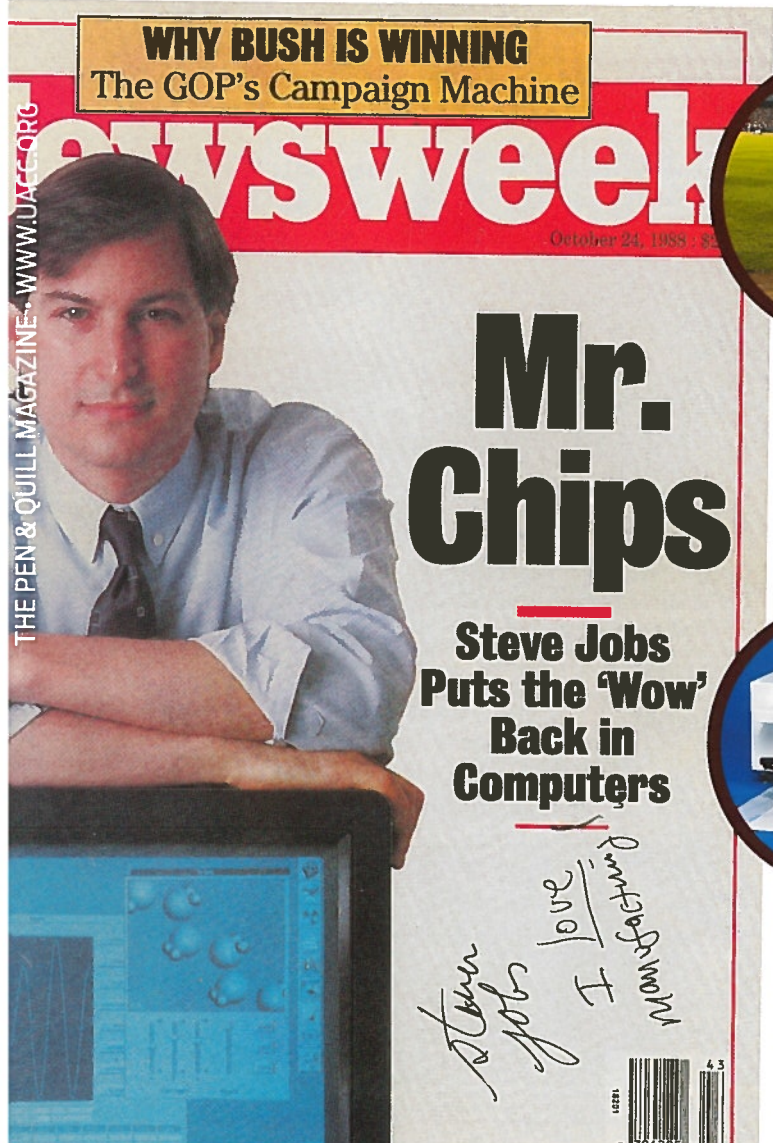


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*I love manufacturing*  
*Steven Jobs*



