

# THE PERSONAL COLLECTION OF WHITEY FORD

Over the years, we have been fortunate to have dealt with numerous players and their families. Their memorabilia tells a story about a particular era, a specific game, or maybe another teammate. These "keepsakes" are tangible evidence of countless moments, some important, others less so, both on and off the field. In many cases, the auction preparation, catalogue assembly, and research for the items takes priority, appropriately, over the realization that we are in the presence of history. All too often, only after an auction has passed, will I have time to reflect on the beginning of the process and realize that I just been in the home of Joe DiMaggio, or spoken to Roxie Campanella, or accompanied Clem Labine to dinner. The brevity of the moment is seemingly never apparent until after the event is over.

In the case of Whitey Ford, I can honestly say that the magnitude of the moment has been apparent since the very first day we met with Mr. Ford and his family at his home in New York. I must confess that although I have worked with many players and families, I was a bit nervous. This is Whitey Ford. As I have witnessed numerous times while accompanying Whitey at a media event or preview appearance, reporters, camera men, casual bystanders, and other players all take heed when they realize the Chairman of the Board is among them.

Many players are referenced by sportswriters, news reporters, and auction catalogue writers as "one of the greatest" players of a particular position, era, team, etc. In the case of Whitey Ford, this assertion simply is fact. His numbers are staggering:

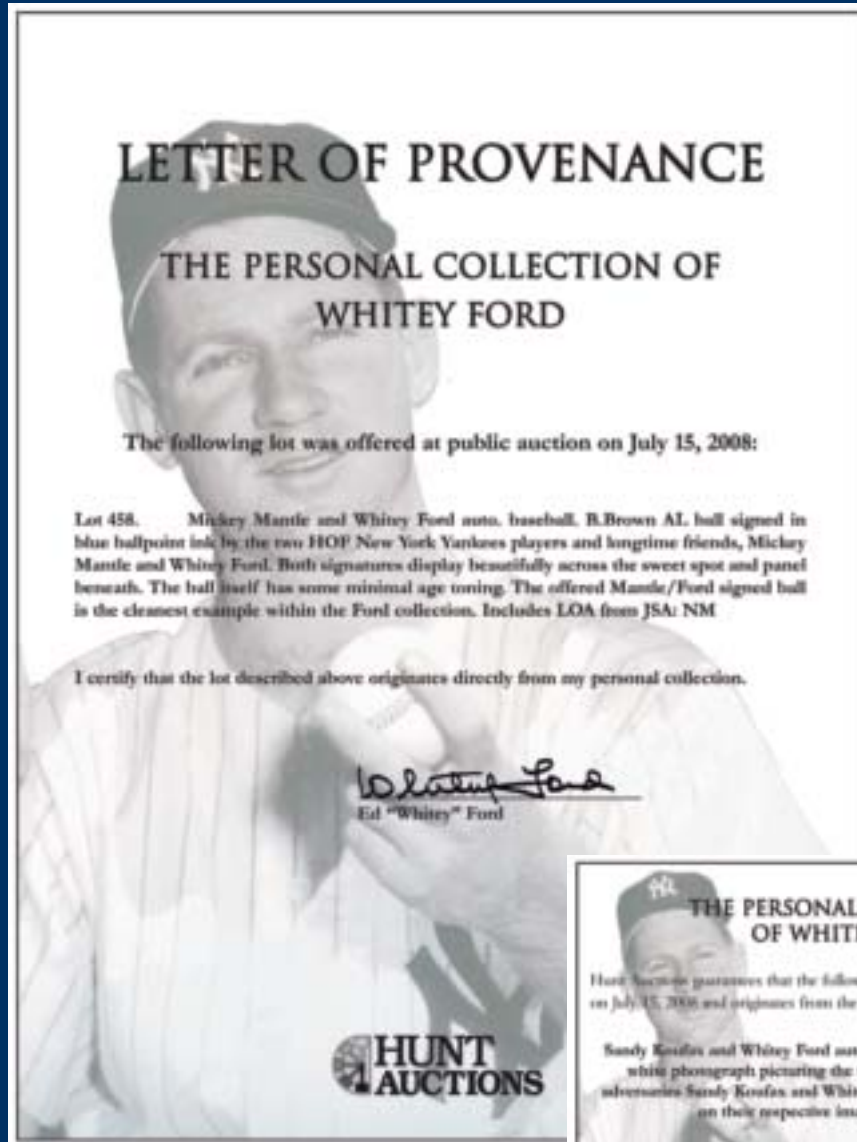
- Lifetime record of 236-107
- Career .690 winning percentage
- 156 complete games and 45 shutouts
- 1,956 strikeouts
- Career E.R.A. of 2.75
- 10 World Series victories
- 94 World Series strikeouts
- 10 All-Star game selections
- Pitched 33 2/3 consecutive scoreless innings in World Series play

