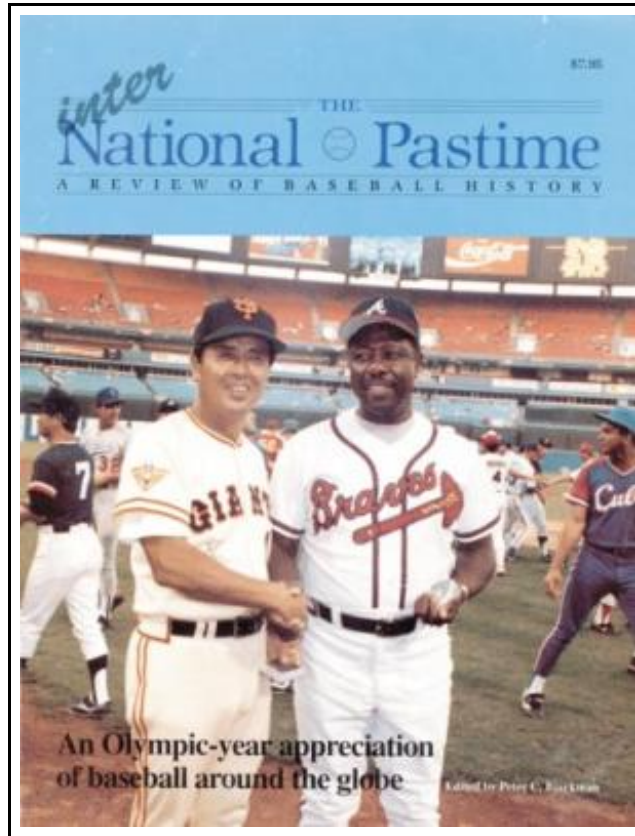


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Society for American Baseball Research. Paperback / softback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, National Pastime: A Review of Baseball History, Society for American Baseball Research, Society for American Baseball Research (Sabr), Peter C Bjarkman, "The National Pastime" offers baseball history available nowhere else. Each fall this publication from the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) explores baseball history with fresh and often surprising views of past players, teams, and events. Drawn from the research efforts of more than 6,700 SABR members, "The National Pastime" establishes an accurate, lively, and entertaining historical record of baseball. "A Note from the Editor, Peter C. Bjarkman: "Even when that laughable Abner Doubleday creation myth of baseball's origin--foisted on the American public by Albert Spalding for crassly commercial reasons"--"is just dismissed, still the reputed "American origins" of the national game are tough enough to shake. Most current sports histories merely substitutes one "creation myth" for another. Thus Alex Cartwright gets full credit and--presto--the American birthright of the national pastime remains largely intact. But the Cartwright claim itself rests on shaky enough ground: the Elysian Fields contest of 1846 was no more an instance of "fully evolved baseball" than were numerous earlier matches held throughout the northeastern states and provinces of Canada. This native game of "base-ball" was never immaculately conceived but, instead, slowly and painfully evolved--"stool ball" to "rounders" to "town ball" to "Massachusetts game" to "New York game"--and the germinating seeds were always demonstrably European. Events of the past decade have made the international elements of our adopted national game simply indisputable. A near tidal wave of Latin American imports has inarguably provided the biggest single story in major league baseball during the 1980s. Rival Japan boasts a long-standing professional league which, while never a serious match for our own, nonetheless solidifies the cross-cultural appeal...



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