

SABR Pictorial History Committee Newsletter

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THE THREE WISE MEN OF BASEBALL: A PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF ALEXANDER CARTWRIGHT, HENRY CHADWICK & HARRY WRIGHT

[Ed. note: The following article, researched and written by SABR member Barry Sloate, originally appeared in the July/August issue of *The Vintage & Classic Baseball Collector*. Though the magazine debuted just last year, the VCBC has already published a number of exceptionally enlightening articles relating to baseball's pictorial history, including *Mark Rucker's* five-part series entitled "The History of Baseball Through Photography" and Barry Sloate's article about "Mort Rogers and His Famous Photographic Scorecards." If you're interested in the VCBC, here's their address:

The Vintage & Classic Baseball Collector
Pretty Panda Publishing, Inc.
P.O. Box 39366
Tacoma, WA 98439-0366

And be sure to tell them that you heard about the VCBC through the PHC Newsletter!]

No three men were more responsible for the evolution of baseball in the 19th century than: Alexander Cartwright, who organized the Knickerbockers in the 1840s and taught his fellow

members the rule of the game; Henry Chadwick, who developed a method for scoring the game, improved existing rules, and elevated the art of baseball journalism to new levels; and Harry Wright, who went against the grain of popular opinion that professionalism would kill baseball and formed the legendary Cincinnati Red Stockings. All three are well covered in the study of baseball, and fortunately all are well represented in photography, too.

This article will attempt to checklist all known photographs of the three, acknowledging of course that there are some that will invariably be left out. I will include descriptions of each known image, in what publications examples can be seen, and wherever possible photographer and source. The number of Cartwright and Chadwick photos is limited, not so with Harry Wright. Wright was active during the 1880s, a golden era of baseball photography, and it would only be possible to offer at best a comprehensive listing. At the end of the checklist there will be a key of abbreviations used for publication sources.

continued on page 3

PHC MEETING AT SABR 26

The second annual meeting of the Pictorial History Committee was held on Saturday, June 8th, at the SABR convention in Kansas City. The main topic for the meeting was the large-scale committee project. PHC member *John McMurray* graciously volunteered to head the project and he'll do a stellar job, I am sure. The project will be known as the "Player Image Index" and has been temporarily narrowed down in scope. Rather than attempting to collect an image of every major league player, the project will initially focus on the most difficult to find or "cup of coffee" players. Please read John's article on pp. 2-3 of this newsletter to get more details about the project. We all need to pitch in to make the Player Image Index a success, so, even if you are only able to help out with just a single image, please lend a hand.

PHC members who attended the meeting include: *Rich Frank, Michael Gershman, Steve Gietschier, Francis Kinlaw, Neal McCabe, John McMurray, Marc Okkonen, Rich Puff, Mark Rucker, Jeff Samoray, Mike Schacht, Tom Shieber, John Thorn*. Non-PHC members who attended include: *Bucky Brush, Evelyn Begley, Richard B. Lutz, Fred Ivor-Campbell, Tim Wiles*.

Thanks to everyone who made it to the meeting!

RESEARCH NEEDS

Tony Szabelski needs pictures of four players to complete his collection of players to play from 1930-39. The players are:

Bob Friedrichs, Washington AL 1932
Howdie Groatkoss, Pittsburgh NL 1930-32
Earl Huckleberry, Philadelphia AL 1935
Orlin "Buck" Rogers, Washington AL 1935

If you can help, please contact Tony at:

Tony Szabelski
333 N. Princeton #4
Villa Park, IL 60181

ARTICLES AND RESEARCH AVAILABLE

John McMurray has continued to send in detailed information about photos recently published in Cleveland newspapers. The majority of the descriptions include the caption, newspaper, date, page number, type of photo, photographer, individuals pictured, and a description of the photo. Information is also included about some photos in **Charles Alexander's Ty Cobb** and **John McGraw**, as well as photos in a number of magazines. The database now has over 300 photos catalogued. For an extensive printout of the database, send a self-addressed \$1.01 stamped 8x10 envelope to **Tom Shieber**.

