

# Inside T206

*A Collector's Guide to the Classic Baseball Card Set*

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*Centennial Edition*

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*--To Anne-Marie, an unqualified supporter of my T206 habit.*

*May other T206 collectors be so lucky!*

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## Preface

I first saw T206 cards in Steve Clark's *The Complete Book of Baseball Cards*, given to me when I was around eight. For a kid who thought that baseball cards only came in wax packs and food boxes, opening this book was a transformative moment. While Clark's book did not play favorites among eras, I was immediately attracted to the small, white-bordered cards showing epic figures such as Mordecai "Three Finger" Brown, Walter Johnson, Willie Keeler, Tris Speaker and Cy Young, whom I had read about but never seen. My favorite subject in the book was *Lajoie (With Bat)*, showing the legendary Cleveland second sacker wielding his trusted lumber in front of a picket fence that might have once passed for an outfield wall. I was hooked before I owned a single card.

I leapt at the chance to acquire my first T206 specimens a few years later from one of the hundreds of neighborhood baseball card shops opening across America. Commons were three bucks apiece, regardless of condition. As I worked my way through numerous plastic sheets, I spied Alperman, Gilbert, Rhodes and Schreck, all about excellent. It didn't matter that I had never heard of these players. These little cardboard gems from a bygone era instantly became the pride of my collection.

A quarter century, a wife, two kids and an Information Revolution later I bought my first *Lajoie (With Bat)* on eBay. By that time, thumbing through plastic sheets at the local card store had been supplanted by trolling through auction listings on the Internet. A PSA 5 of the great Nap with the difficult Piedmont Factory 42 back caught my attention on this occasion. The financial damage was a lot more than \$12 this time. But it was a small price to pay for the realization of a childhood dream.

There are countless stories like mine. T206 collecting has been for thousands of baseball fans a lifelong passion bordering on obsession—and always a joy. I attribute

this to the set's intoxicating blend of our beloved National Pastime with nostalgic sentiments, attractive artwork, investment potential and the thrill of the hunt.

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At last check, the PSA Set Registry stated the following about T206:

Really, what is left to say about this great issue that hasn't already been said? Without a doubt, this is the most studied dissected and discussed set in the history of the hobby.

While it is true that T206 has been the subject of intensive study by hobby giants such as Bill Heitman and Lew Lipset, if PSA cannot think of anything more to say about T206 it is not the fault of T206. In these pages, you will find a checklist that is a substantial improvement over previous efforts and numerous new theories on the set that have resulted from my recent survey of over 20,000 T206 cards.

Errors in the new checklist and flaws in some of the theories proposed herein are inevitable and I encourage their reporting. The fact is that the more one knows about T206, the more one knows that one doesn't know about T206. Mystery is pervasive and mastery elusive. Indeed, the steep learning curve that T206 presents is among its greatest strengths and a source of its enduring popularity.

I hope you enjoy this work. I am gratified by your shared interest in the topic of T206, which has proven such a wonderful diversion for me for so many years.

S. A. R.

First Edition, January 2006

I am gratified by the overwhelmingly positive reaction to *Inside T206*. Shortly after the original manuscript was posted on selected vintage baseball card websites as a downloadable PDF file in early 2006, *Sports Collectors Digest* magazine published the work in "hard copy" format as a five-part series. *Inside T206* has ever since been provoking study and discussion of the classic set on the Network54 Vintage Baseball Card Forum and elsewhere. This intense scrutiny has revealed inevitable flaws in the original manuscript and led to several new discoveries. This Centennial Edition of *Inside T206* corrects errors and discusses recent developments that have come to my attention from various hobby sources and independent research over the past three years.

I would like to thank all Network54 forum members who have taken up the cause to improve the T206 knowledge base, with special acknowledgement to Ted "T-Rex" Zanidakis, Bill Brown, Jamie Hull, Brian Weisner and Art Martineau. I would also be remiss if I did not thank Leon Luckey, who does a splendid job moderating that forum.

Finally, I would like to thank T.S. O'Connell of *Sports Collectors Digest* for approving publication of this Centennial Edition.

S. A. R.

Centennial Edition, May 2009

## I. Introduction

T206 cards were distributed by the American Tobacco Company ("ATC") between 1909 and 1911 as a premium with tobacco products.<sup>1</sup> Conventional checklists list 524 different baseball subjects as appearing on the front of T206 cards when team variations are considered separately.<sup>2</sup> Some of these subjects can be found with more than two dozen back types. When one totals all theoretically possible front/back combinations, the result is well over 6,000 distinct cards! This vast number led notable collector Bill Heitman to characterize the set as "The Monster"—an apt descriptor that has stuck now for more than a quarter century.

T206 got its name from the father of card collecting, Jefferson Burdick. The name was a natural consequence of the alphanumeric cataloging scheme that Burdick created and used in his seminal *American Card Catalog*, the first edition of which was published in 1939. "T" was the letter Burdick chose to identify twentieth century tobacco issues while "206" was assigned to the set by virtue of Burdick's sequential numbering of issues.

The astounding number of collecting possibilities that T206 has to offer is one of its greatest attractions. There are thousands of dedicated T206 collectors who follow almost as many collecting approaches. While a conventional way to collect the set is

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<sup>1</sup> ATC, also known as the "Tobacco Trust," held a monopolistic position in the U.S. cigarette market from around the turn of the century until 1911. ATC was ordered broken-up by the U.S. Supreme Court on May 29, 1911 in an opinion styled *United States v. The American Tobacco Company*, 221 U.S. 106 (1911).

<sup>2</sup> This subject count does not include numerous proof cards that were never issued, the most heralded being a batting pose of Philadelphia A's great Eddie Collins. A comprehensive accounting of proof cards discovered through 1997 is provided in K. Olbermann, "How Many Cards in the T206 Set?" *The Vintage & Classic Baseball Collector*, Jan./Feb. 1997. After that article's publication, eight more proof cards depicting would-be southern league subjects appeared at auction. This subject count also does not include variations arising from errors in the printing process, and two variations of A's subjects, namely, *Krause (Pitching Gray Cap)* and *Nicholls (Hands on Knees "A" on Cap)*, reported by Olbermann in the 1997 article. I believe the latter two variations have a claim for addition to the checklist since they are in the realm of design variations rather than mere printing mistakes. Finally, the subject count does not include the version of Cobb (*Red Portrait*) that exhibits the mysterious Ty Cobb back, whose classification is the subject of ongoing debate among advanced T206 collectors.

to secure as many as possible of the 524 subjects, many collectors focus on acquiring as many as possible of the roughly three dozen back types. Others attempt to assemble large collections of particular backs, leagues, teams or poses. The number of ways to collect the set is almost limitless.

Interest in T206 cards has always been strong. This seems attributable to, among other factors, an enduring fascination with early baseball, the attractiveness of the cards, the diversity offered by the set and, of course, the lore surrounding the Mona Lisa of sports cards, Wagner (*Pittsburg*). However, there is little doubt that interest in T206 cards has grown in recent years. Probably the single greatest driver of demand over the past few years has been the Internet. Websites, most notably eBay, have eliminated traditional information barriers and for the first time given T206 collectors access to a global market where they can transact in their favored cardboard wares. T206 collectors can now review hundreds of T206 auction listings on any given week and bid on the cards that interest them. Before the advent of the public Internet, many T206 buyers and sellers simply had no practical way to find one another.

A second major contributor to rising T206 demand has been the popularization of authentication and grading services, colloquially called “slabbing” services due to their mounting of cards in tamper resistant plastic holders. Reputable services, most notably Professional Sports Authenticator (PSA) and Sportscard Guarantee Corporation (SGC), have provided a measure of protection against forgeries and fakes that has made collecting more attractive for novice collectors and has brought them into the market in droves. These services have also spawned a T206 “investor class”—a new breed of T206 collectors/investors who seek-out slabbed specimens that have received high marks and pay prices unthinkable for ungraded examples.

## II. History of T206

### A. Authorizations

The fabled history of T206 dates back a full century. By January 1909, ATC had begun to seek permissions of ballplayers for inclusion in the T206 set. It contracted with local sportswriters to serve as intermediaries in this process. This is evidenced by a January 29, 1909 letter that resurfaced in the 1990s authored by New York sportswriter Bozeman Bulger to New York Highlanders shortstop Neal Ball requesting Ball's consent to be included in the set. In the letter, Bulger stated that he was "getting up a scheme with the American Lithograph Company to get out a series of nicely colored pictures ... which will be put in cigarette boxes" and needed Ball's authorization to use his likeness "under a new law they have here." Ball apparently gave his okay, as he appears in the first series of T206 released later that year.

An article in the October 12, 1912 issue of *The Sporting News* recounts a similar story of a Pittsburgh sportswriter who contacted the legendary Pirates shortstop Hans Wagner and sought his permission to be included in the set. However, this newsman was rebuffed by the Flying Dutchman who, so the article states, "did not care to have his picture in a package of cigarettes." While some have argued that a lack of compensation rather than a moral objection to cigarette smoking colored Wagner's decision to withhold his consent,<sup>3</sup> the anti-cigarette view expressed by Wagner in the *Sporting News* article finds corroboration in an October 22, 1914 article in the San Jose Mercury News, where Wagner's Pirates teammate and roommate Erv Kantlehner noted:

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<sup>3</sup> Some advanced T206 collectors, such as Olbermann, have argued that Wagner's withholding of consent had less to do with an anti-smoking bias than money. These critics of the anti-smoking thesis note that Wagner was featured in advertisements for tobacco products (including cigars) leading up to 1909, and was an admitted user of chewing tobacco. From this, they conclude that Wagner's pronouncements about moral objections to cigarette smoking were themselves, excuse the pun, a "smoke screen."

Wagner's only bad habit is his love of chewing tobacco, but he detests cigarettes, and does not smoke in any form. I have seen him refuse several checks of \$1000 by cigarette companies who want to use his name.

Regardless of Wagner's true motivations, the anti-smoking legend surrounding the card collecting hobby's signature, *Wagner (Pittsburg)*, was born.

Bulger's mention in his letter to Ball of needing Ball's permission "under a new law they have here" is curious. At first blush, the reference might seem to have been to the Copyright Act of 1909, a major overhaul of federal copyright law that became effective on July 1, 1909 after years of well-publicized debate. However, that law was not likely the object of his remark. The Copyright Act of 1909 did not compel ATC to secure the consent of the ballplayers since the players held no copyright in the images used on the cards.

More likely, Bulger's reference was to the New York Privacy Act of 1903,<sup>4</sup> a statutory scheme enacted by the New York legislature in the wake of a 1902 court decision.<sup>5</sup> The plaintiff in the lawsuit that spawned the court decision was a little girl who was not a celebrity and who sued the defendants for using her picture to promote the sale of flour without her permission. The New York Court of Appeals held that the little girl had no right at common law to prevent use of her image, but observed that the legislature could create a statutory "right to privacy" to prevent such use. The New York Privacy Act of 1903 was enacted in response to the court's invitation. However, since the right to privacy is essentially a right to be left alone, it seems at least possible that using a famous baseball player's likeness on a cigarette card would not have been deemed sufficiently invasive to violate it. In short, if ATC had taken an aggressive legal position, it might arguably have continued printing *Wagner (Pittsburg)*

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<sup>4</sup> N.Y. Civ. Rights Law §§ 50, 51 (1903).

<sup>5</sup> The court decision is styled *Roberson v. Rochester Folding Box Co.*, 171 N.Y. 538 (1902).

with impunity, in which case the famed card might be as common today as other Hall of Famers in the set.<sup>6,7</sup>

ATC probably also obtained permission from the photographers of the images that were converted into lithographs for the cards, as it was they who held copyrights. Foremost among these was Carl Horner, who from his Boston studios took many of the portrait photos that appear in the set. Horner was possibly the most prominent baseball photographer in the early twentieth century. His work is featured in several baseball card issues from the period, and was used liberally in T206.

### ***B. Production Process***

The images on the front of T206 cards are lithographs. These images resulted from a multi-stage printing process in which colors were layered on top of one another to achieve an image having a desired color scheme.

In this layered printing process, yellow was applied first. The yellow stage provided a base color onto which other colors (namely blue and red) were later added to achieve secondary colors (namely light green and orange).

Black was added second. This stage provided the complete image border as well as black coloring on the images. A small number of T206 cards exhibit only yellow and

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<sup>6</sup> It is true that authorization to use a baseball player's likeness is required today to avoid trespassing on his so-called "right of publicity." However, the right of publicity was not recognized in the United States until a 1953 legal ruling that, ironically, resolved a dispute between Topps and Bowman as to whether contracts signed by certain players granted either company exclusive rights to make cards of those players. See *Haelan Laboratories Inc. v. Topps Chewing Gum, Inc.*, 202 F.2d 866 (2d Cir. 1953), cert. denied, 346 U.S. 816 (1953).

<sup>7</sup> While a high profile court battle with Hans Wagner was avoided by ATC's decision to halt production of Wagner (*Pittsburg*), one athlete did mount a court challenge under the New York Privacy Act of 1903 in response to the ATC's use of his likeness on a cigarette card. That action was initiated by Olympic high jumper Harry Porter, who objected to his likeness being used by ATC on a card in what is now known as the T218 Champions set. The final disposition of Porter's lawsuit is unknown. An appellate decision on a procedural matter in the case is reported in *Porter v. American Tobacco Co.*, 140 A.D. 871, 125 N.Y.S. 710 (1910). A tip of the cap is due Jamie Hull, whose research brought the Porter lawsuit to light.

black, reflecting an abbreviated printing process that did not go beyond this stage. Such specimens are missing the subject's name and team designation that typically appear in brown below the bottom image border.

The third layer was brown. This stage supplied the player's name and team and any brown coloring on the images. Several T206 cards have been seen with only yellow, black and brown.

Next, blue was added. This stage provided blue coloring on the images and, in combination with the yellow coloring already present, light greens.

Dark green came next. Dark green coloring featured on T206 images is the product of this stage, not the result of mixing blue with yellow in the previous stage.

Last came red. The application of red produced the red coloring on the images as well as oranges, when added on top of yellow portions of the images.

T206 specimens missing letters or other indicia on the player's uniform are seen on occasion. These printing variations are usually the result of one or more stages in the printing process having been missed. For instance, the well-known Sweeney (Boston) "no B" variation resulted from the final printing stage, red, having been bypassed.<sup>8</sup> Other subjects known to exist without red ink in at least one instance are Beck, Bowerman and Lindaman and Spencer, and when auctioned these ink-challenged specimens often sell for a substantial premium.

The backs of T206 cards are monochromatic, with the color depending on the featured tobacco brand. T206 back colors include black, light blue, royal blue, navy blue, brown, green, purple and red.

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<sup>8</sup> There are also a number of T206 examples that exhibit a missing or altered name or team letter due to apparent flaws in the printing process. Among the more notable of these cards are Mitchell (Toronto) "Toront," Murray (Portrait) "Murr'y," Sharpe "Shappe" and Snodgrass (Batting) "Nodgrass."

While no uncut T206 sheets are known to exist, it can be surmised from misprinted and miscut T206 specimens that the cards were produced in sheets typically (although not always) having the same subject running vertically and different subjects running horizontally.<sup>9</sup> It is not uncommon for top-to-bottom miscut T206 cards to display the subject's name and team at the top of the card, rather than at the bottom where this caption rightfully belongs. Horizontally miscut T206 cards are less common. Some dedicated T206 collectors have attempted to reconstruct uncut sheets through study of T206 adjacencies gleaned from horizontal misprints and miscuts, although the paucity of such cards has made this a daunting task.

"Ghost images" are also fairly common on T206 cards. These are often the product of T206 sheets having been stacked on top one another before the ink fully dried.

Manufacturing tolerances make exacting specification of a "standard" size for a T206 card difficult. A typical size is roughly 1 7/16" x 2 5/8". T206 specimens exhibiting the American Beauty reverse are an exception. They were cut thinner to enable them to fit within narrower American Beauty cigarette packs.

In addition to T206 size variations, there are differences in shape. In particular, a nontrivial number of T206 cards were manufactured with a diamond cut that can range from slight to severe.

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<sup>9</sup> One confirmed exception to the general rule of vertical sameness is provided by a miscut Piedmont 350 T206 specimen in which *Philippe* is printed above *Engle*. Another vertically miscut specimen features *Maddox* and *Snodgrass (Batting)* in vertical alignment. One possible explanation for these particular multiplayer vertical adjacencies is that *Philippe* and *Maddox*, along with two other 350-only Pirate subjects [namely, *Abstein* and *Miller (Pittsburg)*], were deliberately long-printed with the Piedmont 350 back owing to the fact that the Bucs won the World Series in 1909 and, as a result, each had their own column on a 350-only sheet as well as sharing a second column with another subject, *Engle* in the case of *Philippe* and *Snodgrass (Batting)* in the case of *Maddox*.

