

Society for American Baseball Research

BIBLIOGRAPHY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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Comments from the Chair

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As you probably know, McFarland & Co. has begun republishing editions of early and hard-to-find baseball books. Ty Cobb's *Busting 'Em* (1914), G.W. Axelson's *"Commy"* (1919), and Harry Ellard's *Base Ball in Cincinnati* (2nd. ed., 1908) were recently republished. Francis Richter's *History and Records of Base Ball* (1914), Ernest Lanigan's *Baseball Cyclopedia* (1922), Johnny Evers' and Hugh Fullerton's *Touching Second* (1910), and Grantland Rice's *Base-Ball Ballads* (1910) will soon appear.

At our Committee meeting in Cincinnati last July, Mark Durr of McFarland made a request for a volunteer to prepare indexes for these books, as we have for more than 75 other baseball books that needed indexes. Roger Erickson responded to that request and is working on the index for the Lanigan book and its 12 supplements.

The next book in the series will be C.H. Claudy's *The Battle of Base-Ball* (1911, reissued 1912). As Gary Mitchem of McFarland notes: "[This] book stands out from the pack of other instructional baseball books of the time primarily because each chapter extends and develops the baseball-as-war metaphor. It's borderline silly in some spots but clever in others. And enjoyable throughout." Fortunately, Trey Strecker of our Committee was already working on an index for the Claudy book and he'll be working with Gary to get it into the reprint. McFarland will provide a proof copy of the book, two free copies of the ultimate edition, and give Strecker, the Committee, and SABR credit for their work at the top of the index.

Gary is also interested in Committee members' nominations for possible future books in the series. You can reach him at GMitchem@mcfarlandpub.com. I'd like to nominate the Reach and Spalding guides from the 1910s to the 1930s.

Elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter, Skip McAfee lists the books we have indexed. I hope you'll take a look at it and see what a valuable contribution to research the Committee has made with this effort. As publishers such as the University of Nebraska, Southern Illinois University Press, and McFarland have begun to republish these older books, the Committee has added considerably to the ease of using these books for research by providing indexes.

Paul Cammarata is proceeding with producing a topic index to supplement Wayne McElreavy's name index for SABR's *Deadball Stars of the National League* (2004). The American League book is under production and SABR hopes to produce it by late 2005. Paul has agreed to produce a full index for that book and both indexes will be included in the American League volume.

On a related project, Joel Dinda is making good progress digitizing Frank Phelps' *The Index to The Sporting News Registers; 1940-1995* (1996). We envision this project ultimately being mounted on SABR's Web site. Joel has designed a format that will make it easier to update as each annual edition comes out. Using the index will enable a researcher to find the last time a player appeared in a *Register* and thus get his fullest possible record. The *Register* listings in-

clude players' minor-league playing records after they leave the majors; these can be quite hard to find otherwise. Joel's design will have four tables: 1) Player's list showing every year the player appeared in the *Registers*; 2) Books list, with fairly detailed descriptions of the edition variations; 3) Sections list, decoding the various categories under which a person could appear (player, coach, umpire, etc.); and 4) Index list, cross-referencing players with books (this will probably be the most-used portion of the database). Joel hopes to be close to finishing this task by early August.

The SABR Board of Directors held its fall meeting in Toronto and I was very impressed with the city and the Holiday Inn on King, the hotel for the 2005 SABR Convention. The hotel is a three-block walk from the SkyDome. It's in the midst of the city's vibrant entertainment and theater district, with lots of restaurant choices within a few blocks. A street with several used-book and record stores is only about four blocks away. Toronto is a very pleasant city for walking; it is clean with an interesting mix of old and new architecture. I'm looking forward to a couple of games against the Yankees as well as the usual attractions of our Convention.

In the Oct. 2004 Committee newsletter, I mentioned the idea of an update to the "Best Baseball Books of All Time" lists that have been published. Bobby Plapinger offered to step in and coordinate the project. In my summation, I noted "The Essential Baseball Library" compiled by Paul Adomites in *The SABR Review of Books* (v.2, p.9-19), Mike Shannon's *Diamond Classics: Essays on 100 of the Best Baseball Books Ever Published* (1989), and the two editions of *How to Do Baseball Research* (the latest published in 2000). Bobby noted that the lists of Casey and Seymour award nominees contain some excellent possibilities. *The Bill James Historical Baseball Abstract* (1986) and Roger Kahn's *Games We Used to Play* (1992) list their favorites. An essential baseball library is listed on Rob Neyer's Web site (<http://espn.go.com/mlb/s/1999/0908/46394.html>) and Greg Spira founded and hosts a baseball book group on Yahoo. But, let's hear your nominees: send them, along with your reasoning, to Bobby (baseballbooks@opendoor.com), with a copy to me, and we'll see what we can come up with.