Christie's East, the well-known auction house in New York City, will hold an auction of the photographic archives of the original *Baseball Magazine* on September 20 and 21, 1996. The 134 page auction catalogue contains quality reproductions of close to 500 photos representative of the lots that are up for auction. The catalogue itself would be a fine addition to any SABR member's baseball library. The introduction to the catalogue gives a brief description of the provenance of the collection and features comments by **Neal McCabe**, who viewed the collection last Spring. To get more information about the auction and/or the catalogue, call Christie's East at 1-800-395-6300.

THE PLAYER IMAGE INDEX PROJECT

The "Player Image Index" is certainly one of the most ambitious projects ever undertaken by SABR, but it also has the potential to be one of the most useful. The Committee has seen a need to compile (and perhaps eventually to publish) a collection of images of every major leaguer so that researchers may always be able to find an image of any player with ease while having a solid assurance that these images are genuine. I hope to be able to direct this project so that we can make significant steps forward in this regard.

The thrust of our work at this point should be towards obtaining images of players from 1900-1949 who have extremely little major league experience—ideally those who have played ten games or less. Early-century players are at a premium: Moonlight Graham of "Field of Dreams" fame is certainly on our list, as is Art Merewether, who played one game with the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1922. Some of these images may not be difficult to obtain with a little hunting, but because of the sheer volume of work involved, we need anyone who can be involved to make a contribution to the project, large or small.

While we are also interested in players from 1950 to the present (no photos from this era will be turned down!), photos or other forms of images (woodcuts, engravings, etc.) of players from 1900-1949 are of a higher priority since they are almost always harder to

obtain. If nothing else, you may be the only person on the Committee with access to back issues of your local paper and therefore may be able to locate images that none of the rest of us would.

If you would like to receive a complete list of all of the players who are currently high on our photograph want-list, you can request one from **Tom Shieber** at:

Tom Shieber
Mt. Wilson Observatory
Mt. Wilson, CA 91023

Lists can also be customized for your own particular geography or searching interests. For example, if you want a list of all players who played five games or less for the 1935 Washington Senators, it can be done. Or perhaps you are only interested in players who were born in Nebraska ... we can provide you with a list of these, if you'd like. We'll attempt to accommodate your interests, whatever they may be. If you have access to eMail, you and the committee can save both time and money by requesting a list from Tom at the following address:

shieber@mtwilson.edu

What sort of images are we looking for? The first criterion is to find an image that allows us a good view of what the player looks like. A picture from a

far distance or in the shadows will generally not be of as much use as would a good close-up shot. In a perfect world, we would like to obtain a shot of the player at-bat, another of him playing the field, and a portrait of the player. Right now, as we are just starting, any image of any and every player would be fair game and of great interest for the project.

Much of this research will likely be done in the library or using your own books, and the best thing that you can do at this point is to make a notation of where a given picture may be found (title of publication, date, page number(s), position of player in photo if there are a number of players, etc.), make a copy of the photograph, and send it on to me at:

John McMurray
Box 1492
Mentor, Ohio 44061

Also be sure to include a short note as to why the player pictured is in fact the player you claim him to be. I will then enter your photograph(s) into our database and keep the copies of the pictures on file.

You may reach me via e-mail at "mcm29@en.com" with any suggestions concerning pictures or comments about how to make our work more efficient and/or useful to the committee. I hope that this project appeals to the interests of committee members and that everyone can be involved with it in some capacity.

- John McMurray

To whet your appetite, here are just a few of the players that are on the Baseball Image Index "Wanted List":

Archibald Wright "Moonlight" Graham—Graham was immortalized by W.P. Kinsella in the novel *Shoeless Joe* and later in the movie *Field of Dreams*. His only big league appearance came with the Giants on June 29, 1905, when Christy Mathewson beat Brooklyn at Washington Park, 11-1. (Major League debut date: 6/29/1905)

Joseph Francis Evers—Hall-of-Famer Johnny Evers' little brother Joe managed to hook up with the NY Giants for a one time pinch-running stint at the Polo Grounds on April 24, 1913. (ML debut date: 4/24/1913)

