

BIBLIOGRAPHY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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Comments from the Chair

Andy McCue
Riverside, CA

Our **Baseball Index Project** had another strong quarter, and currently stands at over 227,000 entries.

We have regularized and updated our listings of all SABR publications, some of which had been done by different people with different understandings of our cataloguing procedures. A few articles had also fallen through the cracks. They are now all done in the same format, and for the first time in a while, all of our listings from SABR publications will be complete.

Donations from around SABR have given me copies of about half of the issues of *Baseball Digest* that have been published over the years. I'm looking for volunteers who are willing to take a few issues and add them to TBI. I'm also still looking for donations of copies of the issues that I don't have and I'd be happy to communicate with any of you who'd like to donate.

Which leads me to a painful subject. About a week before Christmas, my hard disk crashed and was unrecoverable. Since I am only a partial idiot, I had been protecting my major files with backups or on a thumb drive. But, I lost all of my email archive, which I used to track most Bibliography Committee business, among other things. So, if you have communicated with me in recent months about *Baseball Digest* donations, indexing projects, book reviews or whatever, please get back in touch. I've lost all the material.

The hard disk crash also affected some recent work on our project to add Frank Phelps' listing of *Sporting News* obituaries to The Baseball Index. Most of that was saved and I've been in contact with the volunteers so I hope nothing will be lost permanently. I hope to post that material, which should add approximately 7,500 entries to TBI during the first quarter.

We used to run a table in this newsletter showing where we stood with TBI and I thought I'd repeat that just to give everyone an idea where we stand.

Doc. Type	Level 5	Lev. 4	Lev. 1-3	Total
Books	7,306	2,897	4,095	14,298
Articles	170,559	1,718	9,198	181,475
Book	18,440	4,887	273	23,600
Sections				

"Book sections" are individual pieces of books, such as the profiles in *The Artful Dodgers* or *My Greatest Day in Baseball*. Level 5 means the item has been seen, read and fully catalogued. Level 4 means it's been seen and at least the dust jacket material read, but it hasn't been thoroughly read and catalogued. There are few Level 3 items (we have material but it clearly includes mistakes) and Level 2 items (has been read, but in some other form than the original, such as a Red Smith column in a collection rather than the original newspaper). Level 1 means we've heard it exists, but haven't seen a copy.

Since it's a new year, I also thought I'd acknowledge those who have done so much of the work on TBI. The following people have contributed at least 1,000 entries:

- Brad Sullivan 82,142
- Tim Cashion 38,160
- Ted Hathaway 34,167
- Joe Murphy 14,826
- Andy McCue 13,094
- Bernie Esser 6,596
- Anton Grobani 5,969
- Terry Sloope 4,686
- Terry Smith 3,698
- Steve Milman 2,794
- Bob Timmermann 1,436
- Bob Boynton 1,402
- Special mention to John McMurray at 999.

Book Indexes

Our project to provide indexes for important baseball books published without them has been languishing.

A couple of newsletters ago, I asked for a volunteer to index Susan Dellinger's bio of Edd Roush. My memory tells me there was a volunteer, but who it is disappeared with the e-mail. If you were the volunteer, please contact me. Alternatively, if you'd like to do an index, please contact our vice-chair, Skip McAfee (xerxes7@earthlink.net). Elsewhere in this newsletter, you can find a list of all the indexes committee members have done over the years. A number of these have been used in reprints of the books, adding immeasurably to their value. Also, we are in contact with publishers such as McFarland and often provide volunteers to do indexes for some of their reprints.

May the rest of your winter go well enough that you can survive until pitchers and catchers report.

Review

Rickey

- Arthur Mann. *Branch Rickey: American in Action*. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1957. 312 pp. Photographs.
- Branch Rickey with Robert Riger. *The American Diamond: A Documentary of the Game of Baseball*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1965. Photographs and Drawings by Robert Riger.
- Murray Polner. *Branch Rickey: A Biography*. Revised Edition. Foreword by Branch B. Rickey. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2007. Bibliographic note. Index. Photographs throughout. ISBN-13: 978-0-7864-2643-0.
- Andrew O'Toole. *Branch Rickey in Pittsburgh: Baseball's Trailblazing General Manager for the Pirates 1950-1955*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2000. Notes. Index. Photographs throughout. ISBN 0-7864-0839-1.

Lee Lowenfish's recent *Branch Rickey: Baseball's Ferocious Gentleman* establishes itself as the place where future studies of Branch Rickey can begin. With backgrounds in both academic history and journalism, Lowenfish has produced a thoroughly researched and clearly written version of Rickey's life, equally valuable for the general reader and the serious researcher. It seemed a good occasion to look at previous books by and about the Mahatma, clearly a major figure in baseball in the first three quarters of the twentieth century.

