

history of the lawn jockey

The History of the Lawn Jockey: A Journey Through Time and Culture

history of the lawn jockey is a fascinating subject that intertwines American folklore, cultural symbolism, and social history. Often seen standing stoically in yards and gardens, the lawn jockey has a story that goes far beyond its quaint appearance. To truly appreciate this curious figure, it's important to explore its origins, evolution, and the complex meanings it has carried throughout the years.

Origins of the Lawn Jockey

The lawn jockey, typically a small statue depicting a man in jockey attire holding a lantern or ring, first appeared in the United States in the 18th century. While the exact origin story is somewhat murky, many historians trace the figure back to the Revolutionary War era. One popular legend credits the creation of the lawn jockey to a young African American boy named Jocko Graves, who served as a courier for General George Washington.

According to the tale, Jocko bravely held a lantern to guide the general's troops through the night, ultimately sacrificing his life during the mission. To honor his courage, Washington supposedly commissioned a statue in Jocko's likeness. While this story may be more myth than fact, it highlights the early connection between the lawn jockey and themes of loyalty and service.

Early Designs and Symbolism

In its earliest forms, the lawn jockey was a practical object. The statues often held lanterns to light the way for horse-drawn carriages arriving at night. These figures were usually cast in iron or made of

ceramic and painted in vibrant colors. The statues' attire mimicked the clothing of stable hands and jockeys, emphasizing their functional and decorative role in equestrian settings.

Beyond utility, the lawn jockey began to embody symbolic roles. For many, it represented hospitality and guidance, welcoming visitors to homes and estates. However, it also became a marker of social status, often adorning the lawns of wealthy families who owned horses and carriages.

The Lawn Jockey Through the 19th and Early 20th Centuries

As America moved into the 19th century, the lawn jockey evolved alongside societal changes. This period saw an increase in mass production, making the statues more accessible to the general public. However, it was also during this time that the lawn jockey's imagery became more controversial.

Racial Depictions and Controversies

Unfortunately, some lawn jockey statues began to reflect racial stereotypes. Particularly in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many versions depicted caricatured African American figures with exaggerated features, often painted with bright green or red skin tones. These versions were connected to the minstrel shows and Jim Crow-era imagery, which perpetuated harmful stereotypes.

Because of this, the lawn jockey became a symbol of racial oppression for many people, sparking debate about its place in American culture. Some families retained the statues as nostalgic artifacts, while others saw them as offensive relics that needed to be retired.

The Role in the Underground Railroad Mythology

Another intriguing aspect of the lawn jockey's history is its alleged connection to the Underground

Railroad. Some stories suggest that lawn jockeys were used as covert signals to guide escaping slaves. Statues with certain colored ribbons or lanterns were said to indicate safe houses or directions for freedom seekers.

While this narrative is compelling, historical evidence for this use is limited. Nonetheless, it remains a powerful part of the folklore surrounding the lawn jockey, symbolizing hope and resilience amid adversity.

The Lawn Jockey in Popular Culture and Modern Times

Today, the lawn jockey is a figure that reflects changing attitudes and ongoing conversations about race and heritage in America. It appears in various forms—from kitschy garden ornaments to collectible antiques—and continues to inspire debate and reinterpretation.

Collecting and Restoring Lawn Jockeys

For collectors and historians, lawn jockey statues offer a window into past craftsmanship and cultural trends. Original pieces from the 19th century can be valuable antiques, especially those made of cast iron or bronze. Some enthusiasts focus on restoring faded or damaged statues, carefully preserving the paint and structural integrity to maintain their historical significance.

If you're interested in collecting lawn jockeys, it's important to research the origins and context of each piece. Understanding the statue's background helps avoid perpetuating offensive imagery and supports responsible preservation.

Reimagining the Lawn Jockey

In recent years, artists and activists have sought to reimagine the lawn jockey in ways that honor its complex history while challenging outdated stereotypes. Some modern sculptures depict the figure in a dignified, respectful manner, emphasizing themes of bravery and service without caricature.

Community projects have also used lawn jockey imagery to spark dialogue about race relations and historical memory. By confronting the past openly, these initiatives aim to foster a more inclusive understanding of American heritage.