Our major project—The Baseball Index (TBI)—continues to aid baseball research and to grow. It now contains more than 210,000 citations, and if I could ever catch up with Steve Milman, there would be a couple of hundred more. While this is great, there is plenty more to do. We have fairly good coverage of baseball books, but the ocean of periodical and newspaper articles is huge. And, we can always use more volunteers who will read the books and work their way through runs of magazines and baseball weeklies. If you're interested in working on books, please contact me. If you'd like to take on a run of *The Sporting News* or some other publication, please contact Ted Hathaway (sabrtbi@mn.rr.com).

Also, for those of you interested in baseball fiction, I have completed my annual update of *Baseball by the Books*. The update now lists everything I have discovered, or has been published, since the original (1991). The printout is more than 100 pages. You can get an electronic version for \$10 or a printed and mailed edition for \$12. Contact me if you are interested.

Hope you are having a good off-season and that the arrival of this newsletter whets your appetite for spring training and the spring wave of baseball books.

Book Reviews

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MEMORIES OF SUMMER: When Baseball Was an Art, and Writing About It a Game

Roger Kahn. Lincoln: Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2004. 290p. index. ISBN 0-8032-7812-8. \$16.95

This is a paperback reprint of a book originally published in 1997. Its subjects are: the game on the field in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s; the men who played and managed; and the journalists who reported the games. It's a memoir of the times with a strong autobiographical element, as Kahn talks a good deal about his career as a journalist during these years.

One of Kahn's great strengths as a writer is his ability to evoke a distant past, to make the reader feel the difference between the past (those "sad, far-off days") and the present. This strength is central to *Memories of Summer*. "A lot has changed," Kahn writes in describing the newspaper profession (p.58). He underlines differences in the presentation of baseball through the media (p.88-89). Remarking on Yankee Stadium, he mentions that "nothing like the old Stadium exists today" (p.106). Even when his memories are still most vivid, as of Willie Mays' arrival at the Giants training camp on March 1, 1954, there is the note of the distant past, as Kahn writes (p.154): "It is forty-two years distant as I write this, but I can see that morning as though it were today." Not since *The Boys of Summer* has Kahn been so successful in evoking the past as he is here.

Kahn warns us that he's working with memories, not necessarily the actual past. "The author of a memoir," he writes (p.x), "works amid imprecision." This reader noticed just one moment when Kahn's memory seemed inaccurate. Speaking of Allie Reynolds' success as a Yankees pitcher, Kahn appears to attribute it to Casey Stengel's advice to the pitcher, yet Reynolds had completed two highly successful years with the Yankees before Stengel arrived to manage them in 1949 (see p.110).

A good deal of the book is concerned with sports journalism and Kahn's own career as a journalist. This enables him to describe the intricacies of newspaper sports reporting and writing for magazines. He tells the story of his training on the *New York Herald Tribune* and further stories of his experiences with *Sport* magazine (good) and *Sports Illustrated* (bad). Among the qualities he demands of a good sportswriter, are, in reporting games, an ability to select "the right angle, the element or elements that determined the outcome of the game" (p.96-97). A second, more general quality, is that of independence, unusual in the days in which Kahn began his career (see, especially, Kahn's description of his relationship with Leo Durocher [p.147]).

Kahn is also interested in describing his own development as a writer. He tells us that as a teenager he was "adrift between two dreams—playing major league baseball and writing poetry and books" (p.36). His experiences on the *Tribune* bring him into the real world of reporting. He writes (p.57): "I had been thrust into my job, muttering about Keats and Thomas Wolfe. ... No more of that. I wanted to write baseball as well as Heywood Broun and I wanted to become as good a newspaperman as Bert Andrews." This doesn't mean that he gives up his literary ambitions. He speaks highly of Bernard Malamud's *The Natural* and includes a list of his own favorite baseball books. He concludes (p.145) his discussion of *The Natural* with the sentence: "If you were good enough, you *could* write a baseball book and make it literature." Later he describes (p.231) his own ambition: "I was trying to become a creative artist and the best baseball writer I knew how to be." I suspect he would offer *The Boys of Summer* as a fulfillment of both these ambitions.

