Journal Review

Journal of Play Theory & Research

No, it's not new! The quarterly Journal of Play Theory & Research is the new title for an old friend, Play & Culture. Chronologically each is the official journal of The Association for the Study of Play, an international group of scholars from many disciplines who share an interest in play in all its aspects. Why the name switch in the journal? Human Kinetics Publishers, Inc., who began publication of Play & Culture in February, 1988, stopped with volume 5, number 4 (November, 1992); Sagamore Publishing, also of Champaign, Illinois, contracted with TASP to publish its journal under the name Journal of Play Theory & Research, beginning with volume 1, no. 1 (1993).

Besides changing the title and cover color and numbering from 1(1), the new edition is more streamlined. The deletion of research reports and comments and book reviews in the first issue accounts for fewer pages. The journal, however, continues its investigation of play, including empirical, theoretical and position papers, and critical essays. These address the play phenomenon in humans and animals across various cultural, social and activity settings. Perspectives are derived from behavioral, social, and biological sciences, education, and humanities. Interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches to sport, leisure activities, and ethnographies of play, among other topics, are important to scholars studying women in sport and physical activity. The same cornerstone of quality of both journals is the strong research-oriented cadre of contributors. Among the world’s best thinking on play and its meaning has been found in these journals’ scholarly forum. Garry Chick, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, established high standards as editor of Play & Culture from 1988-1990. Margaret Carlisle Duncan, University of Wisconsin, Madison, has served as editor from 1991 to 1993, retaining the high quality of the previous volumes. Alan Aycock, associate editor, University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, will assume the editorship in 1994. By the way, from 1976 to 1987. The Association for the Anthropological Study of Play (the association’s name prior to 1988) published eleven annual volumes containing selected play papers presented at annual meetings. These books are worth scanning. To obtain information, contact Human Kinetics Publishers, Inc., Box 5076, Champaign, IL 61820.

Should a scholar interested in women in sport and physical activity subscribe to the Journal of Play Theory & Research? That depends on your special area. It would be prudent to examine each issue for pertinent articles. My perusal of a total of one hundred thirty-five
articles published from 1988 to 1993 turned up eleven research papers or eight per cent relating to girls and women in sport and physical activity. These articles are listed at end of this review. If you are curious about anthropology and play references written between 1978-1988, you might refer to Frank A. Salamone’s article “Anthropology and Play: A Bibliography” in *Play & Culture*, (May, 1989, 2(2), pp. 158-181. For a view of play research published prior to 1978 examine Helen B. Schwartzman’s topically organized book *Transformations: The Anthropology of Children’s Play*. (1978), New York: Plenum.

To subscribe to the *Journal of Play Theory & Research* (published February, May, August, and November), contact Sagamore Publishing, P.O. Box 647, Champaign, IL 61824-0647 for a current 20 per cent discount. If you wish to join The Association for the Study of Play, contact Stuart Reifel, TASP Secretary-Treasurer, 613 Oakland Avenue, Austin, TX 78703. With membership you receive annually four issues of the *Journal of Play Theory & Research*. Three TASP Newsletters, conference information and reduced registration fees, plus free consultation on play issues. TASP also supports PLAY-L (a new electronic discussion group focusing on play scholarship). If you wish to submit a paper to the *Journal of Play Theory & Research*, contact the associate editor, Dr. Alan Aycock, Department of Anthropology, University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta T1 K 3M4.

You may be interested in the following articles found in the *Play & Culture* and *Journal of Play Theory & Research* back issues:


