

BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

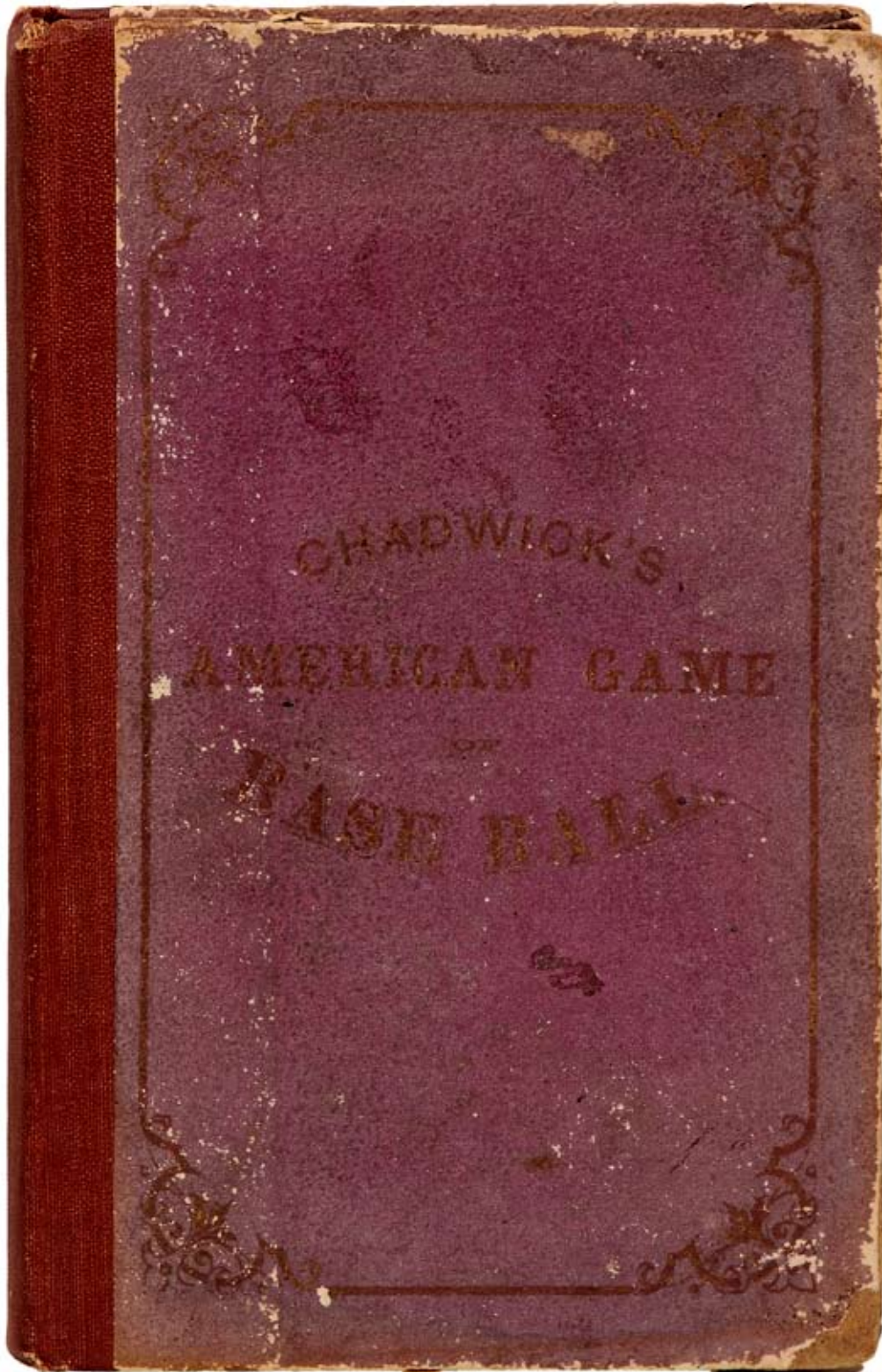
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Henry Chadwick

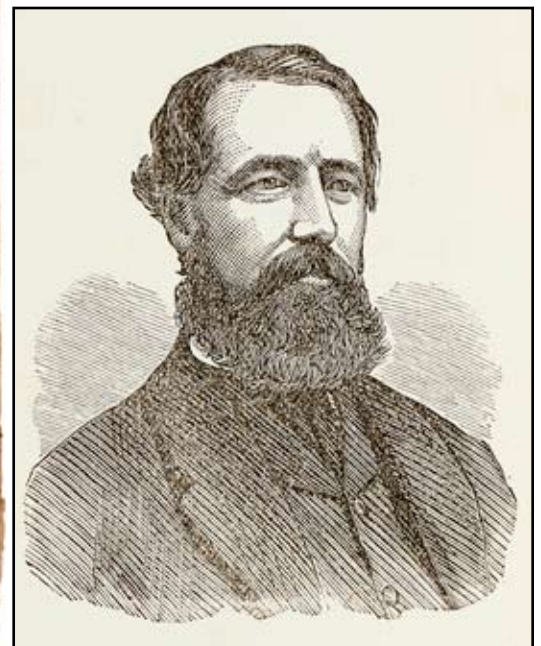
*The Game of Base Ball: How to Learn It, How to Play It, and How to Teach It.
With Sketches of Noted Players*

New York: George Munro & Co. (1868)

\$14,000



First edition. 12mo. 180, [13] ads pp., frontispiece. Original quarter brownish-red cloth and purple papercovered boards printed in gold. Paper rubbed on the boards, particularly at the corners, one page a little wrinkled from a paper flew when printed, but a very nice copy of a particularly fragile construction. Chadwick, a sportswriter, statistician, and historian, is generally considered the “father of baseball” for his popularization and contributions to the development of the game. He edited the first baseball guides, was credited with creating the box score (and the abbreviation “K” for the strikeout), created the statistics of batting average and earned run average. He was posthumously inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.



THE GAME
OF
BASE BALL.

How to Learn it, How to Play it,

AND

HOW TO TEACH IT.

WITH SKETCHES OF NOTED PLAYERS.

BY

HENRY CHADWICK.

NEW YORK:
GEORGE MUNRO & CO., PUBLISHERS,
137 WILLIAM STREET.

Although this was preceded by his various annual guides, this was the first non-fiction book exclusively devoted to baseball to be issued in hardcovers (*The Base Ball Player's Pocket Companion* 1859, the first book exclusively devoted to baseball was issued in cloth over flexible paper). This title is usually found disbound or rebound, this is easily the best copy we've seen of one of the most uncommon and important titles exclusively devoted to baseball. ABPC auction records locate only a single record in 2009 for a copy in cloth. Additional research locates a copy in this binding that sold in a sport's auction (apparently not indexed by ABPC) in 2003 for \$11,625; and another copy at the The 27th Annual 2006 National Sports Collectors Convention, offered for sale at \$20,000. [BTC#402992]