

SABR Pictorial History Committee Newsletter

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THE BASEBALL PICTORIAL HISTORIAN'S LIBRARY

In a 1992 issue of *Nineteenth Century Notes* (the newsletter of SABR's Nineteenth Century Committee) **Fred Ivor-Campbell** published an excellent annotated bibliography entitled "The Nineteenth Century Baseball Researcher's Library." I've often wondered what a bibliography would look like for the baseball pictorial historian's library. Using my own baseball library as a model, I've come up with just such a list.

It should be understood that this list is *not* a compendium of books with the most photos, or the prettiest pictures, or the highest quality images. Instead, the bibliography is a list of books to which I find I often refer when doing baseball pictorial history research. Furthermore, I have omitted a number of excellent books that I use, but on a less frequent basis.

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Dick Derby sent along the following photo of a Fort Wayne club from the 19th century. Can anyone pinpoint the exact year and/or identify any of the individuals pictured?



Pictorial Library *continued from page 1*

My own library is rather modest and I do not pretend to have every available source that would be of use to the baseball pictorial historian. If I've missed or skipped over sources that fit the above criteria and you feel should be included, or if you have comments or criticisms of my choices, please send them along so that I may publish an addendum in a future PHC newsletter.

Much as Fred had done for his bibliography, I have excluded published articles, allowing only published books. Obvious reference sources, such as baseball encyclopedias and annual guides are also not included. Books marked with an asterisk denote works that I consider to be absolutely essential for pictorial history research. (Note: Some books may have been reprinted at a later date than found in the list. All dates shown are from books in my collection.)

- Alvarez, Mark.** *The Old Ball Game.* 1990. A superb collection of images focusing on baseball prior to the major league era.
- Dixon, Phil. *The Negro Baseball Leagues: A Photographic History.* 1992. Close to 600 photographs illustrate the history of the Negro Leagues and black ballplayers as far back as the 1860s. The photos are accompanied with remarkably complete identifications and the book is fully indexed. An absolutely outstanding work.
- Gershman, Michael.** *Diamonds: The Evolution of the Ballpark.* 1993. Along with Ritter's *Lost Ballparks*, a valuable resource for pinpointing where a photo was taken.
- Hanks, Stephen. *150 Years of Baseball.* 1989. Over 1000 photos, well researched by SABR and PHC member **Mark Rucker**, are reproduced in this, one of the best pictorial histories of the game.
- Honig, Donald. *Baseball in the '50s: An Illustrated History.* 1987; and *Baseball in the '30s: An Illustrated History.* 1989. Illustrated histories of two of baseball's more popular decades. Each book is complete with hundreds of portraits of the era's most important and interesting players. Fully indexed.
- Honig, Donald. *The American League: An Illustrated History* and *The National League: An Illustrated History.* 1983. Over 1000 photos of baseball's top players from the American and National Leagues. Alas, the 19th century is dismissed with a single picture of William Hulbert and a few hundred words of text.
- Honig, Donald. *The Boston Red Sox: An Illustrated History.* 1990; *The Brooklyn Dodgers: An Illustrated Tribute.* 1981; *The Chicago Cubs: An Illustrated Tribute.* 1991; *The New York Yankees: An Illustrated Tribute.* 1987; *The Philadelphia Phillies: An Illustrated History.* 1992; *The St. Louis Cardinals: An Illustrated History.* 1991. Each volume in Honig's series of illustrated team histories has hundreds of player photos, most of which are quite useful for the baseball pictorial historian/researcher. Invariably, Honig dismisses the 19th century history of National League clubs with a handful of photos and a minimal number of words. All except the Brooklyn book are fully indexed. The work devoted to the Yankees is not only the biggest of the lot (over 500 photos versus the usual 300 or so), but is also by far the best.
- Honig, Donald. *Baseball: The Illustrated History of America's Game.* 1990. More than 1000 photos are found in yet another illustrated history. As usual, Honig gives short shrift to the 19th century: less than 2% of the pictures coming from that era.
- Nemec, David.** *The Beer and Whisky League.* 1994. Covering more than just the American Association, the book contains over 60 team pictures and 150 portraits from 1870 to 1896. I've said it before and I'll say it again: the best available source for the nineteenth century baseball pictorial researcher.
- Okkonen, Marc.** *Baseball Memories: 1900-1909.* 1992. A pictorial Who's Who for the first decade of the 20th century. Images of practically every ball player to wear a major league uniform during the era highlight the work. Okkonen's meticulous drawings of the ballparks of the day are without a doubt the best ever published.
- Okkonen, Marc.** *Baseball Memories: 1930-1939.* 1994. The third volume of the series, like the other two, contains thousands of images that are a gold mine for the baseball pictorial historian. The series is an absolute must for *any* baseball researcher, not just the picture buff. Let's hope that more volumes are on their way.
- Okkonen, Marc.** *Baseball Memories: 1950-1959.* 1993. As is the case with the other two volumes of the series, ballplayers, reporters, and executives are all pictured and all fully indexed. Furthermore, broadcasters are pictured in this, as well as the third, volume.
- Okkonen, Marc.** *Baseball Uniforms of the 20th Century.* 1993. The source for dating baseball pictures. Quite simply, the most important book for the baseball pictorial historian.
- Retort, Robert D. *Pictorial Negro Leagues Legends Album.* 1992. The photos in this hard to find volume are quite possibly the most thoroughly researched in the entire baseball genre. Close to 300 fully identified photos of Negro League players and teams from the turn of the century to the 1950s.
- Ritter, Lawrence,** and Donald Honig. *The Image of Their Greatness: An Illustrated History of Baseball from 1900 to the Present.* 1979. Hundreds of photos highlight this excellent illustrated history of baseball in the 20th century. Close to 500 different ballplayers are pictured.

