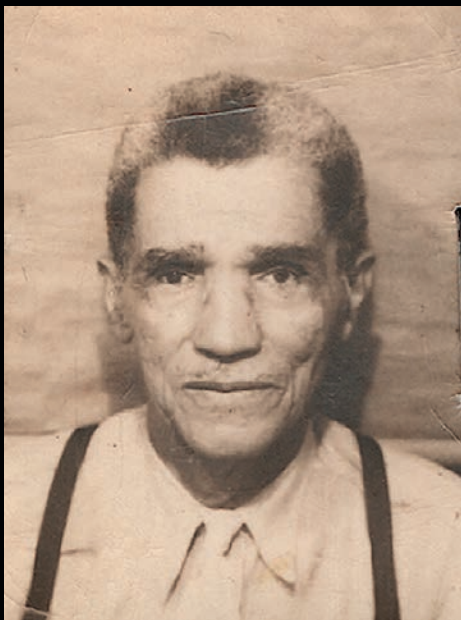




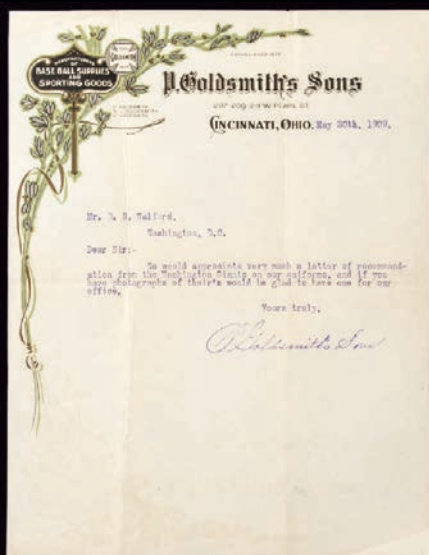
21ST ANNUAL LIVE AUCTION AT
LOUISVILLE SLUGGER MUSEUM & FACTORY

Saturday, November 16, 2024



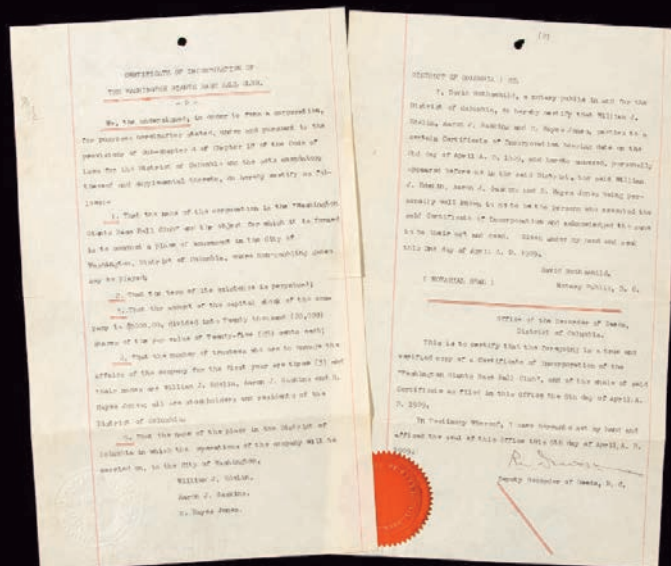
THE PERSONAL COLLECTION OF RUTHERFORD HAYES JONES

The following Lot #s 137-168 originated from the personal collection of Rutherford Hayes Jones. Mr. Jones was a pioneer in an untold part of history in the District of Columbia where he served as business manager for "Washington Giants Base Ball Club". He partnered with William J. Edelin and Aaron Gaskins to incorporate the Washington Giants to which Notary Public David Rothschild documented as one of the earliest African American teams of its type predating the Negro League teams of the 1920-30s era. The District of Columbia Entertainment License for American Legion Park amount paid was \$5.00. The history of African American participation in organized baseball dates back to the 1870s era with Bud Fowler and subsequently in 1885 when the Cuban Giants team was formed. However, from the late 1880s up until Rube Foster formed the Negro National League in 1920 there was a period of African American related baseball that has largely been lost to history. The Rutherford Hayes Jones Collection stands as one of the most important archives of materials with relation to formative period of organized baseball within the African American Community. Team such as the Philadelphia Giants, Washington Giants, and Brooklyn Royal Giants all are represented within the collection joining others such as the Chicago Leland Giants and St. Louis Giants as the forerunners to the Negro National League and Eastern Colored League of the 1920s period. The scarcity of such archives simply cannot be overstated due to a number of reasons including limited original production, fragility, and small number of organized African American team during the period. The items within the Rutherford Hayes Jones Collection have resided within the Jones' family and are being offered publicly for the first time. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the collection will benefit the Negro League Legends Hall of Fame, Inc. 501 c 3 Non-profit.



