

An exhibition of greatness

The Bradman Collection, State Library of South Australia

The most gifted cricketer ever to wield the willow, Sir Donald Bradman has always been an intensely private man, avoiding publicity wherever possible. But with the establishment of 'The Bradman Collection' in Adelaide, a permanent exhibition of Sir Donald's personal cricketering memorabilia, fans can now gain a fascinating insight into the man, his achievements and his unique contribution to the Australian identity.

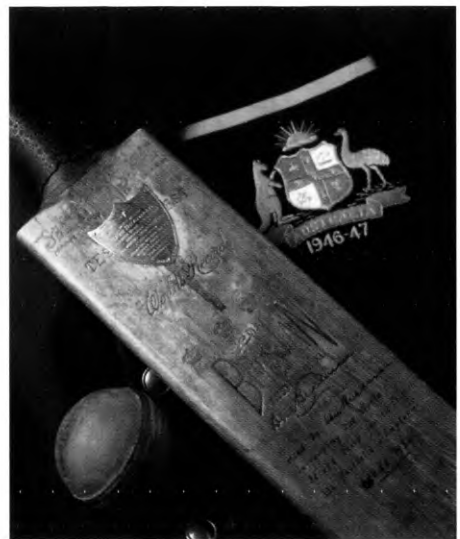
Very occasionally, through an indefinable combination of character, charisma and mastery of their craft, an athlete is able to transcend their sport and inspire an entire nation, if not the world. Ali did it. Pelé too. And in more recent times, the incomparable Michael Jordan.

But in Australia, one man is held in greater reverence than perhaps all these legendary figures combined. He is, of course, Sir Donald Bradman, unquestionably the greatest cricketer the world has ever known, and named by The Interna-

tional *Who's Who* in June 1999 as one of the 100 most influential figures of the 20th Century.

Over the years, countless champions have distinguished themselves and their country on the cricket pitch. Yet none have inspired such universal adulation, such worship, as 'The Don'. Despite the massive advances in equipment and training regimes that have occurred in the game since his retirement in 1948, his achievements remain untouchable, a fact best illustrated by his almost unbelievable test average of 99.94. To put that in perspective for the uninitiated, Herbert Sutcliffe, the Englishman who stands second on the list*, averaged 60.73 per innings — almost forty runs less.

Sir Donald's graceful stroke play throughout the 1930s has even been credited with maintaining Australia's morale during the Great Depression. So when the chance to experience something of this national hero's remarkable life comes along,



such as The Bradman Collection offers, it's a chance worth taking.

Bradman's most precious cricketering memories

While countless collections of Bradman memorabilia have appeared in the past, The Bradman Collection exhibition is unique in that every piece of cricketering memorabilia it displays was collected by Sir Donald himself. Of all the awards he received throughout his career, all the articles written and photographs taken, these were the most precious to him. Magnificently housed in the State Library of South Australia's elegant 19th Century Institute Building on North Terrace, Adelaide's cultural boulevard, the exhibition contains over 140 original items spanning a fifty-year period from 1927–1977.

Among the highlights is the Royal Worcester Vase, presented to Sir Donald in 1938 to commemorate his scoring double centuries at the Worcester ground in the opening match of three consecutive English tours. Many bats, balls and pieces of clothing used during some of his most memorable innings are also featured, including 'the willow that terrified a nation' — the bat with which he smashed the then world-record test score of 334 at Leeds in 1930.

Rare black-and-white footage is regularly screened, delightful oral recordings of his notoriously witty speeches can be heard, and engaging interactive multi-media displays have been created. These touch-screen 'kiosks' allow visitors to electronically browse through a fascinating selection of the Bradman family scrapbooks and listen to informative recorded commentaries.

Whether you are an avid cricket fan, or simply keen to learn something of Australia's sporting and cultural heritage, a visit to The Bradman Collection is an absolute must.

*Of those players who played 50 Tests or more. Source: CricInfo website.

Promoting indigenous sport

Melinda Turner, Indigenous Sport Program

Tennis is a sport that we rarely hear about in Indigenous communities. Usually the only time that tennis is linked with Indigenous people is when

Evonne Goolagong Cawley's name and achievements are mentioned.

The Indigenous Sport Program (ISP) is working towards changing this image by consulting with Evonne through the Indigenous Ambassador Scheme on what can be done to encourage and assist young Indigenous tennis players to stay involved in the sport.

The Goolagong Dunlop Sports Libraries were developed after consultation which found that the to encourage involvement in sport, Indigenous youth need access to quality sports equipment. Private sponsorship was sought for the project and Dunlop Sports became involved as major sponsors.



The sports libraries are a kit of equipment which cover a range of sports — including tennis, basketball, cricket, touch football, and AFL. So far, fifty of the kits have been distributed to Indigenous sport development officers in rural and remote communities.

To launch the Goolagong Dunlop Sports Libraries the Indigenous Sport Program invited five Indigenous tennis players to attend the Australian Tennis Open in January. For information about the Indigenous Sport Program or the libraries visit the Ausport website at <http://www.ausport.gov.au> or e-mail isp@ausport.gov.au. ■