

BIBLIOGRAPHY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

January 1993 (93-1)

A Co-Chair's Comments

Frank V. Phelps

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The Charles W. Mears Collection, the subject of Mike Sparrow's excellent overview article in *Baseball in Cleveland* (SABR, 1990), is housed in the Cleveland Public Library. Recently, Bill Hugo obtained a copy of the library's 18-page list of the items that comprise this valuable historical resource. Currently, Bill is retyping the list for better readability and reproduction. Subsequently, Bill's product will be made available to SABR members on request.

As mentioned in a prior newsletter, Rick Johnson prepared and submitted an individual-name index to *The Brooklyn Dodgers*, by Frank Graham (1945). Now, Committee members have produced three more such indexes: Bob Bailey indexed *The Detroit Tigers*, by Fred Lieb (1946); and Bob Boynton indexed *The Cleveland Indians*, by Franklin Lewis (1949), and *Veeck ... as in Wreck*, by Bill Veeck with Ed Linn (1962). These are considerable accomplishments. The tasks involve careful planning, painstaking detail, and countless hours of labor. Will other Committee members undertake book-indexing assignments? If you accept this challenge, please contact me. We particularly desire indexes for other books of the Putnam Big League Library series (tearp histories, biographies of Gehrig, Mack, and McGraw, *The Baseball Story*, *The Umpire Story*, and the 1965 edition of *The Story of the World Series*), but, of course, work on any worthwhile unindexed book is welcome.

The Committee's former co-chair, Terry Smith, is a respected book reviewer whose critiques have appeared in various publications over the years. Hence, it was a great pleasure to have his first review for us appear in the Oct. 1992 issue of the Committee newsletter (three more appear in this issue). Thank you, Terry, for providing some class to the newsletter—and please, keep the reviews coming! [Frank, are you saying the newsletter ain't classy? —Ed.]

Picking the best baseball book of 1992 will be a sport in itself. The choices of those selectors who do this annually are awaited attentively. Having read or examined relatively few of those which may be considered seriously, I cannot even guess about winners. From a narrower view—that of pure researching value—I would nominate *Index to The Sporting News* (a subject index from 1975 to 1990), which was described in the Apr. 1992 issue of the Committee newsletter. On a more general basis, within my limited exposure, I consider Marc Okkonen's *Baseball Memories 1900-1909* (Sterling Pub.) to be a remarkably intriguing work because of Marc's innovative choices of material as well as an excellent text and innumerable photographs. That this should be so is no surprise in view of Marc's prior books on the Federal League and baseball uniforms. Essentially *Baseball Memories* is a collection of facts that stimulates the imagination to romanticize or to research. Considering the gradual but persistent growth in the number of worthwhile SABR Research Committees, do you suppose we will ever have a Dead Ball (1900-1919) Research Committee?

Baseball Online Project

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The project continues to make steady progress, especially with the cataloging of 1991 periodicals.

The SABR Board of Directors decided not to grant money to the project at this time, partly because we did not have a specific need for the money (\$500) we asked for and partly to see if we could organize and recruit volunteers successfully. First, in repeated thanks, I should mention that we do not have a specific need for money because Skip McAfee has generously and repeatedly met our requests for photocopying (savings of hundreds of dollars). Second, the Board expressed its encouragement for the project, indicating that it wanted to consider offering funding in the future once the organizational underpinnings and volunteer support were demonstrated.

In the six months since the St. Louis convention, we have made considerable strides toward these goals. We had already produced manuals for volunteers to use in recording entries for the project, and in St. Louis, we decided to test these materials and our ability to recruit volunteers by completing a bibliography for 1991.

The project has been divided into two groups. Ted Hathaway (5645 Fremont Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55419; home phone 612/869-1420) has been handling the periodicals while I have been doing books and other one-time publications (such as the Street & Smith yearbooks).

Regarding periodicals, Ted has put together a volunteer team that is sweeping toward completion. Gerald Kirsch and Edward Summer are working on *The Sporting News*; Brad Sullivan and Tom Stillman on *USA Today Baseball Weekly*; Raymond Lisi and Tom Gaskill on *Baseball America*; Virgil Deodato on *Sports Illustrated*; Rich Arpi on *Baseball Digest*; and John Gregory on *The Minneapolis Review of Baseball*. Mendal Mearkle contacted SABR member Bob Lemke, publisher of *Sports Collectors Digest*, and Bob generously provided a full 1991 run of that publication, which Mendal is now cataloging. Ted himself is working on *Sport* and *Inside Sports*, as well as cataloging miscellaneous articles from nonbaseball publications. His biggest need at the moment is a volunteer willing to take on *The National Sports Daily*. Those of you salivating to volunteer to work on periodicals or with access to other publications not listed here should contact Ted.

Regarding books, we have made strides since the last newsletter. Bernie Esser, Bob Boynton, Doug Pappas, Bobby Plapinger, and Dick Beverage have all contributed listings. Bernie has done extraordinary work within his own personal collection, turning up many books I had despaired of finding.

In addition, I recently began sending letters to SABR authors and publishers seeking donations of books we are interested in. While there hasn't been a lot of time for responses, I've been very pleased with what has come in. Ralph Horton donated a complete set of the guide and register reprints he produced in 1991. Since these items have a retail price of close to \$200, that's a considerable piece of typical Horton generosity. Ed Bartell (Wm. C. Brown) considerably donated copies of all of Brown's baseball books published in 1991 and 1992. Merritt Clifton, Larry Meyers, Murray Browne, Michael & Mary Adams Oleksak, Stew Thornley, Myles Friedman, and Russ Schneider all donated copies of their 1991 works. Ken Dunn donated his next-to-last copy of his *Messiah College Baseball Encyclopedia*, another work I never thought we'd track down. C.P. Wilson sent in a copy of Bob Terrell's book on McCormick Field.

Still, there is a lot of work to be done. Included with this issue of the newsletter are two lists:

1) List where the number in front of each listing is "1", indicating items we still have not found. These are organized by place of publication. Frankly, we are not even totally sure that these items

were published in 1991. Anybody who has a copy of any of these items and is willing to share information is encouraged to contact me (see address and phone in byline). If you know a way of obtaining copies of these items, I'd appreciate hearing about this as well.

2) List where the number of front of each listing is "4", indicating items seen by a volunteer who confirmed a 1991 publishing date and recorded all the pertinent publishing details, but hasn't read the item. These are arranged by the name of the author. Still, we need a volunteer to read the item and verify that the major topics it covers have been identified and recorded properly. Please contact me if you're willing to follow up.

Even if you only have access to one publication, that's a start. Someone near a good university library who can take a look at the academic papers on University Microfilms would be wonderfully helpful. We also could use volunteers to check team publications for every major league team except the Dodgers. All media guides except for the Reds have been cataloged, but we've done only a few yearbooks, none of the team-issued scorebooks that contain articles, and no other team publications. If you own some of these items, or are willing to approach the local team to have them donated, please contact me.

Again, I'd like to thank all the people who have contributed so far and encourage those of you looking to do some Committee work to get involved in the project. At its most basic level, this project involves reading articles and books on baseball, something it would seem most Committee members would enjoy doing any time.

LETTERS

On Being a Member of a SABR Research Committee

In reference to John Willoughby's letter in the Oct. 1992 issue of the Committee newsletter, I believe he is not entirely clear on the difference between being a member of SABR and being a member of a specific Research Committee. An extremely high percentage of SABR members are not interested in research. These members, for the most part, belong to the Society to receive our various publications and to attend national and regional meetings. There is no quarrel with this. The large membership enables SABR to finance our publications and it supplies an audience for the results of members' research.

When a member joins a specific Research Committee, it is presumed that he/she is interested in taking an active part in the work of the committee. Most of the material in committee newsletters is directed toward the activities of the people on the committee. It costs money to send out newsletters and there is work involved. Envelopes must be addressed and stuffed. The cost and time requirement may not seem like much, but if one half of all SABR members decided to join a committee, you can see the problem.

Significant research from all Research Committees is made available to the entire membership. In addition, requests can be made for any committee newsletter by contacting the SABR office. Details are carried in the *SABR Bulletin* each month.

Robert McConnell
Wilmington, Dela.

Although I sympathize with John Willoughby's appeal to be recognized as a member of the Bibliography Committee, I am left with the question of where do I come in on all of this. When I received my last mailing from the Committee, I noticed the postage on the envelope came to 75¢, and that there were 21 pages of material in the envelope. The cost had to have been at least \$1 for the postage and paper alone. If I were to join all of the committees in SABR so that I could receive all of their mailings, the cost of satisfying my desire would be far in excess of my annual dues, considering that I also receive the various annual and special publications.

Yes, the answer is that any member can receive much of the material various committees produce by remitting a nominal amount of cash to the SABR office. No committee can afford to have its membership so large that the expense of mailing its material becomes financially burdensome.

