

Society for American Baseball Research

BIBLIOGRAPHY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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Comments from the Chair

Andy McCue

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Welcome to the Opening Day edition of the Bibliography Committee newsletter.

Welcome also Jeri Traw to the Committee. Jeri lives in Charlotte, N.C. and is interested in the social and cultural history of baseball, especially on the home front during World War II. Jeri is indexing *The Memoirs of Bing Devine* (2004) and *Fred Claire: My 30 Years in Dodger Blue* (2004).

The Baseball Index (TBI) continues to grow at a steady pace. We're close to 220,000 citations now and adding more regularly. But, we need some fresh blood among our volunteers. So, I'd like to suggest a couple of ways you folks can help.

One was inspired by one of our most dedicated, veteran volunteers: Bernie Esser. Bernie has input about six years of San Francisco Giants scorecard/magazines. They were filled with player and management profiles that might be of value to a researcher, as well as some nostalgia and history pieces. Aside from Bernie's work, we have very little coverage of scorecards with articles. They are a fairly recent phenomena, only the last 20 years or so, so you won't have to go looking for microfilm; also, it will be fun to dig out the old scorecards, recall the game, and do the data entry. This can be done at <http://www.baseballindex.org/tbi.asp?a=frm&frm=ar>.

Another way is to help catalog the books listed at the end of this newsletter. These are books copyrighted in 2004 that I am aware of and for which no volunteer has submitted a form. I'm hoping that some of you have some of these books and can do the data entry. That form is at <http://www.baseballindex.org/tbi.asp?a=frm&frm=bk>.

If you don't do the Internet thing, e-mail me and I can send you a form that you can print out and photocopy to your heart's content.

And, don't forget periodicals. Ted Hathaway is always looking for people willing to work on *Sports Illustrated* or *The Sporting News* or other publications. Ted is still at sabrtbi@mn.rr.com.

Recently, I was reading Alan Schwarz' *The Numbers Game: Baseball's Lifelong Fascination with Statistics* (2004) and was pleased to see his praise for TBI, which is having exactly the effect we have always desired.

Joe Murphy has updated his *Index to SABR Publications* and Jim Lannen quickly got it up on the Committee's Web site (it's on the downloads list: <http://www.sabr.org/sabr.cfm?a=3Dcms,c,257,5,0>). The *Index* now includes all of SABR's publications through 2004, including the recently issued *The Baseball Research Journal*. Thanks, Joe, and amazingly quick work.

The Bibliography Committee meeting at the Toronto convention has been scheduled for Saturday, August 6, at 3 p.m. I hope you all can make it. Toronto proved to be a very interesting city when we held a SABR Board meeting there last fall. It has some great used-book stores (especially This Ain't the Rosedale Library) and I enjoyed going in a Hudson's Bay Company store. It was actually just

your basic upscale department store, but I'd read the Landmark book about the company so many times, it was a treat to actually go in one.

Southern Illinois University (SIU) Press has resumed reprinting the Putnam team histories, including indexes done by Committee members. This year's publication is *The Baltimore Orioles* by Frederick G. Lieb (1955), with an index prepared by John Spalding. SIU Press has been disappointed by sales of this series and is trying it one more time, with a marketing tie-in with SABR. So, buy early and often. *Orioles* is one of the harder-to-find books in this series and the index makes it that much more useful as a research tool. So, it could make a nice gift for someone even if you already have a copy.

Joel Dinda continues to make progress on digitizing Frank Phelps' *The Index to The Sporting News Registers; 1940-1995* (1996) and we hope to have that up and running within a few months.

Skip McAfee did a nice review of Philip Block's *Baseball Before We Knew It* (2005) in the last Committee newsletter. I just want to say it's the best baseball book I've read in the past year. I heartily recommend it. Also good marks for the Schwarz book.

Enjoy all the new books and I look forward to seeing you in Toronto.

Baseball Research in the National Archives

Bill Hickman

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I attended the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) lecture by archivists John Vernon and David A. Pfeiffer entitled "Beyond the Box Score: Baseball Research in the National Archives" at College Park, Md., on April 7. Here are my notes.

1) NARA has some real baseball treasures, but they won't be easy for a researcher to find.

2) Photos are easier to locate than textual material. The photos are given index numbers for each item. The textual material is not indexed by individual baseball topics.

