



National Baseball Hall of Fame Library MSB 18  
**Rob Edelman.** Collection, 1905-1997.  
2.2 linear feet (5 archives boxes and 1 oversized box)  
(Photograph Department)

### **Abstract**

Collection of Rob Edelman, author of *Great Baseball Film : from 'Right off the Bat' to 'A League of Their Own'* (Secaucus, N.J. : Carol Publishing Group, 1994) The collection is comprised of photographs, lobby cards, promotional materials, postcards, slides and sheet music, with the bulk of the materials being used to write the book. Some of the better known baseball movies include: *A League of Their Own*, *Pride of the Yankees*, *Bull Durham*, *Eight Men Out*, and *The Bad News Bears*. Some of the more obscure baseball movies represented include: *College*, *Brother Rat*, *A Soldier's Story*, and *Whistling in Brooklyn*. A full list of the movies and television programs represented in the collection can be found at the end of the finding aid.

**Provenance:** The collection was donated to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in 2002 by Rob Edelman. The collection was arranged by Patricia Kelly, and further arranged and described by Anne McFarland in December 2002.

**Restrictions on Access:** By appointment only Monday-Friday 9AM-4PM; staff assistance required.

**Separations:** None.

## **Biographical and Historical Background**

Rob Edelman has been involved with film for over 20 years as a journalist, critic, teacher and author. He was actively pursuing a film history book when a publishing contact asked if he was interested in baseball, and would be willing to write a book on baseball and film. While researching and writing this book, Edelman watched as many baseball films as he could. It took over two years to collect the 400-plus photographs as well as to write the text. The majority of the photographs in the collection are included in the book. Edelman is considered an expert on baseball movies and his book is one of the premier works on the subject.

Baseball and movies have a long history together, starting in 1898, when Thomas Alva Edison filmed *The Ball Game*. This was the first time baseball was filmed, but certainly would not be the last. Very often, baseball is an integral part of a film such as *The Natural* (1984) but just as often, merely the background or an image within a film as in, *City Slickers* or *A Few Good Men*.

During the early days of baseball film making, actors who portrayed baseball players were often not athletic themselves. One of the best examples of this is Gary Cooper as Lou Gehrig in *The Pride of the Yankees* (1942). As games were televised and a larger audience viewed the visual experience of major league baseball, they came to expect the same from actors portraying baseball players. Actors such as Kevin Costner actually have experience playing baseball at the college level or beyond. Actors such as Tom Selleck, Ronald Reagan, Robert DeNiro, Paul Newman, Joe Brown, and Gregory Peck have been enticed to don uniform and cleats during their careers.

Baseball players themselves cannot be counted out as actors. A number have tried their hand at acting, usually playing themselves or another ballplayer. Mike Donlin played in major league baseball from 1899-1914 for teams such as the St. Louis Cardinals, Baltimore Orioles, Cincinnati Reds, New York Giants, Boston Braves, and Pittsburgh Pirates. Upon retiring, he turned to acting, working in films such as, *Slide, Kelly, Slide*, (1927), *Hot Curves* (1930), and *Swell Head* (1935). Other players have had starring or cameo roles in films, such as Babe Ruth in *Babe Comes Home* (1927) and *The Pride of the Yankees* (1942); Jackie Robinson in *The Jackie Robinson Story* (1950), and Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris in *Safe at Home* (1962).

## **Scope and Contents**

The collection of Rob Edelman is divided into four series, **Baseball Movies and Television, Non-Baseball Movies and Television, Baseball Related, and Celebrities (Non-Baseball)**.

**Baseball Movies and Television** consists of seven sub-series: photographs, lobby cards, promotional materials, newspaper articles, postcards, slides, and sheet music. The bulk of this series is comprised of black-and-white photographs from movies and television programs with baseball as their main theme. In addition to the photographs in the

collection, lobby cards, which were used as front-of-theater promotion, much like the movie posters of today, are a significant part of the series. The movies represented are listed at the end of the finding aid.

**Non-Baseball Movies and Television** consists of two sub-series: photographs and lobby cards. The bulk of this series is comprised of photographs from movies and television programs in which baseball was not the main theme but in which it played a part. Examples include: *Grease*, *A Kid in King Arthur's Court*, and *Mr. Belvedere*. If these elements of the media are taken into account, the number of baseball movies and television programs about baseball increases exponentially.

**Baseball Related** consists of three sub-series: photographs (individuals), photographs (groups), and one playbill. The photographs are primarily of baseball players and/or team photographs. The playbill has an interesting advertisement on the back cover, featuring Ted Williams and Stan Musial.

**Celebrities (Non-Baseball)** consists of photographs of celebrities such as Marilyn Monroe, William Bendix, Tom Selleck, Jimmy Smits, and Buster Keaton. Many of these actors had roles in baseball productions during their careers. Marilyn Monroe was associated with baseball because she was married to Joe DiMaggio.

