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Collecting Autographs For Fun & Profit

By Daphne Succes

Autograph collecting is a fun and rewarding hobby, but it's also a lucrative business for many

entrepreneurs. As a hobby, autographs are a terrific way to own a piece of memorabilia that has been personally signed by your favorite actor, musician, athlete, etc. Collectors across the globe are always looking to add the unattainable signature to their collection.

Autographs can be obtained either in person or through the mail. If you are fortunate enough to live in an area where sports competitions or movie filmings are plentiful, then you may have a lot of in-person autograph opportunities. For everyone else, collecting through the mail may be the most economical approach. Athletes can be written in care of their sports team, celebrities in care of their television show or on location at a film set while musicians can be reached through their agent or a venue at which they are performing.

The value of an autograph depends on who the signature is from. If you don't want to pay for an appraisal, surf the internet for autograph dealers and see if you can find an average cost for the signature. If you are looking to sell autographs, the number of potential customers can be impressive if you know how to market your business. A well-publicized website or a presence with online auctions is often the best success for any business, including autographs. If you plan to sell autographs, you will need to be upfront with customers about how the signature was obtained. If it was through the mail, let them know. If the autograph was obtained in person, perhaps you would include a Certificate of Authenticity noting the date and location that the signature was obtained.

There are a few things to remember when seeking autographs. Whether in-person or through the mail, always be polite in your request. Say "please" and "thank you." If you are attending an autograph show, take your own item to be signed along with a sharpie permanent marker. If you are sending mailed autograph requests, always include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Never request more than 2 items to be signed at any given time – many celebrities consider this to be rude. Some of the best items to be signed include photos, blank 3x5 index cards, t-shirts, baseballs, golf balls, footballs, books, etc. Courtesy is the key to obtaining an autograph – whether as a hobby or for resale.

Daphne is a Writer, Business Owner, Motivator and Self-Starter and full-time Mom. She started Passion Parties by Daphne in the Summer of 2005 as a hobby while working full time. It has since become a full time passion for her and hope to quit her full time job soon. She enjoys writing articles about small businesses and family and tries to motivate other women with the same desire. She can be reached at 1-877-TOY-DIVA

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Finding Companion Pieces is Like a Treasure Hunt!

By Anita Cola

Looking for a companion pieces for your treasured item can be a fun venture. Companion pieces can also make the value of the piece, in certain instances, more valuable.

How is that you ask? Believe it or not there are certain magazines that run out of print; there is simply no archive available for some of your popular issues. Princess Diana is a good example. There were certain magazines that were in such demand after her death that they literally were not even available for the company to archive the issue and therefore the issue became a collectible at that point. Take for instance the first year of Playboy in 1953 the entire first year, all 12 months, are now worth well over \$12,000.00 if you have mint condition issues.

What is really fun is to find a companion collectible that adds value, as well as a story; it just makes for a wonderful presentation if adding it to an autograph that you cherish. Finding companion pieces are as easy as going to a flea market while on vacation, a local garage sale, an estate auction or even a book store. Keep in mind the special piece that you have and start searching for items that compliment or relate to it.

Just recently Unbelievable Memorabilia acquired two very special autographs that we hold in very high regard, Sitting Bull and Anne Oakley on old playing cards that came from Buffalo Bills Wild West Show. They both have a stamp that states, Buffalo Bill Cody, 1884, Souvenir, \$1, U.S. Wild West Show on one stamp. There is another stamp on Sitting Bull's card that states, John M. Burke, General Manager, Buffalo Bill's Wild West. The autograph of Sitting Bull is worth an estimated \$7,500. The autograph of Anne Oakley is worth an estimate of \$2,500.00. Both autographs are in mint condition and the cards that they are on are only slightly discolored due to their age, no tears, no wrinkles. In the state of presentation these cards exemplary. They just don't tell the whole story behind these famous people of history. That is why researching their background and finding out about these people is so exciting, not to mention finding artifacts that can be included in the presentation. Look for the out come of these famous autographs in our June 2006 auction. Remember I started with just two signatures on two playing cards.

<http://www.umauctions.com>

– Autograph Auctions

Enter into the most diverse collection of exclusively designed memorabilia. Each piece has been personally acquired. Unbelievable Memorabilia purchases its collectibles from celebrity charity auctions, estate sales, studio back lot sales, and private sports memorabilia collectors.

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