

SABR PICTORIAL HISTORY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

Bill Hickman, Chair
bdhickmn@aol.com

Cary Smith, Vice Chair

zinnbeck@aol.com

December 2005
Copyright © 2005 Society for American Baseball Research

ANOTHER 206 PLAYERS MADE MAJOR LEAGUE DEBUTS IN 2005

One of the challenges of our committee's maintaining the Player Image Index is that there is a continuing supply of new big leaguers whose images are required to be catalogued. This year's crop of rookies numbered 206, bringing the current total of all-time major leaguers to 16,418.

Our Missing Players List has now been trimmed to fewer than 800 players. There are currently 797 players whose images we've been unable to catalogue. If you are interested in the list of missing players, just send me an email and ask for it. The email address is bdhickmn@aol.com

PARTICIPATION IN THE PLAYER IMAGE INDEX PROJECT CONTINUES TO GROW

In addition to those mentioned in previous newsletters, the following five individuals have made contributions by identifying player images for the Player Image Index: Jason Christopherson, James Cornelius, Dave Eskenazi, Bob Koehler, and Jim Sandoval. This brings our total number of participants to 95. We still need to do a lot of digging to find images of the remaining players on our missing list, so you are all encouraged to participate in the hunt.

SOME PLAYER IMAGE DATA NOT YET IN SABR ENCYCLOPEDIA

Most of our Player Image Index file has been placed into the SABR Encyclopedia. As mentioned in the last newsletter, if you go to the online SABR Encyclopedia and work your way into the main webpage for a particular player, then click on "Pictures" and you'll arrive at the Player Image Index data for that player. There is a delay between the time when a player is first catalogued into the Player Image Index on my computer, and when that data shows up in the SABR Encyclopedia. I'm aware of at least 1,000 records which have not yet made their way into the Encyclopedia. If you are looking for a particular player's image and don't find it in the SABR Encyclopedia, just send an email inquiry to me and I'll let you know if we have any information in the pipeline on that player.

TWO COMMITTEE MEMBERS HONORED IN MAGAZINE AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Two of our most active committee members have been recognized in recent publications through full-page articles about them.

In the November 18th issue of Sports Collectors Digest, columnist Marty Appel paid tribute to Marc Okkonen's baseball research and particularly Marc's 1991 book, *BASEBALL UNIFORMS OF THE 20TH CENTURY*. The book is a marvelous reference volume for anyone trying to identify a big league uniform in a photo during the 1900-1991 period. The book is out of print, but copies are available for fairly hefty prices on websites which deal in books no longer being published.

The October 22nd issue of the McMinnville, Oregon, News-Register featured an article about Richard Ulrich and his quest to obtain images of every major leaguer. Richard has 100 loose-leaf binders full of baseball photos in his collection.

Our congratulations go to Marc and Richard for these articles about them. We also appreciate the wealth of baseball research experience which they have shared with us as we have progressed with our committee projects.

PROJECT BEING LAUNCHED JOINTLY WITH LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Bain Collection of photos online at the Library of Congress website is a promising source of images for researchers seeking baseball photos. Unfortunately, as is the case with the Chicago Daily News Collection on the Library of Congress website, there are some errors and omissions in the identification of the players in the photos. Furthermore, the Bain Collection search engine does not bring up all the photos which are of a baseball nature. The Bain Collection search page is at <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pp/ggbainquery.html>

The Pictorial History Committee has had some discussions with the Library of Congress staff about initiating a project to improve the accuracy of the captions associated with the Bain Collection online photos. We will be waiting until an additional 12,000 photos are placed online before we begin our error correction project. The additional 12,000 photos are currently planned for online display in March. Once these photos are up, we will peruse all the photos to determine which ones are related to baseball, and after that, we will begin our project.

If you are interested in participating in this project, please let me know. As I'm able to identify which of the Bain photos relate to baseball, I'll create an inventory of them and assign them to project participants in batches of 100. As you look at each photo and accompanying caption, we would ask you to check for the following:

- o Incomplete player names. Most often this will be a case of a player's surname being given without any other information to identify him.
- o Misspellings of Player Names
- o Clash Between Player Name and Team Name. At times, the player will be identified correctly, but the uniform he's wearing is not that of the team mentioned in the caption. In other cases, such a clash may be a clue that the wrong player has been identified.
- o Wrong Player Identified

- o Wrong Date. Here again, the uniform may be a clue that the year in the caption is not correct.
- o Missing Date. If you could provide a date or a “circa” date, that would be helpful.

Thanks go to Tom Shieber, Marc Okkonen, Cary Smith, and Steve Steinberg for participating in the consultation process to launch this project.

We also discussed the Chicago Daily News Collection photos with the Library of Congress staff. Unlike the Bain photos, the Chicago Daily News Collection photos are not under the direct purview of the Library of Congress. Instead, it's the Chicago Historical Society which has decision-making authority to change the captions. The Library of Congress Staff is willing to help facilitate an agreement with the Chicago Historical Society to start a project to improve the accuracy of their captions, but we're going to defer that project until we have completed work on the Bain Collection.

COMMITTEE HAS AN E-LIST

Thanks to the efforts of Cary Smith, the Pictorial History Committee now has a Yahoo Groups ListServ which committee members may join.

If you would like to enroll in this ListServ, go to the following webpage:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Sabrpictorial>

Cary is the moderator of this ListServ and will give subscription approvals to those members of the Pictorial History Committee who request such approvals.

COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS ON SABR WEBSITE

The Pictorial History Committee's administrative documents, such as newsletters and annual reports, are on the SABR website. Just go to the following address and then click on Pictorial History. <http://www.sabr.org/sabr.cfm?a=com&m=5>

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!

Bill Hickman