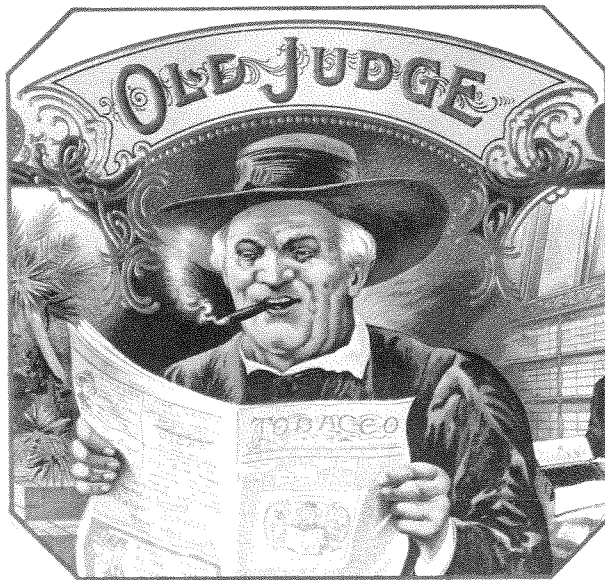


THE OLD JUDGE

The First Four Years



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Preface

The first issue of **The Old Judge** was printed in March of 1984. The concept originated a year earlier when the first volume of The Encyclopedia of Baseball Cards was published. It became obvious, almost immediately, that a means was necessary of updating the information that was contained in the Encyclopedia. A newsletter seemed the only viable approach. In addition, a newsletter would provide a forum for the exchange of ideas for advanced or serious collectors and could help further the flow of additional information for a hobby badly in need of documentation.

In addition, a hobby that was growing incredibly fast was breeding capitalists, some of whom didn't mind bending or breaking the rules of propriety. Finally, the hobby needed a forum to discuss the other problems in a growing hobby- conflicts of interest, price manipulating, hype, etc. It appeared that some of the hobby's publications cared little about anything other than financial rewards.

A friend from California suggested names such as "**The Old Judge**" and "The Gypsy Queen" for the newsletter. **The Old Judge** was selected because of its double meaning-the obvious reference to our society's legal system and the more subtle reference to the old tobacco cards made by Goodwin in the late 1880's that **The Old Judge's** publisher is so partial to.

The first four years of **The Old Judge** have seen a small, but tightly knit readership evolve. Many have shared an interest in older baseball memorabilia, and some just want to keep up with prices on rarer cards; but all have a fascination with the hobby of collecting sports memorabilia. The first year saw four quarterly issues. The next year saw four more issues, but with two additional supplements to allow for six price updates which would correlate to the planned six volume work of The Encyclopedia of Baseball Cards. In 1987 **The Old Judge** expanded to it's current six issue format.

Some have referred to **The Old Judge** as an "underground" publication others have referred to it as "full of renegade ideas". Some have commented on it's honesty and it's bluntness. We've been told we "get to the point in a hurry", "...don't pull any punches", "tell it like it is". Some have told us "We're a breath of spring air", and those we criticize think we smell; Regardless, **The Old Judge** wants its readership to decide for themselves. On the pages that follow are the "First Four Years of **The Old Judge**", all 23 issues, which will allow you to do just that. Special Thanks to John Spalding for preparing the index at the back of the book.

