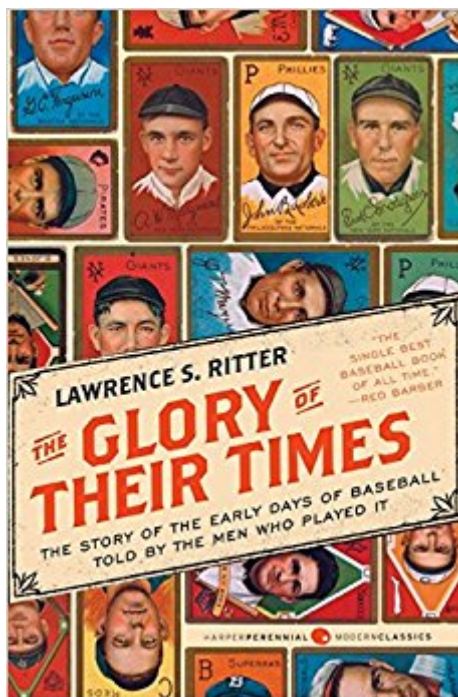


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# The Glory Of Their Times: The Story Of The Early Days Of Baseball Told By The Men Who Played It (Harper Perennial Modern Classics)



## Synopsis

Baseball was different in earlier days—tougher, rawer, more intimate—when giants like Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb ran the bases. In the monumental classic *The Glory of Their Times*, the golden era of our national pastime comes alive through the vibrant words of those who played and lived the game.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The voices of the game's distant past continue to reverberate with a distinct freshness in Lawrence S. Ritter's *The Glory of Their Times*. An oral history of the game in the first two decades of the century, *Glory* sends out its impressive roster of players to tell their own stories, and what stories they tell--the story of their times as well as of their game; the scorecard includes Rube Marquard, Babe Herman, Stan Coveleski, Smoky Joe Wood, and Wahoo Sam Crawford. A delight from cover to cover, *Glory* is the next best thing to having been there in the days when the ball may have been dead, but the personalities were anything but. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Shortly after the death of legendary baseball player Ty Cobb in 1961, Ritter, armed with a portable tape recorder, attempted to obtain an oral history of early-20th-century baseball from Cobb's contemporaries. The edited transcription of the interviews he obtained became a best seller and went to several editions. This audio, accompanied by a 32-page booklet of photos, is a modern release (also available on CD) of Ritter's interviews with Fred Snodgrass, Sam Crawford, Hans

Lobert, Rube Bressler, Chief Meyers, Davy Jones, Rube Marquard, Joe Wood, Lefty O'Doul, Jimmy Austin, Goose Goslin, and Bill Wambsganss, as selected by producers Henry W. Thomas and Neal McCabe. It is quirky, charming, witty, and fun. What a love for baseball they all had! An essential purchase for all sports audio collections. ?Cliff Glaviano, Bowling Green State Univ. Libs., OH Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Early baseball as seen through the eyes of the players who lived it. I love this book!

Anyone who's interested in the early days of baseball should read this one. Ritter actually interviewed the men who tell their stories in this book. Presented as a collection of short stories, with each player's story as a separate chapter. Some of the players talk mainly about themselves, while others share insights about teammates and managers as well. Ritter recorded each conversation, then edited out the redundancies, and reconstructed each story to flow logically. The result is an intimate collection of stories with a "front porch" feel. Get yourself a glass of lemonade, sit down in the swing, and "listen" as these old timers tell their stories.

This is, quite simply, one of the top five sports books ever written. Even if you're not a hardcore baseball fan or a fan of history, you are sure to find this book wildly engaging. The stories about the early years of baseball are fascinating in and of themselves, but the personal stories are wonderful as well. From farm boys to college kids to kids from immigrant ghettos, the players of yesteryear came from every walk of life, much as they do today. Baseball anecdotes aside, the stories about their lives before and after playing ball are well worth the read. I've read this book at least once a year for the last ten years, and I'll continue to do so. When my son (who is only 3) starts to read real books in a couple years, this is the first one I'll leave on his bed stand. It's simply, plainly, refreshingly an American classic. Buy it. You will not be disappointed.

A wonderful read with an insight into the personalities and life experiences of real people. Informative and sometimes humorous stories of some talented and forgotten ballplayers. A literary feast for real fans of the game.

Mr. Ritter has given us an oral and written history of our national game that I don't think will ever be surpassed. Anyone who has even the remotest interest in the early days of the game will love the

stories and respect the players telling them.

The best sport's book ever written. Although it focuses on the career of players in early baseball, the book is perfect for every sports fan because it brings to life an era of sports-innocence and an America in its innocent times before the Depression and WW2. You could not give a more wonderful book to any sports fan or any history buff. In my view it is a national treasure and should be shared as soon as possible with any American even remotely interested in their country and the delight of the players who were privileged to play the game of baseball.

I am a huge baseball fan, and really appreciate the history of the game. I've watched Ken Burns' Baseball probably a half-dozen times. As such, I'm the exact target audience for Lawrence S. Ritter's book, *The Glory of Their Times: The Story Of The Early Days Of Baseball Told By The Men Who Played It*. This book was absolutely fantastic, and I wholeheartedly recommend it to anyone with any interest at all in baseball. Even if you aren't currently interested in the game's history, you will be by the time you finish *The Glory of Their Times*. Originally published in 1966 including interviews with 22 players from the early 20th century, and expanded in 1984 with an additional four player interviews, Ritter sets out to capture the memories of the earliest players of the game for the ages, and does so brilliantly. The book consists of a chapter for each player interviewed, and Ritter lets the player tell their own story in their own way. It's absolutely fascinating to hear these players echoing through the decades and describing the way they played the game, their careers, their teammates, their managers, the business of baseball, and even the fans of the day as seen from the player's view. One of the aspects of the book that I enjoyed most is that many of the players discuss the same events or players, including each other, and it's great getting different takes on all of that. You'll hear all about what the players of the day, including his teammates, thought of Merkle's Boner, or what it was like to play with or against Ty Cobb, or what manager John McGraw was like to play for. By the time you finish the book, you'll feel like you've gotten to know all these other players just as well as the men interviewed, who range from Hall of Famers like Sam Crawford or Paul Waner to a career utility player like Specs Torporcer. Baseball fans who, like me, have enjoyed Ken Burns' Baseball documentary should read this book. In fact, I re-watched Baseball (once again) only a couple months before reading *The Glory of Their Times*, and I recognized many of the stories and quotes from the early episodes of Baseball as having come straight from these interviews. So, if you enjoyed those, there's a lot more like that here for you. Another part of the book that is well done is the inclusion of many, many photographs. Ritter gives the reader pictures of all

the interviewees and many of the people they talk about, and the pictures are included in the text when relevant, instead of in a glossy insert in the middle of the book, so they're very effective in helping the reader visualize the events being described. I highly recommend *The Glory of Their Times*. It's a magnificent book that does a wondrous job of drawing the reader into the early days of baseball.

Kept my interest all through. While there are some allusions to 'the greats' - Cobb, Ruth, Gehrig - it is insightful to 'listen to' the guys who were there, played almost just as well, or close to 'the greats', and hear their stories. You will recognize a lot of their quotes from Ken Burns' 'Baseball.'

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