

BIBLIOGRAPHY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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Comments from the Chair

Andy McCue
Riverside, CA

I'd like to welcome a new member, and a new reviewer, to the committee and the newsletter. John Eigenauer has joined us from Bakersfield, California and you'll see a couple of interesting reviews in this newsletter, including one of Josh Prager's new book on Branca-Thomson and 1951.

John's reviews have been up on the SABR website for some weeks and we're working to get reviews up there as soon as possible, even before they appear in the newsletter. I'd urge all of you to do reviews when you read a baseball book. As the dean of SABR reviewers, Terry Smith, has shown in these pages over the years, reviews of old books can provide a lot of interesting reading through fresh perspectives and the passage of time.

Committee member Wendy Knickerbocker wrote in after reading my note about WorldCat in the last newsletter. I was recounting a suggestion by Skip McAfee that we compile a list of baseball periodical holdings around the country. Ted Hathaway had suggested that a lot of work could be done on this by using WorldCat (the successor to OCLC), to which most libraries subscribe. Wendy noted that WorldCat is now available on the web at worldcat.org/wcpa/content/default.jsp. Wendy notes that baseball researchers will probably want to use the Advance Search capability, which allows you to enter more details and narrow the huge WorldCat database more quickly.

Skip has come up with another good suggestion, and I hope someone will pick up on it. The idea is to create an annotated listing of baseball websites with their contents, strengths, holes, and odd features. This would probably be posted on the committee website and could be used by anyone wanting to find the site which contains IBB statistics or a complete listing of the books about Babe Ruth. Again, anyone interested should get hold of me.

Paul Bauer called my attention to an interesting new edition of Arnold Hano's *A Day in the Bleachers*. It's a collector's edition with the modest price tag of only \$700. It does contain 14 new paintings to go with the text. For more information, see marionpress.com/catalog/076.htm.

To close out, I'd make my quarterly appeal for fresh volunteers for The Baseball Index, our core project. If you're unfamiliar with it, I'd direct you to www.baseballindex.org. This is the project which is the core of the committee's reason for existence and everything we can do to expand and improve fulfills our mission.

Book Reviews

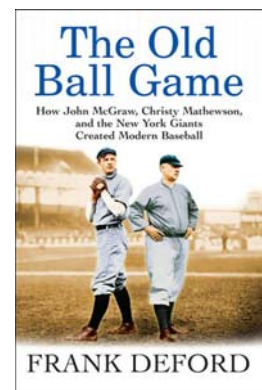
The Old Ball Game: How John McGraw, Christy Mathewson, and the New York Giants Created Modern Baseball, by Frank Deford. NY: Grove Press, 2005. Paperback, 241 pp. ISBN 0802142478. \$13.

This was my first extended exposure to the writing of Frank Deford, who developed this relatively brief book from an article originally published in *Sports Illustrated*. I was originally attracted by what appeared to be a contradiction between the title and the subtitle.

How could an "old" game be at the same time "modern?" On the other hand, as a New York Giant fan, I was pretty sure I'd enjoy the book.

I began to understand Deford's theme when I realized that his title came from Jack Norworth's 1908 song, "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," though Deford never quotes from it. That suggested that the phrase "modern baseball" referred to the business that flourished in the first half of the twentieth century, particularly in its first twenty years: the new, urban stadia, the scientific game dominated by pitching, the drive toward middle-class respectability. Though I suspect Deford in guilt of some New-York Tunnel-Vision when he credits McGraw, Mathewson, and the Giants with *creating* "Modern Baseball," he certainly shows how they exemplified it.

