

## SABR PICTORIAL HISTORY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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### PLAYER IMAGE INDEX NOW PART OF SABR ENCYCLOPEDIA

The information from the Player Image Index has now been incorporated into the SABR Encyclopedia. This means that if you are looking for images for a particular player, your easiest route will be to look up that player's name in the SABR Encyclopedia and work your way through that process.

To get to the SABR Encyclopedia, you need to log into the members-only section of the SABR website. If you have used ProQuest, you should be familiar with the process of logging in. If you have never logged in and don't have a password, please contact SABR's national office in Cleveland for assistance. The webpage for logging in is at <http://members.sabr.org/login.cfm>.

Once you have logged in, click on Research Tools. This will bring you to a page which shows SABR Encyclopedia as one of the tabs at the top. Click on SABR Encyclopedia. If you are looking for a particular player, put his surname into the empty box next to "Search by Last Name." Then click on "Search by Last Name." If more than one major leaguer has had that surname, you'll be given a choice of players with that name. Click on the one you want. Now you should see some basic data about that particular player. Within a dark green band near the top of the player's stats page, you'll see an icon depicting a camera and the word "Pictures" below that icon. Click on "Pictures." Now you should see all the Player Image Index records we have for that particular player. There will be some delays in getting relatively new Player Image Index records into the SABR Encyclopedia, so you are welcome to contact me if you are concerned about missing any Player Image Index data.

### 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. Registering for this ListServ will enable you to send messages to all the other participants. We can exchange ideas about how to find photo images, and can share our latest findings with each other. It will also provide an opportunity for you to suggest additional projects for the committee, as well as discuss other committee business. It's basically up to you committee members as to how it becomes used.

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.

#### VIRTUAL REALITY PRESENTATION ON BOSTON'S SOUTH END GROUNDS

At our recent committee meeting in Toronto, Tom Shieber gave a superb presentation on how he worked with a contractor to construct a virtual reality exhibit of the Grand Pavilion at the South End Grounds. The year represented by the model was 1888.

Tom walked us through his examination of some existing still photos taken at South End Grounds. There are only about 15 or 16 existing photos, and about half of them were shot from the same view. Using the photos at his disposal, Tom was able to pick up a number of architectural details from enlarging the photos and comparing them with textual descriptions of the ballparks, as well as drawings. The kinds of details found included draperies at the back of the grandstand and designs of the wood pillars. Those are merely two examples out of many which were shown to the audience.

It was a 12-week process to build the virtual reality model, once Tom started working with Virtual Gallerie, the contractor. Each week the contractor would add a bit more detail to the model, and Tom would give them his observations and suggestions for correction. At the end of the process, they had put together a visual display of the South End Grounds Pavilion in 3-dimensional form, so that it could be viewed both from outside the front entrance and from the ballplayers' vantage on the field inside the ballpark. Then that model was turned into a motion-picture style presentation known as a Fly-By, so that a viewer's eyes could simply circle the pavilion and see every aspect of it. The finished Fly-By product is now on display at the Hall of Fame as part of an exhibit called Sacred Ground. The next two virtual reality displays to be constructed for that exhibit will be of Comiskey Park in 1919 and Ebbets Field in 1955.

#### AND THEN THERE WERE TWO

2005 has turned into a pivotal year in the history of the baseball card industry. Earlier this summer, Fleer announced that it was going into bankruptcy and its operations had been suspended. More recently, Major League Baseball announced that it would not renew the license for Donruss to produce baseball cards after this year. Apparently, MLB's rationale was that it was responding to concerns by both dealers and collectors that too many baseball card products were coming onto the market each year. A decrease in the numbers of manufacturers should indeed produce a decline in the numbers of card sets.

As of 2006, Topps and Upper Deck will be the only major manufacturers remaining in the baseball card production business. Collectors will still be able to find new cards among the minor league issues, team issues, and postcard sets as well.

#### PHOTO FILE NOW SELLS DIRECTLY

The company Photo File has been a major supplier of high quality baseball photos to distributors

who purchase substantial quantities of photos. They have now opened up a direct business for use by individual collectors. You won't find obscure players from this source, but they have a reasonable stock of photos representing both current and former players. The URL of their baseball photos is:

[http://www.photofiledirect.com/html/Framesets/baseball\\_fs.htm](http://www.photofiledirect.com/html/Framesets/baseball_fs.htm)

#### WEBSITE FOR RARE BASEBALL CARD IMAGES

You might want to check out the website of Old Cardboard. Its home page is at [www.oldcardboard.com](http://www.oldcardboard.com).

This website lists a number of old and obscure card sets, such as those issued internationally. For each set, the website displays at least one image. For some sets, there is an entire gallery of images. Old Cardboard also holds baseball card auctions periodically. You can get on their email list to be notified when they have added new sets and images to their website.

#### COMMITTEE MEETING AT SABR 35

Beyond Tom Shieber's presentation, there were also some brief updates on our three projects -- Player Image Index, Ballpark Photo Index, and Manager Image Index. Those updates were fairly well covered in our June newsletter, so they won't be repeated here. However, I do want to mention that Cliff Blau has now joined the list of those who have contributed at least one image to the Player Image Index. I also want to recognize Lefty Blasco for the large quantity of images he has submitted over the past few months. Paul Healey has put together a Missing Ballparks list, and you are invited to contact him at [paulhealey@yahoo.com](mailto:paulhealey@yahoo.com) if you are willing to participate in the quest for ballpark images.

#### 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>