

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

Albany Institute of History & Art

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THREE BASEBALL EXHIBITIONS TO OPEN AT THE ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

***Triple Play: Baseball at the Albany Institute* will run February 7–July 26, 2015**

ALBANY, NY– Opening day comes early to the Capital Region as the Albany Institute of History & Art presents *Triple Play! Baseball at the Albany Institute*. *Triple Play!* consists of three exhibitions celebrating the history of baseball and each contains nationally or regionally significant materials, such as photographs, signed bats and balls, stadium seats, trophies, pennants, jerseys, and more. In addition, there is an exciting roster of related events with guest speakers, family activity days, creative contests, and free admission opportunities.

The centerpiece is *Baseball: America's Game*, organized by the Bank of America's Art in our Communities program. It is a traveling exhibition from Bank of America's baseball collection. This multimedia exhibition features more than ninety historic photographs, illustrations, baseball artifacts, and audio/video installations from the past one hundred years that bring to life the history of this American sport. It is complemented by two community-supported exhibitions, *Play Ball! Baseball in the Capital Region* and *The Clubhouse: Baseball Memorabilia*. *Play Ball!* explores the area's rich history of baseball. Almost one hundred historic objects and images highlight Capital Region baseball from the 1860s to the present. *The Clubhouse* includes rare objects and well-cherished pieces of memorabilia collected by community members.

"This is the first time the Albany Institute has presented an exhibition about baseball and it's been a wonderful excuse to search our archives and see what the museum has collected over the years that relates to the region's baseball history," says Executive Director Tammis Groft. "But the really exciting part has been working with people from the community who know and love baseball history to help put this exhibition together." She adds, "It's been a team effort right from

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the start. We were fortunate to work with Siena College student and fall curatorial intern Andrew Lang, who is largely responsible for the research and the preparation of exhibition script for the two exhibitions organized by the museum. His enthusiasm and passion for baseball history helped confirmed what we guessed- that baseball aficionados would like to know more about the Capital Region's baseball history and see materials they haven't had the chance to see. *Play Ball* and *The Clubhouse* will display items that haven't been on public view before and it's the result of outreach to private collectors and area museums. The Capital Region as a whole has had some fascinating baseball history and we are thrilled to present these stories and artifacts to the public."

"For instance," Groft continues, "we were lucky enough to connect with the relatives of Mellie (Meldon) Wolfgang, an Albany native who played for the Albany Senators and went on to play several seasons with the Chicago White Sox. His 1917 World Series uniform and some of his other major league items will be on view. It's a great example of how Capital Region baseball connected with the national scene."

Contributors to the exhibition (as of January 21, 2015) include: the Albany Twilight League, Joe Aliteri, Dick Barrett, Ben Bradley, Barbara Casey, David Colchamiro, Mark Curiale, Matt Daskalakis, Robert Davey, Elsa G. de Beer, Albert R. De Salvo, Carol and Dennis Fitzgerald, Jim Featherstonhaugh, Fort Orange Club, Chris Hunter, Mike Jacobson, Jeff Lang, Pam Lake, Bill Lawton, Steve Lobel, Nancy Lynk, Micki and Peter McAllister, MiSci Museum of Innovation and Science, Chuck Miller, Joshua Nagy, Stephen Nagy, Victor Oberting III, David Pietrusza, Private Collection, Hallee Mee Quinn, Rensselaer County Historical Society, Lenny Ricchiuti, Peter Rokeach, Bunny and Phil Savino, Schenectady County Historical Society- Grems-Doolittle Library, Frank Staucet, David Swawite, Tim Wiles, J.C. Williams, Jr., MD, the family of Meldon J. Wolfgang III, Thomas Yovine, and the Tri-City ValleyCats.

Baseball: America's Game is sponsored by Bank of America Art in our Communities Program. *Play Ball! A History of Baseball in the Capital Region* is sponsored by Courtney and Victor Oberting III. *The Clubhouse: Baseball Memorabilia* is sponsored by Lois and David Swawite. *Triple Play! Baseball at the Albany Institute* is sponsored by an Anonymous Donor, Michael & Margaret Picotte Foundation, CDPHP, Times Union, the Albany County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Wallace and Jane Altes.

The Albany Institute of History & Art will host an opening reception for *Triple Play* on Friday, February 6, 2015 from 5-8PM. The reception is free and open to the public, but RSVPs should be made to (518) 463-4478 ext 403. There will also be a special lecture on Sunday, February 8 at 2PM with John Thorn, Official Baseball Historian for Major League Baseball. Tickets to the lecture are \$10 per person and may be purchased online at www.albanyinstitute.org. Seating is limited. (More information about upcoming events are included near the end of this release).

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The Albany Institute of History & Art is located at 125 Washington Avenue in Albany, New York. Free parking is available in the museum's lot at the corner of Elk and Dove Streets. The museum is open Wednesday-Saturday 10AM-5PM, Thursdays until 8PM*, and Sunday Noon-5PM. On Tuesdays, the museum is open to registered groups only. The museum is closed on Mondays and some holidays. *AIHA now offers free admission on Thursdays from 5PM-8PM.

Admission is free for Institute members; \$10/adults; \$8/seniors; \$8/students with ID; \$6/children 6-12; FREE/children under 6. Bank of America and Merrill Lynch card holders get free admission to the Albany Institute of History & Art on the first weekends of the months that *Triple Play! Baseball at the Albany Institute* is open (February through July 2015). This is part of Bank of America's Museums on Us program. You can learn more about this program on their website, <http://museums.bankofamerica.com/>.

For more information, visit www.albanyinstitute.org or call (518) 463-4478.

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Founded in 1791, the Albany Institute of History & Art is New York's oldest museum. Its collections document the Hudson Valley as a crossroads of culture, influencing the art and history of the region, the state, and the nation. With more than 35,000 objects and one million documents in the library, it is an important resource for the region, giving our community a sense of the part the Hudson Valley played in the American story, and our own place in history. Permanent and temporary exhibitions are open year-round and create a sense of place, allowing visitors to meet the people who helped shape this region. Over 25,000 people visit the Albany Institute of History & Art every year, enjoying the collections, workshops, school programs, and lectures, helping to build an understanding of the history and culture of our region. Among the museum's best-known and most-loved collections are the 19th century Hudson River School landscape paintings by artists like Thomas Cole and Frederic Church, the 19th century sculpture collections, and, of course, the famous Albany Mummies that came to the museum in 1909 and have been on view ever since. For more information, please visit www.albanyinstitute.org and be sure to follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute) and Twitter (@AlbanyInstitute).

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THE EXHIBITIONS

Baseball: America's Game

Baseball is part of our shared heritage, something that helps define the American experience. It infuses our popular culture, our literature, and our politics- our everyday lives. The game evokes childhood- both our own, and the nation's. Baseball was born in the mid-nineteenth century, and its rhythms echo that bygone era; for all the high-tech trappings of the modern age, baseball is at its essence the same game you could have watched being played by barefoot kids in an Ohio pasture, circa 1890.

This exhibition celebrates baseball's place in the American story- its portrayal, in arts and letters, as the game and the nation have grown up together. Photographers such as Wayne Miller and Terry Evans capture the game as it's played on sandlots and suburban diamonds, and writers from John Updike to Jimmy Breslin have chronicled the heroics and the hilarity of the sport. And thanks to illustrators such as Norman Rockwell, J.C. Leyendecker and Lonie Bee, baseball graced the covers of *Collier's Weekly*, *The Saturday Evening Post* and many other magazines of a time long past.

Baseball's most electrifying moments live on in iconic photographs and in the frenzied poetry of a radio announcer's voice, many on view and available to listen to in the exhibition. Bobby Thomson's "Shot Heard 'Round the World," Don Larsen's perfect game, Stan Musial's 3000th hit – captured forever on film and audio, and so live on in our collective memory.

The game came of age during the Linotype era, flourishing during the mid-twentieth century when a magazine featuring Ted Williams or Willie Mays on the cover was guaranteed to sell out. One of the greatest baseball feats of the last twenty years – Cal Ripken, Jr.'s setting a new "Iron Man" record for consecutive games played – is preserved here in offset plates from *The Baltimore Sun*, history captured for all time in three-tenths of a millimeter of aluminum.

Baseball helped give birth to American sportswriting, spawning a distinguished fraternity that includes the likes of Ring Lardner, Grantland Rice and Roger Angell. Even so, some of the finest baseball commentary has been written by non-sportswriters; it is a mark of the game's broad appeal that poets like Marianne Moore, historians like Doris Kearns Goodwin and former ball players like Jim Bouton have all put pen to paper in its tribute. One of the best-known chroniclers of the game uses not a pen but a camera: documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, whose *Baseball* and *The Tenth Inning* offer a lovingly exhaustive history of the National Pastime.

The familiar baseball shrines of yesterday have, one by one, given way to the stately pleasure domes of a new age. Of the 26 major-league stadiums in use back in 1982 – preserved in Jim Dow's classic series of photographs – only six remain open for business today. At a time when we most needed heroes, major-league baseball provided the nation with them – and many are captured here in George Brace's elegant photographic portraits.

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Play Ball! A History of Baseball in the Capital Region

Play Ball! chronicles the Capital Region's baseball history. It features close to 100 baseball artifacts, many on public view for the first time. The Capital Region has significant firsts in the national pastime, ties to legendary players, local ballparks, and deep-rooted amateur and professional teams. Archival photographs, rare game footage, signed bats and balls, historic jerseys, stadium seats, score cards, posters, and more help show how baseball was integrated into the community and how the community has helped preserve that history.

Organized baseball in the Capital Region dates to the 1860s. In 1871, the Troy Haymakers joined the first professional major league featuring the first Jewish major league player, Lip Pike, and the first Hispanic major league player, Esteban Enrique Bellan. Several early Hall of Famers played on the National League Troy Trojans, while in Schenectady the Mohawk Colored Giants were the area's best-known black baseball team.

Perhaps the region's best known minor league team was the Albany Senators. They played major league teams like the Yankees in barn-storming games at Albany's Hawkins Stadium that featured Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, and Yogi Berra. Hawkins is famous for being the first ballpark in the Capital District to have field lights installed by General Electric of Schenectady.

Founded in 1930, the Albany Twilight League (ATL) is the oldest continuously running amateur baseball league in the county. The league got its name from its propensity to begin games in the evening, illuminated by the sunset. In the late 1930s the Albany Black Sox joined the ATL, making the league one of the earliest to incorporate black teams into their structure. In 2012, the ATL's Albany Athletics won their first American Amateur Baseball Congress Stan Musial World Series.

In the mid-1980s, the Albany-Colonie Yankees played at Heritage Park in Colonie. In the early 1990s, the team featured many future Yankee players, including Bernie Williams, Jorge Posada, Andy Pettitte, Mariano Rivera, and Derek Jeter.

The semi-professional Albany-Colonie Diamond Dogs played at Heritage Park from 1995 to 2002. That same year, the Tri-City Valley Cats, the A affiliate of the Houston Astros, began playing at Joe Bruno Stadium in Troy. The Valley Cats won the New York-Penn League championship in 2010 and 2013 and continue to cultivate an enthusiastic spirit for baseball among Capital Region fans.

The Clubhouse: Baseball Memorabilia

Baseball fans (short for "fanatics") are like curators. They assemble collections that speak to their love of the game. The Clubhouse includes rare objects and well-cherished pieces of memorabilia collected by community members.

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There are balls signed by Joe DiMaggio and President Richard Nixon, seats from Yankee Stadium and Fenway Park, a locker from Shea Stadium, players' jerseys including a signed jersey that belonged to Mets pitcher Tom Seaver, signs, scorecards, and a dugout lineup card. There's even a larger-than-life letter E from Yankee Stadium's façade.

In addition, there are pieces of "fandom" like World Series ticket stubs, team pennants, baseball cards from major, minor, and women's leagues, pins, photographs, posters, programs, and materials from major league teams past and present. Also featured are contemporary works by New York State artists. More may be added as the community continues to contribute to this show.

