



## NEWSLETTER, Vol. 25, No. 1 (April, 2015)

### The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

(<http://www.baseball-museum.or.jp/>)

(Prepared by Ryuichi Suzuki)

#### p.1 New Accessions Committee

Shinichi Hirose, President

With the kind support from many people, our baseball collection has been expanding year by year. It now comprises more than 40,000 museum items and 50,000 library items. Thanks to a higher recognition of our institution, offers of donations have been increasing so much that it has become necessary to review acquisitions procedures. Upon visiting the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, N.Y., last fall, our staff has learned extensively how the two accessions committees are functioning there. With reference to the American version, we set up an accessions committee last December as follows.

Name: Accessions Committee

Starting Date: December 1, 2014

Members: Administration director, curators and librarians

Objects: To prepare the principles of collection and its procedures so as to make the review done systematically and smoothly. To prepare an application form for donation of materials and make clear the transfer of the right of ownership of the donated material(s) from the donor to the BHF.M.

#### Outline of Accessions

Our collected materials are divided into two types: 1) any materials related to the history of baseball in Japan from the past to the present and may be added to our museum collection (bats, gloves, uniforms, trophies, jewelry, documents, recorded media, etc.); 2) books and magazines, etc. on baseball, published at home and abroad, that will be added to our library collection.

The present focus of our collection of museum materials are those associated with:

- 1) Teams and players who made a spectacular showing in amateur and pro baseball
- 2) Hall of Famers
- 3) Samurai Japan and its related international championships
- 4) Amateur and pro baseball up to 1945

The present focus of our collection of library materials are:

- 1) History of amateur baseball leagues and clubs, pamphlets of their championships and league tournaments
- 2) Baseball books and magazines published outside of Tokyo
- 3) Books and magazines related to baseball in foreign countries

4) Books and magazines related to amateur and pro baseball up to 1945

To those who intend to donate their valuable materials:

Please read carefully the points to note on the transfer of ownership mentioned in the application form.

On your consent, please fill out the application form and send it to our Accessions Committee.

The application form can also be obtained by downloading our Website or by mail.

Let us remind you that under some circumstances we may not accept your materials on review.

Thank you for your kind cooperation.

Please send the application form to:

Accessions Committee  
Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum  
3-61, Koraku-1-chome, Bunkyo-ku  
Tokyo 112-0004

p.2 Sustaining Membership Renewed

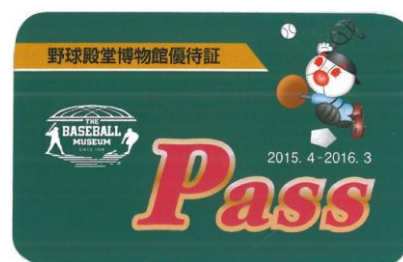
Shinichi Hirose, President

Since its inauguration in 1959 as a museum specializing in baseball, the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has been dedicated to its functions of collecting, preserving and exhibiting materials on baseball. We also have honored baseball greats by inducting them into the Hall of Fame. Sustaining members are expected to endorse and support the above projects by paying the membership fees. We are very grateful that as of March 31, we have 49 corporate, 92 individual and two junior members.

Sustaining membership started on April 1, 1960, and was revised on November 8, 1989; Now we have three categories of sustaining members: corporate, individual and junior (elementary and junior high school students).

Sustaining members are entitled to receive the following:

- 1) Quarterly Newsletter
- 2) Complimentary ticket (i.e., member's card) valid throughout the year.  
This ticket is valid for the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, N.Y.
- 3) Courtesy tickets for non-members
- 4) Occasional News Release
- 5) 10% reduction to the items on sale at the baseball museum
- 6) *The Baseball Hall of Fame 2015* (For new members only. Junior members excepted)
- 7) Original pinned badge (for new junior members)



Corporate sustaining members are privileged to advertise their membership in their publicity work, Such as, "We are supporting the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum."

Sustaining members are invited to the press conference in January in which the Hall of Famers of the year are to be announced. The BHFMM will be closed on that day.

