



BAA BOOMERANG BULLETIN

OCTOBER 1992

Number 75

BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION OF
AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
(Est 1969)



FAWKNER FUNDAY - MEMBERS OF THE NORTH/WEST GIRL GUIDE ASSOCIATION

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The BAA is pleased to announce that we now have a member from Tasmania. I welcome Michael Miller to the BAA and we hope that this is the start of more members joining our association from the Apple Isle.

Maybe it won't be too long before we are able to organise a boomerang competition in Tasmania ...

On the subject of competitions, in the very near future, the BAA hopes to announce a Super Series of Competitions throughout the country. It is hoped that there will be 6 competitions in Victoria, Western Australia and New South Wales on dates to be decided. Scores will be sent to me and maybe we can organise a Super Series Champion..... In Victoria the events will be held at 6 different venues and we hope that the same can be organised in the West. An entrance fee that covers all the days of competition will be charged, and each throwers best FOUR results for each event will go towards the Overall Champion. This way will mean that throwers will not have to enter every one of the 6 competitions if they don't want to, or have other commitments.

This is still in the planning stage at the moment and shortly I will be talking to Brother Brian Thomas in Sydney and Roger Perry in the West. I am also still negotiating with some companies and government departments regarding sponsorship, but as of yet nothing has been fruitful regarding money for this series of events.....

The World Cup has been held in Germany and congratulations are extended to the winners the USA - No 2 team and well done to all of the organisers for putting on a successful tournament. Australia was well represented by Roger Perry, Robert Croll, Ian Sproull, (who won the 1992 WA Open defeating Roger Perry and the 1992 Australian Champion, Mattieu weber from Switzerland), Steve Pankhurst, Greg O'brien & Brett Descent. This team performed admirably, being the 4th best placed country. Hopefully these guys will form the nucleus of a very strong team that will go to Canada and do the BAA proud.

Brian Kemp has completed a draft of the new rules, for competition. Well done Brian you have done a mighty job, so now it is up to the Executive to review your proposals before they are presented at the next Annual General Meeting.

Our 1992 Nationals tee shirts have nearly been sold, so now we are offering the last few to people for only \$10 each. Please contact me with your size and help the BAA with some much needed funds. There is also some BAA caps....

A few members have contacted me on different matters lately and I do my best to solve each members queries. It is great that members are interested in our association, so please do not hesitate to contact me on any matter on (03) 300 2374 (Private), (03) 305 3643 (Business) or Fax (03) 305 3579.

Congratulations to Dennis Maxwell on being voted in at his local election recently. Maybe this could lead to Boomerangs being displayed at various local council functions? Good luck Dennis in a very tough field. You will benefit your local community.

And finally it was great to hear that Nick Gottschalk has completed another successful term helping out the Red Cross in Trouble stricken Africa. As soon as he completed this difficult term he headed straight off to Germany to cheer on the Aussie team. Good on you Nick, I hope that your efforts do not go on unnoticed....

So Long from

Bruce Carter
President BAA

NEWS IN BRIEF

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

The International Comps in Europe began with the German Nationals and the Swiss Nationals on the weekend before the team comp began.

Fredolin Frost was the overall winner with Rob Croll coming in ninth. The Swiss comp was won by Mathew Weber with the other throwers of the Aussie team competing as a warm up for the team cup.

The first team cup saw the Aussie team get off to a good start with good performances in trick catch and M.T.A. and fast catch only to drop away in Super catch and Team relay. Roger Perry was holding the team together with an Australian Record in Fast Catch 20.56 and he was the only one to catch in super catch. In team relay Roger was literally knocked out in team relay and so were our chances of winning. Eventually we were given a re-throw two days later in the dark and wind still well back in the rankings.

The 2nd and 3rd tests saw the team finish in 7th place overall.

The world individual comp was won by Fredolin Frost 2nd John Koheler 3rd Yannick Charles. Ian Sproul was the best placed Aussie coming 23rd

The Belgium comp saw Roger come 7th and all the other results will be in the next Bulletin.

Robert Croll

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NEWS IN BRIEF**FAWKNER FUN DAY**

Another Fun Day was conducted in an attempt to tempt some new comers to the delights of Boomerang throwing.

This latest day was held in Fawkner, in the northern suburbs of Melbourne, and was attended by the north / west region of the Girl Guide Association. Once we included leaders and visitors, there was over 40 competitors.

From Geelong we had Brian Kemp and Colin Foley make the trip to the "big smoke" to help make the day an outstanding success.

Teams were divided into numbers of 8 throwers with each team being colour coded - that is have a coloured zinc sunscreen painted over each competitors face in the colour of the team that they were a member of.

Some of the instructors were a bit reserved about competing, but did agree to help judge these events. Judges were painted all over their faces a mass of colours which did make them stand out.

Many highlights throughout the day, some catches, many near misses but of course Kempy had to grandstand everybody. Craig threw one of his two plastic three bladers from Brazil, up into the air, close to the edge of the park. It went over a 2 metre high back fence., into some one's back yard. Kempy jumps up onto the fence and says that it landed next to a little dog. Volunteers came from everywhere to offer to jump the fence. As everyone approached the fence, my mate then added - and this very little dog just happens to be standing besides a great big German Shepherd. Suddenly no one wanted to retrieve Craig's boomerang.

These dogs were in a fenced off area so it wasn't a problem getting back the boomerang this time. A bit later though, another of Craig's booms floated across the fence. Kempy jumped over the fence but could not find the thing. It had obviously gone into the very large swimming pool, situated in this back yard. Kempy asked for the similar boomerang of Craig's to be thrown over to him so that he could see if this material floats. It floated nicely, until he tipped it slightly on its side. Straight towards the bottom of the pool it went, with Kempy's arm in hot pursuit. He saved this boomerang, but his arm was very wet - from fingers to his shoulder, and the weather was quite cold - to say the least.