## Container List

### Box

### Folder

#### **Baseball Movies and Television**

##### Photographs

1	1	Adventures of Frank Merriwell, 1936
	2	Alibi Ike, 1935
	3	Amazing Grace and Chuck, 1987
	4	Angels in the Outfield, 1951
	5	Angels in the Outfield, 1994
	6	Aunt Mary (Television), 1979
	7	Babe Comes Home, 1927
	8	Babe Ruth Story, The, 1948
	9	Babe, The, 1992
	10	Bad News Bears go to Japan, The, 1978
		Bad News Bears in Breaking Training, The, 1977
		Bad News Bears, The, 1976
	11	Bang the Drum Slowly, 1973
	12	Big Leaguer, 1953
	13	Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars & Motor Kings, The, 1976
	14	Blue Skies Again, 1983
	15	Brewster's Millions, 1985
	16	Brother Rat, 1938
	17	Bull Durham, 1988
	18	Bush Leaguer, 1927
	19	Busher, The, 1919
	20	Casey at the Bat (Animated), 1946
	21	Casey at the Bat (Television version), 1986
		Casey at the Bat, 1927
	22	College, 1927
	23	Comrades of Summer, 1992
	24	Cooperstown, 1992
	25	Damn Yankees, 1958
	26	Death on the Diamond, 1934
	27	Dizzy and Daffy, 1934
	28	Don't Look Back : The Story of Satchel Paige (Television), 1981
2	1	Ed, 1996
	2	Eight Men Out, 1988
	3	Elmer the Great, 1933
	4	Fan, The, 1996
	5	Fast Company, 1929
	6	Fear Strikes Out, 1957
	7	Field of Dreams, 1989

## Container List

### Box

### Folder

#### **Baseball Movies and Television (cont.)**

##### Photographs

2	8	Fireman, Save My Child, 1932
	9	Girls Can Play, 1937
	10	Great American Pastime, The, 1956
	11	Here Come the Tigers, 1978
	12	Hit and Run, 1924
	13	Hot Curves, 1930
	14	It Happens Every Spring, 1949
	15	It's Good to Be Alive : Roy Campanella (Television) 1974
	16	Jackie Robinson Story, The, 1950
	17	Kid from Cleveland, The, 1949
	18	Kid from Left Field, The, (Television version), 1979
		Kid from Left Field, The, 1953
	19	Kill the Umpire, 1950
	20	Ladies Day, 1943
	21	League of Their Own, A, 1992
	22	Little Big League, 1994
	23	Long Gone, 1987
	24	Love Affair : The Eleanor and Lou Gehrig Story, A, 1978
3	1	Major League II, 1994
		Major League, 1989
	2	Max Dugan Returns, 1983
	3	Mr. Baseball, 1992
	4	Natural, The, 1984
	5	One in a Million : The Ron LeFlore Story (Television), 1978
	6	Pastime, 1991
	7	Pinch Hitter, The, 1917
		Pinch Hitter, The, 1925
	8	Pride of St. Louis, The, 1952
	9	Pride of the Yankees, The, 1942
	10	Rhubarb, 1951
	11	Roogie's Bump, 1954
	12	Rookie of the Year, 1993
	13	Safe at Home, 1962
	14	Sandlot, The, 1993
	15	Scout, The, 1994
	16	Slide, Kelly, Slide, 1927
	17	Soldier's Story, A, 1984
	18	Squeeze Play, 1979
	19	Stratton Story, The, 1949

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### Folder

#### **Baseball Movies and Television (cont.)**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
		Photographs
3	20	Swell Head, 1935
4	1	Take Me Out to the Ballgame, 1949
	2	Talent for the Game, 1991
	3	There Was Always Sun Shining Someplace : Life in the Negro Leagues, 1984
	4	They Learned About Women, 1930
	5	Three Stripes in the Sun, 1955
	6	Tiger Town, 1983
	7	Trifling with Honor, 1923
	8	Warming Up, 1928
	9	Whistling in Brooklyn, 1943
	10	Winner Never Quits, A, 1986
	11	Winning Team, The, 1952
	12	Worm Killer's Last Spring, 1993
		Lobby Cards
MSB18/Ov 1	1	About Face, 1952
		Angels in the Outfield, 1951
	2	Bad News Bears Break Training, The, 1977
		Bad News Bears, The, 1976
	3	Big Leaguer, 1953
		Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars & Motor Kings, The, 1976
		Damn Yankees (reproduction), 1958
		Fear Strikes Out, 1957
	4	Great American Pastime, 1956
		Heckler, The, (b+w reproduction), 1940
		Here Come the Tigers, 1978
	5	Kill the Umpire, 1950
	6	Moonlight in Havana, 1942
		Pride of the Yankees, The, (reproduction), 1942
		Rhubarb (b+w, reproduction), 1951
		Rhubarb (reproduction), 1951
		Roogie's Bump, 1954
		Soldier's Story, A, 1984
4	13	Alibi Ike, 1935; Batty Baseball, 1944 (cartoon); Girls Can Play, 1937; How to Play Baseball, 1942 (cartoon)
		Breaking into the Big Leagues, 1913; Pinch Hitters, 1917; Those Athletic Girls, 1918; Headin' Home, 1920
		Casey at the Bat, 1916; Warming Up, 1928; Elmer the Great, 1933

