating to the Honourable Ivor Montagu, this is to let you know that the enlistment notice directing him to report to the R.A.F. was withdrawn and that the necessary steps have been taken to ensure that he will not be called up for service in any branch of the Armed Services.

25.6.41: An M.I.5 memo summarised the above, and then continued:

... It is considered very possible that in the event of his not being called up under the [National Services (Armed Forces)] Act, he may try and enlist in the Army as a volunteer.

In view of the foregoing and as this man's presence in any branch of the Services is considered to be highly undesirable from the Internal Security point of view, I should be glad if

arrangements could be made to prevent him from being accepted if he should try and enlist in any way.



19.7.41:

Following the change in the Party line, due to the war with Russia [Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June, despite their non-aggression pact], several publications have been with-drawn from sale at all bookshops controlled by the Party [including Ivor MONTAGUE's book 'Roll on Mississippi'.

December 1941:

Ivor MONTAGU's principal interest at the moment is films. He is directing, arranging and even showing films, particularly Soviet films ...

Recently [he] has been made responsible for editing Russian film material supplied by the Soviet War News Film Agency, and this would account for his association with Wembley Film Studios Ltd.

22.2.42: Extract from letter from a Captain in the S.O.E., local to Montagu's home:

The [Hon. Ivor Montague] whom I am informed is working at Denham Studios, has recently taken a small house at Buckshill, Chipperfield, and been appointed local representative for the Invasion Committee of the district, and as such has access to a great deal of information in respect of accommodation, stores, etc. in the area.

Montagu Miscellanea

It is because there appears to be some doubt as to his qualifications and back-ground for a job of this kind that I am writing to ask whether you know anything about the fellow ...

3.3.42: Memo from Roger H Hollis to Regional Officer ADF:

I have just been told that that particularly unpleasant Communist, the Hon. Ivor MONTAGUE, ... has been placed on the Invasion Committee for the district. I am not sure how important this is, or whether the Invasion Committee has access to any very secret information, but I am on principle inclined to be opposed to allowing Communists to assume the guise of patriotism, when in fact they are still fully prepared to attack the well being of this country. This is certainly so in the case of MONTAGUE.

21.3.42: Reply from Major Dixon (Box No.500, Cambridge) to Hollis (Box No.500, Oxford):

The Chief Constable agrees with me that MONTAGUE shouldn't be

on the Committee in spite of the fact that he is said to be a very keen and energetic worker, and he has therefore made arrangements with the Chairman of the Committee that he shall write to MONTAGUE stating that he has decided that the Chairmen of Sub-Committees (of which MONTAGUE is one) must be persons who either work or reside permanently in the district. As MONTAGUE is away from Bucks Hill during the day, he will be asked to resign.

30.3.42: Memo from Hertfordshire Police to Box 500:

I respectfully report that the Hon. Ivor MONTAGU of "Knowle" Bucks Hill, Sarratt, has now resigned his position as Chairman of the [Sub-] Committee and Deputy Food Controller of the Sarratt Invasion Committee.

He is still listed as a "helper", but he is not now in a position to obtain any information of importance.

5.4.42: Letter from Montagu to the Lord President, House of Commons:

I volunteered for the Home guard within a few days of Mr. Eden's original appeal for it under the title of Local Defence Volunteers. I volunteered in Watford, the nearest town to me ...

In spring 1941, I was called up with my age group and was accepted for the R.A.F. My enlistment notice was cancelled (by instruction of M.I.5, so I was informed by the Ministry of Labour branch concerned) within a few hours of leaving to report to the depot assigned to me.

During this year, my name being put forward by fellow villagers for the purpose, I have been serving on the local Invasion Committee, but I am of course anxious to give more, and more active service, either at home or abroad. I would indeed appreciate your advice respecting the right to which you referred ... in your speech. ["all have a right and duty to do everything they usefully can under responsible direction to defend their hearth and home and their native land" (Sir John Anderson, House of Commons, March)]

11.4.42: Memo from M.I.5 to War Cabinet:

We have records of MONTAGU since 1926. In 1938 he was elected a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. ...

He has, as you no doubt know, been a prominent speaker at Communist gatherings all over the country. He was also the author of a pamphlet attacking the Duke of Hamilton [in connection with the arrival of Hess in this country], on which the Duke brought proceedings and obtained an apology in February 1942. ...

11.4.42: Secretariat Notes:

The basis for our application to have his calling-up notice cancelled is founded on MONTAGU's whole career, plus his own statement at a meeting at Horsham on the 21st April, 1941.

Montagu Miscellanea

1.5.42: Memo from F.2.a. to Brigadier Allen:

Ivor MONTAGU ... is one of the Communist Party's chief propagandists and they make good use of him. ... One of his functions is to listen to foreign broadcasts, especially the Moscow broadcasts, and to report on them to the Propaganda Department at the Communist Party headquarters. ...

We have absolute evidence that MONTAGU is one of the inner ring of the Communist Party leaders.

Montagu followed the normal Communist Party line of approach to the war [pacifism] until the German invasion of Russia. Since then he has supported the Government's war effort and has publicly expressed his anxiety to join the forces or the Home Guard. In private discussion however he has admitted that he does not wish to serve.

MONTAGU's only loyalty is to the communist cause. His association with the Russians in this country and his very close contact with the leaders of the C.P.G.B. make it in my opinion inadvisable that he should be allowed into any position of trust or responsibility. Any information of importance that came into his possession would undoubtedly be passed on.

15.9.45:

ON THE SPOT
THE first war correspondent of the Daily Worker, Ivor Montagu, has taken up his duties and will report the Belsen Trial which opens on Monday.

23.10.45: Metropolitan Police (Special Branch) report (Croydon Airport):

Ivor Goldsmid Samuel MONTAGU, ... left this airport at 8 a.m. today for Hamburg. He was travelling on military documents as an official war correspondent.

