# VICTOR TRUMPER

(1877 - 1915)



#### 88. THE BELDAM PHOTOGRAVURE

This photogravure by George Beldam was published by the Swan Electric Engraving Company in 1905 but is based on a photograph taken at The Oval during the 1902 tour. It is surely the ultimate iconic image in cricket, rivaling even the face and beard of WG Grace. This is a fine example, printed on thick art paper with generous margins (image size 38cm x 30cm), framed and glazed in a period vintage frame and signed clearly by Trumper. The photogravure process was the pinnacle of techniques for fine art reproduction of a photograph.

£1400

#### VICTOR TRUMPER'S LAST BAT

Victor Trumper is arguably the most magical name in the history of Australian cricket. Even Bradman does not attract the awe and reverence reserved for the man who Archie MacLaren described in these words: "Myself, I was considered out of a good stable. They talked of my grand manner. Well, compared to Victor, I was an honest selling plater in the company of a Derby thoroughbred." This Ashes year of 2015 sees not only a new breed of dashing Australian batsmen visit our cricket fields but also marks the hundredth anniversary since Trumper died at the heartrendingly early age of 37.

Why was Trumper idolized so much at the time and why is he still remembered with such affection to this day? His batting, of course, was the core but it was not the weight of runs or size of his average that instilled such passions. Without being too trite, it was simply "the way he played the game". Ferocious attack was invariably his method with never a thought for personal glory at the expense of the team or the watching crowds. But, even more importantly, the world sensed and learned that Victor was the kindest, most self-effacing, most honest and least arrogant and least affected man ever to play the game at such a high level. It's hard in any walk of life to be a true genius and not show those traces of "being difficult". Somehow Trumper pulled it off as nobody except perhaps Jack Hobbs has done since.

Victor bestrode the game's Golden Age from his youthful debut in 1895 to his brave and troubled finale in 1914, when his last first-class matches were played out against the backdrop of impending War. His final Test Match had been two years earlier and even then the grip of the kidney disease that was to claim him was doing its worst. Victor had been struck with Scarlet Fever in 1908 and, in truth, after a final tour to England in 1909, his delicate nature never quite recovered enough to enable full participation in the game. In those last few seasons his love of cricket was not diminished, however, and he continued as captain of the all-powerful New South Wales side when he could. A strong Australian team toured America in 1913 and Victor's name was amongst those chosen but in the end he had to withdraw. In the Spring of 1914, however, Sir Arthur Sims took a strong Australian XI to New Zealand and Victor summoned up his frail constitution for one last assault on the bowlers. A stunning innings of 293 against Canterbury (his 250 coming up in just two and a half hours) was essentially his swan song from top class cricket. But that innings and the rest of the tour must have taken their toll.

After a brief winter break, Victor dusted off his kit for yet another season, still planning to be captain of NSW when available, but concentrating on his duties for Gordon District in the Sydney grade competition. The World War was raging and Australians were quick to play their part. We now know that a couple of weeks before the first match Victor took a bat down and scribbled his typically modest initials "V T" on the back, along with the date, 11/9/14. No doubt he went straight to practice with his team and on the four successive Saturdays in October he led the Gordon side.

In the first of these, three weeks after signing the new bat, he was at his imperial best in scoring 123 in just two hours against Glebe at Wentworth Park. The pitch was damp and the opposition attack was fierce enough, with Tibby Cotter leading the way. The dark cloud of the incipient Bright's Disease that was attacking his kidneys was for a brief moment lifted but the price when he got home was great. We know this from the testimony of his wife, Annie, who wrote in a letter to friends: "About October 1914 cricket had just commenced. He had played all Saturday afternoon and on Sunday I noticed





his ankles were a little swollen. It worried me at the time and I threatened to bring in the doctor. He begged me not to worry..." At this time the risk of Bright's Disease after contracting Scarlet Fever was well known and Annie was aware of the danger signs associated with swollen ankles in Victor's condition. For the next three Saturdays Victor played on for his Club but barely troubled the scorers. His innings of just 19 on October 10 against Paddington was described in the Press "as quiet a display as the

incomparable has ever been guilty of and he seemed afraid to chance a forcing shot." After two more miserable outings Annie clearly got her way and Victor played no more. He had been scheduled to captain NSW in a match for the Patriotic Fund in November but was forced to withdraw. In 1915 he took to his bed and eventually succumbed, in some agony, in June of that year.