Ed Irvin—In protest over Ban Johnson's suspension of Ty Cobb, the Tigers sat out their May 18th game against the Athletics in Philadelphia. The majority of the makeshift Tigers that played that day were local amateur and semi-pro ballplayers, including Irvin, who garnered two triples in a losing cause. (ML debut date: 5/18/1912)

George Stanley Halas—Halas underwhelmed the 1919 Yankees with 2 hits in 22 at bats. Though he played twelve major league games (technically that's over the initial goal of tracking down guys with 10 or fewer games), it might be a bit of a challenge to find a picture of this football Hall-of-Famer in a baseball uniform. (ML debut date: 5/6/1919)

Ulysses Grant Thatcher—Guess who was president when this future "cup of coffee" major leaguer was born? Thatcher is the winningest pitcher in major league history to have pitched in 10 or fewer games. He managed a decision in every game in which he pitched, going 4-1 for Brooklyn in 1903 and 1904. (ML debut date: 9/9/1903).

Three Wise Men *continued from page 1*

Alexander Cartwright (1820-1892)

Cartwright lived in New York until 1849, then traveled to Hawaii and settled there for the remainder of his life. He apparently did return once to New York to visit in the late 1850s.

1) Half-plate daguerreotype of six Knickerbockers, c. 1848. This is the only known photograph of Cartwright with his fellow Knicks. It appears to be a team gathering, as Duncan Curry as well as brother Alfred Cartwright can be identified. The earliest known baseball image of any kind. It has been published many times, among them BURNS, p. 5 and VCBC, Issue #2, p. 22.

2) Quarter-plate daguerreotype of Cartwright with unidentified companion. Taken in Hawaii, probably in mid-1850s. (NATP Winter, 1985, inside front cover).

3) Sixth-plate daguerreotype of Cartwright with unidentified companion, probably early 1850s. This one has a fascinating provenance. Sometime late in the 19th century, Cartwright gave this as a gift to the

royal family of Hawaii. In 1915, Bruce Cartwright, his grandson, made a journey to Hawaii and received the photo back from Queen Liliuokalani. He then inscribed the following on the copper encasing on the reverse of the image: "Presented to Bruce Cartwright, Sr. by Queen Liliuokalani Dec. 14, 1915, A.J. Cartwright, Jr. with whiskers." Incidentally, this wonderful image will be on the auction block in the summer of 1996. (Plate reproduced in original article, VCBC, Issue #7, p. 5).

4) Late 1850s image, possibly a salt print, he has the same youthful appearance as in the dags. I have not seen this one in person. (150YR, p. 5).

5) Quarter-plate ambrotype, Cartwright with two unidentified companions. Hand colored, ca. 1860. (Plate reproduced in original article, VCBC, Issue #7, p. 5).

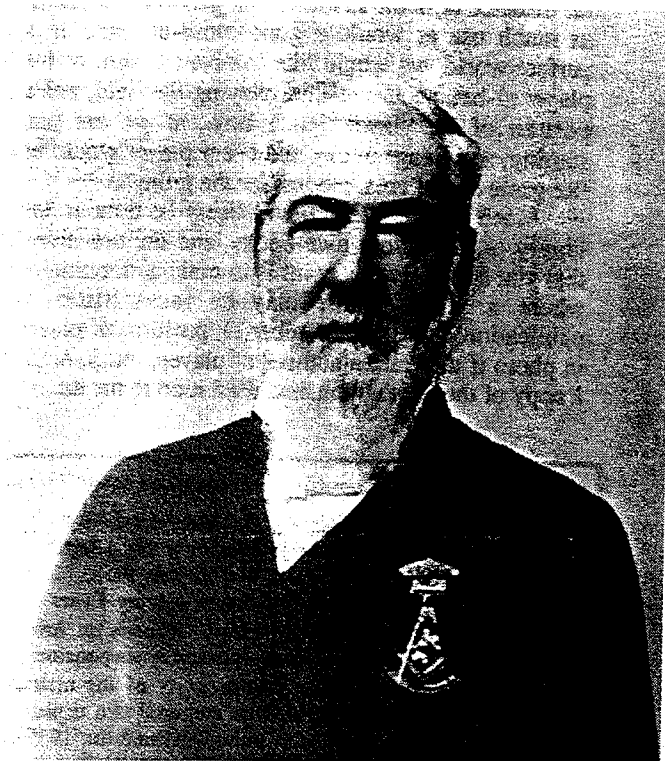
6) Second ambrotype (either quarter or sixth plate) with three unidentified companions. (TOJ, Spring 1986, p. 2)

7) CDV, shot in profile, ca. 1865, photographer H.L. Chase, Honolulu. From a private collection, never published.

