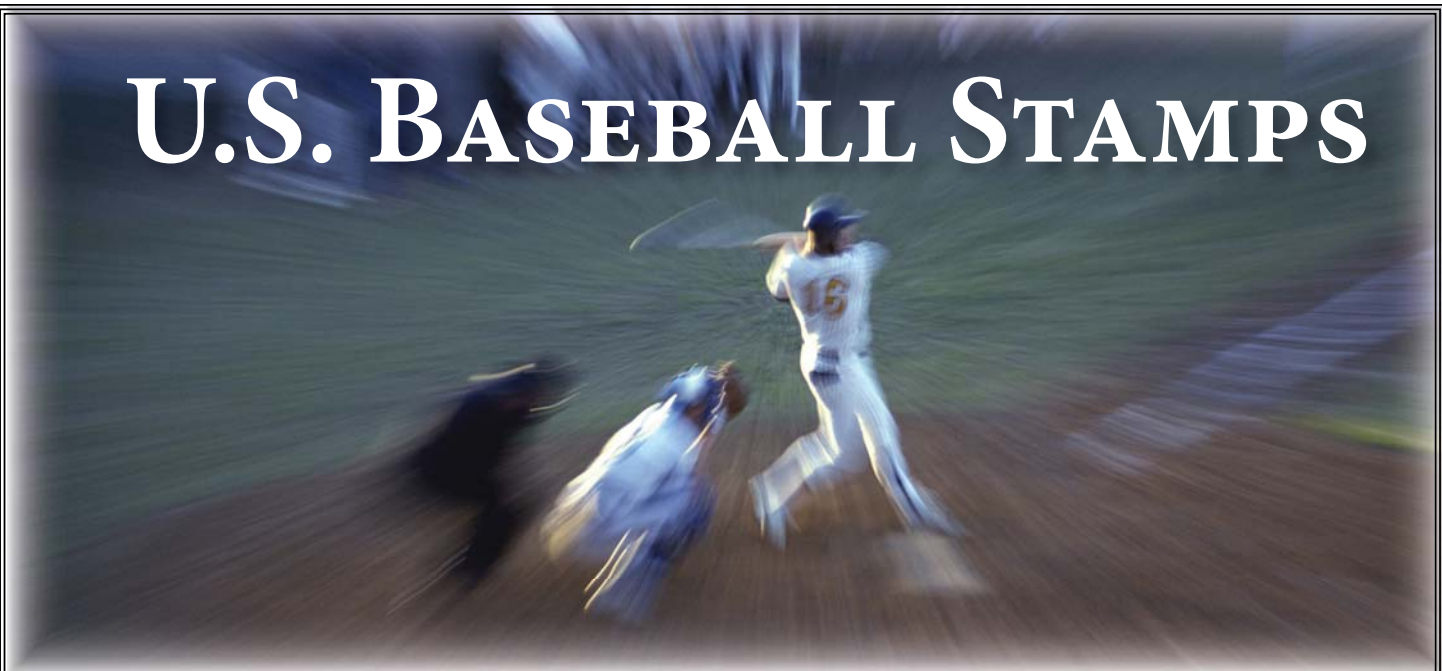
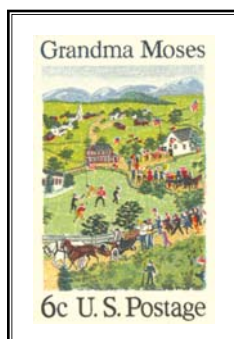


U.S. BASEBALL STAMPS

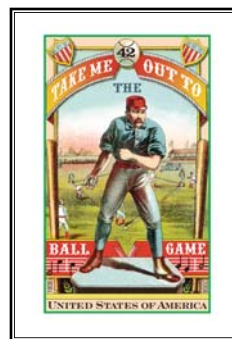


1939 3c Baseball Centennial

This commemorative depicts a sandlot baseball game, with crossed bats at left in a panel inscribed “1839-1939,” recalling a legendary first game attributed to Abner Doubleday and reputed to have taken place in Cooperstown, New York. In fact, the game is far older. “Base-ball” is mentioned by name, illustrated and described in a 1744 British book, and a 1791 bylaw in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, prohibited playing it within 80 yards of the newly built town meeting house.