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PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

GALLERY TALKS

Most Saturdays and Sundays February – April at 1PM

- Free with museum admission

LECTURE— **Baseball: America's Game**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 | 2PM

John Thorn, Official Baseball Historian for Major League Baseball

In a run through the game's history, Thorn will show how baseball has been, most often for better but occasionally for worse, the American game. It has mirrored our society, sometimes propelling it with models for democracy, community, commerce, and common humanity, sometimes lagging behind with equally instructive models of futility and resistance to change. Baseball in no small measure defines us as Americans, connecting us with our countrymen across all barriers of generation, class, race, and creed. **Tickets for this special lecture are \$10 per person and will be available for purchase at www.albanyinstitute.org. Seating is limited.**

LECTURE— **Building a Home for Baseball**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 | 2PM

Janet Marie Smith, Senior Vice President Planning and Development, LA Dodgers

Janet Marie Smith is an architect and urban planner who is supervising renovation of Dodger Stadium in LA. She has worked for the Baltimore Orioles and the Atlanta Braves to oversee the design and construction of Camden Yards (1992) and Turner Field (1997) and for the Boston Red Sox and the Los Angeles Dodgers to direct the renovations of Fenway Park and Dodger Stadium. While she is best known in the baseball world for the ground breaking urbanity of Camden Yards, people in Red Sox Nation know her as one of the saviors of Fenway Park, the oldest park in Major League Baseball. ***Free with museum admission***

STORYTELLING— **Tales from Baseball's Archives**

SUNDAY, MARCH 1 | 2PM

Tim Wiles, Director, Guilderland Public Library

Can you name the two men who had Hall of Fame Careers that began in 1995 and ended in 2014? That's right! Derek Jeter and Tim Wiles, former Director of Research at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown. Tim will regale you with behind-the-scenes stories involving Ted Williams, Bob Feller, Warren Spahn, and many more. Tales of incredible serendipity, great humor, and pure love for the game will be shared. Don't miss this exciting baseball storytelling event. ***Free with museum admission***

FILM AND DISCUSSION— ***Local Heroes: Baseball on Capital District Diamonds* (54 min., WMHT, 1995)**

Thursday, March 12 | 6 PM

David Pietrusza, Producer, screenwriter and award-winning author

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Local Heroes combines exhaustive research, rare archival film footage, fascinating still photography and revealing original interviews to bring viewers the area's diamond history, from its mythical beginnings with Ballston Spa native Abner Doubleday to Heritage Park in Colonie--and everything in between. Following the screening, Pietrusza will discuss making the film. **Free admission**

LECTURE— **Double Play: Baseball and the Forms of Fiction**

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 | 2 PM

Randall T. Craig, Professor and Chair, Department of English, University at Albany

Novels about baseball stand out in literary history as famous baseball games and players do in the history of the United States. The fiction of Ring Lardner and Mark Harris, Philip Roth and Bernard Malamud, Robert Coover and Michael Joyce, among others, documents the evolution of a genre—and a nation. **Free with museum admission**

PANEL DISCUSSION— **Albany's Twilight League**

SUNDAY, MARCH 22 | 2 PM

With Edward Delanty, Dick Barrett, and others and moderated by journalist and author Paul Grondahl

Established in 1930, Albany's Twilight League is one of the oldest competitive amateur leagues in our nation. Join the foremost experts on its history for a rousing discussion about the people and places that makes the league an integral part of our city's social fabric. **Free with museum admission**

SPECIAL EVENT— **Baseball Trivia Night**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8 | 6 PM

Hosted by the Times Union Sports Editorial Team

So you think you and your friends know something about baseball? Join us opening week for an exciting baseball trivia challenge and test your game! Prizes will be awarded. Teams may include up to four people.

Tickets: \$25 non-members; \$20 members (Tickets include baseball cards that may be traded for refreshments and beer) **Please note that space is limited, and pre-registration is strongly suggested.** Register online at albanyinstitute.org.