8) Hand-colored photo in fireman's garb, probably late 1860s. (TOBG, p. 146).



Kate Lee, Alexander J., and Mary
Groesbeck Cartwright
Daguerreotype, 1852
Courtesy Barry Sloate



Alexander J. Cartwright Wearing Masonic
Jewelry
Second generation silver print, c. 1890
Courtesy Barry Sloate

9) Oval, hand-colored formal portrait, ca. 1870. Offered in Leland's Nov. 19, 1994 auction, lot #365, and pictured in catalog.

10) Photogravure, probably taken in 1870s. This is a photo of a photo, probably of an early dag that may no longer exist. In a private collection, never published.

11) As an old man, in fireman's hat, but probably long retired, ca. 1880. (HOF, p. 1).

12) As an old man, ca. 1885, in profile. (SPAL, p. 46).

13) As an old man, ca. 1885, holding fire horn. (NATP, Spring 1984, p. 3).

Note that the majority of surviving Cartwright images, particularly early ones, came directly from his descendants living in Hawaii and near Tacoma, WA.

[Ed. note: Since the original publication of this article in VCBC, Issue #7, three previously unknown images of Cartwright have come to light. With the gracious consent of Barry Sloate, these images are reproduced here for the very first time ever!]

Henry Chadwick (1824-1908)

Chadwick came to America from England as a boy. He became a sports reporter in the 1850s, covering first cricket and then baseball. He remained active and prolific until his death.

1) With St. George's Cricket Club, 1863. The earliest image currently known. He is seated, in straw hat, with scorebook. This photo also includes St. George's star player Harry Wright (TOBG, p. 119).

2) CDV with Resolutes of Brooklyn, 1864. A wonderful picture, reprinted many times. (RUCK plate #9; TOBG, pp. 116-117).

3) Oval portrait, ca. 1868, obtained directly from Chadwick's great-grandson. (Plate reproduced in original article, VCBC, Issue #7, p. 5).

4) Signed cabinet photo, 1874, photographer Wood, taken on the celebration of his 50th birthday. Also directly from the family. (BURNS, p. 8).

5) Seated, pointing to book, ca. 1880. (PHIL, p. 7).

6) Portrait, wearing bowtie, facing left, ca. 1885. (SPIN, plate XXVIII).

7) Gem sized photo, portrait ca. 1885, affixed to velvet padding of laptop desk purchased directly from family. Never published.

8) Cabinet photo, photographer unknown, ca. 1890, standing with scroll in right hand. This has never been published but is on display at the Brooklyn Historical Society on Pierrepont Street in Brooklyn Heights.

9) Full figured, standing, with book in right hand and left hand on table, inscribed "July, 1902, age 78." (CHUR, p 24; TOBG, p. 118).

10) Seated in large, horse-drawn carriage with ten important looking men, some identifiable as baseball executives, ca. 1905. A wonderful photo, again directly from family, in private collection and never published.

11) As an old man, seated with gloves. An autographed copy, dated Feb. 22, 1906 (but taken a bit earlier) was offered at Christie's Oct. 2, 1993 auction as lot #259, and reoffered in Robert Edward Auctions, Sep. 8, 1994, lot #28. (SPAL, p. 340).

12) Seated, on elaborate backed chair, possibly in 1907, shortly before his death. (TOBG, p. 131).

[Ed. note: In a recent telephone conversation, Barry noted that a photograph of Chadwick offered in the upcoming Christie's East auction (see p. 2 of this newsletter) is a slight variation of this photo. Nevertheless it is unique.]

Harry Wright (1835-1895)

Wright was born in England, and came to America as a boy. He played cricket and baseball as a youth, then focused solely on the latter as a professional.