1.12.45:

Ivor Montagu
Our Reporter at the
Nuremberg Trial

1.10.46 Letter from the Russian Embassy to the Editor of the Daily Worker [providing the answer to the S.I.S. memo below (26 November)]:

I am writing to inform you that the Soviet Authorities have granted permission to Mr. Ivor MONTAGU, a correspondent of the DAILY WORKER, to visit Berlin, Vienna, Budapest and Bucharest. The Soviet Authorities in these places have been accordingly informed.

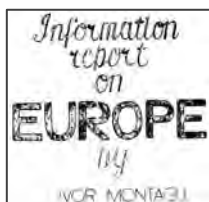
26.11.46: Memo from H A R Philby (S.I.S.) to B.1.a. with a report from their representative in Austria:

"They further state that his was the first case in the memory of Public Relations in which no help was asked of Public Relations in getting him the necessary clearances, transport, etc., and add that it is, therefore, a fair assumption that he had good contacts with the Soviet Authorities. Public Relations found him intelligent and agreeable, and an expert at ping-pong. He was only a very little in Public Relations Mess, and appeared to have plenty of contacts in Vienna.

27.11.46: Metropolitan Police (Special Branch) report (Croydon Airport):

Ivor Goldsmid Samuel MONTAGU, subject of Special Branch Suspect Book, Passport No. 428132 issued 30.3.38, arrived at this port today from Prague.

He stated he had recently visited Bucharest, Sofia, Budapest and Prague and was now returning to his home address...



December 1946:

I have just returned from a two months visit abroad, travelling in Czechoslovakia, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria, and am here setting down what I hope will be useful information.

From **IVOR MONTAGU**
Daily Worker Special
Correspondent

November 1947: Extract from ballot paper for 1947/48 Executive Committee of SCR:

<u>CANDIDATE.</u>	<u>NOMINATOR</u>	<u>SECONDER.</u>
Ivor MONTAGU (Asso: Producer, Ealing Studios. Author, Leader writer & Foreign Corres; Chairman, English Table Tennis Assn;)	J. LAWSON	W. WINTER.

29.3.48: Metropolitan Police (Special Branch) Report (Northolt Airport):

With reference to Northolt report of 28th January 1948, regarding Zoltan MECHLOVITS:

The above, who appears to be alone, left this airport for Prague at 9.51 a.m., to-day. He was travelling on Hungarian passport No.40817, issued Budapest on 16th January 1948, which shows that he was born in Budapest on 16th October 1891. He gave his last address in this country as "Knowle", Bucks Hill, Kings Langley, Herts. address of Ivor Montagu.

MECHLOVITS was seen off at the aerodrome by Ivor G.S. MONTAGU.

20.10.48: Daily Worker article:

Scott of the Antarctic
DURING the 18 months since he left the Daily Worker staff, Ivor Montagu has been working at Ealing Studios on the scenario of the film, "Scott of the Antarctic."
The film is now finished and has been chosen for presentation at the Royal Command Performance on November 29.

8.2.49: Metropolitan Police (Special Branch) Report (Northolt Airport):

The undermentioned person [Ivor MONTAGU, Film Producer, Company Director, Journalist] arrived at this Airport from Stockholm at 2.10pm. today.

Accompanying him was Eileen MONTAGU, born 1904, who was travelling on British passport No. 483622.

The above persons have spent the past 5 days in Stockholm [left London Airport for Stockholm on 3rd February] where they state that they were engaged in the organisation of table-tennis competitions [World Championships].

10.5.49: Metropolitan Police (Special Branch) Report (Northolt Airport):

Ivor MONTAGU ... was among the passengers leaving this airport for Prague, en route to Budapest, at 9.36 a.m. today. MONTAGU, who was in charge of four members of the British table-tennis team, said he would be returning to this country in three or four days' time.

12.5.49: From Summary of World Broadcasts:

Mr. Montague's Statement: Mr. Ivor Montague, President of the British and International Table-Tennis Federations, stated before the start of the Anglo-Hungarian women's championship on 12th April: "It is not my task to speak of world politics here; but I would tell our Hungarian friends that we in Britain, and I believe everywhere, long for peace. It is a great joy for us to be here in Budapest and to re-establish friendly links." (Budapest I in English 23.20, 12.5.49)

13.5.49: Metropolitan Police (Special Branch) Report (Northolt Airport):

Ivor MONTAGU returned to this airport from Prague at 7 p.m. today. MONTAGU was accompanied by the British table tennis team on their return from Budapest.

Montagu Miscellanea

12.8.49: Memo from Herts Constabulary C.I.D. to Box 500:

Name: MONTAGU The Hon. Ivor Goldsmid Samuel
Alias SWATHLING Montague, MOULYN Ivor

Personal Details: Born 23.4.04.
(Birthdate N.R.I.C. No., DFSE.166/1.
etc.) 5'10", inclined stout, slightly round shouldered
Jewish appearance, dark hair (receding), well
spoken and well educated.

Miscellaneous: MONTAGU is now believed to be Sports Editor of
the D.W. and is now in Budapest - stated to be
in connection with table-tennis championships.
His wife does most of his typing in connection
with his work.

17.10.49: British Communist Party Registration Form 1949 (as despatched to London District C.P.)

REGISTRATION FORM
(Please fill in with Block Capitals)

NAME (Mr., Mrs. or Miss) IVOR MONTAGU

ADDRESS KNEWLE BUCKS HILL
NR. KINGS LANCY HERTS

OCCUPATION FILM PRODUCER, WRITER, DIRECTOR

INDUSTRY FILM

PLACE OF WORK:
FIRM'S NAME EALING STUDIOS LTD.

FIRM'S ADDRESS EALING STUDIOS
EALING GREEN WS

T.U. BRANCH A.C.T. Feature Directors' Branch & member General Council
A.Sc.W. Central London Branch
N.U.J. Central London Branch

CO-OP SOCIETY (if a member) _____

ANY OTHER ORGANISATION FABIAN SOCIETY, S.C.R., B.S.S. - Secretary
Zoological Society, M.C.C.,
English Table Tennis Association, Chairman
International Table Tennis Federation, President

PARTY BRANCH CROXLEY GREEN

DATE OF JOINING PARTY 1932

At the time, Montagu was working at "Ealing Studios Ltd", as "Film Producer, Writer, Director", and a long-time Member of the Croxley Green Branch of the Party (and a Party Member since "1932").

