Baseball Magazine published this collection of players’ career records first in 1912, next in 1916, and thereafter annually. Who’s Who continued after Baseball Magazine ceased temporarily in 1957 and permanently in 1965. The 1987 issue is the 72d edition, numbered from 1912, not 1912. The Sporting News started a rival annual (see SABR Research Guide #3) in 1940, similar and more detailed. The Register provided more but Who’s Who maintained advantages of lower prices, handling size, and newsdealer distribution.

The 1912 edition, a 30¢, 50 page, 6¼”x 4 3/4” paperback, said of itself: “The work represents the combined efforts of two baseball researchers for five years.” It stated for each of 149 big leaguers date and place of birth, height, weight, sides bats and throws; and, year-by-year, team(s) and league(s) in organized ball, position(s), games, batting and fielding (but not pitching) averages; player trades, sales, etc.; and noted school, college, semi-pro and outlaw affiliations.

The ’15¢, 96 page, 1916 edition, a marked improvement, principally was based on the research of railroad engineer John J. Lawres (1871-1953), of Milwaukee, WI. Since 1896, Lawres compiled “league books” of major and minor league statistics each season. From these he prepared ledgers consolidating players’ career statistics, “giving four columns of figures for each man. (Whatever became of them?). In the introduction of the 1916 Who’s Who, Lawres observed that OB’s careless neglect of statistics forced private enterprise to codify and preserve them. Apparently, Lawres connection with Who’s Who ended after the 1921 edition as the next two issues credit Ernest J. Lanigan with making the revisions therein.

The basic format of the 1916 book still maintains. Besides personal facts, it furnished G, AB, H, H, SB, and EA, for 146 non-pitchers; and G, IP, W, L, PCT, SO, BB, H, and ERA, for 62 pitchers. Federal Leaguers were excluded. Subsequently added were World Series records (1924); major league career totals (1925); TB, RBI, and asterisks denoting league leaders in various categories (1937); 2B, 3B, and HR, replacing TB (1940); small head photos (1965); League Championship series records (1969); and Saves (1981).

The numbers of players covered per issue increased slowly at first, then exceeded 250 (1941), 300 (1944), 400 (1955), 500 (1962), 600 (1969), and 700 (1975). Manager’s records were included only in 1983. Through 1987, more than 28,000 separate career records covering more than 6,000 men appeared. Infrequently an issue carried both batting and pitching records of an individual simultaneously; examples, Dick Hall, Hal Jeffcoat, Babe Ruth. The only article to be included was a 1921 biography of the Babe by F. C. Lane. Some editions printed league totals and averages, perhaps as fillers.


For further editing, publishing, and printing history details, see the 1982 edition, page 232.

Early issues sported attractive front covers showing players surrounded by red borders, the first one showing Cobb and Joe Jackson. The four-sided borders disappeared in 1939 but red continued as the dominant color. Beginning in 1937, photos appeared inside both covers, and, in 1955, on the outside back cover, since 1969 being pictures of the latest World Series victors. The names of the players pictured on the covers are furnished later in this paper.

The original size maintained until increasing, in 1962, to 7”x 5”, and in 1969, to 8 5/8”x 5¾”. Current dimensions are 8 5/8”x 5”. The number of pages changed from 96 to 128 in 1957, to 144 in 1972, and, gradually, to 256 in 1983, while the most recent issues have been of 218 pages. Newsstand price, always a bargain, rose slowly: 25¢ (1920), 30¢ (1948), 50¢ (1952), 75¢ (1969), $1.00 (1972), then by stages to $2.50 (1981), and to $3.95 (1983), the present cost.

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Errors exist, of course. The oddest makes Jim Caveney (1923-1925) the shortest (except for Gaëtél) major leaguer ever at an even five feet, not once, but all three times he appeared. And, it is fascinating to compare some birth years with those given in modern baseball record books. Misinformation aside, the annals provide a gold mine of facts on early players. Some listings of early years in school, college, semi-pro, outlaw, and the minors, frequently with dates and reasons for movement between teams, are not found in other record collections.

The prime purpose of this paper is to set forth the alphabetical list of approximately 1,400 players who appeared in Who's Who prior to 1948, thus overlapping commencement of Baseball Register and the return of wartime players. Each name is followed by the years included, omitting the "19" part as too space-consuming. Anyone covered in the 1947 or earlier issues also has listed all years after 1947 which saw him included. Misspelled names are spelled as they appear, except when such rendering would cause confusion or improper alphabetizing, so Eagan becomes Egan; Reuther, Rueter, and Clinton Heathcote is again Clifton, etc.

1908 SAMPLES

Charles (Herbert) Maffei

Height: 5 ft. 9 inches. Weight: 175 pounds. Bats and throws right-handed.

1912 SAMPLES

Wainscott, N. Y.