3) NARA stores only those materials that have some relationship to the activity of a Federal agency. It requires some knowledge of what roles Federal agencies took on over the years to surmise what might have come under an agency's purview. For example, it would surprise most of us that the U.S. Forest Service photographed President Eisenhower's throwing out an Opening Day ceremonial ball at Griffith Stadium. It just happened that a Forest Service photographer was responsible for covering that sort of event. The Army Signal Corps shot a nice photo of Ruth and Gehrig at West Point. The U.S. Information Agency in 1928 took an unusual photo of Ruth with a crowd of African Americans who appear to be sitting in the bleachers.

4) NARA baseball records cover the sport broadly, not just major league baseball. For example, some records on the Negro Leagues and amateur baseball can be found.

5) NARA is not located solely in the Washington area. It has regional offices, and some valuable records can be found in the regions.

For instance, in January 1915, an antitrust case took place in Illinois to determine the future of the Federal League vs. the American and National leagues. There are all sorts of records about this case in Record Group 21 in the Chicago Regional Office of NARA. The records include affidavits and depositions by many of the baseball luminaries of the time. To see locate NARA facilities across the nation, go to the Web page: <http://www.archives.gov/facilities/>

6) There is some hope that baseball researching in NARA files will become easier over time. In the Still Pictures section on the 5th floor of the College Park NARA building, the staff has done some indexing as they handled customer requests concerning baseball. There may be some future activity to develop a list of the NARA record groups most likely to contain baseball sources.

7) NARA has some archivists who are interested in baseball, but none has baseball as a primary research responsibility. I sensed that these archivists want to be helpful to the baseball research community, but their time available to provide assistance is limited.

8) For a researcher interested in the evolution of baseball equipment, NARA may be a good source, since it has a trove of Patent Office records. Four examples of patent materials, which included some fascinating drawings, were shown to us:

a) A metal cage-like device intended to be draped over a catcher's head and chest. The idea was for the thrown pitch to become trapped in the cage after coming across the plate, and then channeled out below the cage to a pocket so that the catcher could hurl the ball back to the pitcher. It's unclear that the device was ever actually used.

b) A baseball bat improvement in 1904 by John Hillerich. It involved a glaze on the bat, intended to make the bat harder.

c) A baseball glove improvement in 1885 to add padding.

d) A catcher's mask improvement in 1883 to make it easier to remove the mask when the catcher was chasing a popup.

9) There is a basic search function on the NARA Web site:

http://www.archives.gov/research_room/arc/ Click on Search to bring up a Web page where one can specify keyword and date. As mentioned in item #2 above, it's going to be easier to find baseball photos than baseball textual material using this search device.

Egregiously Irresponsible Indexing

(excerpts from Steve Weinberg, "Explain Yourself",
Baltimore Sun, Feb. 6, 2005)

Without an index, readers are unable to easily locate multiple references to the same individual or same event, thus comparing or contrasting what an author wrote on page 27 with what appears on page 200. I would never buy a book that purports to fall into the category of serious nonfiction if it lacks an index. ...

I find it especially disturbing when books on scholarly subjects by academic authors issued by university presses lack indexes. ...

I have seen indexes that list individuals or events only some of the times they appear, inexplicably omitting some page numbers. I have seen indexes that omit certain individuals or events completely, almost certainly because of carelessness. I have seen indexes so bizarrely constructed that they defy all logic that a reader might apply when consulting them.

"... the question arises, is not the whole thing [baseball] a waste of muscle? We think that it is, and our opinion is founded on the theory that the exercise necessitated by the game is inconsistent with the increased health and strength of the physical system. The ladies have a graceful and healthful exercise in Croquet, and the man who shall invent a game equally well adapted to the physical health and vigor of men will deserve a laurel wreath." (*Adrian* [Mich.] *Daily Times and Exposition*, May 1, 1868; quoted in *Baseball Fever* by Peter Morris, 2003, p.210)

Book Reviews

Leverett T. (Terry) Smith

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NEGRO LEAGUE BASEBALL: The Rise and Ruin of a Black Institution

Neil Lanctot. Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 2004.
496p. index. ISBN 0-8122-3807-9. \$34.95

FAIR DEALING AND CLEAN PLAYING: The Hilldale Club and the Development of Black Professional Baseball, 1910-1932

Neil Lanctot. Jefferson (N.C.): McFarland & Co., 1994. 304p.
index. ISBN 0-89950-988-7. \$25.95

BASEBALL BOOKS 2004-2005

McFarland & Company, Inc., Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640-0611.
60p. index

I wonder, are all members of SABR on McFarland's mailing list? Anyone who isn't, should write to the address above and ask to be put on it. McFarland's baseball catalogue is now sixty pages long! That's a lot of books, of which I've only read a few. I've always been wary of McFarland: as they publish small editions and aim their sales at libraries, their books seem very expensive. They also vary a good deal in quality. But McFarland has succeeded, where other publishers have failed, in establishing itself as a publisher of baseball books, and because of that, there's a great deal of research in print on all conceivable aspects of the game and the business of baseball. Three cheers for McFarland!