Memories of Summer is also full of major-league baseball. Kahn has a great deal to say about the game as he reported it. Here his main

points are similar to ones he made in *The Boys of Summer*. The first involves the difficulty of the game as played by major leaguers. As he describes it, "the real game is swift and high and dangerous and wide" (p.60). His experiences trying to field balls hit by major leaguers leave him convinced that in major-league baseball, "there were no easy plays" (p.62). Kahn is also intrigued by the nature of pitching, writing (p.102) that "the successful pitcher seeks always to serve exactly what the batter is *not* expecting". We might want to add to that observation Willie Mays' tribute (p.269) to Bob Gibson: "You seldom got a pitch you *wanted* to hit" (emphasis added).

For Kahn, though, the big story of the major leagues in these years, as in the United States itself, is the story of integration. Kahn's comments on this topic take up a good part of the book and involve the game itself, the nation, and Kahn's work as a journalist. Kahn sees the integration of baseball as triggering "a change in American life" and the Brooklyn Dodgers as "a vision of an integrated nation, an America still waiting to be born" (p.80). As a journalist, his responsibility is to write this story, and he recounts the difficulties he experienced in trying to do so.

For SABRites, though (certainly for this reader), the best parts of the book are the portraits of individuals that emerge: notably Leo Durocher, Jackie Robinson, Mickey Mantle, and Willie Mays. Durocher, who is the subject of a chapter with Mays, is wonderfully characterized (p.151) as "one of those impetuous men of action, probably better described than analyzed. You might as well try to analyze an oncoming spear." Robinson, on the other hand, appears throughout the book. Kahn concludes (p.207) that Robinson is, simply, "a great man," as he records differing opinions of him during his playing career in a long chapter primarily about Mantle. As for Robinson's playing skills, Kahn quotes the profane Charley Dressen, in a passage about race and the game (p.79): "... my team is hated more than any other team is hated, because we gave the guy [Robinson] a chance. ... It makes 'em madder that he's so good. He's the best fucking player I ever managed."

Those who feel Duke Snider is the best of the three New York center fielders during the 1950s will perhaps be upset that Kahn is much more interested in Mantle and Mays. His chapter on Mantle focuses more on the man than on the athlete. Mantle is "an upfront yokel" who evolved "from yokel to hustler" (p.202). Kahn's judgment is movingly expressed as follows (p.204): "You cannot possibly approve of Mickey Mantle. All by himself he embodied most things now termed politically incorrect. But as so many of his teammates say in one way or another, 'No, you couldn't *approve* of Mickey Mantle. What you could do was love him'."

The very best part of this book—for this hopelessly biased reader—is Kahn's encounters with Willie Howard Mays. Kahn calls him "the only magic ballplayer of my time" (p.146), and this seems a nice way of distinguishing him from his peers, Mantle and Snider. Willie was the last great New York Giant, and this Giants fan spent many happy moments between 1951 and 1957 standing and cheering his various magic acts. In *Memories of Summer*, Kahn lets Willie talk to us. Everyone should hear him talk about his famous 1954 World Series catch (p.256): "I could tell from the sound whether to come in or go back. This time I'm going back, a long way back ... " Also, don't miss the discussion on page 162 of being about to hear where the ball is going.

Kahn presents Mays throughout as "a *conscious* athlete" and "a thinking ballplayer" (p.256). In presenting him thus, Kahn is still a "self-appointed propagandist" for African-Americans, opposing the tendency to regard them, as Durocher presented Mays in the 1950s, as American primitives, players with great instincts and no mental sophistication (p.91 and 161). For this former educator, Mays' statement—"If you don't love the game, how you gonna learn about it?"—puts him immediately in the first rank of educational theorists (p.161). Particularly in these chapters on Mays, but also throughout this book, Kahn's narrative caused this reader to stand and cheer again.

SUMMERLAND

Michael Chabon. New York: Hyperion Paperbacks for Children, 2004. 500p. ISBN 0-7868-1615-5. \$8.95

I've read the paperback edition of *Summerland*, originally published in cloth in 2002. It's in the tradition of fantasy tales of older children, like C.S. Lewis' Narnia books or J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter stories. An alternate universe in posited in all three. In *Summerland*, the alternate universe involves baseball.

