

SABR PICTORIAL HISTORY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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Membership in the Pictorial History Committee has grown considerably over the past year. We now have 376 members. For the benefit of the newer members, this newsletter will begin by reviewing the projects in which the committee is engaged.

PLAYER IMAGE INDEX

The goal of this project is to catalogue at least one image of every man who has played in the major leagues. When we are able to catalogue an image, that means that we know where it has been published or in what collection it has been seen. We have been able to catalogue images for about 96% of the players who have been in the majors since the beginning, 1871. The Player Image Index currently consists of more than 28,000 records describing image sources for over 16,000 major league players. It is available via the SABR Encyclopedia on the members-only section of the SABR website. If you use the SABR Encyclopedia, go to an individual player's basic entry. Then click on the word "Pictures" and you will see the descriptions of all the images we have catalogued for that player.

Our continuing work on this project consists of two aspects -- trying to find images of the old-timers we're missing and pursuing images of each new major league debuter as each new season rolls along. The current count of players who have ever appeared in the majors is 16,851. We are missing 662 of them, none of whom played big league ball after 1929. We have an Excel spreadsheet containing our Missing Player List. If you would like to help pursue some missing players, just send an email to me at bdhickmn@aol.com (note that there is no letter "a" in bdhickmn).

The fact that we have catalogued at least one image for 16,189 players does not mean that we actually possess images for all those players. We do possess images for the vast majority of them, but the governing philosophy of the Player Image Index project has always been that it should serve as a reference tool to provide guidance on where to look for an image.

MANAGER IMAGE INDEX

The Manager Image Index project parallels the Player Image Index in many respects. It has also been integrated into the on-line SABR Encyclopedia. It has also achieved a high success rate, with 97% of all major league managers having had at least one image catalogued into the database. Its goal is to catalogue at least one image for every individual who managed in the major leagues. The Missing Manager List is short enough that the names of those missing can be included here. The twenty missing managers are Andy Allison, unknown-first-name Bickerson, Ed Curtis, Mordecai Davidson, Harry Deane, Joe Ellick, George Frazier, Mase Graffen, Bill C. Henderson, Ed Hengle, Jim C. Kennedy, George McManus, Felix Moses, Bill J. Smith, Pat Sullivan, George J. Taylor, Fred L. Thomas, Mike J. Walsh, John Waltz, and Al Wright.

Dave Davis is the project leader for the Manager Image Index. If you can help with any of the twenty missing managers, please contact Dave at dfastpitch5@yahoo.com.

BALLPARK PHOTO INDEX

The Ballpark Photo Index is a project being conducted jointly with SABR's Ballparks Committee. Paul Healey is its project leader. The Index is not yet integrated into the SABR Encyclopedia, but it is available as an Excel spreadsheet which can be downloaded from the SABR website. The URL for the page where you will find the download is: <http://www.sabr.org/sabr.cfm?a=cms,c,2339,5,0>

When you have completed the download, you should have two Excel spreadsheets. The Ballpark Photo Index includes the cataloging of images for 133 major league ballparks. In many cases, more than one image of the ballpark has been catalogued.

The second Excel spreadsheet, accessed via a tab from the Ballpark Photo Index, is a Ballpark Completion List. It lists every major league ballpark, including the 238 ballparks for which we have not yet catalogued an image. It also provides a checkmark indicator for the kinds of views we've assembled for those ballparks for which we have found images.

If you review the Ballpark Completion List and find that you have images for ballparks for which we are missing images, please contact Paul Healey at paulhealey@yahoo.com.

PLAYERS FOUND SINCE AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Adam Swigler -- found by Lou Zabbia in a University of Pennsylvania publication.

Bill Finley -- found by Lou Zabbia in a Manhattan College publication.

John "Shorty" Howe -- contained in Tony Szabelski's collection; reported by Lou Zabbia.

Ralph Good -- found by Mark Fimoff in the 1911 Spalding Guide, page 77, and in the Boston Globe of June 26, 1900, page 9. Using these references, Mark also concluded that the 1911 T205 card previously identified as Wilbur Goode actually pictures Ralph Good.