He lists his Trade Union Branches as:
"A.C.T. Feature Directors' Branch and member of General Council"
"A.Sc.W." and "N.U.J.", "Central London Branch" for both.

Details under ANY OTHER ORGANISATION, in addition to Fabian Society, SCR (Executive Committee), and BSS (Council), include
"Zoological Society, M.C.C.,
English Table Tennis Association, Chairman", and
"International Table Tennis Federation, President".

Aberdeen Press 4 February 1950

[Budapest] Viktor Barna (England) beat A. Haydon (England) by 3 games to 0 to win a special Jubilee Cup, awarded by the International Table Tennis Federation, for players who participated in the world championships twenty years ago.

Among other competitors [was] the Hon. Ivor Montagu, a vice-president of the English Table Tennis Association.

Western Morning News 4 March 1950

Dr Hewlett Johnson, Dean of Canterbury, and 11 other Europeans have been denied permission to enter America [for the World Congress of Partisans of Peace], the State Department announced yesterday. ...

The State Department said that the 12 "on the basis of available information, are either known Communists or fellow-travellers, and are, therefore, subject to exclusion from the United States under the immigration laws." ...

The Department said that the delegates included: Pablo Picasso, the painter, ... Ivor Montagu, "British film producer, director, and scenarist, a Communist Party member since 1932, and a member of the 'Daily Worker' editorial staff". ...

The Sketch 16 August 1950
Sketch-Book by Beverley Baxter

The gathering [at the SCR headquarters in Kensington Square] was not without interest... Ivor Montagu, son of the first Lord Swaythling, was as shock-headed as ever, a gentle, amusing, untidy fellow who has been a friend to Russia for many years. I knew him as a boy when he dwelt in marble halls, younger son to a financial dynasty, but the Communist experiment lured him like a purple sin.

Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail 8 February 1952

In the first round of the jubilee singles tournament [Bombay], open to players who have competed for 21 years or more ... A. Haydon (England) beat Hon. Ivor Montagu (England) 21-10, 21-10.

Daily Record 12 January 1954

The Hon. Ivor Montagu, 49-year-old brother of Lord Swaythling, was asked by French airport security police to leave Paris yesterday. ...

Tall, bespectacled Mr. Montagu, president of the English Table Tennis Association, said at London airport: "I flew from London on Saturday to be present at the French international table tennis championships.

"I was allowed entry into France and went to Paris. There was no suggestion of any refusal until this

morning. I was present in the hall where the championships were being played and was giving the players encouragement when a security officer from the airport approached me and said that a mistake had been made in allowing me entry into France in the first place.

“He said it would be necessary for me to leave. I was a guest in France and did not want to create any trouble. I went to the airport and flew home. There was no unpleasantness.”

Daily News 13 January 1954

Paris, Tuesday—France, having sent Mr. Ivor Montagu home last night as “a political undesirable,” decided tonight [at the request of the French Federation] to let him return for 24 hours to watch the table tennis championships. It was decided he was visiting France “solely as a sportsman”.—Reuter.

Daily Mirror 17 April 1954

A proposal to ban the [sponge] bat was defeated by 40 votes to 28 at the annual meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation.

● *Footnote: A sponge bat was used in the first world championships in 1926 by Ivor Montagu, chairman of the E.T.T.A.*

Leicester Evening Mail 4 March 1958

Mr. Ivor Montagu, who for 36 years has been the leading figure in the English Table Tennis Association, is retiring as chairman, a position he held 25 times.

Coventry Evening Telegraph 4 April 1961

The 26th world table tennis championships were officially opened in Peking today in a colourful ceremony attended by Chou En-lai, the Communist Chinese Prime Minister, and foreign diplomats.

The new arena built specially for the championships echoed to applause from 15,000 spectators as the Prime Minister, other Chinese leaders and Mr. Ivor Montagu mounted the rostrum.

... Chou-En-lai today received Mr. Ivor Montagu and other officials including the heads of teams from 27 competing countries.

Daily Mirror 22 February 1966

[Sports columnist Peter Wilson wrote]: When China held the world championships, I was informed by the Chinese authorities in London that I should not be given a visa to go to Peking.

I applied to the Hon. Ivor Montagu who, as president of the International Table Tennis Federation, at once made it possible for myself and two colleagues to go to Peking to report the adventures and misadventures of our competitors.

Sports Argus 9 July 1966

[A] blow for the national association was the resignation of the Hon. Ivor Montague as President of the E.T.T.A. He has been in office for 42 years.

Liverpool Echo 13 April 1967

Roy Evans, of Cardiff, was to-day elected president of the International Table Tennis Federation (I.T.T.F.).

He replaces Mr. Ivor Montagu, British president* since the federation was founded 40 years ago, who retired two days ago.—Reuter.

[*First Chairman until role replaced by President in 1937.]

Birmingham Daily Post 30 August 1968

The Hon. Ivor Montagu, a member of the MCC for over 30 years, has resigned his membership in protest. He said: “I have no right to presume that the non-selection of Basil d’Oliveira on the South African tour was motivated by any but cricketing considerations.

“In the circumstances as they have developed, however, the contrary will certainly be believed to be the case in South Africa. I do not see how any opponent of apartheid can do other than resign.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1 March 1969

Ivor Montagu, the son of the first Lord Swaythling, an eminent banker, was brought up in old-world splendour in a house in Kensington Gore: footmen in grey velvet coats, epaulettes and knee breeches. But he did not fit easily into this background.

