GUIDE to the
REV. G. RICHARD McKELVEY PAPER

National Baseball Hall of Fame Library
Manuscript Archives

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

www.baseballhall.org

Claudette Scraford
September 2014
Collection Number
BA MSS 234
BL-349.2014

Title
Rev. G. Richard McKelvey Papers

Inclusive Dates
1920-2004

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 questionnaires created by Rev. McKelvey and used in the writing of his baseball books.

Preferred Citation
Rev. G. Richard McKelvey Papers, BA MSS 234, 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 the author’s son, Professor Steve McKelvey, in August 2014.

Separated
Photographs are located in the Photo Archives.

Biography
Dick’s passion for sporting memorabilia developed in his childhood and he left behind him a sporting legacy both in the school where he taught and coached, and in eight books on American sport.

He completed his degree in theology at the Episcopal Theological School in 1969, and spent his early years of ministry in Pennsylvania serving as assistant rector at Trinity Church in Swarthmore and as rector for five years at St Peter’s Church in Germantown.
It was then that Dick went to Deerfield Academy where over the course of 36 years he served in various capacities, including Chair of the Department of Religion and Philosophy, Assistant Dean of Students, and Director of Counselling and Treatment services.

Known affectionately as “Rev” on the campus, Dick’s Deerfield years were probably most marked by his love of coaching including basketball and a special 22 years varsity baseball coach. His passion for baseball began as a collector at the age of 14 and ended in efforts even during his illness to complete his eighth book as a collector and historian.

While his interest was primarily from a scholarly perspective, he joined the many local fans in cheering on the Red Sox. He was married to Joan for 51 years and they had five children.


Scope and Content
The letters and questionnaires gives the reader the perspective on a variety of topics from those who are involved in Major League Baseball, such as players and executives. Replies were received from such notables as Bowie Kuhn, Bud Selig, Early Wynn, Enos Slaughter, Bob Lemon, and many more. Some chose to give no comment but simply sent an autograph. The author’s April 1995 tickets for NY Yankee and Blue Jay games of what were to be for opening day but delayed due to the strike are included in this collection.

See Also
Books written by Dick McKelvey referred to in this collection, located at the National Baseball Hall of Fame Library

All Bat, No Glove : A History of the Designated Hitter
McFarland & Company, c. 2004

The Bounce: Baseball Team's Great Falls and Comebacks
McFarland & Company, c. 2001

Fisk's Homer, Willie's Catch and the Shot Heard 'Round the World : Classic Moments from Postseason Baseball, 1940-1996
McFarland & Company, c. 1998

For it's One, Two, Three, Four Strikes You're Out at the Owners' Ball Game: Players versus Management in Baseball
McFarland & Company, c. 2001

The MacPhails: Baseball's First Family of the Front-Office
McFarland & Company, c. 2000

Controlled Access Terms
These records are indexed under the following terms in the National Baseball Hall of Fame’s Library catalog.
Corporate Names
   Major League Baseball
   McFarland & Company
   National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Inc.

Personal Names
   McKelvey, G. Richard 1935-2009
   MacPhail Sr., Leland “Larry” 1888-1975
   MacPhail Jr., Leland “Lee” 1917-2012
   Molitor, Paul 1956-
   Leonard, Buck 1907-1997
   Conlan, Jocko 1899-1989

Subject Headings
   Letters
   Questionnaires
   Designated hitter
   Baseball strike 1994-1995
   Sportswriter
   World Series
   Manuscript

Content List
Box 1
   Fisk’s homer, Willies’ catch, and the shot heard around the world: classic moments from postseason baseball.

Folder 1   Responses from players/managers on their memorable moments 1920-1985 - 1988-1991

Folder 2   Reactions from players/managers on the book, 1990

Folder 3   Reactions from players/managers on the book, 1995-1996

   The MacPhails: Baseball's First Family of the Front-Office

Folder 4   Correspondence to/from various people, many from Lee MacPhail, 1973-2004 - manuscript pages with edits

Folder 5   Correspondence to/from various people, 1973-2004 - manuscript pages with edits

   The bounce: baseball teams’ great falls and comebacks

Folder 6   Baltimore Orioles 1989 season questionnaires
Folder 7  Boston Red Sox 1946 & 1978 season questionnaires
Folder 8  Chicago Cubs 1969 season questionnaires
Folder 9  New York Giants 1951 season questionnaires
Folder 10  New York Mets 1969 season questionnaires
Folder 11  Philadelphia Phillies 1964 season questionnaires

**Unsure if this relates to a particular book**
Folder 12  Buck Leonard, Jocko Conlan’s comments on 1985 strike, dated July 1985

*For it’s one, two, three, four strikes you’re out at the owners’ ball game: players versus management in baseball*

Folder 13  New York Yankee April 10, 12-13, 1995 tickets
- Seat 1 tickets separated to the Museum Archives
  Toronto Blue Jays April 3, 1995 ticket, 2 post-marked envelopes
  – original separated to the Museum Archives

Folder 14  Hall of Famers’ comments to the 1994 strike, includes Hall of Fame postcards
- some commented, some sent autograph only

Folder 15  MLB and team executives’ comments on the 1994 strike
Folder 16  Former players’ comments on the 1994 strike
Folder 17  Former players’ comments on the 1994 strike
Folder 18  Umpires’ comments on the 1994 strike
Folder 19  Newspaper articles, 1994 – 1995

*All bat, no glove: a history of the designated hitter*

Folder 20  Paul Molitor’s questionnaire on being a designated hitter, not dated