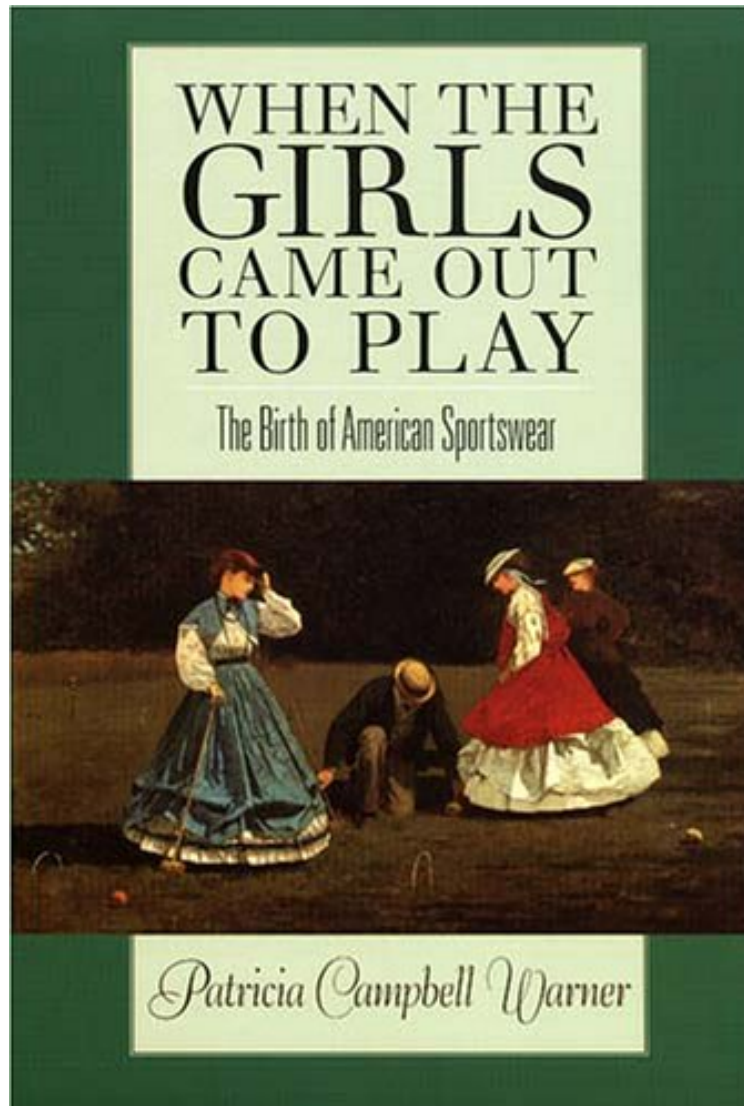


When the Girls Came Out to Play: The Birth of American Sportswear

Patricia C. Warner

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#2363592 in Books Univ of Massachusetts Pr 2006-08-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.28 x .77 x 6.14l, 1.00 #File Name: 1558495495320 pages | File size: 27.Mb

Patricia C. Warner : When the Girls Came Out to Play: The Birth of American Sportswear before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised When the Girls Came Out to Play: The Birth of American Sportswear:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent ScholarshipBy PhilosopheI used this book as a major source for my thesis paper to earn a Bachelor's in History. It is an excellent resource for anyone interested in women's studies - especially in late nineteenth and early twentieth-century America. Campbell Warner combines a plethora of

gender/cultural/social/historical/fashion/sports scholarship from people like Susan Cahn to textile historians like herself, in addition to great primary sources from places like Harper's Bazaar and Harper's Weekly.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. An excellent survey prompts readers to understand the connected basics of social and leisure movements and ideology. By Midwest Book Review College-level collections strong in both sports history, the arts and women's studies will equally find *When The Girls Came Out to Play: The Birth of American Sportswear* an important study, linking the evolution of women's clothing trends with the rise of women's involvement in recreational sports. The changes in sportswear brought with it and reflected a breakdown in traditional gender roles: Patricia Warner surveys the history of women's sports clothing from the early 19th to the mid-20th century and provides excellent analysis of women's participation in a male-dominated world. An excellent survey prompts readers to understand the connected basics of social and leisure movements and ideology. Diane C. Donovan California Bookwatch³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. *Women and sports* By Lyric Interesting book about the history of how women's fashion changed as they began playing individual and team sports. Ultimately the "fashions" developed for playing sports became part of everyday wear for women -- hence, the name "sports clothes" attached to the casual fashions that dominate daytime dressing today.

A study of the evolution of American women's clothing, *When the Girls Came Out to Play* traces the history of modern sportswear as a universal style that broke down traditional gender roles. Patricia Warner shows how this profound cultural shift, which did not reach fruition until World War II, originated during the previous century with the gradual expansion of socially acceptable physical activity for women. Behind this development was a growing interest in sports and exercise that was further nurtured by the establishment of schools of higher education for women. The participation of women in athletic pursuits previously reserved for men began with the relatively genteel sports of croquet and tennis. With the founding of women's colleges, these "ladylike" games were supplemented by more vigorous activities and competitive team sports, from gymnastics to swimming to basketball. At first, Warner points out, women literally had nothing to wear for these activities. Whereas such fashionable attire as corsets, petticoats, hats, and gloves could be worn while playing outdoor lawn games, more strenuous athletic endeavors required less physically restrictive clothing. Even so, change came only gradually, as women's colleges, shielded from public scrutiny and prying male eyes, permitted the adoption of looser, more comfortable apparel for physical education. Many of these new outfits featured trousers, garments considered taboo for women, though they often remained hidden beneath voluminous skirts. Over time, however, the practicality and versatility of such clothing led to social acceptance, laying the foundation for the emergence of the now ubiquitous yet distinctly American style known as sportswear. Although we take it for granted, Warner observes, this is the first time in the history of the world that such universality has existed in clothing, and it has lasted now for well over half a century in itself a marvel, considering the speed of fashion change in an era of instant messages and images.

"This will be the book on women and sport clothing and will no doubt open the doors for additional research on the topic. . . . Patricia Warner has long been considered the expert in this field and numerous scholars have been anxiously awaiting the publication of this book." Gayle V. Fischer, author of *Pantaloons and Power: A Nineteenth-Century Dress Reform in the United States* "Patricia Campbell Warner has completed a compelling and insightful book that poses the question, "Which came first, the sportswear or the female athlete?" . . . This fine book should be read by interested in the history of women and sports in the nineteenth-century." *The American Journal of Play* "Warner's book brings together many elements of history, from 'muscular Christianity' to 'rational dress,' to build a convincing argument for why we should accord those dorky gym suits more respect than we may have given them as teenagers." *UMass Amherst Magazine* "Warner examines a heretofore untapped area of U.S. social history: how informal clothing developed in the 1800s in response to middle-class leisure activities, competitive sports, and attitudes related to health. With wit and personal activities anecdotes, she reveals the rationale for the evolution in fashions from body-restricting women's Victorian styles to loose, comfortable, informal modern wear. . . . This pioneering work should spawn further women's history studies." *Choice* From the Back Cover "This will be the book on women and sport clothing and will no doubt open the doors for additional research on the topic. . . . Patricia Warner has long been considered the expert in this field and numerous scholars have been anxiously awaiting the publication of this book." --Gayle V. Fischer, author of *"Pantaloons and Power: A Nineteenth-Century Dress Reform in the United States"* About the Author Patrick Campbell Warner is professor of theater at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.