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EXTRA INNINGS: A PRIVATE COLLECTION OF IMPORTANT BASEBALL MEMORABILIA

LIVE SALE: OCTOBER 7

ONLINE SALE: SEPTEMBER 24 – OCTOBER 8



NEW YORK – Christie's and Hunt Auctions announce a historic offering from a single owner private collection of baseball memorabilia and trading cards entitled **"Extra Innings: A Private Collection of Important Baseball Memorabilia."** A live sale will take place on October 7 at Christie's Rockefeller Galleries in New York, and an online sale will run from September 24 through October 8. The collection has been assembled over the last 25 years, and features iconic players, teams, and moments in the history of Major League Baseball with specific focus on items of scarcity. Highlights of the auction include a Babe Ruth professional model hat worn during his 1927-28 Bustin Babes barnstorming Tour (\$200,000-\$400,000) and an important Babe Ruth Professional Model Baseball Bat with Eight Home Run Notches c.1928-29 (\$500,000-\$1,000,000).

With 435 lots and estimates starting at \$100 in the online sale, the sales present an opportunity for new and long-time collectors alike. The exhibition will open to the public by appointment at Christie's Rockefeller Center galleries between October 2-6.

"This particular private collection has remained largely unknown within the industry for over 25 years," **stated David Hunt, President, Hunt Auctions.** "The collection was assembled over 15-20 years ago and is noted as one of the great remaining private archives of its type in the hobby. A great number of the items within the collection are being unveiled to the public for the very first time including several which are the finest known examples of their medium. Hunt Auctions is thrilled to once again partner with Christie's to present this iconic offering of historic baseball artifacts."

As is often the case within the sports memorabilia world, the Bambino will be the star of the show. Among the highlights of the Extra Innings Collection is a very rare babe Ruth professional model hat worn during his 1927-28 "Bustin Babes" Barnstorming Tour. In 1927, a three week barnstorming tour of 21 cities was organized for sluggers Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig following what many consider to be the finest season ever in MLB history for the New York Yankees. The tour promoted "a rivalry between Babe and Gehrig" equal to the World Series itself and fans flocked to local towns and stadiums to see the two star players along with local teams playing in various barnstorming games. Artifacts of significance from the Bustin Babes and Larrupin Lous Tour are exceedingly scarce and the present hat is in outstanding original condition and one of the more elite surviving pieces that exists from this historic tour.

Another very important piece within the collection is a Babe Ruth professional model baseball bat with Eight Home Run Notches c.1928-29. This bat is incredibly rare; two of the five bats in existence with home run notches are held within public institutions. In "Babe Ruth's Own Book of Baseball" published in 1928, the Bambino explains, *"Last season I started a stunt which gave the boys quite a laugh for a long time. I started "notching" my bats for home runs, like the old gunmen used to notch their guns when they killed a man. Every time I would hit a home run I would cut a notch in the bat handle of the club I had used."* The bat measures 35" in length and weighs 35.4 ounces both which are consistent with ordered models of the period.

Additional highlights from the collection include the exceedingly scarce and important 1911 "shoeless" Joe Jackson autographed photograph by Frank W. Smith, known to be the only signed photo of Joe Jackson in existence; rare items from the personal collection of Joe DiMaggio; a group of items with relation to the 1919 World Series, such as the iconic letter sent by Commissioner Landis to Joe Jackson denying his application for reinstatement.

SALE HIGHLIGHTS



EXCEEDINGLY SCARCE AND IMPORTANT
1911 "SHOELESS" JOE JACKSON
AUTOGRAPHED PHOTOGRAPH BY FRANK W.
SMITH
Estimate: \$200,000-400,000



EXCEEDINGLY SCARCE 1925 LOU GEHRIG
AUTOGRAPHED ROOKIE EXHIBIT POSTCARD
Estimate: \$500,000-1,000,000

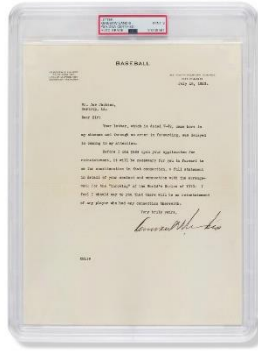


IMPORTANT BABE RUTH PROFESSIONAL
MODEL BASEBALL BAT WITH EIGHT HOME
RUN NOTCHES C.1928-29
Estimate: \$500,000-1,000,000



**EXCEEDINGLY SCARCE 1915 BUFFALO
"BUFFEDS" FEDERAL LEAGUE
PROFESSIONAL MODEL UNIFORM**

Estimate: \$20,000-30,000



**HISTORIC JULY 16, 1923 COMMISSIONER
KENNESAW MOUNTAIN LANDIS
AUTOGRAPHED LETTER AS SENT TO
"SHOELESS" JOE JACKSON REGARDING MLB
REINSTATEMENT**