Like many fantasies for older children, *Summerland* is a quest narrative. Ethan Feld is introduced as the story's singularly unpromising hero. He is summoned by his task by one Chiron "Ringfinger" Brown, former Negro leagues ballplayer and superscout. Gradually through the story Ethan acquires capabilities (including a stick that eventually is fashioned into a baseball bat) that eventually enable him to succeed in his quest.

The quest itself is both cosmic and personal. On the one hand, Ethan is the hero chosen to prevent the forces of Satan (in the book his name is Coyote) from bringing to an end the world as we know it. On the other hand, Ethan is simply hoping to rescue his father, whom Coyote has kidnapped to help him accomplish the end of the world.

Ethan travels between and among several worlds to accomplish his quest. Chabon borrows from several mythologies in creating his fantasy. Coyote, for instance, comes from Native American folklore. The universe is imagined as four worlds, like four limbs of a tree. Ethan's stick, which he later fashions into a bat, is from this tree. The action of the story moves from one of these worlds to another, ending on a field called Diamond Green, in a world adjacent to the Elysian Field in Hoboken, N.J.

Travelling through these worlds, Ethan is accompanied by a miscellaneous group of helpers, who assist in fighting his battles. His principal human friend is Jennifer T. Rideout, Native American and pitcher. There is Thor Wignutt, a human who eventually finds he is actually a ferisher. I am still not sure what a ferisher is, though Cinquefoil, another of Ethan's helpers, is one, and they are apparently a crowd of "little people" devoted to playing baseball. There is also a werefox, a sasquatch, a miniature giant, and finally a major-league baseball player, Rodrigo Buendia. This miscellaneous group must fight its way through groups of giants and other beings to stop Coyote from ending the world and to rescue Ethan's father.

What has all this to do with baseball? Chabon makes Ethan and his helpers into a baseball team, and the battles they fight in the course of their quest are baseball games. Ethan is introduced as "the worst ballplayer in the history of Clam Island, Washington" and by the end of his quest he is batting against Coyote in hopes of preventing the end of the world.

In addition to this use of baseball games, Chabon uses baseball in many other ways. It can appear suddenly, as when Coyote says, contemplating the fate of heroes (p.222): "Always come to such regrettable finales. Poisoned by the blood of centaurs. Crushed in the toils of a dragon. Crashing their rescue planes into the Caribbean Sea on the way to Nicaragua." There is also the subplot of Spider-Rose, whom the questors liberate from a ferisher prison. She has been interred for life for inventing, at Coyote's instigation, the designated hitter rule (p.246ff). Chabon must be a National League fan. He's also alert to the existence of SABR; in *Summerland* there's a Society of Universal Baseball Research (p.381).

In this universe, Coyote is a version of Satan (p.220). He's the one who has decided to end the world prematurely. Known as "the Changer," according to the ferisher Cinquefoil, he brought the wobble into the world. Everything turns out one way but could just as easily turn out the other. There's a kind of aimlessness about him; "he just sort of goes along" (p.203). He has a hard time keeping focused. Cutbelly the werefox says (p.419) Coyote has "never had everything under control once in his entire long, wild career". Coyote "wants everything, but he wants it very carelessly, and in no particular order" (p.442).

Coyote has his attractive side. His is, after all, also the inventor of baseball (p.221). Ethan wonders (p.154) about "the tiniest glint of appreciation in Cinquefoil's eyes whenever he talked about Coyote". And the game of baseball itself "moved at a Coyote pace, now wandering, now moving at a steady lope, now bearing down hard and quick" (p.334). Clearly, the battle in *Summerland* is not simply a battle between good and evil. Ethan realizes this in a moment of doubt when he understands why Coyote might want to end the world prematurely (p.444-445): "Mr. Feld was right; life was like baseball, filled with loss and error, with bad hops and wild pitches, a game in which even champions lost almost as often as they won, and even the best hitters were put out seventy percent of the time. Coyote was right to wipe it out, to call the whole sad thing on account of darkness."