Lanctot's *Fair Dealing and Clean Playing* does not appear in McFarland's current catalogue. Presumably it's out of print, having been published 11 years ago. Lanctot begins by saying that while previous writing about African Americans in baseball has illuminated "black social and cultural history", he sees a need to analyze "the economic factors that contributed to the success or failure of black professional clubs" (p.1). *Fair Dealing and Clean Playing* focuses on "the complex internal and external factors integral to the success of black professional teams", using the example of the Hilldale club. These factors are (p.2): a booming economy, an expanding African-American population, the popularity of semiprofessional baseball in Philadelphia, the central location of the team, and the keen business sense of the owner, Edward Bolton. This is not a book that excites with tales of the game on the field, but it's an important study of the backgrounds of the game that renders the history of African-American baseball intelligible.

Negro League Baseball is clearly imagined on a grander scale than *Fair Dealing and Clean Playing*: the latter, a study of a particular team; the former, of a league. But in some important ways they are closely related. *Negro League Baseball* begins where *Fair Dealing* ends, in the early 1930s. And both books seek to explain the shape of African-American baseball by exploring its economic basis. Lanctot wants his study to be "a window into several major themes in modern African American history". He maintains that "Negro League baseball ... remains poorly understood" because it has heretofore "focused on exploits, not administration". *Negro League Baseball* is designed to change this focus, to look at the Negro National League "and the black baseball industry in general" (p.viii).

Thus *Negro League Baseball*, even more than *Fair Dealing and Clean Playing*, is a study of the baseball business, not the sport. Lanctot notes the relative absence of information about the business: "the principal league figures are long deceased, and only a modest amount of documents, interviews, and correspondence have survived" (p.viii). To compensate, Lanctot attempted "to read virtually every sports page of every black newspaper located in a league city" (p.ix). The result is an unusually well-documented academic history, important background for understanding the game and its players.

Lanctot divides the Negro National League's history into three eras, which he calls "the three distinct phases of the industry's growth: failure (1933-1940), success (1941-1946), and irrelevance (1947-1960s), with close attention to larger contextual developments shaping each period" (p.ix). That these "larger contextual developments"—the Great Depression, World War II, and the integration of Organized Baseball—had a decisive effect is clear. Lanctot, however, devotes equal time to difficulties within the Negro Leagues: uncertain leadership, squabbling owners and other problems of ownership, the weakness of league schedules, poor umpiring, and uncertain contractual relations with players. Lanctot treats these difficulties in considerable detail, filling out and deepening, without necessarily changing, our understanding of the Negro Leagues. This reader particularly enjoyed getting the story of integration from a new perspective.

There is one moment when, as a SABR member, I became particularly interested in Lanctot's interpretation of events. This concerns Bill Veeck's story in his 1962 autobiography (*Veeck ... as in Wreck*) of his efforts to buy the Philadelphia Phillies and stock the club with players from the Negro leagues. David M. Jordan, Larry R. Gerlach, and John P. Rossi's ("A Baseball Myth Exploded", *The National Pastime*, no.18, 1998) examined Veeck's story and found that no evidence exists to corroborate it, concluding that the story, as Veeck tells it, is a myth. Particularly well researched, the article lists *Fair Dealing and Clean Playing* as one subscriber to the myth. In *The Negro Leagues*, Lanctot devotes one paragraph (p.236) to Veeck's plan, insisting that he "secretly investigated the possibility of signing black ballplayers for the team, contacting Fay Young of the *Defender* and Midwestern promoter Abe Saperstein to discuss potential prospects". He acknowledges Jordan, et al., in a footnote and lists "scattered evidence to suggest [Veeck's] involvement with Saperstein and Fay Young" (p.444, footnote 41).

Interested readers will want to look at the evidence themselves to decide who is right. In fact, between March 13 and 20 of this year, an inconclusive discussion of this point broke out on SABR-L, complete with new evidence. In any event, *Negro League Baseball* will be a valuable book for anyone interested in that topic or, more broadly, in 20th-century, African-American life.

