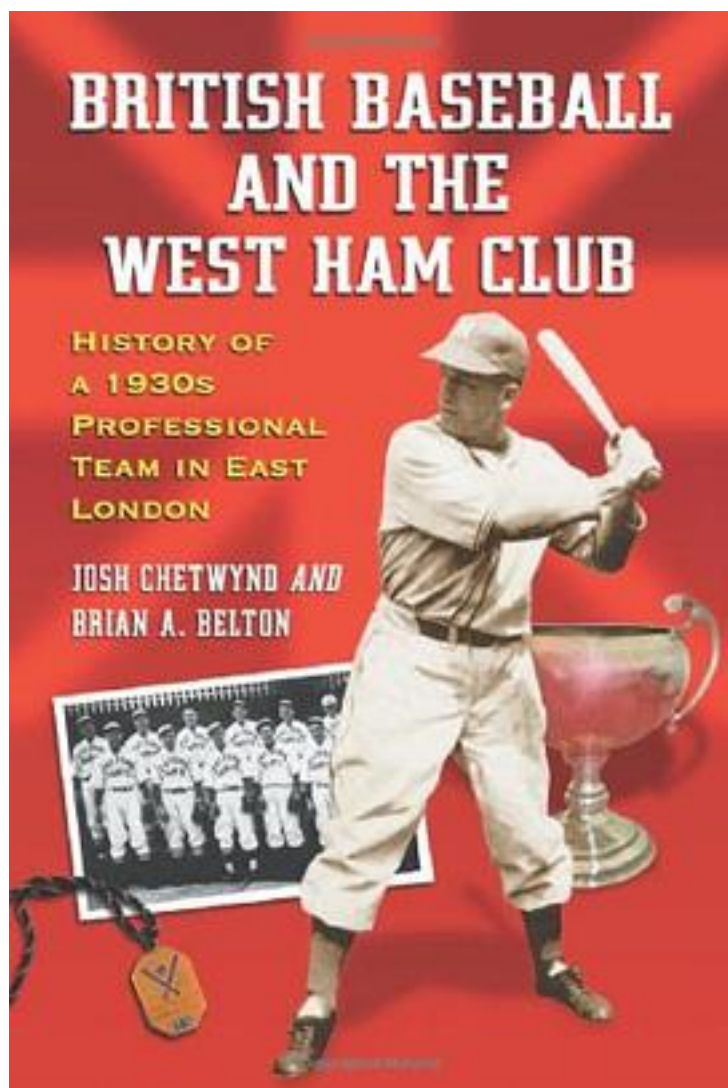


British Baseball and the West Ham Club



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Few people associate baseball with Great Britain, but for a brief period in the 1930s, America's pastime nearly gained a foothold with the British populace. Though never as popular as the beloved football clubs, baseball teams like the West Ham Hammers developed intense local followings, and played some excellent baseball?in 1936, the Hammers defeated the U.S. Olympic team. The outbreak of World War II ended the rising popularity of baseball among Britons, but speculation remains that British baseball could have flourished. This book traces the history of baseball as a popular British sport, concentrating on one particularly successful and notable team, the West Ham Hammers. It places the West Ham club within the historical context of 1930s Great Britain, and covers team management, major players and the fans, many of whom still cling fondly to faded memories of the club and West Ham Stadium. Eight appendices include team rosters and year-by-year records from 1890 to 2005.

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