
Last month we ran an article on the "Alteration of cards". One of the first reactions we received was at Willow Grove when I was introduced to a gentleman who repaired T206's for the fun of it. The collector had brought along a T206 portrait of Young that he had worked on along with a photograph showing the way the card looked when he originally bought it. The photo was of a card with very distinctly rounded corners, but no damage otherwise. The card I was looking at now was mint. The collector explained his process which involved "rebuilding the corners of the card by adding layers of paper to the corners." The process has been mentioned to me by a paper conservator in the restoration of prints, but I had never thought of it in terms of the corners of a T206 or any other baseball card. He indicated that the process would take approximately two hours which when translated into economics would make it fairly expensive. I asked him how much he would charge to do a card and he said he wasn't doing it commercially, just for his own satisfaction, with cards in his collection. It makes you think about the true value of the mint cards in your collection and if the increasing value we're assigning to "mint" cards is worth it.