1942 SAMPLES

PHILLIPS, IRVIN GORDON (BASE)

1932 SAMPLES

DOUGLASS, JOSEPH GODFREY

1933 SAMPLES

DONALD, RICHARD ATLEE
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Adams, Ace T 43-46
Adams, Charles B 12 16 20-26
Adams, Earl 25-35
Adams, Elvin C 45-48
Adams, Robt H 47-56 58-59
Akin, Grady E 29-30
Ainsmith, Ed 12 16 20-26
Akers, William 31
Aldridge, Victor 24-28
Alexander, D Dale 30-34
Alexander, Grover C 16-30
Allen, Ethan W 20-30
Allen, Frank 17-18
Allen, John T 33-45
Almala, Milo 36-39
Altrock, Nicholas 12
Ams, Leon K 16-20
Andrews, Ivy Paul 33-38
Andrews, Nathan H Jr 44-45
Appleton, Peter W 37-42
Applegate, Lucy 33-44 46-50
Archibald, Maurice J 25
Arch, James J 12 16-17
Arnold, Morris 36-41
Atwood, William P 37-39
Auker, Hudson L 35-43
Austin, James 12 16-23
Babich, John G 41
Bagby, James C 17-23
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Bahn, Wilson C 39-44
Bailey, William 12
Baillie, Houston 16-20
Baker, J Franklin 12 16-23
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Bancroft, David 18-29
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Barber, Turner 22-25
Baruch, Ernst 12
Barson, William H 30-41
Bartunek, Clarence H 12
Barnes, Josiah L 18-20
Barnes, Virgil J 25-38
Bardwell, Clyde 25-38
Barratt, Charles L 29-40
Barratt, John L 45-47
Barratt, William J 27-30
Barry, John 12 16-19
Bartell, Richard 29-44 46
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Bates, John W 12
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Beck, Walter William 34
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Becker, Beals 16
Beede, Frederick L 12
Beggs, Joseph H W 41-47 48
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Boll, Lester R 29-32
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Bentz, Joseph 16-19
Berardino, John 40-43 46-50 52
Berg, Morris 30-31
Berger, Walter A 31-40
Berry, Charles F 31-34 36
Bescher, Robert M 16-17
Betts, Walter M 33-36
Betzal, Albert 16-19
Bevans, Floyd C 47-48
Bigbee, Carson Lee 20-26
Binks, George Alvin 46-48
Birkof, Ralph A 35-37
Birmingham, Joseph 12
Bishop, Max Frederick 26-35
Bissonnette, Adolphus L 29-33
Bithorn, Hiram 43-44 46-47
Blackburn, Russell A 12 16
Blackwell, Albert Jr 47-53
Blades, Francis Raymond 25-28
Blashen, George F 30-36
Blake, Clair, Victor 31-33
Blake, John Fred 27-31
Blankenship, Teddy 23-29
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Blueme, Oswald 25-40
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Breuer, Marvin Howard 42-43
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Brown, Edward 25-28
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Brown, Lloyd Andrew 30-38
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Brown, Robert Murray 33
Brown, Robert 12
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Buchler, James 36-38
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Burke, David 12
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Burns, George W 16-26
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Bush, Guy T 28-38
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COVER PHOTOGRAPHS OF PLAYERS

f = outside front cover,  b = outside back cover, if = inside front cover, 1b = inside back cover. Each asterisk (*) denotes an additional small head photograph of a player not identified in this list. "19" is omitted from the edition years (as in the player subject list).

12 f Cobb 52 f Musial 65 if BR Robinson 76 if Seaver
   Jackson 53 f Sauer 1b R Allen 1b J Palmer
   Seabright 53 f squat 66 f * ** 77 f Munson
   f Speaker 54 f Rosen b Clemente b J Morgan
   f Sizer 55 f Dark 1b Oliva 1b J Palmer
   f Alexander 56 f Stargell 67 f * ** 78 f G Foster
20 f Ruth 56 f Snider f Mantle Carew
21 f Ruth 57 f Mantle f M Alou if Carlson
22 f Mantle 57 f Newcombe 1b Peters 1b Lyle
23 f Sizer 58 f Spahn f Yastrzemski 79 f Guidry **
24 f Johnson 58 f Mantle f McCormick if G Perry
25 f Vanau 59 f Turley 66 f McLain 81 f Brett
   f Speaker 60 f Drysdale if Mantle Schmidt
26 f Harvey 61 f Maris 62 f Ashburn b F Howard
27 f Frisch 61 f Maris 63 f Banks if Tiant
28 f Willson 62 f Ashburn b McCovey if Carlson
29 f Turner 62 f Ford 1b McCovey if Carlson
30 f Grimes 63 f Sutcliffe if Kuenn
31 f Grove 64 f Trout 1b Aaron 1b B Sutter
32 f Simmons 65 f Trout 65 f McLain 1b B Sutter
33 f Klein 66 f Trout 66 f McLain 1b B Sutter
34 f Terry 67 f Trout 67 f McLain 1b B Sutter
35 f Dean 68 f Trout 68 f McLain 1b B Sutter
36 f Greenberg 69 f Turner 69 f McLain 1b B Sutter
37 f Gehrig 70 f Turner 70 f McLain 1b B Sutter
38 f Medwick 71 f Turner 71 f McLain 1b B Sutter
39 f Fox 72 f Turner 72 f McLain 1b B Sutter
40 f Cather 73 f Turner 73 f McLain 1b B Sutter
41 f Catcher 74 f Turner 74 f McLain 1b B Sutter
42 f J DiMaggio 75 f Turner 75 f McLain 1b B Sutter
43 f T Williams 76 f Turner 76 f McLain 1b B Sutter
44 f Musial 77 f Turner 77 f McLain 1b B Sutter
45 f Newhouser 78 f Turner 78 f McLain 1b B Sutter
46 f Newhouser 79 f Turner 79 f McLain 1b B Sutter
47 f Dyer 80 f Turner 80 f McLain 1b B Sutter
48 f Kiner 81 f Turner 81 f McLain 1b B Sutter
49 f Long 82 f Turner 82 f McLain 1b B Sutter
50 f Sourdreau 83 f Turner 83 f McLain 1b B Sutter
51 f Konstanty 84 f Turner 84 f McLain 1b B Sutter

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* * * * *

SABR RESEARCH GUIDE #7 (Bibliography Committee)
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