

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 7 DECEMBER, 2021**

## **Rare Signed Bradman Items To Be Sold For The First Time**

### **William Sykes & Son Cricket Bat and Bill Leak Portrait Go Under the Hammer**

**Bowral, Australia:** The William Sykes & Son 'Don Bradman' cricket bat used by Sir Donald Bradman when he scored a mighty triple century (304 runs) against England in July 1934 at Headingley, Leeds, is being sold for the first time at auction.

On behalf of a Private Seller, Australia's leading marketplace, Pickles, is managing the sale of the bat, which was also used by Bradman in the next Test when he scored 244 at The Oval, Kennington.

The reverse of the bat's blade has been annotated by Sir Donald Bradman using an ink pen. It reads: '*This is the bat with which I scored 304 at Leeds and 244 at The Oval against England, 1934*'.

It has been signed '*Don Bradman Private*' on the upper right reverse blade and on the upper left: '*To Peter Webb (?) with best wishes from Don Bradman*'.

The 304 at Headingley was Sir Don Bradman's 2nd highest Test innings while the 244 was made in a record-breaking 2nd wicket partnership of 451 with Aussie legend Bill Ponsford (266). This incomparable partnership record was only broken in 1997/98 by Sri-Lankan's Sanath Jayasuriya and Roshan Mahanama who posted 576 runs against India.

"We're excited to manage this auction on behalf of its owner. Since 1990 the bat has been on loan to the Bradman Museum & International Cricket Hall of Fame and its new owners may well continue to have it displayed for cricket fans from around the world to enjoy," says Pickles Executive Manager, Pickles Finance & Advisory, Mr. Gavin Dempsey.

"It's such a special piece of history. The blade face is heavily worn from repeated deliveries and the handle retains its grip, which is now atrophied."

The auction listing also contains the rare 1989 Bill Leak Portrait of Sir Donald Bradman.

This is one of only three portraits of Sir Donald Bradman by Bill Leak known to be in existence. One painting is also held at the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, of Sir Donald seated, and which was an Archibald Prize finalist.

Bill won two News Awards for Cartoonist of the Year, nine Walkley awards for excellence in journalism, nineteen Stanley Awards from the Australian Cartoonists' Association, and was an Archibald Prize finalist twelve times.

His distinctive style won many fans – he was referred as the best painter never to have won the Archibald Prize – but he often drew intense criticism for his views. This Bill Leak portrait of Bradman standing has spawned a series of portraits of other great international cricketers by Dave Thomas, which also are housed at the Bradman Museum.

“This rare oil canvas is signed by both Bill Leak and Sir Donald Bradman making it an exceptional purchase for any cricket or art lover,” adds Dempsey.

## ONLINE AUCTION

**3:00 p.m. AEDT Wednesday 8 December 2021 to  
7:00 p.m. AEDT Monday 13 December 2021**

The auction will be held at [Pickles.com.au](https://pickles.com.au) starting 3:00 p.m. AEDT Wednesday 8 December 2021. Bids will also be accepted via [PicklesLIVE](#) (on the website) or the PicklesLIVE App on smartphone or tablet.

Interested parties are asked to register on the prior to the auction.

### **SPECIAL MEDIA VIEWING DAY**

**Tuesday 7 December 2021**

**Bowral, NSW, Australia**

<b>WHEN:</b>	By appointment Tuesday 7 December 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
<b>WHERE:</b>	The Bradman Museum & International Cricket Hall of Fame St Jude Street, Bowral (Church Street is the nearest cross street)
<b>WHAT:</b>	Sir Donald Bradman’s William Sykes & Son cricket bat Gavin Dempsey, Pickles, for interview Bradman Museum Spokesperson, for interview
<b>HOW TO VIEW:</b>	Please book your viewing by calling or emailing Kelly Drew: 0418 486 959 / <a href="mailto:kelly.drew@stratcollective.com.au">kelly.drew@stratcollective.com.au</a>
<b>ASSETS:</b>	<a href="#">Images of Sir Donald Bradman Cricket Bat</a> <a href="#">Images of 1989 Bill Leak Portrait of Sir Donald Bradman</a>
<b>ON SITE CONTACT:</b>	Rina Hore, Executive Director Bradman Museum & Foundation

*Please note all attendees must be fully vaccinated and wearing masks*

**-ENDS-**

**ABOUT PICKLES**

Pickles is Australia's leading marketplace for Transport, Construction, Mining, Aviation, Vehicles, General Goods & Salvage asset, offering thousands of quality assets every week at below-market prices.

With over 50 years' experience selling on behalf of trusted vendors including government departments, major financial institutions, fleet, lease and insurance companies, and major corporate businesses, Pickles offers customers value, flexibility, and convenience.

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**For further information or to organise a viewing or interview please contact:**

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