The highlight of the competition though had to be our very famous gum boot relay. Basically the rules are the same as normal relay's except the competitors had to wear their teams gum boots, which were all about size 10 or 11. Kids were falling over, everywhere as some boots covered the kids knees, and in one instance covered the young girls whole legs.

We hope to conduct another of these fun days for these keen girl guides later in the year, as it is great to find kids really keen on the fun that can be generated with throwing the old boomerang.

BRUCECARTER

NEWS IN BRIEF**ARTICLES FOR B.A.A BULLETIN**

The Editor requests members who have interesting articles on what is happening in the world of boomerangs, to please forward them to him either by mail or fax, prior to the deadline for each publication. Articles should be typed for ease of reading.

I would like to thank Br.. Brian Thomas, along with Bruce Carter, Roger Perry, Rob Croll, Brian Kemp and Dennis Maxwell for the excellent articles they have submitted for publication this year. I hope this will inspire other members to write down their ideas so the rest of us can enjoy them.

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COMINGEVENTS

NEWS IN BRIEF

UNCLE BRUCE'S SUPER SERIES

Six Competitions
Best Four Results goes towards
a Throwers Average

1st Comp

GREENVALE COMPETITION

Sunday, 8th November 1992
Greenvale Reservoir Park
Somerton Road, Greenvale Melway Ref: Map 179 C7
CONTACT BRUCE CARTER FOR DETAILS

2nd Comp

WAVERLEY COMPETITION

Sunday, 15th November 1992, 9.30am Start
Narmara Primary School
Narmara Street, Burwood East, Melway Ref: Map 61 H8
CONTACT ROB CROLL FOR DETAILS

3rd Comp

Sunday, 22nd November 1992
VENUE TO BE DECIDED

4th Comp

Saturday 28th or Sunday 29th November 1992
VENUE TO BE DECIDED

5th Comp

DINGLEY VICTORIAN COMPETITION

Sunday, December 6th 1992, 10.00am Start
Braeside Metropolitan Park
Lower Dandenong Road, Braeside
Melway Ref: Map 88 E8
CONTACT DENNIS MAXWELL FOR DETAILS

6th Comp

KOYAMA POTTERY COMPETITION

Saturday 12th December 1992
1160 Bellerine Highway, Wellington
CONTACT BRIAN KEMP FOR DETAILS

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OR

\$5-00 PER EVENT

FULL DETAILS FROM BRUCE CARTER

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ADVERTISING DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
30th November 1992.

AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1993

The 1993 Australian Championships will be held on the 13th and 14th March 1993 at Karragullen Oval W.A., the site of the World Fun Day.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- * Competitors from Eastern States will be billeted
- * Rangs are sponsoring the event
- * Free registration and food for Eastern States
- * 1 day Individual Competition
- * 1 day Team Competition

Hopefully a full team of 4 from the Eastern States versus the best of the West. More information in next Bulletin including prizes etc.

Roger Perry.

THE BRITISH BOOMERANG SOCIETY

The new address of the BBS will be:-

Sean M Slade
1 Berkeley Avenue
Mapperley Park
Nottingham, United Kingdom
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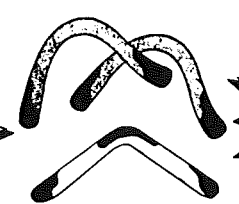
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**THE WORLD'S FIRST BOOMERANG MUSEUM,
LURE, FRANCE**

Most museums around the world feature a little on Australia and show the boomerangs. The museum in Vienna, Austria, has thousands of our boomerangs (but most are locked away in the basement), and Dr. Hans Peters has written a book on boomerangs for the Austrians. But in all these cases boomerangs are only a PART of the museum. People can easily walk past them and not take any notice.

So it is very significant, I feel, that in the French town of Lure, which is near the borders of Germany and Switzerland, Jacques Thomas and the town council have set up a museum that is WHOLLY DEVOTED TO BOOMERANGS. When a person enters this there is only one thing they will find out about..Boomerangs!!

The official name of it is THE MUSEUM OF BOOMERANGS AND FLYING-STICK HISTORY. It was officially opened on June 20th, 1992. The town Mayor is Mr. Gilles Roy, who did extend an invitation to me to attend this opening.

A comprehensive book has been printed that describes the 34 show-cases in the museum at present. I thought it would be good for Australians to know what is being said in this unique museum about our boomerangs. We would expect there to be some french emphasis, as most people visiting it will be french. But I am sure a considerable number of Aussie tourists will end up there....and get their first facts on boomerangs..in France! The booklet is reproduced for your information.

Jacques Thomas has already written two scholarly books on boomerangs. His first was the 233 page "MAGIE DU BOOMERANG" (the Magic of the Boomerang), while his second is the 103 page "THE BOOMERANGS OF A PHARAOH". He is an Honorary Member of the B.A.A. He certainly deserves our heartiest congratulations on all he has done throughout the world. The first two days the museum was open 360 people passed through, which means we have 360 more people who now know about boomerangs. What a great truly educational addition this museum is to the world. Our Aborigines will be much better known and understood, since jacques has strongly based the whole museum around them and their boomerangs. Most of us are boomerang throwers, and some makers. But Jacques is also a researcher and scholar and I am sure we shall all learn many things we didn't know by reading his booklet.

