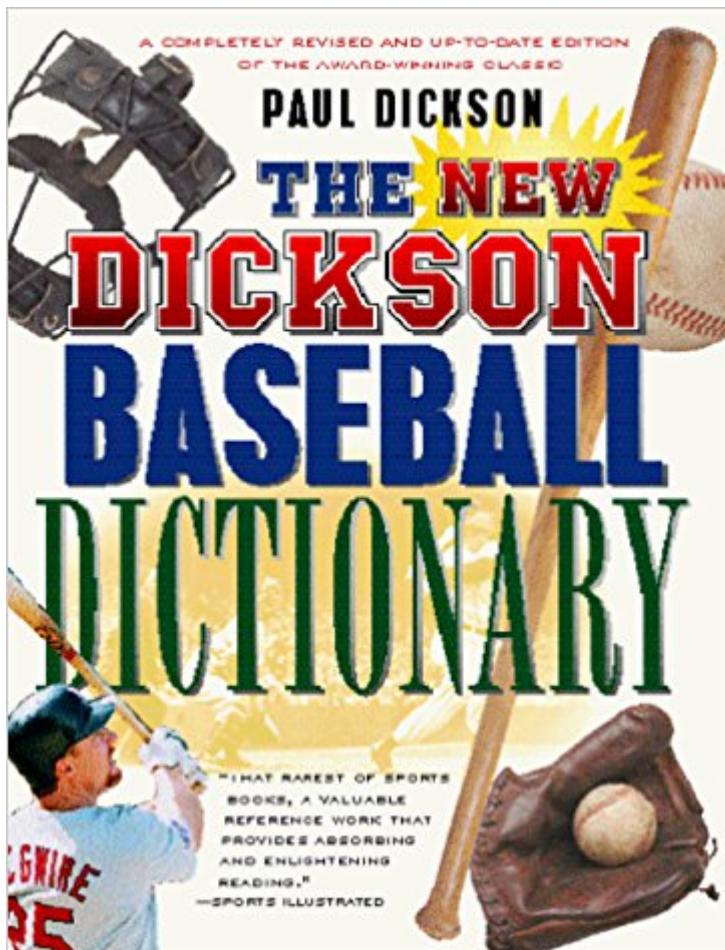


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# The New Dickson Baseball Dictionary



## Synopsis

From Abner Doubleday to Zurdo, from its thorough bibliography to its innovative thesaurus, this indispensable baseball resource is a *œ*that rarest of sports books, a valuable reference work that provides absorbing and enlightening readingâ • (Sports Illustrated). Winner of the Society of american Baseball Researchers Award. Black-and-white photographs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Baseball is an etymologist's delight. The game coins words and phrases faster than Mark McGwire hits home runs (a.k.a. dingers, taters, round-trippers, four-baggers), and much of what begins as baseball-specific verbiage seeps into common usage. But why exactly is a high, lazy fly ball called "a can of corn," a pop-up that falls between the infield and the outfield a "Texas leaguer," a vicious curveball "Uncle Charlie," a poke that bounces off the plate a "Baltimore chop," and the minor leagues "the bushes"? Paul Dickson explains them--and about 7,000 more terms and expressions, names and events--in a wide-ranging work that's as much fun to browse through as it is specifically useful. Like its 1989 predecessor (which only sent 5,000 entries to the plate), the Dickson Baseball Dictionary arranges everything alphabetically, supplies definitions, offers examples, provides cross-references, and, most fascinating of all, traces word and phrase origins. As references go, it brings out the "lumber," looks "yard," and pretty much "touches 'em all." --Jeff Silverman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

