Guide to Fan Mail Received by the Office of the Commissioner, 1990-1992

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

www.baseballhall.org

This guide to the collection was originally prepared by Cliff Hight in 2005. Revisions occurred to the finding aid as a part of the encoding process in August 2005.
Collection Number
BA MSS 31
BL-3309.2005

Title
Fan Mail Received by the Office of the Commissioner

Inclusive dates
1990-1992

Creator
Office of the Commissioner of Major League Baseball

Extent
5.75 linear feet (12 boxes)

Repository
National Baseball Hall of Fame Library
25 Main Street
Cooperstown, NY13326

Abstract
This collection contains fan mail received by the Office of the Commissioner of Major League Baseball between 1990 and 1992. Francis T. Vincent, Jr., was the Commissioner during this time. The themes that received the most attention from fans were the potential move and/or sale of the Seattle franchise, the debate surrounding Pete Rose and “Shoeless” Joe Jackson, the reinstatement of George Steinbrenner, and the potential move and/or sale of the San Francisco franchise. Other subjects included are economics and realignment.

Acquisition Information:
These records were a gift from the Office of the Commissioner of Major League Baseball, and accessioned in 2005.

Preferred Citation:
Fan Mail Received by the Office of the Commissioner, BA MSS 31, 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 genesis of the Office of the Commissioner of Major League Baseball was in 1921. Francis “Fay” T. Vincent, Jr., was the Commissioner from September 13, 1989 to
September 7, 1992. Some of the issues that Vincent faced during his tenure were the repercussions of Pete Rose’s lifetime ban from professional baseball, the decision to proceed with the 1989 World Series between San Francisco and Oakland after an earthquake struck the area, the banishment and reinstatement of George Steinbrenner, the potential sale and move of multiple franchises, economic issues of escalating salaries and small market revenues, and the expansion of two National League teams.

**Scope and Content**

The records contained in this collection are mostly letters and postcards that baseball aficionados sent to the Commissioner, with the respective responses attached to a majority of letters. Fans occasionally attached newspaper articles and other material, and of interest may be the groups of letters sent by various school classes with their attending artwork.

Series I contains correspondence relating to teams in the American League.

Series II holds letters referring to teams in the National League.

Series III concerns communications about non-regular season games.

Series IV encompasses the reactions of fans about decisions, rulings, and rules of the game.

Series V covers the requests and suggestions about the game that fans made.

**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**
- Jackson, Joe, 1888-1951.
- Rose, Pete, 1941-
- Steinbrenner, George M. (George Michael)
- Vincent, Fay.

**Subjects**
- All-Star Baseball Game.
- Baseball commissioners.
- Baseball players – Salaries, etc. – United States.
- Black Sox Scandal.
- Wages.

**Corporate Names**
- American League of Professional Baseball Clubs.
- Atlanta Braves (Baseball team)
- Chicago White Sox (Baseball team)
- Cincinnati Reds (Baseball team)
Major League Baseball (Organization)
National League of Professional Baseball Clubs.
New York Yankees (Baseball team)
San Francisco Giants (Baseball team)
Seattle Mariners (Baseball team)

Contents List

Scope note:
This series covers ten of the fourteen teams that were part of the American League at the time. It is arranged alphabetically by city, and chronologically within each team. The bulk of the series pertains to Seattle, although “Shoeless” Joe Jackson and George Steinbrenner also receive considerable attention.

Box 1
Folder 1 Baltimore, 1992
Folder 2 Boston, 1992
Folder 3 Chicago, 1991-1992
Folder 4 Detroit, 1992
Folder 5 Milwaukee, 1992
Folder 6 New York—General, 1991-1992
Folder 7-8 George Steinbrenner, January 1991-May 1992

Box 2
Folder 1 June 1992
Folder 2 Oakland, 1991-1992
Folder 3 Seattle—General, 1991
Folder 4-5 Move and/or Sale, October 1991-January 1992

Box 3
Folder 1-4 January 1992

Box 4
Folder 1-4 January 1992

Box 5
Folder 1-5 January-February 1992

Box 6
Folder 1-3 February-August 1992
Folder 4 Texas, 1992
Folder 5 Toronto, 1991

Scope note:
This series covers seven of the twelve teams that were part of the National League at the time. It is arranged alphabetically by city, and chronologically within each team. The bulk of the series pertains to Pete Rose, although San Francisco receives some attention.
Box 7
Folder 1  Atlanta, 1991-1992
Folder 2-5  Cincinnati—Pete Rose, bulk, 1991-1992
Folder 6  Houston, 1991-1992
Folder 7  Los Angeles, 1991
Folder 8  Philadelphia, 1991
Folder 9  Pittsburgh, 1991-1992

Box 8
Folder 1  San Francisco, 1991-1992

Series III. Non-Regular Season Games, 1991-1992
Scope note:
This series contains letters referring to games outside of the regular season. Included in this are spring training, All-Star, World Series, and exhibition tour games. The series is arranged chronologically.

Folder 2-3  Non-Regular Season Games, 1991-1992

Scope note:
This series encompasses the reactions of fans to many of the Commissioner’s actions. The arrangement for the six issues that received the most attention—the Committee on Statistical Accuracy, Economics, Major League Baseball (MLB)’s Executive Development Program, Realignment and Expansion, Tobacco Use, and Umpires—is topical and then chronological, while the remaining items of interest are arranged strictly chronologically.

Folder 4  Committee on Statistical Accuracy, 1991-1992

Box 9
Folder 1-2  Economics, 1991-1992
Folder 3  MLB’s Executive Development Program, 1991-1992
Folder 4-5  Realignment and Expansion, 1991-1992

Box 10
Folder 1  Tobacco Use, 1991-1992
Folder 2-3  Umpires, 1991-1992
Folder 4  Other Decisions, Rulings, and Rules, January-October 1991

Box 11
Folder 1-2  November 1991-1992

Series V. Requests and Suggestions, 1990-1992
Scope note:
This series contains the fan mail in which requests were made, and suggestions rendered. The topics are varied and random, and the series is chronologically arranged.

Folder 3-4  Requests and Suggestions, 1990-February 1992
Box 12
Folder 1-2 1992