On behalf of the boomerang world I would like to say a very sincere Thank You to Jacques for his magnificent efforts to promote boomerangs throughout the world. Although it has been a labour of love for him, I know it has cost him much in time and expense. We all appreciate your dedication and efforts, Jacques.

Br.. Brian M. Thomas
Australian National Boomerang Coach.

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The Museum of Boomerang and Flying-sticks History is to be found in the town of Lure. This charming little town is located at the foot of the Vosges mountains, halfway between Vesoul and Belfort (N 19 - E 54) in the east of France.

When, in 1990, I wanted to present to the public the important collection of artefacts and illustrations that I had gathered during the previous fifteen years - a consequence of my passionate interest in the boomerang - it happened that the town of Lure was one wishing to give it a home.

Geographically the town is well situated, not far from Germany and Switzerland, in the middle of beautiful country of forests and meadows with the famous and luminous Lady of the Height Chapel, built by Le Corbusier at Ronchamp in the 50's. I was captivated by the town and by its environment. Its location and surroundings related well to the spirit of the boomerang and with what I wanted to present as an answer to the boomerang universal attractiveness.

First discovered in Australia, and then found in other parts of the world, boomerang history seems to be connected with human history. It is this history that I wanted to relate should the sequence be prehistory, culture of Australian aborigines and that of Egyptians in the Pharaohs' time, maritime exploration of the Pacific ocean in the eighteenth century, a modern competitive sport and the high level technology needed by our recent champions.

I travelled all around the world tracking the boomerang. In consequence I met important persons and the most different amateurs. All had in common a great curiosity of mind, a keen passion for the mysteries of the boomerang and to its perfect practice. You will meet them photographed when you visit the museum.

I hope this visit will give you pleasure and will interest you in the possibility of limitless travel in space and time.

Jacques Thomas

Having left Portsmouth, England, in May 1787, it took eight months and seven days for the "First Fleet" to reach Port-Jackson (now Sydney Harbour), on the south-eastern coast of Australia. Today a jet-plane of Air France/UTA joins Paris to Sydney in less than twenty-three hours.

THE 'ENDEAVOUR'

Mindful of his first voyage around the world, James Cook selected an english collier built in 1768, for the qualities of strength and behaviour at sea and for the capacity of her hold. It was on this ship that he explored the eastern coast of Australia and arrived at Botany Bay in 1770.

The 'Endeavour' was of 366 tons burden. Her deck was 30 metres (98 ft) long and 9 metres (29 ft) beam. The mainmast was 22 metres (72 ft) high. There were 105 persons aboard - officers, scientists and crew members.

Stones and sticks, when thrown spinning and rotating rapidly, were probably the first projectiles which man used. A stick could fly further when bent at an angle or curved at an 'elbow'. It was also more accurate and easier to throw. A stream-lined cross-section made it even better.

Then, one day, when throwing such a 'flying-stick' at flocks of birds, man observed that the weapon returned: the 'boomerang' had been invented. We can imagine such an origin for this very old artefact which could have been known everywhere in the Stone-Age, and is still flying today in a modern sport.

Visiting the Museum will offer an opportunity of discovering originals and replicas of a wide and often ill-known group of artefacts, set in the appropriate human context related to each period of their history.

SHOW-CASE 'A'

The 'Boomerang'? A two-bladed artefact, rigid and flat, bent at an angle or curved at its 'elbow', which, when thrown spinning, flies and follows a curved flight-path which brings it back to the thrower.

The first boomerangs known in the West were those discovered by James Cook (1728-1779) and Jean-François de La Pérouse (1741-1788 ?) from Aboriginal tribes who were still living as if in the Stone-Age at the end of the eighteenth century.

'Killing-sticks' and 'throw-sticks', which are lighter than the former, also fly spinning, but they are unable to make a return flight. All together with the boomerangs they form the family of the 'flying-sticks'.



SHOW-CASE 'B' DISCOVERY OF AUSTRALIA

At the end of the eighteenth century, Australia was almost unknown to Westerners. Even its outline was not completely known. Famous navigators like Cook, and La Pérouse - whom we can see being commissioned by King Louis XVI (1754-1793) with the voyage of discovery - landed on its shore after long and hazardous voyages aboard slow and uncomfortable ships. At Botany Bay, they met the first Australian aborigines. Today the place, called La Perouse, is a sea-side suburb of Sidney.

- Sand from the beaches of Botany Bay.

'BONNIE'

This statue is a replica of the casting of an Australian aborigine, made in Lyon in 1884, by the Museum of Natural History. Newspapers of the time and the Society of Anthropology Bulletin tell of the presence in Lyon of this 'Austral Black' who threw boomerangs and spears.

'Bonnie' was borned in Queensland and belonged to a little travelling company which included an Inuit (or Eskimo) family. His presence gave rise to the greatest interest amongst scientists and anthropologists particularly.

How did he come to Lyon ? What was his fate ? It seems that nobody knows.

(Musée Guimet d'Histoire Naturelle de Lyon - Casting made by Georges Colas, Coulanges-les-Nevers 1991)

SHOW-CASE 'C'

FIRST CONTACTS WITH THE ABORIGINES

Explorers of the Australian continent and early settlers had to face primitive and aggressive people who were difficult to approach. They had strange customs, and bravely defended their land. Artists of the time gave them ferocious features and represented them like ancient warriors armed with spears and other weapons which were considered for a long time as 'wooden swords'. These were indeed boomerangs and killing-sticks, but till then, no one in the West had seen such weapons used.

SHOW-CASE 'D'

PLACES WHERE BOOMERANGS AND FLYING-STICKS HAVE BEEN LOCATED

Flying-sticks seem to have been in use, at one time or another, on all continents on the earth. Today, native people of certain countries still use killing-sticks or throw-sticks. On the contrary, boomerangs are found in only a few areas.

