

Picture This

BRAD MANGIN MAKES HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHY
DONATION TO MUSEUM LIBRARY.

BY CRAIG MUDER

For more than 25 years, Brad Mangin has documented baseball history through his camera lens.

And through recent donations to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Mangin is assuring baseball fans that the history he has recorded will be preserved forever in Cooperstown.

Mangin, a Bay Area freelance photographer who has worked for Major League

Baseball and *Sports Illustrated*, gave the Museum thousands of color slides this spring – photos that capture a generation of baseball stars and iconic moments. At the same time, Mangin made his entire digital archive – more than 50,000 baseball photos – available to the Hall of Fame for educational and promotional use.

“In 2009, I did a day’s worth of baseball lectures in Cooperstown on baseball photography, and I got to see the

photo library at the Hall of Fame,” Mangin said. “I really realized then how much the Hall of Fame cares, and that the Hall is the keeper of the game.

“There’s no other place that appreciates stuff like this like the Hall of Fame does. This is where these images belong.”

The photos are of big league baseball games from 1987 to the present, including regular season and playoff games.

Mangin is no stranger to the Hall of Fame photo archive. In 2002, he donated hundreds of other color slides to the Museum – all wonderfully preserved on Kodachrome film.

“Major League Baseball was doing a purge, and sent Brad’s slides back to him,” said Pat Kelly, the Hall of Fame’s photo archivist. “Rich Pilling, MLB’s retired photo editor, suggested that Brad give us the slides. It’s a wonderful collection.”



Since 1987, freelance photographer Brad Mangin has shot games involving the Giants and A's for several outlets, including *Sports Illustrated* and Major League Baseball.

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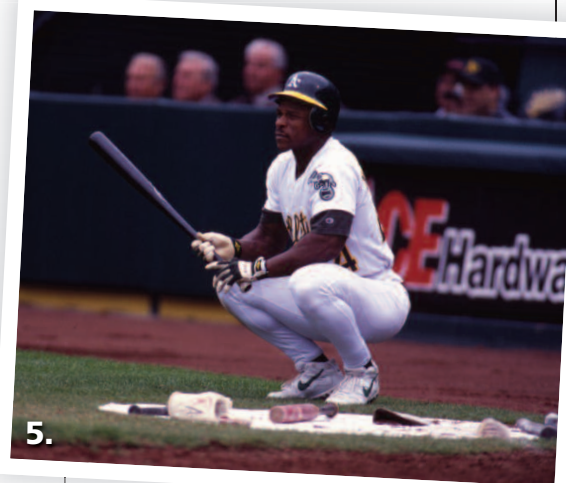
1. Pictured here while playing for the Mets during the 2002 season, 2011 Hall of Fame inductee Roberto Alomar shows up in many of the slides that were part of Brad Mangin's generous donation. 2. This 1999 shot of Jeff Kent holding a bat in the 3Com Park dugout is an example of the dynamic images that Mangin's donation adds to the Hall of Fame's archives. 3. Not only has Mangin captured many of the baseball greats who've played for the Giants and A's, he's also photographed numerous players passing through the Bay Area, sometimes in breathtaking ways, such as the Diamondbacks' Byung-Hyun Kim in 2002. 4. The quality of Mangin's work can be seen in the detail of this photo as the Cardinals' J.D. Drew slides into second base during a game in 2000. 5. Working approximately 80 Giants and A's games a year for the past two decades, Mangin has photographed the best the game has to offer, among them all-time steals leader and Hall of Famer Rickey Henderson during his years in Oakland.

Mangin majored in photojournalism at San Jose State and began his career in 1987 as a 22-year-old intern with the *Contra Costa Times* newspaper. He quickly moved on to the *National Sports Daily* and MLB, and has shot eight cover images for *Sports Illustrated*.

Mangin's collection reflects his wide-ranging skill as a photographer and contains game action, portraits, informal

shots of players in the dugout, fans, views of stadiums and "still lifes" of equipment.

The images depict stars like Derek Jeter, Ichiro Suzuki and CC Sabathia in their early years on the field; big hitters of the era such as Barry Bonds, Mark McGwire, Alex Rodriguez and Frank Thomas; and recently inducted Hall of Famers



including Roberto Alomar, Andre Dawson, Tony Gwynn and Rickey Henderson.



More than just a sports photographer, Brad Mangin has a keen eye for a good story and has taken many historic photos without needing to focus on a specific person, like this shot of Pacific Bell Park under construction in 1999.

Mangin transitioned to digital images in 2003, and there began the process of the latest round of slides coming to Cooperstown. As agencies returned the slides to Mangin after use, his office was overflowing with images.

"Suddenly, I had tons of good slides – many of which I uploaded to my online archive," Mangin said. "But when I came to the Hall of Fame in 2009 and toured the photo archive, I saw my 2002 slides in the cold storage area. I literally saw a binder of my collection at the Hall of Fame.

"I knew then that I was going to give even more images. So during the World Series this past year in Texas, I was talking with (Hall of Fame President) Jeff Idelson about how many photos out there are just sitting in storage. And it reminded me about the slide donation. Then I thought:

'Why not make my archive available?'

"There's no one else I would allow free access like this, but – hey – this is the Hall of Fame."

For Kelly, the donation fills a gap in the Museum's photo archive that now is overflowing with photography of the highest caliber.

"I'm still in awe," Kelly said. "It's one of the greatest donations we've ever received, along the lines of when several defunct New York City newspapers gave us their photos in the 1970s."

And as with his first donation a decade ago, Mangin's gift of slides mean his photography can be preserved for centuries.

"Because it's film, they will hold up very well in our cold storage unit," said Jenny Ambrose, the Library's curator of photographs. "You can't put into words

what this means. Brad has literally given us history that will be preserved forever."

Here's the best part: Mangin figures to add to his archive for another 20 or 30 years.

"I'm a baseball guy," Mangin said. "This is who I am, and this is all I do now. I shoot at least 80 games a year, and through the Giants and the A's, I can see all the players in both leagues.

"This is the gift that keeps on giving. And I feel fortunate that it will be kept in Cooperstown." 📷



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Craig Muder is the director of communications for the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.