William F. Hugo
Cincinnati, Ohio

Baseball Pulp Fiction Magazines

I am in the process of collecting data on the two-dozen-or-so baseball and sports fiction magazines of the 1930s and 1940s. I am active in the pulp field and have requested the pulp community to provide me with data from their collections. The data include magazine title, author, and story information. I am aware of some large university collections but am not pursuing these at this time.

I would like to know if a) anyone has an interest in the baseball/sports pulps and b) any efforts in the past or at present have been expended in collecting such information. Also, I would like to know if there are any pulp collectors in SABR who may be interested in supporting such a project as I have outlined.

John Dinan
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19th-Century Baseball

I am in the final stages of editing a book, tentatively titled *Early Innings: A Documentary History of Nineteenth-Century Baseball*, which includes 142 articles, book excerpts, letters, poems, and the like, relevant to 19th-century baseball. They focus not only on major league professional baseball but also amateur ball and African-American and female players; and they range geographically from Alaska and Canada to England. My goal is to give the reader a sense of how baseball was played, and perceived, in the 19th century.

The articles, arranged chronologically from 1825 to 1908, are divided into nine sections, each of which will begin with a short introduction. In addition, each document will have a brief annotation. It is my hope that this book will be a valuable aid to those conducting research on 19th-century baseball, as well as to those who merely wish to learn about baseball history first-hand. I am offering a list of the documents in the book to those who send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and 40¢ to cover the cost of copying. I am very interested in your comments, so let me know what you think.

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Book Reviews

Leverett T. (Terry) Smith, Jr.
Rocky Mount, N.C.

WRITING BASEBALL

Jerry Klinkowitz, ed. Urbana & Chicago: Univ. of Illinois Press, 1991. 204p. \$11.95 (paper)

This is a nice little anthology, a pleasure to read. It's not cosmic, like Kerrane & Grossinger's *Baseball Diamonds*. Nor is it eclectic, like the anthologies of Thorn and Einstein. In fact, it's highly focused on a certain kind of baseball writing, identified by Klinkowitz in his introduction. But let's withhold comment about the introduction for just a minute.

The 24 selections that make up the anthology are all brief; none takes up as many as 20 pages. Some of the selections are quite familiar: W.P. Kinsella's "How I Got My Nickname", a selection

from Jerome Charyn's *The Seventh Babe*, another from Kevin Kerrane's *Dollar Sign on the Muscle*. On the other hand, I encountered Steve Katz and Rick Wolff for the first time. Michael Stephens' "Why I Hate Baseball" was a particularly joyful discovery, its message highly unusual for an anthology of this sort.

The selections are organized in six sections: Kids, Minors, Scouts, Players, Professors, and Fans. Stephen Jay Gould's "The Creation Myths of Cooperstown" serves as a prologue; the final essay—Raymond Mungo's "Confessions from Left Field"—describes the death at the ballpark of a San Francisco Giants fan. Each selection, familiar or unfamiliar, is made new by association with its fellows.

Klinkowitz is Professor of English and University Distinguished Scholar at the Univ. of Northern Iowa and Executive Director of Waterloo Professional Baseball, Inc., a farm team of the San Diego Padres. He contributed both a preface and an introduction, the latter the longest piece in the book. Though he asserts in the preface that it's his work as a minor league executive that informs his selections, names such as Samuel Beckett, Roland Barthes, and Paul Valéry appear in the introduction; and the reader must grapple with such sentences as the following: "Just as baseball, with its 100 percent evidentiary presence, becomes the ideal science, so too do its properties allow it to serve as the perfect fictions" (p.5).

If this is not your cup of tea, skip the introduction. Its argument is simply this: the basis of Klinkowitz' selections is the writer's "attraction to the unadorned game" of baseball. "In our present age of writing baseball both the journalists and fictionists have shared an appreciation for baseball as a thing in itself. It provides the structure for their work at a time when structures and not content are considered the only palpable substance" (p.7). What results is an unusually lucid, direct, and unpretentious collection of baseball writings.

BLUE RUIN: A NOVEL OF THE 1919 WORLD SERIES

Brendan Boyd. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1991. 339p.

The subtitle of *Blue Ruin* equates it with Harry Stein's *Hoopla* (1983) and Eric Rolfe Greenberg's *The Celebrant* (1983), both of which also use the infamous Series of 1919. Boyd tells his story from the point of view of gambler Joseph (Sport) Sullivan, and this suggests it's more a book about gambling than a book about baseball or about gambling and baseball.

Everyone who has been fascinated by the fixing of the 1919 World Series and the various characters involved will want to see what Boyd does with the material. All the central and many peripheral figures are depicted in detail: Abe Attell, Arnold Rothstein, Chick Gandil, Ring Lardner, Joe Jackson, Babe Ruth, many others.

