

Society for American Baseball Research

BIBLIOGRAPHY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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Comments from the Chair

Andy McCue

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Most of the Committee work this quarter has focused on getting The Baseball Index (TBI) up and running on the Web.

We've had a fantastic response to our plea for donations to help with this project. Members pledged and then delivered \$11,000, which will allow us to mount the database on the Web and make substantial progress toward creating the software which will help us distinguish between SABR members and non-members and charge for service. These last two tasks are tied up with SABR's own plans for the organization's Web site, which may affect both the cost and the timing. Ted Hathaway has a fuller report elsewhere on where we stand and when we hope to be able to announce the unveiling.

I'd like to recognize those members who contributed: Skip McAfee, Fred and Alma Ivor-Campbell, Steve Milman, Dick Miller, Bernie Esser, Rich Arpi, Terry Sloope, Ted Hathaway, and myself.

In other projects, Jim Lannen successfully scanned in one of the Committee's early Research Guides: Joe Lawler's "Baseball Figures in Current Biography" (through 1985). Jim is looking into further scanning and we hope to get these items on the SABR Web site in the near future. Also, is anyone interested in updating Joe's original work? *Current Biography* (an annual collection of profiles of figures in the news) is still being published annually. It should be available through major libraries (we can probably find one near you for you).

Skip McAfee has produced "Guidelines for Indexing a Baseball Book" (see copy enclosed with this issue of the newsletter), and Bruce Roth has embarked on the first index (Bob Feller's *Strikeout Story*, 1947) using these guidelines. I hope we can inspire some more volunteers for the task of producing indexes for important baseball books that were published without them.

The Baseball Index (TBI) 3rd Quarter 2001 Report

Ted Hathaway

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The most exciting development of this past quarter, or perhaps of any quarter, is the tremendous response we had to our appeal to Committee members to fund TBI's development for the World Wide Web. Thanks to some very generous members, DML Co. is now working on programming TBI to provide *anyone* with direct access to the database on the Web. I can't say at this point when exactly this will happen, but we hope soon, perhaps before the end of the year. Andy McCue and I will have more information with the next issue of the newsletter, but those online should watch for announcements on SABR-L.

In addition to the above news, the past quarter gave a large boost to the number of records in TBI:

Tim Cashion presented more than 3800 new records from *USA Today Baseball Weekly* (30,224 total records) as well as thousands of records from the STATS baseball annuals.

Brad Sullivan contributed 2937 records from 1962-63 and 1968-69 issues of *The Sporting News* (42,328 total records), 412 records from 1980-82 and 1989 issues of *Sports Illustrated* (6782 total records), and 48 records from 1950 issues of *Broadcasting* (607 total records).

Joe Murphy continued work on *Baseball Digest*, covering various issues from 1976 to 1987, indexing 585 articles (4672 total records). Joe has also begun work on issues of *Baseball Magazine* generously loaned to him by TBI contributor Bernie Esser, completing 63 articles indexed from 1943-44 issues.

Terry Sloope contributed another 152 indexed articles from 1956 issues of *Sport* (4325 total records).

Terry Smith has continued his work on early issues of *Baseball Magazine*, adding another 201 indexed articles from 1915-16 issues (keyed in by Terry Sloope) (2858 total records).

Bob Timmermann worked on the short-lived but significant publication, *The National Sports Daily* (1990-91), completing 354 indexed records; he entered the records into the TBI database using our online data entry form at: <http://www.rationalpastimes.com/dataentry.htm>

Also using our online data entry form, Al Capozzi indexed 55 articles from 1943-44 issues of *Baseball Digest* and Cary Butlein began work on recent issues of the *New York Mets Inside Pitch*.

Some additional publications of note: 76 articles indexed from 1941 issues of the *Minneapolis Tribune*, 75 articles from 2001 issues of *ESPN Magazine*, and 38 articles from various 19th century issues of *The Times* (of London).

The Baseball Index is the result of the work of our volunteers. Andy and I very much appreciate the contributions of all our volunteers. Thank you all.

TBI Statistics

File	Level 5	Level 4	Other	Total
Books	6,487	2,258	9,983	18,728
Book sections	10,151	4,105	223	14,479
Articles	131,124	1,446	7,724	140,294
Total	147,762	7,809	17,930	173,501

Book Reviews

Leverett T. (Terry) Smith

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WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR; A Memoir

Doris Kearns Goodwin. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997. 263p. \$25.

By now there must be a paperback of this book. I received this hardcover copy as a Christmas gift in 1997 and have just found time to read it. Goodwin begins her memoir with her experience of appearing as one of the "talking heads" on Ken Burns' *Baseball*. So many people wanted to talk with her about her experiences as a Dodger fan that she started a

book on the subject. Eventually she found herself taking on a much broader subject: "my own history of growing up in the fifties" (p.10).

Goodwin includes accounts of Dodgers seasons beginning with 1949 ("my first year as a Dodger fan") through 1957, but one should not read the book simply for these accounts. Others are certainly more accurate. Take for instance her account of the last game of the 1951 season. She reports that "in the eighth inning, a visibly tiring Newcombe pitched himself out of a jam" (p.152). If Newcombe was in a jam, my memory is that it wasn't the Giants' fault: they went out one-two-three, with pinch hitter Ray Noble taking a third strike for the second out being the lowest point of a gloomy half-inning for Giant fans. Then in Goodwin's next paragraph, she reports that "Don Mueller hit a bouncing ground ball up the middle"; alas, the ball actually bounced past Gil Hodges' glove, and Hodges was holding Al Dark close to first base.

But those of us primarily interested in this kind of accuracy will miss the point of the yearly summaries and the point of the book. Thomas Wolfe in 1938 described baseball as part of the "weather of our lives", and baseball is important in Goodwin's narrative because it was a significant part of her growing up. Perhaps the book's title is the best example of this. "Wait Till Next Year" is easily recognizable as the cry of disappointed but eternally hopeful Dodger fans (at least until 1955, that glorious year). By the end of the book, it stands for the Kearns family attitude toward life. She describes it as "the simple anthem that had served to comfort disconsolate Dodger fans and would now serve our family" (p.251).

An especially poignant part of the book for this elderly New York Giants fan is Goodwin's account (p.125-154) of the Dodgers' 1951 season, ended so suddenly and catastrophically by Bobby Thomson's home run. It is certainly excusable that Dodger fans might remember the events of that last game inaccurately. But Goodwin's characterization of Giants pitcher Sal Maglie as "a kind of nightmare" seems just right. Goodwin's account of her experience of this season as an eight-year-old struck me as quite moving and quite brave. I can't remember reading anything quite like it.

Wait Till Next Year is also of great interest for what it says, and what it doesn't say, about sport and race. In both *The Boys of Summer* (1972) and *The Era, 1947-1957* (1993), Roger Kahn shows that race is the dominant theme of the Brooklyn Dodgers of this era. Goodwin suggests that this was not necessarily the case for their fans (p.43-44):

"Only later would I come to understand the true significance of Robinson's achievement: the pioneering role he played in the struggle for civil rights, the fact that, after his breakthrough, nothing would ever be the same—in baseball, in sports, or in the country itself. When I was six it was Robinson, the man, the fiery second baseman, who filled my imagination, taking his huge leads off base, diving headlong to snag a line drive, circling the bases with his strange, pigeon-toed gait."

Certainly this isn't conclusive evidence that Robinson's presence did not make the problem of race immediate to baseball fans, but Goodwin's testimony is that her sense of racial injustice was awakened in 1957 by the events in Little Rock (p.230) and a journalist's disclosure of the fact of de facto segregation in the North (p.236). It was not so much a part of her being a Dodgers fan as it was of her growing up.

[Editor's note: Like Terry, I also received this book as a 1997 Christmas gift, but unlike Terry, I couldn't "wait till next year" to read it. I finished it on Christmas day and wrote a review of it for the January 1998 issue of the SABR Bibliography Committee newsletter. I also wrote Goodwin, sharing my experiences as a Giants fan and indicating several apparent errors and mistakes in her book (e.g., Russ Hodges' "The Giants win the pennant!" refrain was on radio, not TV, and Warren Giles was NL President, not the baseball commissioner). She replied, thanking me for my "warm letter" and sharing my experiences "so generously", and then commented: "I shall always be grateful for having found in history a vocation that allows me, every now and then, to believe that the past really is still with us, that the people we love live on in memories so long as we continue to tell the stories of their lives."]

A DAY IN THE BLEACHERS

Arnold Hano. New York: Da Capo Press, 1982.

This book was first published by Thomas Y. Crowell in 1955. The text is unchanged in the 1982 edition, except for the addition of a thoughtful introduction by Roger Kahn. To elaborate one of Kahn's main points—that "almost everything the book represents has changed or vanished"—it is a book about a very different world from that of the 21st century. Its subject is the first game of the 1954 World Series from the perspective of a New York Giants fan. The Giants and the Dodgers were then three years away from their cross-country adventure. There were 16 major-league baseball teams in 13 cities.

The 1954 season was certainly one in which everything went right for the Giants (Hano describes the season as "lucky" [p.13]). And the rightest thing of all had to be the availability of Mays for his first full season. He had joined the team in May 1951 and left for the army at the end of May 1952. Since Mays had a great regular season, and because he performed sensationally in the first game of the 1954 Series, it is particularly interesting to see how Hano presents him in this book.

Hano doesn't say much about Willie's batting (Mays led the National League in batting in 1954 with a .345 average), but he does dwell on Mays' fielding, and the game provides the perfect occasion for this, involving, as it does, what was immediately known as "The Catch". The photo of Mays taking Vic Wertz' drive over his left shoulder as he approached the warning track just right of straight-away center field is on the cover of the Da Capo edition. Hano's treatment of The Catch is revealing. He says nothing of the *length* of Wertz' drive, but states (p.116) that he had never seen a ball hit as *hard* as Wertz hit this one. Hano characterizes Wertz' drive as "not the longest ball ever hit in the Polo Grounds, not by a comfortable margin" (p.121). It may seem surprising that the first thing Hano says of his reaction to the hardest hit he ever saw was: "I was not immediately perturbed" (p.116). Like all Giants fans in 1954, Hano was used to Mays' ability to catch anything that stayed in the ballpark.

I listened to the radio broadcast of this game, and was surprised to read in the papers the next day that Mays had made an unusually difficult play. Hano concludes (p.123) that "had not Mays made that slight movement with his head as though he were going to look back in the middle of flight, he would have caught the ball standing still". Not exactly a routine catch, but Hano and the radio announcers and I weren't surprised that Willie had caught up with the ball.

Hano devotes much of his time to Willie's throwing. Two pages (45-46) discuss Mays' practicing his throwing from then outfield during pregame warmups. Hano comments (p.142) on a throw to third made by Mays to hold Wertz to a double in the 10th inning: "Here was the final climaxing of an exhibition of power, speed and accuracy that must be unequalled in any sport." And Hano reserves his highest praise (p.123-124) for the throw Mays made to keep Larry Doby at second after The Catch: "What an astonishing throw, to make all other throws ever before it, ... appear the flings of teen-age girls." His throwing was surely the most wondrous dimension of this most wondrous ballplayer.

Of everything in Charles Einstein's biography of Mays, *Willie's Time* (1979), I remember most vividly manager Bill Rigney's instruction to young Giants infielders (p.50): "When they hit it to him, please go to a base. Don't confuse the issue by asking me why. Just *be* there." And Paul Metcalf, with the instinct of poets, titled his poem on the play, not "The Catch", but "Willie's Throw". Metcalf's poem is most readily available in *Baseball I Gave You all the Best Years of My Life* (5th ed., 1992) edited by Richard Grossinger and Lisa Conrad, or volume 2 (1976-1986) of Metcalf's *Collected Works* (1997).

Hano's *A Day in the Bleachers* is about many other things than Willie Mays, and it mostly tells us what it was like to be a baseball fan in 1954, something worth remembering or learning about. But for this reader, this time, the focus was on Willie Howard Mays.

**Bibliography Committee
Society for American Baseball Research**

Guidelines for Indexing a Baseball Book

prepared by Skip McAfee (Oct. 2001)

Why Index?

Many baseball books, especially those published during the first half of the 20th century, do not contain indexes. To maximize the usefulness of such books, the Bibliography Committee has undertaken the project to provide name and/or subject indexes. The indexes become more valuable when the books are scheduled to be reprinted or revised. These guidelines have been prepared to ensure a certain amount of uniformity and standardization of indexing.

Philosophy of indexing

An index must *anticipate* the needs of the reader, and not mislead the reader. It is not necessary to index "everything"; rather, try to index the items a) of most interest to the reader and b) that express the author's objective in writing the book. An index is judged on how well it reflects the subjects and persons covered in the book, and the amount of time it saves the reader in searching for information.

Indexing plan

- 1) Select a hard-copy first edition to index. It is possible that a paperback has identical pagination, but that needs to be verified by comparing with a hard-bound copy.
- 2) Read the book entirely for enlightenment and enjoyment, and for an overall understanding of the author's intent or objective, while keeping an eye open for possible indexing decisions.
- 3) Decide on the extent of completeness and consistency of indexing entries and on the depth of indexing (exhaustivity) based on the needs of the reader/user, while keeping the index within a reasonable limit. The index should not overwhelm the reader with hundreds of page citations to a single subject or person.
- 4) Re-read the book, indexing as you go. Determine subjects, proper nouns, names of persons, events, teams, leagues, ballparks, places (cities). Try to provide a subject index as well as a name index.
- 5) Make a record of indexing decisions (don't rely on your memory); e.g., how often to index "New York Yankees" in a book on DiMaggio's hitting streak or "St. Louis Cardinals" in a biography of Musial. You may have to add to or revise decisions as indexing proceeds.
- 6) Use uncontrolled vocabulary (natural language) rather than a specific list of indexing terms (such as The Baseball Index' thesaurus or *The New Dickson Baseball Dictionary*, although such sources can serve as guides). It is better to use the terms used by the author, with the addition of appropriate cross-references.