Sustaining members have priority in attending a lecture meeting and talk show.

We sincerely wish for the continued support from the present sustaining members and also wish for many prospective members, corporate, individual and junior, to join us and support our activities.

How to obtain sustaining membership:

- 1) Please download our website (<http://www.baseball-museum.or.jp/>) or
- 2) Fill out the application form available at the Baseball Museum and either hand it to our staff or mail it to us.
- 3) On receipt of the application form, a bill will be sent to you to remit the membership fee.
- 4) Please contact us at 03-3811-3600, if necessary.

The yearly membership is valid from April to March.

Corporate membership fee is 100,000 yen, Individual membership fee is 10,000 yen, and Junior membership fee is 2,000 yen.

pp.2-3 Rara Avis (84) Hiroshi Hiraoka's Early Study in the U.S. (1871-76)

Mariko Inagaki, curator



At 16, Hiroshi Hiraoka went to the U.S. in 1871 and studied locomotive production engineering. In the process he learned how to play baseball as a side benefit. After returning to Japan in 1876, he formed the Shimbashi Athletic Club (See photo below. Hiraoka, center in middle), the first formal baseball club in Japan in 1878. Availing himself of a baseball kit and rulebook he ordered from the U.S., he also coached schools and clubs, providing a boost to the spread of baseball in Japan. He was one of the first nine inductees to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1959. To deepen our knowledge about his days in the U.S., I began last summer to contact various institutions mainly in Boston; universities, libraries, museums, historical societies and railways-related facilities. On my inspection tour to Cooperstown with Natsuki Nakamoto, our administration director, I extended my leg to Boston and

made an on-site study on him at Boston University and Boston Public Library (BPL). Here I will introduce two of the most interesting materials among those which I have collected so far.

One is the application he sent in to the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IME) in England in April, 1897. According to the letter of introduction of about 100 words, he studied at a grammar school in Boston from 1871 to 1873 and, after working for Baldwin Locomotive Works (BLW), he received practical training at Manchester Locomotive Works (MLW) in New Hampshire. Judging from the fact the application has signatures of him and five witnesses and that he was admitted to the said institution, it may safely be said that the contents of the application is reliable.

The other is the letter-sized notebook in the possession of BPL entitled, "Japanese Students in Boston Address Book 1871-1876 (JSBAB)," which enters by handwriting about 75 Japanese in alphabetical order with their present and later addresses in Boston. It is supposedly prepared by Charles Knapp Dillaway, educator, but it is unknown why. According to JSBAB, Hiraoka went to the U.S. with Atsumori Shimizu (Tokugawa) and others.



After arriving in Boston, he lodged at Elizabeth (?) Boynton's house at Mt. Pleasant 1 (see photo left), Roxbury. In May, 1873, he moved to its neighborhood and later stayed at Norwich in Connecticut. In January, he moved to Manchester and lodged at Mr. Aretas' (presumably Mr. Aretas Blood of MLW) house. Later he moved back to Boston and returned to Japan in June, 1876.

The grammar school he attended is believed to be Lewis School (a junior high school). It was opened in 1868 near the intersection of Dale St. and Sherman St. at Roxbury in Boston. It was a 15-minute walk from his lodgings in Mt. Pleasant Place. It moved to the present site in 1911 as Higginson Lewis School. The former site is now vacant

(see photo right). At present, Roxbury is the greatest

African-American community in Boston, but when Hiraoka lived there, most of the residents were immigrants from England, Ireland and Germany. Though there is no official record in Boston of his attending Lewis School, but there remains a contribution in a newspaper written by his teacher which says he improved a lot in his schoolwork compared to his first days in the U.S.