**Mariano Rivera: Collecting Sandman**

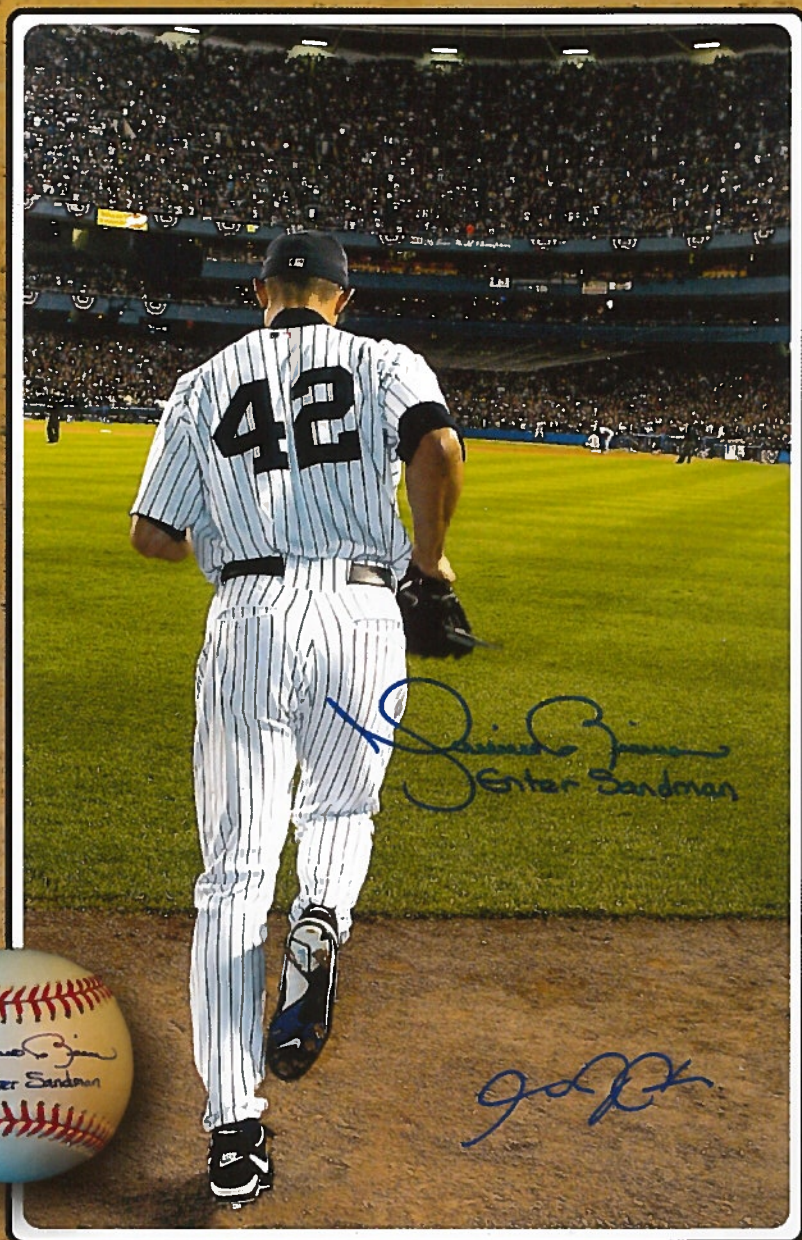


**The Dreaded Autopen**



# Mariano Rivera: Collecting Sandman

By: Steve Zarelli



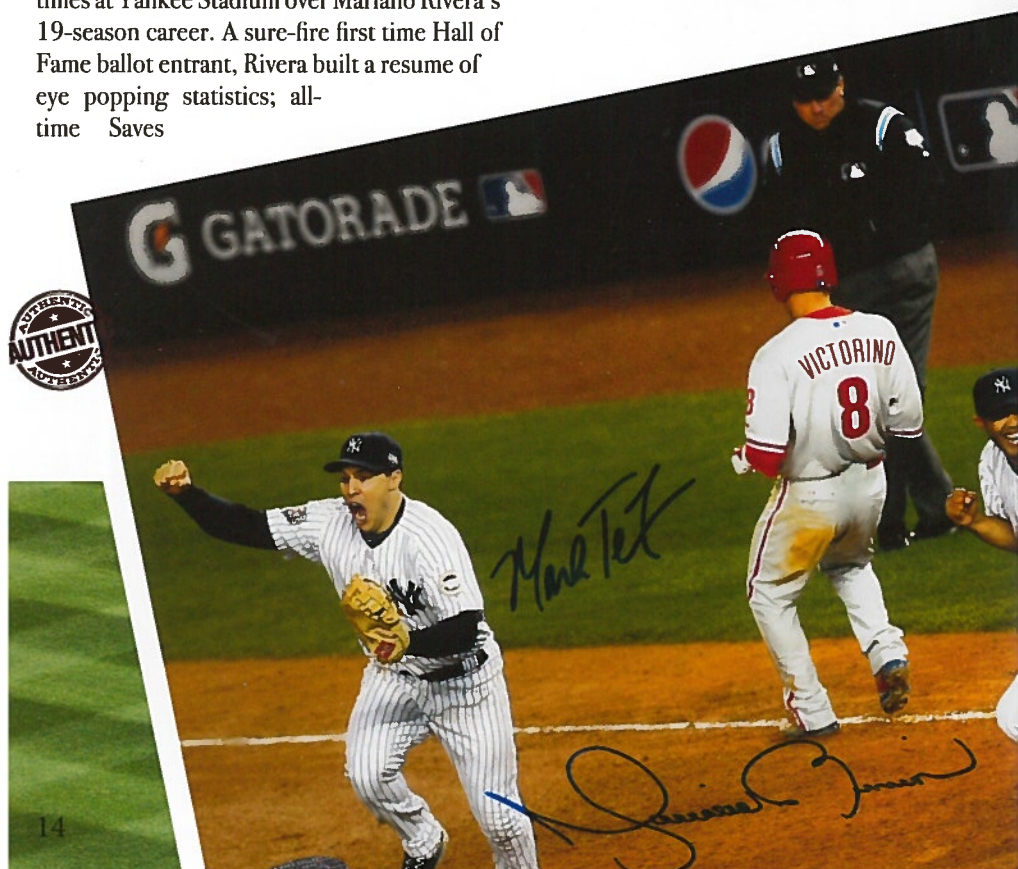
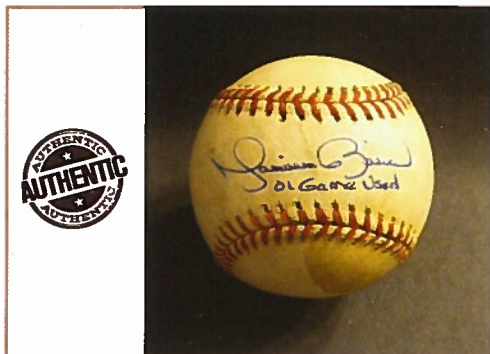
## Collecting Sandman

The last out of the eighth inning has been recorded at Yankee Stadium, and an eerie calm settles over the crowd. Just wait...it's coming.