Understanding the Lawn Jockey's Place in History

Exploring the history of the lawn jockey reveals much about America's evolving social and cultural landscape. This small statue is more than just a garden decoration; it embodies stories of courage, controversy, and identity.

Whether viewed as a symbol of loyalty, a problematic relic, or a piece of Americana, the lawn jockey invites us to reflect on how objects can carry deep meanings across time. By learning about its origins, transformations, and the conversations it continues to inspire, we gain insight into the complexities of history and memory.

In the end, the lawn jockey stands as a reminder that every artifact has a story—sometimes simple, sometimes complicated, but always worth exploring.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the origin of the lawn jockey statue?

The lawn jockey statue originated in the United States during the 18th century and is believed to have been used as a hitching post for horses.

Why is the lawn jockey statue considered controversial?

The lawn jockey statue is considered controversial because many versions depict a caricatured African American figure, which has been viewed as a racist stereotype.

What role did the lawn jockey play in American history?

Historically, lawn jockeys served as hitching posts and were also used as symbols or guides, such as in some stories associating them with the Underground Railroad.

How did lawn jockey designs change over time?

Lawn jockey designs evolved from realistic figures to more stylized and less racially stereotyped versions, with some modern statues redesigned to be racially neutral.

Are there any famous legends associated with lawn jockeys?

Yes, one legend tells of a young African American boy named Jock who bravely held a lantern to guide George Washington across the Delaware River, inspiring the lawn jockey figure.

When did the lawn jockey become a popular lawn ornament?

The lawn jockey became popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as decorative yard ornaments in American households.

How has public perception of lawn jockeys changed recently?

Public perception has shifted towards recognizing the racial insensitivity of traditional lawn jockeys, leading to their removal or redesign in many communities.

What materials were commonly used to make lawn jockey statues?

Lawn jockey statues were commonly made from cast iron, ceramic, and concrete.

Did lawn jockeys have any functional purposes besides decoration?

Yes, besides decoration, lawn jockeys were used as hitching posts for horses and sometimes as lantern holders.

Are lawn jockey statues still made today?

Yes, lawn jockey statues are still made today, but many are redesigned to avoid racial stereotypes and to serve more as historical or decorative items rather than functional hitching posts.

Additional Resources

****The Complex History of the Lawn Jockey: From Functional Marker to Controversial Icon****

history of the lawn jockey reveals a multifaceted narrative that intertwines American folklore, cultural symbolism, and evolving societal values. Often seen as quaint lawn ornaments depicting a small figure holding a lantern or ring, lawn jockeys have sparked both nostalgia and controversy. Their origins date back to the 18th century, with connections to colonial America, the Underground Railroad, and racial stereotypes. Understanding the history of the lawn jockey requires a nuanced examination of how these figures have been perceived over time and the implications they carry today.

Origins and Early Uses of the Lawn Jockey

The earliest known lawn jockeys appeared in the late 1700s or early 1800s, primarily serving a practical role rather than mere decoration. These cast-iron or ceramic statues were positioned near driveways or entrances to hold lanterns, guiding travelers after dark. The figures often took the form of a young boy or man dressed in jockey attire, including a cap and breeches, which led to the name "lawn jockey."

The Myth of Jocko Graves

One popular but debated story credits the origin of the lawn jockey to an African American stable hand named Jocko Graves, who allegedly served General George Washington. According to legend, Jocko was tasked with holding a lantern to guide Washington's troops during harsh weather. Tragically, he purportedly froze to death while standing guard, and the statue was created as a memorial. While this tale is widely circulated, historians have found little concrete evidence to support it, and it remains more folklore than fact.

Practical and Decorative Functions

In addition to serving as lantern holders, lawn jockeys gradually became ornamental fixtures. Their stature and posture—sometimes holding a ring or a whip—evoked the image of a stable attendant or a coachman, roles common in the 18th and 19th centuries. For many homeowners, these statues symbolized hospitality and a connection to equestrian culture, especially in rural or suburban settings.

