

FLASHBACK!

Group #1 - Second Baseball

[January 1953 RMS Bulletin - by J. M. Deer]

The covers in Second Baseball number twenty-four. There are eight red, eight Green and eight Blue. All have a black border entirely around the picture on the front; and the history on the back. The history of the player on the back is printed over a design of a white clad batter. The covers portray the head or bust of player. The set came out in 1935. Apparently there is no rhyme or reason to this set inasmuch as the players selected were from teams in the National League, three each in number. In the writer's opinion, this set is one of the hardest to obtain, and it follows that newer collectors, desiring covers from this group, had better be prepared with their "pound of flesh".

Third Baseball - Type 1. This set varies somewhat from the First and Second Baseball. It comes in three colors- Green, Blue and Red borders. The saddle has a baseball together with the players name and team. The Diamond imprint is in white on the corresponding color of border. The portrait of the player is on front of cover, and the history of the player on the back. Like First Baseball, however, it is regarded as incomplete. Approximately 182 players were printed, but whether they were intended to be printed once in each color has never been determined since no complete sets exist. Approximately 240 covers have shown up of this particular set. That there are still lots of these covers around the desks of "veteran collectors", this write entertains no doubt since ever so often he finds one or two. This set was made by Diamond in 1935 and 1936. Tom Torrent, Al Polick and Ellis Wroe, to name a few, probably can contribute much information as to the where-a-bouts of these covers.

Third Baseball - Type 2. This set is similar in design to Tp. #1. It, also, comes in three colors- Green, Blue, and Red, however, this set IS complete; and since it was uniform, it was listed separately as Type 2. Type 2 was marketed in two issues. Presumably, the First issue was in Black ink, and the Second issue in Brown ink. There are 69 covers in each set, and all the players, except 'Diz' Dean, are photographed in bust. All players are Chicago Cubs, except Paul Waner and 'Diz' Dean, who are shown as members of the Pittsburgh Pirates and St. Louis Cardinals respectively. Don't ask me why, as I do not pretend to know. Apparently, this set is the easiest to get with the Black ink set the easier, and the Brown set the harder.

NON-ATTENDERS CONTEST - Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Convention by Frank Ryan, Philadelphia, Pa.

This contest was won by Mrs. George Hall, RMS #613, San Francisco, Calif., and here the committee had to cast lots. Three had the correct answer on the number of covers, but no one had the correct person. No one gave the correct formula for figuring the number of covers. The clues were as follows: First, the person who brought the covers to the convention was FRANK J. RYAN and he gave them to FRED NORDENBROOK. In Article 2 of the June 1952 Bulletin and starting with the wording NON ATTENDERS CONTEST, the number of words in this paragraph and the one following ending with the words "do not miss any" amount to 150 - count them! Also, in this article, it says, "we thought of rhyming same, but to be frank etc." and from these underlined words you can work out the name, Frank Ryan. We were a bit disappointed with the number that entered this contest. To be exact, there were only 6 entrants.

[Ed. Well, now we know that there was apathy at least as far back as 1952!]