GUIDE to the
CHICAGO CITY SERIES

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Claudette Scrafford
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Collection Number
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Title
Chicago City Series

Inclusive Dates
1903 – 1943

Extent
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Abstract
A collection of correspondence, schedules, and bulletins relating to the Chicago City Series.

Preferred Citation
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Access
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History
After Boston had won the American League championship in 1903 and Pittsburgh had prevailed in the National circuit, the presidents of these clubs, Matt Killilea (Boston) and Barney Dreyfuss (Pittsburgh) agreed to a post-season meeting of their clubs. A nine game series was scheduled; the first team to win five to be declared the winner.

With the example set by the champions of their leagues, other clubs quickly followed their lead. Post season confrontations were arranged between the two Philadelphia clubs; the two in St. Louis; the Chicago rivals; and even a series between Cincinnati of the NL and Cleveland of the AL for the championship of Ohio.
In subsequent years meetings for a city or state championship were repeated sporadically but only the Chicago series persisted with some degree of regularity.

Through 1942 a total of 26 City Series were contested in Chicago from that 1903 inaugural. The dominance of the White Sox in these autumn affairs defies logic; the Chicago Americans triumphed 19 times while the Nationals could claim Chicago championships on only six occasions; the first series ended in a tie. In the years between 1903 and 1942 a total of 161 games were played with the White Sox winning 95 times and the Cubs taking 62 games. Four of the games ended in deadlocks.


**Scope and Content**

The Commissioner’s bulletins gives the details of the series, such as dates, start time, eligible players, price of admission, official photographer and scorer, and conduct on the field. The correspondence is to the umpires selected for the games, telling them when and who to report to. There is financial data such as receipts, attendance, shares to the Commissioner, clubs, and each player.

**Controlled Access Terms**

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

**Corporate Names**

Chicago Cubs
Chicago White Sox
American League of Professional Baseball Clubs
National League of Professional Baseball Clubs
Chicago City Series

**Personal Names**

Landis, Kenesaw Mountain 1866-1944
Harridge, William 1883-1971
Johnson, Ban 1865-1931
Heydler, John 1869-1956

**Subject Headings**

Correspondence
Economics
Scoresheets
Newspaper clippings
Boxscores
Baseball umpires
**Content List**

**Box 1**

**Folder 1**

Series results, 1903 – 1944  
Newspaper articles, Sept 22, 1925; Sept 16, 1943

**Folder 2**

Financial summary, 1921 – 1926, 1928, 1931  
Gross receipts, Attendance, shares

**Folder 3**

Commissioner’s bulletin, 1922 pre-series

**Folder 4**

Commissioner’s bulletin, 1923 pre-series  
Correspondence, Oct 3 appointing J. Doak Roberts, pres. Texas League, as Commissioner’s representative  
Correspondence, Oct 5-6, re: umpires selected  
Umpire Ormsby to Ban Johnson, Feb 1, 1924 re: ejection of Ray Schalk during game 2, Oct 11, 1923

**Folder 5**

Commissioner’s bulletin, Sept 26, 1924 pre-series  
Correspondence, Sept 25-26, re: umpires selected  
Umpire Moriarty to Ban Johnson, Oct 6, re: ejection of Jigger Statz and Tony Kaufmann

**Folder 6**

Commissioner’s bulletin, Sept 23, 1926 pre-series  
*Chicago Daily News*, Sept 29, 1926 re: game summaries 1903 – 1925

**Folder 7**

Commissioner’s bulletin, Sept 26, 1928 pre-series  
Correspondence, Sept 26-27, re: umpires selected  
Commissioner’s bulletin, Oct 13, 1928 re: NL shares  
Commissioner’s bulletin, Oct 31, 1928, re: AL shares

**Folder 8**

Correspondence, Sept – Oct 1930  
Commissioner’s bulletin, Oct 15, 1930 re: AL shares  
Receipts and expenses for 1930 City Series  
Newspaper clippings, Sept 18, Sept 27

**Folder 9**

Commissioner’s bulletin, Sept 19, 1931 pre-series  
Correspondence, Sept, re: umpires selected  
Correspondence, Oct 5, 6, 9, 1931, re: Frank Grube’s ejection  
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Correspondence, Nov 2, 1931, re: Umpire Owens’ expenses  
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**Folder 10**

Commissioner’s bulletin, Sept 21, 1933 pre-series  
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J. Louis Comiskey to Wm Harridge, Oct 14, thanks for congratulations  
Commissioner’s bulletin, Oct 18, 1933 re: AL and NL shares
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Folder 12  Commissioner’s bulletin, Oct 4, 1937 pre-series
Correspondence, Sept – Oct, re: umpires selected
Telegrams, Bill Summers to Wm Harridge, Oct, game summaries
Wm Harridge to Comiskey, Dykes, Grabiner, Oct 13, Congratulations
Correspondence to Quinn and Summers, Oct 15, re: umpire expenses
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Correspondence, Sept 27 – 28, re: umpires selected
Commissioner’s bulletin, Oct 25, 1940, AL shares
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Folder 14  Commissioner’s bulletin, Sept 25, 1941 re: distribution of shares
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    Harry Geisel declines due to his and his wife’s health
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Commissioner’s bulletin, Oct 31, 1942 re: AL and NL shares, Series funds
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