Arthur Mann's *Branch Rickey: American in Action* appeared in 1957, and his relation to Rickey and Rickey's involvement in the book make it interesting reading still. According to Lowenfish, Rickey felt Mann was no biographer and never himself read the book (Lowenfish 593). On the other hand, having served as a kind of personal secretary to Rickey, Mann presumably had privileged information, and it's clear that Rickey had extensive input into the book. In addition to being its subject, the Rickey of 1957 is often invoked in phrases such as "Rickey said in describing" or "Rickey laughed in recollection" or Rickey "calling the occasion to memory" (60, 108, 123). It's almost as if Mann wanted his narrative to be as close to an autobiography as possible.

Two things seem especially interesting about Mann's portrait. The first is Rickey's language and its relation to his character. Mann acknowledges the many negative assessments of Rickey, particularly in the press. There are complaints about his "evasive phraseology" (132). He was considered a bad manager because he "talked over his players' heads, was too theoretical" (78). In Brooklyn, fans "picked up derisive nicknames for Rickey from the press – 'Mahatma' and 'Deacon' and 'hard shelled Methodist' . . . Rickey was called the 'Old Woman in the Shoe' and a violator of child labor laws. . . . When he tried to explain [trading Dolph Camilli]. His erudite explanations were dismissed as double talk and his office was called 'The Cave of the Winds'" (228). Out of material such as these, Bernard Ma-

lamud was to fashion the villainous Judge Goodwill Banner in his 1952 novel *The Natural*.

Mann wants us to understand all this differently. Right away in the book, he tells readers of "The simplicity of Rickey's nature" (4). Then on the next page, he tells us that "there have been many times over the years when Branch Rickey preferred not to be understood." This is quite a picture, though it might also be the picture that emerges in Lowenfish. Later in the book Mann gets both these qualities in the same paragraph, saying, about interpretations of Rickey's motivation for signing African-American players, that "most of them fall short, because they are based on the assumption that his nature and thinking are deep and complex. Actually his erudition and easy command of a polysyllabic vocabulary cloak thinking that is, more often than not, simple and basic" (215).

This version of Rickey is directly related to Mann's treatment of Rickey's relations with the press. These relations range from incomprehension in St. Louis (66, 132), to useless in New York (126). We get a detailed report of Rickey's public encounter with Dick Young in 1948 (129-132). He's somewhat less forthcoming about Joe Williams' 1946 accusation that Rickey didn't want the Dodgers to win the pennant and about Rickey's relationship with columnist Jimmy Powers (238-239).

But there's no mistaking whose side Mann is on. In many ways the book is a defense of Rickey against his detractors. Mann covers thoroughly Rickey's years in St. Louis and the development of the farm systems, the beginning of which in Rickey's mind he located in 1913, when Rickey worked for Browns' owner Robert Hedges (63). When reading Mann's account of the Brooklyn Dodger years, it's important to remember that Mann was there and an active participant in the introduction of Jackie Robinson into Organized Baseball. Rickey's tenure in Pittsburgh is reviewed only briefly.

Branch Rickey's only published work during his lifetime, *The American Diamond*, appeared in 1965, the year of his death. Lowenfish remarks that Rickey, ever the man of action, "hated to write." The book is autobiographical in an unusual way – much of his text gives "homage to the baseball people whose life and work he had shared," as Lowenfish puts it (593, 594). Rickey gives his reason for writing in his introduction: "I had god intentions about writing two or three books when I received a book called *The Pros* one day from a stranger. It was on pro football – and magnificent. I spent several days studying this work and realized it was a powerful piece of propaganda on football" (3). What Rickey means but doesn't say is that *The American Diamond* is to be a powerful piece of propaganda on baseball.

The book is a large, coffee-table size book, and Rickey's writing, for much of it, comments on Robert Riger's photographs. But his participation in the book is much larger than this. The first section of the book is his selection of sixteen "Immortals," "the sixteen men who have made the most significant contributions to the game over the years." Six of these are players: Honus Wagner, George Sisler, Christy Mathewson, Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, and Jackie Robinson. Two more played, but were chosen more for their managerial abilities: John McGraw and Connie Mack. There are four various administrators: Charles Comiskey, Ban

Johnson, Judge Landis, and Ed Barrow. Rickey listed two journalists – Henry Chadwick and Taylor Spink – and the “number one immortal” – Alexander Cartwright. In this section of the book, Rickey’s writing is primary, Robert Riger’s drawings secondary, illustrative.

