The Loma Prieta 1989 "World Series" Earthquake Jolted Joe Dimaggio

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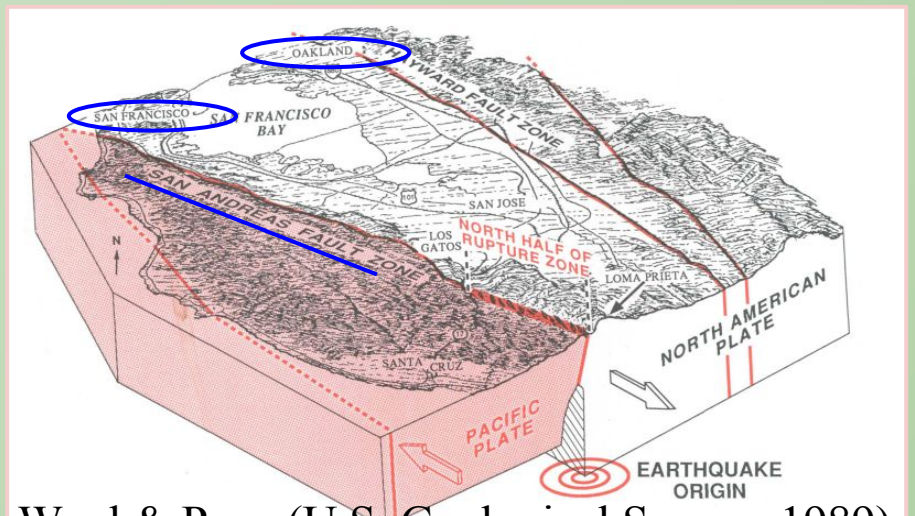
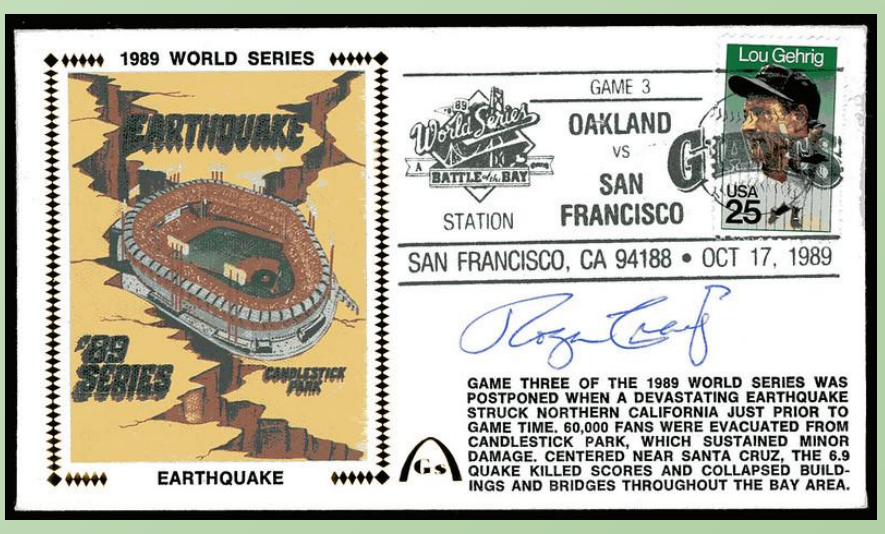
American Topical Association, My One-Page Open Exhibit, 2025

The 1989 baseball World Series between the San Francisco Giants and the Oakland A's was swept by the A's in 4 games. Game 3 was interrupted on Oct. 17, 1989, by the magnitude 7.1 Loma Prieta earthquake along the San Andreas fault (see right), delaying completion of the Series. The death toll was 62, with $6 billion of damage. Here I show Loma Prieta philatelic and ephemera items (not to scale) from my collection on North American earthquakes.