THE NUMBERS GAME: Baseball's Lifelong Fascination with Statistics

Alan Schwarz. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2004. Foreword by Peter Gammons. 270p. ISBN 0-312-32222-4. \$24.95

Schwarz' journalistic account of the statistical study of baseball, makes a good beginning at a history of this currently fashionable dimension of the game. Schwarz praises SABR in his acknowledgments, citing the "generosity" of SABR members was "simply staggering, and only underscored their passion for this subject". He goes on to state (p.255): "I shudder to think how I would have unearthed old articles, particularly those in *Baseball Magazine*, without the spectacular Baseball Index developed by SABR volunteers." Way to go, TBI!

Schwarz tells a story that will fascinate any SABR member. He traces the story of individuals who questioned the use of traditional baseball statistics to understand the value of individual players and conventional strategies. From largely ignored and outcast, these individuals have achieved important positions in the operation of major league teams. As Schwarz says (p.xiv): "This book is not about the statistics themselves. It is about the *people* obsessed with baseball's statistics ever since the box score started it all in 1845: The zealots who kept them, the fans who devise them, the scientists—some of them, Nobel laureates—who pursue a grand unifying theory for them."

I was most interested in the first part of the book: Schwarz' account of the early figures—Henry Chadwick, Ernest Lanigan, John Heydler, John Lawres, George Moreland, Ferdinand Cole Lane, Al Munro Elias. With these chapters, Schwarz begins to fill in some of

the blanks in the history of baseball's statistics and their meaning. When Michael Lewis, for instance, wanted to provide background for the current interest in the use of statistics, he mentioned "fitful efforts to rethink old prejudices" and named Chadwick, Earnshaw Cook, Allan Roth, and "a pair of brothers employed by IBM" (*Moneyball*, 2003, p.71).

The first part of Schwarz' book fills in this blank between Chadwick and Roth, and the efforts Schwarz describes seem much more than "fitful". And the second part, among other things, names those nameless brothers. They are Harlon and Eldon Mills (see p.84-86), just two of the many figures Schwarz introduces from the period between the 1930s and the formation of SABR in the 1970s. In this part of *The Numbers Game* (chapters 3, 4, and 5), Schwarz introduces such diverse folk as Dodgers statistician Allan Roth, Hal Richmond (inventor of Strat-O-Matic), George Lindsay (author of several articles in statistical journals), Lee Allen, and John Tattersall. What he has given us is a history of meditations on the meanings of baseball statistics. Of course, most of this did not then affect baseball strategy (Branch Rickey's Dodgers being a major exception).

Beginning with the formation of SABR, the book focuses on that story, which takes up roughly 60% (the last seven chapters) of the book. Most of us will be most interested in this part of the book because we, or our friends, or people we know personally, are in it. Here are some of the many topics Schwarz addresses: Bill James; Seymour Siwoff and the Elias Sports Bureau; Project Scoresheet; the beginnings of managerial use of statistics with Earl Weaver, Bobby Bragan, and Steve Boros; Pete Palmer, Dick Cramer, John Dewan, and STATS; Joe Reichler and *Big Mac*; *The Hidden Game of Baseball*; *Total Baseball*; fantasy league baseball; *USA Today*; Stephen Jay Gould, Ed Purcell, Voros McCracken, Sandy Alderson, Craig Wright, Paul DePodesta, and John Henry; and finally, Dave Smith and Retrosheet. I'm sure I've left some important individuals out, and not being a statistician or knowing the individuals, I'm not sure how to evaluate Schwarz' treatments of them. He ends by contrasting Siwoff's commodification of statistics with Smith's insistence that Retrosheet be open free to any researcher.

Just at the end of the book, there's the wonderful story of Jim Gentile's being informed that he'd actually been tied with Roger Maris for the American League RBI title in 1961 (p.253). "A Retrosheet volunteer actually tracked down Gentile in Oklahoma to inform the 65-year-old of this development. 'Who the hell is this?' Gentile barked, before getting increasingly intrigued. 'Goddamn it, I had a \$5,000 clause if I led the league in RBIs! You think I can get those bastards to give it to me?'"

The Numbers Game will be frustrating to researchers because Schwarz offers very little documentation in support of his narrative, but that, of course, is not his purpose, which is to tell a good story, or a series of them. What he has accomplished for SABRites is the opening up of a whole new territory for research. We want to find out more about the folks Schwarz introduces us to and the milieus in which they operated. In his chapter on Chadwick, Schwarz relies heavily on Jules Tygiel's essay on Chadwick in *Past Time* (2000). More research like Tygiel's needs to be done, particularly on the earlier figures, and we're the folks who will want to do it.