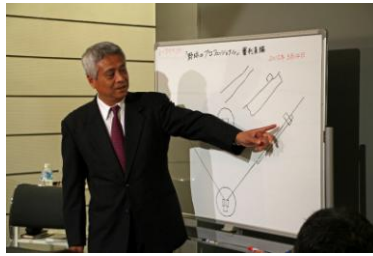
BLW (mentioned in his application that IME) was actually based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. There is no mention of Hiraoka's staying there. According to the Railways Museum in Pennsylvania, there is no record of his working for BLW, and its employees' roster in the 1870s is missing. However, there remains a slight possibility that, as he was keenly interested in locomotives, he had something to do with BLW which was well-known in those days. There is no record of testimony of his working for MLW either, but in a newspaper published in September, 1874, there is an article which says Hiraoka from Manchester displayed the drawing of a locomotive at the agriculture fair and artwork and machinery exhibition, which will help suggest the possibility he had something to do with MLW.



These two materials give us an important clue to investigate his stint in the U.S. JSBAB mentions former Japanese lords of feudal clans who later played an active role in the political and diplomatic fields in the Meiji Era, many of whom shared or successively lived in the same lodgings. It is easy to surmise that Hiraoka mixed with many fellow countrymen in the foreign soil and extended his personal contacts with future VIPs.

In conclusion, let me mention the next stage of my investigations will aim at the connection between Hiraoka in the U.S. and baseball.

March 14 Talk Show by baseball professionals: umpires



Osamu Ino, former umpire-in-chief of NPB and Masato Tomoyose, present umpire-in-chief of NPB applied their extensive knowledge and experiences in explaining umpiring, first touching on the final play at first base in the decisive Game 5 of the 2014 Japan Series, which became the talk of the town.

March 20 Talk Show by baseball professionals: reporters and (simultaneous) announcer



Gotaro Nagase, editor of Sports Nippon, Tomonori Iijima, sports desk of Nikkan Sports, and Kazuo Koguchi, former announcer for Nippon Broadcasting, told about the ins and outs of pro baseball, ending with their predictions of the pennant races in CL and PL.

March 28 & 29 Batmaking demonstration

Three times on both days: 11:00~12:00, 13:30~14:30, 15:00~16:00



Craftsman Takahiro Watanabe of Mizuno Technics demonstrated bat making for 20 minutes, sandwiched by his talk and questions from the floor.

p.5 Inductees Remembered (47)

My father as manager and benefactor of baseball

Seiichi Hayashi

Eldest son of Kazuo Hayashi, 2015 Hall of Famer



“Hey, Seiichi, how about putting up a baseball team playing with a “hard ball”?” (v. N.B) It was some 50 years ago when I was in the 5th grade in elementary school. It was a remark from my father, who had devoted himself to baseball from his early childhood. “I did it!” In joy to hold a “hard ball” and play baseball with it, I rushed around town to search for prospective players. However, the response from my baseball friends was, “Little League? What’s that?” and they didn’t show any interest in it and kept declining by saying, “It’s dangerous and scary to use “hard balls” like adults do.” But my enticing words, a mere echo of my father’s, proved successful.

“If you become the champions in Japan, you’ll be able to participate in the world tournament in the U.S.!” Thus in a week, a team of 11 got started ~ the beginning of Little League in Chofu. Things were as they were, uniforms were far from uniform. My mother wrote uniform numbers in *sumi* (Japan ink) on a piece of cloth and stitched them on the back of white uniforms. The most popular numbers were 1 and 3, and we had to decide who will wear Oh’s and Nagashima’s uniform numbers by doing *janken*.

As my father led us to play more and more games with “hard balls” as general manager, he began to feel that hard ball baseball was the only way to compete with American teams, however popular “soft ball” baseball was in Japan, and he started actively to promote Little League baseball across the country. In 1967, he led the picked West Tokyo to a championship in Japan and got a berth in the world championship at Williamsport, Pennsylvania, the mecca of Little League baseball. What he saw there was a revelation to him.

Boys from every corner of the world were playing impartially together, overcoming the handicaps of different languages. Inspired by this friendly sight, he urged his players from the second day in the players’ village to visit the accommodations of other teams. Believe it or not, this was a remark from a person bred in a control-oriented baseball. In those days swimming was a taboo to baseball players in Japan, but foreign players plunged into the pool immediately after the game. Even our boys gave them a glacial stare. ”How come they are swimming to cool their shoulders?” But my father said, “As Americans do it, there is no reason to believe that swimming is not good for young baseball players,” and he continued, to our great surprise saying, “Well, every time you win the game, you can freely swim!” Lured by his enticing words, we kept winning, and captured the world championship.

