

# MEARS

Memorabilia Evaluation and Research Services

## Letter of Opinion

1955 Mickey Mantle New York Yankees Home Jersey

with use attributed to the 1956 season

### Internal Data

Date of Examination: 2013-05-15 00:00:00  
Certificate No: 312611  
Era: Modern Era Hall of Fame

### Jersey Style

Issued As: Home Pinstripe  
Stage of Career: Player  
Style: Button Down  
Worn During: 1955-56  
Material: Flannel  
Manufacturer: Spalding  
Manufacturer Logo: N/A  
League Logo: N/A  
Number of Buttons: 7  
Button Style: 4 Hole  
Color of Buttons: White  
Velcro Enclosure: None

### Tagging Examination

Tagging Era: c1952-57  
Manufacturer Tag Location: In Collar  
Exclusive Tag: N/A  
Size Tag: Box Tag  
Size Matches Exemplars: Yes  
Size Indicated: 44  
Chest Measurement: 22  
Torso: 33  
Player ID Tag: Chain Stitched on Tail  
Year Issued: 1955  
Year ID Tag: Chain Stitched on Tail/Box Tag  
Set Tag: Box Tag

### Team Lettering

Team Name: NY Crest  
Team Lettering: Heavy Felt  
Team Lettering Size: 5 1/2"

### Player Name

Player's Name: N/A  
Players Name Applied: N/A  
Players Name Size: N/A

### Numbering

Correct Number For Player: Yes  
Number Placement: Back  
Number Styling: Heavy Felt  
Number Size Front: N/A  
Number Size Back: 7 5/8"  
Number Size Sleeves: N/A

### Patch

Left Sleeve: N/A  
Right Sleeve: N/A  
Patch Other: N/A

### Other

Matches Exemplars: Yes  
Sewing Examination: N/A  
Alteration: Number Replaced  
Autographed: Yes

### Provenance / Origin

Letter of Authenticity: N/A

### Wear Characteristics

Evident Use: Moderate  
Repairs: None  
Wear Consistent: Yes

### Grading Breakdown

Base Grade: 10  
Provenance:  
+/-: -3 Number Replacement  
+/-:  
+/-:

1234 Manitoba Avenue, South Milwaukee, WI 53172

[www.mearsonline.com](http://www.mearsonline.com)

[www.mearsonlineauctions.com](http://www.mearsonlineauctions.com) [info@mearsonlineauctions.com](mailto:info@mearsonlineauctions.com)

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+/-:



Troy Kinunen, President

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### Comments:

Dave Grob's Comments and Working Notes for:  
1955 Mickey Mantle New York Yankees Home Jersey  
with use attributed to the 1956 season

**Size:** The jersey is tagged as and measures as a size 44. This was confirmed both through measurement across the chest and comparing it with period on hand Spalding products in sizes 42 and 44. The size is also appropriate when seen against period sizing data for Mickey Mantle. As such, I consider this to be an appropriate sized jersey for Mantle in 1955. (PLATE I)

**Manufacturers Tagging:** The jersey features a c1953-1957 Spalding manufacturers tag. The supplemental tagging for laundry instructions are also consistent for a Spalding product of this vintage. Supplemental tagging for player and year of issuance/manufacturer is found in the lower left front tail. All of this is considered to be period, team, and manufacturer appropriate when compared to exemplar 1955 New York Yankee home jerseys manufactured by Spalding. (PLATES II-III)

**Construction/Style:** The jersey is constructed of a professional grade wool blend fabric (75% wool/25% nylon) that is consistent by weave with on-hand period professional grade Spalding major league uniforms. This was verified by comparing the weave of the fabric under a digital microscope with fabric samples from comparable Spalding major league products. Sleeve style is "Set-In" as opposed to Raglan. The sleeves are cut to a length of 3 1/2" (full bicep cut) and this is consistent with what period images portray. All lettering and numbering is consistent with respect to font style, size, and placement when compared to period images.

### Imagery Analysis:

PLATE IV depicts Mantle in a home jersey attributed to May of 1955. While the NY logo is largely obscured the portions that are visible are consistent with the offered jersey. There is also a pinstripe that runs through the button line as on the offered jersey as well.

PLATE V depicts Mantle in a home jersey attributed to 1 September 1955. The alignment of the NY crest on the pictured jersey does not appear consistent with the offered jersey. For ease in reference, this area has been circled in red.

PLATE VI depicts Mantle in an undated photo from 1955. The alignment of the NY crest on the pictured jersey does not appear consistent with the offered jersey.