Uriah L. Jones (debut 8/13/1883), a third baseman previously listed in the encyclopedias as Ryerson L. "Jack" Jones -- his identity found by Richard Malatzky. Peter Morris sent in the image from the Fresno Bee of May 24, 1931. Jones was pictured as a 73-year-old in the Fresno newspaper.

James J. "Jerry" McCormick (called John McCormick by TOTAL BASEBALL VII) -- found by Jay Roberts in an 1884 Washington team photo published on the first page of the Sunday Magazine Section of the November 13, 1927 Washington Post. This finding also enables the identification of the second man to the right in the bottom row of the 1884 Washington team photo as McCormick on page 83 of THE BEER AND WHISKY LEAGUE, by David Nemeec.

Sam Kimber -- found by Marc Okkonen in the 1885 Richmond team photo that appeared in the April 28, 1907 issue of the Richmond Times-Dispatch. That newspaper can be found online by searching www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica.

John F. "Frank" Houseman -- found by Marc Okkonen in 1885 Richmond team composite in the April 14, 1907 issue of the Richmond Times-Dispatch. It's also available on-line as in the above paragraph.

Harry Corson Clarke -- found by Bill Hickman following Richard Malatzky's SABR-L announcement that Clarke was a long-time actor. A nice head shot of Clarke can be seen at <http://gabrielleray.150m.com/ArchiveTextC/HarryCorsonClarke.html>

Chris Rickley -- found by Bill Hickman in an 1887 Williamsport team photo on the New York Public Library website at <http://digitalgallery.nypl.org> When you reach that webpage, search on Williamsport.

George Patterson (Pattison) -- found by Marc Okkonen in an 1890 Erie team photo published in THE SAGA OF ERIE SPORTS, by John G. Carney.

BASEBALL PHOTO PRICES ESCALATING

An original of Charles Conlon's famous photo of Ty Cobb's sliding into third base recently sold for \$26,400. Is this baseball's priciest photo?

BASEBALL PHOTO-RELATED WEBSITES

Manos Kyper has reported a website containing photos of Woody English and his Dodgers and Cubs teammates. The URL is <http://personal.denison.edu/~waite/woody/mates.html>

Rod Nelson has reported a Brooklyn Ballparks website which was developed and maintained by David Dyte. The URL is <http://www.brooklynballparks.com/>

Rod has also reported a website containing Los Angeles Photos of the 1920-1990 period. There are about 80 baseball-related black-and-white photos showing players, crowds, managers, umpires, and ballparks. The URL is <http://unitproj.library.ucla.edu/dlib/lat>

An outfit called The Sport Gallery is selling fine-art prints from the photos which were published in the old magazine called Sport. They can be seen at <http://www.thesportgallery.com>

CORRECTING IDENTIFICATIONS ON BASEBALL CARDS

In addition to the Ralph Good/Wilbur Goode correction mentioned above, Mark Fimoff has also discovered that the 1912 Imperial Tobacco card listed in the guides as Ducky Holmes is not Ducky after all. Rather, it's James Scott Holmes.

Bill Hickman found that the 1912 Imperial Tobacco card listed as Silton is 1911 pitcher Charles "Carl" Sitton, a former major leaguer. People had difficulty getting Sitton's name straight, as he was labelled Sisson on a 1912 Colgans Chips Tin Top while he was with Atlanta in 1912. Over the years, there have been disagreements as to whether his first name was Charles or Carl. The SABR Encyclopedia lists him as Charles.

COMMITTEE E-LIST

I'll close with one more piece of information for newcomers to the Pictorial History Committee. We have an e-list which members may use for discussions about anything related to the pictorial history of baseball. For example, if you have questions about a particular baseball photo, you might want to try raising the issue on the e-list. To become a member of the e-list, visit the following URL: <http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/Sabrpictorial/>

Best wishes for a happy holiday season and for the new year, Bill Hickman.