LECTURE AND BOOKSIGNING —**Black Baseball Entrepreneurs, 1902-1931: The Rise and Fall of the Negro National and Eastern Colored Leagues**

SUNDAY, APRIL 12 | 2 PM

Michael E. Lomax, Independent Scholar

Lomax, the author of numerous books and articles on the racial divide in American sports and the struggle for equality on and off the field will discuss his latest book *Black Baseball Entrepreneurs* published by Syracuse University Press in 2014. **Free with museum admission**

LECTURE— **Babe Ruth in Albany**

SUNDAY, APRIL 19 | 2 PM

Frank M. Keetz, Author and Historian

Local author and baseball historian Frank Keetz will relate tales about George Herman "Babe" Ruth, who came to Albany with Yankees teammate Lou Gehrig, and met with local politicians including John Boyd Thacher. **Free with museum admission**

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FAMILY PROGRAMS

Art For All

MOST SATURDAYS, FEBRUARY – APRIL | 10AM-4:30 PM

Bring your family to the museum and express your creative side in our drop-in art making sessions. Activities include creating your own baseball cards, collage, painting, and more! **Free with museum admission**

Lego® Building Challenge

2015 Theme - Baseball

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14 | 11AM AND 2PM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 | 1PM

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16 | 11AM AND 2PM

Brings friends, family, and colleagues to work together to create beautiful LEGO® structures. This year's theme is Baseball. Let your imagination run wild and compete for prizes with teams from across the Capital Region. Basic building blocks will be supplied; however, contestants may also bring in their own.

- Registration Fee: \$5 per person, which includes museum admission (Teams may include up to four people.) **Please note that space is limited and pre-registration is required.** Register online at albanyinstitute.org.

FAMILY PROGRAM—Baseball in Winter Family Day

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 | NOON–4:30PM

2PM Performances of “Casey at the Bat” and “Take Me Out to the Ball Game”

Can't wait for opening day? Tour our exhibitions, stop by the studio to make a pennant for your favorite team and at 2PM watch baseball poetry and music expert Tim Wiles, former Director of Research at the Baseball Hall of Fame, perform his costumed recitation of the classic "Casey at the Bat" by Ernest Lawrence Thayer, followed by a rendition of *Take Me Out to the Ball Game*, including the two verses you probably have never heard. Wiles has performed "Casey" thousands of times, and wrote a book on *Take Me Out to the Ball Game* upon its centennial in 2008. He is now Director of the Guilderland Public Library. **Free with museum admission**

Vacation Art Break: Lively Logos! (Ages 6-12)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19 | 9AM – NOON

- \$60 non-members; \$45 members (Tuition includes materials and museum admission.) Registration is required and space is limited. Register online www.albanyinstitute.org.

Vacation Art Break: Put On Your Game Face! (Ages 6-12)

TUESDAY, APRIL 7 – THURSDAY, APRIL 9 | 9AM – NOON

- \$60 non-members; \$45 members (Tuition includes materials and museum admission.) Registration is required and space is limited. Register online at www.albanyinstitute.org.

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FAMILY PROGRAM—**Everybody in the Game Family Day**

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 | NOON-4:30 PM

Noon: Screening of *A League of Their Own* (1992)

2PM: Presentation by author Sue Macy

Tour our exhibitions, stop by the studio to create your own team logo, and hear award-winning author Sue Macy talk about her book “The Story of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League” in which she uncovered the true story behind the movie, *A League of Their Own*. Copies of Sue’s books will be available for purchase and signing in the museum shop. ***Free with museum admission***

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SMAPLE IMAGES Baseball: America's Game



Jim Dow (American, b. 1942),
*Minnesota Twins, Humphrey
Metrodome*, from *The American
League Stadiums*, 1982, portfolio,
color coupler panortamic triptych,
11 1/4" x 27 1/8" , collection of Bank
of America



Ernest C. Withers (American, 1922-
2007), *Ernie Banks (sitting), Larry Doby,
Matty Brescia, Jackie Robinson,
Martin's Stadium 1953*, gelatin silver
print, 16" x 20", Collection of Bank of
America