"Sounds like 25 miles of bad, unpaved road. No, no, no—it feels like that thing that happens when you have a filling and you bite down on aluminum foil. No, no, no—remember Stanley Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange* when the protagonist was strapped into a chair with his eyelids held open and forced to take in that incredible video? No, no, no—it's more like the day after *The Day After*, when even the 7-Elevens will be closed. No, no, no—it's like a rake scratching across the sidewalk."

(Norman Chad, describing what sportscaster Tim McCarver sounds like, *Baltimore Sun*, Nov. 5 2000, p.4E)

Baseball Books Published in 2004 (and Not Yet Cataloged for TBI)

- Baseball America Draft Almanac*. Durham, N.C.: Baseball America. Paper
- Baseball Blue Book 2004: Professional Edition*. Springfield, Mo: Bareham & Saunders. Unknown binding
- Baseball Blue Book 2004: College Edition*. Springfield, Mo: Bareham & Saunders. Unknown binding
- Officiating Baseball*. Human Kinetics. Hardbound
- The Baseball Chronicle: Year by Year History of Major League Baseball*. Updated Edition. Lincolnwood, Ill.: Publications International. Hardbound
- Allen, Mel. *A Coach's Letter to His Son*. Mankato, Minn.: Creative Editions. Hardbound
- Anderson, Dave. *1955 In Sport: A Year Like None Other*. SportClassic Books. Hardbound
- Beckett, James. *Beckett Official Price Guide to Baseball Cards 2004*. New York: House of Collectibles. Paper
- Bloom, Barry. *Barry Bonds: A Biography*. Westport, Conn: Greenwood Publishing. Hardbound
- Boyer Sagert, Kelly. *Joe Jackson*. Westport, Conn: Greenwood Publishing. Hardbound
- Brainerd-Thomas, Mary. *Mom, I Want to Play Baseball and I Know Just What I Need!* Trafford Publishing. Unknown binding
- Brown, Greg, and Gagne, Eric. *Eric Gagne: Break Barriers*. Positively for Kids. Hardbound
- Brown, Jonathan, and Raatma, Lucia. *Jackie Robinson*. Gareth Stevens, Inc. Hardbound
- Buckley, James, Jr. *World Series*. New York: Dorling Kindersley Publishing. Hardbound
- Burda, Ted. *Baseball's Hitting Secrets: How to Put a Round Baseball Bat on a Round Ball—Squarely*. San Francisco: Van der Plas Publications. Hardbound
- Burley, Craig. *The Hardball Times Baseball Annual*. Lulu Press. Paper
- Carroll, Will. *Saving the Pitchers*. New York: Ivan R. Dee. Unknown binding
- Chadwick, Henry. *Haney's Baseball Book of Reference: The Revised Rules of The Game for 1867*. Bedford, Mass.: Applewood Books. Paper
- Cohen, Robert W. *A Team for the Ages: Baseball's All-Time All-Star Team*. Globe Pequot Press. Hardbound
- Dravecky, Dave, and Yorkey, Mike. *Called Up: Stories of Life and Faith from the Great Game of Baseball*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing. Hardbound
- Edgerton, Les. *Surviving Little League: For Players, Parents, and Coaches*. Dallas: Taylor Publishing. Paper
- Forker, Dom, with Wayne Stewart and Michael Pellowski. *Baffling Baseball Trivia*. New York: Sterling Publishing Co. Hardbound
- Genovese, Daniel L. *The Old Ball Ground: The Chronological History of Westfield Baseball*. Volume 1. West Conshohocken, Pa: Infinity Publishing. Paper
- Gentile, Derek. *Baseball's Best 1000: Ranking the Skills, the Achievements and the Performance of the Greatest Players of All Time*. New York: Workman Publishing. Hardbound
