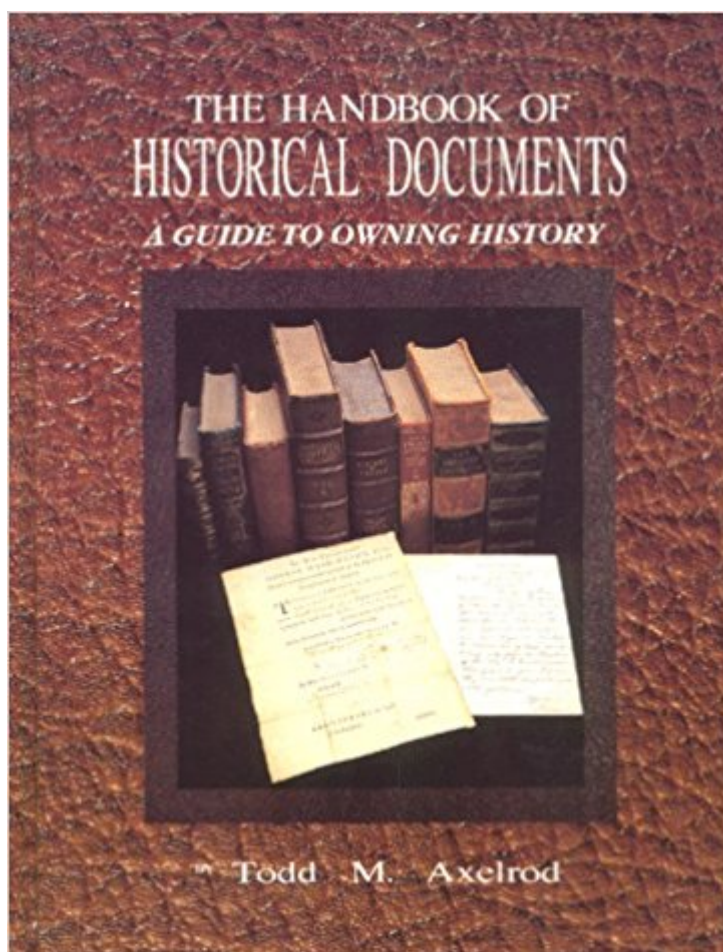




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The Handbook Of Historical Documents, A Guide To Owning History



Synopsis

A guide to owning Historical Documents. Own a check signed by Orville Wright, or an autographed photograph of the Beatles, or a letter written by Jesse James. These are just a few examples of historical documents, unique collectibles that put fragments of man's experience into the collector's hands. How can a person take advantage of the opportunity to own these unique collectibles? This book was written specifically to introduce the reader to this fascinating collecting field and to guide him through the process of becoming a collector.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Todd Axelrod has spent over twenty years studying, collecting, authenticating, and buying and selling historical documents, and is considered a leading authority in the field. Mr. Axelrod has accumulated the largest private collection of historical documents in the world, and has pioneered presentation and marketing concepts which have made him the most dynamic force in the autograph and manuscript industry today.

From Chapter 1: Did you ever think you could own a check signed by Orville Wright, or an autographed photograph of the Beatles, or a letter written by Jesse James? Well, you can! These are just a few diverse examples of historical documents-----

I'm collect rare books and antique manuscripts and this book title is rather misleading. This is hardly a "handbook" on historical documents. You will learn very little about how to start a collection, or the

important aspects of collecting. You will learn nothing about telling a forgery from the real thing. You will learn nothing about how to do research on manuscripts or rare books. Most of the book involves autographs and memorabilia and how to display these pieces in frames. The book is written in very large font with lots of glossy pictures and very little actual info. If you want to learn how to frame your rare baseball card or autograph of Derek Jeter, run out and get it. Other than that, pass on this book. I gave mine away.

Designed completely to make you purchase goods from this pirate king of the autograph world, this book is amateurish and ignorant. The author's father pioneered handbooks for tropical fish, ripped off people for their rare violins, and went to jail for income tax evasion; the son is well on his way of following suit. All the illustrations are for sale, if you want to pay fifty times what you can buy a similar item elsewhere. His shop is in just the right place to sell American history---Las Vegas---and his business is actually on the New York Stock Exchange, which says more about the flaws in that institution's due diligence, than it speaks to the reliability of the business. Avoid this at all cost; buy something by Rendell instead.

While I agree with the previous reviewer that Mr. Axelrod's item can be pricey, I feel this book is very informative and comes illustrated with many interesting (albeit high-end) collectibles. Mr. Axelrod makes many good points regarding details about the hobby not found in other periodicals and he adds a section on how to consider collecting autographs as a potential investment vehicle. I feel the previous reviewer was too harsh on this book and I consider it to be one of the better books that I own on this hobby.

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