I can also say that from the first meeting, Whitey and his family have been an absolute pleasure to work with on this very large project. Whether the task was as simple as recounting a brief story about a particular item, or as significant as a large preview event in California, they have all been incredibly supportive and uncommonly gracious with their assistance. In that regard, I would like to extend a personal thank you to Whitey's family for allowing us into your home and for the privilege of sharing some time with your father and husband. And to Whitey, a sincere thank you for honoring our company with your trust and allowing us to share your wonderful memorabilia with the public. As a great fan of the game itself, and its storied history, I can say with ease that working with you and your family has been one of the highlights of my professional career. It is my hope that we have treated you and your items with the respect that you, and they, so very much deserve.

*David Hunt*  
*President, Hunt Auctions*

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All lots from the personal collection of Whitey Ford, represented in Lots 464-775, will be accompanied by a letter of provenance signed by Whitey Ford. In addition, certain lots will also include individual Whitey Ford COAs and have been noted as such in the catalogue descriptions.




**LETTER OF PROVENANCE**


**THE PERSONAL COLLECTION OF  
WHITEY FORD**

The following lot was offered at public auction on July 15, 2008:

**Lot 458.** Mickey Mantle and Whitey Ford auto. baseball. B.Brown AL ball signed in blue ballpoint ink by the two HOF New York Yankees players and longtime friends, Mickey Mantle and Whitey Ford. Both signatures display beautifully across the sweet spot and panel beneath. The ball itself has some minimal age toning. The offered Mantle/Ford signed ball is the cleanest example within the Ford collection. Includes LOA from JSA: NM

I certify that the lot described above originates directly from my personal collection.

  
Ed "Whitey" Ford





**THE PERSONAL COLLECTION  
OF WHITEY FORD**

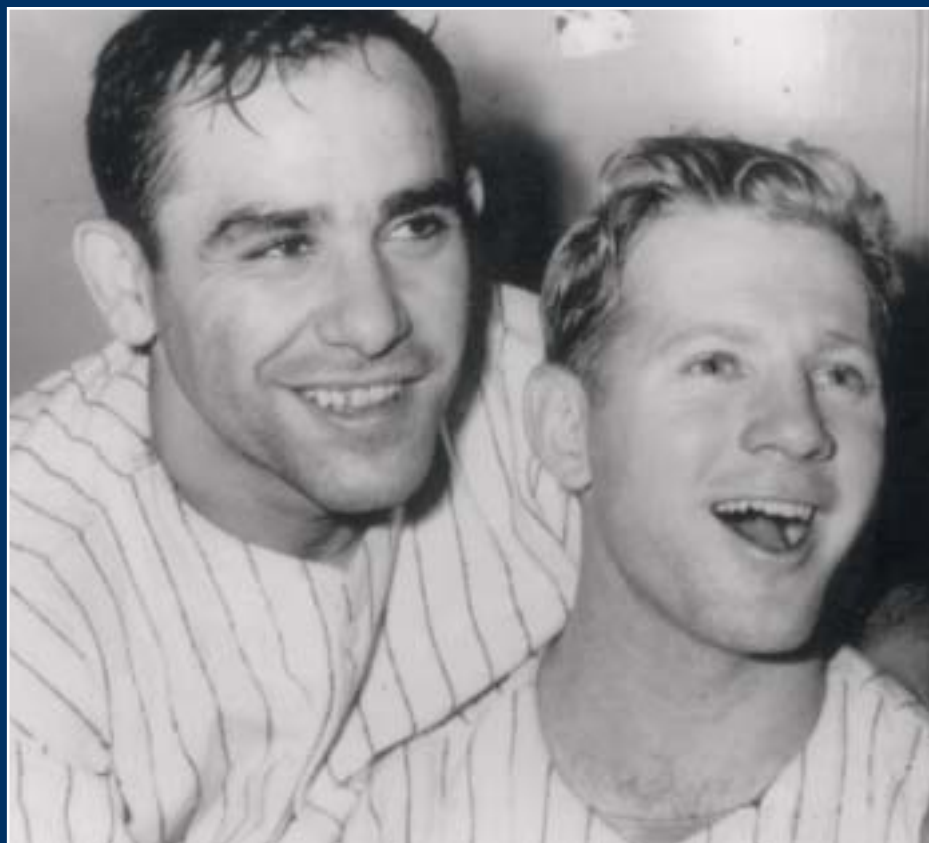
Hunt Auctions guarantees that the following item was offered at public auction on July 15, 2008 and originates from the personal collection of Whitey Ford:

**Sandy Kousser and Whitey Ford auto. photograph.** 11"x14" black and white photograph picturing the two great left handed pitching adversaries Sandy Kousser and Whitey Ford. Both players have signed on their respective images in blue sharpie.