The crowd waits with bated breath for the somber notes to creep from the stadium speakers. The first chord is struck and the crowd goes wild. The bullpen door swings open and out comes Mariano Rivera, briskly jogging to the mound as Metallica's *Enter Sandman* swells along with the anticipation. By the time Rivera reaches the mound, *Enter Sandman* has built to full crescendo—fighting with the howls of the crowd for dominance.

This tableau played out many hundreds of times at Yankee Stadium over Mariano Rivera's 19-season career. A sure-fire first time Hall of Fame ballot entrant, Rivera built a resume of eye popping statistics; all-time Saves

*Mariano Rivera may very well be the best relief pitcher that ever played the game.*



would discretely sign them and pass them back.

Yankee broadcaster Michael Kay once quipped on the air that Rivera took forever to sign an autograph. He takes pride in his signature and makes an effort to sign neatly and carefully.

Now Rivera signs through Steiner Sports and typically attends one or two public signings a year.

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### *The market for Mariano Rivera's autograph*

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Despite being a prolific signer, Rivera's signature is commonly the target of forgers. Many mass-produced fakes exist, so caveat emptor.

Signed baseballs typically trade for \$150 and up. Signed photos start at around \$100 and equipment usually starts around \$200 depending on the piece and if it is game-used.

The fans graced Mariano Rivera with several nicknames: "The Last to Wear 42," "Sandman," and "Mo," to name a few. These make popular inscriptions on Rivera signed items and they trade for a premium.

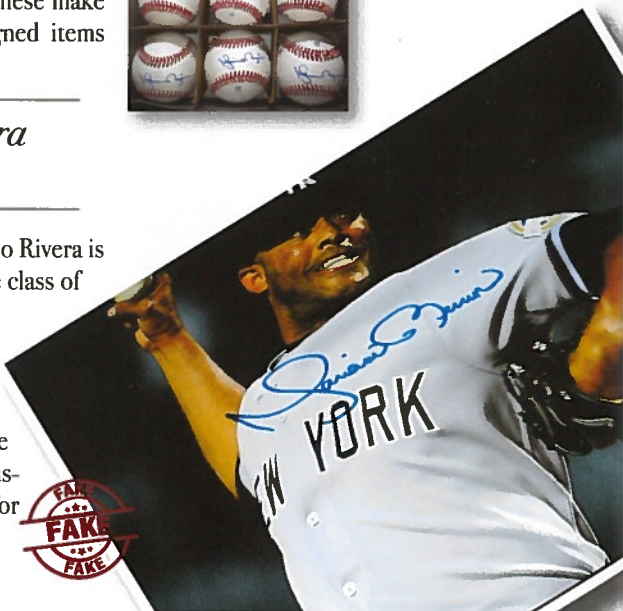
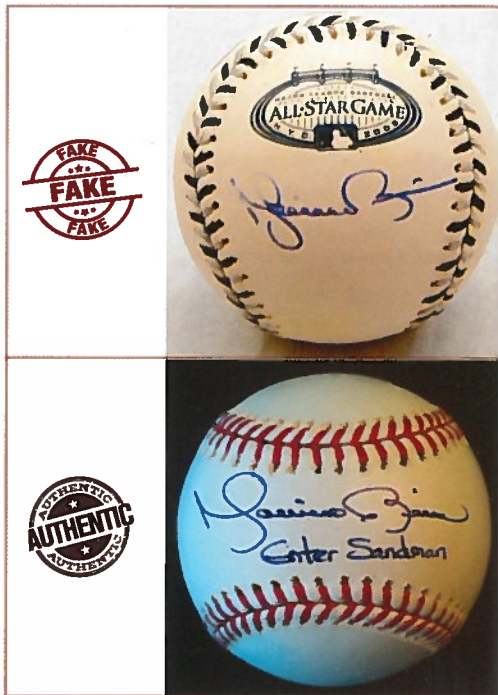
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### *The Future of Rivera Autographs*

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Expect a price increase once Mariano Rivera is elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame class of 2019.

Given Mariano Rivera is among the best of his era—if not all-time—and he played his entire career for the New York Yankees, there will be sustained demand for his autograph for decades to come.



leader with 652, 2.21 career Earned Run Average, 13 time All-Star, five-time World Series Champion and 1999 World Series MVP.

By the end of his storied career, even die-hard Yankee haters would grudgingly admit that Mariano Rivera may very well be the best relief pitcher that ever played the game.

What the statistics don't show are Rivera's grace, cool demeanor, positive attitude and superior sportsmanship.

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## Autograph Habits

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*Mariano is a hall-of-fame autograph-signer as well.*

Up until the early 2000s, he reliably responded to mail requests, and throughout his entire career, he was a generous and smiling signer at the stadium and in public. I sat three rows behind the Yankee bullpen at Tiger Stadium in 2000. Even though he was not supposed to, for the entire game, people fed baseballs down to Rivera – he