The second part of the book, “The Game,” reverses this, though Rickey is certainly responsible for the emphasis (in 1965!) on the Brooklyn Dodgers. In this section Riger’s photographs start with youth and neighborhood baseball and work their way up to the professional game and then through the professional season from spring training to the World Series. Occasionally there are sections without pictures, as in “Courage,” which one senses is the text of a Rickey talk. In the section on Brooklyn, Rickey says “my eight years in Brooklyn gave me a new vision of America, or rather America gave me a new vision of a part of itself, Brooklyn” and adds “it was a crime against a community of 3, 000, 000 people to move the Dodgers” (166).

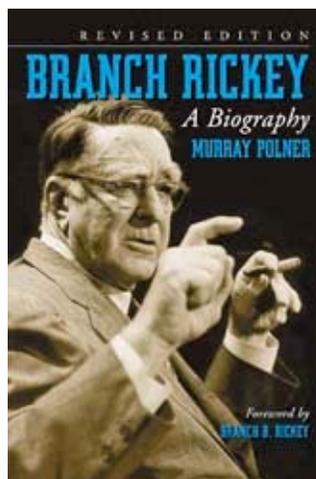
Ricky runs through the Dodgers’ starting lineup in the 1955 World Series, commenting on each player. Rickey’s discussion of Snidey, Hodges, and Campanella contains an argument against the statistic of runs batted in having any particular significance. “Reverse the [fifth and sixth batters] in the hitting order and you will frequently reverse their RBI total” (173). Elsewhere, he allows as the hit and run play is “much overused” (43).

In Rickey’s essay on Courage, there’s a moment when we get a brief glimpse of a youthful Enos Slaughter. Ricky had made the point that “sometimes it is a great quality in men to show modesty even to the point of timidity or apparent lack of courage” (96). His illustration is “Enos Slaughter was afraid to say his name.” Slaughter, as everyone who has encountered him knows, got over this. His assessment of Rickey, comprising equal parts anger and admiration, is report in Murray Polner’s biography of Rickey: “he noticed everything, that son of a gun” (Polner 92). In my experience, Slaughter was not always so pithy. In the mid-1970s, he appeared in a class in baseball history I was team-teaching with a member of the history department – his daughter was attending our college at the time – and talked non-stop far beyond the 90-minute class period. We were all in thrall. Nobody dared leave.

Finally, Riger’s photographs step aside, so that Rickey can meditate on “The Future of the Game.” He saw three problems that needed solving. He hoped for something we now call “parity” and despair of achieving. It’s significant that while Rickey was writing this in 1965, the players were busy hiring Marvin Miller, a move that would eventuate in player salaries (and owner profits) beyond even Rickey’s powers of imagination. Secondly, he understood the inevitability of expansion, though it has proceeded along lines he deplored in 1965, the motive being “not one of nationalization but of prospective profits at the gate” (202). Thirdly, Rickey saw television as a threat and hoped for a screen that would be friendlier to baseball.

More than once, Rickey mentions his fear that professional football would exceed baseball in popularity. More than forty years have passed, and the popularity of all the major team sports has grown so that this no longer seems a problem. *The American Diamond*, Lowenfish reports, is

“long out of print and worthy of republication” (594). He is right.



The original edition of Murray Polner’s *Branch Rickey: A Biography* was published by Atheneum in 1982. A glance through both editions suggests that very little of the text was revised for the 2007 edition. There is some re-paragraphing, and divisions within chapters are sometimes retained, sometimes not. There is a new Foreword by Rickey’s grandson Branch B. Rickey and a brief Preface to the Revised Edition by Polner. Some

forty-two titles have been added to the Bibliographic note, including not only Arthur Mann’s 1957 *Branch Rickey: American in Action* (surely an accidental omission in the 1982 edition, given Polner’s citation there of “material [Polner] did not include in his [Rickey]”) but also Lowenfish’s *Branch Rickey: Baseball’s Ferocious Gentleman*. The section of photographs in the 1982 edition has been dropped and replaced by a new set of photographs scattered through the text.

Polner says in his 1982 Preface that he saw Rickey as “a genuine American hero . . . the son of poor, rural southern Ohio farmers, who taught . . . the worth of an ethical and moral way of life grounded in religious faith” (7). In the Preface to the Revised Edition, he’s more specific. “One of the larger questions I wanted to know was why a conservative evangelical Christian could become so obsessed in fostering racial equality” (9). Polner concludes that “his religious faith was as decisive a factor as his well-known business acumen” (10). Thus his biography has the Brooklyn Dodgers as its focus.