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#### **Baseball Movies and Television (cont.)**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
		Lobby Cards
4	13	Damn Yankees, 1958; That Touch of Mink, 1962; Safe at Home, 1962 His New Mamma, 1924; New Klondike, The, 1926; Slide, Kelly, Slide, 1927; Babe Comes Home, 1927 Jackie Robinson Story, The, 1950; Stratton Story, The, 1949; Take Me Out to the Ballgame, 1949; Kill the Umpire, 1950; Winning Team, The, 1952 Rhubarb, 1951; Angels in the Outfield, 1951; About Face, 1952; Kill the Umpire, 1950; Babe Comes Home, 1927; Slide, Kelly, Slide, 1927; Two Mugs from Brooklyn, 1943; Taxi, Mister, 1943
		Promotional Materials
MSB18/Ov 1	7	Angels in the Outfield, 1994 Babe, The, 1992 Double Play, 1996 Ed, 1996 Fan, The, 1996
	8	Field of Dreams, 1989 For the Love of the Game, 1999 League of Their Own, A, 1992 Major League, 1989 Mr. Baseball, 1992
	9	Rookie of the Year, 1993 Soul of the Game, The, 1996 Talent for the Game, 1991 Worm Killer's Last Spring, 1994
		Newspaper and Magazine Advertisements and Articles
	10	Babe Comes Home Clara Bow Fireman, Save My Child Nuts About Baseball Pride of St. Louis, The Slide, Kelly, Slide

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#### **Baseball Movies and Television (cont.)**

		Postcards
4	14	Field of Dreams Natural, The
		Slides
4	15	Eight Men Out Field of Dreams Roogie's Bump Soul of the Game, The Talent for the Game, A
		Sheet Music
MSB18/Ov 1	11	Damn Yankees – "Whatever Lola Wants (Lola Gets)"

#### **Non-Baseball Movies and Television**

		Photographs with Baseball Imagery
5	1	12 Angry Men
	2	Abbott and Costello
	3	About Face About Last Night Bat 21 Best of the Best II, The Big Green, The (with A Kid in King Arthur's Court) Big Picture, The Big Squeeze, The Black Legion, The Boy With Green Hair, The Boys Night Out Bronx Tale, A
	4	Chasing Dreams City Slickers City Slickers II Comeback Kid, The Critic's Choice Do the Right Thing Endangered Species Even Cowgirls Get the Blues Experiment in Terror
	5	Few Good Men, A

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### Folder

#### **Non-Baseball Movies and Television (cont.)**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
		Photographs with Baseball Imagery
5	5	Flower Drum Song Funny Farm Geisha Boy, The Going My Way Grand Jury Grease Gung Ho
	6	Harlem Nights Hide in Plain Sight Horizontal Lieutenant, The Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom Ironweed It All Came True Jacknife Jerky Boys, The Movie, The Kid in King Arthur's Court, A
	7	Lean on Me Life of Riley, The MacArthur's Children Mickey Music Box New Klondike, The Odd Couple, The On Moonlight Bay Our Gang : Giants vs. Yankees
	8	Problem Child Sakura Killers Simple Men Stealing Home Strategic Air Command That Touch of Mink Three Wishes Unhook the Stars Wind

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#### **Non-Baseball Movies and Television (cont.)**

MSB18/Ov 1	12	Lobby Cards Clay Pigeon, 1971 Escapade in Japan, 1957 Family Jewels, The, 1965 Meet John Doe, 1941 Rawhide, 1938 Taxi, Mister, 1943
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#### **Baseball Related**

5	9	Photographs (Individuals) Allen, Mel Autry, Gene Christenson, Larry Cobb, Ty DiMaggio, Joe Dugan, Joe Gray, Pete Griffey, Jr., Ken (ad) Grube, Frank Mathewson, Christy McGraw, John Robinson, Jackie Ruth and Gehrig Ruth, Babe
5	10	Photographs (Groups) 1874 Boston Club 1905 Brooklyn Club 1919 Cincinnati Reds Team 1939 New York Yankees Team 1942 Brooklyn Dodgers 1948 Cleveland Indians 1952 Baseball Players' Dinner Lou Gehrig Day Murderers' Row
5	11	Playbill Playbill ad. with Ted Williams and Stan Musial

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#### **Non-Baseball Celebrities (Photographs)**

5	12	Ball, Lucille and Desi Arnaz (ballplayer and umpire) Ball, Lucille and Vivian Vance (in baseball uniforms) Bendix, William and daughter Beradino, John (actor and former player) Brendel, El Connors, Chuck and others Crosby, Bing and Frank Howard Hopper, DeWolf Howard, Ron and Don Knotts
	13	Keaton, Buster Keaton, Buster and Natalie Talmadge (Batting on the beach) Monroe, Marilyn Monroe, Marilyn and Joe DiMaggio Selleck, Tom Simmons, Richard (playing ball with kids) Smits, Jimmy and children Uecker, Bob and Christopher Hewitt Unidentified actor in baseball uniform Warriors, The (gang members in baseball uniforms) White, Pearl