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RUSSELL CROWE

The Art of Divorce

PREVIEW HIGHLIGHTS OF SPORTING MEMORABILIA



The important Australian 'Baggy Green' Test cricket cap of 'W.A.S 'Bert' Oldfield' from the 1932-1933 'Bodyline' series.
Estimate AUD\$40,000-60,000

An impressive collection of sporting memorabilia will be auctioned by Sotheby's Australia on 7 April 2018 in Sydney. Consigned from the private collection of actor, film producer, director and musician, Russell Crowe, the collection comprises many significant items of Australian and international sporting history from baseball, boxing, cricket, rugby, swimming and tennis. Consisting of 227 items, the *Russell Crowe: The Art of Divorce* sale is estimated at AUD\$2.6 million to AUD\$3.7 million and will be held at Carriageworks, Sydney.

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Russell Crowe is an ardent sports fan. Investing heavily into his beloved rugby league team, South Sydney Rabbitohs, he took them all the way to an NRL premiership win in 2014 and World Club Champions in 2015, and restored the Grand Old Club to its former glory breaking a 43 year championship drought. Crowe's other great passion is test cricket. With two cousins, Jeff Crowe and Martin Crowe, both captaining the New Zealand national side, Russell Crowe has stated, 'for a long time cricket was the family business.'

After serving in World War 1, Bert Oldfield made his first-class cricket debut in 1919 playing for Australia in England. From 1924 until he retired in 1937, Oldfield was Australia's automatically selected wicket-keeper, failing to complete only one test match during that time, that being the fourth test of the notorious 1932-1933 'Bodyline' series in Adelaide. The English Bodyline tactic entailed bowling the cricket ball in line with the body of the batsman, in the hope of provoking an uncontrolled response as the batsman swung with less certainty in order to protect himself. Facing a fast ball from Harold Larwood, Oldfield suffered a fractured skull when he was hit in the right temple and was stretchered off the ground unconscious, his only head protection the 'baggy green' cap now being auctioned (estimate AUD\$40,000-60,000, lot 129, pictured previous). Ironically, Larwood's delivery was judged a 'fair' ball, however the incident was to be forever associated with the most contentious of tactics. Oldfield played 54 Tests for Australia, scoring 1,427 runs, and taking 78 catches along with 52 stumpings. His tally of 52 stumpings remains a Test career world record. In first-class cricket he played 245 matches, scoring 6,135 runs, and taking 399 catches and 263 stumpings.

Middle order batsman Lindsay Hassett's cricket career was interrupted with the outbreak of World War II. After the War Hassett began playing in earnest at an age when many cricketers would consider retiring. His cricket career includes three seasons as Vice-Captain under Donald Bradman, later he became Captain before retiring in 1953. Consigned to auction is Hassett's 1950-1951 'Baggy Green' cap (estimate AUD\$35,000-45,000, lot 128, pictured). During the 1950-1951 season, Hassett lead the Australian team to a home victory over England 4-1 in the Ashes series.



A.L. 'Lindsay' Hassett's Australian 'Baggy Green' Test cricket cap, from the 1950-1951 Test series. Estimate AUD\$35,000-45,000



A life-size hollow-cast bronze statue of Donald Bradman, by Carl Valerius. Estimate AUD\$50,000-60,000

Honouring the great cricketer Donald Bradman is a life sized bronze Donald Bradman statue by Carl Valerius (estimate AUD\$50,000-60,000, lot 126, pictured previous). This statue is believed to be an artist's proof of an identical figure which forms part of the Captains Walk, a display of forty two sculptures of past Australian Test cricket captains located at Jubilee Park in Bradman's birthplace of Cootamundra, New South Wales. Donald Bradman is widely acknowledged as Australia's greatest batsman of all time. The English developed the controversial Bodyline bowling method in an attempt to reduce Bradman's (and teammates) run score.



A 2008 custom 'Rabbitohs' chopper motorcycle, designed and made for Russell Crowe by Orange County Choppers. Estimate AUD\$35,000-45,000

Other cricket memorabilia in the sale includes bats, jackets, jumpers and shirts having come from the collection of Russell Crowe's cousin, Martin Crowe MBE (combined estimate AUD\$39,700-66,400, lots 100-123, 130-135). The collection includes jerseys and shirts worn by Alan Boarder, Hansie Cronje,



Martin Crowe's signed New Zealand 1992 World Cup cap and shirt. Estimate \$1,000-2,000

Martin Crowe, Javed Khan, Brian Lara, Sachin Tendulkar, and Shane Warne. Martin Crowe was a former New Zealand cricketer, Test and One Day International captain as well as a commentator. He played for the New Zealand national cricket team between 1982 and 1995, and is regarded as New Zealand's greatest batsman. From the 1992 World Cup is Martin Crowe's signed cap and shirt (estimate AUD\$1,000-2,000, lot 116, pictured), this Series was an important one for Martin Crowe. Not only did he captain the New Zealand team, he was also the highest aggregate run scorer for the series and was named Player of the Series.