The information from PLATES IV-VI shows us that there are ways to distinguish the various home jerseys worn by Mantle in 1955. Inventory practices of the New York Yankees indicates that the Yankees carried forward a uniform from the previous season for a players use. As such, it would be reasonable to expect to see a uniform worn in 1955, also worn for a portion of the 1956 season as well.

PLATES VII-VIII shows Mantle from the back in 1955 and spring of 1956. The value of these plates is only to confirm the numeric font style and general alignment of the numbering.

PLATES IX-XVI depicts Mantle in home uniforms up to and including the time frame of the All Star Game of 1956. The color images, while undated have been placed to the first half of the 1956 season by the photographer himself (Mr. Marvin Newman). I spoke at length with Mr. Newman about these images and he was gracious enough to provide me with high resolution digital images to analyze. Additional images taken by Mr. Newman are available for viewing in the book "Yankee Colors. The Glory Years of the Mantle Era" by Marvin Newman and Al Silverman.

PLATE XVII depicts Mantle in a home uniform dated to 25 August 1956. Crest/pinstripe alignment exclude it from being the offered shirt and also serve the purpose of showing Mantle in more than one identifiable home jersey from 1956.

This imagery analysis suggest to me, that while the jersey is properly tagged for 1955, it was also worn by Mickey Mantle during at least the first half of the 1956 season. This would be consistent with New York Yankee uniform

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inventory practices of the time as well.

Use/Wear: The jersey shows signs of moderate use and wear. This is best seen in the general surface wear to the body of garment as well as the fading to the navy blue wool blend athletic felt used for the lettering and numbering. There is only minor wear/breaks to the anchor stitching, most notable in the collar area. The right shoulder/collar area also features some rather small and almost imperceptible holes. The garment is remarkable clean, with only small rust like blemish just above the number "7" on the rear. I do not feel that the number "7" on the jersey is original to the garment. I based this off of two observations that are best confirmed when the garment is viewed in soft natural light.

1. Remnants of what appears to adhesive residue that the base of the numeral "7".
2. Slight variation in the fade/color of the felt and thread on the NY crest on the front and rear numeral seven.

Opinion: In my opinion this jersey possesses all the characteristics you would expect to see in jersey manufactured in 1955 by Spalding for use and wear by Mickey Mantle. The shirt is categorized as a 1955 Mickey Mantle New York Yankees home jersey based on the tagging of the garment and the possibility that the offered jersey is the one pictured in PLATE IV. I feel it reasonable to exclude the offered jersey from being the one in PLATES V-VI, also from 1955. The offered jersey compares most favorably with the jersey worn by Mantle in the undated photographs taken in 1956 (verified by the photographer), as well as those from the 1956 All Star Game. Previous work and research on New York Yankee uniforms indicates that use of a jersey in a subsequent season was common. As such, I would attribute the use of this jersey by Mantle to portions of the 1955 and 1956, at least up to and including the All Star Game of 1956. As stated above, I believe the rear numeral "7" is not original to the garment.

The MEARS worksheet and grading criteria provides for 5 categories for which points may deducted, I found these reasons to deduct points:

Category 4: -3 for number replacement.

As such, the final grade for this jersey bearing hologram 312611 is A7.

Dave Grob

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Enclosures: PLATES I-XVII

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### Mickey Mantle 1951-1968

#### Static References:

- Total Baseball: 5'11"; 198 lbs
- Baseball Reference.com: 5', 11; 195 lbs

#### Contemporary Sizing References:

- 1951 Bowman Card # 253: 5', 10"; 175 lbs
- 1952 Yankee Yearbook: 5', 10"; 175 lbs
- 1953 Yankees Yearbook: 5', 10"; 191 lbs
- 1954 Yankees Yearbook: 5', 10"; 191 lbs
- 1955 Yankees Yearbook: 5', 10"; 195 lbs
- 1956 Yankees Yearbook: 5', 11"; 196 lbs

#### Period Jersey Data Base References:

- 1952 Road, Spalding: size 42
- 1953 Road, Spalding: size 44
- 1954 Home, McAuliffe: size 44
- 1954 Home, Wilson: size 44
- 1954 Road, Wilson: size 44
- 1955 Home, Spalding: size 44 (set 2)
- 1955 Home, Spalding: size 44 (set 1)
- 1956 Road, Wilson: size 44

c1953-1957  
Spalding Label



Offered Jersey

PLATE I

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Common 1955 Yankees Home Exemplar



