

# Connie Mack and the Early Years of Baseball

By Norman L. Macht

With a foreword by Connie Mack III

**Publication Date:** September 24, 2007

\$39.95 | cloth

724 pages | 6 x 9 | 21 photographs, index

978-0-8032-3263-1

**Book Synopsis:**

This is the definitive biography of Connie Mack's early life and his years as a player, manager, and club owner.

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## Included in this Press Kit:

- [Book Description](#)
- [Pre-publication and Post-publication Praise](#)
- [Praise for Author's Previous Work](#)
- [Author Biography](#)
- [Additional Information](#)
- [Press Release](#)
- [Book Flyer](#)



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## Book Description

Connie Mack (1862–1956) was the Grand Old Man of baseball and one of the game’s first true celebrities. This book, spanning the first fifty-two years of Mack’s life, through 1914, covers his experiences as player, manager, and club owner and will stand as the definitive biography of baseball’s most legendary and beloved figure.

Norman L. Macht chronicles Mack’s little-known beginnings. He tells how Mack, a school dropout at fourteen, created strategies for winning baseball and principles for managing men long before there were notions of defining such subjects. And he details how Mack, a key figure in the launching of the American League in 1901, won six of the league’s first fourteen pennants while serving as manager, treasurer, general manager, traveling secretary, and public relations and scouting director (all at the same time) for the Philadelphia Athletics.

This book brings to life the unruly origins of baseball as a sport and a business. It also provides the first complete and accurate picture of a character who was larger than life and yet little known: the tricky, rule-bending catcher; the peppery field leader and fan favorite; the hot-tempered young manager. Illustrated with family photographs never before published, it affords unique insight into a colorful personality who helped shape baseball as we know it today.

## Pre-Publication Praise for *Connie Mack and the Early Years of Baseball*

“No other baseball manager is going to win—or lose—as many games as Connie Mack did in his fifty years managing the Philadelphia Athletics. A biography of Mack cannot help but be a history of baseball in the first half of the twentieth century, and this biography is a feast of interesting facts and judgments.”  
—George F. Will, syndicated columnist and author of *Men at Work: The Craft of Baseball*

“From the early beginnings of baseball into the modern era, no figure dominated the game like Connie Mack. In Norman Macht’s book the legendary patriarch finally gets his deserved recognition from a serious historian. Macht has turned out a book which provides a true insight into baseball and its beginning as the National Pastime.”—Ernie Harwell, Hall of Fame broadcaster for fifty-four years, the last forty-two for the Detroit Tigers

“As a catcher and manager, Connie Mack deserves much of the credit for writing ‘The Book’ on baseball strategy and the managing of men. How he did it all is told here for the first time.”—Roland Hemond, three-time winner of Major League Baseball’s Executive of the Year award

## Post-Publication Praise

Please visit this book’s [Web page](http://nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Connie-Mack-and-the-Early-Years-of-Baseball,673181.aspx) (<http://nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Connie-Mack-and-the-Early-Years-of-Baseball,673181.aspx>) for the most current post-publication praise.



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## Praise for Author's Previous Work

### Praise for *Rex Barney's Thank Youuuuu*, with Rex Barney:

"[A] pleasure to read for its honesty, lack of malice and plain good manners."—*Sporting News*

"With Macht's skillful kneading. . . Barney and Macht have rendered a fine account of one of the Boys of Summer whose pitching career had a beginning and an ending, with too little in between."—Pete Cava, *Cooperstown Review*

"[I]f you're an old-time baseball fan, you'll love it."—*Omaha World-Herald*

"[T]his is a bigger winner than Barney was during his eternally promising, ultimately disappointing pitching career with the Dodgers of the 1940s."—Dick Heller, *Washington Times*

"This is the equal of Macht's recent and excellent biography of Dick Bartell [Rowdy Richard]." —Jerome Holtzman, *Chicago Tribune*



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## Author Biography



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Norman L. Macht is a member of the [Society for American Baseball Research](#) and the author of more than [thirty books](#), including biographies of [Rowdy Richard](#) (with Dick Bartell) and [Rex Barney's Thank Youuuuu](#) (with Rex Barney).

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# New from the University of Nebraska Press

## Norman L. Macht Chronicles the Life of Connie Mack in Definitive Biography

Connie Mack (1862–1956) was the Grand Old Man of baseball and one of the game’s first true celebrities. This book, spanning the first fifty-two years of Mack’s life, through 1914, covers his experiences as player, manager, and club owner and will stand as the definitive biography of baseball’s most legendary and beloved figure.

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“Comprehensive and interesting portrait of one of baseball’s most successful managers. . . . A compelling look at a legend and an era.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

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For more information contact Kate Salem, Publicity Manager, (402) 472-5938, or [ksalem2@unl.edu](mailto:ksalem2@unl.edu)



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