137

137 1909 P. Goldsmith & Sons letter to the Washington Giants. Ornate stationery from noted early sporting goods manufacturer Goldsmith bearing a May 20, 1909 typed noted. It is addressed to "D.N. Walford" and reads in part "We would appreciate very much a letter of recommendation from the Washington Giants on our uniforms..." Typical fold lines from mailing, light toning, and some other minor wear: VG-EX **(\$300-\$500)**



138

138 1909 Washington Giants Base Ball Club "Certificate of Incorporation." Original document typed on a sheet of legal sized paper reads "Certificate Of Incorporation Of The Washington Giants Base Ball Club" across the top. Content details that "the name of the corporation is the Washington Giants Base Ball Club and the object for which it is formed is to conduct a place of amusement...where non-gambling games may be played." It goes on to note the breakdown of shares and lists the trustees managing the affairs of the company as William Edelin, Aaron Gaskins, and R. Hayes Jones. A second page (of the same size) is signed by the Deputy Recorder of Deeds of Washington D.C. and certifies that this is a "verified copy of a Certificate of Incorporation." Light toning and wear with a small split to one edge of a fold line: EX **(\$750-\$1,500)**



139

139 c.1909-1912 Washington Giants related ephemera (5 pieces). Includes unused envelope which has "The Washington Giants" printed in return address area. Their Management team is listed below along with their address; 1909 dated handwritten note on half sheet of "Thos. C. Bradley, Attorney At Law" stationery. Content reads in part, "Received of R. Hayes Jones Sec + Mgr. Washington Giants Base Ball Club \$60..."; a "District Of Columbia Entertainment License" which granted "E.B. Henderson" the right to host a "Base Ball Exhibition at American League Park from the 4th day of May until the 5th day of May 1910." A period newspaper account relays that the Washington Giants played a team from Howard University at American League Park on the 4th (winning 4-2); an envelope addressed to R.H. Jones with return address reading "Athletic Association Base-Ball Department, Howard University." It is postmarked April 28, 1910; July 28, 1912 handwritten note on well worn scrap of paper reading "Received of Mr. Jones \$3.00 for double header." It appears to be signed "W.R. Woodward" and someone else has written "umpire" at lower right. Varying degrees/types of wear throughout: FR-EX

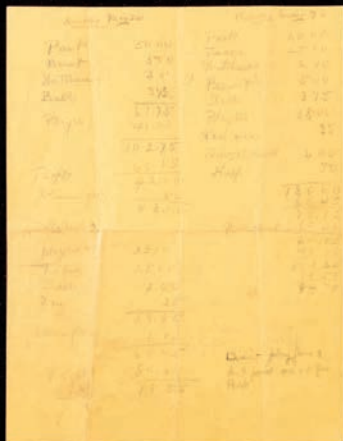
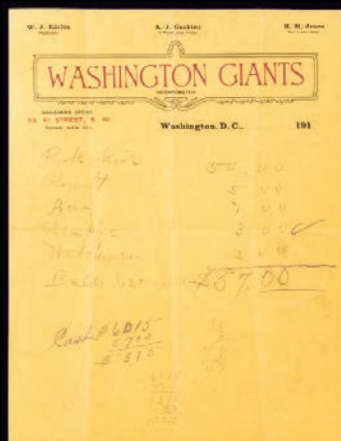
(\$500-\$750)



141

141 Washington Giants team photograph c.1910. Early sepia toned photograph showing uniformed team members posing inside of a stadium as a few spectators look on. Image measures 6"x8" and has a chip to upper right corner and a few other minor points of wear. Mount (8"x10") has areas of chipping/loss: GD

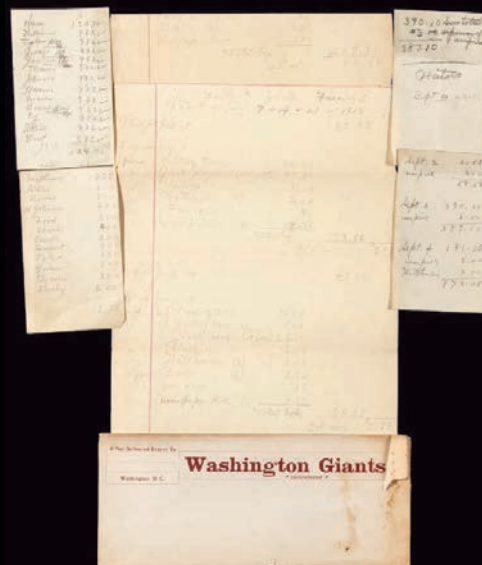
(\$1,000-\$3,000)



140

140 Early 1910s "Washington Giants" stationery with game expense related notations. Full sheet of stationery (8.5"x11") has "Washington Giants" team name across the top. It is filled on both front and back with handwritten notations related to expenses for what appear to be at least (4) different games. Fold lines and some mild general handling wear: VG-EX

(\$400-\$600)



142

142 Early 1910s Washington Giants related ephemera (7 pieces). Includes "Washington Giants" mailing envelope which is unused but has some tears/toning/flaws to right end; sheet of lined paper which has "Washington Giants Financial Report of July 7-14 + 21 - 1912" written across the top. It is filled with notations related to receipts and expenses for (3) games; sheet of lined paper which has "Report of game July 28, 1912" written across the top that notes various expenses; and (4) small slips of paper which have notations related to expenses and player salaries for several games played in September of an unspecified year. Varying degrees/types of wear throughout: GD-VG

(\$500-\$750)



143

143 Washington Giants player photograph c.1909-1915. Sepia toned photograph showing a uniformed player in full length pose. Light wear to the image including a few spots of discoloration and the mount (5.25"x7.5") has some minor corner/edge chipping: VG-EX (\$500-\$1,000)



145

145 Washington Giants player photograph c.1909-1915. Sepia toned photograph showing a uniformed player in full length pose. Light wear to the image including a few spots of discoloration and the mount (5.25"x7.5") has some minor corner/edge chipping: VG-EX (\$500-\$1,000)



144

144 Washington Giants player photograph c.1909-1915. Choice sepia toned photograph showing a uniformed player in full length pose. Light wear to the image and the mount (5.25"x7.5") has some minor corner/edge chipping: VG-EX (\$500-\$1,000)



146

146 Washington Giants player photograph c.1909-1915. Crisp sepia toned photograph showing a uniformed player in full length pose. Light wear to the image and the mount (5.25"x7.5") has some minor corner/edge chipping: VG-EX (\$500-\$1,000)



147

147 Washington Giants player photograph c.1909-1915. Choice sepia toned photograph showing a uniformed player in full length pose. Light wear to the image and the mount (5.25"x7.5") has some minor corner/edge chipping. There is some black spotting/discoloration at upper left: VG (\$500-\$1,000)



149

149 Washington Giants player photograph c.1909-1915. Sepia toned photograph showing a uniformed player in full length pose. There is minor corner/edge wear to the mount (5.25"x7.5") and the image itself has some spotting/discoloration throughout: GD-VG (\$300-\$500)



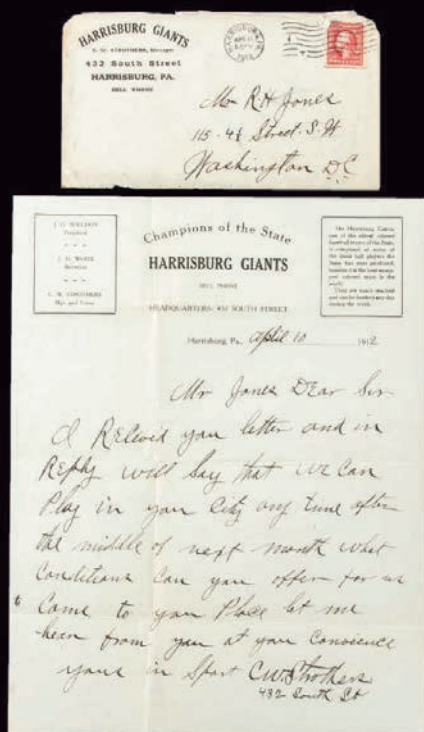
148

148 Washington Giants player photograph c.1909-1915. Sepia toned photograph showing a uniformed player in full length pose. Light wear/spotting to the image and the mount (5.25"x7.5") has some minor corner/edge chipping: VG-EX (\$500-\$1,000)



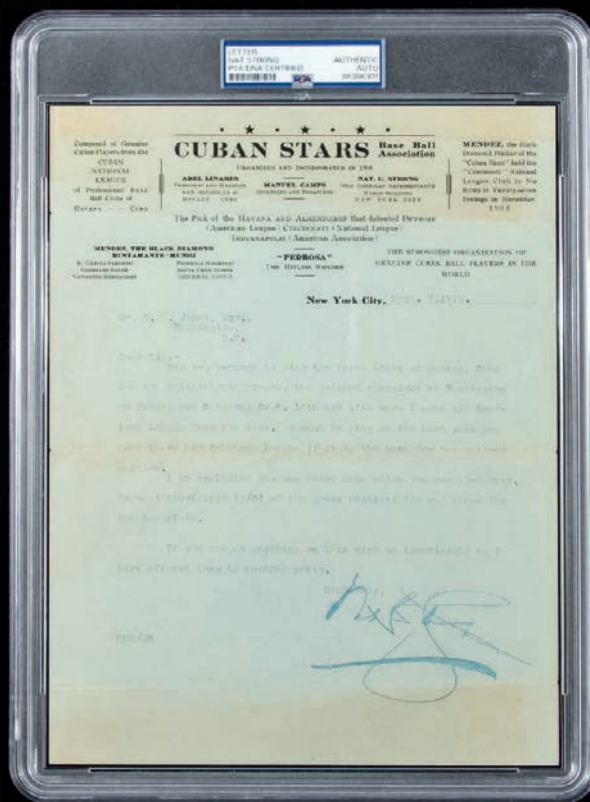
150

150 Washington Giants attributed player photograph c.1909-1915. Sepia toned photograph showing a uniformed player in full length pose. While the sweater he is wearing does not allow for a definitive attribution to the Washington Giants (as team name is not visible), he appears to be in the same stadium and wearing the same style of hat as those whom are shown in the team photograph also offered in this sale. Mount (5.25"x7.5") shows minor wear to the corners/edges and there is some black spotting/discoloration to both mount and image at top right: VG (\$500-\$1,000)

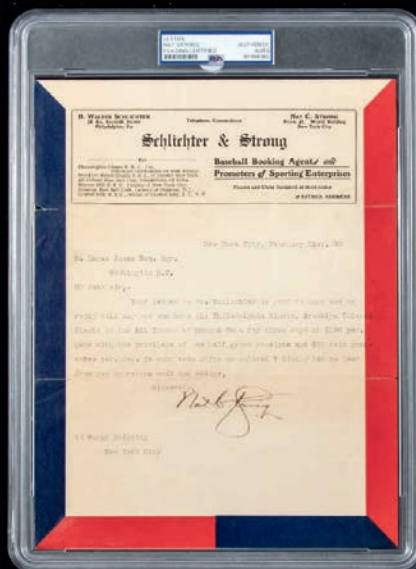


151 1912 Harrisburg Giants Manager C.W. Strothers handwritten letter with original envelope. Attractive stationery has "Champions of the State, Harrisburg Giants" team name across the top. A box to the right boasts that they were "one of the oldest colored baseball teams of the State...composed of some of the finest ball players the state has ever produced." Opposite lists team officials including Manager and Treasurer C.W. Strothers. A full page handwritten letter from Strothers (dated April 10, 1912 and signed "C.W. Strothers") fills the page and was written to R.H. Jones of the Washington Giants offering to meet his team for a game. Includes the original mailing envelope, likewise addressed to Jones. Strothers had formed the team in 1890 and it is unclear what his ownership stake was by 1912. The Harrisburg Giants were then an independent team but would go on to join the Eastern Colored League in 1924. In fine overall condition with typical fold lines and a touch of wear, hand written envelope has some more pronounced flaws: Letter EX-EX/MT, Envelope GD **(\$750-\$1,500)**

152 1906 Nat Strong autographed letter with fine baseball content (PSA/DNA). February 21, 1906 dated letter is typed on "Schlichter & Strong" stationery and signed "Nat. C Strong" at the close. Printed below the Company name is text relaying that they are "Baseball Booking Agents and Promoters of Sporting Enterprises" and there is a list of teams (represented) to the left. Choice baseball related content reads in part, "... you can have the Philadelphia Giants, Brooklyn Colored Giants or the All Cubans of Havana Cuba for three days at \$100 per game...Is your team white or colored?..." Strong was highly influential on the East Coast and in addition to representing many African American teams in their bookings he served as Secretary for the National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs. Typical mailing folds and some additional light handling wear. Authenticated and encapsulated by PSA/DNA: Signature: NM, Letter VG-EX **(\$750-\$1,000)**



153 1910 Nat Strong autographed "Cuban Stars" letter with strong baseball content (PSA/DNA). September 7, 1910 dated typed letter is done on "Cuban Stars Base Ball Association" stationery which proclaims them "The Strongest Organization of Genuine Cuban Ball Players in The World." Hall of Famer Jose Mendez, their standout pitcher, is mentioned twice within the pre-printed section. The letter is addressed to R.H. Jones, then Manager of the Washington Giants with content reading in part, "Can you arrange to play the Cuban Stars of Havana, Cuba and the Philadelphia Giants, the colored champions at Washington..." It is signed "Nat C. Strong" in ink at the bottom. Typical fold lines and some moderate handling and storage wear. There is some slightly more pronounced toning at areas. Authenticated and encapsulated by PSA/DNA: Letter VG, Signature: EX-MT **(\$1,500-\$2,500)**





