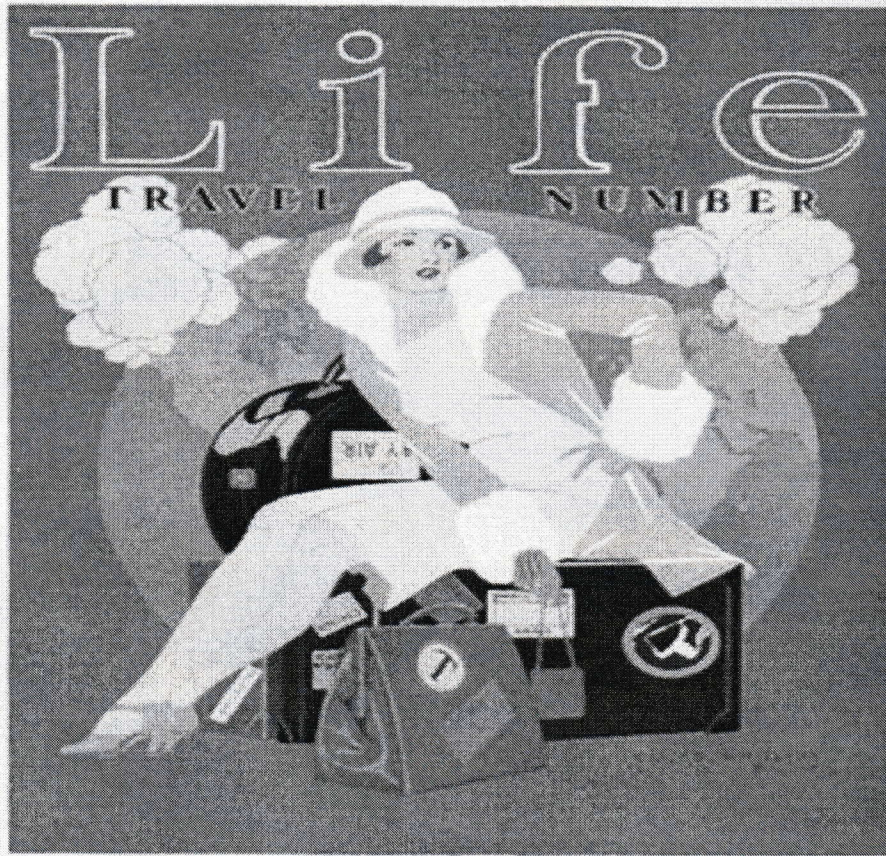


THE BLOCK 1920'S MAGAZINE



Painted by John Phillip

COVER PAGE

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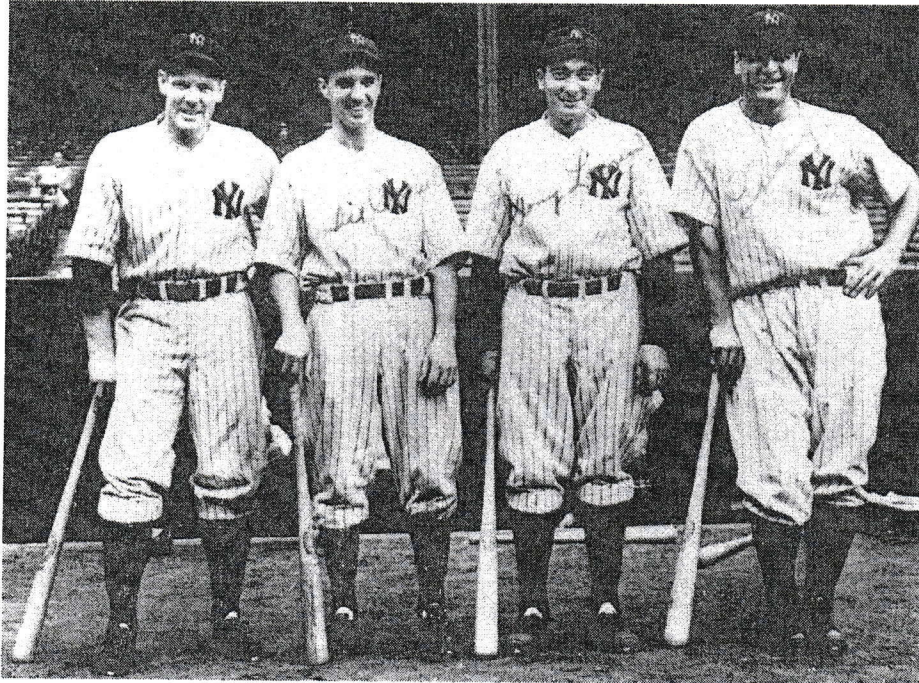
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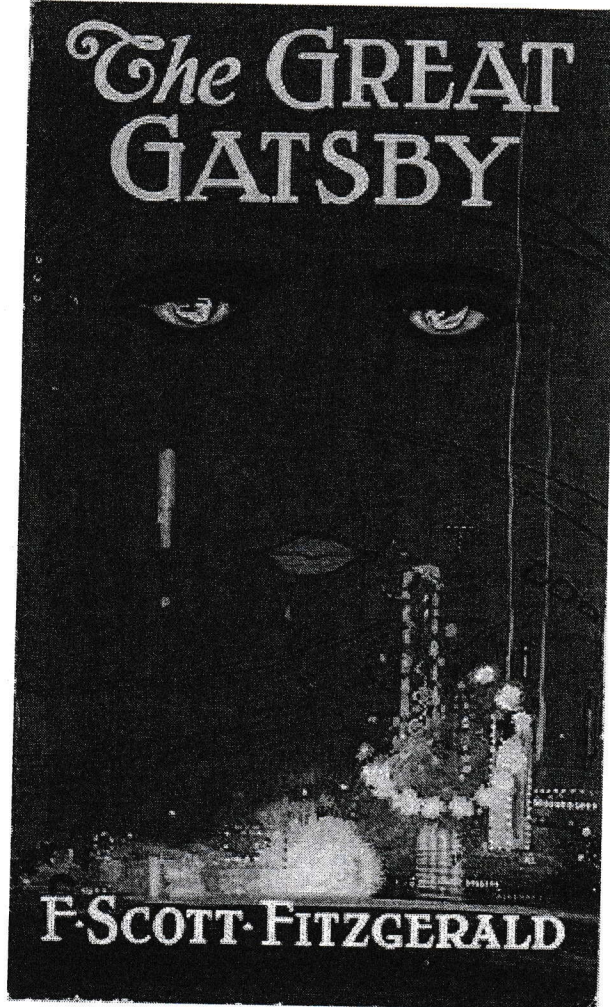
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The Golden Age of Baseball