Lord Swaythling, a pillar of the Establishment, must have been more than disturbed when Ivor publicly identified himself with extreme Left-wing politics, thereafter living a life in complete contrast with that of his parents. None of us in those days, so far as I know, had any particular sympathy with Ivor’s political outlook, but we all admired him, not only for his high intellectual attainments (in his spare time he was a biologist of some stature) but for his warm and generous nature.

Incidentally, perhaps as part of his “rebellion,” he was completely indifferent to conventional clothes and I rarely if ever saw him in anything other than a tweed coat and slacks, with a woollen sweater as an alternative.

Michael Balcon

Aberdeen Press 19 August 1970

Three otter cubs found abandoned by their mother in the Orkney island of Rousay are now thriving in the zoo at Zurich, Switzerland. ... This move was initiated by MR IVOR MONTAGU, the writer, who stays in Rousay during the summer and who is on the council of management at London Zoo.

Acton Gazette 15 October 1970

IVOR Montague will be the speaker at the 50th anniversary of British Communism celebrations at Hayes Civic Restaurant, Hayes, at 8 p.m.

Newcastle Evening Chronicle 24 April 1971

As the fifth in the series “Seven Men” (Tyne-Tees TV, Saturday) [Ivor Montagu] recalls the entertaining times in his kaleidoscopic life. He has been journalist, traveller, film worker, sportsman, peace worker and Communist.

10.10 SEVEN MEN. Ivor Montagu.

From a young boy collecting small mammals for the British Museum to a Lenin Prize winner. [30 minutes]

[The programme was also transmitted that evening by London ITV, and in other ITV regions on 8 May.]

East Kent Times 4 June 1976

CHAIRMAN MAO	CHINA	1 OF HUMANITY
<p>COME AND HEAR IVOR MONTAGU</p> <p>at Newington Community Centre</p> <p>Friday, 11th June, 7.15 - 9.30 p.m.</p> <p>Organised by Ramsgate C.P.</p>		

Sports Argus 26 March 1977

On the day before the individual finals, April 4 [at the World Championships, Birmingham], the International Table Tennis Federation, whose 50th birthday gives the championships their jubilee tag, are giving a Founders' Lunch where some of the survivors from that first event in 1926 will be present.

The first worlds, in fact, started off as the European championships but it was decided during the tournament to change the name to world. The Honourable Ivor Montagu met the cost — around £300 — from a legacy. [TTH 95, page 19]

Liverpool Echo, et al 24 November 1982

Channel 4: 10.30-11.30 **Visions.** Report on a British cinema exhibition and a profile of veteran film-maker Ivor Montagu, a former collaborator with both Hitchcock and Eisenstein.

Daily Mirror 25 May 1984

■ **VETS' RALLY:** The Hon. Ivor Montague, 80 last month, has entered for the singles and doubles at the Veterans' table tennis championships which begin at Watford tomorrow.

V.E.T.T.S. Newsletter (Vol.1, No.1) Summer 1984
[Veterans English Table Tennis Society]
FIRST NATIONAL VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIP
by Mike Watts

Played at Watford Leisure Centre over the weekend of the 26th/27th May and sponsored by Ladbroke Hotels group this tournament was a huge success. ...



Photo courtesy of the West Herts and Watford Observer

The highlight of the weekend was the appearance on Saturday afternoon of the Hon. Ivor Montagu, the founder chairman of the E.T.T.A. and 80 in April, partnering Maurice Goldstein, President of the

E.T.T.A. and of V.E.T.T.S., in the over 60 doubles. Alas there was no fairy tale ending to their endeavours beaten 21-9, 21-8 in their first match.

"I just cannot remember the last time I played competitively" said Montagu. (*Guardian*, 25 May)

The Times 6 November 1984

DEATHS

MONTAGU.— On November 5th, Ivor G. S. Montagu, widower of Eileen (Hell) and youngest son of the second Lord Swaythling, peacefully, in his sleep. Cremation private.

The Times 7 November 1984

[*Table Tennis News*, December 1984]

THE HON IVOR MONTAGU

The Hon Ivor Montagu, the film producer and director, died on November 5. A prominent British Communist in his day he was also a noted left wing theorist of the cinema and had collaborated with some of the great names of Soviet film making, such as Eisenstein.

In addition Montagu was a moving force in the early days of table tennis and made a considerable contribution to the establishment of the game as an international sport. ...

Brought up in the height of traditional luxury, he broke away early in order to live independently in a style he felt to be more proletarian. ...

Abbreviations:

A.C.T.	Association of Cinemagraphic Technicians
A.Sc.W.	Association of Scientific Workers
C.P.G.B.	Communist Party of Great Britain
Comintern	Communist International
F.S.U.	Friends of the Soviet Union
G.R.U.	Soviet Military Intelligence
M.I.5	U.K. Security Service
N.U.J.	National Union of Journalists
S.C.R.	Society for Cultural Relations ...
S.I.S.	U.K. Secret Intelligence Service
S.O.E.	Special Operations Executive

Thanks for all their help are due to:

Colin Clemett for information from ETTA and ITTF Archives;
Tom Purcell for details and photo of Liverpool match;
Bob Mitchell and Manchester Library for details of Manchester match;
Jerry Moore for translations.

Sources:

Ivor Montagu, "The Youngest Son", 1970
Nicholas Griffin, "Ping-Pong Diplomacy", 2014
Ben Macintyre, "Operation Mincemeat", 2010
Russell Campbell, "Codename Intelligentsia", 2018
Nigel West, "Venona", 1999
"Who's Who?" (A & C Black), 1971
"Dictionary of National Biography" (Oxford University Press)
Jim Riordan, "Founding Father of TT", Sport in History, Sept. 2008
Zdenko Uzorinac, "Table Tennis Legends", 2001
National Archives, Kew [KV2/598-601, and HW15/43 (Venona)]
"Seventy Five Not Out!" (Liverpool League), A J Harris, 2001
"Twenty-One Up!" (Manchester League), 1948

Modern Racket Shapes Tibhar and STIGA by Bruno Lancon (FRA)



Truls Mörögårdh of Sweden was ranked 77th in the ITTF World Rankings before the World Championship Finals in November 2021. The 19-year old stunned everyone with his sensational performance in Houston, when he made it to the Finals of the Men's Singles, losing to World #1 Fan Zhendong (CHN). His world ranking jumped to #23 as a result.