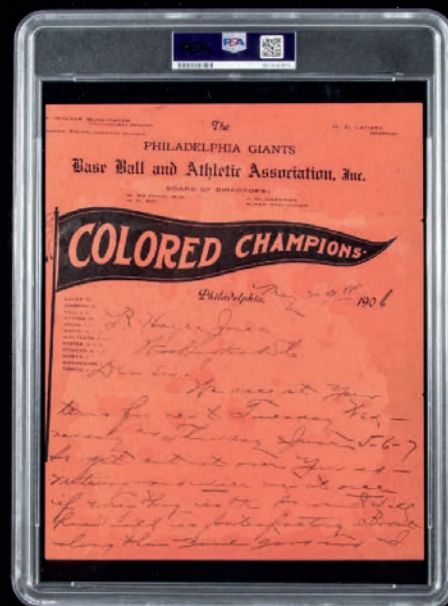
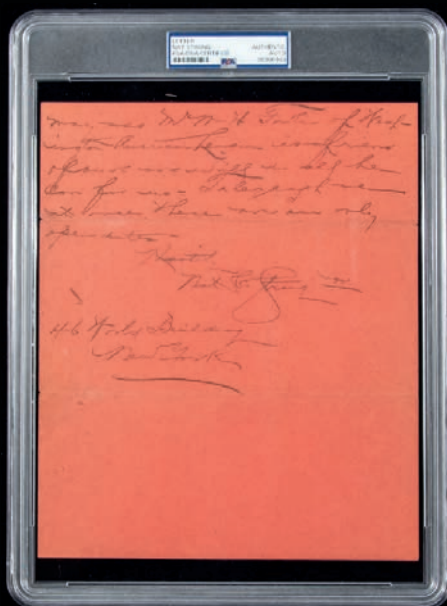
154

154 New text as follows: 1928 Nat Strong autographed letter to R.H. Jones (PSA/DNA). June 1, 1928 dated letter is typed on "Nat C. Strong Baseball Enterprises" stationery and signed "Nat C. Strong" at the close. Content relates to games which Jones was trying to schedule on Sundays and Strong relays that "both teams are booked up on all Sundays...Folks in Washington in Washington D.C. do not appreciate colored baseball I fear from what we have all done there in the past..." Typical fold lines from mailing and some other mild handling and storage wear. Authenticated and encapsulated by PSA/DNA: Signature: EX-EX/MT; Letter: VG-EX (\$750-\$1,000)



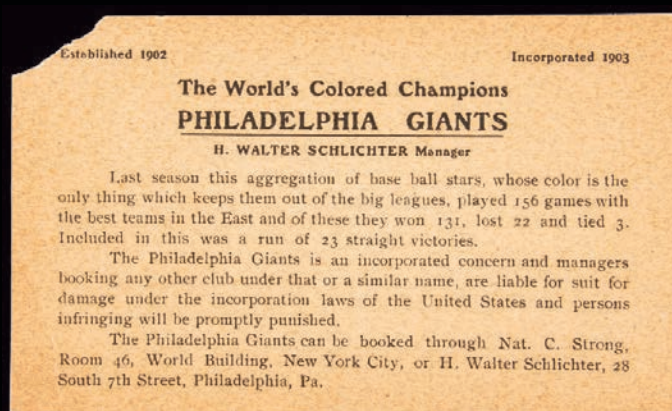
155

155 Philadelphia Giants player photograph c.1908-1911. Early sepia toned photograph showing an unidentified player in full uniform. Overall composition is ideal and the piece offers outstanding display value. In fine overall condition with mild corner wear and a few other flaws to the approx. 5.5"x7.5" mount: VG-EX (\$500-\$1,000)



156

156 1906 Nat Strong handwritten letter on ornate "Philadelphia Giants...Colored Champions" stationery (PSA/DNA). May 29, 1906 dated handwritten letter is done on a sheet of "Philadelphia Giants Base Ball and Athletic Association" stationery. They are proclaimed to be "Colored Champions" in a large pennant and there is a team roster printed as part of the design. Listed among the players are last names of Hall of Famers Pete Hill, Rube Foster, and Sol White. It is addressed to R. Hayes Jones with exceptional content reading in part, "Dear Sir, We accept your terms for next Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday June 5-6-7 so get out at once your advertising and wire me at once if everything is OK. So as I will know all is satisfactory? along the game good and may add? of Washington American League is a friend of mine and will do all he can for us. Telegraph meat once. These are our only open dates. Hastily, Nat C. Strong, Manager". Authenticated and encapsulated by PSA/DNA: Signature: NM, Letter VG-EX (\$2,000-\$4,000)