Size differences have given “card doctors” ample room to trim T206 cards to improve their appearance to the naked eye. It is not at all uncommon to find T206 examples that have been altered at some point during their near century of existence.

T206 cards were printed on relatively thick card stock, which has no doubt contributed to their high survival rate relative to cards from some other early twentieth century sets.

### C. Brands

The backs of most T206 cards advertise the brand of tobacco with which the card was packed and shipped. T206 cards were distributed with 15 brands of tobacco, all of which were controlled by ATC. Some T206 collectors believe that two other brands under the control of ATC—Coupon and Ty Cobb—qualify as T206 brands; however, theirs appears to be a minority view.

In alphabetical order, the 15 undisputed T206 brands are: American Beauty, Broad Leaf, Carolina Brights, Cycle, Drum, El Principe De Gales, Hindu, Lenox, Old Mill, Piedmont, Polar Bear, Sovereign, Sweet Caporal, Tolstoi and Uzit. Old Mill backs are found with two different advertisements. One is specific to the “southern leagues” while another is generic.

A sixteenth putative T206 brand is Ty Cobb. About a dozen T206-like specimens are known that share a common front with Cobb (*Red Portrait*) and a back that reads “Ty Cobb’ King of the Smoking Tobacco World.” Whether these highly prized cards rightfully belong in T206 is the subject of ongoing debate among vintage baseball card enthusiasts. Proponents of inclusion of these “Cobb with Cobb back” cards in T206 note that Cobb (*Red Portrait*) is a T206 subject and that these cards size the same as T206 cards. Opponents respond that the Ty Cobb back appears only on a single subject and that Ty Cobb tobacco was distributed in tins rather than cigarette packs. From these facts, opponents infer that these cards were more likely distributed as stand-alone promotional items than package inserts. Opponents also note that, at

least according to some reports, the front surface of these cards is glossier than T206 cards. A further point raised by opponents is that these cards were distributed from Factory 33 in North Carolina, from which no other T206 brand was distributed. Some opponents have also asserted that these cards were printed after T206 distribution had concluded. Advertisements recently discovered in the *Macon Weekly Telegraph* indicating that the Ty Cobb brand was launched in February 1910 call this final assertion into question.<sup>10</sup> However, the possibility that the mysterious "Cobb with Cobb back" cards were contemporaries of T206 seems unlikely to convince most opponents to welcome these cards into the T206 family.

The other brand that some have argued falls within the T206 rubric is Coupon. T206 researcher Ted Zanidakis has written that cards of more than 60 different T206 subjects displaying a back that reads "'Coupon' (Mild) Cigarettes" are rightful members of the T206 set, despite Burdick's assignment of the alternative T213-1 designation to these cards in the *American Card Catalog*. Beyond the common fronts, Zanidakis notes in support of his thesis that T213-1 backs are stylistically similar to the "framed" American Beauty, Broadleaf, Cycle and Drum T206 backs and that ATC owned the Coupon brand at the time. While Zanidakis' thesis cannot be easily dismissed, there may be value in resisting the temptation to redefine T206s after more than a half century in the interest of continuity, certainty and common understanding.<sup>11</sup>

Most advertisements on T206 backs are available in only one color. Brand/color combinations are as follows: American Beauty (green), Broad Leaf (brown), Carolina

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<sup>10</sup> Advertisements for Ty Cobb tobacco ran in the *Telegraph* from February 8, 1910 to February 13, 1910, with tag lines such as "Ty Cobb is the home run of tobacco," "We had to make it right to get the name Ty Cobb tobacco," and, my personal favorite, "As pure as the food you eat—Ty Cobb tobacco." The following month, newspapers as geographically dispersed as the *Grand Rapids (North Dakota) Herald* and the *San Jose Mercury News* confirmed in their pages that a pipe tobacco had been named "in honor of the great Tiger." Perhaps not coincidentally, shortly after the launch of his own tobacco brand Cobb admitted to taking-up smoking to improve his batting eye. "Cobb Learns How to Smoke," *Columbus Daily Enquirer*, 20 May 1910.

<sup>11</sup> An analogy can be made to the judicial doctrine of *stare decisis* that, in the interest of predictability, favors standing by past decisions and not disturbing what is settled.

Brights (black), Cycle (black), Drum (purple), El Principe de Gales (red), Piedmont (royal blue), Polar Bear (navy blue), Sovereign (green), Sweet Caporal (red), Tolstoi (black) and Uzit (light blue). A few brands are possible in two colors. Hindu backs can either be brown or red. Lenox and Old Mill Southern backs come in either black or brown. The Ty Cobb and Coupon backs—should one choose to include those brands under the T206 umbrella—are green and black, respectively.

Additionally, some T206 cards are found with a blank back. Hand-cut examples having backs with multiple brands printed on top of one another are also known. The latter were likely cut from printers' scrap recovered from T206 production facilities.

#### *D. Factories*

The majority view is that T206 cards were printed in New York City by the American Lithographic Company and released from there to various tobacco factories operated by ATC for packaging and distribution with tobacco products. The backs of most T206 cards identify the number, internal revenue collections district and state of the factory from which they were distributed to the public.

T206 cards were shipped from six ATC factories, unless one counts the enigmatic Factory 33 in North Carolina that shipped Ty Cobb-branded cards and/or Factory 3 in Louisiana that sourced Coupon-backed cards. The six undisputed T206 factories operated in four different states, as follows: Factory 6 in Ohio, Factories 17 and 25 in Virginia, Factories 30 and 649 in New York and Factory 42 in North Carolina. Some of these factories are closely associated with ATC operating subsidiaries and branches. For example, Factory 6 was probably run by the Luhrman & Wilbern Tobacco Company in Middletown, Ohio; Factory 25 by ATC's Allen & Ginter branch

in Richmond, Virginia; and Factory 42 by ATC's Duke-Durham branch in Durham, North Carolina.<sup>12</sup>

Most American Beauties and Piedmonts were distributed from Factory 25, with a relatively small number shipped from Factory 42 near the end of T206 production. Broad Leafs, Carolina Brights, Cycles and Drums and Sovereigns were disseminated exclusively from Factory 25. El Principe de Gales cards were sourced only from Factory 17. Hindus were distributed only from Factory 649, while Lenoxes were sent only out of Factory 30. Most Old Mills came from Factory 25, with a scant few possibly emanating from Factory 649.<sup>13</sup> All Polar Bears were distributed from Factory 6. Sweet Caporals were initially outputted from Factories 25, 30 and 649, with Factory 42 being added later. Tolstois and Uzits were shipped solely from Factory 30.

Table 1: T206 Brand/Factory Combinations

Factory No.	State	Brands
6	OH	Polar Bear
17	VA	El Principe de Gales
25	VA	American Beauty, Broad Leaf, Carolina Brights, Cycle, Drum, Old Mill, Piedmont, Sovereign, Sweet Caporal
30	NY	Sweet Caporal, Tolstoi, Uzit
42	NC	American Beauty, Piedmont, Sweet Caporal
649	NY	Hindu, Old Mill (questionable), Sweet Caporal

In some cases, the distribution site for T206 cards correlates with local cigarette brand preferences of the day. For example, Piedmont cigarettes were popular in the southeastern United States, which may explain why Piedmont-branded T206 cards shipped from factories in North Carolina and Virginia. Sweet Caporal cigarettes were

<sup>12</sup> Additionally, fresh research reported on the Network 54 Vintage Baseball Card Forum has revealed that Factory 33 in North Carolina, the source of the cards exhibiting the Ty Cobb reverse, was most likely run by the F. R. Penn Tobacco Company in Reidsville, North Carolina.

<sup>13</sup> Perhaps a half-dozen known specimens with the Old Mill Southern reverse were overprinted with a red Factory 649 designation. These exceedingly rare "Old Mill Southern Overstrike" cards were most likely printer's scrap never distributed in cigarette packs.

favored in the Northeast, providing an economic rationale for distributing most of those cards from New York factories.

Moreover, some T206 brands may have been sold only in specific metropolitan areas. For example, Drum Cigarettes, while shipped from Factory 25 in Virginia, may have been marketed exclusively in St. Louis. Evidence for this is provided by a known pre-T206 Drum Cigarettes pack that identifies the Drummond Tobacco Company of St. Louis as the source of origin, and the recent discovery of several dozen T206 Drum cards from an original collection in St. Louis that adds considerably to the total population of these rare cards. It is possible that ATC acquired Drummond for the primary purpose of exploiting the company's brand equity in the St. Louis metro area.

Zanidakis has suggested that shifts over time in the relative importance of factories in T206 distribution may have been attributable to steps taken by ATC in preparation for its impending dissolution. It is known that as a result of the court-ordered break-up, ATC would retain the Sweet Caporal business and Factory 30 in New York, the Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company would inherit the American Beauty and Piedmont brands and Factories 25 and 42 in Virginia and North Carolina, respectively, and the P. Lorillard Company would be awarded the Polar Bear franchise and Factory 6 in Ohio.<sup>14</sup> Nonetheless, the nature of any causal link between ATC's dissolution and changes in T206 distribution patterns remains murky and a topic for further research.

#### E. Packaging

Most T206 cards were distributed as a premium in slide-and-shell type cigarette boxes that contained ten sticks of a T206 brand. The cards were typically enclosed along with the cigarettes inside an outer tin foil and paper lining, with the back of the card abutting the cigarettes and the front facing the lining. T206 cards bearing the El Principe de Gales and Polar Bear back are notable exceptions. El Principe de Gales cards were packaged in pillbox type packs. Polar Bear cards were shipped in scrap

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<sup>14</sup> W.H.S. Stevens, *Industrial Combinations and Trusts* 448-49, 476-78 (1913).

tobacco pouches. The mode of distribution of the T206-like “Cobb with Cobb back” cards is uncertain, although some advanced collectors believe that these cards were distributed as stand-alone promotional items.

Most T206 packs included one baseball card. Hindu and Old Mill packs contained two. Advertisements for Hindu cigarettes that ran sporadically in the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* newspaper between August 6, 1909 to August 20, 1909 show a drawing of a Hindu cigarette pack with two cards depicting Major League subjects, Dooin and Waddell (*Throwing*), visible in the top. A caption above the pack in each ad reads: “Two pictures of famous baseball players with every box ....” or some similar variation. Hindu ads in the same publication between August 23, 1909 and September 10, 1909 show two southern league subjects, Breitenstein and Hickman, emerging from a Hindu box. Additionally, numerous Old Mill cigarette ads published in the *Atlanta Constitution*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Lexington (Kentucky) Herald* and *The State (Columbia, S.C.)* between March and June 1910 show two southern leaguers, Viola and another that can’t be easily identified, emerging from an Old Mill pack. These ads refer to “Baseball pictures and a valuable coupon in each package.” Packs of at least one other T206 brand, Tolstoi, included one card of a baseball subject and one card of a non-baseball subject—either an athlete from another sport or a military subject.<sup>15</sup> It has also been reported that Polar Bear scrap tobacco pouches contained multiple T206 cards.

Unopened packs of cigarettes of T206 brands are occasionally seen at auction even today. Some have sold for several thousand dollars. While these packs are collectibles in their own right, most do not contain a T206 card. Most of the T206 cigarette brands were marketed over a much longer time horizon than the roughly

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<sup>15</sup> A February 16, 1911 letter from ATC to one C.D. Posey reads:

“Dear Sir:  
Advise that we have discontinued packing Athlete pictures in Tolstoi, and substituted Military series.  
Started Packing Feb. 14, 1911. Started Delivery Feb. 14/11.  
One Military and one Baseball picture in each box of 10s Cigarettes.”

two-year distribution period for the T206 cards that give those brands lasting fame. Indeed, some T206 brands, such as Sweet Caporal, were sold for several decades in similar packaging. Nonetheless, many T206 collectors, enticed by the prospect finding a pristine copy of Cobb, Matty or even Wagner that managed to evade discovery for 100 years, show strong interest in any unopened pack with a T206 brand designation and attempt to put a date to it. And who can blame them?

Pack dating is an inexact science. There are, however, some visible indicia that aid T206 collectors in this process. One is the tax stamp. Affixed to most cigarette packs issued in the United States between 1879 and 1959 was a tax stamp that, rather curiously, bore the likeness of early nineteenth century New York City mayor and failed presidential candidate DeWitt Clinton. Stamps in this genre were printed in discrete years, and the stamps themselves indicate the year in which they were printed—sometimes called the “series.” Early tax stamp series included 1879, 1883, 1887, 1898, 1901, 1909, 1910 and 1917. After that came “Class A” series stamps. The presence of a 1909 or 1910 series tax stamp improves the chance that an unopened pack will include a T206 card, although these stamps were sometimes applied to packs years after the indicated series year.

Tax stamps sometimes have overprint ink that identifies the date the pack was manufactured. Where available, these overprint dates are a more accurate determinant of whether a pack has a T206 card than the tax stamp series. Additional visual considerations are the factory, state and district designations on the pack exterior. T206 collectors are wise to look at these external data and make sure that the pack exhibits a brand/factory/state/district combination that is possible on T206 cards.

Another consideration is the number of cigarettes in the pack. Most packs made in the T206 era included ten cigarettes. By most accounts, the 20-cigarette pack was introduced shortly after the T206 production run. It is thus unlikely that any T206-

branded packs having 20 cigarettes will contain a T206 card. An American Beauty 15-pack bearing a 1910 tax stamp and a T206 factory/state/district designation was recently seen at auction. It is uncertain whether this pack will ultimately prove to have a T206 card.

Reports have also surfaced of using x-ray equipment to determine whether there is an insert in unopened packs that could, at least potentially, be a T206 card.

Even if an unopened pack meets all the objective indicia of a T206 pack, however, it is no guarantee a baseball subject will be found inside. Bird and fish subjects were reportedly inserted into Old Mill, Piedmont, Sovereign and Sweet Caporal packs during 1910 and 1911 as contemporaneous alternatives to baseball subjects.

Finally, it bears noting that there is no guarantee that even if a T206 card is found in a pack that it will emerge in mint condition. At least one T206 card recently pulled from a Piedmont pack was in lesser condition, with light tobacco stains on the back and a slight registry problem on the front. It is likely that the tobacco stains were attributable to cohabitation with cigarettes in the pack for more than 90 years.

#### *F. Launch*

The launch of T206 in the early days of summer of 1909 set-off a veritable frenzy among American boys. An August 9, 1909 article entitled "The Small Boy's Mania" in the *Charlotte Observer* bore the subtitle "Pictures of 'Baseball Men' More Sought after than Gold," and went on to describe the T206 craze thusly:

The amount of interest displayed by the small boys of the community over the pictures of National and American League baseball players that come, one in every pack, of Piedmont cigarettes, is remarkable.

Since the beginning of summer, when the American Tobacco Company commenced putting the pictures in their packages of cigarettes, the small boy has been more or less of a nuisance by stopping young and old men as they walked along the street begging for "baseball men."

The collections have become a mania. Whenever a new shipment of cigarettes is opened, the small boy congregates around the stand and every purchaser is besieged, and not allowed to leave until the picture has been forced from him.

Saturday, a frying-sized kid purchased \$1 worth of cigarettes, and after securing the desired pictures, peddled the smokeables to the passers on the street. Often two packages of cigarettes were offered for five cents, but the pictures had already been extracted.

The children match one another for the picture and the winner walks away exultant with the entire collection of his friends in his hands. The gambling amounts to guesswork. While the picture is flying in the air one of the boys calls the side it will fall on, face up or down. If in his guess he is correct, the picture goes to him, otherwise he has lost one of his own pictures.

More especially are the likenesses of Ty Cobb and Hans Wagner desired, and until a week ago only a few pictures of Cob [sic] had been found, two of these being in the possession of the Buford Hotel cigar stand. Last Thursday in a new shipment of cigarettes received at the Wilson Drug Store, on East Trade street, 13 pictures of Cobb were found in the first installment opened. The boys of the street went wild. Securing money from every available source they began purchasing from the W. L. Hand Drug Store. Before night over 3,000 cigarettes had been sold by one firm and on the streets 5-cent packages of cigarettes were being sold for as little as a cent apiece.

Indeed, the obsession of American youth with the pictures of baseball men was so intense as to provoke a backlash by a concerned citizenry over the increase in smoking and gambling among boys that the promotion was causing. An editorial in the *Winston Sentinel* opined:

The advertising man who conceived the idea of putting baseball pictures in cigarette packages did a good thing for his employers, but a mighty bad thing for the small boy. There ought to be some way to prohibit this kind of thing. It will do more to start young boys smoking cigarettes than any other agency of which we can conceive.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> "Tempting the Children" Charlotte Observer, 9 Sep. 1909.