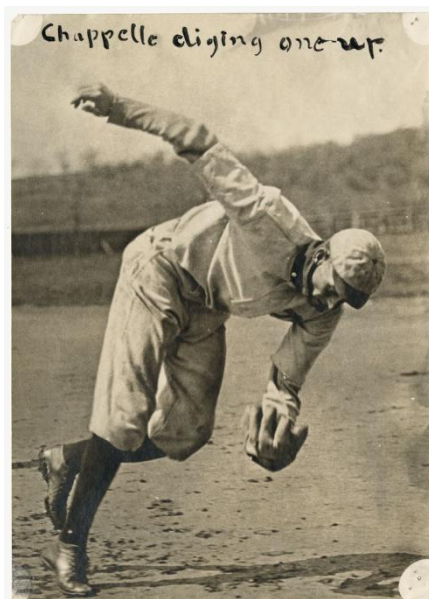
Sandlot Baseball, by Wayne Miller (b.
1918), 1948, gelatin silver print,
Collection of Bank of America

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SAMPLE IMAGES Play Ball! Baseball in the Capital Region



National Nine, of
Albany, 1866
Haines & Wikes
Albumen Print on Card
Paper, c. 1866,
Collection of the Fort
Orange Club



LEFT: Robert Chappelle, Albany
Senators, c. 1908-1910, AIHA
Library, Shillinglaw Collection,
PC 1.29

RIGHT: Meldon Wolfgang,
Albany Senators, c. 1908-1910,
AIHA Library, Shillinglaw
Collection, PC 1.30

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Babe Ruth, Albany Mayor Thacher, Lou Gehrig at Hawkins Stadium, 1929, from the Museum of Innovation and Science, General Electric Archives

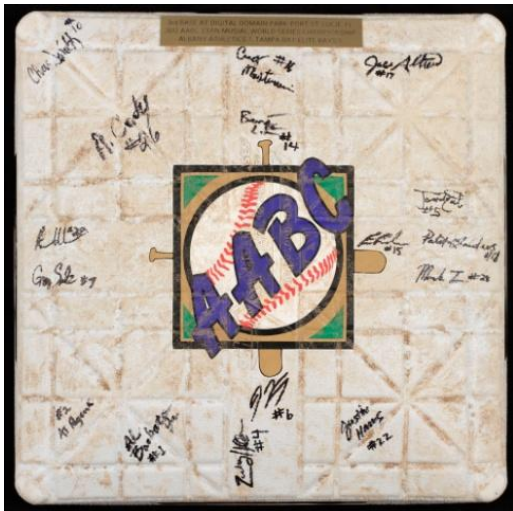


Black Sox, Albany Twilight League Champions, Photographed by The Fellowcraft Studios, Albany, NY, 1937, AIHA Library Purchase, Harder and Glass Family Papers_MG9

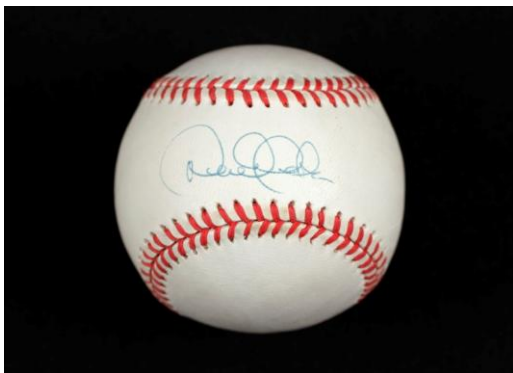
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McNearney Stadium(Later renamed Schenectady Stadium), 1948, Schenectady County Historical Society, Grems-Doolittle Library, Frank Keetz Collection



Third base from 2012 Stan Musial World Series Game, autographed by the 2012 Albany Twilight League Champion and Stan Musial World Series Champion Albany Athletics, collection of Joe Aliteri



Derek Jeter Autographed Baseball
ca. 1994
Collection of Peter Rokeach

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SAMPLE IMAGES

The Clubhouse: Baseball Memorabilia



Tom Seaver jersey, New York Mets,
1971, wool, signed Tom Seaver lower
right, Private collection

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