But what of the bat he initialed in September 1914? Did he use it for that last hundred against Glebe? Was it in his hands for those final faltering four runs against Petersham? We can never know for sure but now enters the charismatic figure of the Reverend Raymond Preston, a Yorkshire-born Evangelist and cricket fanatic who had watched the game since the 1870s and first met Trumper on the 1909 tour to England. In March 1913 Preston set sail for a 12 month mission in Sydney, a task that kept him in Australia for another 12 years. During his first week in the city he went to see Trumper again and they quickly became the closest of friends. Over the last 18 months of Victor's life "Uncle Raymond", as he called him, shared net practices with Trumper at the SCG, shared his locker and eventually persuaded the ailing cricketer of the comfort he could gain from God. All this is described at length by the Reverend in a biography published in 1930.

We also have it from Preston himself in a later interview that when Trumper died he left him his "last used bat and ball". He added, "in Sydney only a week or so ago a man wanted to buy the bat for £300 but I told him I wouldn't part with it for £3000." That's almost £200,000 in today's money! This type of act was typical of Victor and the stories of him giving away bats that he had used in matches have clung to him throughout his career.



Preston survived two wives and lived out his life in Australia before dying in 1950. The bat was passed on through the family before being sold in this momentous anniversary year by his grand-daughter Rhonda Gray and ultimately acquired specifically for this Exhibition by Boundary Books. While we cannot witness on some cricketing 'You Tube' the details of Victor's last four innings, why would we doubt the Reverend's own account that during the final weeks of his life, comforted by his new-found faith, "he left me his last used bat". The bat that was most likely used in those last four innings and scored that final brave century.

The bat comes in a presentation case with a full portfolio concerning its provenance.

£12,500

# FROM TRUMPER'S OWN COLLECTION



89. Cabinet Photograph by Poul C Poulson of Brisbane, 1895. Victor's first season for NSW. Trumper's own copy and possibly unique. £1200



91. Mounted photograph (image 0.5cm x 14cm) by Colonial Photo, mount trimmed to fit oval frame. Inscribed on reverse "To Victor Trumper as a memento of a few hours very pleasant chat in Colombo from his Ceylon friend, S P Foenander. 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1909, Colombo, Ceylon". Shows the Foenander brothers, this photo was kept by Victor's bedside.

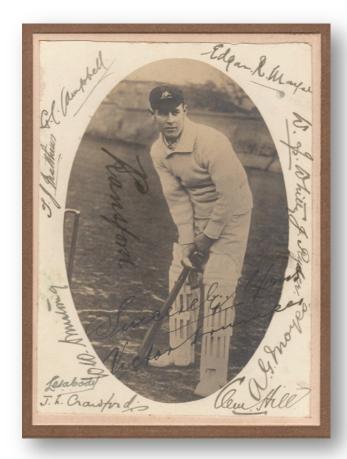


90. Mounted sepia photograph (11cm x 17cm) by Bolland & Co, 1899. Victor's own copy.

£1000



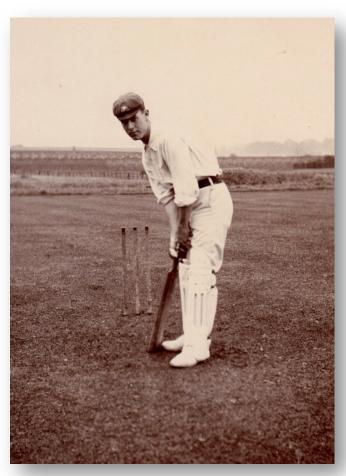
92. Trumper & Carter Sports Store, Market Street, Sydney. Opened in August 1904, it operated until 1909. Extremely rare image of the location where Victor held many meetings concerning cricket and rugby league. This was Victor's own photograph, passed down through the family.



93. Testimonial photograph (image 11cm x 15cm, on original board mount) with facsimile signature as usual but this copy also signed in ink by all 11 of The Rest team. £1100



94. Testimonial photograph (11cm x 15cm) with facsimile signature as usual but this also copy with original signature dated 8 February 1913. £1200



95. Sepia photograph (12cm x 17cm) of a young Trumper in batting stance wearing Australian Baggy Green during the tour of 1899. £500



96. Cabinet Photograph by A Pickering of Leicester. Signed by Trumper 8 September 1899. £1800

# VICTOR TRUMPER POSTCARDS

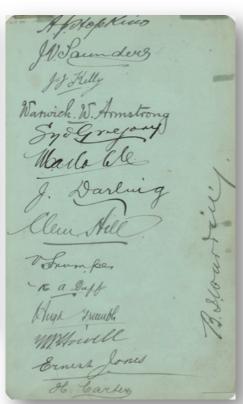


A good selection of postcards of Trumper, signed and unsigned, will be available at the Exhibition.

