

About the Negro Leagues

African Americans played alongside whites in the 1800s at the dawn of organized baseball, but quickly found their fiercest opponent to be Jim Crow. At the 1867 Philadelphia meeting of the National Association of Baseball Players (NABP), blacks and the clubs they played for were barred from membership. Their exclusion lasted for the next 80 years. When the NABP evolved into the first professional baseball league and then into the National League, unwritten rules kept blacks out of the majors. So they fielded barnstorming squads and formed their own leagues that, in the first half of the 20th century, included some of the greatest players the game has ever known. Today's National League is home to reigning World Series champs the Philadelphia Phillies, led by African American infielders Jimmy Rollins and Ryan Howard: the league's Most Valuable Players in 2006 and 2007, respectively.



*Cool Papa Bell, oil,
16 x 20"*
by Elise Dodeles



ROHRBACH LIBRARY

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Special thanks to Diane King and Bill Haelig for their generous loans of memorabilia for this exhibit.

Background image: "Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Grandstand of a baseball park at Girard Avenue and Parkside Avenue. This field is used principally by the Negro League." Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA-OWI Collection, [LC-USW3-056198-E DLC]



An Exhibition of NEGRO LEAGUES Art and Memorabilia



Willie Foster, oil, 20 x 22" by Elise Dodeles

at the **ROHRBACH LIBRARY**
of Kutztown University
through December 19, 2008

at the **CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA
AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM**
January 14 – February 28, 2009

The Negro Leagues

A selection of the

Negro Leagues Paintings

by Elise Dodeles on display in 2nd floor
Periodicals area of Rohrbach Library (west side)



Hank Aaron was the last player from the Negro Leagues to join the Major Leagues. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982.



Roy Campanella played for the Baltimore Elite Giants of the Negro Leagues for almost 10 years before joining the Dodgers. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1969.



Andrew "Rube" Foster was a player, manager and owner in the Negro Leagues. He began the Negro National League in 1920. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1981.



"Smokey" Joe Williams was a dominant right handed pitcher known for his many no-hitters. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1999.



Willie Wells had a 25-year career in the Negro Leagues. As a shortstop he combined speed and power, leading the League in home runs in 1926. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1997.

Events and Special Guests

Dr. Lawrence Hogan and former Negro League star Robert Scott

December 4, 2008, 7:00pm

Kutztown University McFarland Student Union 250
Eminent black baseball author, filmmaker, and historian Hogan, who created the MLB Baseball Hall of Fame's *Pride and Passion* permanent exhibition, is joined by pitcher Bob Scott who played all over the Negro Leagues circuit in his years with the New York Black Yankees and a barnstorming squad called Jackie Robinson's Traveling All Stars. After the talk, accompany the speakers to Rohrbach Library next door to enjoy and discuss the paintings.

"The Souls of Black Baseball: Barnstorming the Keystone State" Dr. Bob Allen

February 14, 2009, 2:00pm

Central PA African American Museum

See and hear the rich history of black baseball as played in Pennsylvania, and get to know the stories and contributions of Octavius Catto, Oscar Charleston, Cum Posey, Gus Greenlee, and other black baseballers who thrilled fans throughout the Keystone State. (This presentation is a program of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, supported in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The Pennsylvania Humanities Council, a nonprofit organization, inspires individuals to enjoy and share a life of learning.)

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Portraits have historically been created to commemorate great leaders and pivotal events. But just as often they have portrayed ordinary people doing everyday things. In either case, the act of portraying someone in a painting is a way to honor that person. Sadly, most Negro League ballplayers were not honored when they played the game. This exhibition, curated by Bruce Jensen and supported by Dr. Barbara Simpson-Darden of Kutztown University's Rohrbach Library and Frank & Mildred Gilyard's Central Pennsylvania African American Museum, seeks to celebrate some of the accomplishments of Negro League baseball. It is also a way for me to personally honor the League's players through the creation of paintings based on their likenesses. I am thankful for that opportunity and glad that, by taking the time to view them and the rest of the exhibit, you too have chosen to recognize their accomplishments.

—Elise Dodeles

<http://www.geocities.com/edodeles/>

<http://elisedod.pbwiki.com/Art>