GUIDE to the National League Files: Reorganization of Baseball

National Baseball Hall of Fame Library

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Collection Number
BA MSS 139
BL-569.2011

Title
National League Files: Reorganization of Baseball

Inclusive Dates
1918 - 1921

Extent
1.25 linear feet (3 archival boxes)

Repository
National Baseball Hall of Fame Library
25 Main Street
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Abstract
This is a collection of correspondence, telegrams and agreements between the Major and the Minor Leagues and the establishment of the Commissioner’s office. These files were from the National League office.

Preferred Citation
National League Files: Reorganization of Baseball, BA MSS 139, National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, Cooperstown, NY.

Access
By appointment during regular business hours, email research@baseballhall.org.

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Processing Information
This collection was processed by Claudette Scrafford in September 2011.

Provenance
This collection was donated by the Office of the Commissioner in 2004.
History
In the wake of the Black Sox scandal and dissatisfied with Ban Johnson, AL president, the National League wanted to reorganize major league baseball. A revised agreement with the National Association was drafted, as well as revisions to the National Agreement and playing rules. Albert Lasker, owner of the Chicago Cubs, was the original planner for the Lasker Plan, a report that recommended baseball's governing authority be reformed which led to the creation of the office of the Commissioner.

Scope and Content
This collection is organized by subject matter and chronologically. Included in this collection are drafts and revisions of various agreements such as the Resolution of October 18, 1920 to form a 12-club league. Correspondence related to the formation of the position of Commissioner and the Lasker Plan.

Controlled Access Terms
These records are indexed under the following terms in the National Baseball Hall of Fame’s Library catalog. Researchers wishing to find related materials may wish to search under these terms.

Corporate Names
National League
American League
National Association
National Commission
Commissioner’s Office
Pittsburg Gazette

Personal Names
Heydler, John 1869 - 1956
Herrmann, August 1859 - 1931
Johnson, Ban 1864 - 1931
Landis, Kenesaw Mountain 1866 - 1944
Griffith, Clark 1869 - 1955
Killilea, Henry J. 1863 - 1929
Farrell, John 1870 - 1945
Ebbets, Charles 1859 - 1925
Maines, George
Toole, John d.1929
Lasker, Albert 1880 - 1952

Subject Headings
Agreements
Collective labor agreements
Correspondence
Telegrams
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<td>Major-Minor League Agreement -Clark Griffith’s suggestions</td>
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Major League agreement, Form A
Major-Minor League Agreement, Form B
drafts and final revisions by Heydler
National League Player Uniform Contract Dec 1920

Folder 14
Form A and B, extra copies (same as folder 13)

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Resolutions, Heydler’s statement Oct-Nov 1920

Folder 16
Pittsburg Gazette clipping
Correspondence, Charles Doyle to Heydler
-Hughey Jennings for Chair of Tribunal Oct 1920

Folder 17
Minor League against Lasker Plan
-Correspondence, clippings Oct-Nov 1920

Folder 18
Lasker’s address to the American Public Nov 8, 1920

Folder 19
Clippings re: Lasker Plan, Reorganization and Ban Johnson Oct-Nov 1920

Box 2
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Correspondence, AL and NL, re: meetings Oct-Nov 1920

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Charles Ebbets’ National Agreement suggestions Dec 1, 1920

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John Toole suggested for Drafting Committee Dec 1, 1920

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Correspondence re: Drafting Committee meeting Oct-Nov 1920

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Heydler’s notes, [Joint meeting]
-telegram to Toole no date
-Nov 8, 1920

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Five AL clubs to meet with National League
-telegrams Nov 9-11, 1920

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Minutes, Statement to the press
-Election of Landis as Commissioner Nov 12, 1920

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Drafting Committee
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    -President, Michigan-Ontario League

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    -agreements, documents, rules, forms

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    Executed Agreement to support Commissioner Jan 12, 1921

Folder 15  Rules Affecting Major-Minor Leagues, drafts & revisions Jan 1921

Folder 16  Rules Affecting Major-Minor Leagues Jan 28, 1921
    -copies with edits and clean copy

Folder 17  Major League Agreement, rejected by Landis Jan 12, 1921

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Folder 20  Notice to Player of Release, blank with edits Jan-Feb 1921
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Box 3
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    -to meet in NY office

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    -Dec 11-12, 1920
    -Jan 18, 1921
    -Jan 20-21, 1921
    Revised National Agreement of 1917 with Heydler’s revisions

Folder 3  Major-Minor League Rule, “Optional Limit” rule Jan-Jun 1921
    -John Heydler, Ban Johnson, John Farrell
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