Polner cites Rickey’s “sense of adventure,” a quality seen in his leadership of college teams, “of derring-do on the bases, of constantly attacking their opponents’ weaknesses” (60). Jackie Robinson, for example, Rickey described as “an adventurer,” “a man after my own heart” (183). Rickey’s dealings with outfielder Gus Bell, as detailed by Andrew O’Toole, are explicable in the light of this sense of adventure. Rickey never liked Bell as a ballplayer and finally traded him to Cincinnati, where he had a fine career. Bell himself, O’Toole reports, seemed bewildered. “I couldn’t seem to do anything to please Mr. Rickey . . . The more I hustled, the more he’d get me for something. Why, he’d find things wrong with me that I never knew existed. He used to say I didn’t run in from the field fast enough at the end of an inning. Can you imagine that?” (O’Toole 81). Rickey, it seems clear, couldn’t locate a sense of adventure in Bell. In fact, O’Toole cites Rickey saying “he had no adventure.” To be fair, Rickey said similar things about the young Roberto Clemente (O’Toole 135, 146).

This intense competitiveness, coupled with an equally intense piety, provoked equally intense negative responses

on the part of those who found themselves opposed to Rickey. Polner attributes the negative response of journalists to Rickey's often obfuscating language but is unable to account for Jimmy Powers' frequent attacks (90, 121-122). Polner allows Judge Landis to speak for the anti-Rickeyists. Landis, in private, called him "that hypocritical preacher" and "that Protestant bastard [who-s] always masquerading with a minister's robe" (137). Tom Johnson, part of the Pittsburgh ownership, as interviewed by O'Toole, uses language just as intemperate in describing Rickey, referring to Rickey's "bullshit" and to him as "the old bastard" (O'Toole 54).

There's a moment in Polner's biography when he articulates the meaning of Rickey's career, as he juxtaposes the values he find in Rickey with those of Walter O'Malley. He compares "Rickey's baseball – a nineteenth and early-twentieth century slower, bucolic and pastoral sport, constant, tranquil, uninterrupted, a sentimental mirror of a world now gone – and O'Malley's vision of change and technology, of jet travel of the surge in population and hedonism, of amoral shifts of franchises lured by more and more revenue, and of the voracious appetites of television advertising. To Rickey, baseball remained a civil religion which acted out public functions organized religion was unable to perform; O'Malley's faith rested on balance sheets and dividends" (196). Surely a good part of this vision of Rickey involves myth rather than reality, and he remains better understood as an adventurer. As he sets forth on the Continental League enterprise, he wonders "did [Shea] and the committee want him to find a franchise for [New York City] or might they be interested in an utterly unorthodox approach requiring risk and courage? (232). The enterprise he thought of as "a new and uncharted adventure" (233).

O'Toole's *Branch Rickey in Pittsburgh* is a much more highly focused book than Mann's or Polner's and focuses more exclusively on Rickey the general manager. He relies on fewer sources: newspapers, Rickey's own papers, some interviews, and a few secondary sources, mainly Polner. There is, in fact, a great deal of Rickey in the book, quoted from the newspaper sources and his papers. In addition, O'Toole includes some thirty pages of Rickey's memos to other Pirate officials, including many player evaluations and a long memo arguing to trading Ralph Kiner. These are fascinating.

O'Toole acknowledges "the wondrous Rickey" right away, even though Rickey's years in Pittsburgh were disappointing for all concerned (vii). Early in the book, he also cites part-owner Tom Johnson's opinion – "the old phony" (15). Much of the book tells the story of the obstacles Rickey had to overcome to build a winning team in Pitts-

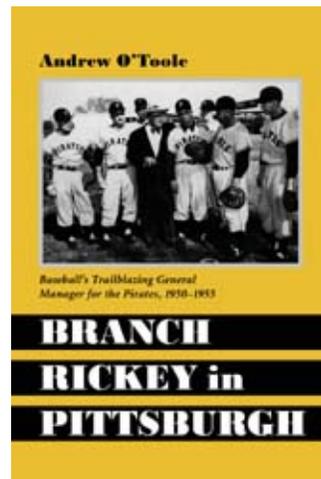
burgh. O'Toole characterizes it as "hindered from the start . . . The conflict in Korea was taking young men from professional baseball at a rapid rate." In addition, and even more importantly, the Pirates "were effectively broke" (4). Much of the book details this condition.