The Lawn Jockey and Racial Imagery

While initially functional, the lawn jockey soon became enmeshed in the complicated racial dynamics of American society. By the early 20th century, many lawn jockeys were painted with exaggerated features, often caricaturing African Americans in a manner consistent with minstrel stereotypes. This development has made the lawn jockey a contentious symbol, with interpretations varying widely depending on context and presentation.

The “Cavalier Spirit” vs. Racial Stereotypes

There are primarily two distinct styles of lawn jockeys that emerged:

- The “Cavalier Spirit” or “Jocko” Lawn Jockey: Often depicted as a Black boy with exaggerated facial features, bright red lips, and holding a lantern. This style is the most controversial due to its association with racist imagery.
- The “Groomsman” or “Signal Boy” Lawn Jockey: Typically portrayed as a white figure dressed in jockey attire, holding a ring or lantern. This version is generally viewed as less problematic, focusing more on equestrian themes than racial representation.

The widespread distribution of the “Jocko” style lawn jockey during the Jim Crow era reflects the systemic racism prevalent in American society at the time. Many African Americans and civil rights advocates have criticized these statues for perpetuating demeaning stereotypes.

Role in the Underground Railroad Narrative

An intriguing aspect of lawn jockey lore involves their purported use as secret markers within the Underground Railroad, the network that helped enslaved people escape to freedom. Some accounts claim that lawn jockeys with one hand pointing upward and the other holding a lantern signaled safe houses or directions for escaping slaves.

However, historians debate the veracity of these claims, citing a lack of definitive evidence. While it is plausible that such statues could have served as covert signs, the narrative often oversimplifies complex historical realities. Nevertheless, this association has contributed to the lawn jockey’s layered symbolism—both as a tool of oppression and as a potential emblem of resistance.

Manufacture and Popularity Through the 20th Century

Throughout the 1900s, lawn jockeys were mass-produced and sold in hardware stores, garden centers, and catalogs. Made from cast iron, concrete, or ceramics, these figures became popular lawn decorations, especially in suburban America. Their affordability and durability made them accessible to a wide audience.

Materials and Design Evolution

Initially, lawn jockeys were heavy cast-iron statues, valued for their ability to withstand outdoor conditions. Over time, manufacturers experimented with lighter materials such as plastic and fiberglass, enabling broader distribution and more intricate designs.

Design-wise, the statues evolved from purely functional lantern holders to varied poses and expressions. Some featured a hand extended to hold a ring for reins, while others held lanterns aloft. The colors used also shifted, though the stereotypical blackface style remained common until social attitudes began to change in the mid-20th century.

Decline in Popularity and Changing Perceptions

By the late 20th century, growing awareness of racial sensitivity led many homeowners and retailers to reconsider displaying lawn jockeys, especially those with stereotypical features. The Civil Rights Movement played a significant role in reshaping public perception, casting such figures as relics of a racially insensitive past.

Consequently, many lawn jockeys were removed from public view, and their sale declined sharply. However, collectors and historians have preserved examples as artifacts, using them to educate about America's complex history with race and symbolism.

The Lawn Jockey in Contemporary Culture

Today, lawn jockeys occupy a controversial space within American cultural discourse. They are simultaneously seen as kitschy lawn ornaments, historical curiosities, and symbols of racial stereotyping. This dichotomy fuels ongoing debates about preservation, context, and interpretation.

Collecting and Display

Antique lawn jockeys have become sought-after collectibles, with some fetching high prices at auctions. Collectors often seek pieces for their craftsmanship, historical value, and uniqueness. Museums may display lawn jockeys alongside educational materials to illuminate aspects of American social history.

Controversy and Removal

In recent years, as institutions and communities reassess public symbols, many lawn jockey statues have been removed or relocated. Critics argue that the figures perpetuate offensive caricatures, while some defenders claim they are part of cultural heritage.

This tension mirrors broader societal conversations about monuments, representation, and historical memory. The lawn jockey serves as a tangible example of how decorative objects can carry deep and sometimes painful meanings.

Modern Interpretations and Artistic Responses

Artists and activists have engaged with the lawn jockey's imagery to challenge or reinterpret its symbolism. Some contemporary artworks reimagine the figure to confront racial stereotypes or

comment on historical narratives, transforming the lawn jockey from a static object to a dynamic cultural conversation.

