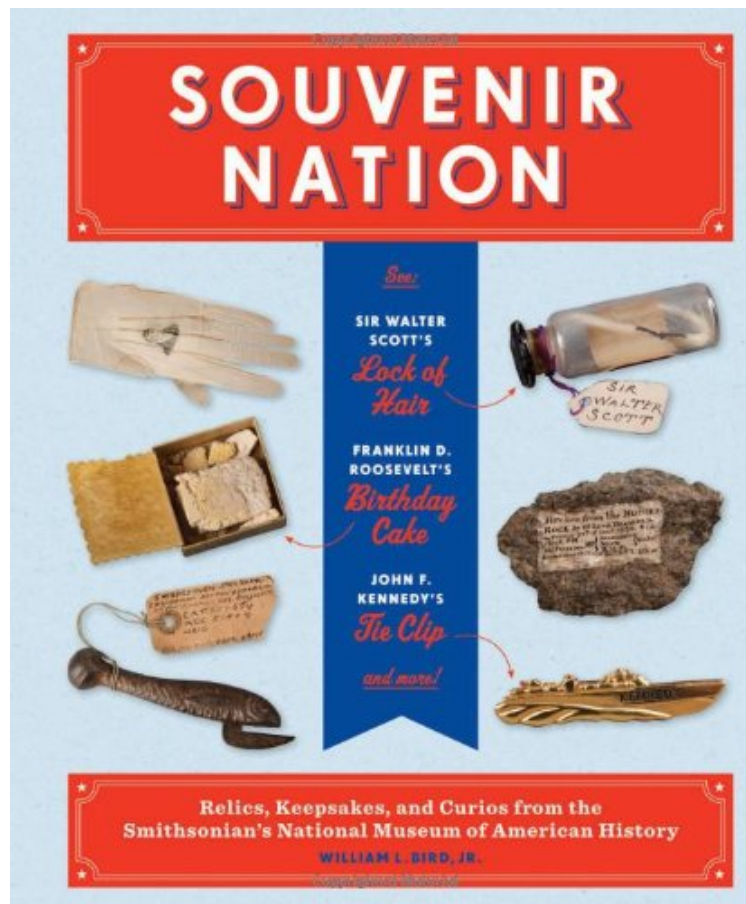


Souvenir Nation: Relics, Keepsakes, and Curios from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History

William L. Bird Jr.

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William L. Bird Jr. : Souvenir Nation: Relics, Keepsakes, and Curios from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Souvenir Nation: Relics, Keepsakes, and Curios from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good for the priceBy JudithThis book is an okay purchase, considering the low cost. It includes descriptions of unusual items donated to the Smithsonian. Items described are things like a piece of the Bastille, a piece of the Berlin Wall, a mini version of a Franklin fireplace, etc. I bought the book because it included information about the table upon which Grant Lee signed papers that ended the Civil War. I knew that Elizabeth Bacon Custer (wife of General George Armstrong Custer) was given the table, and wanted to learn more about it. I was a bit disappointed that the history of each item was more in-depth, but overall enjoyed the book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The best point of view with this book is showing how ...By Mr.

Will Paulsen This book is a light and very enjoyable read. The collecting of souvenirs has always been a tradition by people everywhere and throughout time. The best point of view with this book is showing how to legitimize such collecting by doing basic academic research to flesh out the meaning of the various objects., especially understanding them in the historical context. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun bits of trivia By J. E. Interesting, but a bit difficult to read page to page. It's fun as a "pick up" book, one that you can read a portion of and put it down.

Buried within the collection of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History exists an astonishing group of historical relics from the pre-Revolutionary War era to the present day, many of which have never been on display. Donated to the museum by generations of souvenir collectors, these ordinary objects of extraordinary circumstance all have amazing tales to tell about their roles in American history. *Souvenir Nation* presents fifty of the museum's most eccentric objects—from a chunk broken off Plymouth Rock to the magnifying glass used to examine the infamous hanging chads of the 2000 presidential election. Smithsonian curator William L. Bird, Jr., regales us with the story of each artifact's origins and the quirks of fate that brought it to the Smithsonian. Strikingly photographed, these curious objects form a uniquely American narrative: a cabinet of curiosities representing our nation's most fascinating individuals, both celebrated and obscure, and the keepsakes they left behind.

"A fascinating peek at times gone by, when the concept of preserving a moment or memory meant something way different than picking up a few postcards." - Gizmodo
"Smithsonian curator William L. Bird Jr. takes us on a guided tour of these uniquely fascinating treasures." -- ForeWord
"Showcases the weird and wonderful relics that tell the story of U.S. history." - FastCoCreate.com
About the Author William L. Bird Jr., a Washington, D.C.-based curator at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, is the author of the PAPER Press books *Paint by Number*, *Holidays on Display*, and *America's Doll House*