- Gentile, Derek. *The Complete Boston Red Sox: The Total Encyclopedia of the Team*. New York: Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers. Hardbound
- Gola, Mark. *The Little League Guide to Conditioning and Training*. New York: McGraw-Hill Companies. Paper
- Grebin, Margaret A. *Baseball Forever! A Boy's Book on Grief, Loss, and Healing*. Jawbone Publishing Corp. Paper
- Gutjahr, Jeff. *A Coach's Handbook: Maximizing the Hitting and Pitching Skills of a Young Baseball Player*. Bloomington, Ind.: AuthorHouse. Paper
- Ham, David, and Sibley, Janice. *Collective Coaching Wisdom for Youth Baseball: Ideas and Inspiration from America's Community Coaches to You*. Derwood, Md.: CRM Publishers. Paper
- Harwell, Ernie. *Life After Baseball*. Detroit: Detroit Free Press. Paper
- Herzo, Brad, and Rose-Popp, Melanie. *H Is for Home Run: A Baseball Alphabet*. Chelsea, Mich.: Sleeping Bear Press. Hardbound
- Hill, Mary. *Let's Go to a Baseball Game*. New York: Scholastic Children's Press. Paper
- Holway, John B. *Ted, the Kid*. Springfield, Va: Scorpio Books. Paper
- Ingraham, Jim. *Jacobs Field 10th Anniversary Collection*. Cleveland: Cleveland Indians. Hardbound
- King, Larry, with Julie McCarron. *Why I Love Baseball*. Beverly Hills, Calif.: New Millennium Press. Hardbound
- Komatsu, Narumi, with Philip Gabriel (translator). *Ichiro on Ichiro: Interviews with Narumi Komatsu*. Seattle: Sasquatch Books. Hardbound
- Landsverk, Rocky, ed. *Warman's Baseball Card Field Guide*. Iola, Wisc.: Krause Publishing. Paper
- Lee, Henry. *Fantasy Baseball Strategy: Advanced Methods for Winning Your League*. Mountain View, Calif.: Squeaky Press Pub. Paper
- Leigh, David S. *Ichiro Suzuki*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publishing. Hardbound
- Lemke, Robert F., ed. *2004 Standard Catalog of Baseball Cards*. 13th Edition. Iola, Wisc: Krause Publications. Paper
- Malone, Julio C. *Sammy Sosa en 9 Innings*. New York: Editorial Miglo. Paper
- Mandelbaum, Michael. *The Meaning of Sports: Why Americans Watch Baseball, Football, and Basketball and What They See When They Do*. New York: Public Affairs Press. Hardbound
- Marlin, John. *Mickey Mantle*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publishing. Hardbound
- Marsh, Don, and Marsh, Ann. *101 Things You Can Teach Your Kids About Baseball*. 3rd Edition. San Diego: Campbell Marsh Communications. Paper
- McDonald, Thomas Porky. *Series Endings: A Whimsical Look at the Final Plays of Baseball's Fall Classic, 1903-2003*. AuthorHouse. Paper
- Moffi, Larry. *The Conscience of the Game: Baseball's Commissioners from Landis to Selig*. Washington, D.C.: Brassey's Inc. Hardbound
- Monteleone, John J. *Coaching the Little League Hitter*. New York: McGraw Hill. Paper
- Nobles, Howard. *Poems from a Baseball Fan*. Frederick, Md.: PublishAmerica, Inc. Paper
- Olkin, Mat. *Baseball Examiner 2004*. Self-published. Paper
- Olmstead, Mary. *Roberto Clemente*. Raintree Books. Hardbound
- O'Nan, Stewart, and King, Stephen. *Faithful: Two Diehard Boston Red Sox Fans Chronicle the Historic 2004 Season*. New York: Scribner Books. Hardbound
- Oster, Don, and McMillan, Bill. *A Guide for Young Pitchers*. Globe Pequot Press. Paper
- Otteri, Jack. *Beisbol*. New York: Rosen Publishing Group. Hardbound
- Palmer, Pete, and Gillette, Gary, eds. *The Baseball Encyclopedia*. New York: Barnes & Noble. Paper

