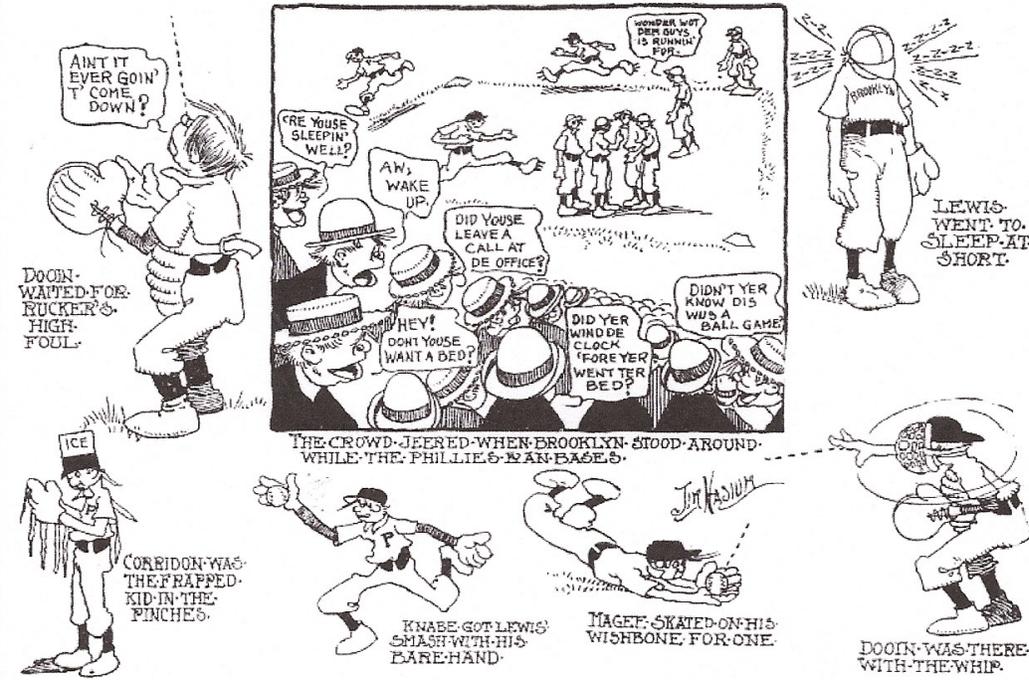


BASEBALL IS ART

What The Inquirer's Artist Saw and Heard at Phillies' Ground



THE SUMMERTIME FAN

And now it is over, the season is ended.
 The flags to the zephyrs no longer are tossed.
 The fight, as a whole, was exciting and splendid,
 And interest lived till the last game was lost;
 But now that the smoke of the battle has lifted,
 My thoughts far ahead to the winter have drifted.
 Play, wife, the piano – a sad dirge or two!
 O, what can a fan of the summertime do?

SABR AND THE ARTS

Many years ago, a few like minds who saw the value to pursuing, appreciating and studying art as it related to baseball initially organized as the Music and Poetry Committee, as those to subjects were of particular interest to the founders of the committee.



As fears went by, it was very apparent that there was more to the arts and baseball than just those two areas. And so, here we are now, the Baseball and Arts Committee, now open to the widest range possible of all the arts imaginable. Join us! what's your art interest?

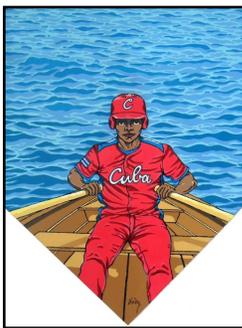
Joanne Hulbert, co-chair

BASEBALL IS ART is a publication of the SABR Baseball and the Arts Committee. Members, readers and art connoisseurs are encouraged to contribute their favorite examples of art that reflects America's pastime in all the glory, beauty and inspiration the game offers. Art has always been a part of the game since the most distant history of bat and ball games, of art on the pages of poetry and literature, with art expressed by pen, paint and portraiture.