157

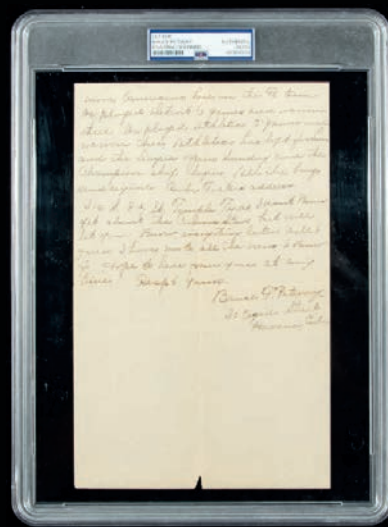
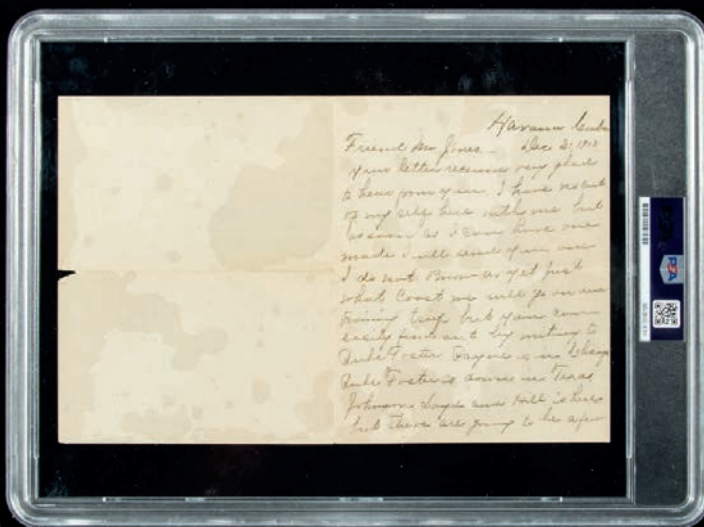
157 Philadelphia Giants "World's Colored Champions" promotional card c.1910s. Heavy stock 3.5"x5.5 card has printed on titling which reads, "The World's Colored Champions, Philadelphia Giants." Lengthy block of text below touts the fine record of the team and notes that they can be booked through Nat C. Strong. Toned and there is a small chip to the upper left corner: VG-EX (\$400-\$600)



158

158 Bruce Petway with the Philadelphia Giants photograph c.1909. Striking sepia toned photograph showing Petway in full uniform with a well dressed crowd in the background. The image measures just under 4"x5.5" and remains on its' original 6"x8" mount. The photographic portion displays a touch of light natural wear, mount has some more pronounced flaws with a few spots of discoloration, missing chip at lower left, and the upper right corner has broken off but is included. Petway was at the height of his career and by then ranked among the best players in baseball. He would spend two seasons with the Philadelphia Giants (1908 and 1909) before joining Rube Foster's powerhouse Chicago American Giants and helped further shape that team into perennial Champions. An important photograph and one of only a handful of Petway images known: GD-VG

(\$2,000-\$4,000)



159

159 Rare and important 1910 Bruce Petway handwritten letter to R.H. Jones - exceptional content (PSA/DNA). December 21, 1910 dated handwritten letter written by Bruce Petway to R.H. Jones from Havana, Cuba. Exceptional content reads in part, "Friend Mr. Jones...I do not yet know what Coast we will go on our training trip but you can easily find out by writing to Rube Foster. Payne is in Chicago Rube Foster is down in Texas... We played Detroit 6 games and we won three. We played Athletics 5 games and we won three. Athletics has left for home and the League opens Sunday and the Champion ship (stet) begins. All the boys send regards." It goes on to relay Rube Fosters address and concludes, "I don't known yet about the Cuban Stars but will let you know everything later...Respt. Yours, Bruce F. Petway." Petway was among the most highly regarded players of his era and is said to have had one of the best throwing arms in both the Independent Leagues he was a part of during the earlier portion of his career and the more formal Negro Leagues later. His skills as a catcher were highly sought after and he played with some of the strongest teams of the day including the Leland Giants, Brooklyn Royal Giants, Philadelphia Giants, Chicago American Giants, and Detroit Stars. His talents have been recognized with Induction into the Negro League Hall of Fame and he was on the list of players under consideration by Negro League Committee of the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. While he was not selected by the Committee in 2006 it stands to reason that there is a good chance he will be in the future should they reconvene. Petway autographed material is all but non-existent and this is the first signed piece which we can recall ever seeing offered. Authenticated and encapsulated by PSA/DNA: Signature: NM, Letter EX

