

SABR PICTORIAL HISTORY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

Bill Hickman, Chair, bdhickmn@aol.com

Cary Smith, Vice Chair, zinnbeck@aol.com

August 2003

PICTORIAL HISTORY COMMITTEE MEETING AT SABR 33

The following is an outline of the topics discussed at the recent meeting:

- o Introduction of Attendees
- o Reviewed progress and current status of the Player Image Index
 - We have catalogued images for about 14,600 major league players.
 - This amounts to about 20,000 records produced.
 - We are missing images for about 1,270 players.
 - 70% of them appeared in some 19th Century major league games.
 - 66% played in 10 or fewer major league games.
 - 91% played in 50 or fewer major league games.
 - Only 11 were in over 200 major league games.
 - 85% appeared with only one major league team.
 - Only 7% played with more than two major league teams.
 - For instances in which we know where the player was born, 69% of them were born in only 8 states (PA, NY, MA, OH, IL, CA, MO, and NJ).
 - For instances in which we know where the player died, 64% died in only 8 states (PA, NY, OH, IL, MA, MD, MO, and NJ).
 - So there is a fair amount of geographic concentration concerning the home states of these missing players.
- o Challenges Ahead for the Player Image Index project
 - How to verify that a player is who he's purported to be.
 - Reserve lists 1900-1930
 - Professional Baseball Player Data Base 1930 to mid-1980's
 - Minor league books by Marshall Wright
 - THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION IN BASEBALL 1885-1961
 - THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE 1884-1953
 - Does anyone possess Carlos Bauer's 3-volume tome on Pacific Coast League players? Apparently only 240 copies were produced, so it becomes a mighty expensive purchase. It is known as the PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE CYCLOPEDIA. It includes every pitcher and batter in PCL history.
 - Swales collection of records in New York Public Library (Lloyd Johnson has a copy, which I'll attempt to obtain).

- Strategies for obtaining photos of missing players
- Major league team concentration (seek all players associated with a team).
- Geographic concentration (seek players born in, or died in, a particular state).
- Check your personal baseball library or photo collection.
- Track down the old photo studios associated with ballplayer pictures.
- Ask relatives of ballplayers.
- Visit local historical societies.
- Visit Library of Congress.
- Take out interlibrary loans of newspaper microfilm.
- Use Internet websites.
- Look for memorabilia collectors' magazines and ads.
- How to get the Player Image Index placed on the SABR website.
- Work through SABR's Internet Committee.
- o Possible Future Projects for the Committee
- We discussed the possibilities of a ballparks photo data base development in conjunction with the Ballparks Committee, as well as developing a Managerial Image Index on our own. No one at the meeting was inclined to volunteer to head either project.
- If you would like to head either of these projects, or have an idea for another, please let me know. If no one steps up to head additional projects, we will just continue to work on the Player Image Index for now.

HOW TO OBTAIN MISSING PLAYERS LIST

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of our Missing Players List, please just ask me for one. A subset of the list can be produced for you, if you are not interested in pursuing the full list. For those who were at SABR 33 and requested copies, I should have them out to you within the next two weeks. When I returned from Colorado, I found several bunches of photos which had been submitted for our project. These photos will be catalogued, and then I'll revise the Missing Players List and send it out.

CORRECTION TO WEBSITE ADDRESS

In the June newsletter, I provided you with a valid address for a website containing photos of 19th century baseball and attributed that website to Tom Shieber. The website address was valid, but it was the wrong address for Tom's website. His very fine website can be found at <http://www.bluecurl.com/ncbbp/>. The website contains a catalogue of nineteenth century baseball images that are found on the web.

Tom Shieber also has launched a second website. It is a very useful resource for baseball photo researchers who need to identify uniforms which the players are wearing. It is called "Dressed to the Nines: A History of the Baseball Uniform." It can be found at:

http://www.baseballhalloffame.org/exhibits/online_exhibits/dressed_to_the_nines/index.htm

PROJECT TO COLLECT COLOR SLIDES OF BASEBALL TOPICS

Bob Wilson is interested in establishing a central location for the storage of amateur photos which are currently stored as slides. He is willing to make copies of the slides in collection, and is seeking help from others who might be interested in participating in creating an organized storage system for baseball slides. Bob feels that the nature of color slides gives viewers an added dimension of depth and therefore, the retention of slides can be a welcome addition to the photographic history of baseball. If you are interested in working with Bob on this project, please send an email to him at wilson@rigel.astro.ufl.edu.