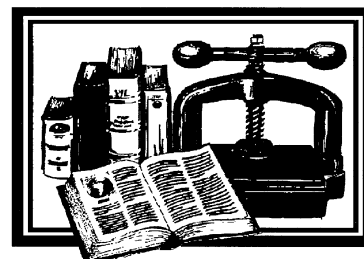




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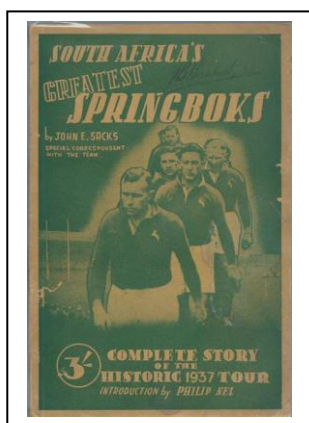
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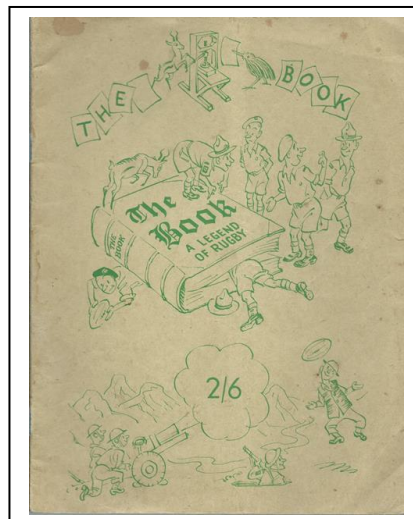
RUGBY LIST 43: December 2019

- 1 **Sacks, John E.** SOUTH AFRICA'S GREATEST SPRINGBOKS: complete story of the historic 1937 tour: including final South African and New Zealand trials, unofficial and official matches in Australia and New Zealand; introduction by Philip Nel. Wellington, N.Z.: Sporting Publications, 1938.
208 p., [22] p. of plates: ill., ports., map as frontis. Stiff pict. paper wraps. Three previous owners' names on preliminary page. Name on cover. **R 2500**



- 2 **New Zealand Tour, 1949.** ALL BLACKS TOUR 1949: souvenir programme = soewenier program. [Cape Town]: Die Goeie Hoop Uitgewers, 1949.
95 p.: ill., ports., plan, advertisements. 4to. Pict. paper wraps. **R 1750**

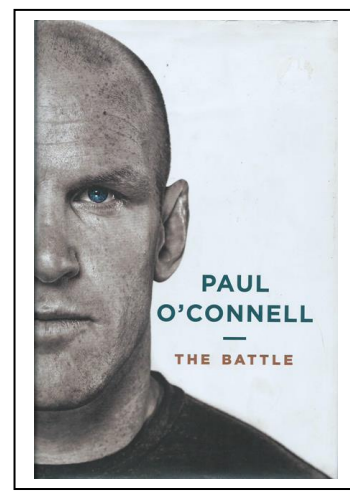
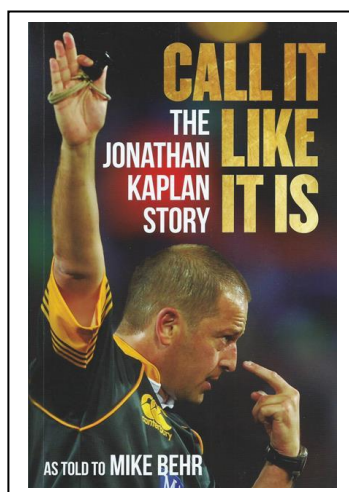
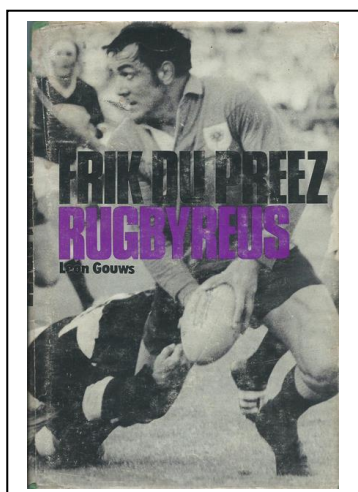
- 3 **SOUTH AFRICAN RUGBY TEST TEAMS = SUID-AFRIKAANSE RUGBY-TOETSSPANNE, 1891-1956:** issued by Atlantic Refining Company of Africa. Cape Town: Atlantic Service Stations, , [1956].
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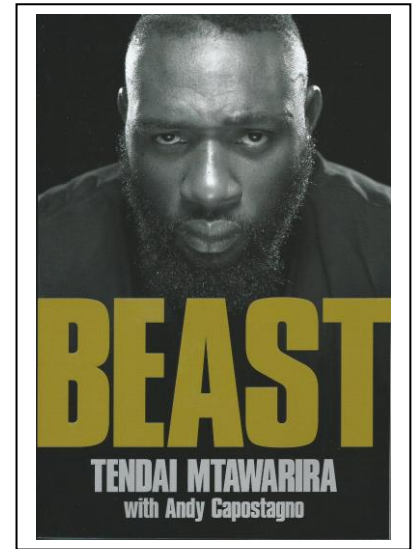
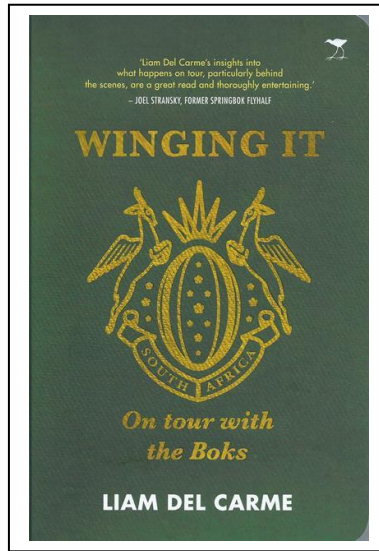
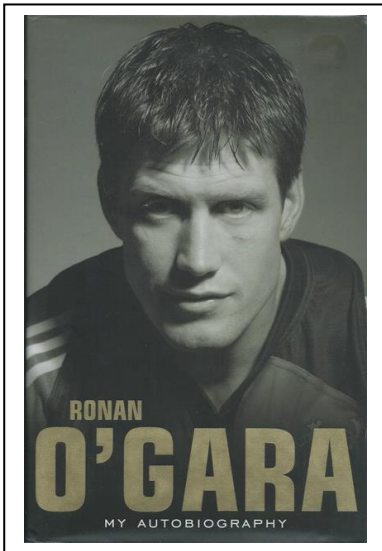
- 4 **Swanepoel, Pat [ed.] & Jackson, John [ill.]. THE BOOK: [a legend of rugby]:** Test series 1949, New Zealand vs South Africa; edited by Pat Swanepoel; with cartoons by John Jackson. [Johannesburg]: Central News Agency, 1949.
32 p.: ill. Small 4to. Stiff pict. paper wraps.
R 2500

