Among the largest private collections of turn-of-the-century tobacco cards held by a public institution in the United States, Senator Richard B. Russell's boyhood baseball card collection is one of the hidden treasures of the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Study at the University of Georgia.

The Richard B. Russell, Jr. collection contains over one thousand baseball cards produced by the American Tobacco Company during the years 1909-1911, the height of the so-called dead-ball era. The majority of the cards come from the T-206 "White Border" set, the largest tobacco card set of the early 20th century and the one containing some of the most prized cards in the collecting world. All of the cards were collected by the aspiring "base ballist" Dick Russell beginning in 1909.

The cards were found among his other juvenilia when additional materials came to the library in 1983. They offer a rare, private glimpse into the lifelong passions of a very public figure.