

BIBLIOGRAPHY COMMITTEE

Newsletter

November 1991
(91-3)

From the Committee Co-Chair

Frank V. Phelps

253 Bernard Drive, King of Prussia, PA 19406-1756
215/265-1622

A Sept. 1991 issue of *Baseball Weekly* carried the sad news of the death of Richard M. Cohen, 53, on 9 Sept. Dick was a long-time SABR member, a sports book dealer at his Ridgefield, Conn. place, and coeditor/compiler of *The Sports Encyclopedia: Baseball* and *The Sports Encyclopedia: Football*, all editions, along with David Neft. Cause of death was not stated but some years back Dick suffered a severe heart attack, one consequence of which was difficulty in fulfilling book orders in a timely manner. Dick was a knowledgeable, intelligent sports buff and I well remember once having a protracted but friendly argument with him on the merits of Earnshaw Cook's analytical treatises on use of baseball statistics.

On page 3 of this issue of the newsletter is a list of the items in the Bibliography Committee's *SABR Research Guide Series* and information on how to obtain them. Besides affording opportunity to learn what subjects they cover and ordering ones desired, the purpose of publishing the list is, once more, an attempt to encourage our members to participate in preparing more guides on subjects of their own choosing, which may be helpful to baseball researchers in any major or minor way, and of any length short of book length—a page, or more, or MORE! Please heed our plea, O silent members!!

It worries me frequently that the labels "bibliography" and "literature" convey the impression that the Bibliography Committee is principally for academic and scholarly contributions. Academics and scholars are welcome and we do include a few—but that premise just isn't so!!!! For us, "bibliography", in a very broad sense, loosely defines an activity in which we can be helpful to the SABR membership by locating or clarifying information to assist baseball researchers, whether we attempt to do so on a grand scale (as the Baseball Online project intends) or in small bits and pieces (as the *SABR Research Guide Series* accomplishes). Certainly many of you have the interest and knowledge to produce something—specialized bibliographies, indexes, finding aides, guides concerning use of bibliographic tools, sources, or published or unpublished materials—that others bearing similar interest would appreciate. If, as I hope, I have just wrung your bell, let me hear from you, please.

Book Reviews

Frank V. Phelps

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THE SPORTSBOOK FILE

Published by Barry Mendell, 1069 Alexander Drive, Rotterdam Jct., NY 12150 (phone 518/887-2768)

A new, six-times-per-year newsletter. Each issue (12 pages) profiles 20 new sports books, furnishing bibliographic details, retail prices, and factual summaries of contents; also includes a buy/sell exchange department. Issue #1 states: "The heart of this publication will be letting you know of the latest sports books and providing enough information so you can decide which ones to buy" and offering "summaries rather than opinion". Baseball predominates in the first two issues, as it does in the sports publishing market. My personal reaction: thumbs up! The newsletter is solidly informative and professionally presented. I congratulate Barry Mendell and wish his publication the success it deserves. Subscription: \$15/yr (although issue #1 said \$25).

MAJOR LEAGUES: The Formation, Sometimes Absorption and Mostly Inevitable Demise of 18 Professional Baseball Organizations, 1871 to Present

David A. Pietrusza. Published by McFarland & Co., 1991. 368p. 6 x 9 in., b/w illus, \$35.

The author not only follows the theme expressed in the subtitle through the rise and fall of the now acknowledged major leagues but pulls together the key facts in the history of all other leagues formed with pretensions of becoming major leagues, including some which never made it to the playing fields. He accomplishes this with appropriate detail, analysis of cause and effect, and sufficient biographical background to characterize the motives and actions of the principal participants. Greed, double-dealing, and wars recur repeatedly in the telling, as well as courage, initiative, and perseverance. Although source notes are absent, an appropriate bibliography is included, and the author generally indicates in the text the sources of his many quotes and important factual statements. In my opinion, this is a first-class work in the comprehensive baseball history category and belongs on the shelf along with those impressive volumes of Harold Seymour and David Voigt; and should be an important secondary reference for anyone un-

dertaking a study of any of the leagues involved, particularly those that have received less attention to date.

WAYNE COUNTY SPORTS HISTORY 1871-1972:
Including High School, Amateur and Professional
Sports Stories, Statistics and All-Time Records
Keith Sutton. Published by The Wayne Independent,
Honesdale, Pa., 1973. 264p. 7 x 9.5 in., b/w photos.

