

Tobacco Update

Some months ago Keith Olbermann sent us a letter with some comments on our tobacco book. Some of them are quite interesting and we'd like to pass them on.

S110 - "Hobby lore (i.e. 1972 Hobby lore) always suggested that the "Pillowcase reference for this set was somehow connected to the suggestions on the backs of S74s, in which the collector of the smaller silks was advised that they could be "useful" in making pillow, covers, etc."

T204 - "Frank Bancroft has, as you imply, no business being in a 1909 set as "Manager" of the Reds. However, if I'm correct, in 1909 Bancroft was still, as he had long been, "Business (General) Manager" of the club. He was also a New England baseball figure of long-standing, having managed both the Worcester and Providence N.L. clubs 25 years before. He seems as likely a subject for a New England set as Jesse Burkett or Tim Murname or Jimmy Collins."

T205 - "You made no reference to it in the captions or texts for the Dick Hoblitzell variations, so let me note for the record that the cards with stats misspell his name (only one "L") while the ones without stats give him both "l"s -- as your illustrations show."

T206 - "I was a little confused by your references to issue dates. Egan had always theorized that the 150 series came in March or even February of 1909, the 350/Assorted some time in late summer of 1909, and the 460 series in the early spring of 1910. This doesn't seem to jibe exactly with what you have. (NOTE: On pages 56-57 of Volume 3 in the article "The Marketing of T206" I believe I come to essentially the same conclusion). Secondly, again touching on the "holdout" theory, the part that's always seemed easiest, logically, is the refutation of the Plank "broken plate" theory. If the story was true, why wasn't a second card of Plank issued? In light of the multiple cards of lesser Philadelphia lights like Simon Nicholls, Danny Murphy and Rube Oldring, a second Plank would've seemed likely even if something hadn't gone awoul with the first one." (NOTE: I've always liked the extension of your Wagner theory which indicated certain players refused to have their cards issued, possibly for monetary reasons. Plank also wasn't on T205, T207 or T202 all issued after T206).