But it was not only Truls' performance that attracted attention. Interest in his unusual octagonal shaped racket, the STIGA Cybershape, has also gone viral.

The Stiga Cybershape blade, and a diagram illustrating its larger sweetspot. This blade is also noted for its improved vibrations, giving a better feel to the hand. Here is a video review of this blade by Table Tennis Daily with Truls :
<https://kzlife.info/first/stiga-cybershape/zY28l7B4i3-aerg>

A similar concept was introduced by Tibhar 27 years earlier, with their 'Swing' series of blades.



In May 1994 French table tennis player Damien Eloi used a new racket with violin shape during the French championships. This new blade was the Tibhar Swing; it was created by J Kuhne trainer and physicist with help of a computer. The characteristics are the same as the Cybershape: larger sweet-spot, and better control.



This German ad for the Tibhar Swing lists its strong points:

- Increased accuracy
- Better control
- Short game
- Fast
- Short adjustment period
- Improved momentum transfer
- Larger sweet-spot
- Fast offensive game without speed gluing
- Balanced weight distribution
- Reduced weight
- Form follows function

Bruno has found 4 different Tibhar Swing rackets:

Tibhar Swing 7-ply (Damien Eloi racket)



Tibhar Swing IV S



Tibhar Swing Chila



Tibhar Swing Samsonov



Meet Bohua Liu (SWE) Philatelic Collector

It is always a pleasure to meet fellow collectors and lovers of our great sport. I am very pleased to introduce our readers to Mr. Bohua Liu of Sweden. Bohua specializes in Table Tennis philately. In this article he presents some excellent pieces with celebrity autographs. He is a technical manager at an international telecom company who collects and plays Table Tennis since the 1980s. Bohua has personally met many top players in Swedish TT activities, as well as at major competitions, such as Swedish Opens, World Championships, World Cup and Asian Championships. He also enjoys exchanges with fellow collectors.



Official card from the 1959 World Championships with many autographs, including Men's Singles Champion Rong Guotuan, the first Chinese to win a World Championship in any sport !





Barbados 1983 World Cup , signed by winner Mikael Appelgren & runner-up Jan-Ove Waldner



Dortmund 1989 World Championships, signed by Men's Singles winner Jan-Ove Waldner, runner-up Jörgen Persson, Mikael Appelgren, Jörg Roskopf



Goteborg 1985 World Championship, signed by the two players on the stamps, Jan-Ove Waldner and Cai Zhenhua, also by stamp designer Eva Jern and engraver Lars Sjöblom.



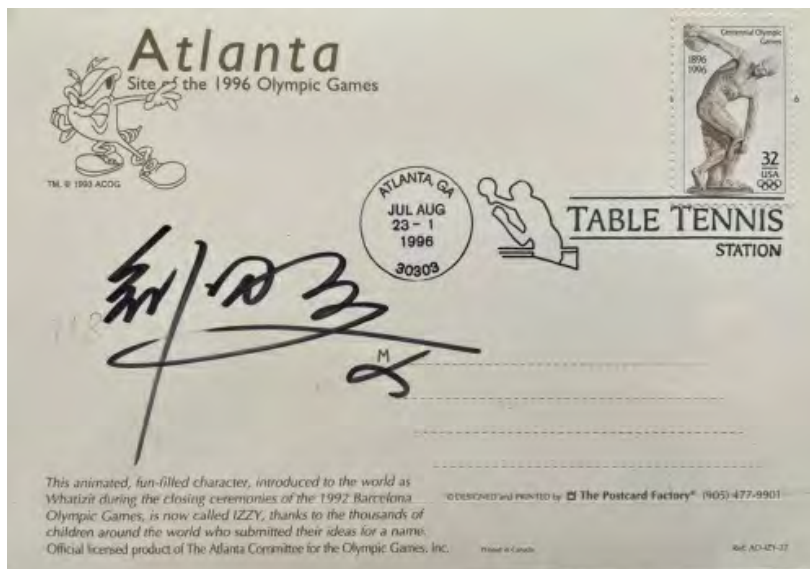
Above: Seoul 1988 Olympics
signed by men's winner Yoo Nam Kyu



Right: Barcelona 1992 Olympics, 2 cards
signed by men's winner Jan-Ove Waldner



Below: Atlanta 1996 Olympics
signed by men's winner Liu Guoliang





Athens 2004 Olympics, Men's Singles Gold Medalist Ryu Seung Min (KOR)



Athens 2004 Olympics, Men's Doubles Gold Medalists Chen Qi & Ma Lin (CHN)



Beijing 2008 Olympics, Men's Singles Gold Medalist Ma Lin (CHN)



Card from the 1991 World Championships, Chiba, Japan, signed by the winner, Jörgen Persson & runner-up Jan-Ove Waldner SWE



Kuala Lumpur World Team Championships FDCs signed by Swedish Gold medal team winners Jörgen Persson and Jan-Ove Waldner





FDC, Table Tennis Sport, signed by many Table Tennis stars during the 2018 World Championships at Halmstad



FDC Table Tennis Sport, signed by Men's Grand Slam winners (Olympics, World Championship, World Cup): Jan-Ove Waldner, Liu Guoliang, Zhang Jike and Ma Long



Table Tennis Sport red block, signed by Jan-Ove Waldner



FDC Table Tennis Sport, signed by World Champions or World Cup winners: Jörgen Persson, Ulf Carlsson, Chuang Chih-Yuan, Jan-Ove Waldner, Dimitri Ovtcharov, Peter Karlsson, Thomas Von Scheele, Jörg Rosskopf



Sport Championships booklet, signed by Jörgen Persson, who is on the upper right stamp. Persson's autograph always has that smile added - nice touch Jörgen !