Rickey himself, O'Toole acknowledges, was part of the problem. He states that Rickey "had vastly underestimated the job that awaited him . . . In addition to a major league roster that deservedly finished in last place, the farm system was almost totally void of talent" (35). O'Toole argues that Rickey "was still the brilliant man that had built the dynasties in St. Louis and Brooklyn, but circumstances and times change. Few critics publicly

recognized the financial constraints Rickey endured in Pittsburgh. The farm system was no longer a novelty" (156). Rickey was no longer ahead of the curve, as he had been in St. Louis and Brooklyn. As a consequence, his time in Pittsburgh appears a failure. In fact, his methods seem to have worked, they just took more time. The nucleus of the 1960 championship team was in place when Rickey left in 1955.

There is one particularly odd moment in the book. O'Toole gives the arrival of the first African Americans and Latins in Pittsburgh during these years a special look, and to do so, he rehearses Rickey's experience in Brooklyn, relying on Polner's account. He goes back to Rickey's experience with Charles "Tommy" Thomas, an African-American on his Ohio Wesleyan Baseball team. O'Toole calls him "Tommy Thompson" throughout his account (117-118). It's odd that neither the author nor anyone at McFarland caught this error.

Though each of these books is interesting and valuable, the place to start understanding Rickey is now with Lowenfish's *Rickey*. What Lowenfish accomplishes is a broadening and deepening and completing of the picture with a meticulous acknowledgement of his sources that enables fellow researchers to evaluate and build on his judgments.



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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 (12 cents a page). 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>I Had a Hammer: The Hank Aaron Story</i>	Roger Erickson
Allen, Lee	1948 <i>The Cincinnati Reds</i> (*) Bill Hugo	
Allen, Lee	1950 <i>100 Years of Baseball: The Intimate and Dramatic Story</i>	Tom Shieber
Allen, Mel, and Fitzgerald, Ed	1965 <i>You Can't Beat the Hours</i>	Roger Erickson
Anson, Adrian C. (Cap)	1900 <i>A Ball Player's Career</i>	Tom Shieber
Axelson, Gustav W.	1919 <i>"Commy": The Life of Charles A. Comiskey</i>	Dick Miller
Bartlett, Arthur	1951 <i>Baseball and Mr. Spalding</i>	Dick Miller
Boudreau, Lou, with R. Schneider	1993 <i>Lou Boudreau: Covering All the Bases</i>	Bruce Roth
Bouton, Jim	1975 <i>Ball Four: My Life and Hard Times</i> (Dell paperback)	Tom Hetrick
Brosnan, Jim	1960 <i>The Long Season</i>	Dick Miller
Brosnan, Jim	1962 <i>Pennant Race</i>	Roger Erickson
Brown, Warren	1946 <i>The Chicago Cubs</i> (*)	Joe Murphy
Brown, Warren	1952 <i>The Chicago White Sox</i> (*)	Bob McConnell
Butler, Hal	1973 <i>Al Kaline and the Detroit Tigers</i>	Dick Miller
Carmichael, J.P., as told to	1945 <i>My Greatest Day in Baseball</i>	Dick Miller
Claudy, C.H.	1911 <i>The Battle of Base-Ball</i>	Trey Strecker
Cobb, Ty, with Al Stump	1961 <i>My Life in Baseball; the True Record</i>	Skip McAfee
DiMaggio, Joe	1946 <i>Lucky to Be a Yankee</i>	Roger Erickson
Durocher, Leo	1948 <i>The Dodgers and Me</i>	Joe Murphy
Evers, John J., and Fullerton, Hugh S.	1910 <i>Touching Second; The Science of Baseball</i>	Trey Strecker
Farrell, James T.	1957 <i>My Baseball Diary</i>	Skip McAfee
Feller, Bob	1947 <i>Strikeout Story</i>	Bruce Roth
Fimrite, Ron, ed.	1993 <i>Birth of a Fan</i>	Skip McAfee
Flood, Curt, with Richard Carter	1971 <i>The Way It Is</i>	Joe Murphy
Frommer, Harvey	1988 <i>Primitive Baseball</i>	Bruce Roth
Gallico, Paul	1938 <i>Farewell to Sport</i> [baseball names only]	Joe Murphy
Garagiola, Joe	1960 <i>Baseball is a Funny Game</i>	Joe Murphy
Graham, Frank	1948 <i>The Brooklyn Dodgers; an Informal History</i> (*)	Rick Johnson
Graham, Frank	1944 <i>McGraw of the Giants; an Informal Biography</i> (*)	Terry Smith
Graham, Frank	1952 <i>The New York Giants; an Informal History</i> (*)	Terry Smith
Graham, Frank	1948 <i>The New York Yankees; an Informal History</i> (*)	Bob McConnell
Grayson, Harry	1944 <i>They Played the Game; the Story of Baseball Greats</i>	Joe Murphy
Grobani, Anton, ed.	1975 <i>Guide to Baseball Literature</i> (author index)	Frank Phelps
Hirshberg, Al	1948 <i>The Braves, the Pick and the Shovel</i>	Dick Miller
Hirshberg, Al	1947 <i>The Red Sox, the Bean and the Cod</i>	Dick Miller
Hornsby, Rogers	1953 <i>My Kind of Baseball</i>	Dick Miller
Kaese, Harold	1948 <i>The Boston Braves</i> (*)	Bob Bailey
Kaese, Harold, and Lynch, Russell G.	1954 <i>The Milwaukee Braves</i> (*)	Brad Sullivan
Kahn, Roger	1972 <i>The Boys of Summer</i>	Bob Boynton
Kahn, Roger	1985 <i>Good Enough to Dream</i>	Roger Erickson
Kahn, Roger	1977 <i>A Season in the Sun</i>	Skip McAfee
Kerrane, Kevin	1984 <i>Dollar Sign on the Muscle</i>	Dick Miller
Kieran, John	1941 <i>The American Sporting Scene</i> [baseball names only]	Joe Murphy
Lane, F(erdinand) C(ole)	1925 <i>Batting: One Thousand Expert Opinions ...</i>	Terry Smith
Langford, Walter M.	1987 <i>Legends of Baseball; an Oral History of the Game's Golden Age</i>	Joe Murphy
Lanigan, Ernest J.	1922 <i>Baseball Cyclopeda</i> (plus 12 supplements)	Roger Erickson