The book is in large part a dual biography of McGraw and Mathewson, both the subjects, as Deford acknowledges, of excellent previous biographies by Charles Alexander and Ray Robinson. Deford's principal contribution is his focus on their relationship. Together in New York City, according to Deford they were "to have such a profound effect upon their sport that they would raise it to a new eminence in the first city of the land, and then beyond, into Americana." For Deford, Mathewson and McGraw "offered us both sides of the coin." As many have pointed out, Mathewson is one of the first genuine role-models the sport has produced. Deford point out that "at a time when muckerism, as particularly expounded by McGraw himself, was the baseball model, Mathewson was the antidote." Deford sums up as follows: "[McGraw's] relationship with Mathewson was always so



strange, and their ages were too close for McGraw to pose as a father figure, but Matty had already become, in some fashion, his boy, his kid brother – or maybe just his alter ego, the man Muggsy would have been if he had only been blessed, as a child, with books and looks and love.” Mathewson is the heroic, McGraw the shadow figure of baseball culture.

Deford also covers the on-the-field adventures of the Giants during those years. Deford’s description of the 1905 World Series is very good. That of the 1911 Series even better. In the former, Mathewson is heroic, pitching three shutouts. In the latter, he and Rube Marquard trade tips in the newspapers on how to pitch to Frank Baker, and he homers off both, thereby earning his nickname. Deford calls the Giants’ defeat “the first leaf of autumn” in Mathewson’s career.

Rube Waddell, Philadelphia’s ace going in to the 1905 Series, was reported injured and did not pitch. Deford suggests “a much darker view of his injury” existed. “Almost from its first, baseball had been a popular gambling game. The fixed World Series of 1919 was a climax rather than an oddity.” Though he doesn’t add anything new to what we know, Deford handles the subject of gambling and its relation to game fixing well, comparing it to the treatment of steroid use in recent years. McGraw’s Giants were in the thick of the gambling and fixing. Deford cites Mathewson’s “one discernable weakness” as a love of gambling. McGraw, he tells us, “liked the company of gamblers.” Even more peculiar, given all this, was the relation of McGraw, Mathewson, and Hal Chase.

Deford spends some time on Chase’s activities. When Mathewson goes to the Cincinnati Reds as manager in 1916, “almost from the day he took over. . . , he had begun to suspect that his first baseman, Hal Chase, was fixing games.” When Mathewson assembled evidence against Chase, McGraw bailed Chase out, and Chase became a member of the Giants. After the war, Mathewson rejoined McGraw and Chase on the Giants. Deford writes “Matty not only put on a good face, but he lied, telling everyone that he’d certainly never accused Chase of cheating. Those charges, he said, had been leveled only by his [Chase’s] teammates.”

Deford wonders at this situation, as others have, and offers several possible explanations, none of which he believes adequate. Did Mathewson compromise himself in hopes of succeeding McGraw as Giants manager? Or was Chase simple able to charm his way into McGraw’s good graces? Perhaps Mathewson, gassed in the Great War, simply didn’t care. His wife Jane speaks of “a strange lassitude” that came over Mathewson in the summer of 1919. Deford adds, “maybe that is why he managed to endure Hal Chase as well as he did.” He doesn’t sound convinced.

The Old Ball Game succeeds because Deford is good at selecting vivid detail in telling his stories. There is, however, a moment when this skill fails him. Attempting to convey how short a distance to the outfield fences lurked from home place in the Polo Grounds, he refers to Bobby Thomson’s 1951 pennant-winning home run as a “pop fly.” It wasn’t. Thomson hit a line drive into the lower left field stands. Pop flies tended to drop into the overhanging upper deck or, worse, tick off the scoreboard and drop at the dismayed left fielder’s feet. The lower stands in right field did

encourage pop fly homers (witness Dusty Rhodes’ game winner in the first game of the 1954 World Series).

Leverett T. (Terry) Smith

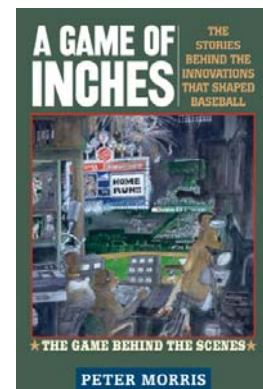
North Carolina Wesleyan College, Rocky Mount, NC



A Game of Inches: The Stories Behind the Innovations That Shaped Baseball, by Peter Morris. Chi-

cago: Ivan R. Dee, 2006. Hardcover, 416 pages, ISBN 1566637058. \$28.95

It would be difficult to find a better baseball book this year than Peter Morris’ first volume of *A Game of Inches, Volume I: The Game on the Field*. But the second volume of Morris’ work, *A Game of Inches, Volume II: The Game Behind the Scenes*, comes close. Both are monuments to baseball scholarship and research, representing years of work, meticulous fact finding, and admirable cooperation with the sport’s scholarly community.