One would not think that a mere game, a sport, and not even a world sport at that, could be the

basis for a lexicon of some 7,000 terms. Could the same be true for other games or team sports, such as soccer, which is played around the world and has a pedigree at least as old? It does not seem possible, unless languages other than English are taken into account. The game of baseball has, for various reasons, always stimulated more and better writing than rival sports. Baseball has been known as the more thoughtful of the mass sports, with writers waxing eloquent about its balletic grace, its convoluted rules, its strategies, and its lack of a time clock. The many colorful figures who have played and coached the game, and announcers such as Dizzy Dean, who made famous the word *slud*, only add to the mix. Readers will enjoy the scope of this dictionary, a revised edition of *The Dickson Baseball Dictionary* (Facts On File, 1989). It is intended to represent the "words, phrases, and slang expressions that define the game." There are definitions not only for designated hitter, ground ball, and unassisted triple play but also for Black Sox, Cactus League, and Lou Gehrig's disease. No term has been included unless the author could collect at least two examples of its use. He identifies which terms are archaic, uses cross-references, and points out parts of speech. First use, etymology, a note on usage, and extended use in the language of everyday life may be given, along with pungent quotations. Besides the language of baseball, the book covers the lingo of its poor relation, softball. Dickson obviously knows his subject, but he could have used the services of an editor who is also a fan. Occasionally players are misnamed (Gary Maddux for Greg Maddux of the Atlanta Braves). The book includes a brief thesaurus, a list of baseball abbreviations, and a partially annotated bibliography of works on baseball terminology, all of which add to its reference value. Illustrations consist of photographs and drawings from the game's storied past. *The Baseball Encyclopedia* (10th ed., Macmillan, 1996) provides a record of player, team, and league statistics; and *The Cultural Encyclopedia of Baseball* [RBB D 15 97] covers the customs, folklore, and social significance of the sport. Dickson's focus on language is unique. As the author of several other books on baseball, and some others on words, he has shown himself to be one of the better sports lexicographers in terms of clarity of definitions and currency. The result of his efforts is an engrossing, highly readable reference book that could well become a standard in the public library. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In baseball, what is a crackerjack? A cradle? A drawing Card? Feel the apple means what? What happens when you go to the pump? Who made up Murderers' Row? Open the New Dickson Baseball Dictionary and you'll find out. This A to Z complete listing of baseball term is about the best book on the subject there is. Paul Dickson has put together over 570 pages of facts, terms, definitions and trivia that are sure to please every baseball fan. Filled with over 100 photos and

illustrations you are sure to find just about every baseball word you can think of. Also included are a thesaurus, a section of abbreviations and a fully annotated bibliography. The baseball purest is sure to love this book as a gift, and it is priced to meet most budgets. Overall this book is great reading and makes the perfect handy reference book!

Mr. Dickson has once again given every true baseball fan a "must have" book for his or her library. This marvelous compendium of baseball lore is a compelling read, filled with marvelous information of every kind. Whether you are the casual fan or the knowledgeable afficianado, Dickson has compiled a book which will satisfy you for hours as you follow one cross reference to another.

The "New Dickson Baseball Dictionary" is more than just "new". Its 7,000 entries (compared with 5,000 in the original Dickson dictionary published 10 years ago) include all that Dickson overlooked, forgot, missed, muffed and fumbled his first time at bat. It also includes a lot of words that came in play in recent years. If you know a foreigner who is studying American English, this book is a great gift, for it is truly a key to the American language. As Dickson makes so clear, nothing has given so much color, flavor and uniqueness to the American language as baseball.

This baseball dictionary is clear, concise and helpful, particularly for people like me. I love baseball, but when I was growing up, girls weren't raised on sports, so I became a fan with sketchy knowledge of the rules and nuances of the game. Since I bought this book, I've learned a lot about pitching maneuvers, stats, history of the sport, slang terms and dozens of other things that make baseball more and more interesting to watch. I'm very glad I own it.

Mr. Dickson has done a truly remarkable job. The book is an invaluable reference for scholars, coaches, players and anyone else interested in baseball. It is a scholarly study, yet easy to read. He has done a particularly good job of cross-referencing. When you look up one term, you can find yourself following references for a wonderfully enjoyable hour.

This is an encyclopedic book. It covers everything. Fans will appreciate its breadth and depth and it can turn the curious spectator into a true fan. Great to have on hand during a game to follow the announcers' comments.

Rec'd book on time; cheaper than area bookstores. This is not the first time I purchased items from

and I plan to continue. Great job! Thanks!

This is a book that you'll love. There's a lot of things to learn in it and some terms you probably can't listen anymore. A perfect book for a really baseball fan !

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