1969 6c Grandma Moses *July Fourth*



2008 42c “*Take Me Out to the Ball Game*”

Reproducing the design of a 1951 painting by the then-91-year-old folk artist, this stamp showing an idealized, early version of the most American of holidays has as its centerpiece four boys playing baseball on a green field, a detail from the full painting that also shows festive picnicking, fireworks, flag-waving revelers, and a band.

Written by Jack Norworth, “*Take Me Out to the Ball Game*” celebrates its centennial in 2008. For decades, the song’s catchy chorus has been part of the musical tradition at ballparks around the country, especially during the seventh-inning stretch. The stamp image is adapted from a late 19th-century baseball “trade card.”



BASEBALL GREATS OF YESTERDAY

2006 39c Roy Campanella

One of the greatest catchers in baseball history, Roy Campanella (1921-1993) was a standout in Negro League and Mexican League baseball before his debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1948, a year after Jackie Robinson. With 2,423 home runs, he played in every All-Star Game from 1949 to 1956, and received the National League Most Valuable Player award in 1951, 1953, and 1955.

1982 20c Jackie Robinson

Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson (1919-72) was the first African-American to break the color barrier in professional baseball when he took his position on Ebbets Field in Brooklyn for the Dodgers on April 15, 1947, going on to become National League Rookie of the Year. In 1948, he batted .342 and won the National League Most Valuable Player award.

2006 39c Mel Ott

New York Giant right fielder from 1926 to 1947, Melvin Thomas "Mel" Ott (1909-1958) was the first National League player to surpass 500 home runs. A 12-time All Star, Ott compiled a career batting average of .304, with 511 runs and 2,876 RBIs. He was so feared by pitchers that he also led the National League in bases on balls for six seasons.

2006 39c Mickey Mantle

In 18 seasons, New York Yankee outfielder Mickey Mantle (1931-1995) won three American League Most Valuable Player titles, played on 16 All-Star teams, 12 pennant winners and seven World Championship clubs. A clutch player, Mantle still holds World Series records for most home runs (18), runs batted in (40), walks (43), extra-base hits (26), and total bases (123).

1984 20c Roberto Clemente

This stamp designed by Juan Lopez-Bonilla honors Roberto Clemente (1934-1972), who in 18 seasons with the Pittsburgh Pirates had 3,000 hits, a dozen All-Star Games and Golden Glove awards, and was NL batting champion five times, finishing with a lifetime average of .317. A humanitarian hero as well, he died in a plane crash on a New Year's Eve mission to help Nicaraguan earthquake victims.

2006 39c Hank Greenberg

One of the premier power hitters of his generation, "Hammerin' Hank" Greenburg (1911-1986) was one of the first outstanding Jewish athletes in American professional sports — a five-time All-Star and two time American League Most Valuable Player. The Detroit Tiger first baseman had a career batting average of .313, with 331 home runs, and 1,276 runs batted in.

1983 20c Babe Ruth

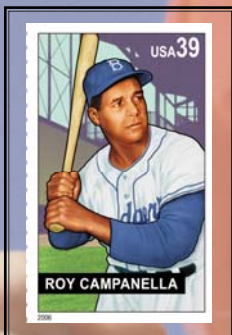
"Sultan of Swat," George Herman Ruth (1895-1948) is seen sending a solo shot into the stands, a feat he performed 714 times in his remarkable career — a record that stood until Hank Aaron surpassed it in 1974. Probably the greatest attraction in baseball history, Ruth began as an superb pitcher, but was made an outfielder so he could use his powerful bat in every game. He was the first player to hit 30, 40, 50, and 60 home runs in a season. He spent 14 years of his 21-year career in New York Yankee pinstripes.