The *Charlotte Observer*, reacting to the *Sentinel* editorial, concurred with the sentiment:

The *Sentinel* has a good idea of the situation. The man who thought of using the baseball craze to advertise cigarettes was a man who knew his business and is a valuable man to the American Tobacco Company, but then the idea has its bad side. Every child is wild to get the baseball men and every nickel that can be gotten goes for cigarettes. Of course it is impossible to find out who sells them, but a news item from this city this week states that the number of licenses to sell cigarettes has increased wonderfully within the last few months. That the boys are buying the cigarettes is a settled fact and there are always people who will sell anything for the money.<sup>17</sup>

The T206 mania and ensuing public outcry was not confined to the southern states. In December 1909, public school officials in Trenton, New Jersey called for a "cigarette war" to reduce use of the "little dope sticks" by young boys who had taken-up smoking incident to collecting the baseball men. Local police soon began a crackdown on cigarette sales to minors in an attempt to quash the alleged epidemic of youth smoking and gambling brought on by the pursuit. Dealers who sold the cigarette packs to boys were arrested and the boys who bought them were summoned to court as witnesses. Names of the accused dealers and the witnesses—as young as 10 years old—were published in the newspaper. The police put the blame squarely on what we now call T206:

The police declare that the boys have been inveigled into the purchase of the cigarettes through the pictures of baseball players that are placed in each pack. The rivalry to collect pictures has become so spirited among the boys that cigarettes are purchased now in place of candy.

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The boys have also invented a game whereby they gamble with the pictures, tossing the pictures for "head and tail."<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> *Id.*

<sup>18</sup> "Teachers Call on Police for Cigarette War," *Trenton Evening Times*, 17 Dec. 1909.

The Trenton “cigarette war” culminated in a courtroom drama wherein one Judge Harris, after chastising “the scheme of placing baseball pictures in the packages, asserting that the pictures not only encouraged the boys to smoke, but also led them to indulge in a new form of gambling,” released the charged shopkeepers with a stern warning that repetition of the offense would be followed by a \$50 fine in each instance.<sup>19</sup>

Despite all protestations, however, distribution of the wildly popular baseball men—and the small boy’s mania brought in its wake—would continue for more than a year thereafter.

#### G. Distribution Timeline<sup>20</sup>

Many T206 cards self-identify into one of three distinct series based on the number of subjects their backs indicate the set includes. These are “150 subjects” (150 series), “350 subjects” (350 series) and “460 subjects” (460 series). It is not unusual for people to associate these series with production runs in 1909, 1910 and 1911, respectively. However, as is often the case with T206, the reality is far more complex.

One complication arises from the backs of T206 cards that do not self-identify into any series. These so-called “assorted” backs include Carolina Brights, El Principe de Gales, Hindu, Old Mill, Polar Bear, Tolstoi and Uzit. Fortunately, these backs can be assigned to series through association with subjects with which they appear. For example, if an assorted back is seen with a subject that is also known to appear with “350 subjects” backs but not “150 subjects” or “460 subjects” backs, it can be inferred that assorted back is a 350 series back and was issued roughly contemporaneously with the 350-only subject group. Specific associations of assorted backs with series will be discussed in later sections.

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<sup>19</sup> “To Protect Boys From Cigarettes,” Trenton Evening Times, 22 Dec. 1909.

<sup>20</sup> It is assumed for the remainder of this work, except where otherwise noted, that the Ty Cobb and Coupon brands are outside the T206 ambit.

A more perplexing difficulty in establishing a T206 distribution timeline is caused by series traversal. That is, many subjects in the T206 set can be found with backs that self-identify into more than one series. There are a few subjects that only appear with 150 series backs. However, most subjects that first appear with 150 series backs can also be found in smaller quantities with 350 series backs. This requires bifurcation of the subjects that first appear with 150 series backs into two distinct subject groups: a 150-only group and a 150/350 group.

Similarly, some subjects that first appear with 350 series backs can also be found with 460 series backs. This initially suggests bifurcation of such subjects into a 350-only group and a 350/460 group. However, a previously unreported fact is that of the subjects that appear with both 350 and 460 series backs, six subjects [specifically, *Chance (Yellow Background)*, *Chase (Blue Background)*, *Chase (Dark Cap)*, *Cobb (Red Portrait)*, *Evers (Yellow Background)* and *Mathewson (Dark Cap)*] can be found with a larger variety of backs than the other subjects. This necessitates trifurcation of the subjects that first appear with 350 series backs into three distinct subject groups: a 350-only group, a 350/460 “super print” (SP) group that includes the six noted 350/460 subjects and a 350/460 “regular print” (RP) group that includes the rest of the 350/460 subjects.

A 460-only group, two distinct southern league (SL) groups and a few subjects that defy classification add further wrinkles. Nonetheless, the discussion that follows attempts to provide an approximate distribution timeline for the no fewer than eight distinct T206 subject groups outlined above.

### **1. Phase I Release: 150-Only, 150/350 and 150/350 SL**

Indications are that the 150-only and 150/350 subjects were released contemporaneously in the summer of 1909 based on artwork completed in the winter/spring of 1909. The main difference between these subjects is that those in the

150/350 group experienced an extended print run that resulted in availability with 350 series backs, albeit in limited quantities.

A winter/spring 1909 creation date for subjects in the 150-only and 150/350 groups is supported by known team changes in early 1909. Wid Conroy appears in the 150/350 group with Washington. He was purchased by the Senators from the New York Highlanders on February 17, 1909, which conclusively establishes creation of his card after that date. Neal Ball appears in the 150/350 group with the New York Highlanders. He was bought by Cleveland on May 18, 1909, which means his New York card was probably drawn before that. Bob Ganley and George Browne likewise appear in the 150/350 and 150-only groups, respectively, with teams they left in May 1909, suggestive of earlier creation of their artwork.

A summer 1909 initial release of the 150-only and 150/350 subjects is supported by the contemporaneous account in the August 9, 1909 *Charlotte Observer* article noting that the ATC began inserting pictures of baseball men in Piedmont cigarette packs at the beginning of summer. The summer 1909 launch date is also supported by advertising. The first known advertisement for the T206 set appeared in the July 3, 1909 issue of *Sporting Life* magazine. The ad showed ten Major League subjects from the 150-only and 150/350 groups and indicated that these subjects were part of a series of 150 ballplayers that could be obtained in packages of Piedmont, Sweet Caporal and Sovereign cigarettes. The spot ran almost weekly until August 21, 1909, when it was replaced by a second advertisement that showed ten different major leaguers from these groups. One of the subjects shown the later ad happened to be the sports collecting hobby's greatest prize, Wagner (Pittsburg). It has been speculated, though without substantiation, that this ad might have tipped-off Hans that he was in the set and prompted him to demand that ATC stop using his likeness. The ad featuring Wagner last ran on September 18, 1909.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> The advertisements depicting Wagner (Pittsburg) coupled with the virtual impossibility of pulling the card from a pack of T206-branded cigarettes has led Hull to rightly describe it as the first "chase" card.

Meanwhile, other T206 subjects were being featured in Hindu cigarette advertisements published in the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* beginning in August 1909. Some of these ads show players from the Southern Association—15 different in all. These are among the 48 “southern leaguers” in the set that are notable for their difficulty. Recent research has revealed that the 34 most challenging of the 48 southern leaguers became available in the summer of 1909 roughly contemporaneously with the 150-only and 150/350 subjects, but only with the Brown Hindu back. These 34 subjects belong to the 150/350 SL subject group, which distinguishes them from their 14 somewhat more common southern league brethren that were later released contemporaneously with the 350-only group and form the 350-only SL subject group.

Based on the above considerations, it can be assumed that the 150-only, 150/350, and 150/350 SL subjects first became available in summer 1909 based on artwork created during the immediately preceding winter and spring.

## **2. Phase II Release: 350-Only, 350/460 SP and 350-Only SL**

Dating the initial release of the 350-only subjects is more difficult. One can look to trades involving subjects in the 350-only group for evidence of creation dates, although this analysis is fraught with peril. Bobby Byrne is shown in the 350-only group with the St. Louis Cardinals. He was traded to Pittsburg on August 19, 1909, which would seem to suggest his card was drawn before that. Chappy Charles also appears in this group with the St. Louis Cardinals; he was shipped to Cincinnati for Mike Mowrey three days after the Byrne trade. And Mowrey, like Charles, appears in this group with his old team. Similarly, Claude Rossman is illustrated in this group with Detroit, though he was sent to the St. Louis Browns on August 20, 1909. Without further analysis, these four case studies seem to uniformly support a creation date for the 350-only subjects before mid-August 1909.

However, this evidence is not uncontested. Byrne was traded to the Pirates for Jap Barbeau, who appears in the 350-only group with his new team, the St. Louis Cardinals. This conclusively establishes that Barbeau's card was drawn after August 19, 1909. And akin to the Barbeau situation, Bill Dahlen and Kid Elberfeld appear in the 350-only group with teams they joined after the 1909 season. In particular, Elberfeld was purchased by Washington from the New York Highlanders on December 14, 1909, while Dahlen left the Boston Rustlers to become the Brooklyn skipper at sometime in the off-season between 1909 and 1910.

A timeline consistent with these seemingly incongruous data points would have the 350-only subjects created over a period of several months starting in the summer of 1909, with a few selective modifications to the artwork perhaps continuing into the winter of 1910. In accordance with these creation dates and known T206 availability patterns, general release of the 350-only group may have occurred during the winter of 1910, without *Dahlen* (Brooklyn) and *Elberfeld* (Washington). Such a release date would be consistent with known availability patterns since *Barbeau* (which was likely drawn in the fall of 1909, shortly after his team switch) is as ubiquitous as most other 350-only subjects, whereas *Dahlen* (Brooklyn) and *Elberfeld* (Washington) (which were likely created in winter 1910, after their respective team switches) are noticeably scarcer.

A winter 1910 release for the 14 350-only SL subjects jibes with a March 1910 ads for Old Mill cigarettes published in the *Atlanta Constitution* and elsewhere. These advertisements appear to show *Viola*, a T206 subject from the Southern Association, fronting a second T206 card and a coupon within a pack of Old Mill cigarettes. These subjects would have had the Old Mill Southern back, which is closely associated with the 350 series due its availability with the 14 subjects from the southern leagues that otherwise appear only with the Piedmont 350 back, and that were not part of the original 1909 Hindu-only southern leaguer launch.

This does not mean that the 350-only subjects would have necessarily become available in the winter of 1910 with all 350 series brands. For example, an ATC ledger sheet pegs the debut of the Cycle 350 back to July 1910. And it has been reported elsewhere that distribution of the American Beauty 350 back commenced on July 3, 1910.

The six subjects in the 350/460 SP group were likely released at the same time as the 350-only subjects, i.e. winter 1910. A common launch for these subjects is supported by the fact that at least some of the six “super printed” subjects have been confirmed with all backs found on 350-only subjects. It is further supported by the fact that these six subjects are substantially more common than 350/460 RP subjects. It seems likely that, analogous to the “hold over” situation with the 150/350 subjects, ATC decided to extend with 460 series backs a subset of (in this case a very small subset of only six) subjects that were launched concurrently with the 350-only subjects.

### 3. Phase III Release: 350/460 RP

Unlike the six 350/460 SP subjects, the 350/460 RP subjects do not appear to have been holdovers from the 350-only subject group. Instead, the 350/460 RP subjects seem to have been released as a separate group sometime after the 350-only launch. This is supported by the fact that these subjects are impossible with several back types found on 350-only subjects, such as Carolina Brights and Cycle 350. Moreover, examples of 350/460 RP subjects bearing the American Beauty 350 back do not exhibit a frame whereas, with one lone exception, 350-only and 350/460 SP subjects sporting the American Beauty 350 back do display a frame.<sup>22</sup> This printing disparity is

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<sup>22</sup> The sole exception is *Nichols*, a 350-only subject who appears without the frame. One possible explanation is that *Nichols* was originally intended as a 350/460 RP subject but was short printed and therefore never made it to print with any 460 series back. This short print theory is consistent with the scarcity of this subject relative to other 350-only subjects. There are also reasons why ATC might have wanted to take the card out of production, such as the fact that it misspelled its subject’s last name (*Nicholls*) and depicted him with a team he had left after only 21 games of 1909 season (Philadelphia Athletics).

consistent with independent launch of the 350/460 RP subjects sometime after the 350-only release.

Team changes date release of the 350/460 RP subjects to spring/summer 1910 based on winter/spring 1910 artwork. Vic Willis was purchased by the St. Louis Cardinals in February 15, 1910, setting the earliest date for creation of his two 350/460 RP series St. Louis cards. Harry McIntyre was traded from Brooklyn to the Chicago Cubs on April 13, 1910. The McIntyre trade is reflected on the team listing of his 350/460 RP card, but not in the artwork (he is still shown with Brooklyn). This may indicate that the deadline for 350/460 RP artwork had passed before McIntyre's mid-April trade, but that the cards had not been released and minor printing updates such as changes in the team caption were still possible. That the 350/460 RP subjects had not been released by mid-April 1910 is supported by the fact that *McIntyre (Brooklyn and Chicago)* is available in quantities typical of a 350/460 RP subject. Taken together, these data points seem supportive of winter/spring 1910 creation for 350/460 RP subjects with initial release likely within a few months thereafter.

As with the 350-only subjects, it must be emphasized that the 350/460 RP subjects would not necessarily have been available in spring/summer 1910 with all brands. For example, it has been reported elsewhere that the rare Uzit-branded T206 cards that depict 350/460 RP subjects were not distributed until March 18, 1911, in the eleventh hour of T206 distribution.

#### **4. Phase IV: 460-Only**

The 460-only subjects were likely released in the fall of 1910 based on artwork completed the preceding summer. Happy Smith is shown with Brooklyn in the 460-only group. He was shipped to the Superbas as part of the April 13, 1910 trade for Harry McIntyre. While the artwork deadline had apparently passed for the 350/460 RP subjects by that date, as evidenced by *McIntyre (Brooklyn and Chicago)*, one can surmise from *Smith (Brooklyn)* that it had not yet passed for the 460-only subjects.

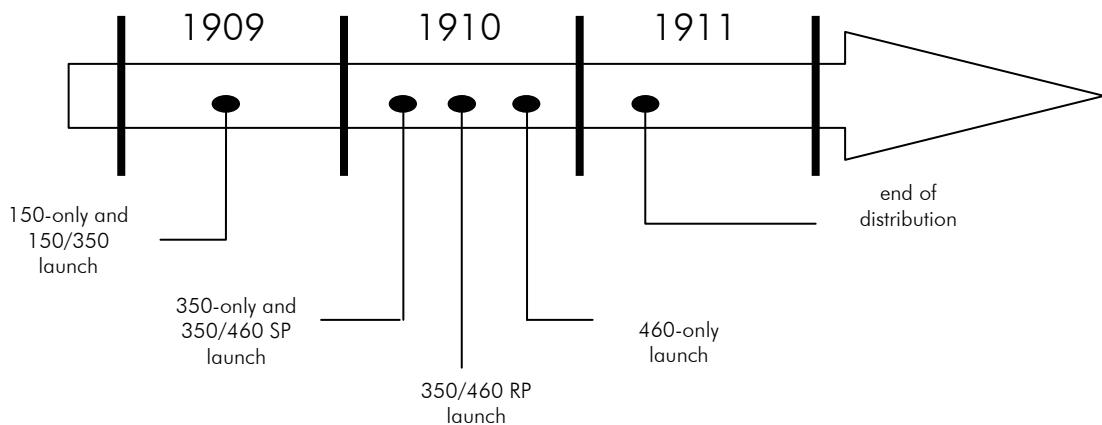


Figure 1: Approximate T206 Subject Group Release Timeline

T206 distribution likely stopped in the winter or spring of 1911. Tolstoi is one of the brands with which 350/460 RP and 460-only subjects were distributed. It is known that packaging of Tolstoi-backed T206 cards was discontinued on March 14, 1911. Distribution would have wrapped-up within a couple of weeks thereafter. Uzit distribution did not start until March 18, 1911; however, T206 cards exhibiting this brand are so rare that distribution of such cards probably did not last more than a few weeks.

It bears noting that identification of an approximate *start* date for circulation of a given T206 subject group does not speak to an *end* date. For example, the 350/460 RP subjects are more prevalent than the 460-only subjects with the Uzit back that is known to have been distributed very late in the process, suggesting that distribution of 350/460 RP subjects with certain brands may have outlasted distribution of 460-only subjects.

#### *H. Circulation*

The total number of T206 cards circulated is anyone's guess. However, cigarette sales data published in the U.S. government's *Report of the Commissioner of Corporations on the Tobacco Industry, Part III Prices, Costs and Profits* (GPO 1915)

provide circumstantial evidence that the number could have reached an astounding 370,000,000!