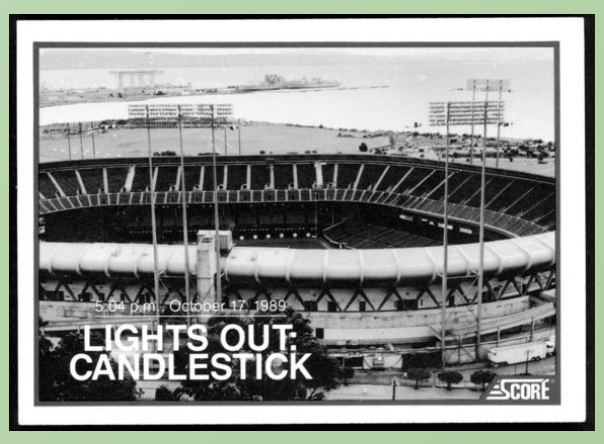


Ward & Page (U.S. Geological Survey, 1989)

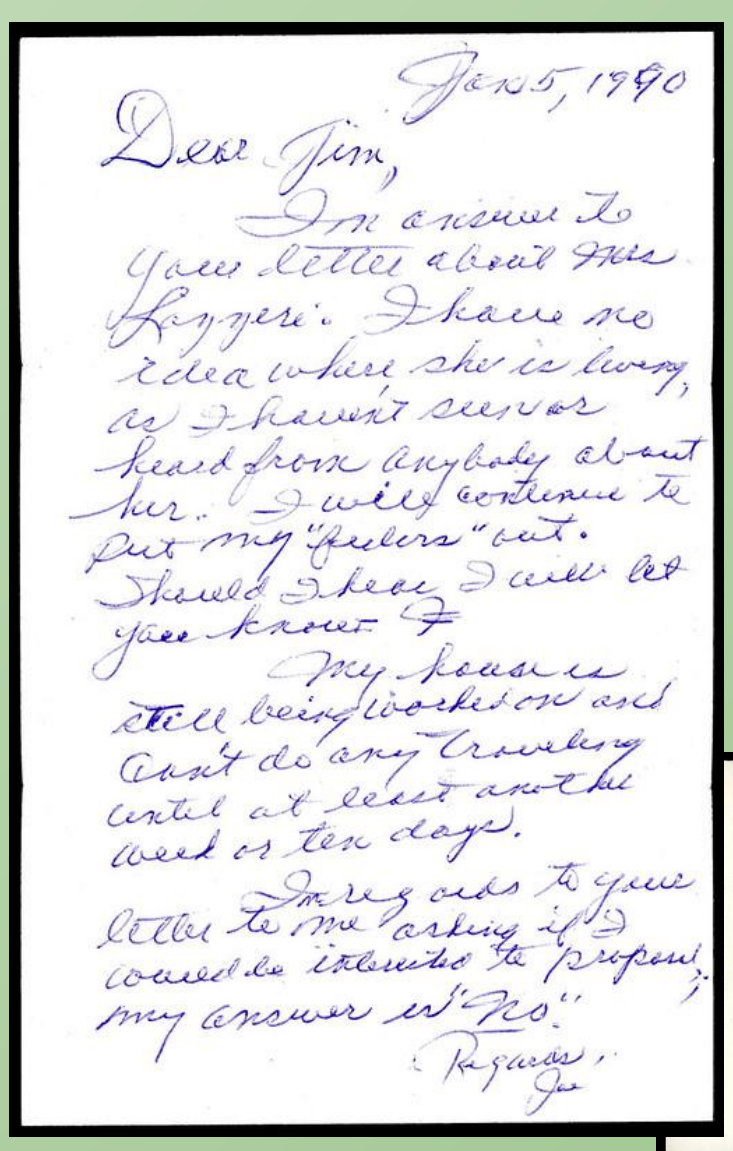
The SF Chronicle from the day after the quake reported on the damages.



The philatelic cover at left has a pictorial cachet of the quake, is franked with the Lou Gehrig stamp (Scott #2417, 1989), and is signed by 1989 Giants manager/ former N.Y. Mets pitcher Roger Craig.



The Score #700 baseball card (above left) shows the empty baseball stadium after the quake. The back of Score card #701 (above right) describes the exciting outcome of the re-scheduled game.


