Guide to American League Agreements

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

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This guide to the collection was originally prepared by Cliff Hight in March 2006. Revisions occurred to the finding aid as a part of the encoding process in March 2006.
Collection Number
BA MSS 30

Title
American League Agreements

Inclusive dates
1900-1958

Creator
American League of Professional Baseball Clubs

Extent
.5 linear feet (1 five-inch box)

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

Abstract
This collection contains agreements between the American League and other entities including the Federal League, the Commissioner of Baseball, A.J. Reach Company, and Spalding Sales Corporation. Also included are league membership agreements and league leadership documents.

Acquisition Information
These records were from Major League Baseball, received and accessioned in 2006.

Preferred Citation
American League Agreements, BA MSS 30, National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, Cooperstown, New York.

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

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History
The American League began as the Western League in 1894. In 1900 it became the American League of Professional Baseball Clubs.
Scope and Content
This collection contains agreements involving the American League ranging from league membership agreements to major league and minor league agreements. Also of note are Ban Johnson's handwritten resignation letter and E.S. Barnard's letter accepting the presidency. Agreements with the Federal League are in the collection, as are agreements with A.J. Reach Company and Spalding Sales Corporation to supply the league with baseballs. Of special interest is Lou Criger's affidavit concerning a bribe to throw the 1903 World Series. The collection is arranged chronologically.

Controlled Access Terms
These records are indexed under the following terms in the National Baseball Hall of Fame Online Library Catalog, also known as ABNER. Researchers wishing to find related materials may wish to search under these terms.

Personal Names
Barnard, Ernest S.
Criger, Lou, 1872-1934.
Johnson, Ban.
Landis, Kenesaw Mountain, 1866-1944.
Navin, Frank J.

Subjects
Agreements
Baseball -- Equipment and supplies
Baseball commissioners
Contracts
World Series (Baseball) (1903)

Corporate Names
A.J. Reach Company
American League of Professional Baseball Clubs
Federal League (Baseball League: 1914-1915)
Major League Baseball (Organization)
Washington Senators (Baseball Team: 1886-1960)

Contents List
Box 1
Folder 1 Minutes of League Reorganization Meeting, 11/20/1900
American League Reorganization Agreement, 11/20/1900, signed
Folder 2 Minutes of League Meeting, 01/28/1901
Folder 3 League Membership Agreement, 01/28/1901
Folder 4 National Agreement, edited and final versions, 1909
Folder 5 League Membership Agreement, 02/16/1910
Folder 6 A.J. Reach Company Agreement, 04/1912
Folder 7 League Membership Agreement, 02/03/1915
Folder 8  League Meeting Submission of Federal League and National League Agreement, 12/13/1915
Folder 9  National League, American League, and Federal League Peace Agreement, 12/22/1915, original, with Exhibit A, 12/31/1915
Folder 10 Federal Land and Improvement Company Agreement, 01/02/1916
Folder 11 League Membership Amended Agreement, 12/14/1916
Folder 12 National League, American League, and Commissioner Agreement, 01/12/1921, 12/14/1933
Folder 13 League Loan to Washington Club 1917, Repaid 05/17/1921
Folder 14 Lou Criger Affidavit Re: 1903 World Series Bribe, 02/10/1923
Folder 15 League Settlement with Brooklyn Federal League Team, 02/09/1925
Folder 16 Board of Directors’ Agreement for Frank J. Navin as Acting President and Acting Treasurer, 02/08/1927
Folder 17 Ban Johnson’s Letter of Resignation, 07/08/1927
Folder 18 Minutes of Special League Meeting, 10/17/1927
Folder 19 Board of Directors’ Certification that Navin Alone Was Authorized to Use Accounts, etc., 10/17/1927, Navin Letter, 10/20/1927
Folder 20 E.S. Barnard’s Acceptance of Election as President, 11/02/1927
Folder 21 Board of Directors’ Agreement for E.S. Barnard as President and Treasurer, 12/14/1927
Folder 22 Sinking Fund Agreement 02/10/1913 and Termination, 02/01/1928
Folder 23 A.J. Reach Company Agreement and Amendments, 02/08/1927, 04/07/1931
Folder 24 Resolutions Authorizing William Harridge’s Signature on Checks, 02/11/1942
Folder 25 Contract with the Commissioner, 05/01/1945, and Amendment, 12/14/1949
Folder 26 Major-Minor League Agreement, 12/1946
Folder 27 Spalding Sales Corporation Agreements, 01/08/1947, 04/29/1957
Folder 28 Will Harridge Bio, 1958
Folder 29 Reorganization Agreement of the AL, Dec 12, 1934 (BL-1469.70)
Constitution of the AL of Professional Baseball Clubs, no date, (BL-1468.70)