In the 1920s baseball was America's national pastime. In the 20s the number of spectators increased by over 50%, making baseball the most popular sport in America. Before Babe Ruth, baseball was largely based around defensive strategies, but the emergence of Babe Ruth changed the dynamic of the sport forever. Fans became obsessed with Babe Ruth, his ability to hit home runs captivated fans and drew in larger crowds than ever before. Baseball quickly became imbedded into American culture, the majority of spectators and fans were in the working class. Baseball allowed people to relax and spend time with family. Although many Americans were in different places economically, Baseball united them. People in completely different social classes were brought together to root for their favorite team. In just a few short years, Baseball became America's favorite sport.



F Scott Fitzgerald was an author from the 1920s most known for his novel *The Great Gatsby*. Fitzgerald contributed his works of literature to pop culture in the 1920s. In his novels, he exposed the darker, more negative side of the 1920s' wealthy upper class. The content of Fitzgerald's novels, most notably *The Great Gatsby*, often dealt with unveiling the lavish and pursued lifestyle of the rich and exposing the decaying emptiness these upper class people often felt. Because of *The Great Gatsby*, Fitzgerald became synonymous with the "Jazz Age". Critics and historians often note that *The Great Gatsby*, though not successful at first, is the work that most accurately encompasses the "irresponsible optimism" of the 20s. He exposed the problems that arise from greed and alcohol dependence and is especially effective with this as many of the events and subject matter of his novels were based on his life experience.

1920s Fashion/Fads: Flappers

SAR

Before the start of World War 1, the image known as the Gibson Girl was very popular. Gibson Girl did not have that much freedom as she was still expected not to date, having to wait until a proper young man showed formal interest in her with the suitable intentions for marriage. However, after World War 1, things changed drastically. With the men away in foreign countries, broken off from the normal American societal structure, the women domineeringly entered the workforce. After the war, women were not eager to return to the notion of "normal" society that had existed before the war. Furthermore, nearly an entire generation of young men had died during the war, leaving an entire generation of young women without any possible suitors. Therefore, that generation of young women decided that they were not going to waste away their lives waiting for a husband, but rather were going to enjoy life on their own. Thus, with the breaking away from the traditional set of values came the iconic 1920s "flapper". The "flapper" was a new young woman who smoked, drank, danced, voted, wore make-up, went to parties, acted giddy and took bold risks. According to William and Mary Morris' Dictionary of Word and Phrase Origins, "In America, a *flapper* has always been a giddy, attractive and slightly unconventional young thing who, in [H. L.] Mencken's words, 'was a somewhat foolish girl, full of wild surmises and inclined to revolt against the precepts and admonitions of her elders.'" The "flapper" image made drastic changes to the old feminine image, replacing long, straight skirts with shorter ones just below the knee. The waists of clothing were dropped to the hipline and long luscious hair was replaced with a new do called the "bob". Women also started wearing heavy make-up consisting of powder, eyeliner and lipstick. This dramatic new look was matched with a dramatic new attitude of blunt frankness, sexual behavior and fast living. As the 1920s was the Jazz Age, a popular pass time for "flappers" was dancing. A popular dance in that time was called the Charleston made up of fast movement of the feet and swaying arms. The new "flapper" fad marked a breakthrough in fight for gender equality in the United States.



"Flappers" dancing the Charleston.

Literature: Edna St. Vincent Millay

Literature played a big role for the culture in the 1920s because people were able to express themselves through their writing and were able to speak their culture. Edna St. Vincent Millay was a very famous poet in the 1920s and was most known for her description of female expression and experience. Millay came from a family of a single mother who was known to be strong and independent. Therefore, it's said that she developed these strong, independent traits from her mother. In the 1920s there was a lot of sexism and focus on how the men were more dominant and above women. Many women tried to find a way to speak out but they were never able to because no one listened to women. Through her poems, Millay was able to speak up and spread her words about her opinion on the treatment of woman. She was able to reach out to women all over who were constantly feeling the sexist views on women in the 1920s. Through the powerful language of Millay's poems, people were able to understand that literature could be a very powerful resource to get their word out about the current problems that came about in the 1920s.