Lewis, Franklin	1949	<i>The Cleveland Indians</i> (*)	Bob Boynton
Lieb, Frederick G.	1955	<i>The Baltimore Orioles; the History of a Colorful Team</i> (*)	John Spalding
Lieb, Frederick G.	1947	<i>The Boston Red Sox</i> (*)	Jack Carlson
Lieb, Frederick G.	1945	<i>Connie Mack: Grand Old Man of Baseball</i> (*)	Bob Boynton
Lieb, Frederick G.	1946	<i>The Detroit Tigers</i> (*)	Bob Bailey
Lieb, Frederick G.	1948	<i>The Pittsburgh Pirates</i> (*)	Jack Carlson
Lieb, Frederick G.	1947	<i>The St. Louis Cardinals; the Story of a Great Baseball Club</i> (*)	Bob Boynton
Lieb, Frederick G., & Baumgartner, S.	1953	<i>The Philadelphia Phillies</i> (*)	Howard Pollack
Mathewson, Christy	1912	<i>Pitching in a Pinch, or Baseball from the Inside</i>	Tom Shieber
Meany, Tom	1953	<i>Baseball's Greatest Players</i>	Joe Murphy
Meany, Tom	1952	<i>The Magnificent Yankees</i>	Joe Murphy
Mehl, Ernest	1956	<i>The Kansas City Athletics</i>	Roger Erickson
Morse, Jacob	1888	<i>Sphere and Ash</i>	Bob McConnell
Mosedale, John	1974	<i>The Greatest of All; the 1927 New York Yankees</i>	Joe Murphy
Mungo, Raymond	1983	<i>Confessions from Left Field; a Baseball Pilgrimage</i>	Skip McAfee
Okkonen, Marc	1989	<i>The Federal League of 1914-1915</i>	Bruce Roth
Pearson, Daniel M.	1993	<i>Baseball in 1889: Players vs. Owners</i>	Tom Hetrick
Pinelli, Babe, and King, Joe	1953	<i>Mr. Ump</i>	Joe Murphy
Povich, Shirley	1954	<i>The Washington Senators</i> (*)	Jim O'Donnell
Powers, James J. (Jimmy)	1949	<i>Baseball Personalities</i>	Joe Murphy
Puckett, Kirby	1993	<i>I Love This Game!</i>	Alain Usereau
Raymond, Claude, w. Marcel Gaudette	1973	<i>La Troisieme Retrait</i>	Alain Usereau
Rowan, Carl T., with Jackie Robinson	1960	<i>Wait Till Next Year</i>	Joe Murphy
SABR Deadball Era Committee	2004	<i>Deadball Stars of the National League</i> (name index)	Wayne McElreavy
SABR Deadball Era Committee	2004	<i>Deadball Stars of the National League</i> (subject index)	Skip McAfee
Schacht, Al	1955	<i>My Own Particular Screwball</i>	Alain Usereau
Seidel, Michael	1988	<i>Streak: Joe DiMaggio and the Summer of '41</i>	Skip McAfee
Sheed, Wilfrid	1993	<i>My Life as a Fan</i>	Skip McAfee
Smith, Ira L., and Smith, H. Allen	1949	<i>Low and Inside</i>	Skip McAfee
Spink, Alfred H.	1911	<i>The National Game</i> (2nd enlarged & revised edition)	Skip McAfee
Steinberg, Steve L.	2004	<i>Baseball in St. Louis 1900-1925</i>	Skip McAfee
Stockton, J. Roy	1945	<i>The Gashouse Gang and a Couple of Other Guys</i>	Skip McAfee
Thornley, Stew	1988	<i>On to Nicollet</i>	Ted Hathaway
Veeck, Bill, with Ed Linn	1962	<i>Veeck ... as in Wreck; the Autobiography of Bill Veeck</i>	Bob Boynton