In 1910, the total number of cigarettes produced in the U.S. was roughly 10 billion. Cigarettes were divisible at the time into three classes: domestic, Turkish blend and Turkish. Domestic cigarettes were made from the bright yellow domestic tobaccos of Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina.<sup>23</sup> Turkish blend cigarettes were made from a mixture of these domestic tobaccos with Turkish leaf tobaccos grown principally in Turkey. Turkish cigarettes were made entirely from Turkish leaf tobaccos.

Most of the 10 billion cigarettes produced in 1910 were in the domestic class. And there, ATC was the dominant player. ATC sold fully 5.3 billion domestic cigarettes that year, under major brand names such as Piedmont, Hassan, Mecca, Fatima and Sweet Caporal. While the popularity of the once dominant Sweet Caporal brand was waning, the output of some of the newer domestic brands—Piedmont, Hassan, Mecca and Fatima—exceeded one billion cigarettes each.

Using the one billion production number for Piedmont cigarettes in 1910 as a marker, one can extrapolate a T206 circulation in the neighborhood of 370 million. In particular, it is known that there were 10 cigarettes in a Piedmont pack, and that a typical Piedmont pack contained one T206 card. Assuming pack-only distribution of Piedmont cigarettes, and further assuming every Piedmont pack had a T206 card, the number of Piedmont-backed T206 cards produced in 1910 is estimable at about 100 million. Furthermore, it is known that approximately half of all T206 cards have a Piedmont reverse. Thus, one can surmise that the total number of T206s produced in 1910 was in the neighborhood of 200 million. Assuming an additional seven months of production in 1909 and three months in 1911 at equivalent rates to the 1910

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<sup>23</sup> The T206 brand "Carolina Brights" is descriptive of the bright yellow domestic tobaccos of North and South Carolina that were used to produce cigarettes under this brand.

production, the total production estimate for T206 cards nearly doubles to a whopping 370 million!

On the other hand, actual circulation may well have been considerably lower. It has been reported that in 1910 and 1911 bird and fish subjects were distributed in some Old Mill, Piedmont, Sovereign and Sweet Caporal packs instead of baseball subjects. This would likely have meaningfully reduced the number of T206 cards circulated.

### *I. Survival*

While T206 production quantities likely dwarfed those for most if not all other card sets ever made, the high production volume has been offset by a low survival rate. A low survival rate can be assumed for several reasons. First, T206 cards were distributed as a premium rather than as a primary product. The small boy's reported obsession with the pictures of baseball men notwithstanding, most early 1900s cigarette purchasers were probably more interested in a smoke than a small cardboard insert depicting a baseball player. As painful as it is to ponder for those of us who love T206, millions of T206 specimens may have been discarded without so much as an initial viewing. Second, T206 cards were distributed mainly to an adult population. Most adults are less interested in saving novelty items than kids. Third, baseball cards had little economic value at the time. There was accordingly little financial incentive to keep them. Only those who had developed a passion for a relatively new sport—or at least knew someone else who had—would have bothered to hold-on to the cards.

All this is not to mention the significant obstacles to survival posed in the century bridging original distribution with the present day. These include the passing of several generations of T206 owners, countless moves, harsh storage conditions and World War II paper drives, to name just a few. It must be remembered that T206

cards must have survived all this despite their fragility and near worthlessness from an economic standpoint until only recently.<sup>24</sup>

One speculation-laden analysis would place the surviving number of T206 specimens in the 1.6 million range. Such an analysis extrapolates that figure from an estimate of the surviving quantities of two rare subjects, *Demmitt (St. Louis)* and *O'Hara (St. Louis)*. These subjects are known only with the Polar Bear reverse; however, they are not notably scarcer with that back than a typical subject with which Polar Bear is possible. Additionally, it is known that about 10% of cards of T206 subjects with which Polar Bear is possible have the Polar Bear verso. Thus, if one assumes that roughly 300 of each of these rare subjects remain in existence, and further assumes that survival rates for these subjects conform with those of other subjects, the surviving quantity of a typical T206 subject is somewhere in the neighborhood of 3,000. From this number, the total number of T206 specimens in existence today is estimable in the general vicinity of 1.6 million. Of course, if there are 600 examples each of *Demmitt (St. Louis)* and *O'Hara (St. Louis)* extant instead of 300, the presumed number of T206 cards with us today doubles to 3.2 million, or about 6,000 per subject on average, by this same analysis.<sup>25</sup>

In any case, of the potentially hundreds of millions of specimens initially produced, it seems highly probable that the number of T206 cards in existence today is in the low single-digit millions, or a few thousand for a typical subject. This is quite possibly less than one percent of the original production, with the vast majority of these survivors being in lower grade.

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<sup>24</sup> Even a half-century after distribution of T206 ended, the American Card Catalog pegged the price of T206 commons at ten cents a piece, with the hobby signature Wagner (Pittsburg) listing for only \$50.

<sup>25</sup> There are other potential pitfalls with this analysis. For example, *Demmitt (St. Louis)* and *O'Hara (St. Louis)* could have been printed in abnormally large quantities with Polar Bear, in which case the presumed number of T206 survivors is lower than the present analysis would suggest.

### III. Subject Group Discussion

In a departure from conventional thinking, it is this author's view that T206 is best understood as consisting of eight subject groups, plus a handful of rule-breaking subjects that defy classification. A "subject group" consists of a collection of subjects which, according to witnessed patterns, can in theory appear with a common set of backs.

The phrase "in theory" used in the preceding sentence requires some elaboration. By drawing inferences from patterns witnessed in survey data, the possibility that certain subjects will be found with certain backs can be ruled-out; however, the possibility that certain subjects that might theoretically appear with certain backs do not exist with those backs cannot be similarly excluded. Indeed, recent research led by Zanidakis leaves little doubt that many front/back combinations deemed theoretically possible herein do not exist in fact.<sup>26</sup>

The eight hypothesized subject groups are summarized in the following table (which uses "subjects/factory" format for back identification).

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<sup>26</sup> Zanidakis has helpfully coined the term "no print" to describe T206 front/back combinations that are theoretically possible but do not exist in fact.

Table 2: T206 Subject Groups

Series	No. Subjects	No. Backs	Back Types
150-only	11	6	Brown Hindu, Piedmont 150, Sovereign 150, Sweet Caporal 150/25, Sweet Caporal 150/30, Sweet Caporal 150/649
150/350	142	12	Brown Hindu, El Principe de Gales, Old Mill, Piedmont 150, Sovereign 150, Sweet Caporal 150/25, Sweet Caporal 150/30, Sweet Caporal 150/649, Piedmont 350, Sovereign 350, Sweet Caporal 350/25, Sweet Caporal 350/30
350-only	208	13	American Beauty 350 w/Frame, Broad Leaf 350, Carolina Brights, Cycle 350, Drum, El Principe de Gales, Old Mill, Piedmont 350, Polar Bear, Sovereign 350, Sweet Caporal 350/25, Sweet Caporal 350/30, Tolstoi
350/460 super print (SP)	6	26	American Beauty 350 w/Frame, Broad Leaf 350, Carolina Brights, Cycle 350, Drum, El Principe de Gales, Old Mill, Piedmont 350, Polar Bear, Sovereign 350, Sweet Caporal 350/25, Sweet Caporal 350/30, Tolstoi, Broad Leaf 460, Cycle 460, Black Lenox, Brown Lenox, Piedmont 460/25, Piedmont 460/42, Red Hindu, Sovereign 460, Sweet Caporal 460/25, Sweet Caporal 460/30, Sweet Caporal 460/42, Sweet Caporal 460/42 Overstrike, Uzit
350/460 regular print (RP)	55	22	American Beauty 350 w/o Frame, Drum, El Principe de Gales, Old Mill, Piedmont 350, Polar Bear, Sovereign 350, Sweet Caporal 350/25, Sweet Caporal 350/30, Tolstoi, American Beauty 460, Broad Leaf 460, Cycle 460, Black Lenox, Brown Lenox, Piedmont 460/25, Piedmont 460/42, Red Hindu, Sweet Caporal 460/25, Sweet Caporal 460/42, Sweet Caporal 460/42 Overstrike, Uzit
460-only	48	18	El Principe de Gales, Old Mill, Polar Bear, Tolstoi, American Beauty 460, Broad Leaf 460, Cycle 460, Black Lenox, Brown Lenox, Piedmont 460/25, Piedmont 460/42, Red Hindu, Sovereign 460, Sweet Caporal 460/25, Sweet Caporal 460/30, Sweet Caporal 460/42, Sweet Caporal 460/42 Overstrike, Uzit
150/350 southern leagues (SL)	34	3 <sup>27</sup>	Brown Hindu, Old Mill Southern, Piedmont 350
350-Only southern leagues (SL)	14	2	Old Mill Southern, Piedmont 350
Rule Breakers	6	Varies	Varies

### A. 150-Only Group

The 150-only group includes 11 subjects that appear at most with the Brown Hindu, Piedmont 150, Sovereign 150, Sweet Caporal 150/25, Sweet Caporal 150/30 and Sweet Caporal 150/649 backs. Two of the eleven, Ames (*Hands at Chest*) and Doyle

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<sup>27</sup> This does not count any the ultra-rare Old Mill Southern backs that exhibit brown printing and/or one or two red Factory 649 overstrikes at anomalous locations, which many believe appear only on printer's scrap.

(*Throwing*), are new additions to the 150-only group, having been characterized in previous checklists as 150/350 subjects.

*Schulte (Front View)* presents a third case of a subject identified by convention to the 150/350 group that has so far eluded this author with any 350 back. However, the claim of a longtime T206 collector in Virginia to possess a Piedmont 350 example of this subject makes its reclassification into the 150-only group premature, at best.

It is not clear why these 11 subjects were not printed with 350 series backs when 142 of their brethren that first appear in the 150 series were extended into the 350 series. A partial explanation may reside in a Chicago Cubs uniform change. On-field shots of Chicago players with the “CUBS” moniker across their shirts are well represented in the 150-only group, comprising three of the 11 subjects [namely, *Brown (Cubs on Shirt)*, *Evers (Blue Background)*, *Reulbach (Glove Shows)*]. Perhaps ATC sought to keep the set current by dropping these on-field shots when the Cubs abandoned these uniforms in favor of new ones bearing a Cubs logo and the letters “CHICAGO” down the shirt. Other reasons for early termination of the print run of these 11 subjects suggest themselves for individual subjects. George Browne was traded to the Washington Senators in May 1909 and reemerged in the T206 set as a 350-only subject styled *Brown (Washington)*. This may explain why G. Brown (Chicago) was not continued into the 350 series. Another 150-only subject, Mike “Doc” Powers, died shortly after a freak accident on Opening Day in the 1909 season that occurred while he was chasing a foul ball. His untimely death may explain his subject’s early exit from the set. Mike Donlin left baseball for a try at vaudeville after the 1908 season and did not return until 1911, which may explain why the print run of *Donlin (Fielding)* was not extended into the 350 series. Finally, Harry Pattee’s last season in the Majors was 1908, which could explain why Pattee is a 150-only subject.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Thanks to Zanidakis for tipping me off about the timing of Donlin and Pattee’s respective departures from baseball in 1908.

All 150-only subjects are more difficult than average. Powers is one of the more common among them, which might be explained by the fact that it is the lone subject in the 150-only group confirmed with an extra back—Sweet Caporal 150 Factory 649.

Notably, the two HOF subjects in the 150-only group, Brown (*Cubs on Shirt*) and Evers (*Blue Background*), rank among the more difficult Hall of Famers in the set. The difficulty of these legendary Cubs is consistent with the overall difficulty of the 150-only group relative to other groups (except the two southern league groups, which are more difficult).

150-only subjects are most difficult with Brown Hindu and Sovereign 150 back types, in that order.

### **B. 150/350 Group**

The 150/350 group includes 142 subjects that appear at most with the Brown Hindu, El Principe de Gales, Old Mill, Piedmont 150, Sovereign 150, Sweet Caporal 150/25, Sweet Caporal 150/30, Sweet Caporal 150/649, Piedmont 350, Sovereign 350, Sweet Caporal 350/25 and Sweet Caporal 350/30 backs.

On average, it is about 2.5X easier to find a 150/350 subject with a 150 series back than a 350 series back. However, eight 150/350 subjects are particularly difficult to find with a 350 series back, those being *Dahlen (Boston)*, *Ewing*, *Ganley*, *Jones (St. Louis)*, *Karger*, *Lindaman*, *Lundgren (Chicago)* and *Mullin (Throwing)*. Research undertaken by Zanidakis has revealed that the difficulty of these eight subjects with 350 series backs is attributable to the fact that the only 350 series backs with which they appear are Piedmont and El Principe de Gales, two brands whose printing began early in the 350 series print run, and the fact that they did not experience a lengthy print with Piedmont 350. The career paths of seven of these eight players offer possible explanations for their abbreviated print runs. Carl Lundgren and Vive

Lindaman each played their last Major League game in 1909. Bob Ganley, shown with the Senators, was selected off waivers by the Athletics on May 18, 1909. Tom Jones, illustrated with the Browns, was traded to the Tigers on August 20, 1909. Ed Karger, depicted with the Reds, was purchased by St. Paul on June 9, 1909 and shipped to the Red Sox later that month. And Bill Dahlen and Bob Ewing moved to new clubs during the 1909-10 off season.<sup>29</sup>

Additionally, two subjects in the 150/350 group are not known to exist with any Sweet Caporal 150 back or the Sovereign 150 back. They are *Jennings (Portrait)* and *Lundgren (Chicago)*. The reason for these omissions is not known.

150/350 group survey data strongly suggest that only a subset of subjects are available with the Sweet Caporal 150 Factory 649 back. Thirty-four of the estimated 142 subjects in the 150/350 group have been found with this back in multiple instances,<sup>30</sup> while the remaining 108 subjects in the group have not been seen with this back at all. This distribution pattern strongly suggests that only a small fraction of the estimated 142 subjects in the 150/350 group—perhaps as few as the 34 that have been confirmed to date—were printed with the Sweet Caporal 150 Factory 649 back.<sup>31</sup>

It bears mentioning that the Sweet Caporal 150/649 back is an “overstrike” back. T206 cards exhibiting this reverse were originally printed with the Sweet Caporal 150 Factory 30 back. Then, after the original printing, the original factory designation on

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<sup>29</sup> Lundgren (Chicago) also fits the profile of a Cub subject in on-field poses that is well-represented in the 150-only group.

<sup>30</sup> 150/350 subjects confirmed with the Sweet Caporal 150/649 back are: Alperman, Bates, Bransfield, Bresnahan (*Portrait*), Clarke (*Cleveland*), Davis (*Chicago*), Davis (*H. on Front*), Delehanty (*Washington*), Ewing, Gilbert, Goode, Griffith (*Portrait*), Johnson (*Portrait*), Jones (*St. Louis*), Killian (*Pitching*), Lajoie (*Throwing*), Lake (*New York*), Liebhardt, Manning (*Batting*), Marquard (*Hands at Thighs*), Matthewson (*White Cap*), McIntyre (*Brooklyn*), McQuillan (*Ball in Hand*), Nicholls, O’Leary (*Portrait*), Owen, Pastorius, Ritche, Schlei (*Catching*), Schmidt (*Throwing*), Sheckard (*No Glove*), Spencer, Wagner (*Bat on Left*) and Wilhelm (*Hands at Chest*).

<sup>31</sup> The availability of Powers from the 150-only group with this back raises the number of subjects confirmed with the Sweet Caporal 150/649 back to 35.

these cards was overprinted with a solid red block and the new Factory 649 designation printed just above the block. A second Sweet Caporal overstrike back exists among the 460 series backs.

While none of the subjects in the 150/350 group is rare, among the more difficult are the eight aforementioned subjects that are more difficult with the 350 back, as well as Cobb (*Green Portrait*), Conroy (*Fielding*), Schaefer (*Detroit*) and Shaw (*St. Louis*).

