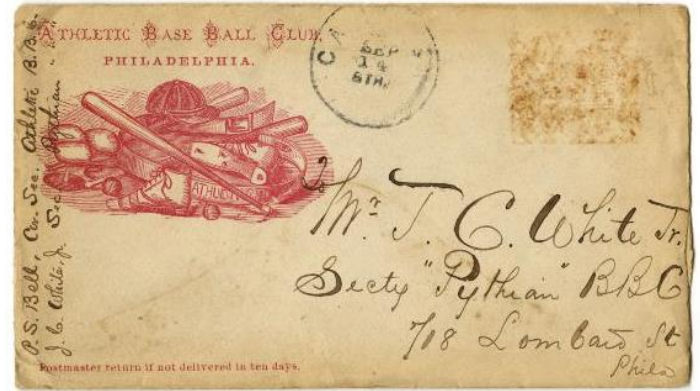


The Pythian Baseball Club

Established in 1866 by Octavius Catto and Jacob C. White, Jr., the Philadelphia Pythians became the leading all-Black baseball team in the city. Led by two prominent educators and intellectual leaders in the black community, the Pythians' games grew to be important gatherings for Black leaders in Philadelphia to discuss the social and political issues their communities faced. During their brief run, the Pythians often challenged and played with White teams as a way to advocate for acceptance within white society.



Primary sources

- ❖ Leon Gardiner Collection of American Negro Historical Society Records [Collection 0008]
 - *William Octavius Catto--Correspondence and Personal Papers (1856-1871)* [Box 3Ga, Folder 5]
 - *Pythian Baseball Club (1867-1870)* [Box 8G]
- ❖ Images from HSP's Digital Library, including scorecards, letters, and team rosters:
 - <http://digitallibrary.hsp.org/index.php/Search/Index?search=leon+gardiner+pythian>

Secondary sources

- ❖ Daniel Biddle & Murray Dubin. *Tasting Freedom: Octavius Catto and the Battle for Equality in Civil War America*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2010. [Call no. F 158.44 .C36 B53 2010]
- ❖ Jerrold Casway. "Octavius Catto and the Pythians of Philadelphia," *Pennsylvania Legacies*, Vol. 7, No. 1 (May 2007), 5-9.
 - <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27765073>
- ❖ Bruce Chadwick. *When the Game Was Black and White: The Illustrated History of the Negro Leagues*. New York: Abbeville Press, 1992. [Call no. GV875.A1 C47 1992]
- ❖ Anthony DiFiore. *Shadow Game: The Philadelphia Pythians and 19th Century African American Baseball*. Media, PA: Anthony DiFiore, 2007. [Call no. GV 865 .A1 D54 2007]