Summary of Key Points in the History of the Lawn Jockey

- Originating in colonial America as functional lantern holders, lawn jockeys served practical and decorative purposes.
- Legends such as the story of Jocko Graves contribute to the folklore surrounding their creation.
- Two primary styles emerged: the racially controversial “Jocko” figure and the less contentious “Groomsman” version.
- Claims of lawn jockeys as Underground Railroad signals remain debated among historians.
- Mass production in the 20th century popularized lawn jockeys but also heightened racial sensitivities.
- Contemporary perspectives range from viewing lawn jockeys as collectibles to symbols of racial stereotyping and cultural debate.

The history of the lawn jockey exemplifies how everyday objects can encapsulate broader societal complexities. By tracing their evolution, one gains insight into American attitudes toward race, memory, and symbolism—a reflection of a nation continually grappling with its past and identity.

[History Of The Lawn Jockey](#)

history of the lawn jockey: *America's History is His Story* R.G. Yoho, AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR *America's History is His Story*, is a daily devotional of history and patriotism. If you embrace the power of the Christian faith, if you love the United States of America, if you cherish your family, and if you respect the contributions of our brave military personnel, then you should love this book. Each daily reading is brimming with the qualities of faith, family and freedom.

history of the lawn jockey: The History of Bones John Lurie, 2023-10-24 The quintessential depiction of 1980s New York and the downtown scene from the artist, actor, musician, and composer John Lurie “A picaresque roller coaster of a story, with staggering amounts of sex and drugs and the perpetual quest to retain some kind of artistic integrity.”—The New York Times In the tornado that was downtown New York in the 1980s, John Lurie stood at the vortex. After founding the band The Lounge Lizards with his brother, Evan, in 1979, Lurie quickly became a centrifugal figure in the world of outsider artists, cutting-edge filmmakers, and cultural rebels. Now Lurie vibrantly brings to life the whole wash of 1980s New York as he developed his artistic soul over the course of the decade and came into orbit with all the prominent artists of that time and place, including Andy Warhol, Debbie Harry, Boris Policeband, and, especially, Jean-Michel Basquiat, the enigmatic prodigy who spent a year sleeping on the floor of Lurie’s East Third Street apartment. It may feel like Disney World now, but in *The History of Bones*, the East Village, through Lurie’s clear-eyed reminiscence, comes to teeming, gritty life. The book is full of grime and frank humor—Lurie holds nothing back in this journey to one of the most significant moments in our cultural history, one whose reverberations are still strongly felt today. History may repeat itself, but the way downtown New York happened in the 1980s will never happen again. Luckily, through this beautiful memoir, we all have a front-row seat.

history of the lawn jockey: The History of the Kentucky Derby in 75 Objects Kentucky Derby Museum, Jessica K. Whitehead, 2024-04-30 To understand the Kentucky Derby is to understand the contemporary American spirit. One hundred and fifty years have passed since the Thoroughbreds of the inaugural Kentucky Derby sprang from the starting gate to race beneath the iconic Twin Spires of Churchill Downs. But the story of the greatest two minutes in sports is more than the pageantry of the horses and thrill of the people who love and celebrate the event. Through the decades, the Derby, like the state that founded it, has experienced profound moments of social, economic, and cultural change. As one of Kentucky’s flagship cultural and economic institutions, the Thoroughbred racing industry must constantly reconcile with its past and think critically about the stories that have traditionally made it into the winner’s circle. In the right hands, artifacts of material culture related to the Derby have the power to inspire nuanced stories of the past and shed light on marginalized voices in the industry’s history. In *The History of the Kentucky Derby in 75 Objects*, Jessica K. Whitehead sets out to recover the accurate history of America’s longest continuously held sporting event and establish a balance between well-known narratives and those that are less widely shared. Whitehead, curator of collections at the Kentucky Derby Museum, gives readers a personal tour of 75 objects from the museum. Her selections place Black, Latin American, and female riders, owners, and trainers closer to the center of the Derby story, spotlighting the contributions and achievements of groups that have played an increasingly important role in shaping the legacy of the Run for the Roses.

