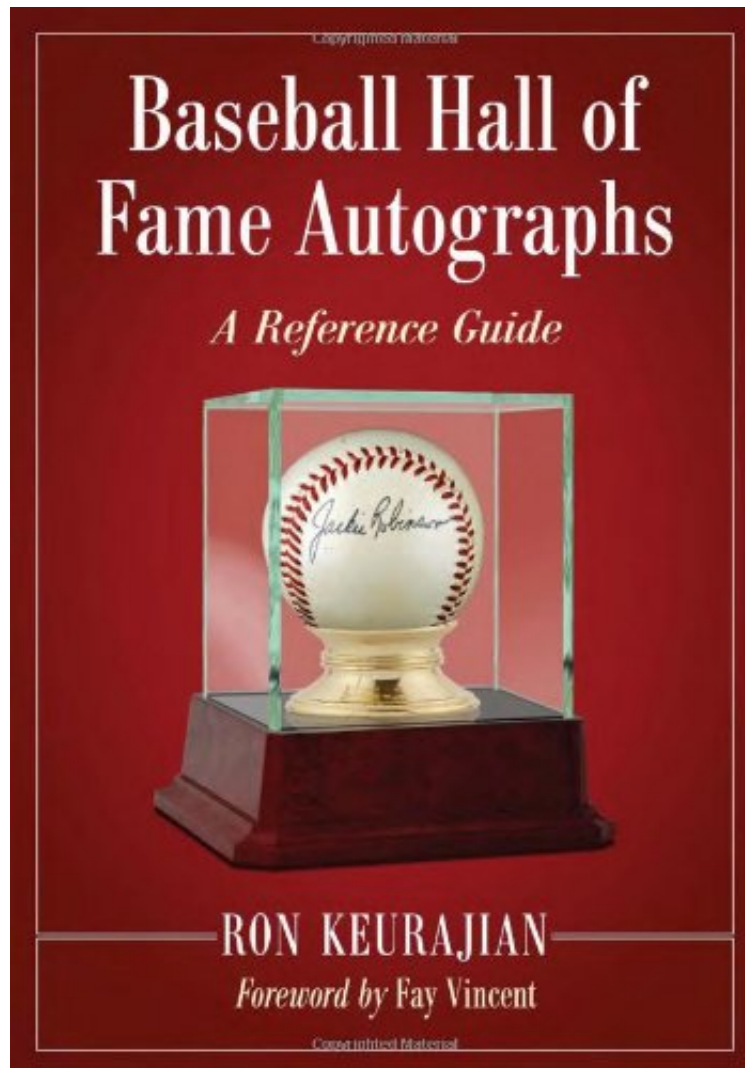


## Baseball Hall of Fame Autographs: A Reference Guide

*Ron Keurajian, Foreword by Fay Vincent*  
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**Ron Keurajian, Foreword by Fay Vincent : Baseball Hall of Fame Autographs: A Reference Guide** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Baseball Hall of Fame Autographs: A Reference Guide:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Good and the not so good By Customer The GOOD: The book is informative about the prevalence of forgeries, the types of forgeries one might expect to run across (in a general sense), and gives reasonably good guidance about the value of the autographs of HOF players. Keurajian also alerts the reader to some specific, prolific, and skilled forgers whose 'work' bears particular earmarks. Perhaps, best of all, he lets the reader know that the world of autographs is not quite like, but closer than most think, to the "wild, wild west".

Despite the growth of 3rd party authenticators the HOF autograph collector must be (and will probably always need to be) self-reliant to a significant degree when it comes to spotting forgeries, secretarial sigs, or autopen. The NOT SO GOOD: The book uses too many "terms of art". Genuine signatures are described as "bouncy" and forged signatures are deemed "labored" without even very good examples being given (much less a reasonably rigorous definition). The author is, as I understand it, a lawyer. "Terms of art" are a practice commonly used in the law, but rarely acknowledged publicly as being rather imprecise (e.g. what counts as "malice" for the purposes of determining specific mens rea (state of mind) in a murder trial?...there have been different takes on that, and I wrote a paper about that once in grad school (having "a wanton and malignant heart", Commonwealth v. Malone 47 A.2d 445 (1946) is one take on it...what the hell is a wanton heart? I'll just quote Mr. Justice Stewart, "I shall not today attempt further to define the kinds of material I understand to be embraced within that shorthand description ... But I know it when I see it," Jacobellis v. Ohio, 378 U.S. 184 (1964) ). I admit it is vague nearly (but not quite) of necessity, so while the author may not be to blame for not being more precise, it is nonetheless a shortcoming of the book that characteristics of forged and genuine signatures are not exceptionally well defined. Perhaps the author should have spent a bit more time focusing on some definitive methods for identifying forgeries (e.g. the ballpoint pen wasn't really introduced to the US market until about 1948 and when it was first sold the cost was about \$100+ dollars (adjusted for inflation), so that ballpoint pen Walter Johnson is almost certainly a forgery since 1945 it is the terminus pro quem of a Johnson auto. Some discussion about the flow and appearance of the ink of steel-tip fountain pens (or quill pens for some pre-'10s autos) would also have been helpful. The author unfortunately FAILS to address provenance as a tool which can be used to eliminate signatures as being genuine. Forgers have to do their homework. A Detroit postmark on a postcard written by Ty Cobb, while Cobb was in Philadelphia or St. Louis (Browns) playing during an away game series is very suspect. One benefit to baseball is that it is played so frequently (incl. spring training) that, with use of the Baseball Almanac it is possible to keep up with the location of most players during their playing careers even all the way back to the 1910s (e.g. a piece of hotel stationery better match the city where that player was taking his ABs at the time). The internet is also a good source for tracking player locations in retirement (although in a much more course-grained way). Keurajian would have made the book better if he had focused on a broader range of ways to detect forgeries.