In my review of *Volume I*, I wrote that I could have concluded the review with two words: absolutely terrific. The second volume deserves equal praise. There are, however, some important differences between the two.

First, because this is an encyclopedic history of baseball off the field, the research required was less accessible and the results more surprising. While the invention of the curveball may have been clouded by various claimants’ desire for fame, the history of baseball autographs, for example, is nothing short of opaque. To overcome the difficulty of occasional obscurity of origin, Morris provides fascinating background on numerous entries such as the one on this subject, in which we learn about early collectors (who focused on famous intellectuals), why baseball players’ autographs were not sought after (because the players were considered to be of a lower social class), and how their growth in popularity became so extreme that by 1937 players were known to use rubber stamps.

Second, Morris expands his entries on “firsts” to include more complete histories, placing the subjects within a broad context. For example, he does not end his entry on “admission fees” by merely reporting when and where the first admission was charged. Instead, he tells the story of the relationship between admission and enclosed stadiums and of the gradual transition to charging for games, which was made easier through benefit games. This makes for very engaging reading.

Finally, the author includes categories that one would never think of. I might have guessed that the first volume would include entries on when shin guards, face masks, and

catchers' gloves were introduced, but I never would have thought about such topics as collusion, "pay for spring training," turnstiles, and "city series." Indeed, part of the book's intrigue is discovering what comes next, and it holds many surprises.

Morris opens with a long chapter on "Building a Team" that, while organized in encyclopedic fashion, is really an essay on talent acquisition. He argues that as soon as baseball became a competitive business, those in charge sought to improve their rosters. This quest for talent played against the background of contracts, player agreements, drafts, scouting, competitive balance, team ownership, attempts at unionization, finances, and other factors that alternately helped and hindered the search. Morris does a terrific job of tying these themes together and demonstrating that baseball from an early age has been more than a game. In doing so, he shows that malice, ingenuity, stubbornness, and self-interest played roles in what is often assumed to have been a rational process.

Equally interesting and well-written are the chapters on "Ballparks," "Fans," "Marketing," and "Money," to name a few, that tell stories of leaders who pushed for innovation or strived to maintain the status quo. Bill Veeck's name comes up in the usual places, but so do John T. Brush, Larry McPhail, Al Eckert, Alva Bradley, Chris Von de Ahe, Thomas Hutchinson, E. W. Morgan, and many others. Somehow, Morris ties together fireworks shows, scorecards, brooms, fantasy camps, AstroTurf, replays, and pension funds into a broad collection of facts that reads remarkably like a narrative.

The best aspect of this book, in fact, is the immaculate prose. It is not easy to tell the story of free agency in three pages, but Morris does it. As an example of the writing that captures his ability to present complex phenomena economically, consider this passage:

"The reserve clause was finally brought to the Supreme Court in 1922, where Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., wrote a ruling that held that baseball was not interstate commerce and was therefore exempt from antitrust laws. While the legal basis of this finding struck many as dubious, baseball players had no choice but to accept it. With the courts against them and no rival league to turn to, most players came to view the reserve clause as a necessary evil, with some even defending it against periodic challenges."

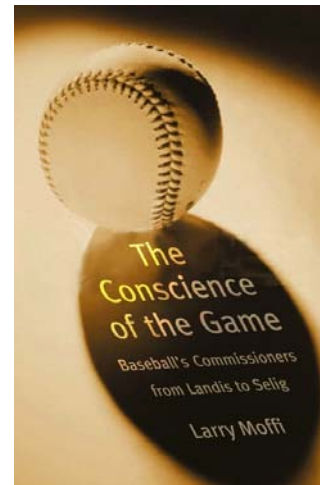
Morris repeatedly provides the reader with a broad range of knowledge in a short space. I have simply never read a more well-written baseball book. It is insightful, informative, thorough, well-researched, and extraordinarily well-written. Years from now we will look back and call these two volumes some of the most important historical baseball scholarship written to date.