After returning home, he wanted many baseball-loving boys to share the wonderful experience and exerted himself more than ever to promote Little League baseball. He was so sorry for the 12-year-old boys to be obliged to go back to “soft ball” baseball in junior high school, that he set up little senior “hard ball” baseball for them. From a little start some 40 years ago, it has developed into an organization with 560 teams across the country. It is well known that it has turned out a great many pro baseball players.

He always said that a letter of appreciation, a certificate of commendation or an award for distinguished service or the like should be shared by all the people concerned. He was given the highest honor in baseball: induction to the Baseball Hall of Fame. He must be saying in heaven that it has been awarded to all the people involved, so the pleasure must be shared by all of them.

N.B. In Japan, regulation “hard balls,” aka “Kokyu,” were adopted to rubber “soft balls,” aka “Nankyu,” in the early 1920s and popularly used mainly in sandlot baseball.

*Janken* is the equivalent of tossing a coin to decide a winner, by thrusting out one hand in one of three gestures to signify “paper,” “scissors” or “rock.”

p.6 Topics (Visitors to the BHF: February through April, 2015)

March 2: Manabu Kitabepu (2012 HOF), Koichi Tabuchi, Masayuki Kakefu and Suguru Egawa on recording for a TV program.



March 5-6: Members of Team Europe. They participated in the Hikari TV 4K Baseball Match 2015 held at Tokyo Dome on March 10 and 11.



March 10: A good-luck charm for baseball (see p.7) was presented to all the members of Samurai Japan prior to the first game of the Hikari TV 4K Baseball Match 2015 at Tokyo Dome.

(Caption: Captain Motohiro Shima and Shinichi Hirose, president of BHF)



p.7 Topics continued

March 11: The commissioner of the CPBL and his staff. They enjoyed seeing artifacts associated with Sadaharu Oh and the special exhibition (January 17 to April 5) on the 1931 Jiayi Agriculture and Forestry Institute (aka KANO) team and the movie KANO.

(Caption: left to right: Young, Toyo Liu, Kerwin Chu, secretary general, John Chih-Yang Wu, commissioner, and Shinichi Hirose)



March 19: Press conference on the presentation of the PR Video for the comeback of baseball and softball in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. It was co-produced by the All-Japan Baseball Association, Japan Softball Association and NPB. The conference was attended by Kensuke Tanaka (Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters) and Yukiko Ueno (Big Camera Softball Takasaki) who have appeared in the video. It will be shown on at every official game of baseball and softball after being televised at the Invitational High School Baseball Championship which started on March 21.



p.7 News from the Baseball Museum

1 ) The board of directors meeting was held on Monday, March 9, with the following agenda.

- a) Approval of the 2015 budget and projects; the new candidates of councilors; and meeting agendas
- b) Report of the chairman and president on their activity; the setting up of the accessions committee; and



the setting up of the BHF M reexamination committee

## 2) Invitation to Fan Appreciation Days

Younger members (junior high school students and under) of each of the fan clubs of the 12 NPB teams are invited free to the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum on the following days. The first 300 visitors with their member card will be presented with an original postcard. The feature of each NPB day is the special display of artifacts and screening of films of the respective club.

Chiba Lotte Marines	Wednesday, September 2
Chunichi Dragons	Saturday, June 20
Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks	Monday, June 29
Hanshin Tigers	Saturday, July 11
Hiroshima Toyo Carp	Wednesday, May 13
Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters	(Wednesday, April 8)
Orix Buffaloes	Wednesday, June 3
Saitama Seibu Lions	Thursday, May 28
Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles	Friday, July 3
Tokyo Yakult Swallows	Saturday, May 16
Yokohama DeNA Baystars	Wednesday, June 24
Yomiuri Giants	(Saturday, April 11)

- 3) On Sale ① *Baseball Hall of Fame 2015* Official guide of the BHF M  
Bios of 187 Hall of Famers  
Edited by BHF M; Published by Baseball Magazine, Co.  
A5, 249 pp., Published on March 20, 2015  
¥2,700 (Tax included)



- ② Baseball charm ¥800 (tax included)

A good-luck charm for baseball made of glove leather



## 4) Guide to the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

The entrance is located to the right of Gate 21 of Tokyo Dome.

