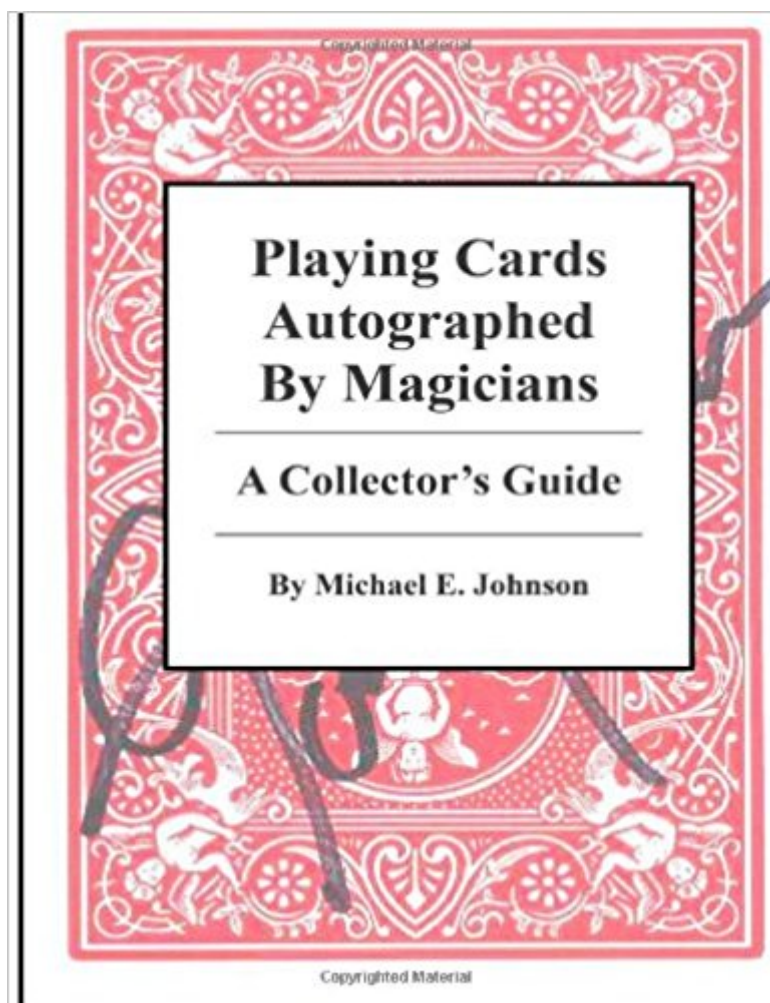


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# Playing Cards Autographed By Magicians: A Collector's Guide



## Synopsis

This book provides an amusing and irreverent look at the specialized hobby of collecting magician's autographs on playing cards. Profusely illustrated, more than 150 famous contemporary magicians are featured, with 192 examples of their signatures on playing cards and more. The book also discusses prices, fakes, who's who in magic, website links, types of playing cards, eBay sales, and personal anecdotes. There are special sections on David Copperfield, Criss Angel, David Blaine, Penn and Teller, Siegfried and Roy, Ricky Jay, Tom Mullica, Richard Turner, Milt Larsen, Max Maven, Lance Burton, Jeff McBride, Amazing Johnathan and Bob Elliott. Find out how to identify a Houdini secretarial fake autograph. Learn about the origins of one of the biggest eBay sales ever of signed magician playing cards. Discover the growing world of collectible playing card decks. The book includes a detailed index covering 414 subjects, along with more than 100 website links to learn more about the individual magicians. There is also a section on where to find magicians, so you can see them in-person, or write to them for autographs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Michael E. Johnson is an enthusiastic collector (also known as a "nutcase") based in San Marcos, California. An unapologetic packrat, he picked up the collecting bug in the 1960s, and it has festered ever since. He specializes in autographs and magicians. For the past two decades, Johnson has been a professional Magician, performing everywhere from the stages of high society balls, to the cement floors of low-life basements. It doesn't matter where, because he has fun either way. He is a member of the Academy of Magical Arts in Hollywood and the Society of

American Magicians. He was named San Diego's Entertainer of the Year four times by his peers in the International Brotherhood of Magicians. He has been featured in the world's top magic magazines, including "Magic," "Genii," "M-U-M" and "The Linking Ring." Before he went off the deep end, Johnson enjoyed a career as an award-winning journalist. He wrote the 1999 sell-out, the "Space Autograph Price Guide." He published the underground newsletters "Autograph Research" and "Space Autograph News" for many years. He has been quoted in sources as diverse as the "American Journalism Review" and "Playboy" magazine. His articles have been published in "Autograph Collector," "The Pen and Quill" published by the Universal Autograph Collectors Club, "The Autograph Collector's Magazine," "Autograph Times" and "The Autograph Review." Lately, Johnson has channeled his energy into a series of collector guides on eBay. He's already drawn more than half a million hits. His eBay store is magicianmichael760.

The author really is one of the leading magic autograph collectors in the world. Cross referenced and deep indexed, this book is easy to use and full of interesting anecdotes about the magicians who signed the cards. A little irreverent in parts, but I like that about it. Talks about prices things have sold for, not the inflated prices people ask.

Autograph hunters are a combination of hero worshipers, those who view acquisition of an authentic signature of select populations of famous persons, and compulsive hoarders, as well individuals who strain to make time stand still by having a 'piece' of a beloved youth memory or experience. There are organizations devoted to collecting autographs of admired celebrities of various pursuits : sports figures, stage personalities, writers, politicians and even Magicians. Michael Johnson, himself an award winning Magician and also an award winning journalist, has crafted a book which comprises signatures of world famous conjurers. Johnson shares his adventures to satisfy his passion - getting the prestidigitator to sign a playing card or deck of cards while avoiding forgeries and while the same time getting a bargain. Readers of the book ("Autographs of Famous Magicians") will also find the names of magicians known only to other devotees of the magical arts. To view the signature brings back recollections of having seen the magician or having read his book. It brought back memories and with that smiles. Standing in line at an author's reading at a booksellers event, waiting for the author to sign his (now your book) achieves an emotional personal connection with someone you admire. People who do that are experiencing a glimpse of the psychology of the quest for fame and perhaps immortality. Michael Johnson is not a psychiatrist (I

am) consequently he writes of the pure passion of collecting autographs of magicians without need of finding motivations. This fine book is an unembellished celebration of his autograph acquisitions; his advice to would be collectors (purchase the desired autograph or get it from the magician him/herself - after all they might be impelled to distribute autographs as advertising, or to enhance the product they are marketing (a photo which has been signed, a deck of cards bearing their signature, etc).Johnson alerts: raise a suspicious eyebrow when offered an autograph purported to be Merlin's authentic signature. You may be surprised to learn that there are devious individuals who sell 'fake' signatures. Johnson advises how to avoid scammers.Johnson's work is highly documented and guess what, "It comes with Michael Johnson's signature."Dr.Joel A Moskowitz prescribes this entertaining and enlightening book to all those who have a fascination with magicians. Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx 5/5.

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