Guide to Papers Related to Lou Gehrig

National Baseball Hall of Fame Library

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

www.baseballhall.org
Collection Number
BA MSS 75

Title
Papers Related to Lou Gehrig

Inclusive Dates
1920-1995

Extent
.70 linear feet (2 archival boxes)

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

Abstract
A collection of correspondence, legal agreements, clippings and articles relating to the life and career of Lou Gehrig and his wife Eleanor.

Preferred Citation
Papers Related to Lou Gehrig, BA MSS 75, National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, Cooperstown, NY.

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

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Processing Information
This collection was processed by Claudette Scrafford in December 2011 and updated in April 2013, Sept 2014.

Biography
Lou Gehrig teamed with Babe Ruth to form baseball's most devastating hitting tandem ever. The Iron Horse had 13 consecutive seasons with both 100 runs scored and 100 RBIs, averaging 139 runs and 148 RBIs; set an American League mark with 184 RBIs in 1931; hit a record 23 grand slams; and won the 1934 Triple Crown. His .361 batting average in seven World Series led the Yankees to six titles. A true gentleman and
a tragic figure, Gehrig's consecutive games-played streak ended at 2,130 when he was felled by a disease that later carried his name.

Eleanor, wife of Lou Gehrig, was a spirited young woman from a well-to-do Chicago family who met the straight-laced star player for the Yankees in Comiskey Park and married him after a long-distance courtship. The marriage ended tragically on June 2, 1941, when Lou Gehrig died of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. After her husband's death, Mrs. Gehrig never remarried and lived quietly in her apartment on Manhattan's East Side for more than forty years. The dramatic and tragic story of her nine year marriage to Gehrig became a familiar one, chiefly because it was told in books and two films. During the 1950s, she became the national chairman of the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The story of Eleanor and Lou Gehrig inspired the movie "Pride of the Yankees," which stars Teresa Wright and Gary Cooper as the famous couple.

Christina was born in 1881 in Wiltser, Schleswig-Holstein, a province of pre-World War I Germany, near the German-Danish border. She immigrated to the United States in 1899. Heinrich Ludwig Gehrig was born in 1867 in Adelsheim, Baden, and came to America in October of 1888. He originally spent some time in Chicago, but later settled in New York, where he met Christina who was fourteen years younger than he. Like Heinrich, she was a Lutheran. They married in 1900.

Eleanor Gehrig, www.findagrave.com

Scope and Content
This collection is organized into one series by subject matter.

See Also
Lou Gehrig player file; Biographical files, National Baseball Hall of Fame Library
MFL 8 "Pride of the Yankees" manuscript by Paul Gallico, BL-458.55
National Baseball Hall of Fame Library

Controlled Access Terms
These records are indexed under the following terms in the National Baseball Hall of Fame’s Library catalog. Researchers wishing to find related materials may wish to search under these terms.

Corporate Names
New York Yankees
Yankee Stadium
American League

Personal Names
Gehrig, Lou, 1903-1941
Subject Headings
Lou Gehrig’s Disease
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
Correspondence
Agreements
Clippings
Contracts
Feature films

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Folder 1  Commerce Courier, High School of Commerce, June 16, 1920
           BL-188.57

Folder 2  Correspondence, 1925, 1935-1941
           American League contract, March 1933, photocopy only
           Postcard written by Gehrig, Aug 11, 1937, BL-3703.83
           Handwritten letter by Gehrig to Gordon Cobblewiek, of the
           Cleveland Plain Dealer, Jul 17, 1937, BL-1924.76
           Gehrig’s response to a fan’s letter, Jun 5, 1937, BL-1579.72
           Gehrig declines an invitation, Apr 21, 1941, BL-101.59

Folder 3  Clippings and correspondence, Aug 9 – 14, 1933
           Preparing for Gehrig’s record-tying consecutive game

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Folder 7  Obituaries, articles, BL-463.42
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Folder 17  “Pride of the Yankees” correspondence, 1942-1943, 1969

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Folder 20  “Lou Gehrig: in a league by himself” with Hugh Downs
American Lifestyle, television script, no date

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Folder 4  Lou Gehrig Memorial Scholarship, press release, Mar 1, 1951
Reprint from June 1941 “Gehrig’s Fame Rooted in Morningside”
Folder 5  Correspondence from FDR, Sept and Nov 1944
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Folder 6  Public speeches and remarks by Mrs. Gehrig
Folder 7  Sports Illustrated article by Mrs. Gehrig, Apr 3, 1961
Folder 8  Miscellaneous items
Folder 9  “I can’t get to first base with you” sheet music, lyrics
Folder 10 Manuscript, 14 pages, 1971, no author