The author has conceived a theory of T206 subject bifurcation that first manifests itself during the 150/350 group print run. According to this theory, George Browne, Bill Dahlen, and Kid Elberfeld have subjects that were meant to have been fully printed with the 150/350 group, but experienced shortened print runs due to team switches by these players. As a result of the team changes, the three original subjects that identified the players with their former teams were replaced midway through the 150/350 print run with updated subjects that identified the players with their new teams. The result is that all six of these bifurcated subjects were short-printed relative to non-bifurcated 150/350 subjects, with the level of scarcity being a function of the time of removal or insertion into the printing process. Thus, *G. Brown (Chicago)* was an intended 150/350 subject that was printed with 150 series backs but removed before the 350 series portion of the print run in favor of *Brown (Washington)*, which underwent the 350 series portion of the print run. *Dahlen (Boston)* was a planned 150/350 subject that was printed with 150 series backs and partially printed with two early 350 series backs (namely, *Piedmont 350* and *El Principe de Gales*) before yielding to *Dahlen (Brooklyn)*, which finished the 350 series portion of the print run. And *Elberfeld (New York)* was a contemplated 150/350 subject that was printed with the 150 series backs and partially printed with two 350 series backs (namely,

Piedmont 350 and Sovereign 350) before giving way to *Elberfeld (Washington Portrait)*, which completed the print run with the 350 series backs.<sup>32</sup>

The T206 subject bifurcation theory outlined above has several ramifications. First, although *Brown (Washington)*, *Dahlen (Brooklyn)* and *Elberfeld (Washington Portrait)* are technically 350-only subjects (since they do not appear with any 150 series back), as bifurcated 150/350 subjects they do not exist with any 350 series back that was introduced with the 350-only group, namely, *American Beauty 350 with Frame*, *Broad Leaf 350*, *Carolina Brights*, *Cycle 350*, *Drum*, *Polar Bear* or *Tolstoi*. Second, as *G. Brown (Chicago)* was not printed with any 350 series back, *Dahlen (Boston)* was printed in small numbers with two early 350 series backs and *Elberfeld (New York)* was printed in somewhat greater quantities with two 350 series backs, *Elberfeld (Washington Portrait)* can be expected to be scarcest among the three replacement subjects, followed by *Dahlen (Brooklyn)* and *Brown (Washington)* in that order. Third, since it is about 2.5X more difficult on average to find a 150/350 subject with a 350 series back than a 150 series back, one can expect that *Elberfeld (Washington Portrait)*, *Dahlen (Brooklyn)* and *Brown (Washington)* are at least 3.5X as difficult as a typical 150/350 subject, with the scarcity multiple for *Elberfeld (Washington Portrait)* and *Dahlen (Brooklyn)* likely being considerably higher due to their introduction after commencement of the 350 portion of the 150/350 print run.<sup>33</sup>

While 150/350 subjects cannot be regarded as rare with any of the back types with which they appear, they are somewhat tougher to find with the *Brown Hindu*, *El Principe de Gales* and *Old Mill* back types than the others. 150/350 subjects are not

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<sup>32</sup> Magie and Magee (*Portrait*) can also be considered bifurcated 150/350 subjects, although the reason for the replacement of the former with the latter was not a team switch but rather the misspelling of the Phillies slugger's last name.

<sup>33</sup> Lundgren (*Chicago*) and Lundgren (*Kansas City*) cannot be considered bifurcated 150/350 subjects since *Lundgren (Kansas City)* is known with the *Carolina Brights* back, which was first introduced with the 350-only group. Still, these subjects are far more difficult than average in their respective subject groups.

difficult with any Piedmont, Sovereign or Sweet Caporal back, although they are harder to find with Sovereign 350 and Sweet Caporal 350/25 than the others.

### C. 350-Only Group

The 350-only group includes 208 subjects that, with one known exception, appear at most with the American Beauty 350 with Frame, Broad Leaf 350, Carolina Brights, Cycle 350, Drum, El Principe de Gales, Old Mill, Piedmont 350, Polar Bear, Sovereign 350, Sweet Caporal 350/25, Sweet Caporal 350/30 and Tolstoi backs.<sup>34</sup>

It has long been known that 350-only subjects are more common with the framed version of the American Beauty 350 back than with the unframed version. This is an understatement. Seemingly, the sole 350-only subject who appears without the frame is *Nichols*—and that subject may be considered a short-printed 350/460 RP subject.

Four subjects documented in prior works as 350/460 subjects require reassignment to the 350-only group. Three are *Bender (With Trees)*, *Fiene (Portrait)* and *Fiene (Throwing)*. Reassignment of these subjects to the 350-only group is appropriate because these subjects have been seen with at least one of the American Beauty 350 with Frame or Cycle 350 backs, which are characteristic of 350-only subjects, and have not been seen with any 460 series back. Although *Dahlen (Brooklyn)* has not been confirmed with either of these characteristic 350-only backs, a failure to confirm that subject with any 460 series back after extensive search suggests that reassignment of that subject to the 350-only group is warranted. Moreover, the T206 subject bifurcation theory discussed above supports reassignment of *Dahlen (Brooklyn)* to the 350-only group.

Among the more difficult 350-only subjects are *Adkins*, *Brown (Washington)*, *Dahlen (Brooklyn)*, *J. Doyle (N.Y.)*, *Elberfeld (Washington)*, *Kleinow (N.Y. Catching)*, *Lundgren*

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<sup>34</sup> The lone exception is *Nichols*, who appears in American Beauty 350 without the frame. See fn. 22, *supra*.

(Kansas City), Nichols, O'Neil, Rhoades (Right Arm Out) and Smith (Chicago White Cap). Advanced T206ers will recognize that minor leaguers are well represented in this group. Indeed, although there are numerous individual exceptions, 350-only minor leaguers are slightly more difficult on average than 350-only major leaguers.

Savvy T206 collectors have recently begun to pay a substantial premium for *J. Doyle* (N.Y.) specimens. This premium is due in large measure to a seeming paucity of examples of this subject, especially in high grade. The *J. Doyle* (N.Y.) shortage appears to be real and may be traceable to the hoarding of this subject by a well-known dealer more than a decade ago—and the aftermath of this effort. Reportedly, one morning in 1981 while filling an order for a T206 New York Giants team set, Wisconsin dealer Larry Fritsch came across a card of Doyle, hands over head, with a caption reading "N.Y. Nat'l." This was the first discovery of *J. Doyle* (N.Y. Nat'l.). Fritsch proceeded to place several ads in hobby publications, offering twice the going rate for any T206 Doyle card. The blind purchase campaign yielded hundreds of T206 Joe Doyle specimens; however, none were the *J. Doyle* (N.Y. Nat'l) variation. Fritsch later reportedly sold the *J. Doyle* (N.Y.) specimens acquired in the campaign as a block to a man hailing from Flint, Michigan who had, unbeknownst to Fritsch, hatched a scheme to convert them into *J. Doyle* (N.Y. Nat'l) cards through doctoring. The man was apparently arrested, and the fate of the hoard of *J. Doyle* (N.Y.) cards is unknown. It seems possible they were destroyed, either in a botched attempt at alteration or by government authorities after being confiscated. In any event, there is little doubt that *J. Doyle* (N.Y.) now ranks among the more difficult subjects in the set.

*Byrne, Mowrey and Rossman* have been confirmed to date with a very limited number of 350 series backs that includes only Piedmont 350, Sovereign 350, Sweet Caporal 350/25, Sweet Caporal 350/30 and, in the case of *Byrne* and *Mowrey*, Tolstoi. The apparent unavailability of these subjects with a fuller complement of 350 series backs may be traceable to the depiction of these three players with teams from which they were traded in August 1909, before distribution of the 350-only subject group began.

Another interesting 350-only trend relates to Pittsburg Pirates subjects. Four of the five 350-only Pirate subjects (*Wilson* being the lone exception) are unusually plentiful with the Piedmont 350 back, making them among the easiest to obtain T206 commons. A hypothesis explaining why *Abstein*, *Maddox*, *Miller (Pittsburg)* and *Phillippe* are so ubiquitous presents itself: The Bucs won the 1909 World Series and ATC likely sought to capitalize on the popularity of the team through an expanded print of Pirates in 1910, when the 350-only subject group was released.<sup>35</sup>

Two of the 350-only subjects are *Demmitt (New York)* and *O'Hara (New York)*, the common cousins of the rare *Demmitt (St. Louis)* and *O'Hara (St. Louis)* variations. While the St. Louis variations exist only with the Polar Bear back, the New York versions, along with some 65 other 350-only subjects, do not exist with Polar Bear.

350-only subjects are most difficult with the Drum back, followed by Broad Leaf 350 and Carolina Brights. A sizable gap separates these backs from the next tier of scarcity, which includes American Beauty 350 with Frame, Cycle 350, El Principe de Gales, Old Mill and Tolstoi. 350-only subjects are not that difficult with Polar Bear or Sovereign 350, and even less so with Piedmont 350 or Sweet Caporal 350 Factory 25 or Factory 30, although Sweet Caporal 350 Factory 25 is tougher than Factory 30.

#### D. 350/460 SP Group

One of the novel ideas introduced in this work is that T206 includes a small group of “super printed” subjects that first appear with 350 series backs and were extended and printed with 460 series backs, and that form a separate and distinct subject group from the other 350/460 subjects. What distinguishes these “super prints” from “regular prints” is that the former appear, at least in theory, with all 350 and 460 series backs except American Beauty 350 without Frame and American Beauty 460,

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<sup>35</sup> Special thanks to former T206 collector Marc Bourgea for the Joe Doyle and Pirate anecdotes recounted in this section. These are his discoveries, not mine.

whereas the latter appear at most with a smaller subset of 350 and 460 series backs that includes American Beauty 350 without Frame but does not include American Beauty 350 with Frame, Broad Leaf 350, Carolina Brights, Cycle 350, Sovereign 460 or Sweet Caporal 460/30.

There are six 350/460 “super prints” in all. They are *Chance (Yellow Portrait)*, *Chase (Blue Portrait)*, *Chase (Dark Cap)*, *Cobb (Red Portrait)*, *Evers (Yellow Background)* and *Mathewson (Dark Cap)*. A tie that binds these subjects is the legendary status of the players depicted—four Hall of Famers and a fifth who would have been enshrined save for his off-the-field antics. An obvious rationale why these subjects were singled out for an extended print run presents itself: ATC probably wanted to capitalize on the mass appeal of these players. After all, increasing a consumer’s chances of pulling Cobb or Matty out of a pack—instead of a Clymer or Moeller—was probably very good for business. Most likely, these six “super prints” were first released with the 350-only group and fully printed with that group, after which ATC made a decision to continue them for an additional print run with the 460-only group. This would explain why these six subjects, unlike the 350/460 RP subjects, are available with the American Beauty 350 with Frame, Broad Leaf 350, Carolina Brights, Cycle 350, Sovereign 460 and Sweet Caporal 460/30 backs.<sup>36</sup>

As would be expected of “super prints,” the six subjects in this series are among the most plentiful subjects in T206. Most veteran T206 collectors realize the relative ease with which each and every one of these subjects can be found.

350/460 SP subjects are very difficult with the Broad Leaf 350 and 460, Brown and Black Lenox, Drum, Red Hindu and Uzit back types. Highly difficult but more available are Carolina Brights, Cycle 350 and 460 and Piedmont 460/42. These subjects are moderately difficult with American Beauty 350 with Frame, El Principe de

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<sup>36</sup> The back subset for the six 350/460 “super prints” is essentially a composite of the back subsets for the 350-only and 460-only subject groups, the lone exception being that the “super prints” are not possible with American Beauty 460.

Gales, Sovereign 460, Sweet Caporal 460/42 No Overstrike and Tolstoi. They are more plentiful with Old Mill, Polar Bear, Sovereign 350 and the other Piedmont and Sweet Caporal backs with which they are possible.

#### E. 350/460 RP Group

The 350/460 RP group consists of 55 subjects that are available with at most the American Beauty 350 without Frame, Drum, El Principe de Gales, Old Mill, Piedmont 350, Polar Bear, Sovereign 350, Sweet Caporal 350/25, Sweet Caporal 350/30, Tolstoi, American Beauty 460, Broad Leaf 460, Cycle 460, Black Lenox, Brown Lenox, Piedmont 460/25, Piedmont 460/42, Red Hindu, Sweet Caporal 460/25, Sweet Caporal 460/42 No Overstrike, Sweet Caporal 460/42 Overstrike and Uzit backs. Notably, and contrary to conventional wisdom, these subjects are *not* possible with any of the American Beauty 350 with Frame, Broad Leaf 350, Carolina Brights, Cycle 350, Sovereign 460 or Sweet Caporal 460/30 back types.

T206 cards exhibiting the Sweet Caporal 460/42 Overstrike back were originally printed with the Sweet Caporal 460/30 back, and then overprinted to add the new Factory 42 designation above a red scroll designed to shield the original factory designation from view. This process explains the existence of printer's scrap of certain 350/460 RP subjects, including *Johnson (Pitching)*, with the Sweet Caporal 460/30 back. At first encounter these specimens are puzzling because production run examples of 350/460 RP subjects with Sweet Caporal 460/30 do not exist. However, the likely answer to the puzzle is that these cards were intended to be overprinted and released with the Sweet Caporal 460/42 Overstrike back, but were discarded before overprinting occurred.

The T206 subject bifurcation theory introduced in the 150/350 group discussion has relevance to the 350/460 RP group as well. In the latter subject group, the players of interest are Red Kleinow and Frank Smith. These players have subjects, *Kleinow (N.Y. Catching)* and *Smith (Chicago White Cap)*, that were intended to have been fully

printed with the 350/460 RP group, but experienced shortened print runs due to trades that sent these players to new teams. As a result of the trades, the original subjects that identified the players with their former teams were replaced midway through the 350/460 RP print run with subjects that identified the players with their new teams. The result is that all four of these bifurcated subjects were short-printed relative to garden variety 350/460 RP subjects. Thus, *Kleinow (N.Y. Catching)* was an intended 350/460 RP subject that was printed with 350 series backs but removed before the 460 portion of the print run started in favor of *Kleinow (Boston)*, which underwent print with the 460 series backs. Similarly, *Smith (Chicago White Cap)* was a planned 350/460 RP subject that was printed with 350 series backs before yielding to *Smith (Chicago and Boston)*, which experienced the 460 portion of the print run.

The Kleinow and Smith bifurcations have several consequences. First, although *Kleinow (N.Y. Catching)* and *Smith (Chicago White Cap)* are technically 350-only subjects (since they do not appear with any 460 series back), as bifurcated 350/460 RP subjects they do not exist with any 350 series back that is exclusive to the 350-only group, namely, American Beauty 350 with Frame, Broad Leaf 350, Carolina Brights or Cycle 350. Second, although *Kleinow (Boston)* and *Smith (Chicago and Boston)* are technically 460-only subjects (since they do not appear with any 350 series back), as bifurcated 350/460 RP subjects they do not exist with any 460 series back that was introduced with the 460-only subject group, namely, Sovereign 460 or Sweet Caporal 460 Factory 30. Third, since it is about 2X more difficult on average to find a 350/460 RP subject with a 460 series back than a 350 series back, one can estimate that *Kleinow (N.Y. Catching)* and *Smith (Chicago White Cap)* are roughly 1.5X as difficult as a typical 350/460 RP subject, and that *Kleinow (Boston)* and *Smith (Chicago and Boston)* are about 3X as difficult as a garden variety 350/460 RP subject.

No fewer than nine subjects that prior works have assigned to the 350/460 group require reassignment to the 460-only group. These are *Abbaticchio (Blue Sleeves)*,

*Kleinow (Boston), Latham, Meyers, Overall (Hands at Waist), Schaefer (Washington), Smith (Chicago and Boston), Tannehill (Chicago No "L." on Front) and Tinker (Bat On).* Reassignment of Abbaticchio (Blue Sleeves), Latham, Meyers, Overall (Hands at Waist), Schaefer (Washington), Tannehill (Chicago No "L." on Front) and Tinker (Bat On) to the 460-only group is required since these subjects have been seen with at least one of the Sovereign 460 or Sweet Caporal 460 Factory 30 backs, which are characteristic of 460-only subjects, and have not been seen with any 350 series back. While *Kleinow (Boston)* and *Smith (Chicago and Boston)* have not been confirmed with either of these characteristic 460-only backs, a failure to confirm these subjects with any 350 series back after extensive search indicates that reassignment to the 460-only group is warranted. Moreover, the T206 subject bifurcation theory amply explains why the latter two subjects are 460-only subjects.

None of the subjects in the 350/460 RP group is terribly difficult. *Joss (Pitching)* is possibly the most common 350/460 RP subject, rivaling the six 350/460 "super printed" subjects in terms of availability. Although far from certain, it could be that ATC liberally printed this subject at the tail-end of T206 production in response to the well publicized illness of the great Cleveland hurler that led to his premature death on April 14, 1911.

350/460 RP subjects are about twice as likely to be found with a 350 series back than a 460 series back; however, they are not notably difficult with 460 series backs.

Some interesting trends are evident for more challenging backs that are possible on both the 350/460 RP group and the 460-only group. Black Lenox is seen far less often on 350/460 RP subjects than 460-only subjects. The opposite is true for the Piedmont 460/42 and Uzit backs. Those tough backs are much harder to find on 460-only subjects than 350/460 RP subjects.

Among the backs confirmed with 350/460 RP subjects, Broad Leaf 460 and Brown Lenox appear to be the rarest, followed by American Beauty 460, Black Lenox, Drum, Red Hindu and Uzit. After that come American Beauty 350 without Frame, Cycle 460, El Principe de Gales and Piedmont 460/42. Sweet Caporal 460/25 and Sweet Caporal 460/42 No Overstrike are also somewhat challenging.

