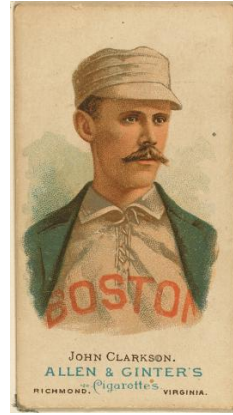


0. A VALUABLE HOBBY - Story Preface
1. THE EARLY DAYS
2. THE KNICKERBOCKER CLUB
3. BASEBALL and the CIVIL WAR
4. FOR LOVE of the GAME
5. WOMEN PLAYERS in the 19TH CENTURY
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8. BIRTH of TRADE CARDS
9. BIRTH of BASEBALL CARDS
- 10. A VALUABLE HOBBY**



John Clarkson, of the Boston Beaneaters, was included in Allen & Ginter's 1887 "World's Champions" set of baseball cards. The Library of Congress maintains [this rare object](#) as part of the Benjamin K. Edwards Collection of Baseball Cards. Click on the image for a better view.

[Duke Cigarette inserts](#) depicted many different subjects, but they were not the first to include baseball scenes and players. That designation—according to the Library of Congress and other sources—goes to [Allen & Ginter](#). Their "[World's Champions](#)"—of 1887—"is generally acknowledged as the first significant tobacco set issued."

Collecting baseball cards soon became a passion—and ultimately a big business—not just for children but for adults. [Honus Wagner](#)—a Hall of Fame shortstop for the Pittsburgh Pirates—was upset, however, when his picture was used, without his permission, to sell cigarettes.

He unwittingly created the most sought-after card in the world today because of his concerns about marketing cigarettes to children.

Wagner, it is said, demanded that cards with his image—which cost less than a penny to buy—be pulled from production in 1909. As a result, very few of the [T206 White Border #366 Honus Wagner](#) cards were ever issued. One of them—which formerly belonged to Wayne Gretzky—reportedly sold for \$2.35 million in February, 2007.

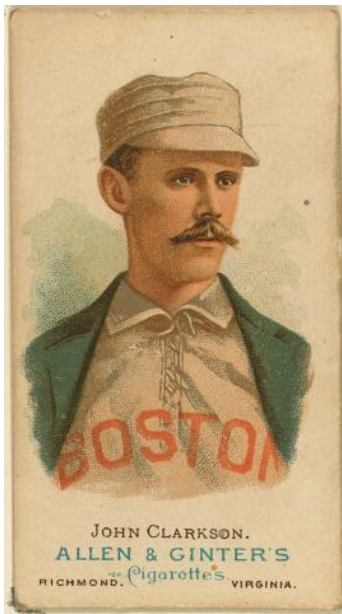
Whoever thought that the origins of baseball, and baseball cards, could be so interesting?

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/A-VALUABLE-HOBBY-Baseball-Cards>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/A-VALUABLE-HOBBY-Baseball-Cards>



1887 Baseball Card - John Clarkson, Boston Beaneaters

Library of Congress, Allen & Ginter World's Champions (N28)

View this asset at:

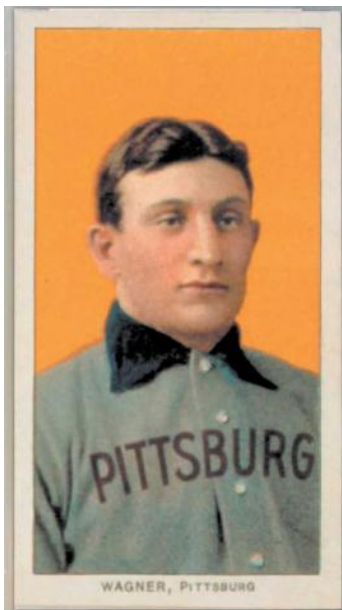
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Honus Wagner

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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Honus Wagner Baseball Card

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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