

LARRY LESTER



As one of the founders of the **NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL MUSEUM** in Kansas City, Missouri, Larry Lester served as Research Director and Treasurer for five years (1991-1995). He was instrumental in the development of the Museum's business plan and their licensing program that has become one of its primary sources of revenue.

He also served as Senior Editor for the **Museum's** quarterly newsletter *Silhouettes*, and their annual yearbook *Discover Greatness!* The Museum's current static exhibition was developed from Lester's personal collection of photographs, researched material, and memorabilia. Likewise, Lester developed the traveling Negro League exhibit that has been showcased each year at Major League Baseball's **FANFEST** during All-Star Week since 1993. A comparable exhibit "**DISCOVER GREATNESS**" has debuted at various museums nationally and sold-out by Smith-Kramer Fine Art Services since 1999. He left the **Museum** in 1995 to start NoirTech Research, Inc. <http://www.larrylester42.com/aboutNoirTech/>

EXHIBITS

In 1998-1999 he served as guest curator for the Dallas African American Museum in Fair Park, to exhibit the country's largest private collection of Negro League memorabilia under the banner "**TRIUMPH OVER ADVERSITY.**" The exhibit featured authentic jerseys, equipment and vintage photographs.

A previous exhibit was created featuring African Americans on postage stamps from around the world, entitled "**STAMPS OF RECOGNITION.**" The 80-panel exhibit toured the United States for three years in the late 1990's, featuring stamps, coinage and signatures of more than 60 prominent African Americans Jazz greats, abolitionists, writers, historians, actors and entertainers. In 2000, he served on the United States Postal Service Advisory Board for the "**Legends of Baseball**" stamp series, and more recently for the 2010 release of the "**Rube Foster**" stamp.

A recent exhibit entitled: **THE NATIONAL PASTIME IN BLACK AND WHITE: THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUES, 1867-1955**, by **EXHIBITS USA**, toured nationally from 2003, with a final destination of Dayton, Ohio, in April of 2006, showcasing 85 photographs from the Lester archives.

His latest exhibit is "**THE CURRENCY OF CHANGE,**" a historic overview of African Americans on monetary instruments by the U.S. Treasury and U.S. Mint since 1861. The 25-panel display features such notables as: Duke Ellington, George Washington Carver, Azie Taylor Morton, Louie Armstrong, Marian Anderson and other outstanding personalities. Click on <http://www.larrylester42.com/exhibitions> to see all exhibits.

AUTHOR / EDITOR

Currently, Lester serves as co-chairman of the Negro Leagues Committee and editor of the committee newsletter, *The Courier*, for the prestigious **Society for American Baseball Research** (SABR), in Cleveland, Ohio. This committee also hosts the annual **JERRY MALLOY NEGRO LEAGUE CONFERENCE** in selected cities, providing a venue for presentation of scholarly papers and academic research, since 1997. More information about the conference can be found at: <http://www.larrylester42.com/jerry-malloy-negro-leagues-conference/>

SABR published his first book, simply titled: *The Negro Leagues Book* (1994) which is billed as "*the most complete collection of information on baseball's Negro Leagues ever published.*" His next four books are a part of Arcadia's *Black America Series*. The whistle stops included *Black Baseball in Detroit, in Chicago, in Kansas City* and ... *in Pittsburgh*. In 2002, book #6 was published by the University of Nebraska Press, called *Black Baseball's National Showcase: The East-West All-Star Game, 1933 - 1953*. This publication won *The Sporting News-SABR Research Award* for the "*best researched baseball book of the year.*"

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"We are drowning in information . . . but starving for knowledge."



LARRY LESTER

His latest book was published by McFarland & Company (2006): *Baseball's First Colored World Series, the 10-game series between the Kansas City Monarchs and the Hilldale Club of Darby, PA*. Book reviews can be read at: <http://www.larrylester42.com/books/>. And for a listing of more than 100 publications he has contributed research to click here: <http://www.larrylester42.com/research-contributions>.

Other writings on sports personalities have appeared in *The National Pastime, Biographical Dictionary of American Sports, American National Biography, The Ball Players, World Book Encyclopedia*, and the *Dictionary of American Negro Biography*. In 1997, he wrote 28 biographies for Major League Baseball's black history month website which included a special section on Jackie Robinson's 50th Anniversary of breaking baseball's color barrier. His comprehensive life history of Jackie Robinson's journey was in the **New York Mets' Opening Day Program** (1997). Other publications include featured articles in the 1998 & 1999 **World Series Programs** for Major League Baseball. Additionally, Lester has written forewords to four books. More information can be found at: <http://www.larrylester42.com/extra-innings>

Other works include his text and photographs of James "Cool Papa" Bell, Josh Gibson and Leroy "Satchel" Paige on General Mill's 75th Anniversary of the Negro Leagues **Wheaties** cereal box (1996), along with a regular series of Negro League calendars, "**The Forgotten Leagues**" by DMD Design (2001 to 2010). Calendars can be found at: <http://www.larrylester42.com/purchase-calendars>

MEDIA

Lester has made media appearances: **Behind the White Foul Lines** (1991) by CNN, **Ain't Seen Nothin' Like It Since** (1994) by PBS, **Outside the Lines: A League Second to None** (1994) by ESPN, **No League of Their Own** (1995) by NBC, **Quite Frankly** with Stephen A. Smith (2005), with contributions to HBO's **Journey of the African-American Athlete**, Ken Burns' **Baseball** documentary, several ESPN specials, along with hosting numerous player panels and serving as Master of Ceremonies.

PERSONAL

From 2000 to 2004, Lester was under contract with the **National Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum** (HOF) in Cooperstown, New York, to do a comprehensive study of African American baseball from the Civil War up through the mid-fifties, appropriately called "**Out of the Shadows.**" Project findings are to be released in the near future, with several publications resulting from this academic study. In 2006, he co-chaired a Special Negro League Committee for the **HOF** which selected 17 new Negro League players, executives, and managers.

A dedicated advocate, Lester campaigns for retroactive pensions for worthy Negro League players and raises funds for headstones to be placed on the unmarked graves of former players. He was instrumental in securing retroactive pensions for more than 85 former Negro Leaguers, while involving approximately 155 former players in **MLB Properties'** royalty program from the sale of Negro League caps, jerseys, jackets, and related apparel.

Lester serves on the advisory board for the **Satchel Paige Foundation**, and the board of directors for the **100 Black Men of Greater Kansas City**. He remains in contact with more than 200 former players and their families on a regular basis. His collection includes thousands of vintage photographs, an extensive library of video documentaries, audio interviews, clipping files, along with the only known statistical database of batting and pitching for more than 3,600 players, gathering from roughly 12,500 box scores, from 1867 to 1948.

For fee-based lectures, seminars, panel discussions, educational forums, workshops, exhibit bookings, presentations, and book signings see contact information below. An honorarium rate sheet is available upon request.

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