#### *F. 460-Only Group*

The 460-only subject group consists of 48 subjects that appear at most with the El Principe de Gales, Old Mill, Polar Bear, Tolstoi, American Beauty 460, Broadleaf 460, Cycle 460, Black Lenox, Brown Lenox, Piedmont 460/25, Piedmont 460/42, Red Hindu, Sovereign 460, Sweet Caporal 460/25, Sweet Caporal 460/30, Sweet Caporal 460/42 No Overstrike, Sweet Caporal 460/42 Overstrike and Uzit back types.

Among the more difficult subjects in this series are *Smith (Chicago and Boston)*, *Kleinow (Boston)*, *Latham*, *Needham* and *Ball (Cleveland)*.

A rule of mutual exclusivity appears to attach with regard to the Black Lenox and Red Hindu backs in the 460-only group; no subject in this group seemingly exists with both types. Should this rule ever be breached, the culprit would likely be either *Kleinow (Boston)* or *Smith (Chicago and Boston)*, which for reasons already explained are 460-only subjects but in theory share a 460 series back profile with 350/360 RP subjects.

The difficult Black Lenox and Piedmont 460/42 backs reverse roles in the 460-only group. 460-only subjects are easier to find with Black Lenox and tougher to find with Piedmont 460/42 as compared with 350/460 RP subjects. 460-only subjects are also considerably easier than 350/460 RP subjects to find with the American Beauty 460 back.

460-only subjects are toughest with Broad Leaf 460, Brown Lenox and Uzit, followed by Piedmont 460/42 and Red Hindu. After that come Black Lenox, Cycle 460 and El Principe de Gales. At the next tier of difficulty are American Beauty 460, Old Mill and Sweet Caporal 460/25.

#### G. 150/350 SL Group

The 150/350 SL group includes 34 subjects that appear with the Old Mill Southern, Brown Hindu and Piedmont 350 backs. All subjects in the group depict a player from one of the South Atlantic League, Southern Association or Virginia League.

The 150/350 SL group includes 20 of 24 Southern Association subjects, all 10 South Atlantic League subjects and eight of 12 Virginia league subjects found in T206. The four subjects from the Southern Association missing from the 150/350 SL group are *Hart (Little Rock)*, *Hart (Montgomery)*, *Lentz* and *Rockenfeld*. The four Virginia League subjects absent from the 150/350 SL group are *King*, *Orth*, *Seitz* and *Westlake*. These eight subjects were released as part of a follow-on 350-only SL group launch.<sup>37</sup>

The reason for partitioning the 48 southern leaguers in the T206 set into two subject groups is twofold. First, the 150/350 SL subjects are available with the Brown Hindu back, whereas none of the 350-only SL subjects is available with that back. And second, the 150/350 SL subjects are less plentiful than the 350-only SL subjects with the Piedmont 350 back, resulting in heightened relative scarcity of the 150/350 SL subjects.

Indeed, the two stated reasons for southern leaguer bifurcation are related and the result of an earlier beginning and end of the print run of the 150/350 SL subjects. It is known that the Brown Hindu back was issued very early in the T206 campaign whereas the Piedmont 350 back was issued later. Production of the 150/350 SL

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<sup>37</sup> Fully consistent with treatment of these eight subjects as 350-only southern leaguers is the fact that none of them is found among 15 southern leaguers depicted in Hindu ads published in the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* in August/September 1909, all of which hailed from the Southern Association.

subjects appears to have started when the Brown Hindu back was introduced and ended shortly after the Piedmont 350 back was launched. This accounts for the appearance of these subjects with the Brown Hindu back and their relative scarcity with the Piedmont 350 back. Meanwhile, production of the 350-only SL subjects seems to have started after Brown Hindu had been taken off-line and continued long after Piedmont 350 was brought on-line. This accounts for the non-availability of the 350-only SL subjects with the Brown Hindu back and their relative abundance with the Piedmont 350 back. Since Piedmont 350 production quantities dwarfed Brown Hindu production quantities, the 350-only SL subjects are, somewhat paradoxically, more common than the 150/350 SL subjects despite their appearance with one fewer back type.<sup>38</sup>

Interestingly, the 150/350 SL subjects and 350-only SL subjects are available in similar quantities with the Old Mill Southern back, which is a 350 series back type. This suggests that both the 150/350 SL group and the 350-only SL group completed a full print with the Old Mill Southern back and that the Piedmont 350 print run outlasted the Old Mill Southern print run. Noted T206 backs collector Brian Weisner has offered a compelling explanation for this: The Old Mill Southern print run was likely terminated prematurely to pave the way for what is now known as the T210 Old Mill set that depicts southern leaguers and was likely launched in the spring of 1910.

In addition to the conventional Old Mill Southern backs, a few hand-cut southern league specimens have surfaced wherein the printing on the reverse is brown rather than black. *Paige, Revelle, Smith (Atlanta)* and *Thornton* are reportedly among these brown Old Mill Southern specimens. Moreover, no more than a handful of Old Mill Southern examples—also hand-cut—have been discovered bearing a factory overstrike on the back. The overstrike on these exceedingly rare cards always designates Factory 649 and may appear at various locations in red ink and in either

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<sup>38</sup> An analogy can be drawn to the 150/350 and 350-only non-SL subject groups, as those 150/350 subjects were short printed with 350 series backs and those 350-only subjects received a full print with 350 series backs.

one or two instances. *Foster* and *Greminger* have been confirmed or rumored to exist with this overstrike. While some collectors consider these Old Mill Southern back variations as discrete back types, most view them as printer's scrap since they are hand-cut.

Over the past decade, four factory-cut Old Mill Southern examples surfaced bearing either one or two Factory 649 overstrikes in black ink. The southern league subjects depicted on the front of these cards are *Greminger*, *Hart* (Little Rock), *Lipe* and *Revelle*. The cards were actively promoted by a popular T206 informational website and gradually achieved a measure of acceptance in the T206 community. PSA even encapsulated some of these cards. However, a recent investigation spearheaded by T206 collectors John McDaniel, Jim Rivera and Dan McKee led to the remarkable admission by the proprietor of the website that he had added the black overstrikes. All Old Mill Southern specimens bearing a black overstrike should thus be considered to have been doctored.

Putting aside the disputed Old Mill Southern brown and overstrike backs, Brown Hindu is by far the toughest back to find with the subjects in this group. The Piedmont 350 and Old Mill Southern backs are much less difficult, with latter being slightly more common.

#### ***H. 350-Only SL Group***

The 350 SL group includes 14 subjects that appear with the Old Mill Southern and Piedmont 350 backs. Four subjects in the group depict a player from the Southern Association. Another four show a player from the Virginia League, with the remaining six hailing from the Texas League.

Owing to a more expansive print with the Piedmont 350 back, the 14 subjects in the 350-only SL group are less difficult than the 34 subjects in the 150/350 SL group;

however, they are still tough. These 14 subjects are more available with the Piedmont 350 back than with the Old Mill Southern back, by about a three-to-two margin.

#### IV. The Rule Breakers

Aside from the “Cobb with Cobb back” cards, there are six T206 subjects that defy classification into series. These so-called “Big Six” rarities are: *Demmitt (St. Louis)*, *J. Doyle (N.Y. Nat'l)*, *Magie*, *O’Hara (St. Louis)*, *Plank* and *Wagner (Pittsburg)*.

##### A. *Demmitt (St. Louis)*

Outfielder Ray Demmitt was traded by the New York Highlanders to the St. Louis Browns on December 16, 1909. Demmitt appears with the Highlanders on a fairly common 350-only series card styled *Demmitt (N.Y.)*. However, the artwork and team caption were changed to show Demmitt with the Browns and shipped exclusively from Factory 6 in Ohio, the sole distributor of T206 cards with the Polar Bear back. *Demmitt (St. Louis)* is seemingly not in shorter supply than many other subjects with the Polar Bear back. However, since Polar Bear specimens account for a small fraction of the total number of cards of subjects with which Polar Bear is possible—about 10 percent—*Demmitt (St. Louis)* can be estimated to be about 10X more difficult than a typical T206 subject. Perhaps somewhere between 200 and 400 copies exist today.

It is uncertain why Factory 6 alone distributed a card reflecting the Demmitt trade. It is possible that production of cards with the Polar Bear back began relatively late in the 350 series print run, such that there was ample time to make the team change on Polar Bear-branded cards, but not on others.

*Demmitt (St. Louis)* is extremely difficult to find in high grade. This is at least in part attributable to its distribution in pouches of scrap tobacco rather than cigarette boxes. Due to this distribution vehicle, Polar Bear cards often exhibit significant tobacco

staining. An example graded SGC 60 (EX) sold at auction in the spring of 2009 for \$11,750, including the buyer's premium.

#### ***B. J. Doyle (N.Y. Nat'l)***

The T206 set offers two variations of New York Highlanders pitcher "Slow" Joe Doyle. The somewhat difficult version has a team caption that simply reads "N.Y." The nearly impossible version has a team caption that instead reads "N.Y. Nat'l." The latter is so scarce that it was not widely known to exist until the late 1980s. *J. Doyle (N.Y. Nat'l)* is probably the most difficult of all T206 subjects, if one excludes proofs and printing errors. About seven or eight specimens are known, and several years often pass between public offerings. An example graded SGC 50 (VG-EX) offered at auction in the spring of 2009 sold for \$329,000 with the buyer's premium.

A widely held theory for the existence of this variation is that the image was mistakenly thought to depict "Laughing" Larry Doyle of the New York Giants. This resulted, so the theory goes, in printing and issuing early in the 350 series print run a small number of the cards with the "N.Y. Nat'l" team designation. When the error was caught, it was decided to simply remove the "Nat'l" moniker from the caption, rather than to replace it with the "Amer." designation of the American League, in which the Highlanders played.

To date, the only examples of *J. Doyle (N.Y. Nat'l)* whose legitimacy is unquestioned have the Piedmont 350 back, consistent with the theory that the error was corrected very early in the 350 series print cycle. A recent report by Rob Lifson of Robert Edward Auctions about a PSA-encapsulated example with a Polar Bear back sent shockwaves through the T206 community. Many advanced students of the set believe this card is bogus due to the Polar Bear obverse and seemingly anomalous rendering of the name and team caption.

### *C. Magie*

Sherry Magee was a mainstay in the Philadelphia Phillies outfield for many years and a terrific power hitter, cracking the National League's top 10 in slugging percentage in 11 different seasons. Despite his prowess at the plate, his name was misspelled "Magie" on the portrait version of his card as initially released. The error was soon corrected, as reflected in the far more common *Magee (Portrait)*.

Magie has so far only surfaced with the Piedmont 150 back, which is consistent with the theory of correction of the error early-on during the 150 series print run. The number of known specimens is thought to reside in the neighborhood of 100 to 200. A copy graded PSA 3 (VG) fetched \$16,450, including the buyer's premium, in a spring 2009 auction.

### *D. O'Hara (St. Louis)*

The story behind *O'Hara (St. Louis)* mirrors that of *Demmitt (St. Louis)*. Bill O'Hara patrolled the outfield for the New York Giants in 1909 and was shipped to the St. Louis Cardinals for the 1910 season. Factory 6 in Ohio alone issued *O'Hara (St. Louis)*, showing O'Hara with the Red Birds instead of the Giants.

The card exists only with the Polar Bear back, and the number in existence may reside somewhere between 200 and 400. A PSA 3 (VG) example realized \$2,937 in a spring 2009 auction.

### *E. Plank*

The tremendous difficulty of the T206 card of Hall of Fame Philadelphia A's pitcher Eddie Plank offers one of the great unsolved mysteries of T206. Theories suggesting that the printing plate was broken or that Plank, like Honus Wagner, objected to use of his image would not seem to withstand scrutiny. These theories cannot seemingly account for availability of *Plank* with both "150 Subjects" and "350 Subjects" backs.

If the plate had been broken or Plank had objected, it is difficult to explain why the card was produced in low volume over a time period spanning multiple series.

Plank has been confirmed with the Piedmont 150, Sweet Caporal 150 Factory 25, Sweet Caporal 150 Factory 30 and Sweet Caporal 350 Factory 30 backs. It is possible that fewer than 100 examples have survived—perhaps as few as 75. A PSA 6 (EX-MT) example having a Sweet Caporal 350 Factory 30 reverse sold at auction in the spring of 2009 for \$188,000 with the buyer's premium.

#### *F. Wagner (Pittsburg)*

Wagner (Pittsburg) is probably the most widely recognized trading card ever produced. The reason for the card's rarity is the subject of controversy, but appears to be attributable to either the great shortstop's moral objection to cigarette smoking or insufficient compensation, or some combination.<sup>39</sup> Whatever the truth, Wagner (Pittsburg) is the signature sports collectable and near the top of almost every sports collector's want list.

Wagner (Pittsburg) has been confirmed with the Piedmont 150, Sweet Caporal 150 Factory 25 and Sweet Caporal 150 Factory 30 backs. The Sweet Caporal 150 Factory 25 version is more common. It has been reported that between 50 and 75 copies exist in all, with the number of survivors in excellent or better condition somewhere in the single digits. Of the high grade examples, the most heralded by far is the so-called McNall/Gretzky Wagner PSA 8 (NM-MT), named after the former Los Angeles Kings hockey owner and franchise player who were once its joint owners. This exalted specimen sold for a record \$2.8 million in September 2007. Rumors that the card was cut from a sheet and trimmed to improve its appearance, explored by New York Daily News sportswriter Michael O'Keeffe in his recent book *The Card*, have done little so far to diminish its lofty status in the broader collecting community. More

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<sup>39</sup> See *supra* section II.A. for more details.

recently, a PSA 1 (PR-FR) example auctioned in the spring of 2009 fetched \$399,500, including the buyer's premium.

## V. Proofs

Among the greatest T206 stories ever told recounts a man who walked into a New York baseball card show in the mid-1970s holding about 400 T206 proof cards. The man was by some accounts related to a worker at a T206 printing facility who had given him the cards. Dealers at the show quickly relieved the man of his inheritance.

The proof cards were blank-backed, and some had printer's stars and/or were missing the name and team caption on the front. The images on most of the cards were identical to an issued T206 subject. A few of the images departed from their T206 counterpart in a subtle manner. For example, among them was an unreleased image of Schulte (*Front View*) wearing a "CHICAGO" shirt rather than the "CUBS" shirt the player dons on his issued subject. But the most famous of these proofs by far was one whose image didn't find any resemblance in an issued T206 subject. That legendary proof card depicts the A's great second baseman Eddie Collins in a never-issued batting pose. The unique Collins proof card was last seen at auction in 2000, at which time it sold for \$24,930. There seems little doubt that the card would fetch much more at auction today.

Another renowned T206 proof "find" included eight never-released southern league subjects. These proofs were last seen at auction in November 1999 and brought about \$48,000. The players deprived of T206 immortality through an unknown twist of fate have since been identified as Alcock and Meek of Chattanooga, Mayberry of Danville, Dwyer, Lee and Roth of Jacksonville, and Osteen and Pepe of Montgomery.

A final noteworthy T206 proof is the so-called Wagner test strip. This five-card horizontal strip depicts, from left to right, M. Brown (*Portrait*), Wagner (*Pittsburg*),

*Bowerman, Young (Portrait) and Kling.* The pictures of all but *Wagner (Pittsburg)* are pre-production versions that depart from their issued counterparts to some degree. The back of the strip is blank. Adding to the lore surrounding this unique piece is the fact that it was discovered in Wagner's house along with various personal affects after the great shortstop's death. It has been speculated that ATC may have sent to strip to the star player in an effort to persuade him to allow use of his likeness in the T206 set.

## VI. Outlook

The future of T206 is, in a word, bright. Interest in T206 should remain strong for generations to come, based on at least the following considerations:

- *Authentication and Grading Services*

Like them or not, professional authentication and grading services will increase long-term demand for T206 cards. This seems unavoidable for at least two reasons. First and foremost is that T206 cards slabbed by reputable services are less likely to be fakes than ungraded examples. The reduced risk of "getting had" by unscrupulous sellers will enlarge the buyer pool and increase the prices paid for T206 specimens over the long haul. Second, reputable services will largely eliminate problems of grade inflation and deflation. Gone will be the days when a collector will buy a card advertised as "mint" from one dealer only to be told later that the card is merely "excellent" by another (or worse, the same) dealer. While imperfect, the more objective grading system afforded by professional authentication and grading services will reduce risks for prospective T206 buyers and thereby spur demand.

Set registration promoted by authentication and grading services also adds a competitive dimension to collecting that was previously absent. The desire to have "the best" or a "top ten" set on the T206 set registry hosted by one of the major services may drive an ever-increasing number of collectors into an acquisition frenzy, stimulating demand.