Books indexed at the time of publication

Author	Year	Title	Indexer
Casway, Jerrold	2004	<i>Ed Delahanty in the Emerald Age of Baseball</i>	Skip McAfee
Levitt, Daniel R.	2008	<i>Ed Barrow: The Bulldog Who Built the Yankees' First Dynasty</i>	Skip McAfee
Luke, Bob	2005	<i>Dean of Umpires: A Biography of Bill McGowan, 1896-1954</i>	Skip McAfee

Books in the process of being indexed

Author	Year	Title	Indexer
Appel, Martin	1988	<i>Yesterday's Heroes: Revisiting the Old-Time Baseball Stars</i>	Brad Sullivan
Barber, Red	1982	<i>1947: When All Hell Broke Loose in Baseball</i>	Terry Sloope
Breslin, Jimmy	1963	<i>Can't Anybody Here Play This Game?</i>	Ted Hathaway
Broeg, Bob	1995	<i>Memories of a Hall of Fame Sportswriter</i>	Roger Erickson
Broeg, Bob	1971	<i>SuperStars of Baseball</i>	Roger Erickson
Claire, Fred	2004	<i>Fred Claire: My 30 Years in Dodger Blue</i>	Jeri Traw
Devine, Bing, with Tom Wheatley	2004	<i>The Memoirs of Bing Devine.</i>	Jeri Traw
Kelly, Mike (King)	2005	<i>Play Ball: Stories of the Diamond Field</i>	Roger Erickson
Ruth, Babe	1928	<i>Babe Ruth's Own Book of Baseball</i>	Tom Shieber
Wood, Allan	2001	<i>1918: Babe Ruth and the World Champion Boston Red Sox</i>	Norman Macht

Author interview: John and Rick Wolff

I had an opportunity to pose a few questions about *Harvard Boys: A Father and Son's Adventures Playing Minor League Baseball* with the father and son writing team of Rick and John Wolff, about life in the minors, parental advice, and the process of putting the book together. Their responses, via e-mail. :

Ron Kaplan: John, knowing what your dad went through, the difficulties he had, and the odds against an MLB career, why did you want to go through the same thing?



John Wolff: The difficulties in minor league baseball certainly add up and prevent many ballplayers from reaching their major league dream. Even though he didn't make it, I respected my dad for trying and I wanted to do the same. I thought I could maybe pick up where he left off.

Not making it to the major leagues leaves any professional baseball player with a sense of inadequacy. However, when a ballplayer signs a contract there is a part of him that truly believes that he is going to be the one that defies the odds. I was drafted in the 47th round, which means that my odds of making the big leagues were less than slim to none. That being said, there was still a part of me that truly believed I could be the player who goes against the odds. I had to give it a shot.

RK: Did you rely a lot of your father's experiences, or did you want to do things totally on your own?

JW: I tried as best as I could to build from my father's experiences. I knew that I had to be a smart ballplayer because my talent would only take me so far. Ultimately, my father and I have different personalities and we were different players, so our experiences turned out to be very different.

I did enjoy doing things on my own and trying to be my own person. However, it was always nice to know that when I messed up I could always go back to my father and he would understand.

RK: Did your father offer a lot of unsolicited advice or was he respectful of wanting you to make your own decisions...and mistakes?

JW: The only time his advice was unwanted or unsolicited was usually immediately after a tough ballgame. As with any player, I didn't enjoy recapping all my mistakes right after a game when my emotions were still running high. It usually took me a few hours ... to calm down and then think about how to improve on my errors or strike outs. As it

turned out, once I calmed down I ended up asking him for a ton of advice about how to handle the ups and downs. And in my short career, I had plenty of "downs."

RK: What was it like, growing up as the son of a pro player? Did that put any extra pressure on you as a young athlete?

JW: I think it put some good pressure on me. I loved the idea that my dad played professionally when he was younger and I wanted to be just like him. It made me work hard to get better and reach the same level he did.

