

**The New York Public Library  
Humanities and Social Sciences Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

**Albert G. Spalding Collection  
Materials in the Manuscripts and Archives Division**

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## Biographical Note

Albert Goodwill Spalding (1850-1915), baseball player, manager, and sporting goods manufacturer, was born in Byron, Illinois. He began his career in baseball playing for the Forest City team of Rockford, Illinois. In 1871 he joined Harry Wright's newly-organized Boston team. As pitcher and team captain, Spalding led the team to four consecutive National Association championships, 1872-1875. He was instrumental in the formation of the National League and in 1876 joined its Chicago team as pitcher and manager. From 1882-1891 he served as team president. From 1888-1889 he took the Chicago players and an All-American team on a world tour to promote baseball internationally through a series of exhibition games. To increase the popularity of baseball at home he published the annual *Spalding's Official Baseball Guide* and wrote a history of baseball, *America's National Game* (1911). The sporting goods firm which still bears his name was founded by Spalding and his brother in 1876.

## Scope and Content Note

The Albert G. Spalding Collection contains over 3,000 books and pamphlets as well as numerous periodicals, scrapbooks, photographs, and original drawings on baseball and other sports. A catalogue of the entire collection was published in the *Bulletin of The New York Public Library* (1922) Volume 26, pp. 86-127. The books and pamphlets can be found in the General Research Division of the N.Y.P.L.; the photographs and drawings in the Art, Prints and Photographs Division. The materials belonging to the Manuscripts and Archives Division include Baseball Club records; Henry Chadwick Papers; Albert G. Spalding scrapbooks; and Harry Wright Papers.

The Baseball Club records include scorebooks for games played by the Atlantic Base Ball Club of Brooklyn and Jamaica, New York, 1855-1868 and the Cincinnati Base Ball Club, 1868-1870. Records of the Knickerbocker Base Ball Club of New-York include scorebooks, 1845-1866, as well as scrapbooks of correspondence, 1846-1876, and club books, 1854-1868, containing lists of members, minutes of meetings, and records of the board of officers.

The Henry Chadwick Papers consist of scorebooks, scrapbooks, and diaries kept by the renowned sports writer and "Father of Baseball" who was instrumental in the development of modern playing rules and the system of scoring in baseball. The scorebooks, 1858-1907, contain completed scorecards for professional and amateur baseball games, including some college games. Additional materials such as newspaper clippings, rules, National Association annual meeting minutes, and photographs have been pasted in as well. There are also four score books for cricket games played by American teams, amateur and professional, from 1856 to 1882.

The majority of the scrapbooks, 1858-1908, contain newspaper reports on baseball games, including Chadwick's own columns. Other material found in the scrapbooks include notes and drafts of his writings on sports, souvenir programs, admission tickets, and other ephemera. Of particular note are the volume of Chadwick's correspondence and draft manuscripts (Vol. 26) and the scrapbook containing material added after Chadwick's death regarding the first French baseball team (Vol. 19). The remaining volumes contain newspaper clippings on cricket and other sports.

Chadwick's diaries are pocket and desk diaries, 1873-1907, used as scrapbooks for clippings on baseball games, including box scores, statistics, league schedules, and season summaries.

The Albert G. Spalding scrapbooks, 1874-1911, contain clippings on baseball, on Spalding's book *America's National Game* and in particular, on Spalding's baseball world tour, 1888-1889. The latter include ephemera collected on the trip, such as menus, invitations, game schedules, etc. Volume 5 contains letters thanking Spalding for complimentary copies of his book.

The Harry Wright Papers consist of correspondence, notebooks, account books, and scorebooks owned by the famous baseball player and manager responsible for organizing the Cincinnati Red Stockings, the first professional baseball team. His correspondence, 1865-1894,

is divided into letterpress copies of his own letters, 1871-1885, and scrapbooks of letters to him. Of the original four volumes of incoming letters donated to the library, only the volume 1878-1884 remains in the collection.

Wright's notebooks and account books, 1860-1893, contain notes, diary entries, personal and team expenses, box office accounts, game scores, notes on players, and other information kept by Wright as team manager. The scorebooks contain scores and statistics for games played, 1883-1892, while he was manager of the National League's Philadelphia team.

Boxed separately is a small number of photographs of baseball teams and individual players, 1860s-1870s, which were removed from the Chadwick scorebooks and Spalding scrapbooks. Most of the photographs in the Spalding Collection are housed in the Art, Prints, and Photographs Division.

## Container List

### I. BASEBALL CLUBS

Atlantic Base Ball Clubs. Game Books 1855-1868. 1 vol.

Cincinnati Base Ball Club. Scorebooks. 1868-1869; 1869-1870. 2 vols. (**Microfilm reel 1**)

Knickerbocker Base Ball Club.

A. Correspondence Scrapbooks

1. 1846-1874
2. 1874-1876

B. Game Books (for practice games) (**Microfilm Reel 2**)

1. 1845 Oct. 6 - 1849 Sept. 24.
2. 1845 Oct. 6 - 1851 Oct. 9.
3. 1852 May 3 - 1855 Nov. 29.
4. 1856 Apr. 14 - 1858 Nov. 11.
5. 1859 Apr. 18 - 1866 Jul 12.