(\$5,000-\$10,000)



160

160 Early African American baseball player photograph c.1900s-1910s. Sepia toned photograph showing a uniformed player in full length pose. The chest protector he is wearing does not allow for a definitive team identification however given the context of the collection from which it originates, it is likely that he was a member of either the Philadelphia or Washington Giants. Mount (5.25"x7.25") shows a touch of light corner/edge wear: EX

(\$300-\$500)



162

162 Bill Monroe Brooklyn Royal Giants player photograph c.1908-1910. Sepia toned photograph showing a uniformed player in full length pose. It has been relayed that it may picture Bill Monroe however this can not be stated with certainty. Monroe was one of the great stars of early African American baseball and Rube Foster himself considered him among the best players he had ever seen. Mount (5.25"x7.5") has a chip to upper left and there is other mild/moderate wear: GD/VG

(\$750-\$1,500)



163

163 Harry Buckner Brooklyn Royal Giants player photograph c.1908-1910. Sepia toned photograph showing a uniformed player in full length pose. It has been relayed that it is possibly Harry Buckner however this can not be confirmed. Mount (5.25"x7.5") has wear including chipping/loss to (3) corners and there are some creases and other flaws throughout: FR-GD

(\$500-\$1,000)



161

161 Grant "Home Run" Johnson attributed Brooklyn Royal Giants player photograph c.1908-1910. Sepia toned photograph showing a uniformed player in full length pose. It has been relayed that it may picture Grant Johnson however this can not be stated with certainty. Johnson is one of the most important early figures in African American baseball having played for or otherwise been a part of (7) Championship teams. Mount (5.25"x7.5") has heavy wear to upper left where there is a missing portion. The image itself is likewise effected in this area: FR-GD

(\$1,000-\$3,000)



164

164 Brooklyn Royal Giants player photograph c.1908-1910. Sepia toned photograph showing a uniformed player in full length pose. In fine overall condition with a touch of light wear to corners/edges of the (5.25"x7.5") mount: EX

(\$500-\$1,000)



165

165 Lot of (3) unused c.1910s baseball game tickets from the R.H. Jones collection. Trio of unused tickets were each issued for a "Base Ball" game with no specific date, team, or venue noted. They presumably relate to Independent Negro League games and all are in very strong condition with little mentionable wear: EX-NM (\$300-\$500)