Ritter, Lawrence, and Mark Rucker. *The Babe: A Life in Pictures*. 1988. The best illustrated biography of a baseball player to date. Ruthian in content and in quality.

Ritter, Lawrence. *Lost Ballparks: A Celebration of Baseball's Legendary Fields*. 1992. Great photos of ballparks from different angles and eras makes this work an invaluable resource for determining locations in other pictures.

Rucker, Mark. *Base Ball Cartes: The First Baseball Cards*. 1988. Over eighty photos of baseball carte de visites. Indispensable for pictorial research of 1860s and '70s baseball.

Slocum, Frank. *Classic Baseball Cards*. 1987. Over 9000 reproductions from ninety different baseball card series are featured. Series date from as early as 1887 and as late as 1955. Only one drawback: it's unindexed.

Slocum, Frank. *Topps Baseball Cards*. 1990. A compilation of reproductions of every Topps baseball card since 1951. Over 25,000 photos of over 4000 players are completely indexed. The book for identifying players from the latter half of the 20th century.

Thorn, John, and Mark Rucker, eds. *The National Pastime*, Spring 1984. A superb, eclectic collection of images ranging from the 1840s to 1890s. The work would be invaluable if a

researcher would complete (as near as possible) player identifications and supply an index. Any ambitious PHC members willing to take a stab at it?

Thorn, John, and Mark Rucker, eds. *The National Pastime*, Spring 1986. Starting where the previous Special Pictorial Issue (above) left off, this work features photos from the turn of the century to 1920. As above, the work is begging for more complete identifications and an index.

Thorn, John, and Mark Rucker, eds. *The National Pastime*, Number 9. A third pictorial covers the era from the 1920s through World War II. Once again, indexing and more identifications would make for a fine research project.

Voigt, David Q. *Baseball: An Illustrated History*. 1987. Over 600 different baseball personalities are pictured in this popular pictorial history of the game.

Ward, Geoffrey C., and Ken Burns. *Baseball: An Illustrated History*. 1994. Hundreds of photographs richly illustrate this most recent pictorial history of baseball. The book is most useful for its many never-before-published photos and its admirable attempt to shy away from the hackneyed pictures of most other books of its genre.

— Tom Shieber

ARTICLES AND RESEARCH AVAILABLE

A.D. Suehsdorf has sent along a copy of **Norman Macht's** heavily illustrated article entitled "The All-Star Dream Team" from the July 1, 1984 issue of *California Living Magazine*. For a copy, send a self-addressed \$0.55 stamped envelope to **Tom Shieber**.

