

SABR PICTORIAL HISTORY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS' PARTICIPATION URGED FOR BAIN PROJECT

As reported in the December 2005 newsletter, the Pictorial History Committee has entered into an arrangement with the Library of Congress that we will review the on-line photos from the George Grantham Bain collection and make suggestions for improvements to the captions for those photos. We have now completed the first phase of that project. In doing so, we now have an inventory of the 2,328 baseball-related photos contained within the total on-line collection of about 41,600 photos. That inventory is formatted within an Excel spreadsheet document.

The next step in this project is to review each of the 2,328 photos to ascertain whether the captions are accurate and complete. I am asking for volunteers who would be willing to review 300 such photos.

I have made tentative identifications for the vast majority of the baseball photos. If you participate in this project, what you will receive from me is an Excel file containing the following information about each of 300 records from the inventory: A - the Digital ID number assigned by the Library of Congress; B - the URL where the photo may be found; C - the title as currently displayed on-line. I've annotated those titles with a (sic) wherever there appears to be an error; D - The name of the actual player, if different or more complete than the title currently given on-line. In some cases, I've also supplied the identification of the player's uniform and approximate year.

What I will ask back from you is an Excel file containing the following data elements: A - the Digital ID number (simply copied from what I give you); B - the URL (simply copied from what I give you); C - the title as currently displayed (simply copied from what I give you); D - Full player name or other title change(s); E - Uniform or uniforms worn in photo; F - Estimated date or year of the photo.

This project should be the work of the committee, and not just one or two members, so I urge your participation. If you are willing to participate, please drop me a note at bdhickmn@aol.com. Please note that bdhickmn does not contain the letter "a."

The Library of Congress staff has agreed to make the caption changes we suggest to them. They also will add the word "baseball" to all the captions for all 2,328 photos irrespective of whether other parts of the caption need to be changed in a particular photo. Of course, if our committee's review finds that some records in this inventory represent photos which are not actually related to baseball, the total number will be decreased by those records which we discard.

I've also been told that SABR as an organization will be given credit by the Library of Congress for our assistance to them in this project.

PLAYER IMAGE INDEX CONTINUES TO GROW

Through the continued development of the Player Image Index, we can now report where at least one image has been published or otherwise seen for about 15,700 major league players. Our Missing Players List stands at about 740 players.

During the period since our last newsletter, the following individuals have stepped up to make their first contributions to the Player Image Index: Rich Bowering, Joe Dittmar, Mike Grahek, Tom Hufford, Jimmy Keenan, and Dixie Tourangeau. We now have a total of 101 individuals who have contributed at least one image to the Player Image Index. We welcome the new contributors aboard, and we thank those who continue to provide substantial ongoing contributions to this effort.

BASEBALL CARD ENTRIES IN SABR ENCYCLOPEDIA BECOMING MORE DESCRIPTIVE

Within the Player Image Index, players whose major league careers started after 1945 tend to be represented by baseball cards, whereas players from earlier eras are more likely to be represented by photos or woodcuts. In our initial development of the Player Image Index, we tended to provide a rather limited amount of data for records associated with baseball card images. The thinking was that once a user knew about a player's baseball card, there would be plenty of reference materials available to tell the user more about the associated card set. More recently, however, I've been going through the post-1945 players and updating their baseball card entries within the SABR Encyclopedia to include card number, the caption on the card, and descriptive information about the type of shot featured on the card. This process of descriptive updating is not yet complete for the entire body of post-1945 players, but it is close to 75% complete and you should be able to notice the difference in many of the SABR Encyclopedia entries.

CHANGE IN TOM SHIEBER'S WEBSITE ADDRESS

Tom Shieber's website on 19th Century photos has been reported in previous newsletters, but it now can be found at a new website address. The current address is:

<http://www.baseballresearcher.com/ncbbp/>

You can see numerous interesting old photos on this website. Check it out.

BRUCE STARK WEBSITE

For those of you who may go for caricature images of baseball notables, the Art of Bruce Stark website will be worth your while. It's a commercial website whose intention is to sell works of art created by Bruce Stark, but it also makes for enjoyable browsing. The website address is:

<http://www.artofbrucestark.com/>

Bruce Stark was an illustrator for the New York Daily News for 22 years, beginning in 1960.

COMMITTEE MEETING AT SABR 36

SABR 36 should be an exciting convention with many opportunities to see parts of the American Northwest. We will be holding a Pictorial History Committee at SABR 36, but the schedule has not yet been completed for when committee meetings will take place. Please periodically check the convention section of the SABR website for updates on schedules, so that you will be able to plan to come to our committee meeting while you are in Seattle.