L'ASTROLABE

'L'Astrolabe' had been launched in France in 1811 as a 'stable-ship for 46 horses' and equiped for maritime exploration. She was not very different from La Pérouse's frigates which were wrecked in 1788. Captain Dumont d'Urville was commissioned to search for them aboard 'L'Astrolabe'. The ship sailed from France in 1826 and arrived at Australia in 1827.

'L'Astrolabe' was of 380 tons burden, 39 metres (128 ft) long at the water-line and 9 metres (29 ft) beam. The mainmast was 35 metres (115 ft) high. There were 79 persons aboard, officers and crew members.

SHOW-CASE 'I'

AUSTRALIAN BOOMERANGS WITH A CURVED SHAPE

In contrast to the killing-sticks, widely spread on the whole of the continent of Australia, boomerangs were found in some areas only. Carefully shaped with stone-tools, given a stream-lined cross-section with a bevel at the tip of a blade or with twisted blades in order they can return, boomerangs had many different planforms. Those with a curved planforms were numerous in the east. These ones weigh from 130 gr (4) to 215 gr (1) (4.6 oz (4) to 7.6 oz (1))

MAP OF AUSTRALIA

Boomerang concerned areas are marked out with hachures. It can be noticed that its use was chiefly spread out in eastern Australia, through the three States of Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. (After D.S. Davidson, 1936)

SHOW-CASE '2'

AUSTRALIAN BOOMERANGS WITH AN ANGULAR SHAPE

Boomerangs were used for playing, for fowling and for training hunters. When used for fowling, they could be thrown over flocks of birds to frighten and drive them into nets, imitating the flight of a hawk. This way of hunting pigeons is still practised in passes in the Pyrenees, with 'palettes' imitating the flight and attack of a goshawk under the flocks. The 'palettes' do not return. Boomerangs with an angular shape were numerous in the south eastern part of Australia. Those on display weigh from 100 gr (8) to 240 gr (4) (3.5 oz (8) to 8.5 oz (4)). On an average, the 'palettes' weigh 250 gr (8.8 oz).

SHOW-CASE '3'

BOOMERANGS FOR HITTING BIRDS - HOOK-SHAPED - FISHING-STICKS

Some big and heavy boomerangs such as '1' (155 gr/5.5 oz) to '3' (290 gr/10.2 oz) were thrown directly at flocks of birds to strike some of them. Others such as '4' (145 gr/5.1 oz) to '6' (175 gr/6.2 oz) were in the peculiar shape of a hook. They were probably used to frighten birds. Other sticks were used to kill fishes in shallow water. The 'fishing-sticks' of Western Australia such as '7' (300 gr/10.6 oz) and '8' (200 gr/7.1 oz) were made of wood of high density, and are very heavy for their size.

SHOW-CASE '4'

BOOMERANGS FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Coloured and grooved, boomerangs '1' to '4' are typical of the Kimberley area, in north-western Australia. They weigh from 108 gr (2) to 285 gr (4) (3.8 oz (2) to 10.1 oz (4)). The heaviest of them could be used as fighting weapons. Other boomerangs with a double curvature such as '5' to '7' were excellent for hunting birds. These ones weigh from 120 gr (6) to 195 gr (5) (4.2 oz (6) to 6.9 oz (5)).

SHOW-CASE '5'

KILLING-STICKS

Killing-sticks are bigger, heavier and generally more open than boomerangs. Like the latter, they fly spinning, but they do not return. Accurate and powerful, they were formidable weapons used for fighting and for hunting game. Explorers had to suffer from their effects. Those on display weigh from 280 gr (4) to 400 gr (6) (9.9 oz (4) to 14.1 oz (6)).

SHOW-CASE '6'

SPECIAL TYPES OF KILLING-STICKS

The beaked or swan-necked killing-sticks (1 to 3) were used for fighting and for hunting emus which they imitated the head and neck in profile. When thrown in fighting, since the beak gripped the edge of a shield, they could strike behind it with more violence. Typical of northern and central Australia, their weight is about 400 gr (14.1 oz). Two killing-sticks of about 210 gr (7.4 oz) are decorated with geometric engraved drawings (5 & 6). A killing-stick of the Kimberley area is ornamented with white strips (4). Weighing 290 gr (10.2 oz), it was a very dangerous weapon.

SHOW-CASE '7'

SPEARS, PROPULSEURS AND SHIELDS

Australian aborigines were skilful at throwing boomerangs, killing-sticks and spears with great accuracy. To throw the latter, they used a propulseur called a 'woomera' (3)-(4) by which they could considerably increase the range. Spears were used for fighting and hunting emus or kangaroos. Fighters tried to deflect them with their shields (5).

Sand from the plains of Central Australia.



SHOW-CASE '8'

THE LIVES OF AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES

Isolated from other parts of the world, but well adapted to their country, the Australian aborigines were very familiar with all the resources of their natural environment. For wood-working, they used stone-tools and the teeth and bones of animals. They linked pieces together with string made of human hair, plant gum or fibres. Men discussed, hunted and fought. Women were concerned with collecting food and weaving. They dug into the ground searching for edible roots and grubs which were rich in protein.

SHOW-CASE '9'

MARTIAL AND ARTISTIC PERFORMANCES

The Aborigines artistic expression appeared in the form of carvings and paintings on the body, on rocks and on wood or bark. 'Corroboree', as well as war-dances maintained the men's aggressiveness. Sound and rhythm were provided by the 'didjeridu', a long hollow tube which was blown into, clap-sticks, which could be boomerangs and baobab-tree nuts with their seeds dried inside. An Aborigine has related in drawings the high times of the life of a tribe in about 1860.