Ethan recovers from this, and perhaps Chabon's best use of baseball in the book is this metaphysical one: how is life like baseball? At the beginning of the book Ethan tells his father that baseball is "a stupid game ... it's so dull." His father responds (p.10): "Nothing is boring, son ... you have to pay attention, in life and baseball." This notion of paying attention becomes a central theme in the book. Ethan reads in E. Peavine's *How to Catch Lightning and Smoke* (which book turns out to be a great help as Ethan learns the techniques of catching) the fundamental truth about baseball (p.64): "A baseball game is nothing but a great slow contraption for getting you to pay attention to the cadence of a summer day." The business of paying attention is essential; Coyote can't, or won't. Mr. Feld's disinterest in "other worlds" involves paying attention to this one (p.114): "Mr. Feld felt that people who believed in other worlds were simply not paying enough attention to this one." Ethan has occasion to recall Peavine's words later in the book (p.332). Even with this, the book concludes that "a game of baseball can't really make a summer day last forever" no matter how closely we attend to it. Coyote only seeks to hasten the end of the world: it is coming in any event. In this case, an 11-year-old Little Leaguer and his friends, human and nonhuman, prevent the end of the world through playing baseball. *Summerland* will fascinate those interested in the fictional uses of baseball.

Book Review

Skip McAfee

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BASEBALL BEFORE WE KNEW IT: A Search for the Roots of the Game

David Block. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2005. 340p. index. ISBN 0-8032-1339-5. \$29.95

Finally, we now have a myth-debunking, thoroughly researched, and very readable, passionate, and exhilarating account of the evolution of the National Pastime. Block sheds some new light on baseball's origins by bringing together and reviewing existent theories and analyzing recent discoveries. Yet, he admits that "early baseball history remains a vast unfinished canvas", remarking that "so little is understood, and so few studies undertaken, about a topic that would seem to be of interest to so many" (p.21). As Tim Wiles noted in the foreword: "It has often struck me as ironic that so much energy is expended researching and writing about a game whose very origins remain shrouded in mystery, folklore, and misinformation" (p.xvi). There has been minimal effort to document baseball's early history since Robert W. Henderson's pivotal work, *Ball, Bat, and Bishop* (1947) or to examine European sources. Well, Block has met this challenge head on and brought forth some groundbreaking conclusions.

For more than a century, it was thought that baseball had either an English origin, derived from rounders (Henry Chadwick, Richard A. Proctor, and Henderson), or an American origin, such as two-old-cat (A.H. Sedgwick), the inventiveness of the "American boy" (John Montgomery Ward), it "sprung up" naturally (William Rankin), a Native American game (James Mooney), incremental changes via the old-cat games and town ball (Albert Spalding), and instant creation by Abner Doubleday (the so-called Mills Commission report). Block reviews these theories and discards them all.

Henderson has been revered as a baseball historian for more than 60 years. He was the first to look at the various bat-and-ball games that developed in Europe. His conclusion that baseball descended from rounders has been tacitly accepted by baseball historians for half a century. But the name "rounders" does not appear in the historical annals of England or the United States before 1828, yet the term "base-ball" shows up at least seven times in 18th-century writing. The first published rules for "English base-ball" were published in 1796. Block avers that the name "rounders" took root in western England in the 1820s as an alternate term for "base-ball". He concludes (p.161): "Given that the name 'base-ball' predated 'rounders' in England by nearly a hundred years, it is time to finally put to rest the tired old axiom that baseball descended from that 'ancient' English pastime."

Block takes some side trips to describe some interesting characters. Abner Graves, the mentally unbalanced mining engineer who wrote the famous letter to the Mills Commission stating that Doubleday invented the game of baseball in Cooperstown in 1839 (actually, 1840 or 1841), fatally shot his wife during a domestic argument; he also maintained he was a Pony Express rider and that he played on the very first baseball team. Also of interest is Block's research that Doubleday and Spalding both were intimately involved (though at different times) in theosophy (esoteric Eastern occult teachings) in San Diego.

Block challenges the Knickerbockers paternity, claiming that many of the rules of baseball were formulated before the famous Knicks' 1845 codification. Games such as feeder, base (or goal ball), squares, and even rounders, games regarded as diversions for children, had an influence on the 1845 rules, which were not created out of thin air. Those rules contain "an interesting contrast of restatements and innovations, bull's-eyes and duds" (p.93). Although the Knickerbocker rules were an important contribution to the progress of baseball, they did not quite "signify the birth of our modern game and constitute its lasting foundation" (p.93).

