

# Society for American Baseball Research

## Bibliography Committee Newsletter

April 1993 (93-2)

### Committee Notes

Andy McCue, co-chair

4025 Beechwood Place, Riverside, CA 92506

909/787-4954 (home) or 909/782-7505 (work)

Pardon the different look of the newsletter. Editor Skip McAfee is between jobs and thus without access to a computer. I have stepped in, but since we have different computer types and different graphics capabilities, the newsletter inevitably looks different. We hope to have Skip back in the batter's box by the next issue, but if you have any submissions for the next newsletter, please send them either to Frank Phelps or myself.

Before the next newsletter is due out (July) I hope to see many of you in San Diego at SABR's annual convention. It will be held June 24-27 at the Town & Country Hotel. Details and registration forms were in the March SABR newsletter. The time and place for the committee's meeting hasn't been set as I write this, so you'll have to wait until you get there. The meeting will be devoted to discussing the projects we've worked on over the past year and kicking around any new ideas. If you have anything you would like to insure gets on to the agenda, please call or drop me a note before mid-June.

Rich Arpi's Current Baseball Publications for the first quarter of 1993 is also included in this mailing.

One new member to report, SABR veteran John Pardon, P.O. Box 728, Crugers, NY 10521. (914) 737-1265

### A Co-Chair's Comments

Frank V. Phelps

253 Bernard Dr.

King of Prussia, PA 19406-1756

Rich Arpi's CBP (Current Baseball Publications) annual, Volume 7, Number 5, covering baseball books published during the calendar year 1992 is now available. It includes 362 citations on 24 pages (a dozen sheets on both sides). If you wish to secure a copy, please send me \$2 in cash, stamps or check payable to Frank V. Phelps to cover reproduction and mailing costs.

During a recent telephone conversation with a New York City sportswriter, I was told that the book dealer Bernard Titowsky of the Austin Book Shop in Kew Gardens, NY has died. Titowsky frequently sent baseball book catalogues to SABR members. No information about disposition of his stock was available from my caller.

With such great quantities of new baseball books published each year now, the will to resist the huge price tags and the patience to await the appearance of desired items on remainder tables or in cheaper paperbound editions pays off. Recently the autobiographies of Tommy John and Pam Postema, retailed at \$20, became remaindered at \$2.98; and the two-volume *Encyclopedia of Major League Baseball Team Histories*, edited by Peter Bjarkman, and comprised of articles on team histories authored by nothing but SABR members, originally published by Meckler at \$65 per volume, is now in paperbound edition, revised and enlarged, at \$14.95 each.

## The Baseball On-Line Project.

Andy McCue (address above)

At the committee annual meeting in San Diego, Ted Hathaway and I plan to provide a demonstration of the Baseball On-Line project. We plan to have a computer in residence and should be able to demonstrate the uses to which the bibliographical database might be put. We believe we will have somewhere over 5,000 citations in the database by June, all from 1991. For those of you who haven't heard of the project before, we are attempting to create the ultimate bibliography of baseball research materials. It will be kept on computer and made available to SABR members and the general public in a yet-to-be-determined manner. To test the feasibility of the project, the committee has been working since last June to index books, pamphlets, magazine articles and other material about baseball published in 1991.

Ted has been handling the periodicals side with a dedicated cast of volunteers. We'd especially like to mention Brad Sullivan, Virgil Diodato, Gerald Kirsch, Thomas Stillman, Edward Simmer, Raymond Lisi, Mendel Mearkle, Lee Temenson and Rich Arpi. Ted could still use some more help, especially volunteers to work on *The Sporting News* (a regrettably thin publication these days) and *Spitball*. Anyone interested should please contact Ted at 5645 Fremont Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55419.

I have been working on the books side, with a great deal of help from Bernie Esser plus aid from Dave Kelly, Bob Boynton, Fred Ivor-Campbell, Bobby Plapinger, Steve Roney and Jim O'Donnell. There are still a number of books we need help on and lists of them are attached to the back of the newsletter. The page of books whose listings begin with the number 1 are those which we haven't been able to find. We're not even sure they were published in 1991. If you can find any of these books (I believe a couple are actually spring training preview magazines), it would be greatly appreciated. The back of that page, where every listing is preceded by a 4, are those books we have been able to examine quickly for publishing data. But we have not found any one with the time to read them thoroughly and insure enough descriptive terms are included to be of use to the researcher. If you have the opportunity to read (or have read) any of these books, please drop me a line. It would be best if the line was in advance in case others volunteer for the same item.

We have a couple of months left before the San Diego convention and we'd like to get both the periodicals and books listings completed by then. So any help is needed now.