Long before WWII broke out, the rugby rivalry between New Zealand and South Africa had been cemented. Tours between the two rugby giants had begun in 1921 and to represent your country in a game against the All Blacks or the Springboks was considered the apogee of one's Test career. During WWII this rivalry took the form of ribbing and verbal jousting, and on occasion, in the bars of Cairo, a more physical form of rivalry! There are also numerous tales told of servicemen from both nations going out of their way to assist or come to the rescue of their fellow rugby Allies on the battlefield. Throughout the Italian Campaign the 2nd New Zealand Division and 6th South African Division fought together and after the war ended it was suggested that a rugby "Test" match be arranged in Italy between representatives of the two Divisions. It was played at Rapallo on 10 November 1945, and whilst now forgotten and never included in official statistics was, in the minds of the men from both countries of that generation, considered the most important or symbolic game they had ever watched. Both sides fielded XVs filled with internationals or men who would go on to represent their countries at the highest level. The game was played in a great spirit and the referee was Capt. R.E. Prescott. Starting in the Western Desert, the rivalry referred to took the form of a suggestion, by both sides, that the other side should read "The Book" and thereby learn how to play rugby "properly". Springbok soldiers would ask if their NZ counterparts had seen the book and digested it so that after the war they could offer better resistance to SA teams (the Springboks had become the first team to defeat the All Blacks in NZ in 1937) whilst the New Zealanders would suggest to the South Africans that their glaring lack of ability could easily be remedied by

the simple act of reading “The Book”. Thus the legend was born. Two South Africans, Lt. Keith Oxlee and Capt. J.G. Loudon, are credited with the idea, before the game in Rapallo, of actually producing “The Book”, with the intent of handing it out to those present and the losing side being given a copy so that they could go away and study same! The idea was to make it like the Ashes, the twist being, that unlike the Ashes, the losing team would be given the “trophy”. In the event a small booklet was handed out at the game. They are extant, but the most sought after of rugby programmes and in great demand by collectors across the world. In 1949 Pat Swanepoel and others got together and recreated “The Book”, embellishing and expanding it and published it to celebrate the arrival of the 1949 All Blacks in South Africa on the first post-war Tour. Thus the publication now offered is not the original but has, in itself, become extremely scarce. It is a wonderful tribute to a sporting rivalry going back over 90 years and still growing stronger. Only those who possess a copy of “The Book” will know the score of that famous meeting in 1945 in Sports Stadium Rapallo!



- 5 **Gouws, Leon.** FRIK DU PREEZ: rugbyreus. Honeydew: Janssonius & Heyns, 1971. Scarce 1st ed.
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O'Connell played for Munster, Ireland and the Lions.
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