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Front Cover: *Ping Pong: The New Table Game as Played in America [Cover]*, by M. G. Ritchie and Arnold Parker. New York: Street & Smith Publishers, 1902. Library of Congress, Selected Digitized Books, Control No. 02012922. Image 1 of 136. <https://www.loc.gov/item/02012922/>.

Back Cover: *Table Tennis: A Description of the Game, with Rules and Instructions for Playing [Page 1]*. New York: American Sports Publishing Co., 1902. Library of Congress, Selected Digitized Books, Control No. 03011988. Image 9 of 84. <https://www.loc.gov/item/03011988/>.

Among the digitized historical newspapers in the Library of Congress, a two-sentence news item appears in the May 30, 1901 edition of the *Hutchinson Gazette* of Hutchinson, Kansas: “‘Ping Pong,’ a society amusement started in England, has found its way to this side and is increasingly popular. It is a table version of lawn tennis, with celluloid balls, parchment raquets [*sic*] and a six-inch net.”

By 1902, newspapers marveled at the “ping pong mania” affecting the nation—men and women, old and young, masters and servants, cities and suburbs, day and night. “Ping pong fever” seeped into various realms of society, as newspapers published instructions on game play, tips on constructing makeshift equipment (amid reports of “a run on the stores which sell the game”), lists of tournament champions, and poems and humorous stories dedicated to “the Rage.” Warnings soon emerged that “pongers” exposed to this “Virulent Malady” were susceptible to a host of new dangers, such “ping pong wrist,” “ping pong ankle,” eye strain, gambling habits, and angry neighbors. Stories cautioned that ping pong “disturbs the family tranquility,” lures players “to the small hours of the morning,” and is “conducive to profanity.” Of particular concern, “Many women, finding that the corset has hampered their movements when engaged in the strenuous little game, have doffed the troublesome little garment altogether.”

Back in Kansas, *The Topeka State Journal* declared the “Passing of Ping Pong” on July 30, 1903, two years and two months after the *Hutchinson Gazette* announcement. “The Once Popular Fad Has Spent Itself in Topeka,” the *Journal* wrote, concluding that “Ping pong was an unexplainable craze, a brief manifestation of that intermittent fever to which humanity seems to be subject and which breaks out in just such unexpected ways every ten years or such a matter.”

Seventy years later, this short-lived national fad would serve a crucial role in international politics. Hallie Xu, a student participant in the National History Day competition, examines this historical shift in global relations in “A Little Ball Propels the Globe: How Ping Pong Diplomacy Transformed Twentieth-Century Geopolitical Dynamics,” which begins on page 105 of this issue.

We hope you and your students enjoy the possibilities presented in this edition of *The History Teacher*, including a special focus on **Teachers Helping Teachers** and our annual celebration of the prize-winning student authors for **National History Day**.

The History Teacher publishes articles of three general types: (1) reports on promising new classroom techniques, educational programs, curricula, and methods of evaluating instructional effectiveness; (2) analyses of important interpretations, leading historians, historiographical problems, and recent trends in specific fields of historical research; and (3) critical review essays on audiovisual materials, textbooks, and other secondary works suitable for classroom use.

The History Teacher also publishes reviews of audiovisual materials, books, supplementary readers, and other printed classroom materials, with evaluations of their scholarly reliability, formats, and effectiveness of presentation. Reviews are commissioned in advance. Readers interested in contributing reviews should advise the Editor of their qualifications and fields of specialization.

Submission guidelines for *The History Teacher* are available on the final page of this issue. Additional information for contributing authors is available at <https://www.thehistoryteacher.org/contributing>.

Correspondence regarding contributions to *The History Teacher* and materials for review should be sent to the Editor, *The History Teacher*; California State University, Long Beach; 1250 Bellflower Boulevard; Long Beach, CA 90840-1601.

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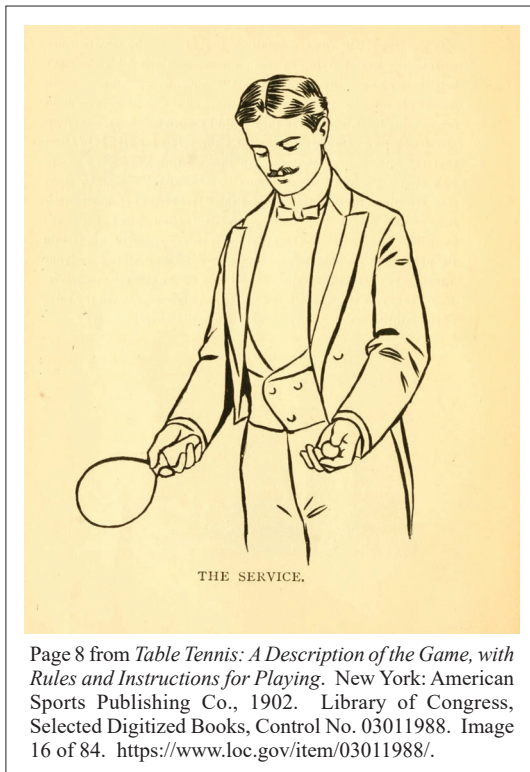
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