

A TERRY TODD COLLECTANEA

BY JAN TODD

It has now been more than two years since Terry Todd passed away. I began thinking about creating a special issue of *Iron Game History* about him within weeks of his passing but other realities soon intruded on that plan. I found my days filled instead with a complicated series of life events triggered by his death—the settling of his estate, the sale of our home in Austin, finding and then moving into a new home, the moving of my mother to Florida and then her subsequent death, the sale of our weekend property in the Texas Hill Country, the completion of two overdue Rogue Legends movies on Katie Sandwina and Arthur Saxon, and the completion of the manuscript for his last book, *Strength Coaching in America*, co-authored

with Jason Shurley and me for University of Texas Press. It was published in December 2019. And then, just as I was beginning to feel like I'd made it over the big hurdles and was beginning to see some blue sky, I was involved in a major accident last May that left me with 11 broken bones and set this project back for another six months while I've been healing.

Although I regret that it has taken so long to get this finished, those various interruptions allowed me more time to think about what I wanted this special issue to be and to also consider what Terry might like best. And so, rather than have a variety of people write tributes to Terry as we've done in the past for other Iron Game luminaries, I decided, instead, to share with you both published and private writings from different phases of his life that help

to reveal who he was as a man.

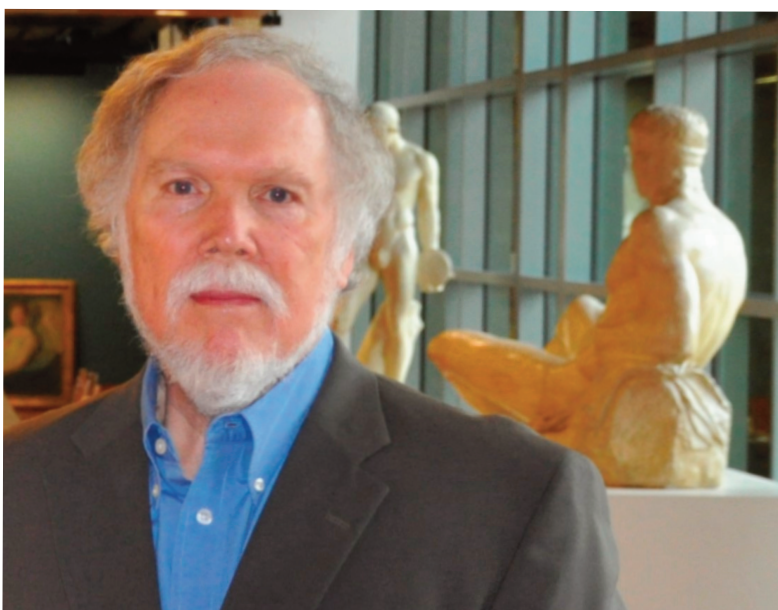
The articles are organized chronologically and you will notice that there are far fewer after 1990 when we began publishing *Iron Game History*. Many of his pieces in *IGH* are among his best work, yet I have chosen

not to use any of them in this issue because all the back issues of *Iron Game History* are now online and freely available at www.starkcenter.org. On that website there are more than one hundred entries connected to articles Terry wrote in *IGH* or his blogs and other commentaries.

In case you're wondering about the title of this special issue, a "collectanea" according to the *Oxford English Dictionary* is a word from old Latin used to describe collections of assorted types

of writings—short passages, remarks, letters, and articles—that have been gathered together and curated by someone. It's a word I discovered in graduate school as I was looking at old books from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries on health and medicine. In those centuries it was frequently used to describe a collection of writings instead of the word anthology. In casting about for a title for this memorial issue, it came back to me, and now that I've finally made choices on what to include, I'm happy I remembered it. It fits what follows.

This has been, as I'm sure you can understand, a deeply personal project for me and one that's also proven to be emotionally challenging. Not only was Terry a prolific writer as evidenced by his seven books (plus dissertation) and more than five hundred articles, but he was



Terry Todd in 2010, in the Reading Room of the H.J. Lucher Stark Center for Physical Culture and Sports at the University of Texas at Austin. Terry regarded The Center as his most significant accomplishment.

also constantly writing—letters, poetry, humorous notes, emails—and he saved everything. Going through his papers for this project has brought me both joy and profound sadness. It has been hard to choose what to share and also hard to relive so many memories knowing he is no longer here beside me.

In the pages that follow you will find 20 pieces written by him that I suspect will be new to many of you. For each I have written a short preface to help you understand what was happening in his/our lives at that time and why I believe this piece of writing matters. I have also included two memorial tributes for you. The first is a verbatim copy of the remarks I made at Terry's memorial service at The University of Texas at Austin in July of 2018. At the end of this issue is a tribute written by Dr. Jason Shurley from the *Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research* that captures much of Terry's academic legacy.

As for the photographs in this issue, they are primarily from our personal and family archives with the exception of the pictures from Bruce Klemens of Naim Suleimanov and Mark Henry. Many of the images in this issue were taken by me, some by members of Terry's family, some by staff at the Stark Center, and others were sent to us along the way. I apologize for the poor quality of some of the photos and I ask forgiveness for not identifying all the photographers. I mean no disrespect; in many cases I just don't know who took the photo.

In a diary Terry was keeping in the summer of 1976, he noted that he'd found himself surprised by how hard it had been to actually begin writing about our life on the small farm we'd just purchased in Nova Scotia—surprised, he noted, “because beginnings are usually easier for me. The *planning* of beginnings is easy. Dreaming is the easy thing.” This project has felt exactly the same way for me. I found it very hard to get started on this special issue although I thought about it all the time. And, even as I wrap this up, I'm not sure I've managed to fully capture his spirit and brilliance. But, here it is. I hope you like it. I also hope that you (and he) appreciate the fact that I tried to give him the last word.



Three days before he passed away, Terry and I shared a bottle of champagne on an overlook above the Pedernales River in the Texas Hill Country at sunset. Terry loved to watch the gentle waning of the day as much as he did a spectacular sunset, finding a special beauty in the gloaming and the birds and animals it set free. These pictures from that evening are the last photos ever taken of him.