1) Panoramic of New York Knickerbockers and Brooklyn Excelsiors, 1858. This magnificent image is the earliest known photo of Wright, when he was a catcher for the Knicks. It has been reprinted many times. (SPAL, foldout page; TOBG, pp. 48-49).

2) With St. George's Cricket Club, two images known: a) ca. 1861 (NATP, Spring 1984, p. 18); b) 1863, same as aforementioned Chadwick photo.

3) CDV with father Sam Wright, ca. 1867. This well-documented photo shows Harry in uniform posed with cricket star Sam. (BURNS, p. 21; RUCK, plate #7).

4) Team photo, Cincinnati Red Stockings, 1868. The year before the legendary team. (ELLA, p. 97; NATP, Spring 1984, p. 18).

5) CDV, ca. 1869. Two different known, one in full Red Stocking uniform (plate reproduced in original article, VCBC, Issue #7, p. 5), photographer Broadhurst, and a companion photo, in suit, in a private collection and never published.

6) Team photo, 1869. Probably the most recognizable early photo, published in virtually every book (including VCBC, Issue #1, p. 5) There are also two known composites: (ELLA, p. 173) and a second which appeared in Leland's Nov. 20, 1993 auction, lot #255A, and pictured in the catalog.

7) Large plate albumen photo, 1870, of Red Stockings posed outdoors with Forest Citys of Cleveland. (TOBG, p. 95).

8) As a young man, ca. 1870, in street clothes. (SPAL, p. 132).

9) Mort Rogers scorecard, 1871. (VCBC, Issue #5, p. 4).

10) Cabinet photo, photographer Warren, ca. 1872, of Wright in full Boston uniform. Two poses known: a) hands crossed in front (PHIL, p. 5); b) hands behind back (SMIT, p. 37). Also 2 know CDVs: a:) in uniform as above; b) portrait in street clothes. Both: photographer Warren.

11) Mammoth plate photo of Boston and Philadelphia entitled "Grand Stand Boston Baseball Grounds, 1872." (NATP, Spring 1984, p. 34).

12) Composite of 1873 team, photographer Richardson, in street clothes. (NATP, Spring 1984, p. 34).

13) Cabinet photo of 1874 team, photographer Black, posed in full uniform. One of the most beautiful baseball photos ever taken, reprinted many times (VCBC, Issue #3, p. 23).

14) Large plate photo of 1874 Tour of England team. (NATP, Spring 1984, p. 76).

15) Team composite, 1876. (TUOH, p. 73).

16) Team composite, 1877. (Known with and without Harry Wright).

17) Team composite, 1878. (TUOH, p. 77).

18) Team composite, 1879. (TUOH, p. 79). A cabinet photo is also known with Wright cropped in identical pose, photographer A.G. Taylor.

19) Mammoth plate photo, 1879, at Messer Park, Providence, of Boston Red Stockings and Providence Grays. (NATP, Spring 1984, p. 43).

20) Studio cabinet, photographer Randall, 1881. Offered repeatedly at auction.