- *Availability*

T206 is in the “sweet spot” in terms of availability. The cards are not so common as to be in oversupply, yet at the same time are not so difficult that completing a set is next to impossible. Many vintage baseball card sets are victims of their own scarcity. Many collectors tend to avoid large issues if they know they would only be able to locate only a handful of cards a year due to supply constraints. And those who attempt to tackle such difficult sets often become understandably frustrated and abandon the effort midstream. There is no severe shortage of T206 specimens. In the Internet/eBay era, T206 collectors who are unconcerned with backs and not highly condition-sensitive can complete the set minus “The Big Six” in a few years or less. Supplies are tight enough to make the set a formidable challenge yet not so short to cause undue frustration.

- *Beauty*

T206 subjects generally have tremendous eye appeal. A majority of the poses are timeless, the colors vibrant and the fronts uncluttered. Many collectors prefer the T206 set’s uncluttered color lithographs with white borders to the often monochromatic and ornate design formats of several other early baseball offerings.

- *Compactness*

Nobody has to add a room to house their T206 collection. The cards fit neatly into small holders or plastic sleeves. A T206 collection can be stored on a shelf in a small album or in a small safe. While a T206er’s significant other may rail against the time and cost of building a T206 set (with some justification), she has no cause to complain about the space consumed by the collection. For many, that removes a significant obstacle to tackling the set.

- *Discretionary Income*

While few have been completely immune from our nation's recent economic woes, people at or near the top rung of the economic ladder in the United States have generally had more and more discretionary income with every passing year. With reputable authentication and grading services affording greater legitimacy to sports card collecting, a T206 investor class has begun to emerge from among these ranks. These individuals view T206 collecting not just as a diversion but as a form of portfolio diversification. They are willing to spend significant resources to acquire examples assigned high grades by respected services such as PSA or SGC. This trend is likely to continue for the foreseeable future and drive demand, especially for investment grade specimens.

- *Hall of Famers*

The T206 set includes more than 70 subjects portraying players now enshrined in Cooperstown. Two just happen to be hobby signatures Wagner (*Pittsburg*) and Plank. And beyond those legendary offerings, the set includes household names such as Ty Cobb and Cy Young. The enduring popularity of these players makes the set timeless and appealing to a broad cross-section of sports collectors.

- *Marketability*

The Internet, most notably eBay, has obliterated information barriers and created a bustling global marketplace where all T206 collectors can buy and sell on an almost level playing field. The days when T206 collectors are forced to buy at book and sell to a dealer at a fraction of book are in the past. Collectors therefore do not have to hold the cards for years after purchase just to recoup their original investment. The Internet has eliminated "the middleman" and, along with him, a strong financial disincentive to collect. This makes T206 collecting abundantly and irreversibly more attractive.

- *Mystery*

What is the real story behind the scarcity of Wagner (*Pittsburg*)? How about *Plank*? Why was the spelling of *Magie* corrected while numerous other spelling errors were allowed to stand? Why was the *Demmitt* (N.Y.) and *O'Hara* (N.Y.) artwork changed issued only from Factory 6 in Ohio? How were the "Cobb with Cobb back" cards distributed to the public? These are legendary T206 mysteries that have been discussed for generations and may never be solved. All this is not to mention the difficulties presented in trying to keep straight which subjects are possible with which backs and tackling the more advanced challenge of discerning which fronts, backs and front/back combinations are more difficult than others. Beyond this are several known proofs and variations that many have heard about but a scant few have seen. As stated earlier, the more that one knows about T206 the more one knows how much one doesn't know about T206. Mystery is pervasive and mastery elusive. And we all love a good mystery.

- *Nostalgia*

Frank "Home Run" Baker was never enveloped in a steroids controversy. Nap Lajoie did not hold-out. In the Deadball Era, there were no free agents, sports agents or T.V. contracts. Staying with the same team for an entire career was not uncommon. T206 reminds us of this simpler time when ballplayers were not far removed from the economic class of the fans who watched them, and when baseball was more of a game than a business. The style of the cards and their association with cigarettes only strengthens our sense of nostalgia and, along with it, our desire to collect these little pasteboard masterpieces.

- *Sports*

The fictional tournament in the movie *Dodgeball* where Vince Vaughn's Average Joe's bests Ben Stiller's GloboGym to win the championship on ESPN 8 "The Ocho" pretty much sums it up. Ours is a country of millions of armchair quarterbacks with an

insatiable appetite for sports. Due to an inextricable link with baseball—the most venerated of all American sports—T206 cards will always be prized possessions. The nexus between sports and T206 demand is already evident with the recent rise in popularity of the set in the face of generally declining interest in non-sports collectibles such as stamps and coins.

- *Sturdiness*

On their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, many T206 specimens still look fresh and vibrant. The colors do not easily fade and the thick paper stock is resistant to creasing or dinging. Despite their age, collectors can handle T206 specimens without substantial risk of harming them. This sturdiness is one reason T206 is more collectible than lower quality issues such as, for example, the “strip cards” issued in the late teens and early twenties.

- *Variety*

With over 500 subjects, dozens of back types and thousands of front/back possibilities, T206 offers unparalleled variety. The approaches to collecting the set are virtually unlimited. There are front collectors, back collectors, series collectors, league collectors, team collectors, Hall of Fame collectors, portrait collectors and position collectors, just to name a few. And the recent advent of professional authentication and grading services means there are now also those who collect T206 specimens graded by specific services or in particular grades. Such diverse collecting possibilities attract more collectors to the set and keep them interested in it longer—often for a lifetime.

- *Wagner*

Wagner (Pittsburg) has it all—beauty, subject popularity, scarcity and mystery. No wonder it has been called the Mona Lisa and the Holy Grail of sports collecting. It is and will always be the symbol of the hobby. And it is and will always be the single

best advertisement for the set of which it is part. The star that is Wagner (*Pittsburg*) shines bright and seems unlikely to dim any time soon. As long as it does not, T206 will maintain its eminent place in the sports collecting world.

## VII. Checklists

### A. About the Checklists

Presented below are “theoretical” and “reported” T206 checklists. The theoretical checklist identifies 6,845 T206 front/back combinations that are theoretically possible based on patterns witnessed in survey data. Among these, the reported checklist identifies (through shading) T206 front/back combinations that have been reported to date by collectors. The reported checklist is not definitive; it should be regarded as a working checklist that is subject to revision as new combinations are reported. The reported checklist is also subject to inevitable reporting errors.

The author compiled the theoretical checklist based on trends witnessed in a survey of over 20,000 T206 eBay transactions. Not every front/back combination listed in the theoretical checklist was seen in the survey. Instead, inferences were drawn based on witnessed patterns. For this reason, the theoretical checklist is over-inclusive, which is to say that some of the listed front/back combinations surely do not exist. That said, the theoretical checklist is less over-inclusive than previous attempts and considered a meaningful improvement.

The author compiled the reported checklist primarily from the author’s survey of eBay transactions, the T206 “superset” data compiled by T206 collector Bill Brown using data reported by collectors and the surveys conducted on the Net54 vintage baseball card website, largely by Zanidakis.

The checklists are arranged by subject group, and alphabetically within subject group. “Rule breaking” subjects that defy assignment into subject groups are presented last. The numbering scheme for subjects is borrowed from Lew Lipset’s landmark *Encyclopedia of Baseball Cards Vol. 3 (1986)*.

The checklists use "150-Only Group" to refer to subjects that appear only with 150 series backs; "150/350 Group" to refer to subjects that appear with 150 and 350 series backs; "350-Only Group" to refer to subjects that appear only with 350 series backs; "350/460 Group" to refer to subjects that appear with 350 and 460 series backs; and "460-Only Group" to refer to subjects that appear only with 460 series backs.

The legend provided below will allow the reader to more easily decipher the acronyms used in the checklists.

Printing errors have been deliberately omitted from the checklist. The author considers blank-backed T206 specimens to be printing errors and consequently has omitted them as well.

The reader can track his or her T206 inventory within the checklist by simply marking the appropriate cell with an appropriate notation. The notation can be, for example, a quantity (e.g. "2") or a grade (e.g. "PSA 5") or a simple checkmark.

It is the author's view that completing the "super set" of all possible T206 front/back combinations would be the greatest achievement that the sports collecting hobby has ever seen, and hopes this checklist will motivate at least one reader who has greater patience and financial resources than the author to pursue this Holy Grail of sports collecting. Now get to work!

## B. Legend

ABNF 350	American Beauty 350 No Frame	SC 150/30	Sweet Caporal 150 Factory 30
ABF 350	American Beauty 350 With Frame	SC 150/649	Sweet Caporal 150 Factory 649
AB 460	American Beauty 460	SC 350/25	Sweet Caporal 350 Factory 25
BL 350	Broadleaf 350	SC 350/30	Sweet Caporal 350 Factory 30
BL 460	Broadleaf 460	SC 460/25	Sweet Caporal 350/460 Factory 25
CB	Carolina Brights	SC 460/30	Sweet Caporal 350/460 Factory 30
Cyc 350	Cycle 350	SC 460/42	Sweet Caporal 350/460 Factory 42 No Overstrike
Cyc 460	Cycle 460	SC 460/OS	Sweet Caporal 350/460 Factory 42 Overstrike
Dr	Drum	Tol	Tolstoi
EPDG	El Principe De Gales	Uz	Uzit
Br Hin	Brown Hindu		
Red Hin	Red Hindu		
Bl Len	Black Lenox		
Br Len	Brown Lenox		
OM	Old Mill		
OMS	Old Mill Southern		
Pied 150	Piedmont 150		
Pied 350	Piedmont 350		
Pied 460/25	Piedmont 350/460 Factory 25		
Pied 460/42	Piedmont 350/460 Factory 42		
PB	Polar Bear		
Sov 150	Sovereign 150		
Sov 350	Sovereign 350		
Sov 460	Sovereign 460		
SC 150/25	Sweet Caporal 150 Factory 25		

### C. Checklists

Total: 524 Subjects | 35 Backs | 6,845 Theoretical Combinations

150-Only Group: 11 Subjects | 6 Backs | 66 Theoretical Combinations

Subject	No.	Br Hin	Pied 150	Sov 150	SC 150/25	SC 150/30	SC 150/649
Ames (Hands at Chest)	9						
G. Brown (Chicago)	55						
M. Brown (Cubs on Shirt)	59						
Burch (Batting)	60						
Donlin (Fielding)	132						
L. Doyle (Throwing)	148						
Evers (Bat Cubs on Shirt)	165						
Pattee	379						
Peltz	382						
Powers	396						
Reulbach (Glove Shows)	404						

150/350 Group: 142 Subjects | 12 Backs | 1,704 Theoretical Combinations

Subject	No.	Br Hin	EPDG	OM	Pied 150	Sov 150	SC 150/25	SC 150/30	SC 150/649	Pied 350	Sov 350	SC 350/25	SC 350/30
Abbacicchio (Brown Slvs.)	2												
Alperman	6												
Ames (Portrait)	7												
Ball (New York)	17												
Bates	24												
Beaumont	26												
Bell (Hands Above Head)	31												
Bender (Portrait)	32												
Bergen (Batting)	35												
Birmingham	41												
Bowerman	44												
Bradley (Portrait)	45												
Bransfield	48												
Bresnahan (Portrait)	51												
Bridwell (Port. No Cap)	53												

Subject	No.	Br Hin	EPDG	OM	Pied 150	Sov 150	SC 150/25	SC 150/30	SC 150/649	Pied 350	Sov 350	SC 350/25	SC 350/30
M. Brown (Portrait)	57												
Camnitz (Arms Folded)	68												
Chance (Portrait Red)	77												
Chase (Portrait Pink)	83												
Chase (White Cap)	86												
Chesbro	87												
Cicotte	88												
F. Clarke (Portrait)	91												
F. Clarke (Holding Bat)	92												
J.J. Clarke (Cleveland)	93												
Cobb (Port. Green)	96												
Cobb (Bat On Shoulder)	98												
Conroy (Fielding)	104												
Covaleski	105												
Crandall (Port. No Cap)	106												
Crawford (Throwing)	111												
Criger	113												
Criss	114												
Dahlen (Boston)	116												
G. Davis (Chicago)	119												
H. Davis (H. on Front)	121												
J. Delehanty (Wash.)	122												
Devlin	127												
Donlin (Seated)	131												
Donohue	133												
Donovan (Portrait)	134												
Dooin	136												
Doolin	139												
Dougherty (Portrait)	141												
Durham	154												
Elberfeld (N.Y.)	158												
Evers (Portrait)	164												
Ewing	167												
Ferris	169												
Flick	174												
Ganley	182												
Gibson	186												
Gilbert	187												
Goode	188												
Griffith (Portrait)	193												
Hahn	198												
Hemphill	207												

Subject	No.	Br Hin	EPDG	OM	Pied 150	Sov 150	SC 150/25	SC 150/30	SC 150/649	Pied 350	Sov 350	SC 350/25	SC 350/30
Herzog (New York)	209												
B. Hinchman (Cleveland)	211												
Isbell	227												
Jacklitsch	228												
Jennings (Portrait)	230												
Johnson (Portrait)	233												
T. Jones (St. Louis)	236												
F. Jones (Portrait)	237												
F. Jones (Hands on Hips)	238												
T. Jordan (Portrait)	239												
Joss (Portrait)	242												
Karger	244												
Keeler (Portrait)	245												
Keeler (Batting)	246												
Killian (Pitching)	250												
Kleinow (With Bat)	255												
Kling	256												
Konetchy (Glove High)	261												
Lajoie (Portrait)	267												
Lajoie (Throwing)	269												
Lake (New York)	270												
Leach (Portrait)	277												
Leifield (Pitching)	279												
Liebhardt	283												
Lindaman	284												
Lobert	287												
Lumley	289												
Lundgren (Chicago)	290												
Magee (Portrait)	293												
Manning (Batting)	299												
Marquard (Hands at Th.)	303												
Mathewson (Portrait)	305												
Mathewson (White Cap)	306												
McGraw (Port. No Cap)	318												
McGraw (Finger in Air)	321												
H. McIntyre (Brooklyn)	322												
McQuillan (Ball in Hand)	327												
Merkle (Portrait)	328												
Mullin (Throwing)	346												
Murphy (Throwing)	349												
Nicholls	356												
Niles	358												

Subject	No.	Br Hin	EPDG	OM	Pied 150	Sov 150	SC 150/25	SC 150/30	SC 150/649	Pied 350	Sov 350	SC 350/25	SC 350/30
Oldring (Fielding)	365												
O'Leary (Portrait)	366												
Overall (Portrait)	371												
Owen	374												
Parent	376												
Pastorius	378												
Powell	395												
Ritchev	410												
Rucker (Portrait)	414												
Schaefer (Detroit)	418												
Schlei (Catching)	424												
Schmidt (Throwing)	426												
Schulte (Front View)	428												
Seymour (Batting)	433												
A. Shaw (St. Louis)	438												
Sheckard (No Glove)	441												
Shipke	442												
F. Smith (F on Front)	447												
Spade	453												
Spencer	455												
Stahl (No Glove)	456												
Steinfeldt (Portrait)	461												
Stone	464												
Stovall (Portrait)	465												
Sullivan	470												
L. Tannehill (L on Front)	475												
Tenney	478												
Tinker (Portrait)	483												
Tinker (Hands on Knees)	486												
Turner	488												
Waddell (Portrait)	491												
Waddell (Throwing)	492												
He. Wagner (Bat on Left)	494												
Wallace	496												
Walsh	497												
Weimer	499												
D. White (Portrait)	502												
Wilhelm (Hnds. at Chest)	507												
Williams	510												
Willis (Pittsburg)	511												
Wiltse (Port. No Cap)	515												
C. Young (Portrait)	519												

Subject	No.	Br Hin	EPDG	OM	Pied 150	Sov 150	SC 150/25	SC 150/30	SC 150/649	Pied 350	Sov 350	SC 350/25	SC 350/30
C. Young (Bare Hand)	521												

350-Only Group: 208 Subjects | 13 Backs | 2,704 Theoretical Combinations

Subject	No.	ABF 350	BL 350	CB	Cyc 350	Dr	EPDG	OM	Pied 350	PB	Sov 350	SC 350/25	SC 350/30	Tol
Abbott	3													
Abstein	4													
Adkins	5													
Anderson	10													
Arrellanes	11													
Armbruster	12													
Arndt	13													
Atz	14													
Barbeau	18													
Barger	19													
J. Barry (Philadelphia)	20													
S. Barry (Milwaukee)	21													
Batch	23													
Beck	27													
Becker	28													
Beckley	29													
Bender (Pit. With Trees) <sup>a</sup>	33													
Bescher (Portrait)	39													
Blackburne	42													
Bliss	43													
Brain	47													
Brashear	49													
Bresnahan (With Bat)	52													
G. Brown (Washington)	56													
Burchell	62													
Burke	63													
Burns	64													
Bush	65													
Butler	66													
Byrne	67													
Campbell	71													
Carr	73													
Carrigan	74													
Casey	75													
Cassidy	76													