history of the lawn jockey: The Search for the Underground Railroad in Upstate New York Tom Calarco, 2014-06-03 A historian investigates evidence for the existence of the Underground Railroad in upstate New York. Because of its clandestine nature, much of the history of the Underground Railroad remains shrouded in secrecy—so much so that some historians have even doubted its importance. After decades of research, Tom Calarco recounts his experiences compiling evidence to give credence to the legend’s oral history in upstate New York. As the Civil War loomed and politicians from the North and South debated the fate of slavery, brave New Yorkers risked their

lives to help fugitive slaves escape bondage. Whites and Blacks alike worked together on the Underground Railroad, using ingenious methods of communication and tactics to stay ahead of the slave master and bounty hunter. Especially after the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act, conscientious residents doubled their efforts to help runaways reach Canada. Join Calarco on this journey of discovery of one of the noblest endeavors in American history.

history of the lawn jockey: In Black and White Kenneth L. Shropshire, 1996-08-01 Confronts the pressing problems surrounding race and diversity in the front offices of the American sports industry. From the years of the Negro Leagues in baseball up to today, when college basketball programs entice and then fail to educate young Black men, sports in America have long served as a barometer of the country's racial climate. Just as Black employees are often barred from the upper echelons of corporate America, they are underrepresented in the front offices of the sports industry as well. In this compact volume, Kenneth L. Shropshire confronts prominent racial myths head-on, offering both a history of—and solutions for—the most pressing problems currently plaguing sports. Despite the fact that Black athletes represent a huge majority of the American sports industry, the majority of ownership stake in professional basketball, baseball, and football teams is still held by white owners. And yet, when confronted with programs intended to diversify their front offices, many teams resort to the familiar refrain of merit-based excuses: there simply aren't enough qualified Black candidates or they don't know how to network. These hollow excuses not only stigmatize and exclude Black employees, but directly contradict the important value Black candidates can bring to these roles. In the insular world of sports, where former players often move up to become coaches, managers, executives, and owners, Black candidates are eminently qualified. After decades of active involvement with their sport, they often bring to the table experiences more relevant to the Black players on their teams. As a central aspect of American life, the sports industry has a responsibility to be a leader in the fight for racial equality—a responsibility that has not yet been met. In *Black and White* takes the industry to task, revealing claims of colorblindness and reverse racism as self-serving deflection and scrutinizing professional and collegiate sports, sports agents, and owners alike. No mere critique, however, the volume looks optimistically forward, outlining strategies that will drive the sports industry toward greater racial equality, and help it lead the way for racial justice efforts throughout America.

history of the lawn jockey: Coming of Age in the 21st Century Mary Frosch, 2008 Following in the footsteps of the highly successful *Coming of Age in America* and *Coming of Age Around the World*, this new anthology of fiction and memoir explores coming of age in the new millennium. Twenty-one stories by noted authors including Sherman Alexie, Mary F. Chen, Junot Diaz, Louise Erdrich, Seth Kantner, and ZZ Packer explore the trials and tribulations of growing up in our increasingly fragmented world. Issues of identity, sexuality, solitude, and conflict are beautifully presented through the voices of writers of all ages and ethnicities, from Lan Samantha Chang tackling absent or dead parents in "The Eve of the Spirit Festival" to Emily Rabateau addressing race in "Mrs. Turner's Lawn Jockeys." With a preface and introductions to each piece by Mary Frosch providing cultural context, this collection is a stunning literary tribute to a new generation of global citizens that provides a distinctively American sense of hope.

history of the lawn jockey: After the Falls Catherine Gildiner, 2010-10-28 The vivid and touching sequel to the bestselling memoir *Too Close to the Falls*. It's 1960 and twelve-year-old Cathy McClure has just been thrown out of Catholic school for—among other transgressions—filling the holy water fount with vodka. In the hopes of giving Cathy a fresh start away from their small town, the McClures leave behind Niagara Falls and the family pharmacy to start over in suburban Buffalo. But life in a subdivision and a school filled with pubescent cheddar holds little appeal for a girl who began working at four and smoking at nine. As the quaint world of 1950s America recedes into history, Cathy dives headfirst into the 1960s. Along the way, she adopts many personas with gusto—vandal, HoJo hostess, FBI suspect, civil rights demonstrator—but when tragedy strikes at home, Cathy must take on her most challenging role yet. As candid and compelling as Mary Karr's *The Liars' Club* and Jeanette Walls's *The Glass Castle*, *After the Falls* is an irresistible account of one

girl's coming-of-age during a tumultuous era and the moving tale of a rebellious spirit learning what it means to be a daughter.