## 1902 TOUR TO THE UK



97. A rarely seen team photograph (16cm x 13cm) with signature of ownership of WW Armstrong to reverse. £500



98. Magnificent large autograph sheet (14cm x 22cm) signed by all 14 tourists plus the Manager, Major Wardill. Signed to the reverse by 11 of Leicestershire from the same season. £2000

	Cancashire County Ground.
	ENGLAND v. AUSTRALIA,
	THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JULY 24th, 25th and 26th, 1902
	AUSTRALIA
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99. Part printed scorecard for the famous Test Match at Old Trafford – "Tate's Match" – in which Victor scored a century before lunch on the first morning when the pitch was wet. One of his greatest innings. £400



100. Scorecard for Fifth Test 1902. The famous match where England won by 1 wicket thanks to a hundred from Jessop and Hirst and Rhodes final partnership.

#### PUBLIC RECEPTION AFTER THE 1902 TOUR



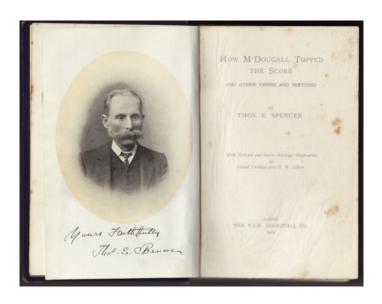
#### 101. OFFICIAL SOUVENIR AND PROGRAMME

On Friday, 12 December, 1902 the Crown Street School Old Boys Union put on a Public Reception and Presentation for Victor, their most famous son, at the Sydney Town Hall. This is the extremely rare 24pp, large format Souvenir Programme for the event. It contains the full programme for what was essentially a musical evening with addresses by the State Premier and the President of the NSWCA and a Presentation to Trumper by the Vice-President of the Old Boys Union. The Souvenir includes details of Victor's career by JC Davis, "Not Out" of Sydney-based "Referee". This fragile item is in very good condition, the covers having been professionally conserved to museum standards, and carries the signature of Ashley Mallett who at one time owned it. See Sharpham's biography of Trumper for a full account of the evening.

The very ative of Pepers Hat? 2/4 Plant of a rail.

One evening, part at Dundown I was sitting on a rail.
When up rode leg tim Brady, who brad been to peter their Saking out a newspaper he handed it to me,
And pointed to a paragraph. Just look at the Says he.
Here a core called vision treemper, an Augtralian by birth,
Has been moppin up the creiter records all around the earl.
Duch centuries and aggregates were creek known before,
And New Dooth Wilson to dothy, because thempen before the
Score

I says, when I had read it pes, I think he heard his manne,
And according to the Callegrams he plays a decent game,
and according to the Callegrams he plays a decent game,
In breakin English records his been making farme for us,
And a think, in April of hiplin, that a spoung hum might be
But before he breaks all records he has got to wait a bit
on, he brassit broke Mc Dougali, who made fifty in a feet
Jos, he haspit broke Mc Dougali, who made fifty in a feet
Jaint the least his pealous, I don't speak because of that
But will let mo bloomin trumpers take the cake from types Hot



#### 102. MANUSCRIPT BY THOS E SPENCER

Original 3pp manuscript signed by Thos E Spencer with the full text of "The Prerogative of Piper's Flat", a recitation specially written for the Public Reception to Victor Trumper at Sydney Town Hall, 12 December 1902. This Trumper-specific piece was penned by Spencer as a follow-up to his famous recitation titled "How M'Dougall Topped the Score" and was read at the reception by William Walsh. It finishes with the rousing line "Long Life to Victor Trumper" and no doubt brought the house down that night. On the front is a penciled note from JC Davis, the noted Australian cricket journalist "Please keep clean and return to JCD." This precious manuscript is sold with a copy of the book by Spencer, published in 1906 by NSW Bookstall Co, both his cricket recitations were first published in permanent form.

## TRUMPER'S TEAM IN QUEENSLAND 1906



103. Rare postcard photo of The Victor Trumper Team which made a short tour of Queensland in April 1906 with the intention of encouraging cricket in the northern country districts. Back row: CR Corry, A Cotter, RN Hickson, VT Trumper, ER Bubb, AJ Hopkins. Front row: W McIntyre, TH Foster, AL Newell, SJ Redgrave, JC Barnes. This card is addressed in Victor's handwriting to his wife. She was apparently staying in Melbourne while Victor was on tour.