Don't index:

- 1) Concepts, subjects, or persons (esp. non-baseball personalities) that are only mentioned in passing, or are not germane to the purpose of the book (but non-baseball topics, such as the political and military scene in 1941 during DiMaggio's streak, should be indexed if the author relates such scenes to the streak).
- 2) Names of players in a list or box score (but do index the names of players in a photo caption).

Subheadings

Subheadings (indented two or three spaces on their own lines) are appropriate when an index entry otherwise would contain a great many page citations. For example, for a book on DiMaggio's hitting streak, don't list "DiMaggio, Joe" only (he'd likely appear on practically every page), but identify particular aspects (as subheadings), such as "errors by (during streak)", "Feller, Bob, comments by or on", "batting stance", "injury to", "name, spelling of", "official scorer decisions", "smoking", "strikeouts", and "wardrobe". For our purposes, one level of subheadings should suffice, arranged alphabetically or chronologically.

Cross-references

Use cross-references as often as necessary. Double entries reflect an inconsistent index. Examples of cross-references include:

walk. *See* base on balls
fall classic. *See* World Series (give year in parentheses)
nickel curve. *See* slider
baseball park. *See* ballpark

Mechanics of indexing

Three methods of indexing are: 1) using large sheets; 2) using index cards; and 3) using a software program.

I have never used computer programs, but they have certain advantages. They automate routine tasks, such as sorting and producing camera-ready copy. An apparent disadvantage (to me) is having to index at your computer and typing in the same entry over and over again (although all same or similar entries are brought together at the touch of a finger). One of the best is Macrex, used extensively by members of the Society of Indexers; it is available from Wise Bytes, P.O. Box 3051, Daly City, CA 94015-0051; phone 650-756-0821.

I favor using large sheets of paper rather than index cards. The latter consume time in searching for and filing and refiling cards. Large sheets of paper may be primitive, but they save time in looking up entries and recording page citations. Depending on the book, the number of sheets can range from two to five (e.g., A-G, H-Q, and R-Z). "Problems" occur when you run out of space, in which case I use arrows, asterisks, or additional sheets.

An alphabetical index should be letter-by-letter (not word-by-word), ignoring spaces. However, "St. Louis" is indexed as if it were spelled "Saint Louis" and "Ft. Myers" as if it were spelled "Fort Myers".

Use a comma after each entry and before giving page citations. Use complete numbers for pages; e.g., 151-156, not 151-6.

If a player is mentioned more than once independently on a given page, provide the page citation only once. If a player is mentioned independently on succeeding pages, provide citations for both pages, separated by a comma; but if a player is mentioned continuously on two consecutive pages, provide a citation for both pages with a hyphen.

Problems

Use the latest edition of *Total Baseball* for the preferred usage of a player's name. Distinguish between two people with the same name by giving birth-death dates [e.g., Walsh, Ed (1881-1959) and Walsh, Ed (1905-1937)], using middle initials (e.g., Hunter, Brian L. and Hunter, Brian R.), using nicknames (e.g., James, Big Bill and James, Seattle Bill), using first names when the players are known by their nicknames [e.g., Leonard, Emil (Dutch) and Leonard, Hubert (Dutch)], or using other identifying characteristics, such as occupation [e.g., Kramer, Jack (baseball player) and Kramer, Jack (tennis player)].

Record misspellings of names and use the correct spellings in the index. List the misspellings and the corrections at the beginning of the index. Use the latest edition of *Total Baseball* as the source for correct spellings.

Provide a "scope note" to further identify an entry to avoid confusion with other entries. For example, add the name of the league in parentheses when entering "St. Louis Browns" if the reader is unable to distinguish between the American Association and the American League.

After completing your index

Give the title, author, publisher, copyright date, and name of the indexer at the top of the first page of the index. Send two paper copies and one electronic copy (on floppy, either MS Word or text) to Andy McCue, 4025 Beechwood Place, Riverside, CA 92506 (909-787-4954; agmccue@pe.net)