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THE Pen & Quill MAGAZINE

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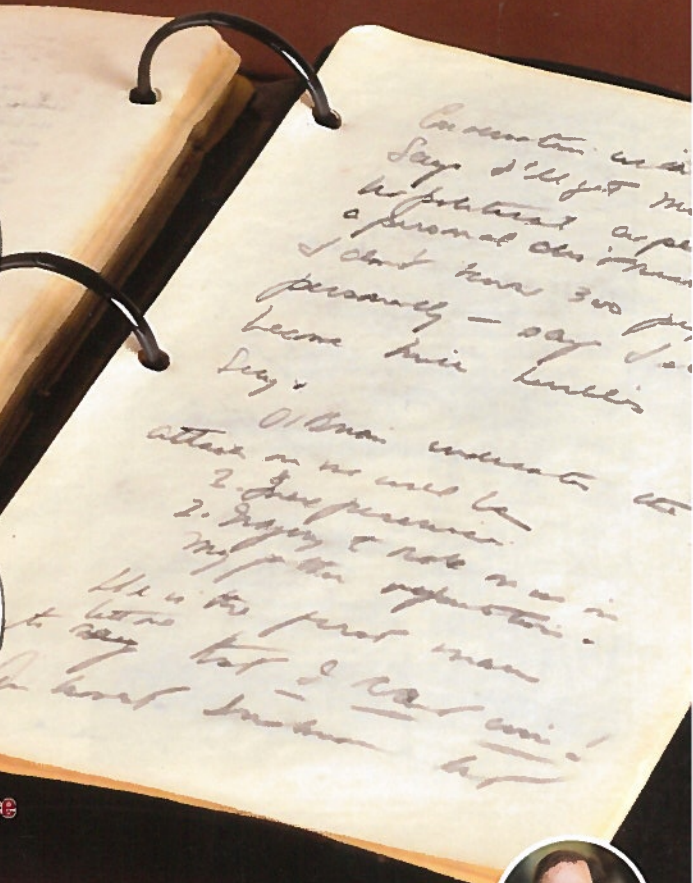
JFK's Summer 1945 Diary



**Getting to Know
Young George Ruth**



**Yuri Gagarin:
The First Man in Space**



In Remembrance
of Michael Hecht



THE PEN & QUILL MAGAZINE



Yuri Gagarin: The First Man in Space



On April 12, 1961, Soviet Air Force pilot Yuri Gagarin was the first human in space.

Launched aboard his Vostok spacecraft, Gagarin orbited the Earth and beat American Alan Shepard into space by 23 days. Vostok 1 was Gagarin's only spaceflight. After his flight, Gagarin was widely celebrated in the Soviet Union and was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, by Nikita Khrushchev. Gagarin embarked on a tour that took him around the world.

Because of his hero status, the Soviets did not schedule Gagarin for any additional spaceflights out of fear of losing him. However, Gagarin was instrumental in flight planning and training at Star City, the cosmonaut facility.

On March 27, 1968, Yuri Gagarin was tragically killed in a training flight crash at the age of 34.

Despite not being as much of a "household name" as Alan Shepard, John Glenn or Neil Armstrong, Gagarin is obviously a tremendous historical figure and there is strong demand for his signature.

Regrettably, his signature is highly forged and collectors must use great caution in obtaining a Yuri Gagarin signed item.

Authenticating Yuri Gagarin autographs

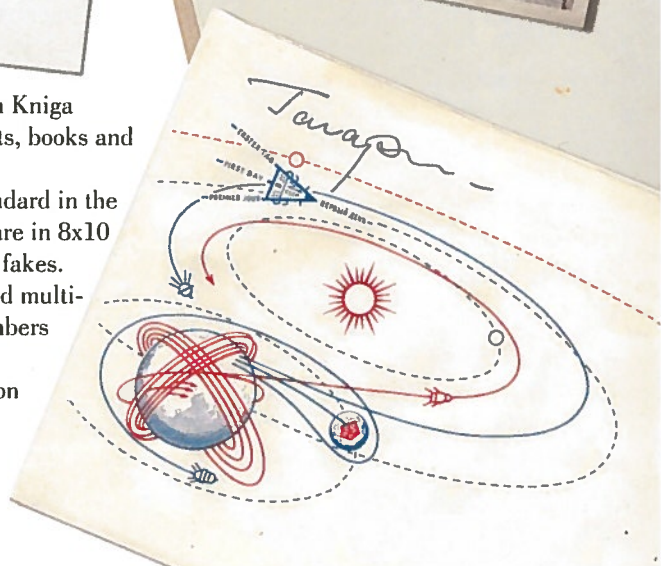
Yuri Gagarin signed autographs for approximately seven years before his premature death in early 1968. Because of the short time frame, there is not a great deal of variation in his signing style over this period.



- Signatures should be signed quickly with no hesitation. Many are crowd-signed at events. Be wary of examples that look slow or pieced together.
- Non-personalized inscriptions are almost non-existent. He didn't add an inscription unless he was also naming the recipient. Be wary of any example with a generic, non-personalized inscription.
- There are many old forgeries; because an example is old doesn't mean it is authentic.
- Cosmonauts did not use an Autopen.
- Rumors of possible secretarial examples exist, but have never been verified. It's possible some examples that have been deemed "old forgeries" may have been properly signed.

With Gagarin, it's critical to carefully consider what the signature is on and what other signatures may be present.

A Yuri Gagarin signature is an important cornerstone of any space collection as well as general historical collections. Nice examples can be obtained on postal covers and postcards for \$350 and up. Occasionally larger format photos surface and they typically command a premium. Regrettably, the sheer volume of fakes on the market has suppressed Gagarin pricing. In my estimation, if you waved a magic wand and made all the forgeries disappear, the supply would drop so drastically that Gagarin signatures would easily command \$1,000+.



- Most autographs should be on Kniga postal covers, postcard portraits, books and ad hoc items.
- 8x10 photos were not the standard in the Soviet Union and Gagarin is rare in 8x10 format. Most signed 8x10s are fakes.
- Gagarin and Korolev supposed multi-signed items exist in good numbers and almost all are fake.
- Fakes exist in high numbers on typed documents.

Steve Zarelli, Zarelli Space Authentication, LLC, is a UACC approved authenticator who provides autograph authentication services to individual collectors, auction houses, dealers and organizations worldwide. For more information, visit www.SpaceLOA.com.

авиационный
Александрову Тараруку
на добрую память
Юрий Тарапуш
24.02.61.

Дорогой Юра!
В погребке Тарарука и
Юрашу и в погребке
этой книги к нему и
есть некоторые вещи и
любопытно узнать как
книга Тарарука там
тебе о камне входи
в космосе Экарин
которых будет воз
и Катедра зоро
и Александр
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LIFE

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