



THE OLD JUDGE



A News letter for the Encyclopedia of Baseball Cards
and for Baseball and Sports Memorabilia

Issue No. 39

July 1991

\$2.50

Published Bi-Monthly
P.O. Box 137
Centereach, N.Y. 11720
Telephone - 516-981-3286
Publisher - Marsha Lipset
Editor - Lew Lipset
Assistant Editor - Rob Lipset
Assis't Editor - Vikki Lipset
Copyright © 1991 by Lew Lipset

The Du Muchelle Auction



If you blinked you missed it. Many didn't blink. Some of the prices attest to that. I first found out about it at the Willow Grove show on May 18th, the day of the auction. If that always busy convention had a buzz in the air that day, it was the telephone wires that dealers "in the know" were on line to Detroit. In the

motor city a fabulous baseball literature collection was being sold on behalf of, according to the catalog, "a prominent Detroit family". Inspection of the lot descriptions would make it clear that a good portion of the collection once belonged to Henry Chadwick.

The auction house was the Du Muchelle Art Galleries, who according to their catalog, were much more comfortable auctioning art and artifacts. Never the less their May 18th auction offered approximately 600 lots of baseball material. Some of it eye-popping, much of it rare and most of it desirable and it didn't seem to matter that the auction house didn't know the difference. Only a small ad in USA Today Baseball Weekly alerted the collecting public.

The cover of the catalog illustrated the first baseball item (Lot 1152). An obvious reprint of a Honus Wagner card. A spokesman for the firm told me the card went for \$14,000 (plus 10%) and the buyer was aware the card was a reprint. I resisted the temptation to ask why someone would pay money for a reprint and I resisted a similar temptation to ask the name of the under bidder.

The undisputed highlight of the auction was lot 1154, an 1859 scorecard, believed to be the earliest known. The teams were obscure but the item was historically significant and went for \$26,000 (plus 10%). The collection included rare collections of rare guides such as Beadles, DeWitts, Wright and Ditsons, Baseball Magazines, etc. There were constitutions, scorecards, seldom seen volumes and never seen volumes.

The following list shows most of the more significant baseball lots, written here exactly as they appeared in the catalog. The italicized number at the end of each lot is the price realized (less 10%). It should be clear from these that the descriptions were superficial at best and

little mention is ever made of condition. Considering the difficulty of anyone bidding without seeing items and the lack of advertising for the sale, the prices realized are nothing less than remarkable. It's interesting to note the estimates of DuMuchelle—not only on the many items that brought many times the estimates but on the items that were overestimated and brought less.

- 1152. HONUS WAGNER BASEBALL CARD: back removed, creased, tear to lower right hand corner. \$14,000
- 1178. RARE WRIGHT & DITSON LEAGUE BASEBALL GUIDE FROM 1884: original board cover, good condition, originally belonging to J.A. Belcher of Providence R.I. \$550
- 1184. 1859 TRI-MOUNTAIN & PORTLAND CLUBS VERY EARLY PROFESSIONAL CLUB SCORECARD, PLAYED ON BOSTON: COMMONS, I.S. 15-1/4": Executed by N.R. Anderson, pen, ink, watercolor & engraved, with a silk woven ribbon depicting a baseball game, framed. \$26,000
- 1186. JOHN J. MCGRAW'S BASEBALL, 8 VOL.: 1904 TO 1906, 1909 TO 1913, board covers. \$700
- 1187. HENRY CHADWICK AUTOGRAPHED 1860 BEADLE'S DIME BASEBALL PLAYER: A compendium of the game by P. Beadle & Co., 141 William St., with original cover, some pencil notations, with a letter of provenance from John T. Doyle, President of the American Sports Pub. Co., dated 10/14/1925. \$7,000
- 1188. RARE BEADLE'S DIME BASEBALL PLAYER, 15 VOL.: Bound or original board covers, 1861, 1862, 1864, 1866 to 1868, 1870, 1872, 1873, 1875 to 1879, & 1881. \$4,000
- 1189. DEWITT'S BASEBALL GUIDE, 15 VOL.: Bound or board covers, 1869 to 1883. \$3,500
- 1190. NAPOLEON LAJOIE'S BASEBALL GUIDE, 3 VOL.: Bound, 1906, 1907 & 1908. \$300
- 1191. BULL DURHAM BASEBALL GUIDE, 2: 1910 & 1911. \$200
- 1192. WRIGHT & DITSON BASEBALL GUIDE, 3 VOL.: 1910, 1912 & 1913. \$350
- 1193. VICTOR BASEBALL GUIDE, 2 VOL.: 1896 & 1897. \$350
- 1195. BASEBALL MAGAZINE, 50 VOL.: Bound, from 1908 to 1957. \$5,000
- 1210. 1876 CONSTITUTION & PLAYING RULES OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE BY SPALDING: board cover, pub. by Reach & Johnston. \$225
- 1211. 1877 CONSTITUTION & PLAYING RULES OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE BY SPALDING: board cover, pub. by Reach & Johnston. \$700
- 1212. 1878 CONSTITUTION & PLAYING RULES OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE BY SPALDING: board cover, pub. by Reach & Johnston. \$700
- 1215. THE SPORTING NEWS, 17 VOL.: bound, 1947 to 1963. \$1,700
- 1217. WHO'S WHO IN THE MAJOR LEAGUES BY HAROLD "SPEED" JOHNSON, 19 VOL.: pub. by B.E. Callahan of Chicago, some issues are autographed, 1935 to 1952. \$700
- 1218. SPORTING NEWS RECORD BOOK BY CHARLES C. SPINK & SONS, CHICAGO, 40