SHOW-CASE '10'

JACQUES THOMAS, CREATOR OF THE MUSEUM

Jacques Thomas (1923-....) discovered Australia during a mission for UNESCO in the Pacific area. A former army pilot, with aeronautical knowledge, he became passionately interested in the boomerang of which he was to become one of the best specialists in the world. In addition, he is an authority on La Pérouse and now very familiar with Australia. He is the author of books on boomerangs and of articles published in scientific magazines. He is the designer of famous sports boomerangs and had also proved that, in the Pharaohs'time, the Egyptians knew about the boomerang and its return flight.

SHOW-CASE '11'

EGYPT IN THE PHARAOHS' TIME By its richness and its refinement, the Egyptian culture of the Pharaohs'time is quite the opposite to that of the Australian aborigines. Reproduced by modern artists, the frescoes painted on the walls of the great tombs dug in the rock, show us Gods and Kings or nobles engaged in their favourite activities. Prominent among these, was fowling in the marshes. One can see some snake-shaped throw-sticks which seem to have been commonly used on birds.

SHOW-CASE '12'

HOWARD CARTER AND THE TOMB OF TUTANKHAMUN

In 1922, in Upper Egypt, Howard Carter (1874-1939) was to discover the tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun (who lived around 1350 B.C). It was in the Valley of the Kings, a place of absolute desolation. To the Egyptians of Thebes, Re, the Sun-God, disappeared here every evening. An extraordinarily rich treasure was gathered in this tomb, guarded by the god Anubis, a dog with black hair. Amongst the treasure were a lot of throw-sticks and boomerangs. Although Egyptians were famous seafarers, it is difficult to conceive that they could have had any contacts with Australia !

SHOW-CASE '13'

THROW-STICKS OF THE TOMB

In the 'Annexe' of the tomb, Howard Carter found a bow-box full of flying-sticks. Among these were snake-shaped sticks, throw-sticks made of ebony with gilded tips and two killing-sticks, weighing on average 250 gr (8.8 oz), which were partly covered with birch bark. All these objects were categorised, given a number, photographed and described on individual cards before being transferred to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. Some of them, small and light, had probably been used by the Pharaoh for training or playing when he was still a child.

SHOW-CASE '14'

THE BOOMERANG OF A PHARAOH

The bow-box found in the Annexe of the tomb contained a large number of what Howard Carter called 'boomerangs'. However he did not prove their capability of return flight. In 1989, Jacques Thomas continued the study of the objects, first at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, then in France, where replicas of the objects were made to test their flight. Most of them were capable of returning to the thrower after a high-throw. Weighing between 45 and 120 gr (1.6 oz & 4.2 oz), they were probably used for fowling.



SHOW-CASE '15' MANY EGYPTIAN FLYING-STICKS

The tomb of Tutankhamun is the only one which was not plundered, since it was hidden under the rubble from another. In other tombs, however, numerous flying-sticks have been found. Amongst them were a few boomerangs but they were mainly throw-sticks, which, for the greatest part, had not been varnished and had kept their natural colour. Many of them are of a similar shape which seems to have been common. They are like some specimens found in the tomb of Tutankhamun, which were made of ivory, gilded at the tips (12) and were certainly ritual objects.

SHOW-CASE '16' SPECIAL TYPES OF EGYPTIAN FLYING-STICKS

Although their shape and cross-section makes us believe that they were able to fly, some sticks are of a size which makes them fragile (5 & 7). One may wonder if these were to be thrown or not. Half-covered with white stucco, two big snake-shaped throw-sticks have a flattened body. The shaping of one boomerang has not been finished (11). Found in the earth of a burial, greyish in color and damaged, the 'Boomerang of Badari' (8) is one of the oldest known (2100 B.C.). It flies and returns well. Painted on a fresco, two beaked throw-sticks (13) are similar in shape to some Australian killing-sticks.

SHOW-CASE '17' PREHISTORIC AND ETHNOGRAPHIC FLYING-STICKS

Prehistoric artefacts, which would seem to be capable of flying have been found in Australia and elsewhere. Replicas of some of them proved when tested that they flew perfectly well. Some were capable of a return flight, such as the 'Boomerang of Velsen' (about 300 B.C.), made of oak and found in a peat-bog in Holland (3), and a shape (2) engraved on rocks at Nämforsen in Sweden (estimated 3000 B.C.). An artefact found at Wylie Swamp (10), in South Australia, seems to be a boomerang (about 9000 years old). There are certainly some boomerangs depicted amongst the prehistoric rock carvings of the Sahara Desert (13). The 'Killing-stick of Oblazowa' (about 21000 B.C.), found in Poland, has been carved from the ivory of a mammoth tusk (1). A killing-stick from Egolzwil, Switzerland, dates from 4000 B.C. (8). In recent time, in the South-west of the U.S.A., the Hopi Indians used a killing-stick for hunting rabbits (9). The 'Safarok' (4 to 6) is used in Chad, Africa, in a similar way.

SHOW-CASE '18' ORIGIN OF MODERN PRACTICE

The way the Australian aborigines threw their boomerangs and had them returning aroused the interest of Westerners. In the nineteenth century, some of them had a try at it. Most of the time they had no great success ! In the middle of the twentieth century, due to a few pioneers, boomerang throwing became a modern sport. New familiarity with aerodynamics and an adaptation of aircraft wing cross-sections to the blades of the boomerangs allowed excellent models to be made. Enthusiastic throwers set up international links.