Neal McCabe, Stephen Milman, and Doug Pappas each sent along copies of Rita Reif's

article in the September 15, 1996 issue of *New York Times* entitled "Buy Me Some Peanuts and Photographs ..." The article is about the recent auction of the photographic archives of *Baseball Magazine*. For a copy of the article and **Neal McCabe's** "Letter to the Editor" published in the *New York Times* two weeks later, send a self-addressed \$0.32 stamped envelope to **Tom Shieber**.

NEW MEMBERS

The SABR Pictorial History Committee welcomes the following new members:

David Block 30 Alvarado St.
San Francisco, CA 94110

Barry Sloate 231 Clinton Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

RESEARCH NEEDS

John Spalding is looking for photos of players in Oakland Oaks (PCL) uniforms.

John Spalding
1875 Bascom Avenue
Suite 116-257
Campbell, CA 95008

Larry Mansch writes that he: "seeks information and is looking for childhood and family photographs of Cleveland born Rube Marquard (1886-1890), Hall of Fame Pitcher."

Larry Mansch
1609 W. Sussex
Missoula, MT 59801

Tom Shieber seeks any information about, and especially the availability of, a film from the late 1930s entitled "The National Game." The movie was apparently produced by the National League and is featured in an article on pp. 40-42 of the *Spalding Official Base Ball Guide* of 1939.

Tom Shieber
P.O. Box 203
Mt. Wilson Observatory
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Keith Powell is looking for pictures of Sulphur Dell, the longtime ballpark in Nashville, TN. Can anyone help?

Keith Powell
1216 Brookvalley Dr.
Arlington, TX 76018
eMail: kep7@ix.netcom.com

Mary Baumgart is looking for information about five baseball pictures that she owns. Each image (probably a lithograph from a painting) is of a famous baseball personality (Ty Cobb, Dizzy Dean, Connie Mack, Lou Gehrig, and Joe DiMaggio) posed

with a child or children. For example, in one picture Ty Cobb is shown teaching a young boy how to slide, a newspaper with a headline reading "Ty Cobb Steals 96 Bases Modern Major League Record" floats like an apparition in the background. Can anyone shed any light on these pictures? I can send photocopies upon request.

Mary Baumgart
7438 170th Court West
Rosemount, MN 55068
eMail: BaumgaMJ@DO.isd196.k12.mn.us

• From the SABR listserver on September 5th, **Ted Hathaway** writes: "Is anyone aware of any publications or resources with photos of the old Western League St. Paul Saints (precursor to the AL White Sox)? I know enough to check the MN State Historical Society, but also wonder if there are any researchers out there that might have info."

Ted Hathaway
5645 Fremont Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55419
eMail: HATHAE@MSUS1.MSUS.EDU

• From the SABR listserver on November 27th, **Ray Radcliff** writes: "My grandfather played for the White Sox back in the 30s. His name was Rip Radcliff and he was a pretty fair hitter for his day. ... What I would really like to find is a photograph of the 1936 All-Star game in Boston, played at old Braves Field. My grandfather played in the game (his first of two All-Star appearances) and went 1 for 2 at the plate. Of course I'm interested in anything from those teams of the White Sox, from 1934 until he was traded to the St. Louis Browns in 1940. So if you know where I could get that kind of stuff without having to go to a card show let my know."

eMail: RAR111@AOL.COM

THE NATIONAL POLICE GAZETTE SUPPLEMENT

Throughout the years, various publications have at one time or other inserted photos of popular sports personalities of their day, whether they be from baseball, boxing, horse racing, etc. *The Sporting News*, with their sepia photos, was and is a very popular example.

The granddaddy of them all was *The National Police Gazette* supplement. Since the supplement came out weekly, the photos must have accumulated to a great extent. The problem in cataloging the baseball players is that one has to sort through photos from boxing, wrestling, horse racing,

bowling, jujitsu, and any other sporting activity that appealed to the "sportsman."