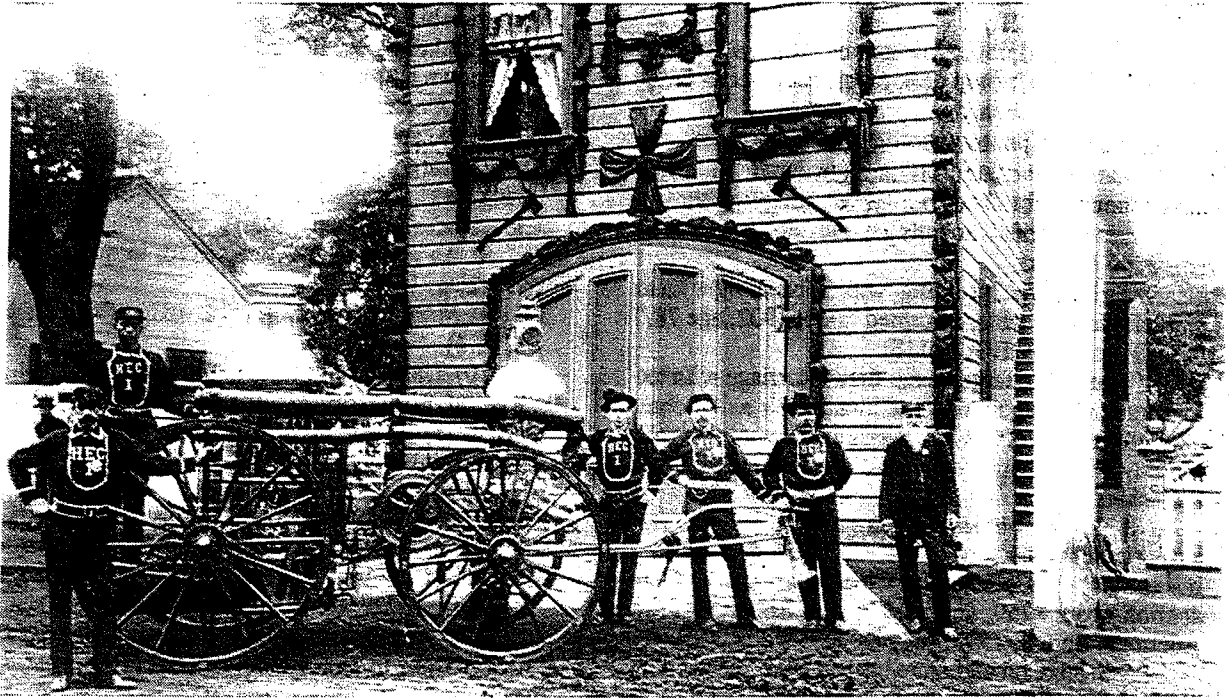
21) Team photo, Providence Grays, 1882. Photographer Chicago Photographic Studios. (NATP, Spring 1984, p. 45).

22) Various studio cabinets, 1887-88. There are several known from this period, among the photographers Gilbert & Bacon, Goodwin & Co., McIntyre, etc.

23) N172 Old Judge Cigarettes card, two distinct poses.

24) N173 Old Judge cabinet card, one pose known.

25) N690 Kalamazoo Bats. Famous pose of Wright sitting in dugout holding scorebook, as well as team photo. Two sizes known of each.



Alex. Cartwright (far right) with Members of the HEC (Hawaiian Engine Company?) No. 1
 Modern reproduction of lost original, c. 1894
 Courtesy Barry Sloate

26) Team photo, opening day, 1889. Wright posed with Philadelphia and New York Giants.

27) Team photo, 1890 Philadelphia, posed outdoors, possibly at clubhouse. (PHIL, p. 22).

28) Tintypes. There are at least two known of Wright, both in private collections. (COOP, p. 12).

Wright's health deteriorated in 1890; he managed off and on until 1893, and then retired. Few if any photos exist from this period.

- Barry Sloate

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

BURNS: Ward, Geoffrey, and Burns, Ken. *Baseball*. Alfred Knopf, 1994.

CHUR: Church, Seymour. *Baseball: 1845-71*. Self-published, 1902.

COOP: Cooper, Mark. *Baseball Games*. Schiffer Publishing, 1995.

ELLA: Ellard, Harry. *Baseball in Cincinnati*. Johnson & Hardin, 1907.

HOF: *The Baseball Hall of Fame 50th Anniversary Book*. Prentice-Hall, 1988.

NATP: *The National Pastime*, a SABR publication.

150YR: *150 Years of Baseball*. Beekman House, 1989.

PHIL: Phillips, David. *That Old Ball Game*. Henry Regnery, 1975.

RUCK: Rucker, Mark. *Baseball Cartes*. Self-published, 1988.

SMIT: Smith, Robert. *Baseball in America*. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1961.

SPAL: Spalding, Albert. *America's National Game*. American Sports Pub. Co., 1911.

SPIN: Spink, Alfred. *The National Game*. National Game Pub., 1910.

TOBG: Alvarez, Mark. *The Old Ball Game*. Redefinition, 1990.

TOJ: *The Old Judge*. Lew Lipset, publisher.

TUOH: Tuohy, George. *History of the Boston Baseball Club, 1871-1897*. Quinn & Co., 1897.

