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For Immediate Release

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READING MAN SENTENCED TO 33 MONTHS FOR FRAUD SCHEME

Defendant forged author's autographs and sold books as signed copies

PHILADELPHIA - Forrest R. Smith, III, 48, of Reading, PA, was sentenced today to 33 months in prison on three counts of wire fraud and one count of mail fraud in connection with a scheme to sell books on eBay by popular authors whose signatures he forged. Smith pleaded guilty to the charges in May 2009. The indictment in this case alleged that between 2002 and December 15, 2008, Smith forged the signatures of famous authors in copies of their books and then sold those books at inflated prices over the internet at the popular auction website, eBay.com ("eBay") to more than 400 unsuspecting purchasers since December 2006. Among the authors whose signatures Smith forged were deceased novelists Truman Capote, Michael Crichton, James Michener, Norman Mailer, Leon Uris, Kurt Vonnegut, and living authors Tom Clancy, John Grisham, John Irving, Annie Proulx, Anne Rice, Philip Roth, and Tom Wolfe.

Smith created and used two different eBay accounts to carry out his fraudulent scheme, one to purchase books and the other to sell the forgeries. He was able to carry out this scheme, in part, because he had obtained documents containing authentic signatures of each author and had ink-based stamps made for the signatures.

In addition to the prison term, U.S. District Court Judge Mitchell S. Goldberg ordered Smith to pay restitution in the amount of \$120,000 and a special assessment of \$400.

The case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mark B. Dubnoff.

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