The earliest print I have had is No. 1088, dated 6/25/1898, of one Gus Ruhlin, a heavyweight boxer. Five years and 131 photos later, I find the first baseball player photo, No. 1353, dated 7/18/03. This is labeled "Catcher [Red] Doooin, Philadelphia, National League." However, other baseball photos must have been published prior to this one, as a photo of George Davis shows him in a New York uniform, and he left New York in 1901. [Ed. note: Or this may be a picture of Davis during his short 4 game stint with the Giants in 1903.]

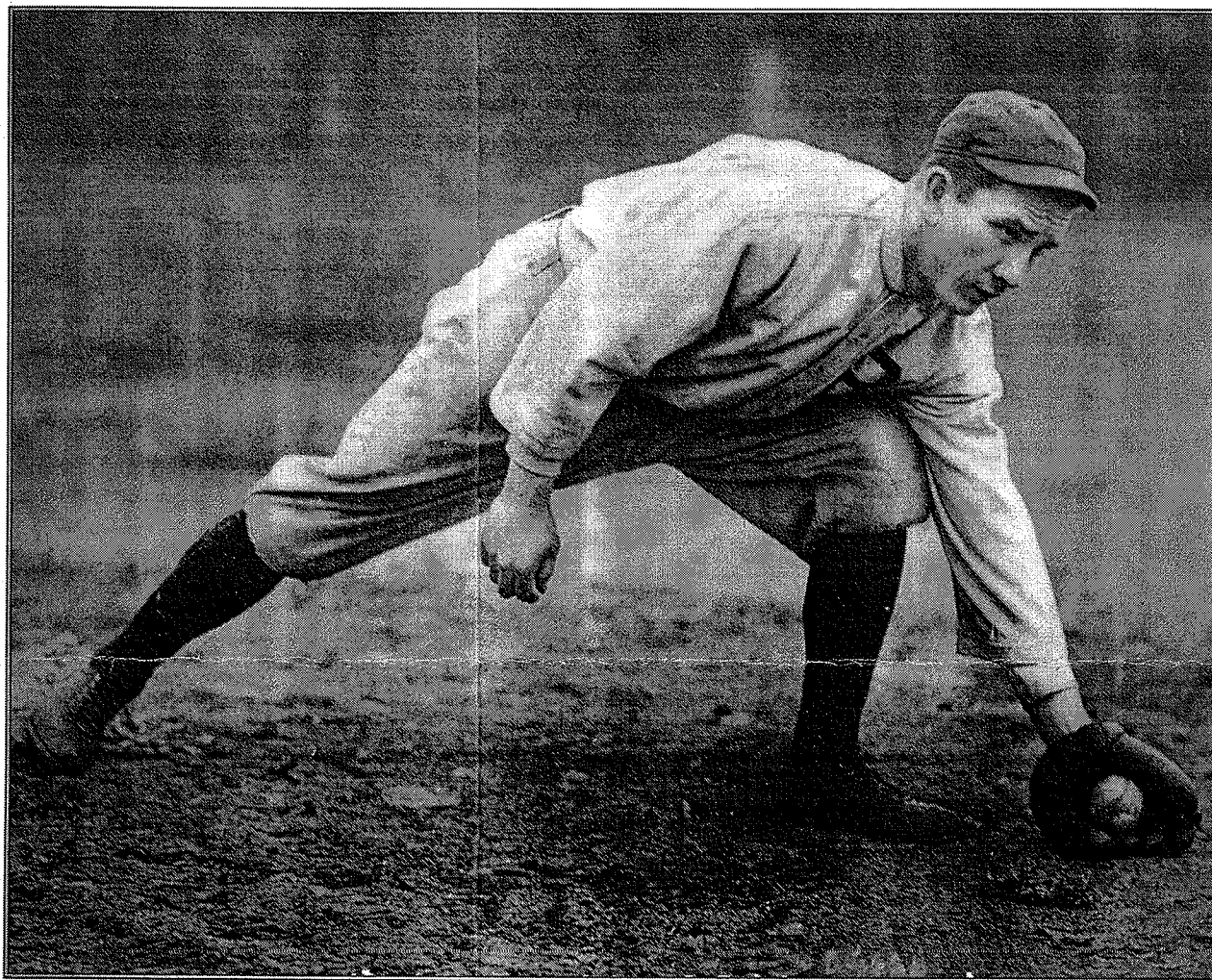
The following is a check list of the baseball players I have cataloged.