This book, unknown to me, was picked up from a bookdealer on a hunch and turned out to be a jewel, about 45% of it baseball, most interesting and informative—all of which emphasizes and justifies the habit of looking out for general sports books that center on particular locations. The name Keith Sutton should have rung a bell immediately (but didn't) as Keith, long-time sports journalist, is one of SABR's Cooperstown 16, and still resides at Honesdale, in retirement. Besides a very remarkable woman athlete, Ruth McGinnis, and golfer Art Wall, Wayne County, Pa. produced Christy Mathewson, Eddie Murphy, Tom Burns, Tom Jones, Fred Sherry (nee Schuerholz), Bill McCarren (long-time scout), and others who did or didn't reach the majors. The book contains a good deal about them and others as well as a most thorough review, with records, of organized sports in Wayne County. Keith reminds me there are still close relatives of some of those ballplayers in the area and he can arrange contacts with them should any SABR researchers desire that.

REQUEST. Heidi Ziemer (5555 Kraus Road, Clarence, NY 14031) seeks information on a three-act play, *Second Guesser*, a "romantic comedy farce" by Harold M. Sherman that featured Al Schacht in the role of Sam Bumpus, "a fanatical Brooklyn rooter". The play was presented at the Opera House in Chicago in Feb. 1946.

Bibliography Committee Roster Changes and Additions

Ethan Casey
Gene Sunnen

New address: 3795 McKay Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80906-5705
New address: 1708 Lexington Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Send contributions for the Bibliography Committee newsletter to Skip McAfee, 5533 Colts Foot Court, Columbia, MD 21045.

SABR Research Guide Series

Each guide is a finding aide for baseball researchers. Most are subject indexes or other types of indexes to various books, book series, periodicals, or newspaper items. Some can be bibliographies (e.g., #10 below) or narratives (e.g., #9). The ranges of subjects, types, arrangements, and lengths are practically open-ended within the "finding aide" concept.

Bibliography Committee members are urged to undertake more such "labor of love" guide projects. Those intending to do so are requested to alert Cochair Frank V. Phelps (253 Bernard Drive, King of Prussia, PA 19406-1756; phone 215/265-1622) of that intent.

As each guide is "published", an announcement in *The SABR Bulletin* informs SABR members that they may obtain copies by submitting an appropriate self-addressed, stamped envelope to Phelps. The current postage estimate: 1-4 sheets = 29¢; 5-9 sheets = 52¢; 10-14 sheets = 75¢; and for each additional 5 sheets add another 23¢ stamp. If postage will exceed \$1, cash, check, or loose stamps are acceptable alternatives. (If postage rates increase, adjust the above amounts according to the new charge scale.) If any guides are "out of stock", there may be a slight delay before orders are filled.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Research Guide</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>#pages</u>	<u>#sheets</u>
1	Baseball Figures in <i>Current Biography</i>	Joseph Lawler	6/86	6	3
2	Professional Baseball Figures in <i>Who's Who in American Sports</i> (1928): An Index	Frank Phelps	10/86	4	2
3	<i>Baseball Register</i> : Overview & Index to Features and "Former Stars" Type Records	Bob McConnell	12/86	7	4
4	Indexes to "Stars" & Authors in <i>Baseball Stars of 1950, 1953-1975</i>	Frank Phelps	12/86	4	2
5	Author Index to <i>Guide to Baseball Literature</i> (Grobani, 1975)	Frank Phelps	3/87	12	6
6	Baseball Figures in <i>Dictionary of American Biography</i>	Frank Phelps	7/87	3	2
7	<i>Who's Who in Baseball</i> : Overview and Pre-1948 Subject Player Index	Frank Phelps	7/87	9	5
8	Index: Daguerreotypes of Great Stars of Baseball, published by <i>The Sporting News</i>	Bob McConnell	7/87	7	4
9	Collections on the History of American Baseball (National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, New York Public Library, Cleveland Public Library, Library of Congress)	Patricia Palmer	12/88	6	3
10	Baseball in History Journals (1980-1988)	Jim Sumner	4/89	12	6
11	Daguerreotypes in <i>The Sporting News</i> ; a Checklist	Bill Hugo	4/89	6	3
12	"Leaves from a Fan's Scrapbook" in <i>The Sporting News</i> ; a Checklist	Bill Hugo		7	4
13	<i>The Dope Book</i> : 1942, 1948-1985; a Subject Index	Bob McConnell	2/91	6	3
14	Box Scores of Major and Minor Leagues in <i>Sporting Life</i> and <i>The Sporting News</i> ; a Chronology	Frank Phelps	9/85	4	2