

108 S-t-i-t-c-h-e-s

Mickey Mantle still lives in the fresh cut grass of centerfields each Spring.

Working class legends from the mines of Oklahoma, fields of Van Meter, Iowa, orphanages of Baltimore, streets of St. Louis, and the textile mill towns of South Carolina produce a patchwork of national citizenry.

Apple Pie.

America.

Baseball.

One hundred eight stitches on the leather bound shell

A portrait of majority's value

Hypocrisy's select stopped democracy for way too long.

Colors of scandal

Black Sox and Reds Roses

Gentlemen's agreements, steroids, and strikes—reserve clauses and asterisks

Many a black eye for the pastime that excluded

Somehow. Someway. She carries on.

Not Wars. Not Depressions. Not Prohibitions. She carries on.

Minor Leagues and Sandlots

Shining sons in Gashouse Gangs and Bronx Bombers.

Greenbergs and Aarons slug through adversity with integrity

Branch Rickeys and Sym-Phonys, Trolley Dodgers and Dem Bums

Bill Veecks and Walter O'Malleys, Eddie Gaedels, Pete Grays, and Belles and Peaches.

Dreams of Fields of Iowa grow Costners and Fellers. Ebbets and Polos. Wrigleys and Fenways.

Green Monsters scare anyone not from Boston.

Sacred Halls in Cooperstown and dynasty Bronx houses built by Babes. Lous, Joes, Micks, Yogis, and The Scooters—brotherhood of success.

Hillerich and Bradsbys—Sluggers and Brownings.

Negro Leagues. Monarchs. Royals. Kansas City... Here I come... Satch, Cool Papa, and Josh. Rube and Effa, thank you.

Bittersweet Robinson. Your integration led the nation but killed your godmother in the process.

154 is 162, 9 innings, 61*, 715, 3 strikes you're out

Celebrity, underdogs, Wild Cards

Casey at the bats, peanuts and Cracker Jacks, Tinkers-to-Evers-to-Chances

No crying in baseballs, Luckiest man alive, Holy cows, How about that

Shot heard 'round the world, Say it ain't so, bloody Sox, goats, curses, myths, superstitions

She's a complicated mess

Baseball.

Willard Jacob Cornwell circa 2011