



Press Release

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BABE RUTH FAMILY HEIRLOOM AND LOU GEHRIG PERSONAL LETTER DRAWING HIGHEST BIDS IN SCP AUCTIONS' SPRING OFFERING

Auction Ends on Saturday at www.SCPAuctions.com

Laguna Niguel, Calif. (May 16, 2014) – Babe Ruth's gold pocket watch from the 1948 celebration of the 25th anniversary of the opening of "The House That Ruth Built" and an extraordinarily personal letter from baseball great Lou Gehrig to Dr. Paul O'Leary of the Mayo Clinic are garnering top bids in SCP Auctions' fall auction that comes to a close on Saturday, May 17. Prices are expected to rise steeply as collectors look to secure these coveted pieces of sports history.

The bid for the Ruth family heirloom - a 14-karat gold Longines pocket watch featuring engravings on the back that read: "Babe Ruth – Silver Anniversary – Yankee Stadium 1923-1948 "The House That Ruth Built"" – is currently at \$275,706 and is estimated to sell for upwards of \$750,000. Since Ruth's death on Aug. 16, 1948, the watch has been carefully preserved by Ruth's family. It is well-documented that the vast majority of Ruth's personal memorabilia was gifted to the National Baseball Hall of Fame shortly after his death. The watch is the only significant Babe Ruth artifact ever offered to the public with direct Ruth family provenance.

Ruth's grandson, Tom Stevens, stated: "In December 1974, upon the occasion of my college graduation, my grandmother Claire presented me with this watch as a graduation and Christmas present. She told me that my grandfather would have wanted me to have his watch in recognition of the accomplishment. Throughout his life, he was most appreciative of the value of a good education, not having had the benefit of one himself."

In addition, a three-page, typewritten letter signed by Gehrig that shows a unique window into his private battle for survival is currently drawing a bid of \$128,617. Written on September 13, 1939 to Dr. Paul O'Leary of the Mayo Clinic, Gehrig's point of contact with regard to his treatment, the letter reveals the symptoms that Gehrig was struggling with and his steadfast resolve to fight the disease. In the face of dire circumstances, the letter also shows his unfailing character, including humor, generosity and his appreciation and gratitude of others. According to SCP officials, this letter is among the most significant Gehrig pieces ever offered and should set a new industry record for a sports-related letter.

Other top bids come from the [The Newport Sports Museum Collection](#) and the [The Delbert Mickel Estate Collection](#). The Newport Sports Museum Collection includes John Hamilton's privately owned collections of more than 10,000 significant game-used artifacts and mementos representing every major sport and athletic endeavor imaginable. Mickel was the curator of one of the finest personal collections of game-worn baseball jerseys in the world.

The top 10 bids (as of 12:00 p.m. EDT on May 16) in the auction also include (prices below include buyer's premium):

- 1965 Sandy Koufax autographed LA Dodgers game-worn home jersey – current high bid \$113,937
- Satchel Paige's 1971 National Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ring – current high bid \$68,367
- 1967 Hank Aaron autographed Atlanta Braves game-worn home jersey – current high bid \$41,434

- 1969 Thurman Munson game-worn rookie catcher's mitt – current high bid \$38,588
- 1983 LA Raiders Super Bowl XVIII World Championship Ring- current high bid \$30,343
- 1964 Bob Gibson autographed St. Louis Cardinals game-worn road jersey – current high bid \$31,129
- Jackie Robinson single-signed baseball (PSA/DNA Mint 9) – one of two highest graded Robinson single-signed balls – current high bid \$34,243
- 1966 Don Drysdale Los Angeles Dodgers game-worn home jersey – current high bid \$25,725

Each of the more than 1,000 items is featured in the SCP Auctions' website at www.SCPAuctions.com. Collectors can bid by logging on to www.scpauctions.com or calling (800) 350-2273. The initial-bidding period ends Saturday, May 17 at 7 p.m. PDT, with the auction ending after 15 minutes has elapsed without a bid on the entire auction.

About SCP Auctions

SCP Auctions, Inc. has been a leader in brokering and auctions of important sports memorabilia and cards since 1979. The Southern California based firm conducts online auctions throughout the year, highlighted by their Premier Auctions in the spring and fall. SCP Auctions has handled some of the most significant individual items and prominent collections in their field, such as the record-setting sale of the earliest known jersey worn by New York Yankees legend Babe Ruth (\$4.4 million), a famed T206 Honus Wagner baseball card (\$2.8 million) and Babe Ruth's bat used to hit the first home run in Yankee Stadium (\$1.265 million). Other items of significance handled by SCP are the original 1919 Contract of Sale of Babe Ruth from the Red Sox to the Yankees (\$996,000), and the estate collections of Hall of Famers such as Honus Wagner, Tony Lazzeri, Bob Cousy, Wilt Chamberlain, Casey Stengel, Pee Wee Reese, and Ernie Banks. Interested bidders can call (800) 350-2273 or visit SCP Auctions online at www.SCPAuctions.com for more information on how to participate.

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Note: High-resolution photos available upon request.