Postcards to Alex Agopoff from the 1989 World Championships and 1996 Olympics, signed by French national team members

Congratulations Bohua, and special thanks for sharing all these treasures with our readers!



Fabio Bisogno Philatelic Collector and Exhibitor

Fabio Bisogno (ITA) is a prominent philatelic collector who has won many awards for his exhibitions, including: 1989 Juniorphil, 1992 National Abuzzophil, 1997 Mediterranean Games, 1999 Campionato Italia di Filetelia Sportiva Olympica, 2009 Mediterranean Games, and 2021 AIWOS. Fabio kindly shares some pages from his exhibitions.

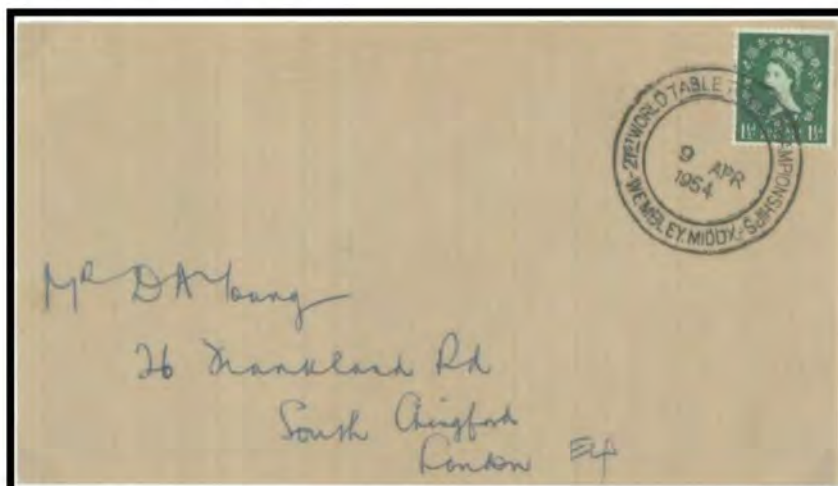
C) L'evoluzione.

Cartolina postale privata da 30 g. con l'annullo del 18° campionato mondiale partita per via aerea da Vienna il 10.3.1951 ed arrivata a Zurigo il 14.3.1951; inoltre, annullo della censura austriaca "Österreichische zensurstelle 701".



Dopo il consolidamento del movimento con la nascita delle varie Federazioni, la scena mondiale vide un'alternanza ai vertici tra i pongisti europei ed asiatici.

Wembley 9.4.54: 21° campionato mondiale.



La ITTF, durante i mondiali del 59 a Dortmund, pose fine alla disputa tra le due diverse scuole:

5.4.59:
finali.



standardizzò la racchetta tipo "sandwich" e si arrivò alla moderna impostazione del gioco di attacco (top spin).





Nel 1967 ai mondiali di Stoccolma fu storico l'incontro tra la squadra svedese e quella nord coreana. Due scuole a confronto: gli svedesi con l'impugnatura "classica", contro i nord coreani con l'impugnatura "a penna" e la racchetta squadrata. La manifestazione si concluse con l'argento per la Korea del Nord e il bronzo per la Svezia.



Bozzetto preparatorio, dipinto a mano, proveniente dall'archivio postale della Korea del Nord. Al retro la firma dell'artista e la data 5.3.1967, a confronto con il francobollo definitivo emesso l' 11.4.1967.



Negli anni settanta la nazionale italiana ottenne buoni miglioramenti, passando dal 31° posto dei mondiali di Sarajevo, al 21° posto conquistato nel 75 in India.



I mondiali di Calcutta furono ricordati dalle poste indiane con 4 tipi di annulli speciali (doppio cerchio, figurato, manuale, e manuale automatico) ed un francobollo.



I miglioramenti della squadra italiana si concretizzarono negli anni '80; infatti, nel torneo mondiale di Tokyo del 1983 la nazionale si classificò all'11° posto. Purtroppo, la sonora sconfitta per 5 - 0 contro la squadra svedese nei mondiali di Goteborg del 1985, affondarono la nazionale italiana al 16° posto della classifica.



Il mondiale di Goteborg fu ricordato dalle poste svedesi con una serie di due francobolli emessi il 14.3.1985 e raffiguranti Waldner (Svezia) sul valore da 2.70 e Cai Zhenhua (Cina) sul valore da 3.20. Il torneo si disputò dal 28.3 al 7.4 e fu ricordato da due annulli speciali.



La Coppa del Mondo, organizzata dalla ITTF e sponsorizzata dalla Joola, è una competizione che riunisce i migliori atleti internazionali. La prova si svolge attraverso un torneo con 16 partecipanti e sono ammessi alla prova i campioni di ogni continente, il campione mondiale, il campione olimpico e i giocatori invitati dal paese organizzatore.

Barbados 1983 - Il trofeo.



Xiaolan 1999 - c.p. 40f. - Coppa del mondo maschile



Durante i mondiali di Tokio del '71, la squadra cinese di tennis tavolo invitò la squadra americana a visitare la Cina, per un incontro amichevole. Il premier Chou En-lai applaudì gli atleti nel Capital Stadium di Pechino. Il ping pong fu l'artefice dello storico incontro tra Mao Tse-tung e Nixon.

Ping Pong diplomacy.



I primi punti sono i più importanti e possono dare subito una svolta all'incontro.



Le gambe erano tese dallo sforzo; non ci spostavamo dalla nostra posizione vicino al tavolo e il braccio eseguiva lo stesso colpo automaticamente.