£500



#### VICTOR TRUMPER EPHEMERA



104. Scorecard for Fifth Test 1899. Match drawn £100





105. SIGNATURE
Fine signature of Trumper on large clipped piece. £300

106. Scorecard Cambridge
University v The Australians,
1899. The University lost
despite scoring 436 in their first
innings. £100

that Victor Trumper scored a century before lunch, against great English broting, which he quickly reduced a disarray and impotence. I was a schoolby ten - eleven years of agr. But my mind sers victor ret, as he played on that remorphed day, will his bat letter a bannery in the air. He was the next chivalrous of crichelists. And there was in his play something purple: stained, some passionals purple: stained, some passionals prode of bearing; he was kingly, I ret not in the least remotely

#### 107. NEVILLE CARDUS LETTER

Wonderful 8pp, hand-written letter from Neville Cardus, dated March 31, 1932 to Kathleen Southwell in Australia. Full of interest – Cardus covers Manchester – "Manchester is a dead town commercially, only the ugliness remains"; "People today prefer (to music) the Kinema, which I loathe"; Archie Jackson – "I do so fervently hope he will recover"; the forthcoming Bodyline series - "I don't think you need worry about Australia's prospects in the Test Matches of 1932/33. Bradman will safeguard the Ashes for you" - "I have just declined a most tempting offer to travel to Australia next October to write on the Test Matches. After much consideration I have rejected the proposal - because it would interfere with my music. I've been foolish - the tour would have been a boon to my health...and, of course, I'd have made a small fortune"; about Fingleton who Ms Southwell had recommended as a good player – "He wrote a letter to me a few years ago saying he had liked one of my books. And, of course, any cricketer who reads my books MUST BE GOOD!"

The heart of the letter, though, concerns Cardus' memories of Trumper – "I was a schoolboy then (the 1902 Old Trafford Test Match) but my mind sees Victor yet, as he played on that wonderful day with his bat like a banner in the air." After two and a half pages of purple prose he stops – "Forgive me – I'm afraid I'm writing a 'Cricketer' article to you!" Ms Southwell was a friend of the Trumper family and this letter remained in the possession of Victor's nephew, Charlie Trumper, for many years. As a Cardus hand-written manuscript on Trumper it is a museum-quality item. \$850

# VICTOR'S LAST FIRST-CLASS MATCH IN AUSTRALIA

N.S.W. V. Tictoria

Sydney, January 1914.

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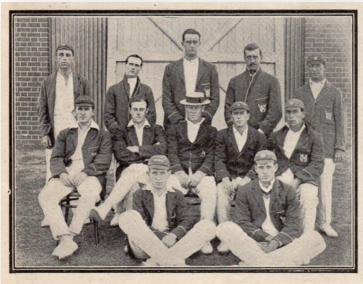
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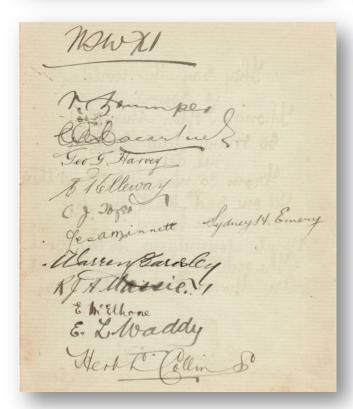
#### 108. NSW AUTOGRAPHS FROM LAST MATCH

This is a fine autograph sheet,  $10 \text{cm} \times 16 \text{cm}$ , signed by all 12 of NSW in the match against Victoria at Sydney in January 1914. NSW won by an innings thereby winning the Sheffield Shield. Victor scored just 24 in what was to prove to be his last match for NSW and his last first-class match on Australian soil. Includes a newspaper photograph of the team from the Sydney Mail of January 28.



New South Wales Cricket Team.

Back Row (Left to Right)—E. P. Barbour, C. Mc Kew, R. J. A. Massie, B. J. Folkard, T. J. E. Andrews. Second Row—L. A. Cody, W. Bardsley, V. Trumper (Captain), C. G. Macartney, A. A. Mailey. Front Row—H. L. Collins, C. Kelleway.