history of the lawn jockey: Literacies, Learning, and the Body Grace Enriquez, Elisabeth Johnson, Stavroula Kontovourki, Christine A. Mallozzi, 2015-10-16 The essays, research studies, and pedagogical examples in this book provide a window into the embodied dimensions of literacy and a toolbox for interpreting, building on, and inquiring into the range of ways people communicate and express themselves as literate beings. The contributors investigate and reflect on the complexities of embodied literacies, honoring literacy learners and teachers as they holistically engage with texts in complex sociopolitical, historical, and cultural contexts. Considering these issues within a multiplicity of education spaces and literacy events inside and outside of institutional contexts, the book offers a fresh lens and rhetoric with which to address literacy education policies, giving readers a discursive repertoire necessary to develop and defend responsive curricula within an increasingly high-stakes, standardized schooling climate.

history of the lawn jockey: The Ringing Ear Nikky Finney, 2007 More than one hundred contemporary black poets laugh at and cry about, pray for and curse, flee and return to the South in this collection of poems, which features contributions by Nikki Giovanni, Kevin Young, Cornelius Eady, Sonia Sanchez, and other notables. Simultaneous.

history of the lawn jockey: Tales of Ohio's Underground Railroad David Meyers, Elise Meyers Walker, 2025-03-18 Authors David Meyers and Elise Meyers Walker separate fact from fiction in the story of Ohio's Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was a macabre sort of dance between good and evil in which each side was trying to steal away the other's partner. However, in the upside-down-world of pre-Civil War America, the law was firmly on the side of evil and the dance often ended in death. It was a time when the newly formed country was deeply divided on the question of slavery and its fate hung in the balance. Just how long could a house divided against itself be expected to stand?

history of the lawn jockey: Last Sunday Drive, The: Vanishing Traditions in Georgia and the Carolinas Tom Poland, 2019 The Sunday drive. Mom, dad and the kids would head out to see the countryside. An ice cream treat usually waited at day's end. Back in the Burma-Shave days, mom-and-pop drive-ins and gas station biscuits fed folks. Cheap gas filled cars, and people made Sunday drives through a land where See Rock City barns, sawdust piles and trains and junkyards gave them plenty to see. Men in seersucker suits ran old stores with oscillating fans, and if the kids ate too much penny candy, grandma had a home remedy for them. It was a time for dinner on church grounds, yard art and old-fashioned petunias. Join author Tom Poland as he revisits disappearing traditions.

history of the lawn jockey: Angel of War Kwando M. Kinshasa, 2024-10-21 This novel addresses the experiences and deeply felt personal values of a group of four college students from an Upstate New York state college visiting the historic Civil War town of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Conducting field research with their college professor and mentor, Dr. Jeremiah Angel Shiloh, will prove to be not only exciting but also challenging for their preset views on a host of issues, both contemporary and historic. For example, though their summer field research project is scheduled to afford them the opportunity to see, walk amid, and examine artifacts from this mid-nineteenth-century Southern American town, clearly the unfolding experience of conducting this research project will be not only interesting but, for some, also personally challenging. They soon realize that for many field researchers, one's personality may in fact be either a restrictive, challenging, or enhanced advantage when attempting to understand the past or comprehend the possible favorable or unfavorable future. However, central to this novel are the students' thought-provoking discussions and efforts to connect previous notions of the important, strategic role of Harpers Ferry in the American Civil War and the importance of the attack on the town in October 1859 by armed Black and White insurgents under the leadership of antislavery activist John Brown. Of even more significance in this novel is the role the five Black insurgents in this attack and of one in particular who will survive the ordeal. With that in mind, this two-part novel provides the

reader with a clearer understanding of the sinews of historical research and the often-tantalizing intrigues it offers.