Tagging Comparison

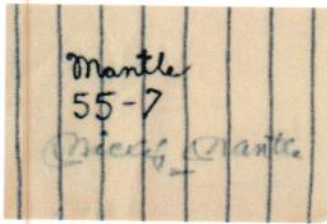


PLATE II



Restored Front

AMI; LOT # 7388  
June 2004



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PLATE III

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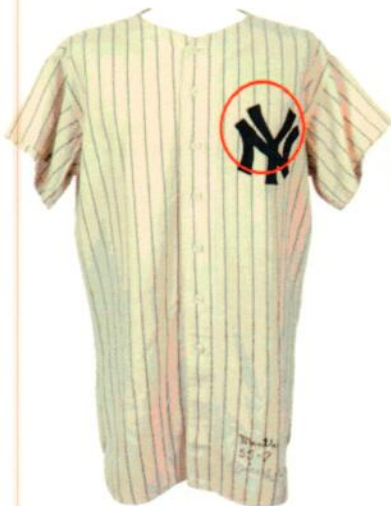
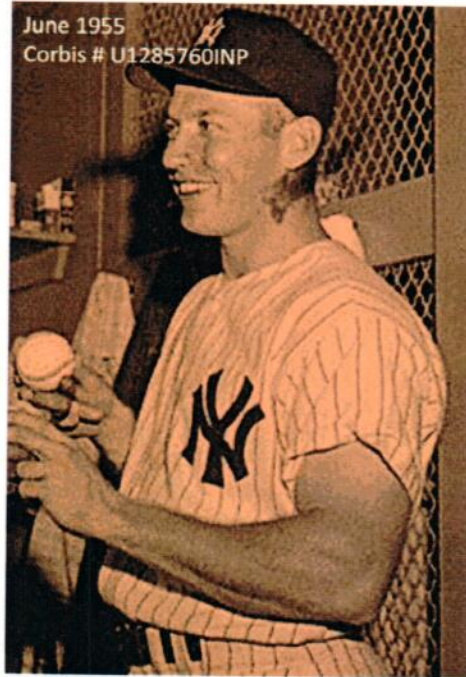
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### 1955 Mickey Mantle New York Yankees Home Jersey



Possible Shirt on Right

PLATE IV



Shirt Pictured Right is Excluded  
From Being the Offered Jersey

PLATE V



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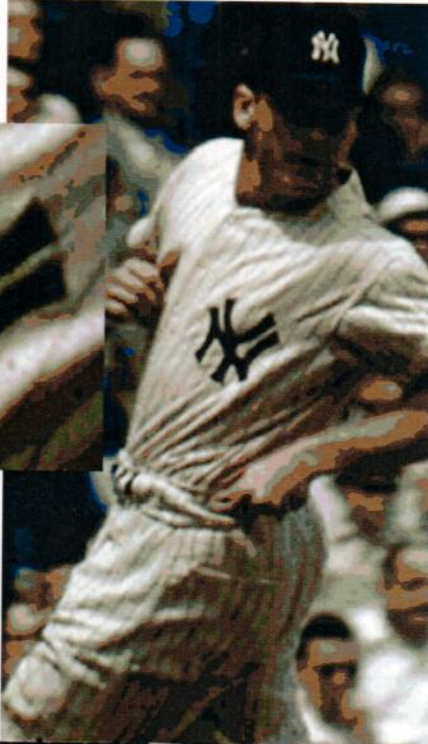
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Undated 1955



Shirt Pictured Right is Excluded  
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PLATE VI



25 May 1955  
Corbis # BE050190

PLATE VII



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PLATE VIII



PLATE IX

Undated  
Photo:  
Attributed to  
1956



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Undated  
Photo:  
Attributed to  
1956