I encourage readers to contribute to upcoming newsletters. I also invite anyone who may be inspired by this humble Volume One, Number One for Fall 2016, to volunteer to assist with future editions.



A POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY FOR SABR'S BASEBALL AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE



Bob Brady, SABR's go-to man for the Boston Braves, keeper of the club's history and the Braves Association, still a well-organized group of Braves fans, has been in contact with Cuban artist, Angel Fernandez, known as Andez. Bob relates the following:

There seems to be an opportunity here to link up with a Cuban baseball artist who is part of a well established artists union in Cuba. While Andez seems to specialize in baseball paintings, other artists that I met in Cienfuegos (painters, writers, videographers, etc.) also have had their works influenced by baseball. Andez might help SABR establish a link to that community for future collaboration. Since he's expressed an interest in eventually being able to exhibit his works in the U.S., he might benefit from some publicity that SABR might provide through a story about him and/or his group in one of its publications and/or a research chapter newsletter. Such an effort also might draw attention and interest to the Baseball and the Arts Committee. A partnership with the Latino Baseball Research Committee on any such endeavor might also be a productive option.

Further SABRites traveling to Cuba on a baseball tour or otherwise might pass through Cienfuegos (they have a longstanding team -- the Elefantes) and meet him in person and mingle with UNEAC. I'm a proud owner of two of his baseball paintings -- another opportunity for a SABR member visiting Cienfuegos!



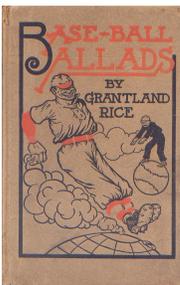
St. Paul, Nebraska (hometown of Grover Cleveland Alexander and site of the Museum of Nebraska Major League Baseball History), is an example of public art that celebrates baseball. The photo is contributed by SABR member Adam Klinker. There's art out there - if you see a great example, send us the picture, and the story about it.

MARGIE LAWRENCE - BASEBALL IS MY MUSE

There are many artists who deserve recognition for their work. Margie Lawrence is one of them. The Baseball and the Arts Committee had the privilege of meeting her at the Chicago convention last year, and she offered us a peak at her fantastic works of art. The portrait of the St. Louis player shown here is her business card, and I carry it in my wallet, a small masterpiece that I greatly treasure. She has a website worth visiting, and also a gallery of her work is located there. - www.margielawrence.com .

As she says on her website, “having grown up blocks from the friendly confines of Wrigley Field, I had no choice but to fall in love with the Cubs. . . . at school I drove my professors crazy with my “affliction” for baseball. . . . my subjects range from long-forgotten players like Chief Myers up to Sammy Sosa’s corked bat. I rather enjoy the old timers, as they all seem to have been such characters - Three Finger Brown, Cool Papa Bell and Leo the Lip.”

Visit Margie’s website. Her art is inspiring, unique, classic, marvelous all at the same time - well, visit her website, you’ll see what I mean.

**BASEBALL - A LITERARY PROPOSAL**

Baseball and literature have a strong history. For those who lamented the disappearance of the Minneapolis Review, Elysian Fields, Spit Ball, and other long-lost offerings of related literary collections, there just might yet be

hope. There is interest in starting a SABR-affiliated literary journal that will publish works by contributors who share an interest in celebrating baseball through words, art - all with nine innings of imagination, an extra inning or two of verse, a smattering of visual art, and who knows what else. Discussion is just beginning, and we’ll be looking for a few brave baseball fans, souls who can turn a good phrase, tell a good story and thrill us with a great example of art.

Back in the days of Grantland Rice, Ring Lardner, Damon Runyon and an endless line of anonymous writers, literature was an integral part of even serious sports reporting. We have lost some of that literary edge today, as game reports no longer begin with lines of verse. We propose to revive some of that old baseball literary culture and inspire us to return to those nostalgic Elysian fields.

But first, is there interest out there in SABR-land, for such a publication?



BASEBALL IS ART is a publication of the Baseball and the Arts Committee of the Society for American Baseball Research.

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