In 2008 Orange County Choppers designed and custom made for Russell Crowe a 'Rabbitohs' chopper motorcycle (estimate AUD\$35,000-45,000, lot 95, pictured). This is one of three 'Rabbitohs' motorcycles designed and constructed by the Teutul family, the proprietors of Orange County Choppers. This example was unveiled as part of the Australia Day celebrations, 26 January 2008, during a Rugby League exhibition match between the South Sydney Rabbitohs and the Leeds Rhinos, in Jacksonville, Florida. During various stages of construction the motorcycle were featured in the Discovery channel television series, American Chopper (2003-2010).



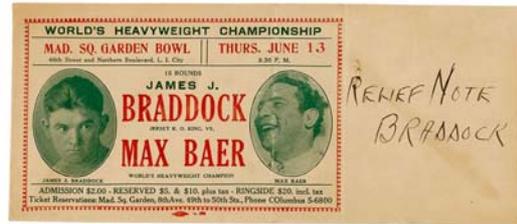
Hansie Cronje signed 1995 one day international cricket shirt. Estimate \$1,500-2,000

Rugby memorabilia includes a South Sydney Rabbitohs jersey, signed by the First Grade Squad in 2002 (estimate AUD\$1,000-2,000, lot 148). The significance of this jersey is that it marks the year that the Rabbitohs were readmitted to the 2002 premiership, after successfully overturning their exclusion from the National Rugby League at the end of 1999.

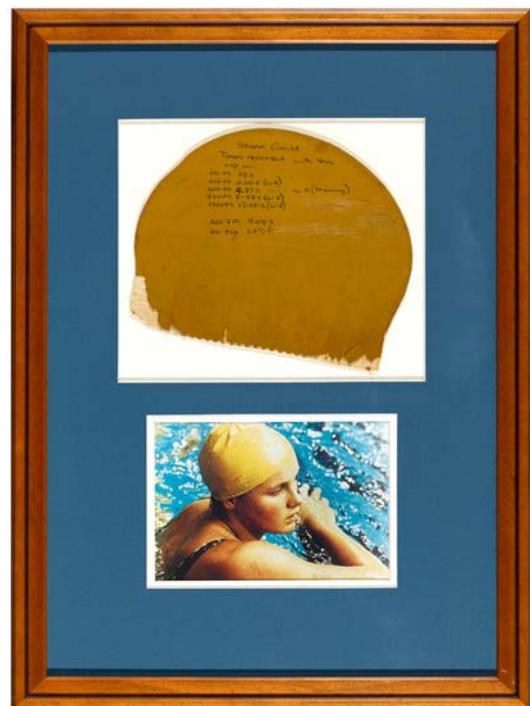
‘During the filming for the Movie Cinderella Man (2005) we found out an amazing story about how James J. Braddock repaid the money the government relief agency had given him when he was experiencing hard times in the depression of the 1930s. The story became a scene in the movie’ said Russell Crowe. The actual cheque that Braddock used to pay back the Emergency Relief Administration of New Jersey in 1935 is estimated at AUD\$20,000-30,000 (lot 30, pictured).

Other sporting items include;

- A Joe DiMaggio signed baseball and Mariano Rivera signed baseball (estimate AUD\$1,000-2,000, lot 149).
- Shane Gould’s swimming training cap. Inscribed by Gould with times recorded for distances while wearing this cap (estimate AUD\$5,000-8,000, lot 152, pictured)
- Two silverplate Lawn Tennis Association of Australia Wilson Cup’s won by Evonne Goolagong (Cawley) as a member of the New South Wales Team in 1969 and 1970 (estimate AUD\$1,000-2,000 each, lot 153, pictured following, lot 154)
- The first known Australian greyhound racing trophy. The 1873 Sunbury Cup Trophy for greyhound coursing attributed to Edward Fischer (1828-1911). This was won by Nicodemus owned by Frederick Row, and is crafted in Australian silver (estimate AUD\$10,000-15,000, lot 155, pictured following).



James J. Braddock's cancelled relief cheque from the Emergency Relief Administration of New Jersey. Estimate \$20,000-30,000



Shane Gould's swimming training cap, inscribed by Gould with times recorded for distances while wearing this cap. Estimate \$5,000-8,000



The 1970 Lawn Tennis Association of Australia, Wilson Cup, won by Evonne Goolagong (Cawley) as a member of the New South Wales team. Estimate AUD\$1,000-2,000



The 1873 Sunbury Cup Australian silver trophy for greyhound coursing, attributed to Edward Fischer (1828-1911). Estimate AUD\$10,000-15,000

AT A GLANCE

Russell Crowe: The Art of Divorce

Estimate AUD\$2.6 million to AUD\$3.7 million | 227 lots

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Auction in Sydney, 7 April 2018, 6 pm

Carriageworks, 245 Wilson Street, Eveleigh, New South Wales

Exhibition in Sydney 4-7 April, 10 am to 5 pm

Carriageworks, 245 Wilson Street, Eveleigh, New South Wales

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