A major strength of Block's book is the description of many bat-and-ball games that predated, or developed along with, baseball. These include the familiar diversions known as trap-ball, tip-cat, tut-ball, stool-ball (played by young boys and maidens in churchyards at Easter time, the prize being flavored tansy cakes), and cricket (a baseball "cousin" rather than an "ancestor", both sharing a common English heritage, but separated geographically—baseball in western England, cricket from southeast England). But also reviewed are other strange games having a Norse, French (poisoned ball), German, and Polish origin. Block even describes "om el mahag", a rounders-like game played by Berber tribesmen living in the 1930s in a remote village in Libya, which apparently was imported by a band of "light-skinned" migrants thousands of years ago.

Page 153 is a theoretical flowchart showing how baseball evolved from medieval ball games to stool-ball, English base-ball, and the family of English cat games (which did not use a ball, but wooden sticks) to the American 1-2-3-4 old-cat to town-ball (Philadelphia), round-ball (Massachusetts game), and New York game to the present day.

The efforts of Henderson and others in the 1940s support (p.104) "a hypothesis that baseball did not spring from a single linear evolutionary path but is the ultimate product of a common cultural memory extending back thousands of years. This helps explain why the solution to baseball's origins has been so elusive. It also helps decipher the paradox of why any number of bat-and-ball games from so many

countries appear to be part of baseball's ancestry, and yet only scant circumstantial evidence exists to show how the American game directly descended from any single one." Yet, Block concludes (p.143): "No other pastime more directly contributed to the development of American baseball than its diminutive eighteenth-century English namesake."

Block's basic book is 162 pages long. But there's lot of good stuff in the remaining 178 pages. These include the following sections:

"Early Baseball Bibliography", an extensively annotated, chronological list of 178 books pertaining to baseball or baseball-like activities, from 1450 to 1861. Block chose the Civil War as his end point because it was during that conflict that the New York game became a national phenomenon.

A list of 22 constitutions and by-laws of various baseball organizations (1838-1861).

"Some Comments on Sporting Journals of the 1850s", the comments representing the contents and relative importance of four versions of *Spirit of the Times* and of *The New York Clipper*.

"A Place Leavel Enough to Play Ball", an essay by Thomas L. Altherr on baseball and baseball-type games in the colonial era, Revolutionary War, and early American republic. ("Leavel" is spelled correctly.)

Two 1905 letters by Abner Graves describing the purported invention of baseball by Abner Doubleday.

Dr. Adam E. Ford's 1886 letter to *Sporting Life* describing an 1838 baseball game in Canada.

A 1941 article by Danish historian Per Maigaard that compared, classified, and traced the origins of games played with bat and ball.

Nine surviving descriptions of baseball-like games written and published before 1845, including the recently rediscovered description of "English base-ball" by Johann Christoph Friedrich GutsMuths in his 1796 book *Spiele zur Uebung und Erholung*.

There are 36 pages of footnotes.

I can't recall reading a more entertaining, critical-thinking, erudite book about baseball than this one. "After so many missteps," writes Block (p.162), "I believe we are finally turning the corner and heading home in our search for the roots of our beloved National Pastime." But there is more to be done. As Tim Wiles noted in the foreword (p.xviii): "Perhaps the next step is for baseball researchers to bridge the gap between our research community and the work of European anthropologists and folklorists interested in the games and pastimes of earlier cultures."

One last note. Block forgot to quote Homer, our earliest baseball historian:

"O'er the green mead the sporting virgins play,
Their shining veils unbound; along the skies,
Tost and retost, the ball incessant flies."

"I wish I could explain my lifelong obsession with baseball. But it is like trying to explain sex to a precocious six-year-old. Not that I have ever done this, but I assume the child would say something like: 'Okay, I understand the procedure. But why?' There is no answer for that. You have to be there. With baseball, too, you have to be there. But once you have been there, and bought it, you are likely to remain hooked for the rest of your life."

Art Hill, *"Don't Let Baseball Die": I Came to Watch*, 1978

"I do believe this: baseball's inherent rhythm, minutes and minutes of passivity erupting into seconds of frenzied action, matches an attribute of the American character. But no existential proclamation, or any tortured neo-Freudianism, or any outburst of popular sociology, not even—or least of all—my own, explains baseball's lock on the American heart. You learn to let some mysteries alone, and when you do, you find they sing themselves."