SHOW-CASE '19' CLUBS AND CONTESTS

Boomerang practice and knowledge seem to be an answer to the expectations of many. It may be easy or complex. Its spirit seems to fit our time, and boomerang throwing is continuously developing. Following the example of the Boomerang Association of Australia, numerous other clubs have been founded. Field contests have multiplied, involving the development of standard events and international rules. The main associations of each country are in constant contact with each others.

SHOW-CASE '20' A CLUB ATTACHED TO THE PAST

In 1980, Jacques Thomas founded the Boomerang-Club de France. In 1985 the memory of La Pérouse was linked with boomerang activities since he had been the first Frenchman to land in the country of the boomerang. Active in the sporting field, this new club was intended also to pay homage to the past. In 1988, at the very date and hour, representative members were present on the spot to celebrate the Bicentenary of La Pérouse's landing in Australia. In France the Club took part in welcoming John and Marjorie Timbery, Aborigines of 'La Perouse' tribe invited by the French Government. They also took them for a throw of honour at La Pérouse's birthplace near Albi.

SHOW-CASE '21' AN ABUNDANT LITTERATURE

At the same time as boomerang throwing developed, many historical studies and much research was done, including the way the Aborigines could use them and the theory of their flight and return. Articles appeared in newspapers and scientific magazines ; books were published, which helped to make them better known. Boomerangs were used on posters in advertising. The expression : '...by boomerang effect !...' became one of the French journalists' favourite.

SHOW-CASE '22' MODERN BOOMERANGS OF CLASSIC SHAPES

In 1969 some Australians recreated boomerang throwing as a modern competitive sport. Following this, boomerangs appeared on the market made of plywood or laminated wood and produced in quantity. They came chiefly from Australia, Great Britain, Holland and the U.S.A. Not all of them were a good quality ! In 1978 a quality boomerang of an advanced type appeared in France : the MK-1 made of ABS plastic, weighing 120 gr (4.2 oz).

SHOW-CASE '23' MODERN BOOMERANGS OF GREAT SIZE

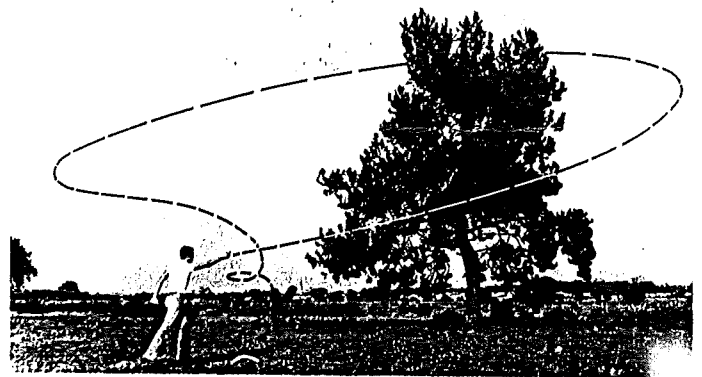
Modern boomerangs are of widely differing sizes ; they can be made of wood or of plastics, they can be mass-produced or individually made. Slowly moving and revolving in the air boomerangs of great size have a majestic and long flight. This is however, sometimes, prejudicial to the accuracy of their return ! An exception is boomerang (1) which is a demonstration model. Nevertheless, it flies away over a distance of 20 metres from the thrower before returning. To throw and catch it may be considered an achievement.

SHOW-CASE '24' MODERN BOOMERANGS OF 'HOOK' OR 'OMEGA' SHAPE

A strong wind is usually the enemy of a boomerang, for it disturbs its flight and gives a less accurate return. Boomerangs of 'Hook' (1 to 4) or 'Omega' shape (5 to 9) resist the effect of wind best. Their shape is also favourable for long distance throwing. However they are not always easy to use since they are often heavy and they usually require the skill of an advanced thrower.

SHOW-CASE '25' LONG DISTANCE AND LONG FLIGHT BOOMERANGS

Long distance boomerangs displayed on the left and down are made of fibre reinforced plastics or of laminated wood. They are very thin, and are able to fly in the hands of experienced and well-trained throwers a distance of over 100 metres. The boomerangs on the right and up are 'MTA' models (Maximum Time Aloft). Their shape is very special. They are made of thin plywood and carefully weighted. They have to be thrown high in the air from where they are intended to descend slowly. All these boomerangs were made by famous specialists.



SHOW-CASE '26' TAKING CARE OF AESTHETICS

The beauty of its forms and the aesthetic care taken in making or decorating it are not incompatible with the best flight performance of a boomerang. Combining different kinds of wood, may often create beautiful effects and some types of ornamentation are quite remarkable.

SHOW-CASE '27' FROM A PROTOTYPE TO MASS-PRODUCED ARTICLES

Creating a model is the result of personal wishes and of limitations of technical ability. In the examples presented here evolving from plywood to plastics, investigations and experiments led to a prototype carved from raw material (3), which gave rise, through a mould, to mass-produced boomerangs (4-5). In its turn, the MK-1 type was to give rise to new prototypes (6 to 8), thicker but lighter, from which came 'amphibian' boomerangs which can be thrown on land and above the water, since they float (9 to 11).

SHOW-CASE '28' MODERN PLAY-BOOMERANGS

Small in size and low in weight, made of plywood or of plastics, these boomerangs are generally easy to throw and catch. Their range is usually short and this allows the throwers to use them with few restrictions. Some of them, like (12), gave rise in the late 1980's to a generation of fast, precise, accurate boomerangs not necessarily easy to use. A new type of event was developed - the fast catch.