Auction Action - Results & Trends



Globe Table Tennis set, c. 1902 with fine color lithograph & free-standing net \$405

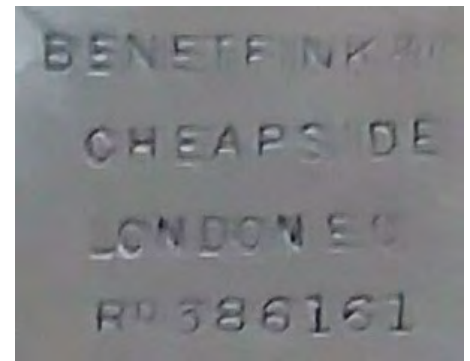


Mally 'The Club' vellum drum racket with short handle. 21GBP



“Koochah” Table Tennis set, with pair of thick handle wood bats. The label (below) includes instructions to secure the net via ropes placed under the table, a la Gossima 1891! \$152





Rare silver plated toast rack in the shape of a racket, English Rd number 386161, by Benetfink of London. This was advertised as a Ping Pong prize in the March 8, 1902 edition of 'The Table Tennis Pastimes & Pioneer'. No bids when first listed in an English auction, also no bids on ebay at 180 GBP, then re-listed, & seller accepted a Make Offer.



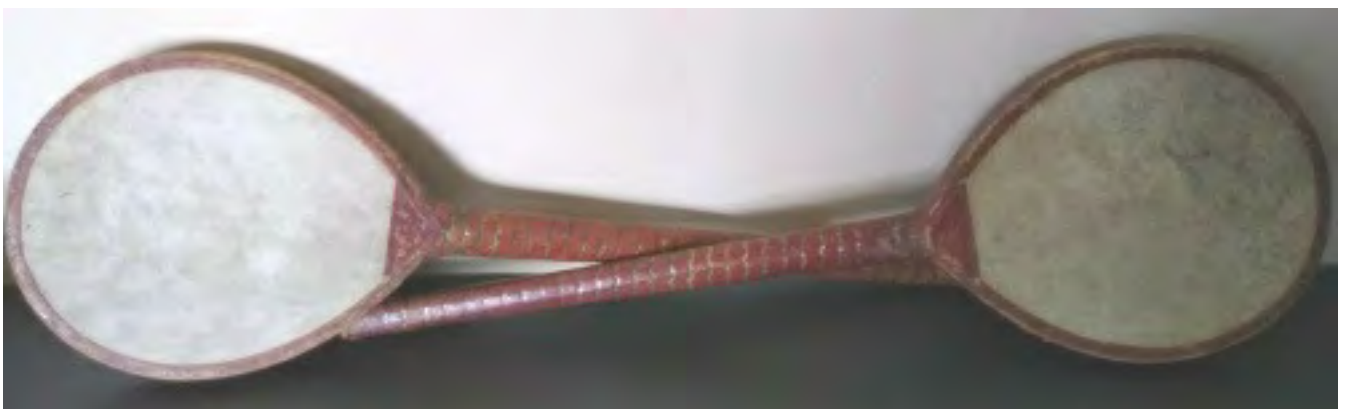
Fountain pen with miniature Table Tennis racket attached.
Sold for only \$30



McLoughlin set with ball retriever, free-standing net fixture, fancy net with frills, & 2 superb vellum drum rackets. In the initial auction, it attracted no bids, but later sold on ebay for a Make offer price.



A pair of these fine bats recently sold in an English auction for only 30 GBP. Though not marked, they look similar to the rare bats with Vulliamy name.



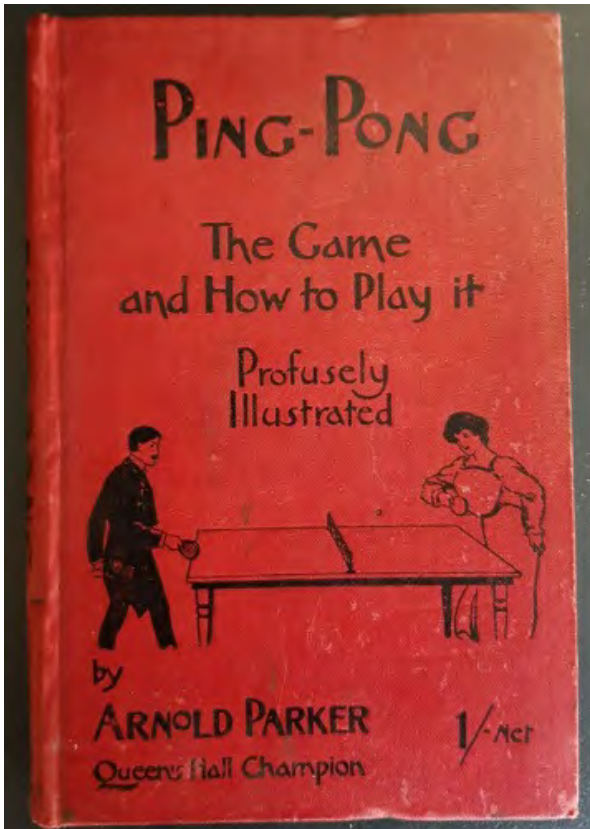
Pair of Number 2 vellum battledores, sold for only 21.20 GBP



Steve Grant (USA) reports his recent unusual & beautiful find, a handsome racket, advertised as possible Tunbridge Ware butter paddle, 13.5 in. (33.5 cm). \$42



