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The First Autographs (1988-90)

If you are wanting to get a good guess if the Gonzalez Autograph you own is the real deal than you have come to the right place. I hope this article will help you on your way to making this determination. If you still are not sure than shoot me an email using the link at the bottom of the page. Send me a URL to the picture or attach the picture to the email and I will give you my best guess. I won't tell you if I think the signature is real or fake but I will tell you whether I would put it in my own collection.



'89 Post Card



'90 Postcard

Here we see that Juan still signs pretty close to a normal script signature. The **G** is generally well defined in a normal scripted manner. The **Z**'s are both defined. Be very wary up purchasing items with this type of signature as they will not be nearly as common as the other issues in this article. This style signature on a Cleveland Indians cap or any Texas memorabilia featuring the Red Texas Uniforms should raise your eyebrows.

The Early Years (1991 into 1992)

This autograph style bridges the rookie era to the star era. You can see the **G** is still evident but is on it's way to becoming the swopping "S" of the star era. This style of autograph should only appear on early '90s items (obviously), such as Cooper Pro bats.



'91 Card

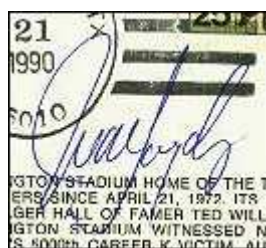


'91 Bat

A Star is Born (1992, 1993)



'93 Elite Dominator Card



Postcard



Lithograph

The first thing we want to note is the large swooping **G** which now looks sort of like an 'S'. You will see this prominent in signatures from this period. The **U** and **A** are usually also visible but not always. The **J** is large and loopy.

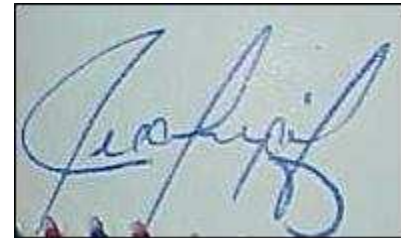
The Mid 90's



'93 All-Star Game Ball



'96 Leaf Card



'96 All-Star Game Ball

Starting with the '93 All-Star game ball we can see that the **J** is still loopy. Most importantly is the change that has occurred with the **G**. It no longer resembles an 'S' as the downware stroke morphs into a straight line now. Also note that the final stroke on the **Z** has changed. The **J** starts to become slimmer and more pointed at the top. We start to lose the definition of the **U** and the **A** in the 96 pictures.

'96 - '00



Donruss Card



'99 Skybox Card



'99 Fleer Card



'01 Baseball

Today



'01 Bat

Here we have what Juan's signature today *generally* looks like. It is really just a **J**, **G** and a **L** with some lines thrown in. It is becoming more common to find the **LEZ** running together with the **L** today as well as getting the **#22** added. Occasionally you may be lucky enough to get the **U** and the **A** back as in the '01 Baseball above. Looking through eBay I see ALOT of autographs that, to me, are obviously fake and they all state "With COA" so remember a COA is worth nothing. If you want to get your own autograph than I have some tips for you. It seems to me that Juan makes a concentrated effort to give everyone a consistent signature. He does sign on the sweet spot for you, be it a ball or a mini-helmet. If you are going to a park that allows you to get up to the railing near the dugout that Juan is in for the series than be ready during the period after the players do their sprints and just before game time. This is when Juan generally signs and he will usually sign about 30 autographs, much more than most players. He will sign pretty much anything and doesn't give you gruff for trying to get Jersey's and Bat's signed (usually!). If you can survive being crushed and can stick your item out the farthest than you have a great chance. As for other times I have no comments as I choose to not bother players when they are not on the field. Here are some of the things that I have received autographs on personally from Juan:

- A.L. Baseball in Pen
- A.L. Baseball in Sharpie (signed during the game when I threw it to him in the dugout!)

- 90 UD Card in Sharpie
- 97 Studio Card in Sharpie
- Red Texas Rangers 5150 Hat in Sharpie
- Red Texas Rangers Mini Helmet in Silver Paint Pen
- 98 SLU in Silver Paint Pen

I own other items but these are my own personal grabs. I haven't gotten any since '98 and I have already missed Cleveland coming to So. California this year so I have to wait until next year now.

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