history of the lawn jockey: Mid-Century Modernism and the American Body Kristina Wilson, 2021-04-13 The first investigation of how race and gender shaped the presentation and marketing of Modernist decor in postwar America In the world of interior design, mid-century Modernism has left an indelible mark still seen and felt today in countless open-concept floor plans and spare, geometric furnishings. Yet despite our continued fascination, we rarely consider how this iconic design sensibility was marketed to the diverse audiences of its era. Examining advice manuals, advertisements in *Life* and *Ebony*, furniture, art, and more, *Mid-Century Modernism and the American Body* offers a powerful new look at how codes of race, gender, and identity influenced—and were influenced by—Modern design and shaped its presentation to consumers. Taking us to the booming suburban landscape of postwar America, Kristina Wilson demonstrates that the ideals defined by popular Modernist furnishings were far from neutral or race-blind. Advertisers offered this aesthetic to White audiences as a solution for keeping dirt and outsiders at bay, an approach that reinforced middle-class White privilege. By contrast, media arenas such as *Ebony* magazine presented African American readers with an image of Modernism as a style of comfort, security, and social confidence. Wilson shows how etiquette and home decorating manuals served to control women by associating them with the domestic sphere, and she considers how furniture by George Nelson and Charles and Ray Eames, as well as smaller-scale decorative accessories, empowered some users, even while constraining others. A striking counter-narrative to conventional histories of design, *Mid-Century Modernism and the American Body* unveils fresh perspectives on one of the most distinctive movements in American visual culture.

history of the lawn jockey: Black Like You John Strausbaugh, 2007-08-16 A refreshingly clearheaded and taboo-breaking look at race relations reveals that American culture is neither Black nor White nor Other, but a mix-a mongrel. *Black Like You* is an erudite and entertaining exploration of race relations in American popular culture. Particularly compelling is Strausbaugh's eagerness to tackle blackface—a strange, often scandalous, and now taboo entertainment. Although blackface performance came to be denounced as purely racist mockery, and shamefacedly erased from most modern accounts of American cultural history, *Black Like You* shows that the impact of blackface on American culture was deep and long-lasting. Its influence can be seen in rock and hip-hop; in vaudeville, Broadway, and gay drag performances; in Mark Twain and gangsta lit; in the earliest filmstrips and the 2004 movie *White Chicks*; on radio and television; in advertising and product marketing; and even in the way Americans speak. Strausbaugh enlivens themes that are rarely discussed in public, let alone with such candor and vision: - American culture neither conforms to knee-jerk racism nor to knee-jerk political correctness. It is neither Black nor White nor Other, but a mix-a mongrel. - No history is best forgotten, however uncomfortable it may be to remember. The power of blackface to engender mortification and rage in Americans to this day is reason enough to examine what it tells us about our culture and ourselves. - Blackface is still alive. Its impact and descendants—including Black performers in whiteface—can be seen all around us today.

history of the lawn jockey: The Greenwood Encyclopedia of African American Folklore Anand Prahlad, 2006

history of the lawn jockey: Literacy Lives in Transcultural Times Rahat Zaidi, Jennifer Rowsell, 2017-07-06 Combining language research with digital, multimodal and critical literacy, this book uniquely positions issues of transcultural spaces and cosmopolitan identities across a range of contexts. Its distinctive contribution is a framework to relate observation and analysis of these flows to language development, communication, and meaning making

history of the lawn jockey: American Museum of Natural History Birds of North America DK, 2016-09-20 Updated to reflect all the latest taxonomic data, *American Museum of Natural History Birds of North America* is the complete photographic guide to the 657 species of birds found in the United States and Canada. Ideal for the armchair bird enthusiast or dedicated bird watcher, this book includes stunning full-color photographs revealing 657 individual species

with unrivaled clarity. The 550 most commonly seen birds are pictured with plumage variations, and images of subspecies and information on similar birds are provided to make differentiation easy, from game birds and waterfowl to shorebirds and swifts to owls, flycatchers, finches, and more. You can even discover which species to expect when and where with up-to-date, color-coded maps highlighting habitation and migratory patterns. Written by a team of more than 30 birders and ornithologists with expertise in particular species or families, and produced in association with the American Museum of Natural History, this updated and refreshed edition of American Museum of Natural History Birds of North America is the ultimate photographic guide to every bird species in the United States and Canada.