Roger Kahn, *Sports Illustrated*, 16 August 1976

Book Indexing Project

Here is the status of the SABR Bibliography Committee's project to prepare indexes for baseball books that were published without them (an asterisk * indicates a book in the Putnam series). Copies of these indexes are available from the SABR Research Library maintained by Len Levin, 282 Doyle Ave., Providence, RI 02906-3355 (phone 401-351-3278; e-mail: lenlevin5@hotmail.com), who will quote postage and photocopying costs. Suggestions of books that require indexing—as well as volunteers willing to index—are welcome; contact Skip McAfee, 5533 Coltsfoot Ct., Columbia, MD 21045 (phone 410-730-5847; e-mail: xerxes7@earthlink.net).

Books that have been Indexed

Author	Year	Title	Indexer
Aaron, Hank, with Lonnie Wheeler	1991	I Had a Hammer; the Hank Aaron Story	Roger Erickson
Allen, Lee	1948	The Cincinnati Reds(*)	Bill Hugo
Allen, Lee	1950	100 Years of Baseball; the Intimate and Dramatic Story	Tom Shieber
Allen, Mel, and Fitzgerald, Ed	1965	You Can't Beat the Hours	Roger Erickson
Anson, Adrian C. (Cap)	1900	A Ball Player's Career	Tom Shieber
Axelson, Gustav W.	1919	"Commy"; the Life of Charles A. Comiskey	Dick Miller
Bartlett, Arthur	1951	Baseball and Mr. Spalding	Dick Miller
Boudreau, Lou, with R. Schneider	1993	Lou Boudreau: Covering All the Bases	Bruce Roth
Bouton, Jim	1975	Ball Four: My Life and Hard Times (Dell paperback)	Tom Hetrick
Brosnan, Jim	1960	The Long Season	Dick Miller
Brosnan, Jim	1962	Pennant Race	Roger Erickson
Brown, Warren	1946	The Chicago Cubs(*)	Joe Murphy
Brown, Warren	1952	The Chicago White Sox(*)	Bob McConnell
Butler, Hal	1973	Al Kaline and the Detroit Tigers	Dick Miller
Carmichael, J.P., as told to	1945	My Greatest Day in Baseball	Dick Miller
Cobb, Ty, with Al Stump	1961	My Life in Baseball; the True Record	Skip McAfee
DiMaggio, Joe	1946	Lucky to Be a Yankee	Roger Erickson
Durocher, Leo	1948	The Dodgers and Me	Joe Murphy
Evers, John J., and Fullerton, Hugh S.	1910	Touching Second; the Science of Baseball	Trey Strecker
Farrell, James T.	1957	My Baseball Diary	Skip McAfee
Feller, Bob	1947	Strikeout Story	Bruce Roth
Fimrite, Ron, ed.	1993	Birth of a Fan	Skip McAfee
Flood, Curt, with Richard Carter	1971	The Way It Is	Joe Murphy
Frommer, Harvey	1988	Primitive Baseball	Bruce Roth
Gallico, Paul	1938	Farewell to Sport [baseball names only]	Joe Murphy
Garagiola, Joe	1960	Baseball is a Funny Game	Joe Murphy
Graham, Frank	1948	The Brooklyn Dodgers; an Informal History(*)	Rick Johnson
Graham, Frank	1944	McGraw of the Giants; an Informal Biography(*)	Terry Smith
Graham, Frank	1952	The New York Giants; an Informal History(*)	Terry Smith
Graham, Frank	1948	The New York Yankees; an Informal History(*)	Bob McConnell
Grayson, Harry	1944	They Played the Game; the Story of Baseball Greats	Joe Murphy
Grobani, Anton, ed.	1975	Guide to Baseball Literature (author index)	Frank Phelps
Hirshberg, Al	1948	The Braves, the Pick and the Shovel	Dick Miller
Hirshberg, Al	1947	The Red Sox, the Bean and the Cod	Dick Miller
Hornsby, Rogers	1953	My Kind of Baseball	Dick Miller
Kaese, Harold	1948	The Boston Braves(*)	Bob Bailey
Kaese, Harold, and Lynch, Russell G.	1954	The Milwaukee Braves(*)	Brad Sullivan
Kahn, Roger	1972	The Boys of Summer	Bob Boynton
Kahn, Roger	1985	Good Enough to Dream	Roger Erickson
Kahn, Roger	1977	A Season in the Sun	Skip McAfee
Kerrane, Kevin	1984	Dollar Sign on the Muscle	Dick Miller
Kieran, John	1941	The American Sporting Scene [baseball names only]	Joe Murphy
Lane, Ferdinand C(ole)	1925	Batting: One Thousand Expert Opinions ...	Terry Smith
Langford, Walter M.	1987	Legends of Baseball; an Oral History of the Game's Golden Age	Joe Murphy
Lewis, Franklin	1949	The Cleveland Indians(*)	Bob Boynton
Lieb, Frederick G.	1955	The Baltimore Orioles; the History of a Colorful Team(*)	John Spalding
Lieb, Frederick G.	1947	The Boston Red Sox(*)	Jack Carlson
Lieb, Frederick G.	1945	Connie Mack: Grand Old Man of Baseball(*)	Bob Boynton
Lieb, Frederick G.	1946	The Detroit Tigers(*)	Bob Bailey
Lieb, Frederick G.	1948	The Pittsburgh Pirates(*)	Jack Carlson
Lieb, Frederick G., & Baumgartner, S.	1953	The Philadelphia Phillies(*)	Howard Pollack
Mathewson, Christy	1912	Pitching in a Pinch, or Baseball from the Inside	Tom Shieber
Meany, Tom	1953	Baseball's Greatest Players	Joe Murphy
Meany, Tom	1952	The Magnificent Yankees	Joe Murphy