John Eigenauer
Bakersfield, CA



The Conscience of the Game: Baseball's Commissioners from Landis to Selig, by Larry Moffi. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2006. Paperback, 225 pages. ISBN 0803283229. \$24.95

Larry Moffi's *The Conscience of the Game: Baseball's Commissioners from Landis to Selig* is not a history of baseball's commissioners. Moffi acknowledges this, calling it a personal reflection on the commissioner's office and the philosophy of "the best interests of the game." He says that better historians have written more complete histories of the office, and that a number of commissioners have written books about their tenure and does not pretend to replace or amend that material. Rather, he aims to look at the current role of commissioner, talk with people who have occupied that office, and reflect upon its past and future through the question, "How well is the commissioner forwarding the best interests of the game?"



Moffi's method is threefold: interview former commissioners, attend the congressional hearings on baseball, and compare the actions and motives of various commissioners. His interviews can be interesting because he persuades some former commissioners to speak directly to difficult questions about what they see happening in the contemporary game. His observations of the congressional hearings are interesting but not very substantial. And his comparisons of the actions of several commissioners can be lively, but a little confusing because they are very personal and sometimes lack focus.

A blurb at the start of the proof pages says that the book is "written in a style at once conversational and provocative." That description is accurate. The conversational style, however, makes the book quite difficult to read. It is highly discursive, repeatedly following multiple tangents in single paragraphs. The author frequently uses comparisons that lead to long passages describing things that remind him of his main topic; when he returns to the original topic, you often can't remember what he was talking about in the first place. He never says simply that something is out of place, exaggerated, or comic; it is described and re-described by reference to something else that is out of place, exaggerated, or comic.

Not everyone, however, will notice this fault (I am an English professor). Those who are comfortable with the style may enjoy the personal reflections on the game's direction since Moffi writes like a fan. Others may enjoy the way that he traces the themes of "the conscience / best interests of the game" across the nine commissioners. Still others may like his reflections on the congressional hearings. The book makes you think about important issues such as the commissioner's role in governing the game, the changing

nature of corporate baseball, the minor leagues' future, MLB and drug testing, and many other timely topics.

Most people who follow the business of baseball in the news will be familiar with the topics, such as baseball's anti-trust exemption, contraction, steroids, and the conflict of interest that arose from the commissioner being an owner. It does not reveal anything that has not been in newspapers and magazines. It does, however, bring a personal view to these issues and it focuses that view on the commissioner's role in dealing with them in the best interests of the game.

The Conscience of the Game is a sincere effort to bring these important issues more clearly into the public's ken. You should not expect a complete history or any startling revelations about the commissioner's office. It is a fan's book and should be judged as such.

John Eigenauer



The Echoing Green: The Untold Story of Bobby Thomson, Ralph Branca, and the Shot Heard Round the World, by Joshua Prager. NY: Pantheon Books, 2006. Hardcover, 499 pages, ISBN 0375421548. \$26.95

The story of Bobby Thomson's home run off Ralph Branca to end the 1951 season and send the New York Giants to the World Series is perhaps the most famous in baseball history. Even casual baseball fans know of the mythical status of baseball "the shot heard round the world," equating it with world changing political events described with those same words. Therefore, you would think that there remains little to say about this most famous of home runs.¹

Joshua Prager's *The Echoing Green* proves otherwise. In a beautifully documented and intensely engaging narrative, Prager retells a story that everyone supposedly knows and makes it interesting and surprising.

