

## Cricket, Christians and the Ashes Urn

by Graham McLennan

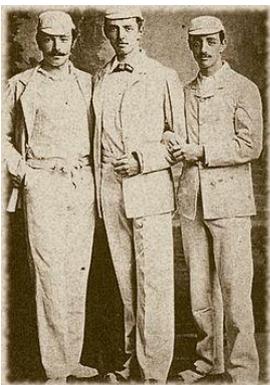


The earliest published photo of [the Ashes urn](#), from the *Illustrated London News*, 1921.



CT Studd founded a century ago the [Worldwide Evangelisation Crusade](#) known as WEC. Charles T. Studd was a servant of Christ who faithfully served His Saviour in China, India, and Africa. "Some wish to live within the sound of Church or Chapel bell; I want to run a Rescue Shop within a yard of hell."—C. T. Studd

One of CT Studd's cricket bats was on display at the WACA during the Third Test in December 2013. Studd's book impacted me enormously as a young Christian especially the aspect of total consecration. "CT" and his two brothers captained the Cambridge X1 in consecutive years 1882, 1883 and 1884, a remarkable feat.



During this time the three Studds ran Bible studies at Cambridge which produced the "Cambridge Seven" missionaries to China profoundly affecting students and their professors in University Campuses though out Great Britain as well as abroad.

Studd was regarded as the best English all rounder during this time and he helped defeat the Australians on several occasions including the Australian match against Cambridge.

Studd played in the historic test match when Australia beat England for the first time.

Consequently the *Sporting Times* published the now famous epitaph:

In affectionate remembrance of English Cricket, which died at the Oval on 29th August by a large circle of sorrowing friends and acquaintances.

RIP

N.B. - The body will be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia.

Studd came to Australia with the next tour to recover the Ashes winning two of the three matches.

After the third match, some Melbourne women put some ashes into a small silver urn presenting it to the English team under the leadership of Ivor Bligh.

The inscription read:

*When Ivo goes back with the Urn, the Urn*

*Studds, Steel, Read and Tylecote return, return*

*The welkin will ring loud,*

*The great crowd will feel proud*

*Seeing Barlow and Bates with the Urn, the Urn,*

*And the rest coming home with the Urn.*

To read more on the life of CT Studd please go to [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Ashes\\_urn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Ashes_urn)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Studd\\_brothers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Studd_brothers) as well as this link at

<http://www.wholesomewords.org/missions/biostudd.html>