Patterson, Jake. *How to Coach Little League Baseball*. Bangor, Maine: Booklocker.com, Inc. Paper

Pellowski, Michael. *Super Sports Star: Mike Piazza*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow Publisher. Hardbound

Phillips, John. *Baseball Stars of Miami and Miami Beach*. Kathleen, Ga.: Capital Publishing. Spiral-bound book

Phillips, John. *Mexican Baseball Stars*. Kathleen, Ga.: Capital Publishing. Spiral-bound book

Phillips, John. *Minor Heroes: Career Records of 100 Players*. Kathleen, Ga.: Capital Publishing. Spiral-bound book

Raja, Eves. *Canadian Statistical MLB Baseball Register*. Hamilton, Ont.: Hunter Press. Unknown binding

Rappoport, Ken. *Super Sports Star: Ichiro Suzuki*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow Publisher. Hardbound

Rebollini, James. *My Heroes*. Sonoma, Calif.: Carneros Press. Spiral-bound book

Reichard, Kevin. *The Complete Guide to Spring Training*. Bloomington, Minn.: August Publications. Paper

Riach, Steve, with Nolan Ryan. *Life Lessons from the Game of Baseball*. Colorado Springs, Colo.: Cook Communications Ministries. Paper

Ripken, Cal, Jr., and others. *Play Baseball the Ripken Way: The Complete Illustrated Guide to the Fundamentals*. New York: Random House. Hardbound

Roark, Dorothy Kovalchick. *Uncertain Destiny: A True Story*. West Monroe, La.: Self-published. Paper

Robinson, Cheryl. *A Forgotten Negro League Star: A Personal Look at Al Burrows*. Bangor, Maine: Booklocker.com, Inc. Paper

Robinson, Ray, and Jennison, Christopher. *Yankee Stadium: Drama, Glamour and Glory*. New York: Viking Studio Books. Paper

Robinson, Sharon. *Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America*. New York: Scholastic, Inc. Paper

Ross, Alan. *The Red Sox Century: Voice and Memories of Fenway Park*. Nashville, Tenn.: Cumberland House. Paper

Schoepf, Dan L. *Sales, America's Other National Pastime: What Baseball Can Teach Us About Selling*. Livermore, Calif.: Wingspan Publishing. Paper

Shamsky, Art, and Zeman, Barry. *The Magnificent Seasons*. New York: St. Martin's Press. Hardbound

Shannon, Mike. *More Tales from the Dugout: More of the Greatest True Baseball Stories of All Time*. New York: McGraw-Hill. Paper

Simendinger, Ted. *Searching for Tendulkar: Baseball's Hunt for the Star of India*. Greenwood Village, Colo.: Airplane Reader Publishin. Hardbound

Smalling, Jack. *The Baseball Autograph Collector's Handbook*. Durham, N.C.: Baseball America. Paper

Stallard, Mark. *The Kansas City Royals Encyclopedia*. Sports Publishing, LLC. Hardbound

Stewart, Wayne. *Pitching Secrets of the Pros*. New York: McGraw-Hill. Paper

Stewart, Wayne, with Robert Obojski; and Dom Forker. *Big Book of Baseball Brainteasers*. New York: Sterling Publishing Co. Hardbound

Stout, Glenn. *On the Mound with Curt Schilling*. Boston: Little, Brown and Co. Paper

Stroshane, Siu Wai. *Louis Sockalexis: Baseball Pioneer*. Lulu.com. Unknown binding

Thomas, Keltie. *How Baseball Works*. Toronto: Maple Tree Press. Hardbound

Thornley, Stew. *Derek Jeter: Daring to Dream*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow Publisher. Hardbound

Thornley, Stew. *Super Sports Star: Barry Bonds*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow Publisher. Hardbound

Thornley, Stew. *Super Sports Star: Chipper Jones*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow Publisher. Hardbound

Thornley, Stew. *Super Sports Star: Ken Griffey, Jr.* Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow Publisher. Hardbound

Vancil, Mark, and Mandrake, Mark. *The Greatest Yankee Teams*. New York: Ballantine Books. Hardbound

Weinstein, Howard. *Mickey Mantle*. New York: Rosen Publishing Group. Hardbound

Westcott, Rich, and Bilovsky, Frank. *The Phillies Encyclopedia*. Third Edition. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. Hardbound

Wilmore, Kathy. *Jackie Robinson: With a Discussion of Respect*. Learning Challenge, Inc. Hardbound

The Essential Baseball Library

Bobby Plapinger recently suggested we could use an update of the classic lists of the best baseball books, notably the list compiled by Paul Adomites (*The SABR Review of Books*, v.2, 1987). Andy McCue challenged the Committee to update the list, but only SABR President Dick Beverage responded. Here is Dick's shot at a new list, with his comments on the Adomites' list. Now, tear it apart and make counter-suggestions. Another list of biographies that Dick compiled will appear in a future newsletter.

History

Dave Anderson. *More Than Merkle*
Eliot Asinof. *Eight Men Out*
Gordon Fleming. *The Dizziest Season*
Gordon Fleming. *The Unforgettable Season*
Donald Honig. *The American League and The National League*
Bill James. *The Bill James Historical Baseball Abstract*
Roger Kahn. *The Boys of Summer*
Okrent & Lewine, eds. *The Ultimate Baseball Book*
David Nemec. *The Great Encyclopedia of 19th-Century MLB*
Harold Seymour. *Baseball in America* (vols. 1 and 2)
Michael Shapiro. *The Last Good Season*
Jules Tygiel. *Baseball's Great Experiment*

Dropped *Daguerrotypes*, Lieb, and Voigt. Lieb is more of a storyteller, and much of his book is simply anecdotal. Voigt's work is sloppy and duplicates much of what is found in Seymour. I dropped Seymour's vol.3, which deals with a lot of obscure, and frankly, not too interesting, areas of baseball. Nemec's encyclopedia gives a year-by-year account of the 19th century, beginning in 1876. Shapiro writes about the O'Malley-Moses confrontation concerning a new park in Brooklyn: it's a good description of the events leading to the Dodgers leaving Brooklyn. Anderson describes the season of 1908 as well as anyone could and covers many facets of the early Deadball Era.

