Guide to the F. C. LANE PAPERS

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

www.baseballhall.org

This collection was organized, arranged, and processed by Cliff Hight in July 2006.
Collection Number
BA MSS 36

Title
F.C. Lane Papers

Inclusive Dates
1911-1936

Extent
.82 linear feet (2 manuscript boxes)

Abstract
This collection contains correspondence between F.C. Lane and numerous baseball players and officials between 1911 and 1936. Lane was the editor for Baseball Magazine during that time, and most of the correspondence with players referred to their off-season activities, some of which he included in issues of the magazine. Other themes that received attention included betting in ball parks, the World Series, the Federal League, and World War I.

Preferred Citation
F.C. Lane papers, BA MSS 36, National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, Cooperstown, New York.

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

Reproduction and Use
Copyright restrictions may apply.

Processing Information
Cyndi Shein applied Encoded Archival Description to this finding aid and Cliff Hight reviewed it in July 2006.

Other Repositories
Ferdinand C. Lane (1885-1984), Contemporary Collections, Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center at Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts.

Biographical History
Ferdinand Cole Lane was born on 25 October 1885 near Moorhead, Minnesota. At the age of four he moved with his family to the Cape Cod region of Massachusetts. After graduating from Tabor Academy in Marion, Massachusetts, he attended Boston University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology before graduating from the Academy of Boston in 1907. In 1910, Lane was appointed assistant biologist at Boston University. He also worked part-time as an assistant biologist for the Massachusetts Commission of Fisheries and Game, performing and reporting shellfish experiments.

F.C. Lane became the editor of Baseball Magazine in 1910, and remained in that position until 1937. He wrote nearly 1,000 articles for the publication, and in 1925 he published Batting: One Thousand Expert Opinions on Every Conceivable Angle of Batting Science. After retiring from Baseball Magazine, Lane taught history at Piedmont College in Demorest, Georgia, started a journalism program, and earned a Ph.D. while there.
On 30 June 1914, Lane was married at his wife's home in Brooklyn, New York. Emma was born 10 December 1888 in Brooklyn, and graduated from Brown Secretarial School before working as a stenographer. They remained together for nearly 70 years, maintaining a home in the Cape Cod area for most of the time.

The Lanes traveled extensively together, going around the world six times to visit places such as Hawaii, China, Japan, Africa, Scandinavia, and the North and South Poles. These adventures provided ample material for his constant writing, and in 1947 he published his first science-based book, *The Mysterious Sea*. He followed it with seven other books related to the natural world, including *The Story of Trees*, which earned him the Natural History Book Club Selection in 1952. In 1955, he received the Junior Book Award for his contributions to the *All About* series. He published *On Old Cape Cod* in 1958, which was a collection of poems that highlighted historical landmarks of the Cape.

He maintained memberships in groups that included the Polar Club, the National Historical Society, and the National Geographic Society.

The Lanes spent their final years in the Whitehall Manor Nursing Home in Hyannis, Massachusetts. It was there on 20 April 1984 that F.C. Lane died at the age of ninety-eight. His wife died ten months later.

**Scope and Content**

This collection contains correspondence between F.C. Lane and numerous baseball players and officials between 1911 and 1936. Most of the material relates to Lane's work as the editor of *Baseball Magazine*, with players reporting their off-season activities, among other things. Other themes that received attention include betting in ball parks, the World Series, the Federal League, and World War I. Frequent correspondents included many members of the Hall of Fame, such as Ed Barrow, Jim Bottomley, Max Carey, Ty Cobb, Mickey Cochrane, Eddie Collins, Sam Crawford, Kiki Cuyler, Clark Griffith, Will Harridge, Ban Johnson, Walter Johnson, Eppa Rixey, Ray Schalk, Al Simmons, George Sisler, Dazzy Vance, and Zach Wheat.

**System of Arrangement**

Series I contains correspondence from players.
Series II consists of correspondence from officials.

**Controlled Access Terms**

These records are indexed under the following terms in the National Baseball Hall of Fame Online Library Catalog. Researchers wishing to find related materials may wish to search under the following terms:

**Personal Names**
- Alexander, Grover Cleveland, 1887-1950.
- Barnard, Ernest S.
- Carey, Max, 1890-1976.
- Cobb, Ty, 1886-1961.
- Collins, Eddie, 1887-1951.
- Crawford, Sam, 1880-1968.
- Ebbets, Charles H., 1859-1925.
- Herrmann, August, 1859-1931.
Johnson, Ban.
Johnson, Walter Perry, 1887-1946.
Lane, F. C. (Ferdinand Cole), b. 1885.
Quinn, Bob (J.A. Robert)

Topics
Baseball players -- United States -- Correspondence
Baseball players -- United States -- Social life and customs
Baseball writers

Forms
Correspondence

Container List

Series I. Players Correspondence, 1911-1936
This series contains correspondence between players and Lane primarily regarding what they did during the off season, but it also includes personal correspondence and statements supporting Lane's book entitled Batting. It is arranged alphabetically by the last name of the player.

Box 1
Folder 1 A, 1914-1927
Folder 2 B, 1912-1934
Folder 3 C, 1911-1935
Folder 4 D, 1912-1934
Folder 5 E, 1912-1932
Folder 6 F, 1912-1928
Folder 7 G, 1918-1935
Folder 8 H, 1913-1933
Folder 9 J, 1913-1929
Folder 10 K, 1913-1927
Folder 11 L, 1912-1933
Folder 12 M, 1912-1936
Folder 13 N, 1923
Folder 14 O, 1912-1933
Folder 15 P, 1922-1927

Box 2
Folder 1 R, 1913-1934
Folder 2 S, 1917-1934 (?)
Folder 3 T, 1912-1931
Folder 4 V, 1922-1931
Folder 5 W, 1912-1935
Folder 6 Y, 1925
Folder 7 Business Cards, undated

Series II. Officials Correspondence, 1911-1936
This series contains correspondence between officials and Lane that touches on topics such as betting in ball parks, the World Series, the Federal League, and World War I. It is arranged alphabetically by the last name of the official.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2</th>
<th>Folder 8</th>
<th>B, 1912-1933</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>C, 1919-1930</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>D, 1912-1927</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>E, 1912-1930</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 12</td>
<td>F, 1920</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 13</td>
<td>G, 1911 (?)-1930</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 14</td>
<td>H, 1912-1936</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 15</td>
<td>I, 1912-1927</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 16</td>
<td>L, 1921</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 17</td>
<td>M, 1913-1933</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 18</td>
<td>N, 1917</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 19</td>
<td>O, 1912</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 20</td>
<td>Q, 1922-1933</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 21</td>
<td>R, 1917-1927</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 22</td>
<td>S, 1912-1927</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 23</td>
<td>V, 1920</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 24</td>
<td>W, 1916-1918</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 25</td>
<td>Y, 1934-1935</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>