



Closer Inspection

Brennan bought this pair of **batting gloves** — used by Washington Nationals third baseman Ryan Zimmerman in his 2006 rookie season — for \$300 at the House of Cards store in Silver Spring.



This 1910-20 Flor De Anson **cigar box** honors Chicago White Stockings/Colts baseball player Adrian Constantine "Cap" Anson, the first player to achieve 3,000 hits.

This is not technically a **Babe Ruth** baseball card. He was featured in a 1952 Topps Look 'n See card series that included other historical figures. "It's from the time period of when I was growing up, so that's what's most important to me," Brennan says.



Brennan has 1915 World Series **tickets** — not for the series itself but for a "mannequin baseball" event. Before radio and TV, fans could watch a re-creation of the games, in which figurines were moved around the bases according to plays relayed via Teletype.

The only thing missing from Brennan's 1950s plaster **Jackie Robinson** doll is its bat. Brennan bought the doll for \$250 two years ago at a show in Chantilly. He bought the top of the box that the doll would have come in for \$150 on eBay earlier this year.



This baseball dates to the mid-1800s. Made of one piece of leather, it's known as a **lemon peel baseball** because the cut leather looks like a lemon peel, Brennan says. He bought it for \$800 on eBay six years ago.

At the old ballgame

Baseball memorabilia collector seeks the obscure

BY KRIS CORONADO

Step into Ray Brennan's den in Silver Spring, and it's obvious that the knickknacks adorning the room's walls and floor-to-ceiling shelves are not mere decoration. In addition to political and musical collectibles, the 10-by-12-foot room holds more than 200 pieces of baseball memorabilia.

"I'm looking for more obscure historical items from the game — from the inception of the game to the recent," the 58-year-old says. "It's the whole realm of the hobby. It's not specific to cards." Brennan, who works in IT service management, doesn't

acquire pieces for their resale potential; collecting has been a personal pastime for more than 30 years.

He searches every week for the unexpected at area sports card stores, estate sales or antiques malls. Part of the fun is the challenge: "You can go to a card show or dealer and ask if they have a specific card from a specific year for a specific player, and they'll pull it out, and then you just haggle on the price. Whereas, when you walk around from show to show and you see some of these things — like a Jackie Robinson doll or a lemon peel baseball — that's more of a challenge. They don't show up at all of the shows." Here, a look at a few of Brennan's pieces.



This plaster **1963 Senators bobblehead doll** isn't modeled after a specific player. In fact, it was often used for other baseball teams. "You could slap 'Yankees' on and change the paint scheme," Brennan says.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BENJAMIN C. TANKERSLEY

