

# CURIOSITIES

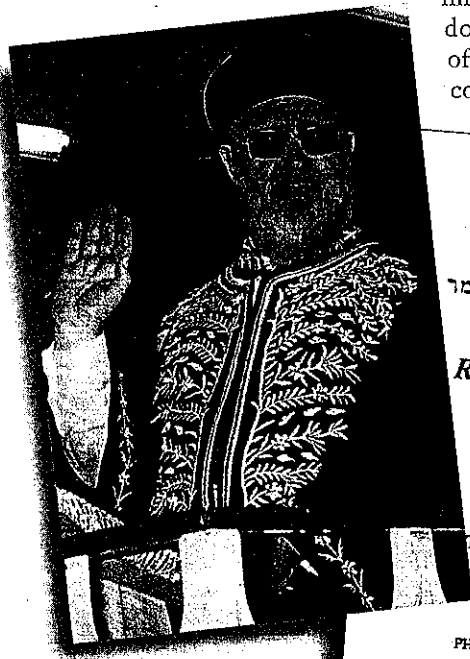
FROM THE STACKS OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

## Rabbis and RBIs

**I**N THE HISTORY OF MAJOR-league baseball, there have been about 100 Jewish players—less than 1 percent of the professional baseball population. Now, thanks to a nonprofit Baltimore company, Jewish children have an alternative: They can collect cards commemorating famous Orthodox rabbis.

The Torah Personalities series, which features 216 rabbis, is sold and traded in Israel, Europe, Australia and North America. The first sets are formatted much like baseball cards. On the front of each card is a color photograph, and on the back are the rabbi's "stats" in English and Hebrew—his name, position and what books he has published. More recent cards focus on individual holidays, with quizzes on the reverse that teach about religious practices. The Torah Personalities cards have been enormously popular; about 2 million have been sold thus far.

The cards came into the collections of the Library of Congress for copyrighting. But they now serve another, more scholarly, purpose: They may be the only available images of some rabbis, documenting the leaders of the Orthodox Jewish community.



הרב עובדיה יוסף,  
שליט"א  
ראשון לציון  
מחבר: שו"ת יביע אומר  
יחזק דעת  
**RAV OVADIA YOSEF,**  
SHLITA  
Former Rishon Letsion  
(Yerushalayim)  
Born in Iraq  
Talmid of Porat Yosef

PHOTO BY פוטו זאבי

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Sold on condition not to copy.

U.S.A.  
1-36

## Horning In on the Enemy

**F**OR A BRITISH soldier in the French and Indian War, this powder horn served a double

function. It packed ammo for hostile encounters with

1760 and 1763, probably by a professional artisan. The map makes little sense if you try to read it from top to bottom or left to right. The engraver, thinking in the strictly linear terms of a soldier on the march, depicted an 800-mile stretch of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Valley

function. It packed ammo for hostile encounters with Iroquois and grenadiers, and it also helped him find the next battle. A map meticulously engraved on the horn depicts the main theater of war, from "Lake Hurone" to the city of "Quebeck."

Soldiers had long used hollowed-out cow or ox horns to carry gunpowder. But during the French and Indian War, incised "map horns" became popular among British troops as typical souvenirs of America. The example here, which bears the royal arms and monogram of George III, was made between

wrapped around the horn in a spiral. He drew the battlements of forts such as "Ticonberago" and the steeples of towns such as "Detroiect" and "Moun-treal." A hairy man in a tricorn hat—probably a Frenchman—fires a cannon from the rooftops of Quebec. In an era of few accurate charts, this horn may have been a soldier's only guide through the wild northwest margins of the New World.

TORAH PERSONALITIES

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