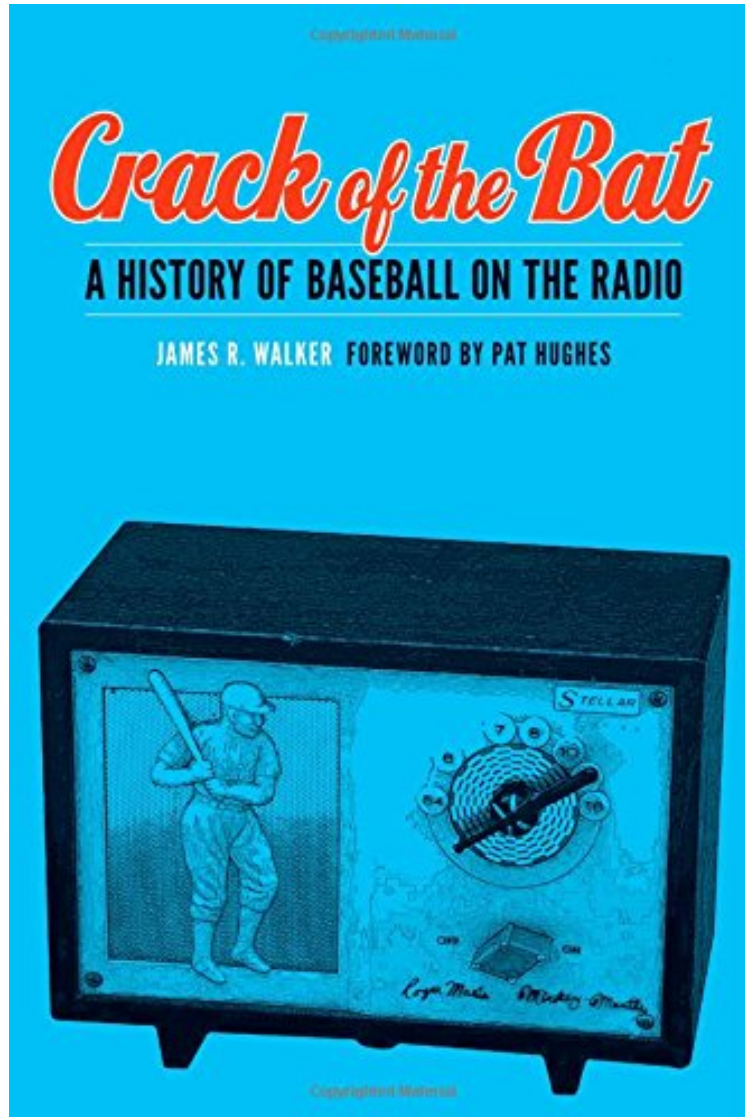


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Crack of the Bat: A History of Baseball on the Radio

James R. Walker

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James R. Walker : Crack of the Bat: A History of Baseball on the Radio before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Crack of the Bat: A History of Baseball on the Radio:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent History of Baseball on the RadioBy CatManThis is a good history of baseball on the radio. It takes you from the very beginnings when it was mostly re-creations to the present Internet age. It also takes a detailed look at how owners resisted using radio at first because they thought attendance at games would suffer. But gradually, over time, they came around to thinking differently. It took the east coast teams longer but they eventually had all games on the radio. This book also gave good advice for anyone who may want to

be a baseball broadcaster. What they should do and how to go about each broadcast. This book also gives brief sketches of some of the greats in the baseball broadcasting field. They start from the beginning with Harold Arlin all the way to present day broadcasters of Pat Hughes and Charley Steiner. I am of the baby boomer age and am probably of the last generation that cut their teeth on baseball by listening to broadcasts on the radio. I will always appreciate the radio broadcasts of games. These broadcasters come into your home every day for the six months and become like friends even though you do not know them personally. This book is a treasure for someone like myself who appreciates this aspect of baseball as much as any of part of the game. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One For The Ages By Jon W What I like about this book is Grantland Rice did live broadcasting from the Polo Grounds using a stadium phone and using the radio station WJZ in Newark and to me that takes considerable effort and that is over a 300 mile area. What amazing technology that was back in 1922. 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Well Worth It, Especially for Those Contemplating A Career in Baseball Broadcasting By Bill Emblem I will admit that I skimmed a good part of this book especially the part on re-creations of baseball games. The part I found to be invaluable, especially for those contemplating a career in broadcasting baseball games, would be the advice provided by present and past announcers as to what they have found to be necessary in succeeding in the profession. Several successful broadcasters stress the importance of preparation prior to entering the booth. This is done by reading daily sports pages, interviewing players prior to the game, and being well-versed in the game itself. Since there is no eraser on a microphone it is best for broadcasters not know anything they can't use on the air. What you don't know you can't use. This book is not like Curt Smith's classic book "Voices of the Game" in which the experiences of several notable broadcasters relive their experiences. "Crack of the Bat", as the sub-title suggests, is "A History of Baseball on the Radio" and the general reader may find himself being told more than he cares to know regarding the subject. However, as I previously stated, for an individual considering a career in baseball broadcasting the section on announcers such as Red Barber, Vin Scully, and others should prove to be invaluable.

The crack of the bat on the radio is ingrained in the American mind as baseball takes center stage each summer. Radio has brought the sounds of baseball into homes for almost one hundred years, helping baseball emerge from the 1919 Black Sox scandal into the glorious World Series of the 1920s. The medium gave fans around the country aural access to the first All-Star Game, Lou Gehrig's farewell speech, and Bobby Thomson's Shot Heard Round the World. Red Barber, Vin Scully, Harry Caray, Ernie Harwell, Bob Uecker, and dozens of other beloved announcers helped cement the love affair between radio and the national pastime.

"Crack of the Bat will give you insight into the nostalgic power of baseball on the radio, and make you realize what you missed." Hunter M. Hampton, Sport in American History