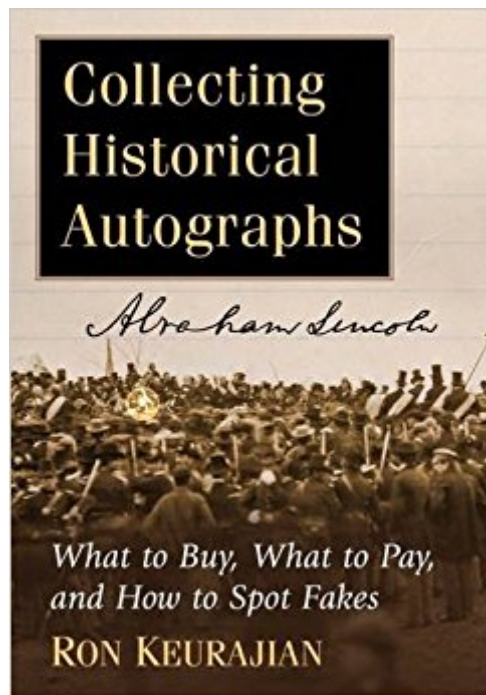




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# Collecting Historical Autographs: What To Buy, What To Pay, And How To Spot Fakes



## Synopsis

Collecting autographs is a time-honored avocation that has exploded in popularity in recent years, creating a new industry with millions of autographed items for sale online. Coveted signatures include those of United States presidents, Civil War officers, World War II heroes, classical music composers and baseball stars. It has been estimated that 90 percent of historical autographs on the market today are forgeries. This book is a definitive guide to signature authentication for experts and beginners alike. Numerous illustrations of both genuine and forged signatures are included, from Ty Cobb to Abraham Lincoln to Isaac Newton to Neil Armstrong. Detailed descriptions of common forgeries are given, enabling collectors to make direct comparisons.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"It's an eclectic mix, and all genres are covered. You have to like an autograph expert who gives equal time to the signatures of George Washington and The Three Stooges. Keurajian's writing style is direct and informative. He takes great pains to throw in a little bit of history for every autograph he examines. The attention to detail is evident throughout the book, which makes it a wonderful reference for autograph hounds. This is an important book and a valuable resource for collectors. Keurajian has put together a detailed, analytical and straightforward look at collecting autographs. He offers fine insight and offers some good suggestions for novice and veteran collectors alike. If you're going to dabble in autograph collecting, this is a book needed as an impartial guide." --Bob D'Angelo's Books & Blogs

Ron Keurajian, a commercial banker and attorney, has written numerous studies on baseball and vintage golf autographs. He lives in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

Extremely useful book for anyone interested in collecting autographs. It contains over a dozen different chapters, each focusing on a particular genre (e.g., Supreme Court justices, or royalty, or WW2 people). The book probably contains over a thousand illustrations of authentic signatures and warns about common forgeries. Often gives values for different autograph mediums (e.g., a signed letter vs. a signed photo). Interesting reading even beyond its utility as a reference book.

I'm not sure what I expected to find in this book; but it wasn't there. If you are not a novice to collecting historical manuscripts, the author's continual statements that virtually every thing he has seen is either forged or secretarial, gets kind of annoying. Not everything is forged and even for the rarities, genuine items exist. The thrill and challenge of collecting historical manuscripts is finding that needle in the haystack that you know exists, recognizing it for what it is if you happen to come across it and intersecting with history and historical figures through a document, letter or other manuscript. I did not get the sense of the thrill of the chase from this book.

I highly recommend this book. I found it to be a very useful and comprehensive guide for those interested in collecting autographs. It pretty much covers most of the autographs that a collector could ever hope to collect. I would expect that this book will become the industry standard reference guide for the autograph hobby. In particular, I found the sections on the Supreme Court, World War I and II, to be quite interesting. The book earns its high rating for the signature samples alone. However, as a bonus, the author also gives the reader a nice little write up as to each of the individuals whose signature is profiled. The write ups make thumbing through the book very interesting, and hard to put down. This book is well written and worth every penny.

A well written and interesting resource book for both collectors and history buff

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