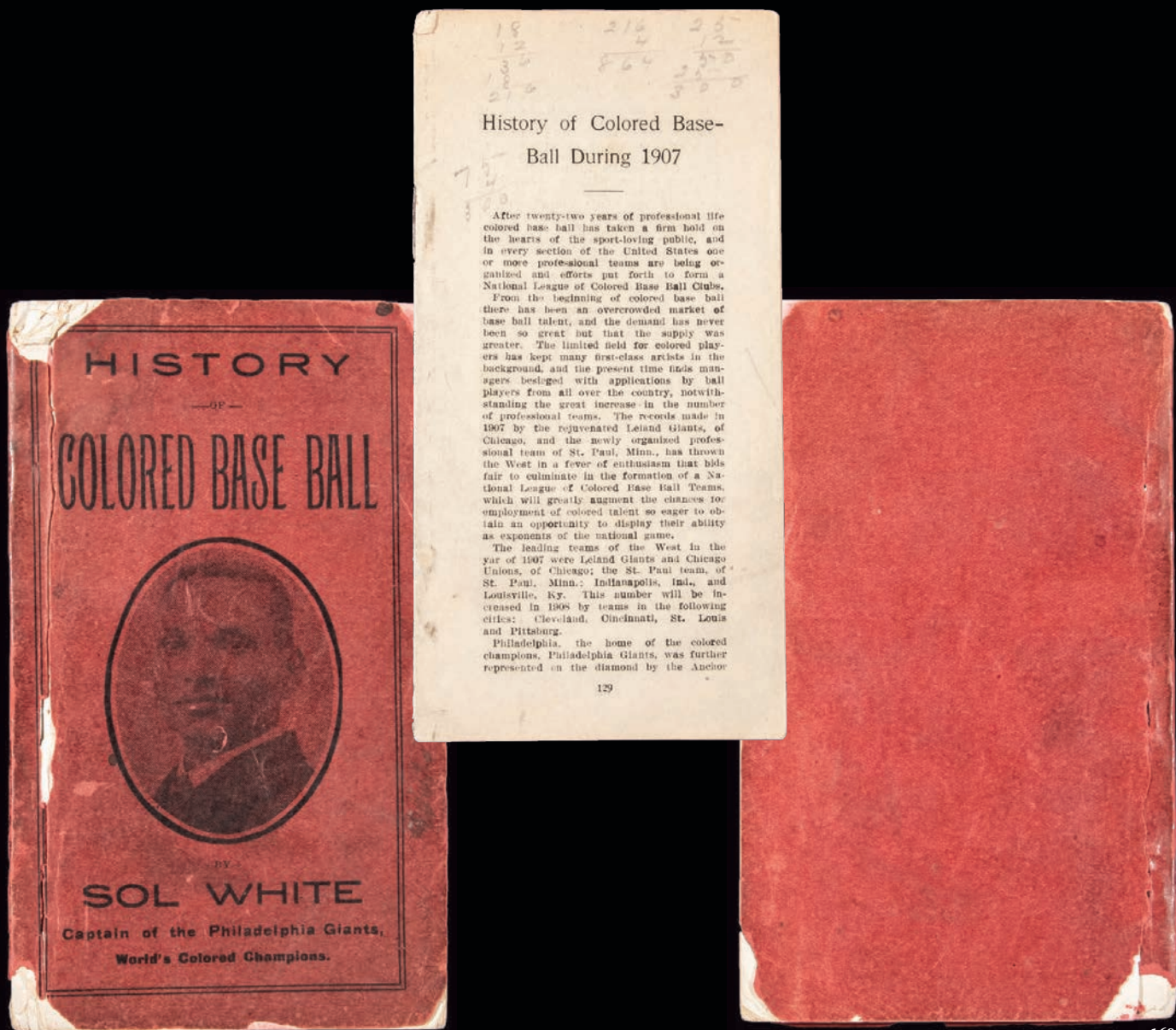
166

166 Outstanding "M.S.G." African American baseball team photograph c.1908-1912. Cabinet mounted sepia toned photograph showing members of what was clearly a professional team with each player having "MSG" across the front of their jersey. An assortment of period equipment in the foreground is likewise of the highest quality for the era. Secured to archival backing with the approx. 11"x10" remains of the original mount (and portions of the image itself) having large sections missing and some additional wear/flaws. Photo itself has a heavy crease/crease and some additional damage. It appears that a small amount of color was added along the professionally reinforced crack to enhance eye appeal: GD (With note to Restoration) (\$2,000-\$4,000)



167

167 Very rare Brooklyn Royal Giants team photograph c.1908-1910. Outstanding cabinet mounted photograph showing uniformed team members posed in stadium setting. Overall composition offers art like qualities and clarity allows for conveyance of each players emotions at the time. While those shown have not been identified the Royal Giants were a talent laden team in the period, and Managed by "Home Run Grant" (standing at center in the back). We can confirm that standout hitter Bill Monroe appears crouching on right end of the bottom row. Image has crack which runs down the left hand side (approx. 1/4 of the way in from the edge) and the mount (10"x12") has cracks, chips, and other wear. Mounted to archival backing and there appears to be a very small amount of well executed inpainting within the professionally reinforced crack. A highly important early African American baseball team photograph: VG (With Note to Restoration) (\$5,000-\$10,000)



168

168 Rare and important 1907 "History of Colored Base Ball" book by Sol White with impossibly scarce supplement. Landmark soft-cover work published in 1907 was written by Baseball Hall of Famer Sol White. It stands as one of the most important publications related to baseball in general and is considered the definitive early history of the game as played within the African American community. It remains the lone source for much of what is known on the topic starting with the Babylon, Long Island Nine of 1885 and continuing through 1906. It is also one of the great rarities of the genre with the number of known examples likely settling at fewer than (15). The offered was found within the archive of R.H. Jones and is being offered for the first time publicly. The (128) page book is well illustrated and filled with detailed information. It also includes a supplement in the form of an additional chapter (starting at page numbered 129) entitled "History of Colored Base-Ball during 1907." This stapled together group of pages continues where the bound book left off and is exceedingly rare with only (1) or (2) other copies known. The book (3.5"x6") is fragile in nature and typically found with condition issues. Front cover has separated and the back remains only partially affixed. There is chipping and/or other corner and edge wear that effects both the covers and some of the interior pages. The first inside page has some discoloration. Supplement has pencil notations on both front and back. A rare opportunity to acquire one of the most sought after and significant early baseball publications: See description **(\$8,500-\$15,000)**