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SCP Auctions' Unveils Rarest of Honus Wagner Baseball Cards

Only known example of 1917 'Silk Sox' advertising card now up for bid

Laguna Niguel, Calif. (Oct. 23, 2017) – As part of its current 2017 Fall Premier online auction, SCP Auctions has unveiled what could be considered one of the rarest – if not “the rarest” – Honus Wagner baseball cards in existence. An incredibly uncommon baseball advertising card of the sport’s most sought-after National League batting champion has surfaced that was issued back in 1917 and is now up for bid through Saturday, Nov. 4, at www.scpauctions.com.

Between 1916 and 1927, the Doherty Silk Sox played in the semi-pro Paterson (N.J.) Industrial League. They played exhibition games against such major league teams as the New York Yankees and the Chicago Cubs as well as a host of other semi-pro teams. The Silk Sox played at their own ballfield, the Doherty Oval, which was located behind The Doherty Silk Company mill on Main Avenue in Clifton, New Jersey. Baseball Hall of Famers such as Babe Ruth, Rogers Hornsby and the great John "Honus" Wagner all played at the Oval. Wagner, in fact, had played for a Paterson minor league team in 1896 and 1897. On August 26, 1917, it was the Pittsburgh Pirates who played the Doherty Silk Sox in an exhibition game. It was also Honus Wagner's last year of playing major league baseball and the opportunity was not lost on Paterson, NJ fans who celebrated “Honus Wagner Day” at the Doherty Oval.

This extremely rare black and white advertising card was created for “Honus Wagner Day” at the Oval, which means it was made almost exactly 100 years ago. Measuring four inches wide by seven inches high, the card features a full-body image of the legendary Pirates shortstop warming up in full uniform and team sweater above titling text in the lower margin. To call this card rare is an understatement when, to the experts at SCP Auctions’ knowledge, it is the only one in existence. The card is approximately in VG condition and presents quite well in spite of some minor soiling, line abrasions, and light creasing. The blank back has some dark areas from dust shadowing. New hobby revelations such as this are becoming ever more infrequent, yet always exciting nevertheless. SCP Auctions is pleased to introduce this fascinating new discovery to the collecting community.

Bidding is open to registered bidders only at www.scpauctions.com beginning on Wed., Oct. 18, and closing on Sat., Nov. 4. For more information on how to participate and take part in the bidding, please call 949-831-3700 or visit www.scpauctions.com.

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