SHOW-CASE '29' MINI-BOOMERANGS

All the boomerangs displayed have a short range of about one or a few metres and are able to return like the dry leaves of certain eucalyptus trees. Some of them are small size models of famous boomerangs. These are very carefully made and they fly much further. Other have been designed for advertising purposes. Made of cardboard or of balsa wood, some can be used indoors. Boomerang (7) made of fibre was offered to customers of a French manufacturer of fibre articles at the 1920 Paris Motor Show.
- Original engraving by Catherine Dewatre.

SHOW-CASE '30' ORIGINAL THROWS AND UNUSUAL FLIGHTS

Be they flights of honour or physical and technical feats, unusual flights are always interesting and often deserving. On the summit of the Mont-Blanc or in a valley of the Himalayas ; around the South Pole ; inside a jet-plane over the Pacific Ocean ; night flights ; throwing at the end of a Year to catch in the first seconds of the New Year ; exotic or historical. These original throws can be moving, exhausting or amusing !

SHOW-CASE '31' PRACTISING BOOMERANG THROWING

Quality throwing in contests requires knowledge, physical fitness and much training. Generally to learn how to throw presents no great difficulties for beginners, so long as they have a good boomerang and know how to set about it. Throwing a boomerang is not very different from serving at tennis. The thrower has to take the wind into account, to tilt the boomerang at a slight angle from the vertical and to throw it straight forward giving it as much spin as possible. Catching is usually made between opened hands.

SHOW-CASE '32' RECORDS

As soon as International rules were set up, records started to be officially registered. The World Record for long distance, that is the maximum distance from the thrower reached before the boomerang returns, is one of the most famous. Australia, Great Britain, U.S.A., France, Germany, and France again in 1988, have been successively holders of the title. In 1988, Christian Jabet (France) threw a boomerang of his own design a distance of more than 149 metres. This was made of a special metallic alloy given by the French firm 'Avions Marcel Dassault' in the expectation of breaking the record. Weight : 135 gr (4.8 oz).

SHOW-CASE '33' BOOMERANG MAKING

The production of good boomerangs in quantity is complicated and difficult to set up. For beginners to make a boomerang which will fly and return is pretty easy if they have a good and clear plan, a little plywood and a few cheap hand-tools. An advanced enthusiast will find small electrically powered machines which enable many to be made in a short time. Note the shape and section of a left-handed boomerang (15). This is the reverse of that for a right-handed boomerang (14).

SHOW-CASE '34' FLIGHT AND RETURN THEORY

It is not necessary to know how a boomerang flies and why it returns to use it as best as possible. However this knowledge will be most useful to visualize and to design a high performance boomerang. A boomerang has something in common with a flying discus, an aircraft propeller, a helicopter rotor and a banking aircraft. Moreover it behaves like a gyroscope ! It is able to fly and to return due to the aerodynamic and mechanical effects as it moves through the air. The complete explanation is complicated, but easily understood if each aspect is analysed separately.

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30th November 1992

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MWH Editor.

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UP IN OUR
NEXT ISSUE
RESULTS FROM
BRUCE'S
SUPER
SERIES

International Teams Cup Tournament

Date 31.8.1992 Test Number 1

Hamburg 1992

MASTER SHEET

TRICK CATCH NAME	M.T.A. NAME	AUSST ROUND NAME	FAST CATCH NAME	SUPERCATCH NAME	TEAM RELAY TOTAL
SCORE	SCORE	SCORE	SCORE	SCORE	POINTS
PLACE	PLACE	PLACE	PLACE	PLACE	PLACE
1. <u>Ulf H.</u>	9	<u>Axel H.</u>	22.08	0	26
2. <u>Tommy L.</u>	10	<u>Michael</u>	13.50	11	5
3. <u>Thomas A.</u>	6	<u>Chamber</u>	18.54	19	26
4. <u>Quinter</u>	9	<u>Thomas</u>	13.33	0	36
TOTAL	34	2.01	80	30	2.33
PLACE	7	4	8	8	2
1. <u>Steve P.</u>	8	<u>Rob</u>	23.34	0	26
2. <u>John</u>	9	<u>John</u>	20.51	0	26
3. <u>John P.</u>	10	<u>John</u>	21.57	0	26
4. <u>Bob</u>	8	<u>John</u>	21.57	27	26
TOTAL	35	2.01	84	27	2.58
PLACE	5	2	9	8	8
1. <u>Oliver K.</u>	9	<u>Oliver</u>	18.51	13	26
2. <u>Oliver</u>	10	<u>Oliver</u>	18.51	13	26
3. <u>David</u>	8	<u>Oliver</u>	18.51	6	26
4. <u>John</u>	8	<u>Oliver</u>	18.51	0	26
TOTAL	32	1.21	65	27	2.49
PLACE	9	11	9	6	6
1. <u>John R.</u>	8	<u>John</u>	18.51	13	26
2. <u>John</u>	9	<u>John</u>	18.51	13	26
3. <u>John</u>	10	<u>John</u>	18.51	5	26
4. <u>John</u>	7	<u>John</u>	18.51	0	26
TOTAL	30	1.31	64	20	3.14
PLACE	10	10	11	10	10
1. <u>Stephane</u>	11	<u>Stephane</u>	21.57	10	22
2. <u>John</u>	10	<u>Stephane</u>	21.57	10	22
3. <u>John</u>	9	<u>Stephane</u>	21.57	19	22
4. <u>John</u>	10	<u>Stephane</u>	21.57	20	22
TOTAL	40	1.50	71	49	3.03
PLACE	8	6	4	8	8
1. <u>John</u>	9	<u>John</u>	21.57	10	69
2. <u>John</u>	10	<u>John</u>	21.57	10	69
3. <u>John</u>	9	<u>John</u>	21.57	10	69
4. <u>John</u>	9	<u>John</u>	21.57	12	69
TOTAL	38	2.17	86	62	2.48
PLACE	7	0	4	7	4
1. <u>John</u>	9	<u>John</u>	21.57	10	77
2. <u>John</u>	10	<u>John</u>	21.57	10	77
3. <u>John</u>	9	<u>John</u>	21.57	10	77
4. <u>John</u>	9	<u>John</u>	21.57	12	77
TOTAL	38	2.17	86	62	2.48
PLACE	7	0	4	7	4
1. <u>John</u>	9	<u>John</u>	21.57	10	30
2. <u>John</u>	10	<u>John</u>	21.57	10	30
3. <u>John</u>	9	<u>John</u>	21.57	10	30
4. <u>John</u>	9	<u>John</u>	21.57	12	30
TOTAL	38	2.17	86	62	2.48
PLACE	7	0	4	7	4