The book is part biography, part history, and part mystery. As biography, it recounts the lives of Thomson and Branca, hero and goat of those 1951 playoffs. While there are fascinating details about both players, most interesting

are the ways in which their lives became intertwined after the home run. For example, the two sang together in public, each recounting the tale of praise and blame like lovers. Branca, reciting his woe in a beautiful voice, brought his audience to tears; they appeared on *The Ed Sullivan Show* and together countless other times thereafter. Later in life they worked autograph shows together, appeared in old timer games, and accepted interviews in which they did everything except re-enact the actual event. Prager describes the odd symbiotic relationship gracefully, not making it into more than it was, and letting the obvious pathos affect the reader without obtrusive descriptions.

As history, *The Echoing Green* performs a difficult feat: it recounts a story that you know before reading it. Prager overcomes this by making the book about more than the home run and the pennant race: it is history and mystery. He tells the shadowy tale of the Giants planting a telescope in center field to steal signs from the opposing catcher and then devising a way to transfer the information to the batter. This theme is significant throughout the book as Branca, Thomson, and others confirm and deny rumors of marginally illicit behavior that was said to influence the 1951 pennant race and, by extension, the home run. The story is woven nicely into the narrative, never taking center stage, yet always making the reader aware of the underlying tension created by Thomson's homer being potentially tainted.

Behind the mystery is a touching story of a simple man who helped the Giants steal signs and died regretting that he had hurt his beloved Dodgers. His is but one of many human interest stories that are blended into the history, tying the biographies to the home run, to the era, to baseball, and to American culture.

Without being the subject of a chapter, a recurrent and fascinating theme is baseball as a shared cultural experience. It became a conversational entrée, to ask "Where were you when Bobby Thomson hit his home run?" in the way that they would after Kennedy's assassination. We find the infamous spy Julius Rosenberg lamenting the Dodgers' collapse while awaiting execution; a U.S. senator forced to pause a speech on the Korean War while his fellow legislators celebrated; George Plimpton falling off his chair at Cambridge; famed theologian Reinhold Niebuhr lamenting having left the game early; and John Steinbeck commenting on the game in a letter. This theme elevates the book beyond a history of the pennant race, the lives of Thomson and Branca, and the emotionally exhausting home run itself. It raises it to the level of cultural commentary as it demonstrates that any thoughts on American mentality are incomplete without mention of baseball.

Finally, *The Echoing Green* is first class history. Prager researched thoroughly, interviewed everyone involved in the pennant race, and exhausted every lead over the course of five years before publishing. I sensed throughout that he undertook a topic he cared deeply about and wrote about with respect, awe, and tenacity. I offer the book my highest rating and endorse it unconditionally to casual fan and serious historian alike.

John Eigenauer

¹ Numerous articles have been written about the topic, as well as several books, including *The Great Chase: the Dodgers-Giants Pennant Race of 1951*, *The Home Run Heard 'Round the World*, and *The Giants Win the Pennant! The Giants Win the Pennant!*

Feeding the Monster: How Money, Smarts, and Nerve Took a Team to the Top, by Seth Mnookin.

NY: Simon and Schuster, ISBN 0743286812, 433 Pages, \$26

Since Michael Lewis's *Moneyball* — the behind the scenes story of how general manager Billy Beane assembled the Oakland Athletics — hit the bookstores in 2003, several authors have sought to copy the behind-the-scenes formula.

Since the Boston Red Sox won the World Series in 2004 — their first such victory in more than 85 years — several authors have sought to recapture *that* happy occasion. Writing about the triumphs of the Sox, together and in individual biographies, became a cottage industry in the months subsequent to popping the champagne corks.

A few writers have even tried to combine both genres.

Few, however, have done a better overall job than Seth Mnookin in *Feeding the Monster*.

After the obligatory recap of the century-plus of Red Sox highs (few: Ted Williams, the 1967 and 1975 pennants) and lows (many: Babe Ruth, Harry Frazee, the 1978 playoff loss to the hated Yankees and 1986 gut-wrenching World Series loss to the Mets), the author picks up the Sox story as a new ownership team was about to purchase the perennial disappointments.