Those of us who were horrified to find Joe Jackson a right-handed batter in *Field of Dreams* may be a bit uneasy with the way Boyd manipulates dates in *Blue Ruin*. A lot of the odds-shifting that took place in the days before the World Series is located by Boyd in late August, a full month before the regular season concluded. Would Swede Risberg tell Eddie Cicotte on Aug. 2 that Cincinnati would win the World Series, as he does in *Blue Ruin* (p.45)? It seems a little early in the season. And those of us who were uneasy about the character of Joe Jackson in *Field of Dreams* may find Boyd's depiction of Christy Mathewson more profane than history would lead us to expect (p.122).

My own largest uneasiness with *Blue Ruin* lies with Boyd's use of the character of Sport Sullivan. By telling us the story through Sullivan's eyes, he has made Sullivan's character and its development the central focus of the book. Boyd could thus have made this a book about gambling and the mind of the gambler. Instead he creates in Sport Sullivan an alienated intellectual in search of identity. In *Blue Ruin*, Sullivan the gambler is an interesting man. His summaries of his meetings with Sleepy Bill Burns and Rothstein are among the best things in the book. But when he makes comments such as "rejoicing with troglodytes always makes me dyspeptic" (p.139) or "the overexamined life is no more livable than its oppo-

site" (p.195), I tend to nod off.

Despite this sort of pretension, for the most part *Blue Ruin* is both a good read and an intriguing reading of the events surrounding the 1919 series.

THE GREAT CHASE: THE DODGERS-GIANTS PENNANT RACE OF 1951

Harvey Rosenfeld. Jefferson City (N.C.): McFarland and Co., 1992. 277p. \$27.95.

The Great Chase is the latest of four books I know of that treat the 1951 National League pennant race. Thomas Kiernan's *The Miracle at Coogan's Bluff* (Thomas Y. Crowell) appeared in 1975. Two others were published in 1991: Ray Robinson's *The Home Run Heard 'Round the World* (HarperCollins) and Bobby Thomson's (with Lee Herman and Bill Gutman) *The Giants Win the Pennant! The Giants Win the Pennant!* (Zebra Books).

The Great Chase's cover is startling: a 1951 photograph of Roy Campanella with his arm around Willie Mays. Such companionship between bitter rivals! On the back cover, convention is restored: there is a photograph of Ralph Branca on the clubhouse steps, disconsolate and alone. Ten other photographs appear in the text of the book. There is a brief foreword by broadcaster Ernie Harwell. An introductory chapter sets the stage for the 1951 season, focusing of course on the New York National League teams.

The season up through the games of August 11 is covered in the first 40 pages. Then the author switches gears and the reader gets a day-by-day account of the remainder of the NL season. A final chapter reviews attempts to account for the amazing Giant comeback and assesses its significance. There are seven appendices that give the final NL standings, Giant and Dodger player statistics, all the scores of the Giants' 16-game winning streak in August with the box score of the final game, the final scores of all the Giants' games beginning August 11, and finally the box scores of each team's final regular season game and the three playoff games. The book is indexed.

Author Rosenfeld, described on the book's back cover as a "Brooklyn native" and "professor of English" at the City Univ. of New York and St. John's Univ., has been through the New York newspapers of the time and much other material besides. In addition, he has interviewed many of the surviving players, and the resulting book has some of the suspense, and some of the pace, of the actual 1951 season itself. There is much in it for the baseball researcher.

Nevertheless, I found reading this book a rather frustrating experience, both as a general reader and a serious researcher. It is not well-written. Here are a few sample sentences:

"A former Louisiana State University football star, Dark was the 1948 National League rookie of the year and the starting shortstop for the first time in his career" (p.60).

"The sidearming Maglie faced a lineup filled with right-handed power that posed a difficult problem to analyze" (p.122).

"However, the Dodger runs were bunched in the first five innings, and the Bums stayed off the scoreboard until the ninth" (p.146).

It is hard to tell what Rosenfeld intended in any of these sentences. A good editor could have helped, but *The Great Chase* does not seem well-edited, either. There are too many typographical errors, and they sometimes suggest an unfamiliarity with both the game and the season, as when Thomson's home run in the first game of the playoffs is identified (p.207) as his 21st rather than 31st, or when Dodger manager Chuck Dressen is cited as preferring "not to start Preacher Roe again this season" before the Dodgers' "forty-eighth game" (p.171). Most peculiar is the spelling of Dodger outfielder Carl Furillo's nickname "Skoonj", always in this book spelled "SkoonJ", except once when it comes out "Skoon J."