# 109. NSW AUTOGRAPH SHEET 1911

Fine large autograph sheet, 14cm x 17cm, for the NSW team against the South Africans at Sydney, February 1911. NSW won by 44 runs and Victor scored 5 and 15. The sheet includes the 12th man, EL Waddy. Macartney scored a hundred in each innings.



#### 110. NSW AUTOGRAPH SHEET 1911

Fine large autograph sheet, 18cm x 22cm, for the NSW team against Victoria at Sydney, January 1911. NSW won by 466 runs and Victor scored 4 and 82. The sheet lacks SH Emery but includes the 12th man, CJ Tozer. £600

# FROM VICTOR TRUMPER'S OWN COLLECTION









These fine sepia cabinet photographs (11cm x 17cm) were from Victor Trumper's own photo album, later acquired by the Australian--based collector Srikant Ramamurthy. From the top, left to right, they show Clem Hill, Hugh Trumble, Syd Gregory and Bill Howell. The first three are published by A Pickering of Leicester and the one of Howell by the Brighton firm of Hawkins.

111. CLEM HILL £1500

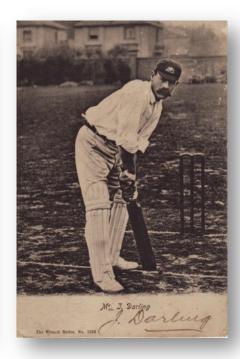
112. HUGH TRUMBLE£1500

113. SYD GREGORY £600

114. BILL HOWELL £600



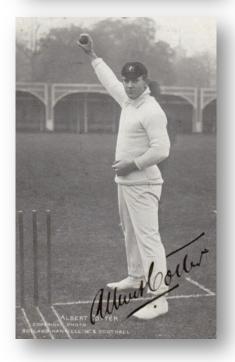


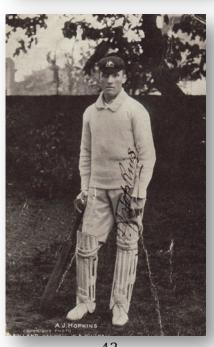












# SIGNED POSTCARDS

We have a selection of signed postcards depicting contemporaries of Trumper's in the Australian XI. Those shown are:

top: Armstrong, Darling, Darling

centre: Noble, Hill, Laver

bottom: Cotter, Hopkins

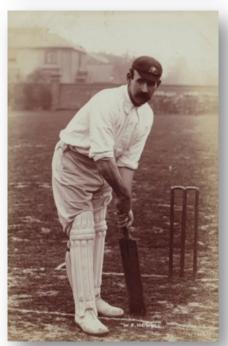
£275 ea















# POSTCARDS BY FOSTERS OF BRIGHTON

These sepia, real photograph cards by Fosters are sought after because of their exceptional quality.

top: Noble, Armstrong, Armstrong

centre: Gregory, Howell, Carter

bottom: Cotter

£100 ea

# AUSTRALIAN TEAM POSTCARDS WITH VICTOR TRUMPER













# AUSTRALIAN TEAM POSTCARDS

The Exhibition will include a good selection of scarce Australian teampostcards featuring Victor Trumper.

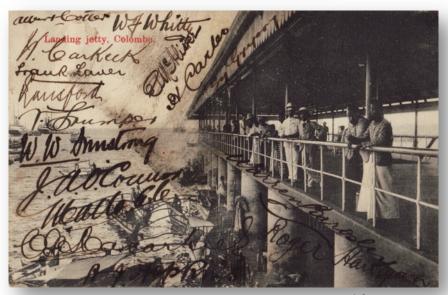
# AUSTRALIAN TEAMS WITH VICTOR TRUMPER





#### 115. MELBOURNE, DECEMBER 1910

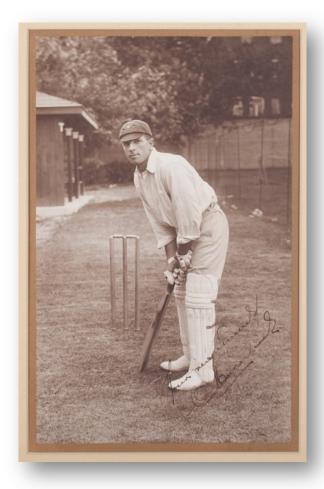
Small booklet produced privately as a memento of the Second Test Match between Australia and South Africa at Melbourne over New Year 1910/11. The booklet contains 6 sepia photographs, unpublished, approx. 10cm x 8cm each, including the one of Victor on the boundary (above) and the South Africans taking the field (left).