Jan 5, 1990

Dear Jim,

In answer to your letter about Mrs Lazzeri. I have no idea where she is living, as I haven't seen or heard from anybody about her. I will continue to put my "feelers" out. Should I hear I will let you know of

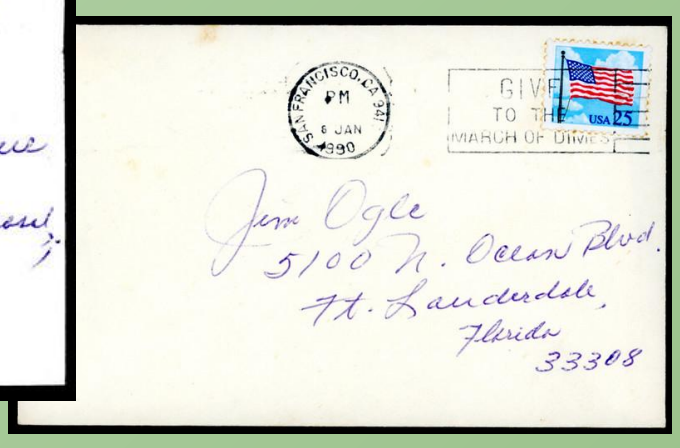
My house is still being worked on and can't do any traveling until at least another week or ten days.

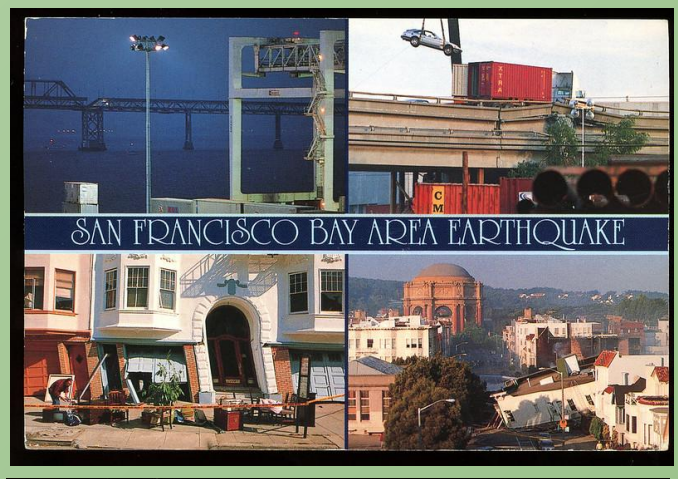
In regards to your letter to me asking if I would be interested to propose, my answer is "No".

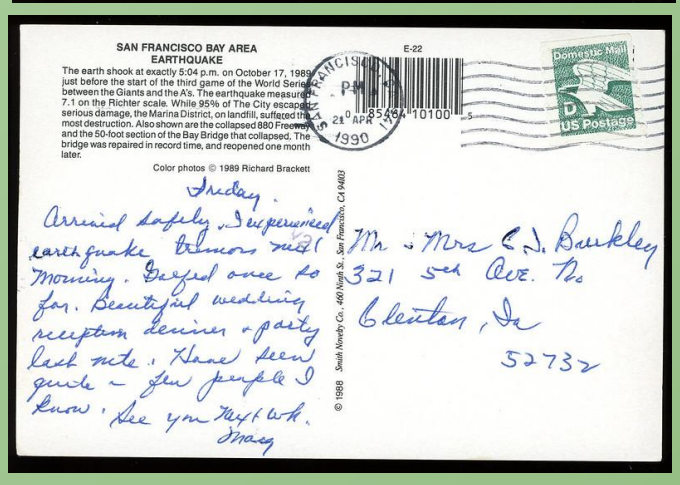
Regards,
Joe

In a letter dated Jan. 5, 1990 (at left), former Yankee great and San Francisco resident "Joltin' Joe" Dimaggio states "My house is still being worked on and can't do any traveling until at least another week or ten days." He mentions the wife of Yankee Hall-of-Famer Tony Lazzeri.

The letter was sent (in envelope below) to Jim Ogle, sportswriter and director of the Yankees' alumni association.







The front of the postcard above shows seismic damage. The sender felt "earthquake tremors" in April, 1990, aftershocks of the Loma Prieta quake.