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REVIEWS: Ty Cobb Safe at Home and The Ty Cobb Educational Foundation Through Fifty Years

Carol Waggoner-Angleton
Augusta State University

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Brijin Boddy, Off the Shelf Co-editor, Chattahoochee Valley Regional Library System, bboddy@cvrlls.net

Karen Odom, Off the Shelf Co-editor, Houston County Public Libraries, kodom@houpl.org

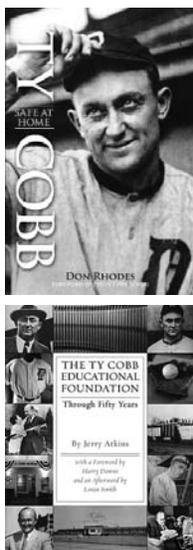
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NONFICTION

Ty Cobb Safe at Home by Don Rhodes (The Lyons Press, 2008; ISBN 978-08203-3017-4, \$15.95, pbk.)

The Ty Cobb Educational Foundation Through Fifty Years by Jerry Atkins (Five Points Press, 2007; ISBN 978-09789539-0-4, \$21.99, hbk.)

In the preface to his work *Ty Cobb Safe at Home*, Don Rhodes states that one of his goals is to focus on Ty Cobb's "rich life in Augusta." While Cobb's place in baseball drives other accountings of his life, including his own autobiography, *Ty Cobb: My Life in Baseball*, this account looks at Cobb through the words of Augusta, Ga.'s newspapers and the eyes of Augusta's people. We see Cobb leaving home and coming back, participating in civic and social life and being part of the fabric of the town. By emphasizing Augusta's position as the home base of Cobb's life, Rhodes has succeeded in making Cobb the man the focus of the story rather than the teams, scores and plays. Rhodes says nothing which would revise opinion that this legendary ballplayer was in private: quick-tempered, impatient, sometimes violent and less than kind to his family. Rather, he shines more light on a Cobb who was motivated by high standards and, in spite of serious faults, still made the world a



better place when he left, as is illustrated in Cobb's legacy of the Ty Cobb Healthcare System and the Cobb Educational Foundation. It's a swift and absorbing read, of interest more to the local history enthusiast than the baseball fan, but satisfying to both. If your interest is piqued by the insight into the man, a further look at his legacy might be in order. *The Ty Cobb Educational Foundation Through Fifty Years* has capsule biographies of important people in Cobb's life and reproductions of Cobb's correspondence. The reliance on primary sources adds weight to the narrative of the founding of the fund and the awarding of subsequent scholarships. While an informative and interesting book on its own, this would be an excellent addition to the reading resource list of Georgia academic counselors and scholarship reference collections. ►►

— Reviewed by **Carol Waggoner-Angleton**

Reese Library
Augusta State University

Flannery: A Life of Flannery O'Connor by Brad Gooch (Little, Brown and Co., 2009; ISBN 978-0-316-00066-6, \$30, hbk.)

O'Connor once speculated that "there won't be any biographies of me because, for only one reason, lives spent between the house and the chicken yard do not make