Hours: 10:00—18:00 (March through September)

10:00—17:00 (October through February)

(Visitors are requested to enter at least 30 minutes prior to the closing time.)

Admission: ¥600 (¥500) Adults (16-64)

¥400 High school and university students (over 15)

¥200 (¥150) Elementary & Junior High School students

(\* Per person in groups 20 or more)

¥400 Senior citizens aged 65 or older

Closed: 1) Mondays except those 1) during the spring and summer vacations,  
2) that fall on National Holidays,  
3) when a pro baseball game is held at Tokyo Dome.

2) December 29 through January 1

N.B. In other words, from May to July, the museum will be closed on:

May 11, 18 and 25; June 1, 15 and 22; July 6 and 13

Take note. The BHFMM is open on Tuesday, July 14, through Sunday, September 6.

P. 8 Essay (59) Interviews with baseball legends

Katsuyuki Suganuma, Sankei Sports

Member of the Players Selection Committee

The year 2014 saw the 80th anniversary of the NPB, and I had a memorable experience. Our Sankei Sports ran “Thank you, 80 years of NPB!” for the whole season, in which nine great baseball players talked candidly about their personal histories and episodes. The interviewees were (in order of appearance) Sadaharu Oh, Masaichi Kaneda, Tatsuro Hirooka, Junzo Sekine, Takeshi Koba, Tokuji Nagaike, Tsutomu Wakamatsu, Shigeru Sugishita and Shigeo Nagashima. Common to all of them were that, though advanced in age, they were full of vitality and, above all, they loved baseball.

Nagashima gave a valuable talk in a long interview. He suffered a cerebral infarction in March, 2004, and still goes to the hospital three times a week for rehabilitation. He gets up at 5:30 a.m. and goes for a 30- or 40-minute walk every morning. He is firmly determined to undergo difficult rehabilitation, wishing to encourage his fellow sufferers with his experience. Last year on July 14, in the first pitch ceremony prior to the Giants–Dragons game at Tokyo Dome, he stood in the batter’s box with a bat in his left hand facing Masaichi Kaneda on the pitcher’s mound. He also wishes to play his favorite game of golf again. He went so far as to ask a pro golfer how to swing a club with only the left hand. From his university days, he was always spectator-conscious. It was impressive to see him speak in a strong tone, saying “Fans are everything to pro baseball. It is important to get children and adults interested in baseball in various ways.”

Sugishita is hale and hearty indeed. He was born in 1925 and will celebrate his 90th birthday in September. “The Forkball God” has often been asked to act as a temporary coach by many pro teams, and this spring he was at the Chunichi Dragons camp ground in Okinawa during its entire period, coaching players as young as his grandchildren. He is still an active golfer. From spring, he goes to a golf course three or four times a month and plays a round with a score of about 100. He began playing golf when he was invited to join the spring camp of San Francisco Seals in 1951, so he is proud of being the first golfer among Japanese pro baseball players. He used to drive more than 300 yards with a score in the 60s and now aims at shooting his age.

Kaneda tells eagerly over and over again about the importance of meticulous self-control in training, food and sleeping to active players. Hirooka does not stop talking once he starts telling tales about pro baseball, criticizing particular coaching errors or fielding skills. Oh earnestly called for a comeback of baseball in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. All of their talks impressed on me again the fact that the present pro baseball players are following the footsteps of their seniors and are supported by their love of baseball.

“Thank you, 80 years of NPB” was published recently with a new title, “That Day, That Moment Told by Baseball Legends” by Sankei Shimbun Publishing.Co. I would be most grateful if you could read it.