

NYC 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium

by Peter Mancuso & John Zinn

If we could imagine a subtitle of sorts for our merry band of friendly, bright, enthusiastic and sharing colleagues who are collectively identified as SABR's "Nineteenth Century" and "Origins" Committees, we could affix the sub text, "... because, baseball history is not just baseball history."

This is not in the least intended to imply that our members are engaged in researching, learning and/or writing about baseball history with ulterior motives, although, many may be, but for good purposes no doubt.

What our subtitle might be intended to imply, is that no aspect of baseball history, not even sheer statistics, occurs within a historical vacuum; there has always been forces; social, financial, technologi-

cal, etc. that drove the collection, development and understanding of even just the numbers. Like it or not, know it or not, intend it or not; you are not a baseball historian for the sake of baseball history alone. Even if you think you are, there will always be others who will derive a wider understanding of history from what you brought forth as "just baseball history".

That being said, our two committees are about to step off in a deliberate endeavor to better demonstrate that, "...because, baseball history is not just baseball history." To accomplish this we have chosen as our preliminary geographically-specific, interdisciplinary symposium, a cauldron of 19th-century baseball and of 19th-century America, NYC and its greater environs. To help us to derive greater under-

standing of what we know so far, what we don't know and what we think we know, we have elicited three dedicated and talented historians whose devotion to their respective studies goes well beyond the letters following their names. Joining this distinguished guest faculty are some of our own esteemed colleagues.

The final pages of this issue of our respective committees' newsletters contain the application for your passport to 19th century New York City and a front row seat to baseball being played there. We do hope that you will take the historical journey with us. Please, do not delay registering, space is ample but also limited. Also, please, feel free to contact either of us for additional information if needed.

NYC 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium Speakers

Keynote Speaker Dr. Steven H. Jaffe is a historian living in Maplewood, NJ. He is currently the guest curator of the exhibition "Activist New York" at the Museum of the City of New York and author, of *New York at War: Four Centuries of Combat, Fear, and Intrigue in Gotham* (Basic Books, 2012), and *Who Were the Founding Fathers? Two Hundred Years of Reinventing American History* (Henry Holt, 1996).



Dr. Ann Fabian will present "Gambling in 19th Century America". Dr. Fabian is Distinguished Professor of History and American Studies at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. She is the author of *Card Sharps,*



Dream Books & Bucket Shops: Gambling in Nineteenth-Century America (Cornell University Press, 1991; paperback, Routledge, 1999).

Dr. David Hochfelder will present), "How the Telegraph Helped Make Baseball the National Pastime". Dr. Hochfelder is Associate Professor of History at University of Albany and author of *The Telegraph in America: A History* (Baltimore and London: John Hopkins University Press, 2012).



Society for American Baseball Research (SABR)
“Nineteenth Century” & “Origins” Research Committees, present:
NYC 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium
Saturday, November 15, 2014; John Jay College of Criminal Justice
524 W. 59th Street, (between 10th-11th Avenues) New York, NY 10019

Program & Schedule

- 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM – 1st Floor Lobby in front of Lecture Hall L.63 – Immediately inside College Entrance , 524 W. 59th St. Check-in and Morning Coffee Service
- 9:30 AM – 9:45 AM - L.63, Introduction to Pre-Professional (Pioneer) Era (c.1840-1870), John Zinn, Symposium Co-Coordinator, Origins Committee, member,
- 9:45 AM – 10:15 AM – L.63, Research Presentation, SABR member, TBA in September
- 10:15 AM-11:00 AM – L.63, Panel Discussion, “The New York Game”, Moderator, John Thorn, Official Historian, MLB. Panelists: Tom Gilbert, William Ryczek and George Thompson.
- 11:00 AM-11:15 AM - 3rd Inning Stretch
- 11:15 AM- 11:45 AM –L.63, Research Presentation, Dr. Ann Fabian, Distinguished Professor of History, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, “Gambling in 19th Century America”
- 11:45 AM-12:15 PM - L.63, Special Presentation, Marjorie “Crankie” Adams & Gary “Pops” O’Maxfield, “An Interview of Daniel Lucius “Doc” Adams”
- 12:15 PM -2:00 PM – West End Dining Room, 3rd Floor – Luncheon and Keynote Address, Dr. Steven H. Jaffe, Writer and Historian
- 2:00 PM - 2:15 PM – L.63, Introduction to Professional Era (1871-1900), Peter Mancuso, Symposium Co-Coordinator, Nineteenth Century Committee, Chair
- 2:15 PM - 2:45 PM - L.63, Research Presentation, Dr. David Hochfelder, Associate Professor of History, University of Albany (SUNY), “How the Telegraph Helped Make Baseball the National Pastime”
- 2:45 PM – 3:30 PM - L.63, Panel Discussion, “New York City Baseball in the Gilded Age”, Moderator, Bob Bailey, Vice-Chair, Nineteenth Century Committee. Panelists: David Dyte, William Lamb and David Nemec
- 3:30 PM – 3:45 PM – 7th Inning Stretch
- 3:45 PM – 4:15 PM – L.63, Research Presentation, Donald Jensen, “Off the Diamond: “The Sporting Life and Madison Square” (see optional, Sunday, 11:00AM-12:30, historic “field trip”)
- 4:15 PM – 4:45 PM – L.63, Research Presentation, SABR member, TBA in September
- 4:45PM - 5:00PM - L.63.Closing Remarks and discussion, Peter Mancuso and John Zinn

Immediately following the symposium on Saturday, you are invited to join our optional Post Conference Gathering (food & beverage costs are the responsibility of individuals) at a location near John Jay College / Lincoln Center, TBA.