The researcher is apt to be frustrated for different reasons. There are no footnotes and no bibliography. Rosenfeld nowhere describes the research he did. As a consequence, it is frequently

difficult to understand the sources of his information, and sometimes impossible. McFarland & Co. clearly wants to be known as a major publisher of baseball books. This one will not help its reputation.

Bibliography Review

Andy McCue
Riverside, Calif.

THE BASEBALL FILE: A COMPREHENSIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AMERICA'S NATIONAL PASTIME

Marion Fournier, Richard W. Stark, Jean-Michel Johnson, and Gilles Chiasson, eds. 1992. Sport Information Resource Centre, 1600 James Naismith Dr., Gloucester, Ont., Canada K1B 5N4 (phone 613/748-5658). 176p. \$43.95 (incl. shipping)

This is, as far as I know, the first hard-copy publication from the Sport Information Resource Centre (SIRC), which has been keeping a database of sports publications for about 10 years now. Unfortunately, it's something of a disappointment.

The book has distinct strengths. Its listings for academic works on baseball is superior to anything currently available in print. It lists dissertations, theses, and academic papers on a wide range of baseball topics, most apparently available through University Microfilms.

It also contains by far the best collection I've ever seen of references to works on the medical aspects of baseball: physiology, kinesiology, biomechanics, psychology. If you want to know the state of medical research on sore arms or the proper throwing mechanics and how to teach them, *The Baseball File* has it all.

However, the bibliography isn't very useful or extensive. The introduction and organization leave some doubt as to exactly what time period is covered by the publication, although almost everything is from the past 10 years. When I called to order, I was told it had about 5000 citations, which seems about right. For reference, Grobani's *Guide to Baseball Literature* has about 3000 and Smith's *Baseball: A Comprehensive Bibliography* has 21,000.

The content is very spotty. Some periodicals (a group as diverse as *Sports Illustrated*, *Illinois State Historical Society Magazine*, and *Physician and Sportsmedicine*) have been followed. Others (*Baseball Digest*, *Baseball America*, *The Sporting News*, and *Sport*) have not.

The biographical section contains works on only 127 persons (players, commissioners, managers, owners, etc.). Bob Feller, to pluck one Hall of Famer from many, does not exist in the bibliography. Babe Ruth's section, one of the most extensive, contains 30 citations, including Rich Marazzi's article on Al Schacht in *Baseball History*. Of all the books on Mickey Mantle, who earns only 7 total entries, only two show up.

Topically, the compilation can also be thin. There is no section on works on the minor leagues, although a few are scattered throughout. While there are sections on politics, physics, clothing, and anthropometry, there is no separate section on the Negro Leagues. The Providence Grays rates its own section among the teams, but all the others are current franchises or their predecessors.

The entries are occasionally annotated, but most annotations appear to be abstracts of academic articles. When available, these can be very useful.

Overall, there are many useful things about this publication, but the price seems a bit steep for aiding the kind of historical research in which SABR members are likely to be engaged.

The Senior Professional Baseball Association *Essay, Bibliography, and Statistical Summary*

by

Edward Hathaway

Includes more than 550 sources, 19 pages of statistical data, and a 4000-word overview and assessment of this short-lived venture. 64p., spiral-bound. Only \$7 (includes postage). Send request with check to: Ted Hathaway, 5645 Fremont Ave., South, Minneapolis, MN 55419.

New Members of the Bibliography Committee

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1. Kelley, Martin. Baseball in and Around New York, 1901-1951: Viewed Through the Eyes of an Old Timer
1. O'Neill, Shane, ed. Bill Mazeroski's Baseball '91 5
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Ann Arbor, Mi: University Microfilms International 11
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Cleveland: Edgewater Books 3
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1. Richard, Jim. Not Too High, Not Too Low: Stress Management Strategies for Professional Baseball Players and Their Fans
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1. 1991 Radio/TV Cable Directory
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Impact Player 3
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Iola, Mi: Krause Publications 3
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1. Organizational Record Book: New York Mets 1991
St. Petersburg, Fl: Baseball Blue Book, Inc.
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St. Petersburg, Fl: Baseball Blue Book, Inc.
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St. Petersburg, Fl: Baseball Blue Book, Inc.
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Thomaston, Ct: Reliable Rotisserie
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Toronto: Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame
1. Barden, Renardo. Base Stealers
Vero Beach, Fl: Rourke Corp.
1. Barden, Renardo. MVPs
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