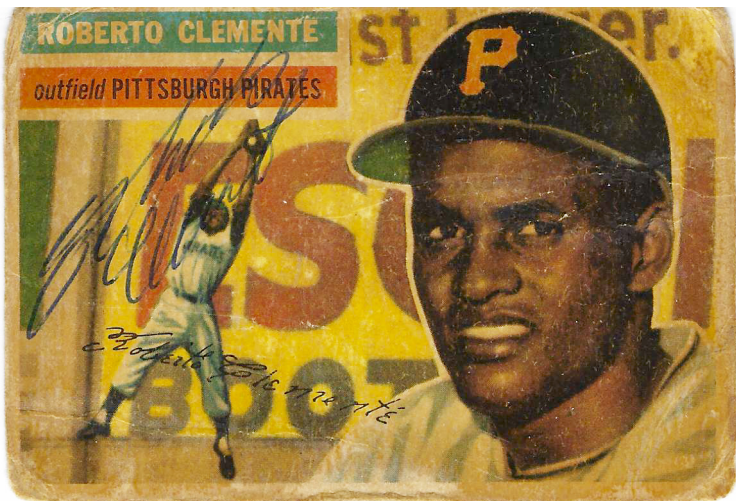


On This Date **September 30, 1972**



This is my 1956 Topps Roberto Clemente card. Yes, it's beat up, but it is 68 years old after all.

Please note his autograph signed on the left of the card and continuing through the PITTSBURGH PIRATES.

No. 21 signed this card after he collected his 3,000th hit that Saturday afternoon against the Mets' Jon Matlack. My friend and I waited about an hour or so as he accommodated everyone's request. And I mean EVERYONE. I was the last. He took the card and went over to his car and showed (I think) his wife Vera saying, "Good looking man, no?" He studied the card, front and back, signed it and said to me, "Thank You."

Three months later he was gone. A humanitarian to the end. His influence on so many people, a city, an island, has been understated. Please major league baseball, do the right thing and retire "21."