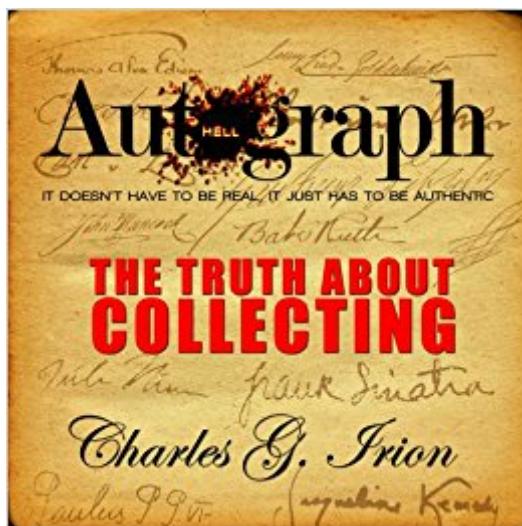


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# Autograph Hell - The Truth About Collecting



## **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. Â 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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## **Customer Reviews**

"(Autograph collectors) are the mosquitoes of literature" --Washington Irving, author of the The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"...those who ride the hobby of collecting autographs generally do so with higher purpose than mere curiosity." --Charles Dana and George Ripley in American Cyclopedia"...those who ride the hobby of collecting autographs generally do so with higher purpose than mere curiosity." --Charles Dana and George Ripley in American Cyclopedia

Charles G. Irion is the publisher of Irion Books LLC and author of the Hell Series of books, including Remodeling Hell, Autograph Hell, Car Dealer Hell, and Divorce Hell, and three murder mystery novels Murder on Everest, Abandoned on Everest, and Murder on Elbrus. As an explorer, Irion has visited more than 60 countries and is an accomplished SCUBA diver. He participated in a 1987

expedition to Mount Everest from the China side. Irion holds a Masters of Business Administration in International Marketing and Finance from The American Graduate School of International Management, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in both Biology and Economics from the University of California, Santa Barbara. A successful investor and businessman, Irion is founder of U.S. Park Investments, a company that owns and brokers manufactured home and RV communities. He is also the founder of a children's dictionary charity, a founding member of Phoenix Social Venture Partners, and past president of a local Lions Club.

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!

excellent account of a ruined hobby!

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!

Disappointed.

#### **ANOTHER RACKET BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION**

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.

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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