0 people found the following review helpful. You Can't Do Without It By the Old Judge I was so pleased to stumble onto this excellent book so badly needed by a collector base driven more by want than knowledge. The desire to "have" and "have pronto" has resulted in over two decades of feeding impulse with forgeries. I have known of Mr Keurajian and his expertise since the early 90's when I was in the then raging sports collectibles business. My conversations with him and his astounding knowledge were always fascinating. He was and I am sure remains a True enthusiast of understanding signatures and their authenticity. He spotted the the fakes quickly, was never overbearing, was very certain in his evaluation and was always willing to learn. In the days I knew him I never knew of him to sell his knowledge but was very willing to share. He is a fine man and "true autograph collector". As for the book, it speaks for itself. Compare it with anything else. No comparison. If Ron says one doesn't exist or he never saw one or one that is supposed to exist but doesn't---believe him. If you own sigs that he says don't exist, or are rare beyond belief, then you have been had. I've not seen this man for over a decade but can see from this fine work and the issues he has been involved in that he is one of the absolute best evaluators of rare sport autographs. Great job Ron.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good reference By Historian Like Keurajian's "Collecting Historical Autographs," this is a good reference work and valuable to own. It has its limitations, too. But the illustrations of examples of signatures are valuable, especially of those who are not routinely available.

Winner, SABR Baseball Research Award For experts and beginning collectors alike, here is a definitive guide to authentication of Baseball Hall of Fame autographs, one of the most sought-after forms of baseball memorabilia. In addition to discussing the ins and outs of collecting these autographs, and pitfalls to avoid, the book provides an entry on each Hall of Famer analyzing his signing style, the rarity of his autograph, the existence of known forgeries, and the current value of the autograph. Richly illustrated, the studies show examples of signatures from various periods of a Hall of Famer's life, as well as forgeries. Collectors will be able to examine signatures in their collection and determine if they own a forgery. No previous book has approached the level of detail to be found herein.

From Booklist Collecting baseball autographs can be a fun and rewarding hobby. However, the pursuit of signatures from the gods of baseball does not come cheaply, and forgeries are unfortunately common. Longtime collector-dealer Keurajian offers his significant expertise and passion in a book that will serve the novice autograph seeker and experienced collector alike. Sound tips on beginning a collection, spotting fakes, and understanding the idiosyncrasies behind the autographs of each baseball Hall of Famer are included in this helpful, insightful, and abundantly illustrated book. Recommended for most public libraries. --Jim Frutchey "Provides a detailed look at the hobby of collecting autographs from baseball's greatest players. His cautionary tale serves as the backdrop for one of the most accurately detailed reference pieces the sports collectibles market has ever seen. His ability to clearly communicate the complexities of handwriting analysis makes this an ideal tool for collectors. The book itself is much more than expert

commentary. The majority of the book is comprised of detailed signature analysis, complete with exemplars of every baseball player enshrined in Cooperstown. Armed with this educational ammunition, autograph collectors of any experience level will benefit tremendously from this information." --Rob Bertrand, co-host of the sports collectibles radio show, Cardboard Connection Radio "This unique and smartly done work will hold its value for several years...recommended." --American Reference Books Annual "Keurajian writes in a straightforward, clear fashion that won't confuse the novice collector...he includes enough detail and analysis to satisfy veteran autograph seekers. Not only is this book a reference guide, it also is an education. Baseball historians and autograph hounds will find Keurajian's book a compelling read"--The Tampa Tribune "Indispensable.... Whether you're a seasoned collector or a novice, a good place to begin is Keurajian's fun and fascinating guide." --Forbes Magazine "A reference guide through the shark-infested waters of sports signatures to provide collectors the proper tools to keep them from getting burned." --New York Daily News "Keurajian writes in a straightforward, clear fashion that won't confuse the novice collector...he includes enough detail and analysis to satisfy veteran autograph seekers. Not only is this book a reference guide, it also is an education. Baseball historians and autograph hounds will find Keurajian's book a compelling read"--The Tampa Tribune "Indispensable.... Whether you're a seasoned collector or a novice, a good place to begin is Keurajian's fun and fascinating guide." --Forbes Magazine

From the Inside Flap

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