

The collectibles mailbag: you ask, we answer



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BY JEFF FIGLER

SPECIAL TO THE POST-DISPATCH

03/08/2010

Many readers of this column have emailed me mainly concerning values of items they own. I am glad to include here a sampling of their emails. (Excuse the grammatical errors you might notice, but I will try to keep as much of the original composition as possible).

By the way, my answers follow.

The first email is from Scott:

I have a team signed Cardinals baseball. It looks like its early 70's, maybe from either the 1974 or 75 team. It is an official MLB baseball, with Red Schoendienst signed on the sweet spot (he was the coach at the time). It also has Lou Brock, Bob Gibson, and Joe Torre signatures (along with the rest of the team). I believe '74 and '75 were the only years these 3 all played with Red as the coach. Baseball is yellowing, and signatures are fading some.

Was wondering a rough value? Of course the most faded area is where Brock and Gibson signed, but can still make them out fairly well. Torre and Red sigs are still very recognizable. Also is there any way or anybody that can restore balls like this at all? Thanks for your help.

Scott,

The ball is worth approximately \$800, and would be worth more if the Brock and Gibson signatures were in better condition.

People can take off autographs but they cannot restore baseballs. Keep the balls out of sunlight, and if possible, in cubes.

The second email is from Doug:

I have a red, white and blue basketball signed by the entire "Spirits of 76" St. Louis basketball team (not sure of the exact year but it was while they were active as a team here in STL).

This includes Fly Williams and Marvin Barnes.

The basketball itself is not regulation as it is a bit smaller and made of a harder material than rubber...although you can air it up (maybe a promotional type ball?)

The signatures are faded but you can make them out.

Any idea of the value on this? And the demand?

Doug,

There is very little demand for the ball except to St. Louis fans. The ball is worth around \$200.

The next is from Walter:

I have a thank-you letter to a relative of ours from J. Honus Wagner. It is in the envelope which has a postmark of 1936. He has signed both the outside of the stamped envelope and on the letter inside. The letter is handwritten and refers to a signed baseball he had sent to my relative. Any idea on the value?

Walter,

Thank you for your email. The Honus Wagner letter is worth around \$200. It would be worth more if there was more historical content.

I try to respond within a day or two if possible to as many emails as I can. You can email me at collectingwithjeff@sbcglobal.net.