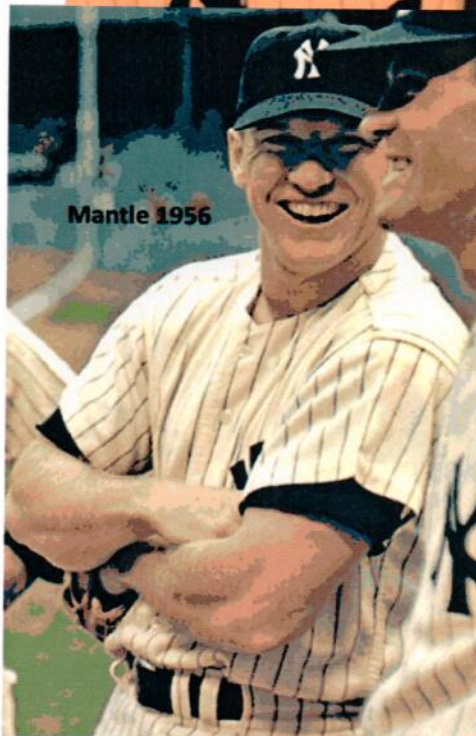


PLATE X



**Offered Jersey**

PLATE XI



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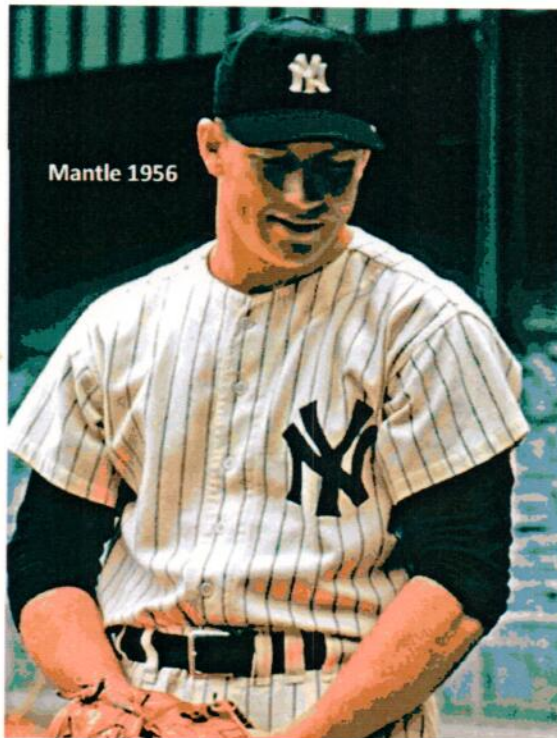
PLATE XII

Mantle 1956



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PLATE XIII



Mantle 1956

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PLATE XIV

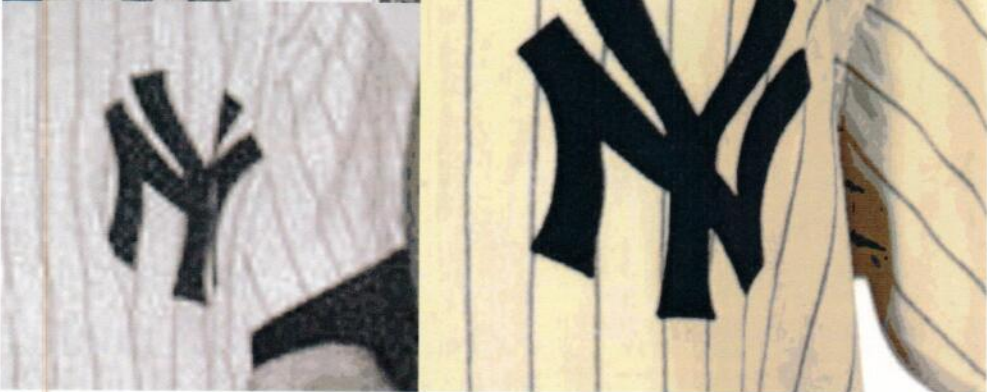
### 1956 All Star Game

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PLATE XV

### 1956 All Star Game



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PLATE XVI

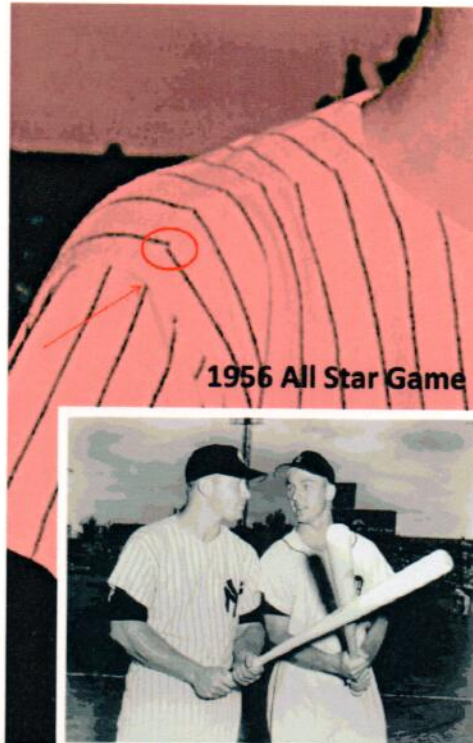


PLATE XVII

25 August 1956  
Corbis #U1321581INP