These first few early supplements have no number and no date:

George Davis	Assume this is very early since he is in a New York uniform. He left New York in 1901.
Joe McGinnity	Guessing about 1905.
Clark Griffith	Caption reads: "Popular Captain of New York" etc.
Roger Bresnahan	Batting pose, reads: "McGraw's All-Around Player."
Roger Bresnahan	Catching pose, reads: "Backstop of N.Y. Nat'ls."

These are trimmed to the photo and have no numbers or dates, but are probably from around 1907 or 1908:

[George] Mullin	Detroit pitcher
Owen Bush	Detroit



Supplement to the National Police Gazette, No. 1966, Saturday, April 17, 1915
Walter (Rabbit) Maranville of the Boston National League team.

These are numbered and dated supplements:

No.	Date	Name	Club
1353	7-18-03	Red Dooin	Phil, NL
1357	8-15-03	Tommy Leach	Pitt, NL
1359	8-29-03	John McGraw	NY, NL
1361	9-12-03	Cy Seymour	Cin, NL
1363	9-26-03	Joe McGinnity	NY, NL
1365	10-10-03	Jack Cronin	NY, NL
1400	6-11-04	Dan McGann	NY, NL
1403	7-02-04	Red Ames	NY, NL
1407	7-30-04	Jack Warner	NY, NL
1411	8-27-04	Frank Bowerman	NY, NL
1453	6-17-05	Malachi Kittridge	Wash, AL
1457	7-15-05	Jack Chesbro	NY, AL
1463	8-26-05	Willie Keeler	NY, AL
1465	9-09-05	Sam Mertes	NY, NL
1466	9-16-05	Dave Fultz	NY, AL
1468	9-30-05	Bill Hogg	NY, AL
1502	5-26-06	Broadway Aleck Smith	NY, NL
1504	6-08-06	Red Kleinow	NY, AL
1505	6-16-06	Rube Waddell	Phil, AL
1510	7-21-06	Nap Shea	
1516	9-01-06	Jimmy Casey	Bro, NL
1518	9-15-06	Hal Chase	NY, AL
1548	4-13-07	Harry Davis	Phil, AL
1549	4-20-07	Doc Powers	Phil, AL
1554	5-25-07	Eddie Plank	Phil, AL
1559	6-29-07	Bill Dahlen	NY, NL
1562	7-20-07	Cecil Ferguson	NY, NL
1567	8-24-07	Hal Chase; Charlie Armbruster	NY, AL; Bos, AL
1812	5-04-12	Zack Wheat	Bro, NL
1814	5-18-12	Rube Marquard	NY, NL
1821	7-06-12	Tex Erwin	
1823	7-20-12	Heinie Zimmerman	Chi, NL
1825	8-03-12	Jake Stahl	Bos, AL
1856	3-08-13	Frank Chance	Chi, NL
1861	4-12-13	Joe Wood	Bos, AL
1867	5-24-13	Jim Thorpe	NY, NL
1872	6-28-13	Jake Daubert	
1877	8-02-13	Nap Rucker	
1888	10-18-13	Walter Johnson	Wash, AL
1920	5-30-14	Ty Cobb	Det, AL
1926	7-11-14	Sam Crawford, batting	Det, AL
1932	8-22-14	Dave Robertson	NY, NL
1938	10-03-14	Fritz Maisel	
1966	4-17-15	Rabbit Maranville	Bos, NL
2029	7-01-16	Sam Crawford, fielding	Det, AL

The photos are on beautiful semi-gloss, black and white stock paper. Their overall size is 11 by 16 inches with the photo being 8 1/2 by 12 1/2 inches. No credit is given to the photographer or source of the print. At this time, I have a check list of 420 different sportsmen including 52 baseball players.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who might have any sporting supplements from *The National Police Gazette*. The information I need in order to update my list is the supplement number, date and name.

— Ray Billbrough