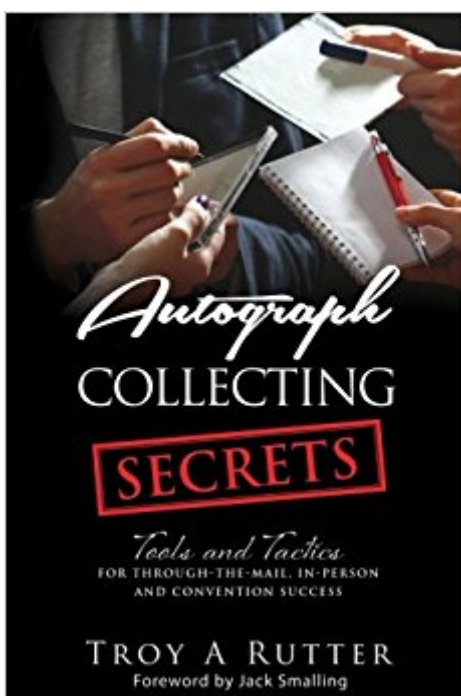


The book was found

Autograph Collecting Secrets: Tools And Tactics For Through-The-Mail, In-Person And Convention Success



Synopsis

Autograph collecting is a fun and rewarding hobby you can do from any place in the world. But how do you increase the chances that your precious trading card or photograph not only makes it to the celebrity - but comes back signed? The answer: this book. Collectors of all experience levels will find useful tips and tricks on obtaining autographs in-person and through-the-mail, with concrete examples from years of experience. From crafting the perfect letter-of-request to the best places to stand at a stadium, *Autograph Collecting Secrets* is a definitive resource for the hobby.

Table of Contents: Foreword by Jack Smalling Introduction Glossary CHAPTER 1: My Autograph Story CHAPTER 2: Is Autograph Collecting Dead? CHAPTER 3: Autograph Collecting Supplies CHAPTER 4: Finding Your Niche CHAPTER 5: Finding Celebrity Addresses CHAPTER 6: Through The Mail (TTM) Collecting CHAPTER 7: Real or Fake? CHAPTER 8: In-Person (IP) Collecting CHAPTER 9: Comic-Cons and Private Signings CHAPTER 10: Buying Autographs CHAPTER 11: Storage & Display CHAPTER 12: Social Sharing CHAPTER 13: Selling Your Collection CHAPTER 14: The Future of Autograph Collecting Appendix A: NFL Football Addresses Appendix B: Major League Baseball Addresses Appendix C: AAA Baseball Addresses Appendix D: Movie and TV Studio Addresses Appendix E: International TTM Postage Guide

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Troy has been the TTM Autograph master for years, his insight into the hobby is useful for anyone but especially those just getting started!" - Mike, MikeTheFanboy.com "Troy's advice on

crafting the perfect letter-of-request and strategies for pitcher/catcher reporting, pre-season, season and post-season autograph hunting is spot on." - Jack Smalling, author: *The Baseball Autograph Collector's Handbook*

Troy Rutter has been collecting autographs in person and through-the-mail for over 30 years and has worked behind-the-scenes handling fan mail for numerous celebrities. He is active on YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and other social networking sites where he shares his love and knowledge of the hobby with thousands of fans and followers. He is a former panelist on the Autograph Weekly Podcast and currently contributes a weekly article on TTMs to MikeTheFanboy.com. He currently works in the entertainment industry in Los Angeles, CA.

As someone who wasn't sure where to start with TTM anything, I picked up this book and found it really well done. Troy gives great practical experience - everything from how to mail the item, how to find addresses to mail to (websites, free or paid address listings) as well as how to spot autopen (fakes)... before this book, I didn't even know what autopen was! The section on autopen is really worth it if you're interested in spotting fakes. I also liked his creative ideas on how to get items to sign (printing images, etc.) There's a lot of great info in this work that really got me thinking about getting TTM autographs. For those interested in the monetary aspects, the subject of valuation and how it can be a tricky thing is also raised. He has some great experiences on the subject of value and certification authorities. Troy has a lot of great advice and it dawned on me in the reading, that when I was about 8 years old my parents helped me do something like this... I wrote Charles M. Schulz (Peanuts/Snoopy creator) and he wrote me back a letter from him and "snoopy," which had his signature and a paw print of snoopy... too bad I didn't keep it.

For years I've been collecting autographs on a causal basis. I like to have signed items mostly from writers and comic book artists, although I also tried to collect the signatures of Nobel Prize-winning physicists for a while. Usually this collection habit of mine was hit or miss; if I knew I would be present at the same event as someone whose signature I wanted to collect, I would bring an item along and hope for the best. Troy Rutter's book has opened up to me the world of collecting autographs in another way though: by mail. It never would have occurred to me to try to collect signatures through the mail. The book is pitched at the beginner, going into all sorts of important details on how to begin a collection, how to mail people so you'll get a good response, and how to display a collection. The author even provides a list of addresses in the back of the book for

reaching out to sports figures and actors. If I were to have one nitpick, it would be that I wish the book addressed the question of collecting the signatures of authors in books, as that tends to be the bulk of my collection. However, as I already know the ins and outs of how to get such signatures by mail, I didn't really mind the omission. If you have any interest at all in collecting autographs by mail, this is the one book you need. I highly recommend it.

I never really intended to get into autograph collecting, but I was inspired by the author who is a close friend and made the hobby seem exciting. After reading *Autograph Collecting Secrets*, I decided to give it a try, at least once. Troy's methods and suggestions have proven successful for me on several occasions and now I have been assimilated into this hobby. Troy's book is full of ideas that one can use to successfully receive autographs from numerous celebrities from movies, television, sports, and so on. Whether one is a seasoned collector, or a beginner like myself, *Autograph Collecting Secrets* is well written and detailed enough to get one started, yet it is also open enough that one can customize what and how one collects to one's own tastes. The attached photo was received as a result of following Troy's methods to the letter.

This is the book I wish I had when I started collecting autographs. Rutter breaks down the hobby into simple steps anyone can use, through the eyes of a veteran collector. In this book, he gives the reader examples from his years of collecting, tips for what to do - and what not to do! For example, don't take that amazing in-person autograph and tape it to the wall near an open window, as he did. Every person has their own interest or genre. For Rutter, it's primarily sports (baseball and football) and actors. Even if your interest is something outside of that, you'll learn important things like how to store your collection, how to display your treasured pieces without damaging them, and why quality matters over quantity. For collecting through the mail (TTM), you'll discover sources for addresses, as well as guidance on letter-writing, the best kinds of things to send, and ways to tell if your response is a preprint, autopen, or human-signed. There are chapters devoted to international collecting, complete with postage (very important!) and a full glossary of terms I've seen used, but never knew what they meant. For example, CISP is a color photograph that has not only been signed, but personally dedicated to its recipient. I'd never heard of a "hot pack" yet when I checked a popular auction site, there were hundreds listed. There was one particular section that had me stuck. It was something so simple, that made me think back to nearly every in-person signing I've attended and thought, "Well this would have been a godsend!" I had never even considered it, but it was so obvious, I felt like a fool. Even now, I'm still thinking of the opportunities I had passed up, for

which this would have been perfect. I very highly recommend this book. I also recommend either a tablet for taking notes, or a highlighter. Whether you're just starting out, or you've been collecting for 20 years, you will find a wealth of valuable information inside.

Great Book-Helpful

I really learned a lot about collecting autographs from this book. I recommend it for all new collectors. This is truly an awesome book.

Insightful and fun!

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