



THE OLD JUDGE



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

Issue No. 16

April 1988

\$2.00

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
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Opening Comments

Work on the second annual autograph survey has begun. Under the supervision of Mike Gutierrez, prices are being tabulated for all Hall of Famers in the same categories as last year. We hope to have the complete survey in the June issue of TOJ.

We would like to announce an experiment that hopefully will start in the August 1988 TOJ. The centerfold has generally carried our Price Guide section. In the past it's varied in size depending on the number of issues that have been carried. When those issues have fallen short of filling the space we used admittedly self-serving ads, for TOJ and other books we've had. We have a better idea to fill the space and keep the Old Judge more in line with our feeling that it should be "your hobby paper". Commencing immediately we'll accept FREE requests from you to advertise for a collectible you may be looking for. It can be a card, a publication, anything in sports memorabilia. No buying prices, no for sale items - just an item you'd like to have. We'll print it along with your name and address on a one-time basis - space permitting. If you like the idea just drop us a note with the item you're looking for. We'll print it along with your name and address, nothing more. What have you got to lose?

Errata

Please note the following correction to Tom Faith's "Cardboard Layering of 1933 Goudeys" article in the last TOJ. The first two lines of the table entitled "Laminates Used for Each Sheet" should be as follows:

Sheet	Card Numbers	Laminates
1	1-5, 25-35, 45-52	90% (1); 10% (2)
2	6-24, 36-40	90% (1); 10% (2)

\$100,000 for a T206 Wagner?

We've had several inquiries as to whether a Wagner went for the reported \$100,000 or not. We were also amazed at the sport and curious enough to make some inquiries.

Some background first, though. I remember spending about a half-hour on the phone in the early 1980's with a doctor from Indiana who had just purchased a Wagner. We

spent the time making up a list of everyone in the country who we knew owned a Wagner, or was reported to have had a Wagner. At that time, the number was approximately fifty. Of these, only a handful were excellent or better. Not one, by today's standards, would have been considered near mint or mint. That was what struck my curiosity about the alleged sale. That the card sold was near mint. Where did it come from? A new find in the hobby? I would think any dealer finding a near mint Wagner would want to get the enormous publicity value anyone could receive from finding such a card, but none of that happened.

The Krause papers which reported the apparent sale said the buyer was a mid-wester and the sale came from a West Coast dealer. I had a hunch who it might have been and called someone from the Chicago area who I thought might have bought a Wagner. He had bought one, but it was the one listed in Alan Rosen's SCD auction in good condition. However, he did offer the lead that he had heard that the seller, not the buyer, was a mid-wester and the buyer, was a Californian. He also mentioned that the sale went through an agent. Circumstances lit up the proverbial light bulb and I was pretty sure that I knew who the buyer was. I called him and was told "Yes, I did buy a Wagner recently" and "Yes, it's pretty nice" and "I made an agreement with the seller that I wouldn't discuss who I got the card from or how much I paid".

The story is obviously not complete, and a major mystery remains. What we have is no acknowledged buyer, no acknowledged seller and no acknowledged price. But we have dozens of people walking around thinking a Wagner is worth \$100,000 and National newspapers picking up on the story. In other words, this is the ultimate example of the hype that has prevailed in this hobby (see the last issue of TOJ) the past two years and which threatens to destroy the price structure of it. Congratulations to Baseball Hobby News for not running the story.

St. Louis Browns Silk

To commemorate the start of the 1887 Season, the World Champion St. Louis Browns of the American Association issued a silk souvenir. The fabric, which measured 5 1/2 x 9 1/2, was attached to a brown cover via a small red ribbon. They were to be folded to give a greeting card effect.

The front cover only had a drawing of a player in a batting pose with a pennant hanging from a pole proclaiming "Worlds Champions". The inside of the cover printed the home schedule for the Browns with boxes to place the final scores. Below that, the 1887 roster, consisting of fourteen players, was printed. The roster includes Edward Kaes and "Lewis" (Louis according to the McMillan Encyclopedia) Sylvester. Kaes did not play an inning for the 1887 Browns or any other major league team for that matter. Sylvester did see action for the Browns in 1887, his last major league season.

The illustration on the silk shows vignette portraits of

(Continued on Page Two)