



Winterthur Press Release

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RARE HONUS WAGNER BASEBALL CARD ON VIEW AT WINTERTHUR FROM MARCH 9 TO JUNE 17, 2018

Eye on the Iconic exhibit focuses on Honus Wagner and sports memorabilia

Winterthur, DE March 9, 2018—A Honus Wagner baseball card (ca. 1909–11), one of the rarest and most iconic of all sports-related objects, will be on view at Winterthur this spring. In this *Eye on the Iconic* exhibit, a prized Wagner card from the New York Public Library will be displayed along side a “Hans Wagner” cigar box label from the Winterthur Library collection.

The Honus Wagner T206 card is considered the “holy grail” of the sports memorabilia world. Only 50 copies survive, in part because Wagner had it removed from circulation by the American Tobacco Company, which produced it. Wagner did not want young children to have to purchase cigarettes to get a card with his image on it. A near-identical Honus Wagner card set a new world-record price for a baseball card, selling for \$3.12 million in 2016.

Like the card with his image, Wagner himself was an icon, considered the best shortstop of his era and the greatest of all time. Johannes Peter “Honus” Wagner (1874–1955) played in the major leagues from 1897–1917, leading the Pittsburgh Pirates to a World Series championship in 1909—his greatest professional season. His statistics were astounding even by 21st-century standards, with a .327 career batting average, 3,415 hits, and 101

home runs. Wagner was one of the first five players inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936 and was selected for Major League Baseball's "All-Century Team" in 1999.

"Like seeing a total eclipse of the sun, viewing the Honus Wagner baseball card is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that is not to be missed," said Gregory Landrey, Winterthur's director of academic affairs and organizer of the exhibit.

Collecting objects such as sports memorabilia is a beloved pastime for many. That passion for collecting can result in a museum such as Henry Francis du Pont's Winterthur or in personal albums featuring cards of baseball players, past and present.

Join us this spring to view these very special and sought-after objects and images and experience the connection between the storied history of Honus Wagner's trading cards and sports memorabilia collecting over the generations.

Eye on the Iconic is a series of exhibits that focus on a single memorable object. The first exhibit featured a replica of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation gown from Netflix's *The Crown*.

Winterthur—known worldwide for its preeminent collection of American decorative arts, naturalistic gardens, and research library for the study of American art and material culture—offers a variety of tours, exhibitions, programs, and activities throughout the year. General admission includes a tour of some of the most notable spaces in the 175-room house as well as access to the Winterthur Garden and Galleries, special exhibitions, a narrated tram tour (weather permitting), the Campbell Collection of Soup Tureens, and the Enchanted Woods children's garden. Admission costs \$20 for adults; \$18 for students and seniors; and \$6 for ages 2–11. Group rates available. For details, visit winterthur.org or call 800.448.3883.

Winterthur is open 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Tuesday–Sunday, and is located on Route 52, six miles northwest of Wilmington, Delaware, and five miles south of U.S. Route 1. Closed on Mondays, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. Nestled in the heart of Delaware's beautiful

Brandywine Valley, midway between New York City and Washington, D.C., Winterthur is located minutes from Longwood Gardens and other Brandywine Valley attractions—including world-class museums, gardens, and historic sites—as well as wineries, hotels, and restaurants.

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