VCBC: *The Vintage & Classic Baseball Collector Magazine*. Dennis Purdy, publisher.

NEW MEMBERS AND MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

The SABR Pictorial History Committee welcomes the following new members:

Jim Ball	1706 Palomino Drive Rowlett, TX 75088	David Jordan	410 Rodman Ave. Jenkintown, PA 19046
Bob Hoie	2210 Roanoke Road San Marino, CA 91108	John Spalding	1875 Bascom Avenue Suite 116-257 Campbell, CA 95008
Chris Jennison	Guilford Press 72 Spring St. New York, NY 10012		

Please note the following address and membership changes:

Paul K. Jacques	306 S. 3rd St. Laramie, WY 82070-3624	Alan Truax	2 Maple Street Suite 300 Middlebury, VT 05753
Ron Kaplan	No longer a PHC member.		

BALLPARKS ON TELEVISION AND IN THE MOVIES

A "working list" of movies and television productions featuring major or minor league ballparks is being developed with the assistance of many SABR members. This ambitious project was initiated by SABR's Ballparks Committee, but the Pictorial History Committee is an active partner in the endeavor and will participate in the research process.

A list of movies has been alphabetized by title, and the ballparks which appeared in each film have been noted. In several instances comments about the type of shot (e.g., inside or outside of stadium) are included. The year of each movie's release is also indicated.

The compilation of a comprehensive listing of television shows is even more challenging than the creation of the movie file. Existing television entries

range from episodes of "The Munsters" and "Robocop" to the weekly slugging contests shown on "Home Run Derby."

Progress on this project is proceeding at a steady pace, and the contribution of committee members are welcomed (and needed!). Please send any information to:

Francis Kinlaw
603 Shawnee Road
Greensboro, NC 27403

As the project's chairman, I will send copies of the list to the SABR Librarian in a few months. The list will also be discussed and distributed at each of SABR's national conventions.

- Francis Kinlaw

THOMPSON/NOT THOMPSON COBB / NOT COBB

"[Rembrandt] could very well have signed students' works and sold them under his own name." *Rembrandt/Not Rembrandt*, Vol. 1 by Hubert Von Sonnenburg, p. 6 (New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1995)

On p. 222 of the classic illustrated history *Baseball in America* by Robert Smith (New York: Holt, Rinehart, Winston, 1961), there is an action shot of Pete Reiser stealing home on Opening Day, 1946. The credit reads: "Paul Thompson Photo from European Picture Service." The frequent appearance of Thompson's credit in this and other baseball books leads us to believe that Thompson was responsible for many of the most famous baseball pictures taken between 1910 and 1950. But Thompson died in 1940, and it turns out that a large percentage of Paul

Thompson photographs were not taken by Paul Thompson—even while he was alive to take them.

I had long suspected that Thompson was credited with photographs that he had not taken. This passage from his *New York Times* obituary (November 28, 1940) confirmed my suspicions:

"... the credit line 'Photos by Paul Thompson' became familiar to newspaper readers all over the United States. It appeared chiefly on pictures of sports events, society gatherings, and special occasions of news interest. Many people naturally assumed that Mr. Thompson was, or had been an expert cameraman himself, but such was not the case. His success in developing his business came from his ability to select able associates, several of whom started their careers with him as office boys.

"Every one in the Thompson organization was keenly interested in photography, an advance guard

of the present-day thousands of camera fans. After one of the international yacht races ... Mr. Thompson's chief photographer reported that all his plates had been ruined, 'light struck.' Mr. Thompson went home depressed, but on looking at the New York newspapers the next morning he saw two full pages of yacht race photographs signed 'Photos by Paul Thompson.' One of the office boys had 'shot' the races on his own account and saved the day."