# 116. SIGNED POSTCARD 1909

This postcard of the Landing Jetty at Columbo was sent by Warren Bardsley to Miss Vera Bardsley back in Sydney on April 1st, 1909. It is signed by Victor Trumper and the rest of the touring team - Cotter, Whitty, Carkeek, Laver, Ransford, Armstrong, O'Connor, Noble, Macartney, Hopkins, McAllister, Carter, Gregory, Bardsley and Hartigan. £1000

# VICTOR TRUMPER'S CONTEMPORARIES



117. CHARLIE MACARTNEY
High quality, large sepia photograph of Macartney,
boldly signed. 19cm x 30cm. £700



118. AUSTRALIANS TOUR TO UK 1909 Large sepia team group, 24cm x 30cm. £500



Oh, the Darling of the Gods is Joe.
It ain't worth known' what he don't know.



He climbed to the top of the ladder of fame. This brilliant left-hand in the great cricket game.

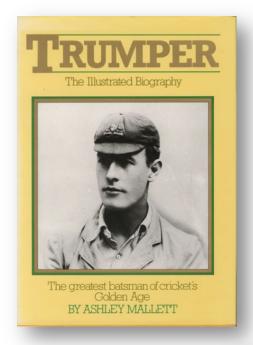


Warwick the run-maker, a giant in size. A cute cunning bowler, a captain so wise

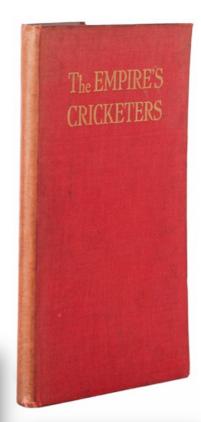
#### 119. ORIGINAL ARTWORK

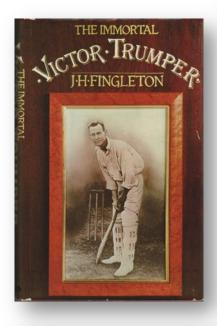
Three original pen and ink, highlighted, caricatures of Joe Darling, Clem Hill and Warwick Armstrong. These were the artwork used to produce three of a rare series of postcards by Taylor. £1200 the set

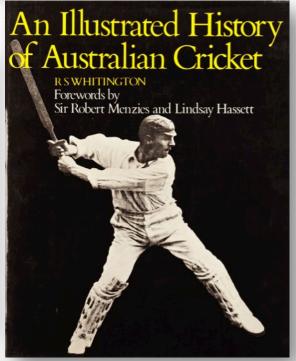
# BOOKS RELATED TO VICTOR TRUMPER

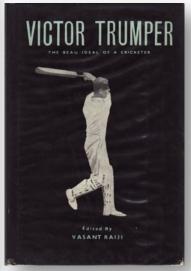


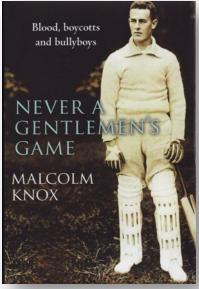


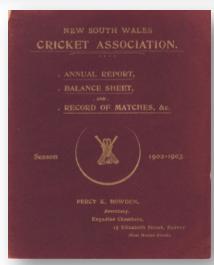


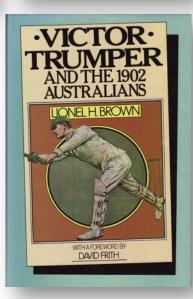






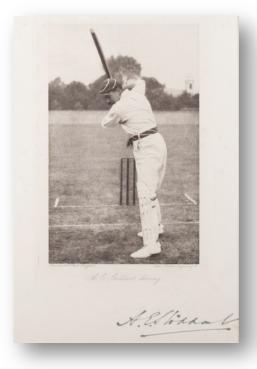






# A E STODDART

(1863 - 1915)







120. SIGNED PHOTOGRAVURE Large sheet photogravure, 18cm x 25cm, by the Swan Electric Engraving Co after a photograph by Hawkins of Brighton.
Boldly signed in ink by Stoddart £750

121. LIEBIG MENU
Liebig menu card – we have the others
in the series at the Exhibition £200

122. SPY CARICATURE
"A Big Hitter", one of Spy's best caricatures for Vanity Fair £100



123. STODDART'S TEAM
TO AUSTRALIA 1894/95
Large sepia team group, 41cm x
34cm, taken in the Botanical
Gardens, Adelaide by McGann.
Complete with full tweed suits in the
heat. £750