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**P**aul Krichell, Yankees scout, introduced me to a young guy with blond hair by the name of Ed Ford. The world would come to know him as “Whitey” Ford. Funny thing is, I could never understand why they called him Whitey because his hair wasn’t white. What I do understand is that he was one of the greatest pitchers I ever caught. Nothing could rattle Whitey. It didn’t matter whether it was the World Series, All-Star Game, or a weekday game in August; he kept his cool. I remember when he returned from his military service and joined the Yankees for good. His curve ball was the best. He could throw it on a 0-2 count or a 3-2 count for a strike. Whitey’s control was nearly perfect.

I’ve been asked before to tell some interesting stories about visits to the pitcher’s mound with Whitey. I tell people I don’t have any because he was too good and never needed me to visit the mound. There was one occasion when, in the first inning of a game, Whitey got into some trouble. He gave up four runs on what seemed like, and maybe were, the first four pitches of the game. Our manager, the great Casey Stengel, came out to the mound for a meeting and asked me if Whitey “had anything” on his pitches. I told Casey, “I don’t know, I haven’t caught one yet.”

Whitey and I were lucky enough to have played on many of the great Yankees teams of the 1950s and 60s. We were teammates, but we were also very good friends. We all were friends - Mickey Mantle, Elston Howard, Billy Martin, and others. We all shared a special bond as teammates on the field that carried over to being such good friends off the field. I think the very fact that we were all so close really helped contribute to winning those championships during that time.

If you look at Whitey’s career pitching accomplishments, they are remarkable. To think that he compiled those numbers during his career in New York is amazing, and he was one of the big reasons that led to our success with the Yankees during those years.

One other funny story about Whitey that I can clearly remember occurred on a day when he was scheduled to pitch. He and I were staying together and I was to wake him up before we boarded the bus to head for the game. I snuck away to head to the park and left him sleeping. Whitey arrived sometime later at the stadium just before the game was about to start, and he hastily got ready to pitch. True to form, Whitey won the game. These are the kind of memorable and amusing remembrances that I have from my playing days with my teammate, and friend, Whitey Ford.

*Yogi Berra*

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On behalf of my family, I would like to thank all of you for participating in this historic auction in conjunction with the final All-Star Game at Yankee Stadium. I was born and raised on E. 66th street in New York City, and grew up idolizing the star players with the New York Yankees such as Joe DiMaggio. I remember when I was very young, sitting in the bleachers of Yankee Stadium with a family member watching Joe DiMaggio play in a double header. Joe went one for eight over the two games with at least six of the outs being very deep fly balls to the huge area in center field. Just one week later, I was watching the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field, and vividly recall the dimensions of the outfield being so different from those of Yankee Stadium. I thought to myself that if Joe had been playing for the Dodgers in that same double header, he would have had a double and seven home runs.

In 1947, I was signed as an amateur free agent by the New York Yankees and am proud to say that I was able to stay with the team for my entire eighteen year career. It would be impossible to recount all of the great memories that I shared during all those seasons with my Yankee teammates Yogi Berra, Mickey Mantle, Billy Martin, Roger Maris, and Elston Howard just to name a few. Remarkably, after all these years, Yogi Berra and I still remember the same game against the Chicago White Sox in which, after four pitches, I surrendered three runs. Even in a bad moment during a game such as that, we all managed to still have a laugh.

Many of the items that you see offered within this catalogue represent the various accomplishments that I have achieved during my career with the Yankees. They also represent the relationships that I have made as a member of the team. The memories of those days with the Yankees will stay with me for the rest of my life. I am happy to share a portion of those memories with you, the fans, through some of the items in my collection. When I heard about the Major League Baseball All-Star game being played in New York this year, as the final one in the history of Yankee Stadium, I knew this was the right time to offer my collection. The greatest achievements of my career occurred in this stadium and I will never forget the countless thousands of Yankees fans who were there cheering for me over the many years. Again, I thank you for allowing me to share these memories with you, the fans, and I hope to see many of you at the event in July.

*Yours,  
Ed "Whitey" Ford*