

Guide to the Eugene C. Murdock Baseball Collection

Overview of the Collection

Repository: Cleveland Public Library. 325 Superior Avenue N. E. Cleveland, Ohio 44114. (216) 623-2800.

Creator: Eugene C. Murdock

Title: The Eugene C. Murdock Baseball Collection

Dates: Approximately 1905-1976

Description: Textual and audio works of and relating to baseball; includes monographs, serials, photographs, scrapbooks, programs, and oral history tapes.

Quantity:

Scrapbooks: 45 folio volumes

Microfilm copies of scrapbooks: 8 reels

Photographs: 1,503 (8 boxes)

Interview/oral history tapes: 141 tapes (89 interviews)

Serials and miscellaneous: 231 + Famous Slugger Yearbooks (12 categories of serials/miscellaneous literature)

Loose Clippings: 61 quarto-size boxes

Books: 586

Total quantity: 2,522+

Biography: Eugene C. Murdock (1921-1992)

Eugene C. Murdock was born April 30, 1921 in Lakewood, Ohio and died July 23, 1992. He was a graduate of the College of Wooster in 1942. After serving nearly four years of military service, he received his Master's degree in 1948 and his Doctorate's degree in 1951 from Columbia University.

Murdock was an Ohio historian and professor at Marietta College. Murdock joined Marietta College's history faculty in 1956 after teaching at Rio Grande College since 1952. From 1972 until his retirement in 1986, he was the Andrew U. Thomas professor of history as well as department chair. He also headed the college's athletic committee for many years and was its faculty representative to the Ohio Athletic Conference. Upon his retirement, he was appointed Marietta College historian as he was a past president of the Ohio Academy of History.

Murdock authored several books and articles, including a biography of Ban Johnson, founder of the American League. He also wrote literature on the Civil War; Bernard P. McDonough, a Parkersburg industrialist; Ohio history; and Tom Johnson, the mayor of Cleveland in the early 20th century.

After the Marietta College library refused Murdock's baseball collection, the Cleveland Public Library promptly and eagerly accepted Murdock's offer. In 1992, the Cleveland Public Library purchased the baseball collection of Eugene C. Murdock, which consists of major league biographies, annuals, and scrapbooks, covering the years 1910-1976, as well as some minor league material. Oral history tapes of early 20th century major league players recorded by Dr. Murdock are also included within the collection.

Murdock was a lifelong sports fan. For a number of years, he served as official scorer at the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Baseball World Series held at Marietta. He was a member of the Marietta College Athletic Hall of Fame Committee from its beginning in 1983. Murdock was a well-known collector of sports memorabilia. He was also a past president of the national Society for American Baseball Research, which honored him in 1992 by recognizing his research as having "contributed significantly to baseball knowledge."

Scope and Contents

This collection, which focuses on American baseball, consists of major league monographs, serials, photographs, scrapbooks, and programs, covering the years 1905-1976, as well as some minor league programs and photographs. Also included within the collection are oral history tapes of early 20th century major league players recorded by Dr. Eugene C. Murdock.

Statement of Arrangement

The Eugene C. Murdock Baseball Collection is cataloged and arranged according to the Library of Congress Classification system and is integrated into the main Cleveland Public Library collection.

Subject Headings

Baseball, United States, History, Sources

Cleveland Public Library. Murdock Scrapbook Collection

Murdock, Eugene Converse

Cleveland Indians, Baseball team, History, Sources

Cincinnati Reds, Baseball team, History, Sources

Charleston Baseball Club, History, Sources

St. Louis Cardinals, Baseball team, History, Sources

Pittsburgh Pirates, Baseball team, History, Sources

Central League, History, Sources

Baseball, United States, Miscellanea

Clippings, Books, Newspapers, etc.

Fournier, Jacques

Johnson, Ban

Frazer, Harry

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation: "The Eugene C. Murdock Baseball Collection of the Cleveland Public Library"

Acquisition Information: Collection purchased in 1992 from Eugene C. Murdock. Finding Aid developed by Monica Waschura in 2007.

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purpose other than private study, scholarship, or research.” If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of “fair use,” that user may be liable for copyright infringement.

Related Materials

The following are books by Eugene C. Murdock:

Baseball Between the Wars: Memories of the Game by Men Who Played It

*Clevnet Catalog

Baseball Players and Their Times: Oral Histories of the Game, 1920-1940

*Clevnet Catalog

Ban Johnson: Czar of Baseball

*Clevnet Catalog

Mighty Casey, All American

*Clevnet Catalog

* *Indicates access to the item*

To search for catalog records to the entire Eugene C. Murdock Baseball Collection at the Cleveland Public Library online, visit www.cpl.org. You will then be able to search by author, title, subject, or keyword for books, interview tapes, scrapbooks, and serials from the collection.

Photographs of the Eugene C. Murdock Baseball Collection are located in the Photograph Collection on the 4th floor of the Cleveland Public Library's Louis Stokes Wing.