Contrary to the *Times* obituary, it seems likely that Thompson was indeed an expert baseball photographer early in his career. His 1910 player portraits, first published in the 1911 *Spalding Guide*, have become famous as the images on the T-202 triple-fold tobacco cards. (Charles M. Conlon's photographs appeared side by side with Thompson's in the *Guide* and on the cards.) These early prints are stamped simply: "Paul Thompson, 10 Spruce Street, New York," but Thompson, a Yale graduate and former sports editor of the *New York Evening Sun*, was a brilliant entrepreneur, and his pictures were soon being stamped with this stern warning:

FOR YOUR USE ONLY
NOT TO BE LOANED, RESOLD
OR SYNDICATED, CREDIT LINE
MUST BE GIVEN AS FOLLOWS
PHOTO BY PAUL THOMPSON

Beginning around 1910, "Paul Thompson" photos of parades, presidents, World War I, the Russian Revolution, the World Series, etc., were printed in *The New York Times*, *Collier's*, *National Geographic*, and *Baseball Magazine*, among other publications. Even a casual survey of his output leads any observer to conclude that Thompson could never have taken all of these pictures himself. We will never know how many of these pictures he took personally, but an examination of the *Baseball Magazine* photo archives [Ed. note: see p. 2 of this newsletter] reveals that some of them were taken by none other than Charles M. Conlon.

The negative of the 1904 New York Giants team photo (apparently the only Giants team photo taken that year) survives in the Conlon Collection of *The Sporting News*. A contact print of that photo in the files of *Baseball Magazine* is stamped with Thompson's credit, but another print of the photo has nothing but player identifications on the back—in Conlon's handwriting. It is safe to conclude that Thompson acquired both photos from Conlon. More conclusively, on the back of a 1910 Conlon action shot, Conlon's name has been crossed out and replaced by Thompson's credit. On another photo, the stamp of the Washington firm Harris & Ewing has been crossed out and replaced by Thompson's credit.

Paul Thompson was a vital contributor to the pictorial history of baseball, but he appears to have functioned more as an agent than as a photographer for much of his career. The quality of "Paul Thompson" photographs is uniformly high, and their

value as historical documents is incalculable, but these pictures were the work of a vast army of photographers. One man, Charles M. Conlon, took Thompson's place as staff photographer at *Baseball Magazine* in 1917.



There is a famous 1910 photograph of a leaping, soaring Ty Cobb, frozen in midair with a cherubic expression on his face. It has appeared on the cover of several books, including a juvenile biography. There are just two things wrong with this picture: 1) It looks nothing like Ty Cobb; and 2) It's NOT Ty Cobb.

The original negative has been preserved in the Conlon Collection of *The Sporting News*, and it was correctly identified on p. 196 of *Baseball's Golden Age*. The player is Hack Simmons, a stocky utility man who stood 5'8" tall and weighed 179 pounds. Ty Cobb was five inches taller and weighed a few pounds less. The actual 1910 picture of Cobb is on p. 56 of the 1911 *Spalding Guide*. The tall, smiling Cobb—and it definitely IS Cobb—has not taken flight in this photograph; he appears instead to be in the midst of a rather unimpressive flat-footed hop.

Conlon must have cursed his luck when he saw that his photograph of a nobody was a masterpiece. Simmons was soon back in the minors, and the negative was filed away—but not for long. By 1920, Conlon, who knew the true identity of the player in the picture, had made identical prints of the photograph for *Baseball Magazine* and the *New York Evening Telegram*, identifying the image as: "Ty Cobb—Climbing for a high one."

What possessed Conlon to pull this fast one? A photograph in the files of *Baseball Magazine* reveals that he possessed a certain amount of artistic vanity. On the back of a shot of Tiger catcher Charlie Schmidt about to catch a ball frozen in midair, he wrote proudly: "Judged best action photo of the year by the American Annual of Photography, 1911." This forgotten inscription is poignant, and even somewhat pathetic, since no one but Conlon cared much about this honor—certainly not the editors or readers of *Baseball Magazine*. Conlon's deception, while inexcusable, was perfectly understandable: he just couldn't let a great photograph go to waste. Thus he "updated" a 1912 photograph of Chief Meyers' batting grip by identifying it as Rogers Hornsby's, an anonymous 1912 Giant's batting grip as Lou Gehrig's, and a picture of Ed Walsh's spitball grip as Red Faber's. Fortunately, these deceptions are few in number and they are generally easy to spot, but had the Simmons negative not been rescued by *The Sporting News*, posterity would have been forever puzzled by that wonderful picture of an inexplicably pudgy Peach.

- Neal McCabe