

# “Dear Taylor:” The Letters of Ty Cobb to J. G. Taylor Spink

Steven P. Gietschier

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In the last decade of his life, Ty Cobb engaged in an extensive correspondence with J. G. Taylor Spink, publisher of *The Sporting News*. Few of Spink’s replies survive, but sixty Cobb letters are housed in *The Sporting News* archives. They represent the most substantial Cobb manuscript materials outside those at the National Baseball Library.

Unavailable to Cobb scholars, the correspondence sheds additional light on Cobb’s life, especially the years after he retired, and on his character. The letters cover a variety of subjects in often fascinating detail. Cobb states his opinion that baseball in his day was played much better than in the 1950s and that observers in the fifties knew little about his era. He promotes several veteran players, including his former teammate Sam Crawford, for election to the Hall of Fame. He discusses his investments, especially his significant stock holdings in Coca-Cola. perhaps most importantly, he writes freely about his personal life and family situation, the death of one son, his second divorce, and the long debilitating illness that eventually took his life.