However, it was frustrating at times when his old teammates would tell me how much better or faster my dad was than me. I worked very hard to improve my foot speed but I was not blessed with the ability to fly like my dad on the base paths.

RK: I noticed that most of your entries could be considered "PG." Was that a conscious decision? I'm sure you could have been more "earthy" if you had chosen.

JW: Yes, I tried to keep the book fairly PG. There were a lot of stories that were left on the cutting room floor. As you could imagine, the stories about drugs, girls, steroids, and other hot topics might have tainted the true message of the book. I wanted the book to be a positive story and depict the challenges of chasing a dream that was just slightly out of reach. I didn't want to focus too much on the dark side that has been the in media so much very recently.

RK: Rick, How long have you been doing *The Sports Edge*?

Rick Wolff: I started the show on WFAN in February, 1999.

RK: Were you extra cautious not to be too interfering because of a) the show, and b) your experience as a player. I'm sure you must have had at least a few frustrating experiences with youth coaches. How did you handle that?

RW: Yes, just like any other sports parent, I have encountered all sorts of frustrating situations with youth coaches over the years with my own kids. In truth, I have always tried to deal with coaches in a spirit of respect and cooperation. But I know first-hand how emotional parents can become when it comes to their kids in sports.

RK: Did you offer unsolicited advice to your son, or did you let him make his own mistakes?



RW: When John was very young, I would try and show him the basics of how to field a groundball, swing a bat, etc, but as he got older, he was able to find his own way. John was one of those rare kids who was extremely self-motivated and always wanted to improve his game.

RK: I'm very interested in the process of creating Harvard Boys. How did this project come about?

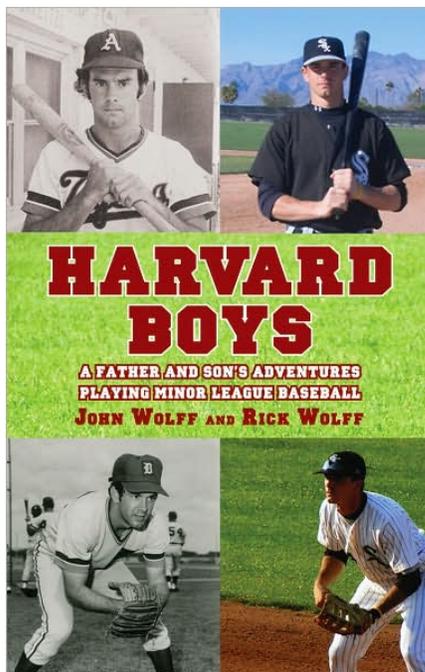
RW: Back in the mid-1970s, I kept a diary of my own minor league experiences, and that diary eventually became a book called What's A Nice Harvard Boy Like You Doing In The Bushes?....It didn't take too much creativity to see if John wanted to keep a diary of his first year in pro ball. But instead of writing it in letters home, he did via e-mails. It was great fun.

RK: How did you handle the writing? Did John start off and Rick added his comments? Some other way?

RW: John wrote the book day-to-day, and I added my comments and reflections as we went along.

RK: Who was your editor? Was he knowledgeable about the game? Do you think that is an important factor? Can you think of specific example of how he improved something you had written and, conversely, something he suggested that you disagreed with?

RW: Mark Weinstein was our editor, and he did a terrific job in helping us shape the book. For example, we had a long discussion as to whether having two different voices in much detail and specific names would go into the book, and we were able to come up with compromises. In short, the editor played a significant role.



NEWS

Nicholas Frankovich named SABR Publications Director

The Society for American Baseball Research has hired Nicholas Frankovich as SABR's new Publications Director, effective February 1, 2008.

Frankovich will be responsible for the SABR-membership publications program as well as its digital-publishing program and will oversee publishing projects produced by Chapters and Research Committees.

"I am thrilled to have Nick on the team; his full range of experience-in both print and digital publishing-will assist SABR find in developing new and creative ways to present baseball research," said John Zajc, SABR's executive director.

Frankovich joins the SABR staff from Fordham University Press, where as managing editor he was responsible for the editing of more than 40 books annually. Previously, he served as copy chief of the reference division of Columbia University Press and as an editor for two digital-publishing units at Columbia.

Before moving to New York to go to college, Frankovich lived in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, where he grew up. "For me," he said, "relocating to Cleveland also means coming home. It's a natural transition for me, and I'm happy to be back." Frankovich will be the first SABR Publications Director to work out of the Society's headquarters. He succeeds Jim Charlton, who has led SABR's Publications program since 2002.

Please send articles, reviews, and suggestions to Ron Kaplan at Ronk23@aol.com. Please put "SABR Newsletter" in the subject line.