Subject	No.	ABF 350	BL 350	CB	Cyc 350	Dr	EPDG	OM	Pied 350	PB	Sov 350	SC 350/25	SC 350/30	Tol
Chappelle	80													
Charles	81													
Clancy	89													
Clark	90													
Clymer	94													
E. Collins (Philadelphia)	100													
J. Collins (Minneapolis)	101													
Congalton	102													
Cravath	109													
Cree	112													
Cross	115													
Dahlen (Brooklyn) <sup>a</sup>	117													
Davidson	118													
F. Delehanty (Louisville)	123													
Demmitt (New York)	124													
Dessau	126													
Dineen	129													
Donovan (Throwing)	135													
Doolan (Fielding)	137													
Dorner	140													
Downey (Fielding)	144													
Downs	145													
J. Doyle (N.Y. on Front)	149													
Dubuc	150													
Ja. Dunn (Baltimore)	152													
Jo. Dunn (Brooklyn)	153													
Dygert	155													
Easterly	156													
Egan	157													
Elberfeld (Wash. Portrait)	159													
Engle	162													
Evans	163													
Ferguson	168													
Fiene (Portrait) <sup>a</sup>	170													
Fiene (Throwing) <sup>a</sup>	171													
Flanagan	172													
Fletcher	173													
Freeman	177													
Fromme	180													
Ganzel	183													
Gasper	184													
P. Graham (Boston)	189													

Subject	No.	ABF 350	BL 350	CB	Cyc 350	Dr	EPDG	OM	Pied 350	PB	Sov 350	SC 350/25	SC 350/30	Tol
B. Graham (St. Louis)	190													
Gray	191													
Grimshaw	195													
Groom	196													
Hall	199													
Hallman	200													
Hannifan	201													
Hartsel	204													
Hayden	205													
H. Hinchman (Toledo)	212													
Hoblitzell	213													
D. Hoffman (St. Louis)	214													
I. Hoffman (Toledo)	215													
S. Hofman	216													
D. Howard (Chicago)	218													
Howell (Portrait)	220													
Huggins (Portrait)	222													
Huggins (Hnd. at Mouth)	223													
Hulswitt	224													
Hunter	226													
Jackson	229													
D. Jones (Detroit)	235													
Kelley	247													
Killian (Portrait)	249													
Kisinger	252													
Kleinow (N.Y. Catching)	254													
Knabe	257													
Knight (Portrait)	258													
Knight (With Bat)	259													
Krause (Portrait)	262													
Krause (Pitching)	263													
Kroh	264													
Kruger	265													
LaPorte	273													
Lattimore	275													
Lavender	276													
Lennox	281													
Livingstone	286													
Lord	288													
Lundgren (Kansas City)	291													
Maddox	292													
Malarkey	296													

Subject	No.	ABF 350	BL 350	CB	Cyc 350	Dr	EPDG	OM	Pied 350	PB	Sov 350	SC 350/25	SC 350/30	Tol
Maloney	297													
Marquard (Portrait)	301													
Marshall	304													
Mattern	308													
McAleese	309													
McBride	310													
McCormick	312													
McElveen	313													
McGann	314													
McGinley	315													
McGinnity	316													
McGlynn	317													
M. McIntyre (Detroit)	324													
McLean	325													
Merritt	330													
Milan	332													
D. Miller (Pittsburg)	333													
Milligan	335													
M. Mitchell (Cincinnati)	336													
F. Mitchell (Toronto)	337													
Moeller	338													
P. Moran (Chicago)	340													
H. Moran (Providence)	341													
Moriarty	342													
Mowrey	343													
Mullen	345													
Murray (Batting)	351													
Myers (Fielding)	352													
Myers (Batting)	353													
Nattress	354													
Nichols	357	b												
Oakes	359													
Oberlin	360													
O'Brien	361													
O'Hara (New York)	362													
O'Neil	368													
Paskert	377													
Perring	384													
Pfeister (Seated)	387													
Phelan	389													
Phelps	390													
Phillippe	391													

Subject	No.	ABF 350	BL 350	CB	Cyc 350	Dr	EPDG	OM	Pied 350	PB	Sov 350	SC 350/25	SC 350/30	Tol
Pickering	392													
Poland	394													
Purtell	397													
Puttman	398													
Quillen	399													
Quinn	400													
Randall	401													
Raymond	402													
Rhoades (Right Arm Out)	407													
Rhoades (Hand at Chest)	408													
Rhodes	409													
Ritter	411													
Roszman	413													
Rudolph	416													
Schirm	420													
Schafly	421													
Schmidt (Portrait)	425													
Schreck	427													
Scott	430													
Shannon	435													
Sharpe	436													
H. Shaw (Providence)	439													
Slagle	443													
F. Smith (White Cap)	445													
He. Smith (Buffalo)	448													
Snodgrass (Batting)	452													
Speaker	454													
Stanage	458													
Starr	460													
Stephens	463													
Strang	467													
Street (Portrait)	468													
Summers	471													
B. Sweeney (Boston)	472													
J. Tannehill (Washington)	476													
Taylor	477													
Thielman	480													
Thomas	481													
Titus	487													
Unglaub	489													
Warhop	498													
J. White (Buffalo)	504													

Subject	No.	ABF 350	BL 350	CB	Cyc 350	Dr	EPDG	OM	Pied 350	PB	Sov 350	SC 350/25	SC 350/30	Tol
Willett	508													
Wilson	514													
Wright	518													
I. Young (Minneapolis)	522													
Zimmerman	523													

<sup>a</sup>Identified to the 350/460 series in prior checklists.

<sup>b</sup>Exists with American Beauty 350 No Frame. Nichols is the only subject in the 350-only series believed to be available without frame. Nichols is not available with frame.

### 350/460 Super Print Group: 6 Subjects | 26 Backs | 156 Theoretical Combinations

Subject	No.	ABF 350	BL 350	CB	Cyc 350	Dr	EPDG	OM	Pied 350	PB	Sov 350	SC 350/25	SC 350/30	Tol
Chance (Port. Yellow)	78													
Chase (Port. Blue)	82													
Chase (Dark Cap)	85													
Cobb (Port. Red)	95													
Evers (Chi. Shirt)	166													
Mathewson (Dark Cap)	307													

### 350/460 Regular Print Group: 55 Subjects | 22 Backs | 1,210 Theoretical Combinations

Subject	No.	ABNF 350	Dr	EPDG	OM	Pied 350	PB	Sov 350	SC 350/25	SC 350/30	Tol	AB 460	BL 460	Cyc 460	Bi Len	Br Len	Pied 460/25	Pied 460/42	Sov 460	SC 460/25	SC 460/30	SC 460/OS	Red Hin	Uz
Ames (Hands Above)	8																							
Baker	15																							
Bender (Pit. No Trees)	34																							
Berger	37																							
Bradley (Batting)	46																							
M. Brown (Chi. on Shirt)	58																							
Burch (Fielding)	61																							

Subject	No.	ABNF 350	Dr	EPDG	OM	Pied 350	PB	Sov 350	SC 350/25	SC 350/30	Tol	AB 460	BL 460	Cyc 460	Bl Len	Br Len	Pied 460/25	Pied 460/42	SC 460/25	SC 460/42	SC 460/S	Red Hin	Uz
Cobb (Bat Off Shoulder)	97																						
Conroy (With Bat)	103																						
Crawford (With Bat)	110																						
Davis (Phil. Davis on Frt.)	120																						
Donlin (With Bat)	130																						
Doolan (Batting)	138																						
Dougherty (Arm in Air)	142																						
Downey (Batting)	143																						
Doyle (With Bat)	147																						
Elberfeld (Wash. Fielding)	160																						
Griffith (Batting)	194																						
Jennings (1 Hand Shows)	231																						
Jennings (2 Hands Show)	232																						
Johnson (Pitching)	234																						
T. Jordan (Brook. Batting)	240																						
Joss (Pitching)	243																						
Konetchy (Glove Low)	260																						
Lajoie (With Bat)	268																						
Lake (St. Louis No Ball)	272																						
Leach (Bending Over)	278																						
Leifield (Batting)	280																						
Magee (With Bat)	295																						
Manning (Pitching)	300																						
H. McIntyre (Bkln. & Chi.)	323																						
McQuillan (Batting)	326																						
Mullin (With Bat)	347																						
Murphy (Batting)	348																						
O'Leary (Hands on Kn.)	367																						
Overall (Hand Face Hi)	373																						
Peltz (Vertical)	381																						
Pfeister (Throwing)	388																						
Reulbach (No Glove)	405																						
Rucker (Throwing)	415																						
Seymour (Throwing)	434																						
Snodgrass (Catching)	451																						
Stahl (Glove Shows)	457																						
Steinfeldt (With Bat)	462																						
Street (Catching)	469																						
J. Sweeney (New York)	473																						
Tinker (Bat Off Shldr.)	485																						
He. Wagner (Bat on Rt.)	493																						
D. White (Pitching)	503																						
Wilhelm (With Bat)	506																						

Subject	No.	ABNF 350	Dr	EPDG	OM	Pied 350	PB	Sov 350	SC 350/25	SC 350/30	Tol	AB 460	BL 460	Cyc 460	Bl Len	Br Len	AB 460	BL 460	Cyc 460	Bl Len	Br Len	SC 460/25	SC 460/30	SC 460/42	SC 460/OS	Red Hin	SC 460/OS	Red Hin	Uz
Willetts	509																												
Willis (With Bat)	512																												
Willis (Throwing)	513																												
Wiltse (Pitching)	517																												
C. Young (Glove Shows)	520																												

460-Only Group: 48 Subjects | 18 Backs | 864 Theoretical Combinations

Subject	No.	EPDG	OM	PB	Tol	AB 460	BL 460	Cyc 460	Bl Len	Br Len	Pied 460/25	Pied 460/42	Sov 460	SC 460/25	SC 460/30	SC 460/42	SC 460/OS	Red Hin	Uz
Abbaticchio (Bl. Slvs.) <sup>c</sup>	1																		
Ball (Cleveland)	16																		
Bell (Follow Thru)	30																		
Bergen (Catching)	36																		
Bescher (Hands in Air)	40																		
Bridwell (Port. With Cap)	54																		
Camnitz (Hands Above)	69																		
Camnitz (Arm at Side)	70																		
Chance (Batting)	79																		
Chase (Holding Trophy)	84																		
Crandall (Port. With Cap)	107																		
Devore	128																		
Doyle (Portrait)	146																		
Duffy	151																		
Ford	175																		
Frill	178																		
Gandil	181																		
Geyer	185																		
Herzog (Boston)	208																		
Howell (Hands at Waist)	221																		
Hummel	225																		
Kleinow (Boston) <sup>c</sup>	253																		
Lake (Ball in Hand)	271																		
Latham <sup>c</sup>	274																		
Marquard (Follow Thru)	302																		
McGraw (Port. With Cap)	319																		
McGraw (Glove at Hip)	320																		

Subject	No.	EPDG	OM	PB	Tol	AB 460	BL 460	Cyc 460	Bl Len	Br Len	Pied 460/25	Pied 460/42	Sov 460	SC 460/25	SC 460/30	SC 460/42	SC 460/OS	Red Hin	Uz
Merkle (Throwing)	329																		
Meyers <sup>c</sup>	331																		
Murray (Portrait)	350																		
Needham	355																		
Oldring (Batting)	364																		
Overall (Hnds. at Wst.) <sup>c</sup>	372																		
Payne	380																		
Pfeffer	386																		
Schaefer (Washington) <sup>c</sup>	419																		
Schlei (Portrait)	422																		
Schlei (Batting)	423																		
Schulte (Back View)	429																		
Seymour (Portrait)	432																		
Sheckard (Glove Shows)	440																		
F. Smith (Chi. & Bost.) <sup>c</sup>	446																		
H. Smith (Brooklyn)	444																		
Stovall (Batting)	466																		
Tannehill (Chi. No "L.") <sup>c</sup>	474																		
Tinker (Bat On) <sup>c</sup>	484																		
Wheat	501																		
Wiltse (Portrait With Cap)	516																		

<sup>c</sup>Identified to the 350/460 series in prior checklists.

150/350 Southern League Group: 34 Subjects | 3 Backs | 102 Theoretical Combinations

Subject	No.	Br Hin	OMS	Pied 350
Bay	25			
Bernhard	38			
Breitenstein	50			
Carey	72			
Coles	99			
Cranston	108			
Ellam	161			
Foster	176			
Fritz	179			
Greminger	192			
Guilheen	197			
Helm	206			

Subject	No.	Br Hin	OMS	Pied 350
Hickman	210			
Hooker	217			
E. Howard (Savannah)	219			
A.O. Jordan (Atlanta)	241			
Kiernan	248			
Lafitte	266			
Lipe	285			
Manion	298			
McCauley	311			
Molesworth	339			
Mullaney	344			
Otey	370			
Paige	375			
Perdue	383			
Persons	385			
Reagan	403			
Revelle	406			
Ryan	417			
Shaughnessy	437			
S. Smith (Atlanta)	449			
Thornton	482			
Violat	490			

350-Only Southern League Group: 14 Subjects | 2 Backs | 28 Theoretical Combinations

Subject	No.	OMS	Pied 350
Bastian	22		
B. Hart (Little Rock)	202		
J. Hart (Montgomery)	203		
King	251		
Lentz	282		
M. Miller (Dallas)	334		
Orth	369		
Rockenfeld	412		
Seitz	431		
C. Smith (Shreveport)	450		
Stark	459		
Thebo	479		
Westlake	500		
F. White (Houston)	505		

## Rule Breakers: 6 Subjects | 11 Theoretical Combinations

Subject	No.	PB
Demmitt (St. Louis)	125	
O'Hara (St. Louis)	363	

Subject	No.	Pied 350
J. Doyle (N.Y. Nat'l)	--	

Subject	No.	Pied 150
Magie	294	

Subject	No.	Pied 150	SC 150/25	SC 150/30	SC 350/30
Plank	393				

Subject	No.	Pied 150	SC 150/25	SC 150/30
Ho. Wagner (Pittsburg)	495			

## VIII. Back Distribution Data

The following charts provide the back distribution found in my eBay survey for each subject group. The numbers are percentages.

### 150-Only Group

Br Hin	Pied 150	Sov 150	SC 150/25	SC 150/30	SC 150/649
3.6	60.5	4.1	8.5	17.0	6.4

### 150/350 Group

Br Hin	EPDG	OM	Pied 150	Sov 150	SC 150/25	SC 150/30	SC 150/649	Pied 350	Sov 350	SC 350/25	SC 350/30
1.0	1.1	1.2	39.2	5.0	5.2	15.6	5.4	12.8	3.2	3.0	7.2

### 350-Only Group

ABF 350	BL 350	CB	Cyc 350	Dr	EPDG	OM	Pied 350	PB	Sov 350	SC 350/25	SC 350/30	Tol
1.2	0.2	0.4	2.5	0.08	1.0	1.7	55.1	6.6	5.7	4.9	19.5	1.0

### 350/460 Super Print Group

1.4	ABF 350	---	BL 350	0.2	CB	0.7	Cyc 350	4.7	OM	1.2	EPDG	20.0	Pied 350	12.9	PB	5.7	SC 350/25	14.2	SC 350/30	1.6	Tol	---	BL 460	0.5	Cyc 460	---	Bi Len	---	Br Len	10.6	Pied 460/25	0.9	Pied 460/42	2.5	Sov 460	3.5	SC 460/25	2.6	SC 460/30	1.8	SC 460/42	10.5	SC 460/OS	---	Red Hin	---	Uz
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### 350/460 Regular Print Group

0.7	ABNF 350
0.2	Dr
1.2	EPDG
4.2	OM
20.2	Pied 350
13.8	PB
4.5	Sov 350
2.9	SC 350/25
23.6	SC 350/30
2.8	Tol
0.2	AB 460
---	BL 460
1.1	Cyc 460
1.2	Bl Len
0.09	Br Len
36.8	Pied 460/25
0.1	Pied 460/42
8.4	Sov 460
1.4	SC 460/25
19.7	SC 460/30
4.7	SC 460/42
8.7	SC 460/OS
0.3	Red Hin
---	Uz
0.2	Uz

### 460-Only Group

4.6	Br Hin	OMS	Pied 350
54.0			41.4
---	Bl Len		---
1.1	Cyc 460		Br Len
0.06	BL 460		
0.1	Bi Len		
19.7	SC 460/25		
4.7	SC 460/30		
8.7	SC 460/42		
0.3	SC 460/OS		
---	Red Hin		
8.7	SC 460/42		
0.1	SC 460/OS		
0.2	Red Hin		
0.2	Uz		

### 150/350 Southern League Group

Br Hin	OMS	Pied 350
4.6	54.0	41.4

### 350-Only Southern League Group

OMS	Pied 350
38.1	61.9