C. Club Books (**Microfilm Reel 3**)

1. 1854 Apr. - 1859
2. 1859 Mar. - 1868

### II. HENRY CHADWICK PAPERS

A. Chadwick Diaries, 1873-1907\* (**Microfilm reels 4-7**)

These volumes were renumbered when the diaries were microfilmed.  
Five of the original 46 volumes are missing.

- |                            |               |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| 1. 1873 (Cricket)          | 21. 1894      |
| 2. 1874                    | 22. 1894      |
| 3. 1874                    | 23. 1895-1896 |
| 4. 1877                    | 24. 1895      |
| 5. 1878                    | 25. 1896      |
| 6. 1878-1879               | 26. 1896-1905 |
| 7. 1880                    | 27. 1897      |
| 8. 1881                    | 28. 1898      |
| 9. 1882-1883               | 29. 1900      |
| 10. 1884                   | 30. 1900      |
| 11. 1884-1886              | 31. 1901      |
| 12. 1885-1886              | 32. 1902      |
| 13. 1887-1888              | 33. 1903      |
| 14. 1889-1890              | 34. 1904      |
| 15. 1891                   | 35. 1904      |
| 16. 1891                   | 36. 1904      |
| 17. 1892 (amateur/college) | 37. 1905      |
| 18. 1892 (professional)    | 38. 1906      |
| 19. 1892-1893              | 39. 1906      |
| 20. 1893                   | 40. 1907      |
|                            | 41. 1907      |

## **B. Chadwick Scorebooks, 1858-1907 (not microfilmed)**

### **Baseball**

1. 1860-1864
2. 1865-1867
3. 1868-1870 (see also photographs box)
4. 1870-1872
5. 1871-1874
6. 1875-1877
11. 1880-1885; 1899-1900; 1904
12. 1883-1886
13. 1887-1888
14. 1889-1900
15. 1891-1893
16. 1893-1895
17. 1896-1899
18. 1900-1902
19. 1903-1907
20. 1858-1859.  
1905 World Series souvenir scorebook (Philadelphia Athletics vs. New York Giants)  
American League Monthly Campaign (victories/ losses by month, 1907 [?])

### **Cricket**

Four cricket score-books, 1856-1882.

## **C. Chadwick Scrapbooks (Microfilm Reels 8-11)**

1. 1858-1880
2. 1880-1890
3. 1891-1900
4. 1900-1902
5. 1902-1908
6. various years
7. various years
8. various years
9. 1860-1861; 1867 (includes Cricket)
10. ca. 1860-1870
11. ca. 1866-1870
12. 1870
13. 1874-1876
14. 1877-
15. 1880-1889
16. 1881-1883
17. 1894
18. 1905-1908
19. 1859-1883; 1913 (additional material added by Spalding?)
20. 1861-1904 (Cricket)
21. sports & games ca. 1880-1900
22. various sports ca. 1880-1900
23. various sports including baseball ca. 1870-1890
24. Ice skating ca. 1860
25. pages from *Sporting Life* ca.1870-1890
26. Correspondence and manuscripts, 1863-1906

### **III. ALBERT G. SPALDING SCRAPBOOKS**

(Microfilm Reel 12) see also: Photographs box

1. 1874-1875
2. 1876
3. missing
4. 1883-1884
5. 1911-1913. Letters to Spalding thanking him for complementary copies of his book, *America's National Game*.
6. missing
7. 1911 Clippings re *America's National Game*
- 8-11. Clippings re Spalding's baseball world tour, 1888-1889.
12. 1865; 1869-1870 reviews of theater and opera performances.

### **IV. HARRY WRIGHT PAPERS**

#### **A. Correspondence (Microfilm Reels 13-14)**

Scrapbook of letters to Wright, 1878-1884 (three additional volumes are missing).  
Letterpress copy books (copies of Wright's letters), 1871-1879; 1882-1885. 3 volumes

#### **B. Harry Wright Note and Account Books 1860-1893**

1. 1860-1871 (Microfilm Reel 15)
2. 1872-1877
3. 1876-1878
4. 1878-1881
5. 1882-188
6. 1886-1889
7. 1888-1892
8. 1876-1885
9. 1878-1881
10. 1881-1883 (diary)
11. missing
12. missing
13. 1884-1886
14. 1887-1890
15. missing
16. 1892-1893
17. 1884-1885
18. 1891-1892

#### **C. Harry Wright Score Books**

1883-1892 Ten books bound into one volume.

### **V. PHOTOGRAPHS**

1 box

Photographs, 1860s-1870s, removed from Chadwick score books and Spalding scrapbooks.

## Microfilm Reel List

### REEL #

- 1 Cincinnati Red Stockings. Score books, 1868-1870
- 2 Knickerbocker Base Ball Club. Game books, 1845-1866
- 3 Knickerbocker Base Ball Club. Club books, 1854-1868
- 4 Chadwick diaries  
Vols. 1-13
- 5 Vols. 14-20
- 6 Vols. 21-30
- 7 Vols. 31-41
- 8 Chadwick scrapbooks  
Vols. 1-6
- 9 Vols. 7-8; 10-16
- 10 Vols. 17-23
- 11 Vols. 24-26
- 12 Spalding scrapbooks, 1-2; 4-5; 7-12
- 13 Harry Wright correspondence  
Letterpress copy book, 1871-1874  
Incoming letters, 1878-1884  
Letterpress copy book, 1882-1885
- 14 Letterpress copy book, 1874-1879
- 15 Harry Wright note and account book, 1860-1871