In detail that sometimes bogs down the telling, Mnookin profiles the key players in the acquisition and preparation of the Red Sox in 2001, including owners John Henry and Tom Werner, boy genius/general manager Theo Epstein, and CEO and nominal bad guy Larry Lucchino. Then comes the real story: putting together the bits and pieces over the next few seasons like a gourmet chef, adding, subtracting, and mixing until everything was just right. This is where *Feeding the Monster* picks up steam.

Sure, there were stumbling blocks along the way. Professional athletes, after all, are still young men, still human, and sometimes display unpleasant qualities such as immaturity, jealousy, egotism, and pettiness. Still, we're left wondering at times. Was Nomar Garciaparra really an insecure negative influence, or was that just the way he was portrayed by the team's management as an excuse to cast off the newest "face of the Red Sox?" Mnookin raises similar questions about other popular players such as Manny Ramirez, Pedro Martinez, and Curt Schilling. Others, like Johnny Damon, receive relatively little ink.

Not everyone has to be best buddies to make a winning team and after another disappointing (if seemingly inevitable) loss to the Yankees in the 2003 American League Championship Series, the Red Sox had their signature moment in 2004, coming from a three-games-to-none deficit to the Yankees in the ALCS to capture the pennant; that they beat the St. Louis Cardinals in the fall classic was practically anti-climactic.

Of course, getting to the top and staying there are two different things and the Sox came back down to earth in 2005. And having recently lost five consecutive games to the first place Yankees, they are in danger of falling out of the chase for post-season glory this year as well.

Mnookin clearly wants to cast a wide net for readers. In doing so, his desire to explain the (semi-)obvious to serious students of the national pastime could work to the detriment.

His footnotes, while quite descriptive of the finer points of the game, like how to figure out batting averages or waiver rules, would seem to be out of place in a book that appeals to the type of aficionados who would be interested in the subject matter.

Despite some minor quibbles, *Feeding the Monster* is a fascinating dissection of what it takes to put together a winner, warts and all.

Ron Kaplan
Montclair, NJ

Author Profile:
Art Shamsky

by Ron Kaplan

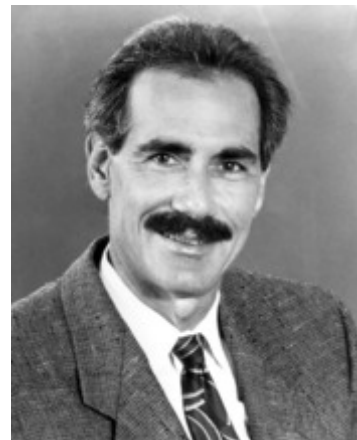
With former Dodgers hero Gil Hodges at the helm and such talented players as Tom Seaver, Jerry Koosman, and Cleon Jones on the roster, the 1969 New York Mets eclipsed fans' wildest expectations that season, winning 100 games and trouncing the heavily favored Baltimore Orioles in the World Series. It was one of three unexpected sports championships the Big Apple enjoyed within a year's time.

Art Shamsky, who split time between the outfield and first base, batted an even .300 for the regular season, with 14 home runs and 47 runs batted in in limited play. "We had a terrific clubhouse," Shamsky recalled in a 2004 interview.

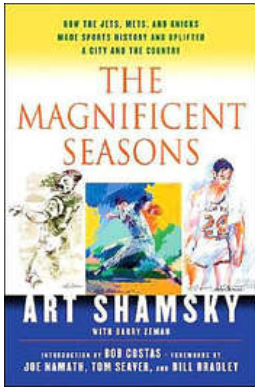
In a period marred by racial tensions, "there were never any black/white problems." Nor did he ever have a problem because of his religion. Shamsky may not have been a Hall of Famer like Sandy Koufax, but for Jewish fans of the New York Mets during their "amazin'" World Championship season in 1969, his legacy is no less meaningful. People still approach him — parents and grandparents of today's young fans — to share their memories of when he declined to play on Yom Kippur in 1969. "The funny thing was, the Mets won both ends of a double header" that day, he cracked.

