

GRAND SLAM! SOTHEBY'S ANNOUNCES SALE OF BASEBALL MEMORABILIA FROM THE FAMED COLLECTION OF BARRY HALPER IN 1999

***-- Barry Halper's Collection Is Widely Acknowledged To Be the Finest and Largest Private Collection of Baseball Memorabilia in the World--
--Over 100,000 Pieces of Baseball History -- Rich in Material Relating to Baseball Legends Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Ty Cobb, Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris -- To Be Offered--
--Portions of the Collection To Be Sold over the Internet--***

New York, November 11, 1998 -- Sotheby's New York announced today that it will sell baseball memorabilia from the renowned Barry Halper Collection -- the finest and largest privately owned collection of baseball memorabilia in existence -- in sales during the course of 1999. The Collection, as remarkable for its sheer breadth as for the quality and rarity of scores of individual items, was assembled by Mr. Halper over a 50-year period of single-minded pursuit of objects illustrating the history and achievements of America's favorite sport. It includes almost 1,000 uniforms, hundreds of which are signed, some 30,000 baseball cards, 1,800 baseballs, 400 bats, 4,000 photographs as well as contracts, rings, pins, and gloves. These objects chronicle the game from its beginnings in the 19th Century and includes a wealth of material associated with baseball's legendary players of the 20th Century, such as Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Ty Cobb, Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris, right through to Cal Ripken, Jr. and Mark McGwire. While the sale at Sotheby's will offer the vast majority of Mr. Halper's Collection, Mr. Halper has also arranged that portions will be acquired by the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

David Redden, Executive Vice President of Sotheby's, speaking of the Collection, said: "Barry Halper has literally devoted his life to preserving the legacy of our national pastime, in what is undoubtedly one of the most extraordinary collecting achievements of the 20th Century. His fascination with every aspect of the game of baseball as it has evolved in America over the last 150 years is evident not only in the volume, but also in the richness of the material he has assembled, which includes many objects of mind-boggling rarity, such as the only autographed Ty Cobb uniform known to exist. Because of the range and variety of this Collection, as well as the national fascination with baseball, we have decided that, in addition to a major live auction sale at our premises in New York, portions of the Collection will be sold on the Internet."

Barry Halper

Barry Halper's love of baseball began in the 1940's when he was a young boy in his hometown of Newark, New Jersey, home to the old Yankee farm team, the Newark Bears. While he routinely sought autographs from both the home and visiting teams, one day Halper met former Chicago Cubs player Lou Novikoff, at the time a Newark Bear known as the "Mad Russian", who offered him a keepsake of a different sort -- the Detroit Tigers road uniform that Barney McCosky wore in 1940. Novikoff's gift started Halper down the road of collecting baseball memorabilia, which differentiated him from the legions of collectors of baseball cards and autographs. Barry Halper became known as the kid who would take any baseball souvenir as long as it was signed. While still in his youth, he amassed quite an impressive collection, including Babe Ruth's autograph, a baseball signed by Cy Young and 75 uniforms gathered from various ballplayers.

Halper continued to collect baseball cards and other memorabilia over the years, but it was only in the mid-1970's when he attended a baseball card convention in New York City that he realized the rarity and value of what he had begun as a boy. Halper decided to retrieve the collection of his youth from his mother's home. This began a period of passionate pursuit of material in which virtually all of his spare time was devoted to building the collection. In 1979 he became a limited partner in the New York Yankees and by the mid-1980's he had co-founded a company that made sports cards under the brand names Major League Marketing and Score, producing the industry's first 3-D cards.

The Collection

The scope of Barry Halper's Collection is currently unparalleled in private hands, in terms of size, attention to the chronology of the game, and the number of unique and extremely rare items.

The approximately 1,000 uniforms comprise over forty percent of the Collection's total value. Lou Gehrig's Yankees autographed jersey (1936) is the only one in existence that the player is known to have signed. Another rare, and probably unique item, is the only autographed Ty Cobb Philadelphia Athletics jersey (1928) known to exist. Joe

DiMaggio's San Francisco Seals autographed jersey, representing his first professional uniform, will also be offered.

Highlighting the extraordinary assortment of approximately 30,000 baseball cards are several rarities including an uncut strip of printer's proof cards with Honus Wagner (1910) and Babe Ruth's Rookie card (1914). A testament to the historical significance of the Collection resides in items such as a team card of the 1869 Cincinnati Red Stockings (the first professional team in baseball), or the first baseball card of "Shoeless" Joe Jackson in 1910. Barry Halper's obsession with autographs is illustrated with a set of signed baseball cards of all fifteen 500 lifetime home run hitters.

Halper also accumulated an amazing array of memorabilia documenting high points in individual player's careers. Items such as Mickey Mantle's Triple Crown trophy (1956), Joe DiMaggio's last World Series ring (1951), and Mickey Mantle's 1956 World Series ring, are included. Mantle's first pro contract with signing bonus check (1949) and Ty Cobb's contract (1914-15), the first multi-year deal and the only Cobb contract known to exist, are among the rarities of the Collection.

There is a wealth of material, including many significant pieces from the beginnings of the game. These items include an 1859 baseball, one of the oldest in existence. An extensive sheet music collection includes the original score to Take Me Out to the Ball Game.

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Further information available on request.