1989 25c Lou Gehrig

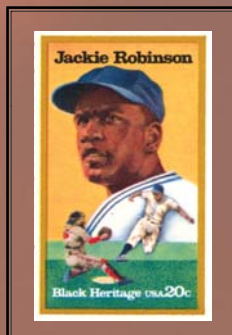
With a lifetime batting average of .340, New York Yankee first baseman Henry Louis "Lou" Gehrig (1903-1941) drove in 100 or more runs for 13 seasons in a row, and still holds the single-season American League record for runs batted in, with 184 in 1931. Gehrig's record for most career grand slam home runs — 23 — still stands today. A seven-time All Star, this "Iron Horse" played in 2,130 consecutive games, a streak that stood for 56 years until it was finally broken by Cal Ripken, Jr., of the Baltimore Orioles in 1995.



BASEBALL GREATS OF YESTERDAY



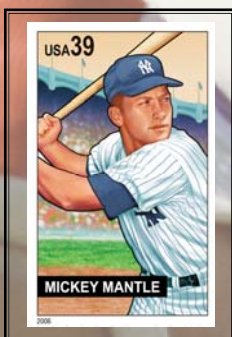
2006 39c Roy Campanella



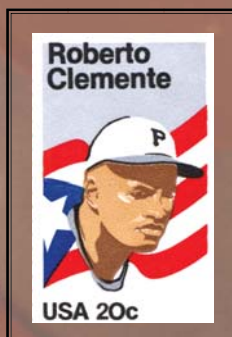
1982 20c Jackie Robinson



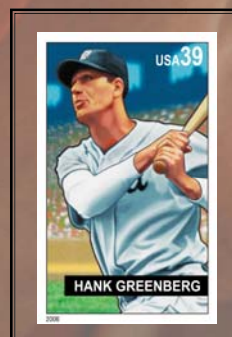
2006 39c Mel Ott



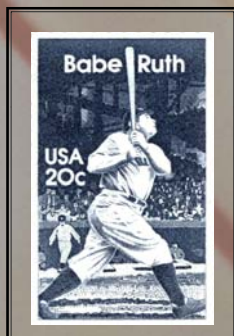
2006 39c Mickey Mantle



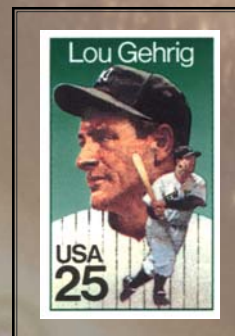
1984 20c Roberto Clemente



2006 39c Hank Greenberg



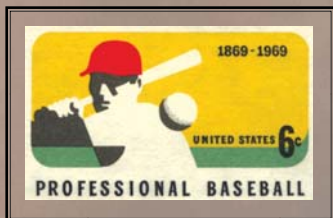
1983 20c Babe Ruth



1989 25c Lou Gehrig



A BALL, A BAT, A GLOVE — A GAME FOR EVERYONE



1969 6c Professional Baseball Centennial

This stamp — reminiscent of the red, white, and blue logo of Major League Baseball — depicts a batter and ball, with the dates “1869-1969” in the top right corner of the stamp. May 4 In 1869, the Cincinnati Red Stockings debuted as the first professional baseball team, winning all 60 of their games. Today, Major League Baseball operates North American baseball’s National League and American League, by means of a joint agreement that has existed between them since 1903.



1992 29c Olympic Baseball

Baseball debuted unofficially at the 1904 Summer Games and has been played competitively in 12 Olympiads, with teams from a total of 17 different nations competing. In 1992, the International Olympic Committee finally granted the sport full medal status. The U.S. won the Gold medal at Sydney in 1992, although Cuba has captured the Gold Medal three times to date: in 1992 in Barcelona, 1996 in Atlanta, and in 2004 in Athens.



1995 32c Softball

Invented in 1887 and a direct descendant of baseball, softball is the most popular participant sport in the United States, with an estimated 40 million Americans playing at least one game each year. It is played by both genders socially as well as competitively in over a hundred countries around the world.



2000 33c Youth Baseball

Youth baseball — both informal pick-up games, and organized team play at middle school, high school and through Little League — is immensely popular not only in the United States, but in scores of other countries as well. Derry Noyes designed this stamp as part of a four-stamp issue hailing Youth Team Sports in America.