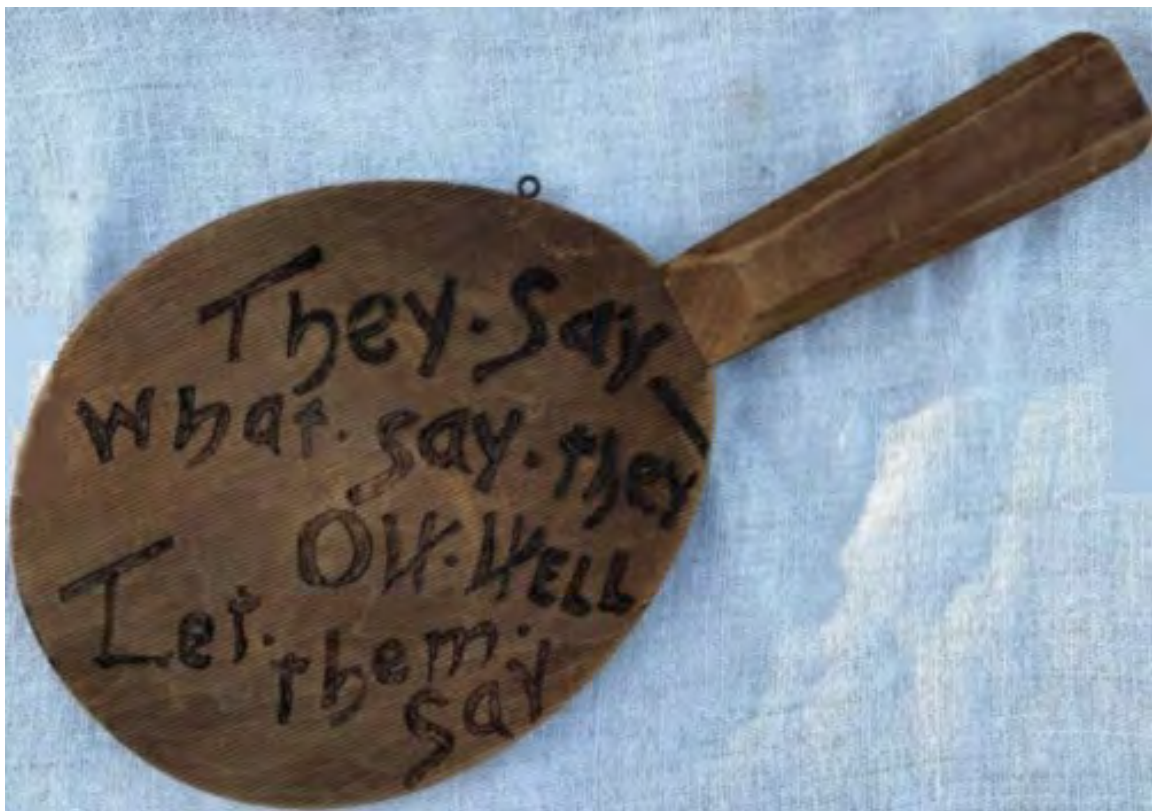
Miniature wood table, quite large at 14 inches (35 cm) length, perhaps a salesman sample of an early dining table with thick rounded legs. Sometimes good items can be found by searching on 'tennis salesman sample', such as early Table Tennis strung rackets!



The T. Fisher Unwin 1902 London edition of Arnold Parker's popular book. 20 GBP



Pair of Jaques Ping-Pong vellum rackets, 16-inch (40.64cm) length, sold for only 12.50GBP



The 'saying' dates back to the 1500s in Scotland, according to an online reference source. Later adopted by architectural designer Edward Searles (1846-1920) and famed actress & socialite Lillie Langtry, (1853-1929), who had it carved on her mantle. Playwright George Bernard Shaw purchased a home and found the saying inscribed over the mantle. This bat sold for 28 GBP.



Ping! Pong! Picture postcard, Herriot series. \$21.84

Red Star Lines picture postcard with undivided back, postmarked 1905. 26.80 GBP. Beware of reproductions!



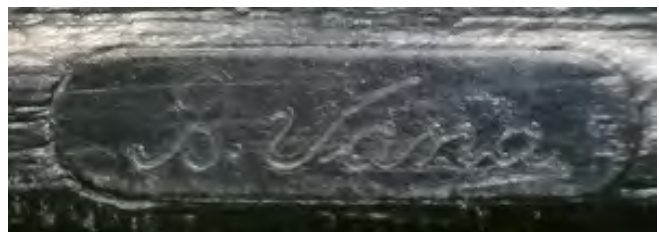
Ping Pong Fairyland picture postcard, number 2 of the early 6-card set by Raphael Tuck. This example has the Birthday Greetings addition. The 1906 postmark seeped onto the picture side. \$20



Medal from the 1948 World Championships in Wembley, winners of the Women's Doubles, won by Vera Thomas and Peggy Franks. Made by John Taylor, Birmingham. Sold for 44 GBP. With thanks to Steve Grant (USA).



Medal from the 1946/47 & 1947/48 Europe Cup Competition. 9.27



Bo Vana signature bat. He won the World Singles title in 1938 & 1947, also 3 World Doubles & 3 World Mixed Doubles golds. This racket was found in a group of bats on ebay, with a grip cover hiding the name. Good find Alberto!



Barna red teardrop logo set. Offer accepted under 170 GBP



Barna ivory signature insert, Dunlop insert on other side. 28GBP



48 GBP



Hollander Trio balls, made in Japan. \$18



Johnny Evers Sportcraft box/12 balls \$22



Stiga Demon 36GBP



Stiga Ehrlich 104 GBP



Butterfly Klampar FL blade 199GBP



Hungarian Hullohaza figurine hand-painted, 20 cm. 16 GBP. These were produced from 1979 to 1985.



Lladro-Nao Ping Pong girl, 11 in. (28cm) tall. Made in Spain. \$100



Chinese figurine 200GBP



Palma Table Tennis ball tin (empty) \$29.90
The balls were '3 Pigeon' quality!



1972 movie theater flyer for a film about the 1971 Afro-Asian Table Tennis Friendship Tournament in Beijing. \$19.90



As Valentine's Day is only 2 weeks away, I could not resist including this card. This image graced our cover in the 59th edition of the *Table Tennis Collector*. There are several other Valentine's Day cards with Table Tennis motif. This 1933 example sold for \$12.50.



Ergonomic Table Tennis wood bat, rather attractive. \$30

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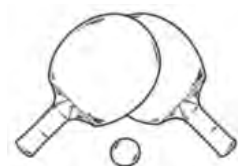
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Also the Angelica Rozeanu book is still available: richardofyork187@outlook.com It is packed with wonderful photographs of a true legend, who won a record 6 consecutive World Singles titles, 17 Gold medals overall in the World Championships.

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