Mehl, Ernest	1956	The Kansas City Athletics	Roger Erickson
Morse, Jacob	1888	Sphere and Ash	Bob McConnell
Mosedale, John	1974	The Greatest of All; the 1927 New York Yankees	Joe Murphy
Mungo, Raymond	1983	Confessions from Left Field; a Baseball Pilgrimage	Skip McAfee
Okkonen, Marc	1989	The Federal League of 1914-1915	Bruce Roth
Pearson, Daniel M.	1993	Baseball in 1889: Players vs. Owners	Tom Hetrick
Pinelli, Babe, and King, Joe	1953	Mr. Ump	Joe Murphy
Povich, Shirley	1954	The Washington Senators(*)	Jim O'Donnell
Powers, James J. (Jimmy)	1949	Baseball Personalities	Joe Murphy
Puckett, Kirby	1993	I Love This Game!	Alain Usereau
Raymond, Claude, w. Marcel Gaudette	1973	La Troisieme Retrait	Alain Usereau
Rowan, Carl T., with Jackie Robinson	1960	Wait Till Next Year	Joe Murphy
SABR Deadball Era Committee	2004	Deadball Stars of the National League (name index)	Wayne McElreavy
Schacht, Al	1955	My Own Particular Screwball	Alain Usereau
Seidel, Michael	1988	Streak: Joe DiMaggio and the Summer of '41	Skip McAfee
Sheed, Wilfrid	1993	My Life as a Fan	Skip McAfee
Smith, Ira L., and Smith, H. Allen	1949	Low and Inside	Skip McAfee
Spink, Alfred H.	1911	The National Game (2nd enlarged & revised edition)	Skip McAfee
Stockton, J. Roy	1945	The Gashouse Gang and a Couple of Other Guys	Skip McAfee
Thornley, Stew	1988	On to Nicollet	Ted Hathaway
Veeck, Bill, with Ed Linn	1962	Veeck ... as in Wreck; the Autobiography of Bill Veeck	Bob Boynton

Books that have been Indexed at the Time of Publication

Author	Year	Title	Indexer
Casway, Jerrold	2004	Ed Delahanty in the Emerald Age of Baseball	Skip McAfee

Books in the Process of being Indexed

Author	Year	Title	Indexer
Appel, Martin	1988	Yesterday's Heroes: Revisiting the Old-Time Baseball Stars	Brad Sullivan
Barber, Red	1982	1947: When All Hell Broke Loose in Baseball	Terry Sloope
Breslin, Jimmy	1963	Can't Anybody Here Play This Game?	Ted Hathaway
Broeg, Bob	1995	Memories of a Hall of Fame Sportswriter	Roger Erickson
Broeg, Bob	1971	SuperStars of Baseball	Roger Erickson
Claudy, C.H.	1911	The Battle of Base-Ball	Trey Strecker
Lanigan, Ernest J.	1922	Baseball Cyclopedia (plus 12 supplements)	Roger Erickson
Ruth, Babe	1928	Babe Ruth's Own Book of Baseball	Tom Shieber
SABR Deadball Era Committee	2004	Deadball Stars of the National League (subject index)	Paul Cammarata
SABR Deadball Era Committee	2005	Deadball Stars of the American League (name & subject indexes)	Paul Cammarata