**Autograph Collectors Find Hard Knocks Their Lot—Aften**

This is the second of a series of six articles on the hobby of collecting. They will take you behind the scenes with the book, stamp, print, autograph collectors and others, and will give intimate glimpses of some of the best known collections in Albany.

**BY HENRY E. CHRISTMAN**

**AUTOGRAPH** collecting is no path of roses.

It requires stubborn persistency, and broad shoulders that can bear sharp, stinging blows from the great.

Even the gruff admonition of Admiral William Sims failed to shake John E. Boos, probably Albany’s most famous contemporary collector, from the trail of the great.

Advised Admiral Sims, with sharp military precision:

“I think that you could be much better employed than by writing to very busy men asking them to take of their time as you suggest.”

**Collector Elated**

And thereby the admiral signed his name, and John Boos had the autograph he sought.

Far from being defeated, Mr. Boos was elated.

“That’s the kind of an autograph we like,” he said. “It’s different; it’s distinctive. I wish I could get more like it.”

An afternoon with Mr. Boos in his study, amid his books and his papers, is a delightful excursion among the great—men and women from all walks of life—presidents, statesmen, educators, cartoonists, poets, authors and 15,000 admirers of Lincoln.

As he spreads a bound volume of autographs before your eyes, you see more than the bold strokes of the autographer’s pen, for Mr. Boos is a rare conversationalist. As he tells the people of his autograph come to life in the room. He speaks with authority on people and history and fills his talk with all sorts of anecdotes.

**Admires Wilson’s Statement**

Although Mr. Boos has piled up a library of 25,000 autographs—a collection considered by many one of the most important in the state, he is his favorites.

There is Woodrow Wilson’s comment on the Gettysburg address, written at the end of a copy of Lincoln’s famous message.

Wilson wrote:

“An incomparable example of sincere eloquence.”

“There is a volume in that sentence,” said Mr. Boos.

Alongside this, he places Franklin D. Roosevelt’s comment on the same Lincoln message, written by the President while Mr. Boos stood beside his desk.

When our civilization of the 29th Century behoves as remote as the days of Greece and of Rome are to the battlefield and at Gettysburg and still others who knew him in the White House. Letters from these people for an intimate picture of the President “one that we seldom get in books about him,” Mr. Boos explains.

There is a letter from a woman, who as a girl was kissed by Lincoln the day he delivered the Gettysburg address. Then a girl of 13, she had sung in the choir from the platform where Lincoln spoke. Her letter to Mr. Boos describes Lincoln’s dress on that day. He wore a high silk hat, a black coat and a long frock coat. He had a shawl with him.

Another letter, from Grace Bedell, the girl who was responsible for Lincoln’s growing a beard. This