TRICK CATCH NAME	M.T.A. NAME	AUSST ROUND NAME	FAST CATCH NAME	SUPERCATCH NAME	TEAM RELAY TOTAL
SCORE	SCORE	SCORE	SCORE	SCORE	POINTS
PLACE	PLACE	PLACE	PLACE	PLACE	PLACE
1. <u>May B.</u>	8	<u>May B.</u>	24.54	3	52
2. <u>May B.</u>	7	<u>May B.</u>	25.03	0	52
3. <u>May B.</u>	4	<u>May B.</u>	25.03	0	52
4. <u>May B.</u>	6	<u>May B.</u>	25.03	8	52
TOTAL	25	1.51	78	11	2.27
PLACE	12	8	13	18	18
1. <u>Greg</u>	10	<u>Greg</u>	20.14	18	12
2. <u>Greg</u>	8	<u>Greg</u>	20.14	0	12
3. <u>Greg</u>	8	<u>Greg</u>	20.14	18	12
4. <u>Greg</u>	11	<u>Greg</u>	20.14	14	12
TOTAL	37	2.04	79	50	2.43
PLACE	3	3	3	3	3
1. <u>Nobu</u>	5	<u>Nobu</u>	26.50	5	64
2. <u>Nobu</u>	3	<u>Nobu</u>	25.52	0	64
3. <u>Nobu</u>	3	<u>Nobu</u>	25.52	3	64
4. <u>Nobu</u>	5	<u>Nobu</u>	25.52	0	64
TOTAL	16	1.14	58	8	2.57
PLACE	13	13	14	14	14
1. <u>John</u>	7	<u>John</u>	21.57	10	16
2. <u>John</u>	9	<u>John</u>	21.57	15	16
3. <u>John</u>	9	<u>John</u>	21.57	6	16
4. <u>John</u>	9	<u>John</u>	21.57	25	16
TOTAL	34	1.58	56	56	2.25
PLACE	7	5	2	2	0
1. <u>John</u>	3	<u>John</u>	21.57	2	44
2. <u>John</u>	5	<u>John</u>	21.57	0	44
3. <u>John</u>	7	<u>John</u>	21.57	27	44
4. <u>John</u>	11	<u>John</u>	21.57	12	44
TOTAL	26	1.10	44	58	2.54
PLACE	11	12	7	7	7
1. <u>John</u>	10	<u>John</u>	25.09	9	10
2. <u>John</u>	7	<u>John</u>	25.09	10	10
3. <u>John</u>	10	<u>John</u>	25.09	20	10
4. <u>John</u>	11	<u>John</u>	25.09	62	10
TOTAL	38	2.17	86	62	2.48
PLACE	7	0	4	7	4
1. <u>John</u>	7	<u>John</u>	25.09	10	46
2. <u>John</u>	9	<u>John</u>	25.09	10	46
3. <u>John</u>	9	<u>John</u>	25.09	11	46
4. <u>John</u>	9	<u>John</u>	25.09	10	46
TOTAL	34	1.58	56	61	5.02
PLACE	7	9	10	6	10
1. <u>John</u>	7	<u>John</u>	25.09	10	75
2. <u>John</u>	9	<u>John</u>	25.09	10	75
3. <u>John</u>	9	<u>John</u>	25.09	10	75
4. <u>John</u>	9	<u>John</u>	25.09	10	75
TOTAL	34	1.58	56	61	5.02
PLACE	7	9	10	6	10

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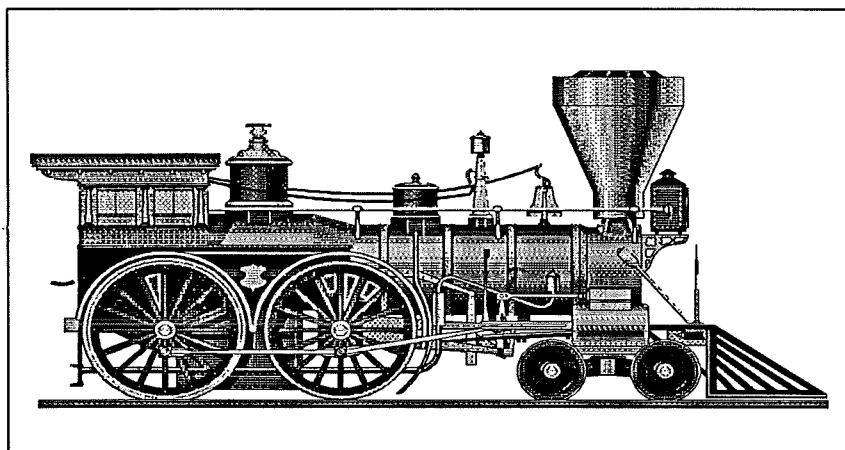
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