Estimate: \$75,000-100,000



**IMPORTANT MARCH 1, 1954 MARILYN
MONROE AUTOGRAPHED HANDWRITTEN
LETTER AS SENT TO JOE DIMAGGIO**

Estimate: \$75,000-150,000

Extra Innings: A Private Collection of Important Baseball Memorabilia

CHRISTIE'S | 20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York

LIVE SALE | October 7

ONLINE SALE | September 24 – October 8

PREVIEW | October 2-6

PRESS IMAGES CAN BE [DOWNLOADED HERE](#)

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About Christie's

Founded in 1766, Christie's is a world-leading art and luxury business. Renowned and trusted for its expert live and online auctions, as well as its bespoke private sales, Christie's offers a full portfolio of [global services](#) to its clients, including art appraisal, art financing, international real estate and education. Christie's has a physical presence in 46 countries, throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific, with flagship [international sales hubs](#) in New York, London, Hong Kong, Paris and Geneva. It also is the only international auction house authorized to hold sales in mainland China (Shanghai). Christie's [auctions](#) span more than [80 art and luxury categories](#), at price points ranging from \$200 to over \$100 million. In recent years, Christie's has achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction (Leonardo da Vinci's *Salvador Mundi*, 2017), for a single collection sale (the Collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller, 2018), and for a work by a living artist (Jeff Koons' *Rabbit*, 2019).

Christie's [Private Sales](#) offers a seamless service for buying and selling art, jewellery and watches outside of the auction calendar, working exclusively with Christie's specialists at a client's individual pace.

Recent innovations at Christie's include the groundbreaking sale of the first NFT for a digital work of art ever offered at a major auction house (Beeple's *Everydays*, March 2021), with the unprecedented acceptance of cryptocurrency as a means of payment. As an industry leader in digital innovation, Christie's also continues to pioneer new technologies that are redefining the business of art, including the creation of viewing and bidding experiences that integrate augmented reality, global livestreaming, buy-now channels, and hybrid sales formats.

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About Hunt Auctions

Exton, Pennsylvania based Hunt Auctions has been a leader in the sports memorabilia auction industry for 33 years. Numerous former players and their families have trusted their collections with Hunt Auctions including Babe Ruth (HOF), Ted Williams (HOF), Joe DiMaggio (HOF), Roberto Clemente (HOF), Bill Russell (HOF), Brett Favre (HOF), Whitey Ford (HOF), Curt Flood, Gale Sayers (HOF), Vin Scully (HOF), Tony Dorsett (HOF), Tony Gwynn (HOF), Reggie White (HOF), Randall Cunningham, Joseph Carr (HOF), Leo Durocher (HOF), Robin Roberts (HOF), Earl Weaver (HOF), Commissioner Bowie Kuhn (HOF), Warren Spahn (HOF), Johnny Bench (HOF), Johnny Unitas (HOF), Clem Labine, Mickey Vernon, Thurman Munson, Tim Lincecum (HOF), Roy Campanella (HOF), Harmon Killebrew (HOF), Bill Mazeroski (HOF), Kent Tekulve, Steve Blass, Johnny Pesky, Charles "Kid" Nichols (HOF), Jim Palmer (HOF), Bucky Walters, Walter Johnson (HOF), Bill McKechnie (HOF), Willie Mosconi, Joe Frazier and Norm Van Brocklin (HOF). Hunt Auctions is also the Official Auction Company of Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory and the Official Auctioneer of the MLB® All-Star PlayBallPark™. Hunt Auctions has worked with numerous institutions to include: National Football League, Philadelphia Phillies®, Pittsburgh Pirates®, Baltimore Orioles®, Boston Red Sox®, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, National Baseball Hall of Fame, Pro Football Hall of Fame, Chicago Bulls, National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame and Baseball Assistance Team.

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Images available on request

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