Statistics

Thorn and Palmer. *The Hidden Game of Baseball*
Thorn, Palmer, et al. *Total Baseball*
The Sporting News Baseball Guides and Registers
Spalding Guides and/or Reach Guides
Neft, Cohen, Deutsch. *The Sports Encyclopedia: Baseball*
Bill James and Jim Hentzler. *Win Shares*

Dropped the Macmillan which has been replaced by *Total Baseball*

Team Histories

Putnam team histories
Glenn Stout & Richard Johnson: *Red Sox Century*, *Yankees Century*, and *The Dodgers*
Patrick Harrigan. *The Detroit Tigers: Club and Community, 1945-1995*
Burt Solomon. *Where They Ain't* (original Baltimore Orioles)

The Stout-Johnson combination has produced probably the best books written on each of these three teams. Harrigan won the Seymour Medal and weaves the story of the club and the community together with the drive to replace Tiger Stadium. Solomon combines a good biography of Willie Keeler along with the story of the 1890s Orioles.

In Their Own League

Lee Lowenfish. *The Imperfect Diamond*
Craig Wright and Tom House. *The Diamond Appraised*

Kevin Kerrane. *Dollar Sign on the Muscle*
Larry Gerlach. *The Men in Blue*
Lawrence Ritter. *The Glory of Their Times*
Donald Honig. *Baseball When the Grass Was Real*
Donald Honig. *Baseball Between the Lines*
Bill James. *The Bill James Guide to Baseball Managers*

Lowenfish is a great overview of the history of labor relations in baseball. Wright & House pioneered analysis of the game, using other than traditional methods. James is his inimitable self, and this one is thought provoking, like most of his other work. His *The Politics of Glory*, which deals with how the Hall of Fame works, could probably be included on this list as well. Don't know why Coffin was included.

Biography

Hank Aaron, with Lonnie Wheeler. *I Had a Hammer*
Charles Alexander. *Ty Cobb and John McGraw*
Reed Browning. *Cy Young*
Donald Dewey & Nick Acocella. *The Black Prince of Baseball* (biography of Hal Chase)
Jim Bouton. *Ball Four*
Jim Brosnan. *The Long Season and Pennant Race*
Robert Creamer. *Babe and Stengel*
Gerald Eskenazi. *The Lip: A Biography of Leo Durocher*
Hank Greenberg. *The Story of My Life*
Robert Gregory. *Diz* (biography of Dizzy Dean)
Marvin Miller. *A Whole Different Ball Game*
Eugene Murdock. *Ban Johnson: Czar of Baseball*
David Pietrusza. *Judge and Jury* (biography of Landis)
Marshall Smelser. *The Life that Ruth Built*
Henry Thomas. *Walter Johnson*
Bill Veeck, with Ed Linn. *Veeck ... as in Wreck*

Replace Leo's autobiography with Eskenazi's work, which is a lot more balanced. Added Pietrusza, Thomas, Gregory, and Browning: they're all well researched and fill in some major gaps in baseball history. Pietrusza's biography of Landis is one of the best ever and displaces Spink. Aaron is a bit self-serving, but it is a good description of his times and the conditions under which he played. Greenberg was edited by Ira Berkow, after Hank had passed away, and very objectively describes the man and his times. Miller is essential to understanding the labor situation in baseball and how it came to be. The Chase biography is long time coming, and while not providing all of the answers as to what made him tick, probably comes as close as we will ever get to a definitive answer.

Negro Leagues

John Holway. *Voices from the Great Black Baseball Leagues*
Robert Peterson. *Only the Ball was White*
James Riley. *The Biographical Encyclopedia of the Negro Baseball Leagues*

Ballparks

Philip Lowry. *Green Cathedrals* (2nd edition)
Reidenbaugh & Carter, eds. *Take Me Out to the Ball Park*
The Sporting News. *The Ballpark Book*
Bruce Kuklick. *To Every Thing a Season*
Bill Shannon & George Kalinsky. *The Ballparks*