Shamsky came to the Mets after the 1967 season in a trade with the Cincinnati Reds, where he showed some potential as a power hitter. But back problems kept him from fulfilling his promise and he was out of baseball by 1971. Nevertheless, his time spent with the Mets could be described, to paraphrase a classic line from the '60s, as a short, strange (but exciting) trip.

Originally, Shamsky said, he was unhappy at being traded to the hapless Mets. In addition, the St. Louis-born ballplayer was daunted by his new surroundings. New York City, he said, "was really big. It was kind of intimidating." Eventually, however, "I fell in love with the energy, got to



know the city a bit. My life changed.” More than 30 years after his retirement, he still calls New York home.



Nowadays, Shamsky runs Bravo Properties in South Orange, NJ. In between buying and selling houses and catching up with old friends and teammates at memorabilia shows, he found time to reexamine that challenging era in his book, *The Magnificent Seasons*, written with Barry Zeman.

During the same “fiscal” sport season (which spanned three years — 1968-70), NY fans enjoyed their finest era. The upstart Jets, with quarterback Joe Namath representing a younger, hipper generation, upset the old-school Baltimore Colts in the Super Bowl. The Knicks, likewise considered underdogs, beat the mighty Los Angeles Lakers for the NBA title.

Then there were the Mets. Perennial loveable losers since their debut in 1962, before the championship '69 season they had never finished higher than ninth place in the then 10-team National League. But not everything was all fun and games. New York was mired in financial and social problems, a fact that Shamsky engagingly recalls in his thoughtful book.

“I was caught up in my own world then as a ballplayer. I was amazed at all the things that I didn’t realize were going on,” such as teacher strikes, Vietnam War protests, and the killing of four student antiwar demonstrators at Kent State and its aftermath, he said. He recounted the hours spent at libraries poring through old newspapers and periodicals. “So much had taken place. And I was here — New York was the Mecca — but I didn’t realize the extent of what was going on.”

He was proud of what the New York teams meant to the city. “Men could walk on the moon, [but] there was never any [other] good news that brought the city or the country up a little bit.” The special feelings surrounding the Mets’ success, he believed, “made the little guy believe there was light at the end of the tunnel.”

Calling for Suggestions: Internet Resources

As a reminder that the Internet is a reputable source for baseball research, the Bibliography Committee would like to know your favorite sites on the game.

A caveat: These sites should be limited to baseball research; no fan sites for favorite players and teams, please.

Send your suggestions to Ronk23@aol.com and include the phrase “Favorite Internet Research Sites” in the subject line.

Baseball Book News

Book Blogs and Review Sites

* **Ron Kaplan**, editor of the SABR Bibliography Committee Newsletter, recently launched Baseballbookshelf.mlblogs.com, a collection of his reviews and author interviews over the past decade or so.

* **Michael Webb** has a series of reviews on replaybb.com/XtrasPages/BookReviews/Book%20Reviews.htm.

Author Sites

Mike Shannon, author of such books as *Diamond Classics*, *Tales from the Dugout*, and *Everything Happens in Chilli-cothe* hosts his Web site at mikes Shannonbooks.com.

Joshua Prager, author of *The Echoing Green*, hosts his website at Joshua Prager.com.

(Note: Authors wishing to have their sites listed in the newsletter is invited to send the URL to Ronk23@aol.com.)

Library Collections

Baseball in the Library of Congress: A Selected List of Sites

(www.loc.gov/rr/perform/baseballlinks.html)

A gateway to other sites that include, to various degrees, graphic or textual materials relating to baseball. The links are all found on Library of Congress Web pages, and do not include materials found on other web sites, except for those provided by the Library's program American Memory: Historical Collections for the National Digital Library. The links were collected by staff in the Music Division (Performing Arts Reading Room), where one can find an extensive bibliography of published baseball music and songs

What One Book...?

I am asking members of the committee and their baseball-book loving friends and associates to assist me in a research project by telling me to submit the one indispensable volume on baseball they could not live without.

It could be a reference work, a biography or team history, your call; there's no correct answer.

Please respond to Ronk23@aol.com and include the phrase “What One Book” in the subject line, and include your name and occupation.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Ron Kaplan