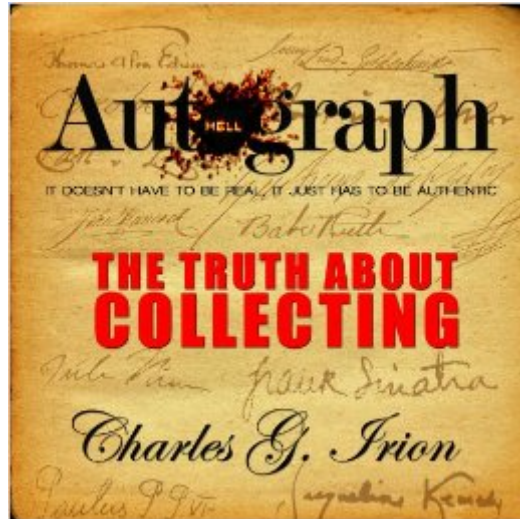


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# Autograph Hell - The Truth About Collecting



## Synopsis

Autograph Hell was conceptualized when a prized autograph of President George Washington turned out to be a fake. Author Charles G. Irion was stunned. As an illustrious, informed autograph collector, how could this happen. Follow Irion on his trail of truth as he starts at the very beginning of autograph collecting to find a world filled with falsified documents and counterfeit signatures. Most of which were "authenticated" by the autograph experts who control this multi-million dollar business. Join Irion as he explores a mind-boggling world of autographs that aren't what they seem, run by people who aren't what they claim. This book provides both an enlightening and disturbing expose' of the rampant treachery in the world of autograph collecting. Before you buy one more autograph you must read this book!

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,495,918 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Autographs

## Customer Reviews

This is the tale of an autograph collector who got burnt with some purchases of fakes. His frustrations, though valid, don't form the core of a particularly informative book. If you were hoping to learn about how to tell real from fake or learn any great lessons then this isn't the book for you. I

A quick read through the history of autograph collecting and its dark side autograph fakery and fraud. When the "professional" authenticators either lack proper training or are committing outright fraud how is the everyday collector able to determine what is authentic and what is fake? There is only one way to know for sure the autograph you cherish is authentic and that is to get the autograph yourself in person. Even then, the "professional" authenticators might still declare it to be a fake!

I bought Autograph Hell for my brother, as he is an avid collector. I couldn't help but flip through the pages and I soon found myself engrossed in the world of autograph collecting and the difficulties collectors encounter. I highly recommend it for collectors of all kinds. My brother loved it and it may have saved him from being scammed out of a lot of money.

I picked up this book on eBay, since I have always been interested in cards, memorabilia, autographs, etc. The book was kind of a disappointment. For one thing, the book is just 158 pages, not the 208 pages listed in the overview of the book on here. Many of the pages are just a few paragraphs. The book can easily be read in a couple hours. I am surprised the book received nothing but five-star reviews prior to this. Sure, the information on the history of forgers and famous forgeries was somewhat interesting. The information on how various 18th and 19th century authors viewed autograph collectors was interesting as well. But there just isn't a lot of material in the book. Of the 158 pages in the book, over 20 of the pages are a review of the 1990s "Operation Bullpen" scam that spread nationwide. The book is a decent addendum to the "Operation Bullpen" book. But if you only want to read one book on the fraud and scammers associated with autograph collecting, go with "Operation Bullpen" instead. That book is much more of a detailed look at how fakes have destroyed the autograph industry.

Autograph hell-----"I wish I would have read this before I bought that autographed baseball on ebay---This book exposes dealers, authenticators and the business of autograph collecting in general--filled with facts you must arm yourself with before you invest your hard earned money in that supposedly real signed baseball!

You will not become an authenticator from reading this book, which is not the intention anyway. However, it has made me very aware of the dangers of the hobby. Irion encourages those interested in the hobby to be mindful of ANY signature regardless of who signs off as to the authenticity. He shares his own, personal woes which helps him to level with his readers. If you love autograph, then this book is a MUST for you. Unfortunately, though, you may discover things you didn't want to. Excellent Read!

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