

The INSIDE GAME

The Official Newsletter of SABR's Deadball Era Committee

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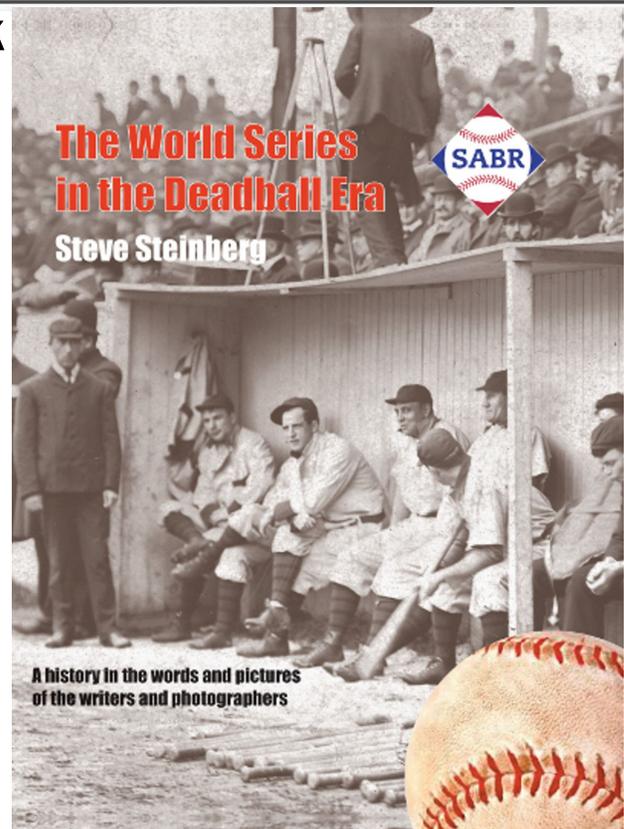
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DEADBALL ERA WORLD SERIES BOOK PUBLISHED

Long awaited, SABR's *The World Series in the Deadball Era* has recently been released. And examination of its content reveals that the book was well worth the wait. Edited by accomplished DEC member Steve Steinberg, the work's subtitle succinctly states: "A history in the words and pictures of the writers and photographers" who chronicled the early Fall Classics. Yet that matter-of-fact description does inadequate justice to this imaginatively conceived, meticulously researched, and handsomely illustrated volume. The book, in a word, is superb.

The text begins with a Foreword by distinguished baseball historian and Larry Ritter Award winner Charles C. Alexander, followed by a brief Preface and

Acknowledgement by editor Steinberg that recognizes the SABR members who contributed their talents and/or financial backing to the project. The work then proceeds to in-depth consideration of the World Series played from 1903 through 1919, with a chapter devoted to each championship match (as well as to 1904 when the NL pennant-winning New York Giants refused to meet the AL champion Boston Americans.). Unlike other World Series retrospectives, *The World Series in the Deadball Era* does not provide a modern take on bygone events. Rather, the author(s) assigned to individual Series transport the reader back in time, allowing him or her to experience the Series as it unfolded, game-by-game, to baseball fans back in the day. The chapters accomplish this by combining a broad spectrum of contemporaneous reportage, including Series related observations by such now-legendary sportswriters as Tim Murnane, Hugh Fullerton, Grantland Rice, and Damon Runyon, with finely reproduced photographs of Series participants, game action, and ballpark scenes. Many of these images, including a number from the Steinberg collection, are rarely seen and imbue the work with a special



you-are-there aura. And each photo is accompanied by informative commentary that enhances its viewing. The end result is unique and insightful, a thoroughly engaging read and see.

The 21 SABR members who crafted the individual World Series chapters are to be complimented for the breadth of the reportage selected and the coherent presentation of Series events that flows from reading it. Also worthy of praise is publisher St. Johann Press of Haworth, New Jersey. The prose is clean and crisply presented, and the photo images are of the highest quality. But the utmost commendation must be reserved for editor Steve Steinberg whose deep knowledge of Deadball Era baseball and dedication to finished product excellence infuse the work. Also deserving of recognition is Steve's tireless perseverance, without which this most worthwhile project would likely have never come to fruition.

Newsletter book critiques often end with the recommendation that readers place the reviewed work on their bookshelf. But when it comes to *The World Series in the Deadball Era*, that recommendation approaches an imperative. No DEC member, indeed no one interested in the early history of the game, should be without this exceptionally well-done prose and photo recreation of the Fall Classic in its formative years.



Editor Steve Steinberg

Bill Lamb