

Grobani, Anton. Editor. *Guide to Baseball Literature*. Detroit: Gale Research Company, Book Tower, 1975. Pp. xv, + 363. Bibliography, index. \$15.00.

This reference book is the work of a dentist who most certainly is a keen baseball fan. Virtually anything printed before 1973 that is directly associated with the sport (with the exception of scholarly monographs) is probably included in this compendium. There are thirty-three different sections listing a remarkably wide variety of baseball materials and memorabilia. Chapter titles include "Early Club Constitutions," "Guides," "Annuals," "General Histories," "Team Histories," "Fiction," "Humor," "Amateur and Semi-pro," "Rule Books," "Tours," "Anecdotes and Recollections," and even works under the subject of "Scoring." Dr. Grobani must be complemented for his industry.

Unfortunately there are serious problems with this work which will con-

front anyone trying to use it. There is no introduction to help guide the researcher through this book of lists. Secondly, Grobani's definition of "literature" is rather loose. It seems that almost anything that has been printed and placed between two covers fulfills his definition. There are lists of baseball constitutions, record books, and every sort of memorabilia imaginable. Every major league team's yearbook is given its own citation. A third problem is that there is little rhyme or reason for how the annotated bibliographies were prepared. Some volumes are described as having an index and photographs but these elements might not be mentioned in the notes describing another book. Citations do not include the numbers of pages of a given work. If the item in question is not clothbound, then the description becomes somewhat capricious. Some materials such as articles are referred to as magazines in some places, but as booklets or paperbound in others. Nearly all journal articles are cited as booklets, which was apparently the state in which Grobani examined them. Articles are typically cited without the volume number, date, or number of pages. A fourth problem is that the materials are not listed in alphabetical order, which is inexcusable. If one is seeking a bibliography, that entails rifling through a thirty-two page list. A fifth difficulty is that just the titles, and not the authors are indexed.

The omissions are principally scholarly monographs. Sociological and psychological essays are completely neglected. A glaring omission are Oscar Grusky's essays on managerial recruitment and organizational effectiveness. Other sociological studies omitted are Dodson's essay on integration, Rosenblatt on black social mobility, and Charnofsky on the social character of major leaguers. Several papers appeared in *Research Quarterly* on the subject of Little League baseball. John P. LaPlace wrote an early dissertation on the relationship of personality and success in professional baseball. Many historical studies have been overlooked, including Lucas' piece on Sunday baseball in Philadelphia. Seymour's dissertation is cited, but Voigt's is not. Scholars seeking a more complete review of the historical literature on baseball are advised to examine the *Journal of Sport History* journal survey.

One other area that Grobani did not deal with are the various manuscript collections on baseball. Although they are not "literature," considering the kinds of materials that are included in this guide, it might have been worthwhile to include them. Among the major collections are the vast holdings of the National Baseball library in Cooperstown, and the collections of the University of Cincinnati, the Chicago Historical Society, the Cleveland Public Library, the Detroit Public Library, and especially the New York Public Library.

If a researcher has a particular topic in mind, he might find the guide a very useful source. For example, I found the sections on Humor, Anecdotes, and Ballads quite valuable in collecting potential citations for a popular culture approach to the study of baseball. However, just because an item is cited, does not mean a scholar will be able to readily locate it. I checked every tenth item in each chapter (or the last item listed if there were not ten in a chapter), and found only sixteen listed in the National Union Catalogue. Grobani does not indicate where any of materials can be located, although I assume most would be at the National Baseball Library. Grobani did point out, however, that one of his reference sources was “material gathered from the editor’s private collection” (p. xv). *Caveat emptor*. (Complete citations for items referred to are available from Mr. Riess).

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