2014 NYC 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium Further Information

Optional : Sunday, November 16, 2014, 11:00AM - 12:30PM: Walking Tour of the Historic Madison Square District, the Center of Gilded Age New York's Sporting Life. Starting point, lobby of Broadway Plaza Hotel, 1155 Broadway, (West 27th St. & Broadway). The hotel sits on the outfield of the historic baseball grounds of NY's early Knickerbockers. We will tour an area roughly bounded by 23rd and 30th Streets, Madison and 6th Avenues, which was both famous and notorious in the latter 19th century for its entertainment, legitimate and illicit, grand and raw. See the locations once frequented by baseball and other sport celebrities, and the famous and near famous who admired them.

DIRECTIONS: Driving: John Jay College is located in northern mid-town Manhattan on the Westside between 10th Ave. (north bound) and 11th Ave. (north and south bound), and W.58th St. (east bound) and W.59th St. (west bound). Paid garage parking is available in several neighborhood locations, including on the north side of W. 59th St., immediately opposite the College entrance between 10th & 11th Avenues. The second garage, on right on W.59th St. offers a discount with a validated parking stub. Ask college security for parking validation when you enter the college lobby

Trains: Penn Sta. (7th Ave. & W.33rd St.) is the Manhattan Terminus for Amtrac, NJ Rail Transit and the Long Island RR. Grand Central Terminal (E.42nd St. and Madison Ave.) is the Manhattan terminus for MTA Metro-North

Out of Town Buses: The Port Authority Bus Terminal (W.40th-W.42nd Sts. & 8th to 9th Aves) is the Manhattan terminus for numerous suburban and commuter and long distance bus services.

Subway: The 59th St. (Columbus Circle) Station is just two avenue blocks east of the college. The "A", "B", "C", "D", "#1", "#2" and "#3" trains all stop at this station.

City Buses: NYC Transit Authority buses run North on 10th Avenue and South on 9th Avenue and also East and West on 57th Street.

LODGING: Starting point for the Sunday Madison Square Walking Tour is the **Broadway Plaza Hotel**, Broadway and W.27th St. (approx 2 miles from John Jay). There are a limited number of rooms available at our group rates: \$229 per night plus taxes for a 1 bedded, room maximum occupancy 2 people; and \$249 per night plus taxes for a 2 bedded room, maximum occupancy 4 people (a \$60 discount off current rates). There are a limited number of 1 and 2 bedded rooms available. To register or to check availability contact the hotel's GM, Scott Walker by email:

swalker@broadwayplazahotel.com or at his direct phone 212-679-7685. Hotel's phone and website: 212-679-7665, www.broadwayplazahotel.com. Mention, 19c BB Symp.

Hotels within 15 minute walk of John Jay College:

6 Columbus Cir.-A Sixty Hotel, 6 Columbus cir. 212-204-3000, www.sixtyhotels.com/6Columbus

Hudson Hotel, 356 W. 58thSt., 212-554-6000, www.hudsonhotel.com

Holiday Inn Midtown / 57th St., 440 W. 57th, 800-439-4745, www.holidayinn.com

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS: (20-25 mins.). There are two time slots open, one 1840-1870 & one 1871-1900 for greater NYC baseball. Do not submit if accepted at "The Fred". Abstracts must be between 300-500 words, presentation title, your complete contact information and submitted by email before Sept. 1st, Selection results will to persons submitting abstracts by September 15, 2014.

Pre-Professional Era (NYC bb topics 1840- 1871) submissions to: jzinn84@comcast.net

Professional Era (NYC bb topics 1871-1900) submissions to: peterplus4@earthlink.net

REGISTRATION: Who: Conference registration is open to both SABR members and to the general public. See Registration Form for fees and payment information. (Next page).

When: Registration commences soon after July 1, 2014 and will continue until November 1, 2014 or until registration is announced "closed" due to space constraints.

How: Registrations are accepted by mail only: send completed Registration Form to: Peter Mancuso, 6970 Ely Road, New Hope, PA 18938. Enclose with personal check **payable to:**

"SABR – NYC 19c BB Symposium." Mail by **Nov. 1, 2014**. After mail deadline to confirm if space is available (or for other information) contact Peter Mancuso: peterplus4@earthlink.net, (215) 862-2887.

**SABR, “Nineteenth Century” & “Origins” Committees
NYC 19th Century Baseball Interdisciplinary Symposium
Saturday, November 15, 2014, 9:00AM – 5:00PM
John Jay College, 524 West 59th St. (btwn: 10th & 11th Aves.), New York, NY**

To register, prepare and mail this form with payment (see below)

Name _____

Name for Name Badge _____

Address _____

City _____ St (Prov.) _____ Postal Code _____ Country _____

Telephones: Home _____ Mobile: _____

Email _____

The Symposium includes a buffet luncheon, morning coffee service and handout material.

Registration: \$95.00 per person, include up to 3 guests: \$95 X ___ = \$ _____ total enclosed

Guest/s information:

Name _____, City _____, St. (Prov.) _____

Name for Name Badge _____

Name _____, City _____, St. (Prov.) _____

Name for Name Badge _____

Name _____, City _____, St. (Prov.) _____

Name for Name Badge _____

Payment and Mailing:

Please, make check or MO, US dollars, payable to: **“SABR: NYC 19c BB Symposium”**

Please, mail check and completed registration form before November 1, 2014 to:

Peter Mancuso, 6970 Ely Road, New Hope, PA 18938, Questions 215-862-2887 or peterplus4@earthlink.net