

## **Ex Libris** by Joaquin Ayala, Ph.D.

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for April 2018! Hopefully you are all enjoying the lovely spring weather that has finally started to arrive – the fresh spring air is, well, a breath of fresh air! Last month I began a triad (of sorts) to be discussed, based solely on the Chicago Sessions group (a continuation of the Marlo group). I started with Simon Aronson and three of his books and this month we are going to look at another Chicago guy.

**David Solomon** is our focus for this month. David has been a friend of Simon Aronson for over 30 years and they were friends even before they met **Ed Marlo**.

Dave and Simon met Eddie at the same time, but they were already quite familiar with his work, having read many of his manuscripts and books previously. In 1982, Dave and Simon co-wrote 182-page hardcover book called ***Sessions***, which was published by Savaco, Ltd. This book is a collection of some of the better ideas that came out of their sessioning together, thus the title, but it also includes some ideas, moves and sleights from other magicians including **Yomoji Kuno, Ed Marlo, Fred Braue, Don England** and **Brother John Hamman**.

A few of the stand-out items are the *Quadruple Spellbound* (which I mentioned in the last article), *Aronson vs. the Observation Test* and *S-O-See Thru*, all from Simon Aronson. The *S-O-See Thru* is particularly interesting because it is an Okito box and purse effect, and coins were something that Simon did more of early on in his magic career and is something he is not particularly known for. Two of the standout effects from Dave Solomon are *Refined Oil & Water* and *Mr. Clean*, a Palindrome Card plot effect where a Joker moves down a packet consisting of an A, 2, 3, 4 and 5 in order, then the order reverses. Dave Solomon is a magician that loves card plots, evidenced by his many variations of various plots, such as the aforementioned *Refined Oil & Water*, *Jazz A, 2, 3, 4* (the first effect in this book) and his *Mexican Poker* (not in this book), which is as close as you will ever get to a self-working handling of a Ten Card Poker Deal.

One of the books that Dave is most well-known for is his ***Solomon's Mind – The Card Mysteries of David Solomon***, a 233-page hardcover book published in 1997 and written by yet another famous Chicagoan, **Eugene Burger**. This book is split up into sections, starting with *Magic For Laypeople*, followed by *Magic for the Planned Close-up Shows*, *Magic for Sessions* and finally, *Prepared Magic for Sessions*. The categories are self-explanatory, and all include multiple effects to suit. Some of the more prominent effects to come from this book are the **Alex Elmsley Diamond**

*Cut Diamond, Dunbury Delusion Revisited* (a classic Charlie Miller effect with a twist), *Cannibals* (the Lin Searles plot gets the Solomon treatment), *Technicolor Oil and Water, Full-face Universal Card* (a Universal Card effect where the full face of each card is seen before they change), and *Breaking Up Ad-jacent* (a very nice twist to the now-classic Aronson effect, *Ad-jacent*, the spectator card stab that fooled the Professor!).

The third book I want to mention is **The Wisdom of Solomon**, a 212-page hardcover book published in 2007 by Pro Print, written by **Dave Solomon** and **Jeff Siegfried**. This book could just as easily have been called Solomon's Mind Part 2 as it has very much the same style and layout of that book, though the descriptions at times can be seemingly incomplete or imprecise. That is due to some of the effects being hard to describe in a precise way, but if you really pay attention to the handlings and read through with props in hand, you should get most of them just fine. That said, there are some great pieces in this book. Among them are *Hofzinsler King City* (a very nice version of the Hofzinsler Lost Ace plot), *Diamond Bar* (a gaffed handling of the classic effect by **Daryl**) *Solomon's Gypsy Curse* (a straightforward but very clean handling of the classic Peter Kane effect), *Everywhere and Nowhere* (another classic Hofzinsler plot where four cards appear to be the same card), and *Kissing Cousins Twice Removed* (a Solomon twist on a little-known Paul Curry effect).

Well there you have it folks – tune in again next month when we wrap up this Chicago trio with the third and final member of the Chicago Session group. Until then, enjoy the weather and get out there and share the magic!  
– **J. M. A.**