history of the lawn jockey: Teaching Language as Action in the ELA Classroom Richard Beach, Faythe Beauchemin, 2019-03-14 This book explores English language arts instruction from the perspective of language as social actions that students and teachers enact with and toward one another to create supportive, trusting relations between students and teachers, and among students as peers. Departing from a code-based view of language as a set of systems or structures, the perspective of languaging as social actions takes up language as emotive, embodied, and inseparable from the intellectual life of the classroom. Through extensive classroom examples, the book demonstrates how elementary and secondary ELA teachers can apply a languaging perspective. Beach and Beauchemin employ pedagogical cases and activities to illustrate how to enhance students' engagement in open-ended discussions, responses to literature, writing for audiences, drama activities, and online interactions. The authors also offer methods for fostering students' self-reflection to improve their sense of agency associated with enhancing relations in face-to-face, rhetorical, and online contexts.

history of the lawn jockey: Death of a Racehorse Katie Bo Lillis, 2025-05-06 The inside story of the crisis within the country's most classic sport—horseracing—and why money is killing thoroughbreds at the top of their game. Every year, hundreds of horses die on the racetrack. Why? In this deeply reported and propulsive narrative, CNN reporter Katie Bo Lillis shows how two high-profile cases lay bare the ills facing the sport: the abrupt, industry-rocking indictments of top trainers Jason Servis and Jorge Navarro, and the untold story of Bob Baffert, the most successful and recognizable horse trainer in modern history, and the allegations he faced after a string of mysterious horse deaths and the high-profile disqualification of his latest Kentucky Derby winner for a failed drug test. *Death of a Racehorse* delves deep into the horse racing world, offering intimate access to dozens of top trainers, owners, breeders, veterinarians, lab specialists, and more. The mainstream perception has been that rampant drug use is forcing these horses to run past their natural ability, resulting in heart attacks and broken legs. But this doesn't paint the full picture. That picture is driven by class tension between the affluent old stables and an ambitious new guard. This upstairs-downstairs drama shows blue-blooded families on a quest to restore horse racing to the good old days that never existed, versus those like Bob Baffert who are still viewed as outsiders—fantastically successful, but coming from less pedigreed backgrounds and experience. The privileged few, determined to save the sport, seem to hold a powerful suspicion that the sport's brash, pioneering working class could not possibly be doing so well on their own. Lillis shows how the breeding industry prioritizes making millions over breeding a sound, durable horse. A disjointed race schedule, created by racetrack operators that are trying to maximize betting opportunities, makes it impossible to manage a horse's athletic career safely. In this purely capitalistic industry, the brute force of winning and the money that follows has taken the place of a responsible husbandry of the animal that is its beating heart. *Death of a Racehorse* is a cutting, on-the-ground investigation into the morally ambiguous behavior at the industry's glamorous center, raising nuanced questions about the relationship between animal and human—and offering a hopeful path forward for one of America's oldest and most treasured sports.

history of the lawn jockey: Dangerous Places Elaine Raco Chase, 2016-03-01 The 7 Deadly Sins have never been so - Deadly! Or so much fun! Meet Nikki Holden - she may know 140 characters but social media is not her venue. She's an investigative reporter with more enemies than

friends - and her friends are very shady. She's on the trail of a stunning story at Pleasure Island. And she doesn't mind using her pick pocket talents or a well-aimed champagne cork or even a pair of 38's (boobs not guns) to get her story. She's tenacious, sarcastic and an ex-con. Meet Roman Cantrell - ex-Army ranger who couldn't stop fighting, he went off the grid doing Black Ops but came back to the US to start an international security firm. He keeps popping into Nikki's life at the most inconvenient times. And he knows too much about her past. He also knows she's not capable of good behavior. Is Roman looking for the person Nikki's ... kidnapped? Or is he looking for a more intimate connection? One thing for sure - they're both heading into murderously Dangerous Places

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