The Putnam Sports Series, The Big League Library  
Frank Phelps  
(address above)

The 22 titles of this series of books published by G.P. Putnam's Sons of New York from 1942 though 1955 appear below in approximate chronological order. Each is followed by the author's name and the year of publication, and, for a few, the dates of reissues and revisions, as stated in *A Guide to Baseball Literature* by Anton Grobani, 1975. First, however, a bit of series background and the indication of why I draw attention to these books at this time.

The series was not planned in advance to be a series. Apparently, Putnam found a market eager for baseball books of quality during and immediately after World War II; and, spurred by Frank Graham and Fred Lieb, continuously pursued that market. Books #1 through #9 (the numbering system below is mine, not Putnam's) and their jackets did not mention any series. Then, in 1948, the jackets issued with #10, #11, and #12, printed the titles of #1 through #12 under the heading "The Big League Baseball Library" and, in a separate panel, named #10, #11, and #12 as part of the "Putnam Sports Series." No such matter appeared on the jacket of #13, but those of #14 and #15 changed the heading to "Putnam Pennant Series, the Big League Library" and those of #16 through the end restated the first part as "Putnam Sports Series."

Authored by sports writers who normally worked under tight deadlines and published in the mode of popular sports books, the books lacked indexes, source notes, and bibliographies; and there has to be some suspicion that, in spots, the authors fudged on research, accepted unproven traditions, and stated questionable conclusions as positive truths. I believe a current, critical study of each book would be a most worthwhile master project for our committee. I would much appreciate your feedback as to whether you consider this a feasible, practical task and on whether you personally would volunteer to participate in performing one or more these research endeavors.

(A) Prepare indexes. So far, those done or spoken for include #4, #5, #8, #9, #11, #14 and #16. The best guide to indexing, in my opinion, is in Chapter 18, "Indexes," in *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 13th edition. I will be glad to photo and forward the pertinent sections on request.

(B) Prepare ERRATA summaries, identifying incorrect matter or confirming little or none exists when so. See prior newsletters for ERRATA guidelines.

(C) Prepare critical, pro and con, books reviews for our newsletters.

(D) Prepare sets of source notes and bibliographies, closely tracking the paths of texts and utilizing both old and new materials.

In suggesting this master project, I realize many of our members have avid interest in the history of particular teams or on other subjects covered in the series, so it seems logical and natural a member might take on one or more or perhaps all of the above-stated tasks in relation to the book of his/her most absorbing interest. May I hear from you, please? The list of the 22 titles follows:

- # 1. *Lou Gehrig, A Quiet Hero*. By Frank Graham, 1942. A juvenile.
- # 2. *The New York Yankees: An Informal History*. by Graham. Grobani says reissued in 1945, 1946, 1948, 1951 and 1958. (McCue note: In the cases where I have compared updates and originals, the Cardinals and the Dodgers, the updating has generally amounted to a page or two at most.)
- # 3. *McGraw of the Giants: An Informal Biography*. by Graham. 1944. Grobani says Armed Forces edition issued in paper.
- # 4. *The St. Louis Cardinals: The Story of a Great Baseball Club*. by Fred G. Lieb, 1944. Grobani says reissued 1945, 1947.
- # 5. *The Brooklyn Dodgers: An Informal History*. by Graham, 1945. Grobani says Armed Forces edition issued in paper, reissued in 1947, 1948.
- # 6. *Connie Mack: Grand Old Man of Baseball*. by Lieb, 1945.
- # 7. *The Chicago Cubs*. by Warren Brown, 1946.
- # 8. *The Detroit Tigers*. by Lieb, 1946. Grobani says Armed Forces edition published in paper.
- # 9. *The Boston Red Sox*. by Lieb, 1947.
- #10. *The Cincinnati Reds*. by Lee Allen, 1948.
- #11. *The Pittsburgh Pirates*. by Lieb, 1948.
- #12. *The Boston Braves*. by Harold Kaese, 1948.
- #13. *The Story of the World Series*. by Lieb, 1949. Grobani says revised editions published in 1950, 1965.
- #14. *The Cleveland Indians*. by Franklin A. Lewis, 1949.
- #15. *The Baseball Story*. by Lieb, 1950.
- #16. *The New York Giants*. by Graham, 1952.
- #17. *The Chicago White Sox*. by Brown, 1952.
- #18. *The Philadelphia Phillies*. by Lieb and Stan Baumgartner, 1953.
- #19. *The Umpire Story*. by James M. Kahn, 1953.
- #20. *The Washington Senators*. by Shirley Povich, 1954.
- #21. *The Milwaukee Braves*. by Kaese and R.G. Lynch, an updated version of #12.
- #22. *The Baltimore Orioles: The History of a Colorful Team in Baltimore and St. Louis*. by Lieb, 1955.

Note: Please let me know if you discover any errors or omissions in this list, especially with regard to reissues or revisions. All Book titles are taken from title pages; some titles differ on the book jackets. F.V.P.