GUIDE to the TOPPING FAMILY ARCHIVE

National Baseball Hall of Fame Library
Manuscript Archive

National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum
25 Main Street
Cooperstown, NY 13326

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Claudette Scrafford, Manuscript Archivist
January 2014
Collection Number
BA MSS 215
BL-484.2013

Title
Topping Family Archive

Inclusive Dates
1934 - 1974

Extent
.41 linear feet (1 archival box)

Repository
National Baseball Hall of Fame Library
25 Main Street
Cooperstown, NY 13326

Abstract
A collection of correspondence and agreements relating to the Topping era of the New York Yankees and the sale to the Columbia Broadcasting System.

Preferred Citation
Topping Family Archive, BA MSS 215, National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, Cooperstown, NY

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

Property Rights
Property rights are owned by the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

Provenance
This collection was donated by Thomas Topping in 2013. Thomas is the son of Daniel Reid Topping, Sr. and the brother of Daniel R. Topping, Jr.

History
Daniel Reid Topping, along with Del Webb and Larry MacPhail, purchased the New York Yankees for $2.8 million from the estate of the late Jacob Ruppert on January 25, 1945. MacPhail sold his share of the team to Topping and Webb in 1947, and the two sold controlling interest in the team to CBS in 1964. Topping remained as team president until 1966, when he sold his remaining stake in the Yankees.

Daniel Reid Topping, Jr., born Feb 1, 1938, was an executive with the New York Yankees. Topping joined the Yankees organization in 1961. In his first season, he
worked on the grounds crew, in the ticket office, and in publicity. In 1962 he became General Manager of the Yankees minor league team in Fort Lauderdale. Topping was the assistant general manager for two seasons before becoming the Yankees vice president in 1965. On May 8, 1966, he became General Manager after Ralph Houk returned to being the team's field manager. Topping remained the Yankees Vice President until his resignation in June 1967.

William S. Paley was the chief executive who built Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) from a small radio network into one of the foremost radio and television network operations in the United States. In 1964, CBS purchased the New York Yankees from Dan Topping, Sr. and Del Webb. In 1973, Paley sold the team for $8.7 million to Cleveland shipbuilder George Steinbrenner and a group of investors.

**Scope and Content**

The first part of this collection relates to various financial aspects of the team between 1945 and 1963. The second part relates to the sale of the New York Yankees to the Columbia Broadcasting System, 1964-1966.

**Separated**

- Architect drawing, Nov 22, 1922, outline of Yankee Stadium, with changes noted to Nov 23, 1953
- Architect drawing, Sept 6, 1950, stadium parking lot, River St & E 164th
- Architect drawing, River St & E 157th

**See Also**

- New York Yankees geographical files; National Baseball Hall of Fame Library

**Controlled Access Terms**

These records are indexed under the following terms in the National Baseball Hall of Fame’s Library catalog.

**Corporate Names**

- New York Yankees
- American League of Professional Baseball Clubs
- Columbia Broadcasting System
- River Operating Company

**Personal Names**

- Topping, Daniel Reid 1912 – 1974
- Topping, Daniel 1938 –
- Webb, Delbert Eugene 1899 - 1974
- MacPhail, Larry 1890 - 1975
- Hamey, Henry Roy 1902 – 1983
- Houk, Ralph 1919 – 2010
- Paley, William S. 1901 – 1990
Subject Headings
- Correspondence
- Ledgers, financial
- Newspaper articles
- Agreements

Content List

Box 1

Folder 1
Agreements
- Topping/Webb & Atwell & Co Dec 17, 1953
  - Johnson Corporation & Atwell & Co
  - Johnson Corporation & Knights of Columbus

Folder 2
Title Guarantee & Trust Co Mar 16, 1948, Dec 17, 1953

Folder 3
River Operating Co & NY Yankee Co-Partnership
  - Payroll Data by classification 1960, 1961, 1963

Folder 4
Correspondence related to financial matters 1945, 1952, 1962
- Cancelled check, Dan Topping to NYY, $3,000.00 Jun 25, 1957
- Deposit receipt, $1,916,000.00, loan payment Nov 2, 1964
- Promissory notes, 6 1962 – 1963

Folder 5
Internal Revenue Service tax ruling briefs, re: player contracts 1962–63

Folder 6
Correspondence, Roy Hamey, GM, to Dan Topping with attachments Dec 6, 1962
- NYY operations
- Farm System operations
- New Minor League working agreement

Folder 7
Bruce Carson, law office, to Dan Topping with attachments Jun 21, 1963
- Prospectus of NYY 1,500,000 stock shares offering to public

Folder 8
Ledger sheets of Yankee rosters with acquired date, cost, total bonus, etc Jul 4, 1963
- Jul 4, 1963

Folder 9
Termination of lease agreement between Pine Realty Corp and NYY Sept 30, 1964
- Sept 30, 1964

Folder 10
Newspaper articles
- Sunday News, Jul 20, 1958 “Topping one of wheels who keeps Yanks going” by Dick Young
Daily News, Jul 25, 1958 “M’Phail, aids always seek Yankee type”
by Dick Young

Daily News, Sept 12, 1963 “Yank shakeup seen in 1964” by Joe Timble

Mets Diamond Pass, 1966 season

Folder 12  Daniel R. Topping, New York Yankees letterhead samples

Folder 13  Ledger sheets, possibly related to the pension system
- player information 1934 – 1953
- team data 1943 – 1953

Folder 14  Correspondence, sale to CBS 1964
- includes Employment agreement, Topping and NYY Nov 2, 1964
- Agreement between CBS and Webb/Topping/NYY Nov 2, 1964

Folder 15  Correspondence, sale to CBS  Aug – Sept 1964

Folder 16  Daniel R. Topping Sr. – his file of sale to CBS Aug – Sept 1964
- Documents were numbered by Topping in his order of preference

Folder 17  Correspondence related to the Congressional hearing 1965 - 1966
- re: CBS deal
- Hart Bill, Sub-committee on antitrust & monopoly

East Archives, Cabinet - drawer 8, folder 6
Architect drawing, Nov 22, 1922, outline of Yankee Stadium,
- with changes noted to Nov 23, 1953
Architect drawing, Sept 6, 1950, stadium parking lot, River St & E 164th
Architect drawing, River St & E 157th