

# DREAMS OF SUMMERS PAST



## 699) Pride of the Yankees Babe Ruth Uniform

This is the actual uniform worn by Babe Ruth in Samuel Goldwyn's "Pride of the Yankees" in 1942. When it came time to cast the role of the Babe, there was only one choice - the Babe himself. Although it seemed that Ruth had been around forever, he was only 47 years old and not yet ravaged by the disease that would claim him in 1948. The history of the uniform is as storied as the life of the man who wore it. It was originally made and owned by the Western Costume Company that made all the uniforms for the film including Gary Cooper's for his portrayal of Gehrig. By custom, it was returned to them after the project was completed. Sometime after the 1940s it vanished from their inventory and ended up in a private collection. In the late 1980s that collector was purportedly rubbed out in an alleged mob hit in Las Vegas and the uniform once again disappeared from sight. The uniform and the story of the hit were featured on the TV show "Unsolved Mysteries" resulting in the uniform being turned over to police later that year. When no one claimed it for several years, during which it resided in the police property room, the person who had turned it in was allowed to claim it. It was then purchased by a Ft. Lauderdale sports card shop owner who took it to a show in New York. The uniform was then somehow stolen from the dealer's rental car trunk, resulting in widespread media coverage. The coverage led to its recovery once again when the thief tried to sell it back to the victim. As with most notorious

and valuable items, this renowned uniform has come to us at Mastro to find a legitimate and permanent home. The finely crafted uniform was made for Western by Goldsmith to exact specifications in a size 50 to accommodate the then portly Ruth. There is evidence of a number having been removed from the back and a monogram from the front. On the front left tail of the jersey is chain stitched "Babe Ruth," and in the center back tail is the stamped label of the Western Costume Company. These markings and other design details are identical to those on the uniform worn by Cooper that was sold several years ago at auction. The pin stripes can be matched to the photos of scenes from the movie which are included with the lot. The pinstriped pants are similarly sewn in the waistband "Babe Ruth". The uniform is offered with a detailed LOA from Mr. Ronald Beard, who worked for Western for 44 years as the supervisor of the stock department, in which he states that this is the actual uniform worn by Ruth in the film. Overall the uniform is in excellent condition with a few minor repairs and a slight pinkish toning to the jersey. An accompanying album contains multiple articles about the history of the uniform, a copy of the police receipt and other LOAs. The role had not been challenging for Ruth. In the film he looks as Gehrig's teammate was a role he was born for. No one could have done it better.

Minimum Bid \$10,000

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