

Ex Libris by Joaquin Ayala, Ph.D.

Hello folks and welcome the final Ex Libris article for the year, December 2018! This article is PART TWO of the article which we began last month, so if you have not read that yet, go back and read the November article first.

Last month we talked about ***The Art of Close-up Magic Volume 1*** by *Lewis Ganson*, published by L&L Publishing and in this article, we will focus on ***The Art of Close-up Magic Volume 2***. The second volume was first published in 1966 as a 286-page hardcover book and was published again in the same format by L&L Publishing in 1996.

Once again there is a great variety of effects given in this book. One of the most interesting ones to me was the Linking Ring effect which was culled from the *Symphony of the Rings* routine by **Dai Vernon**, which uses only three rings as opposed to the six used in the original Vernon routine. It really is a very pretty routine and is very well described.

Jan Van Rinkhuyzen (Rink) describes a number of classical effects, including *Cups & Balls*, a *Chink-a-Chink* using any lightweight objects with a sneaky method and even a fun *Rope Through Neck* using a spectator.

Horace Bennett has his own section wherein he describes various coin effects, including more with an Okito Box, another with a coin purse and his handling of an oldie but a goodie, *Coins Through Table*.

One of the most in-depth sections is the chapter from **David Berglas** on sleeving techniques and effects. This is a detailed description of the techniques, the why/why not and everything else you need to know, including various effects to use them in. If the name David Berglas looks familiar to you, you may have seen his work in films such as 'Octopussy' and you might have even heard of the effect he is most famous for, 'The Berglas Effect', also known as 'Any Card At Any Number (A.C.A.A.N.').

There are a lot of now-classic effects described in this volume and if you were to buy just one of the two, I would highly recommend going with Volume 1, just based on sheer volume and variety. There is a lot of great things in the second volume, but the first one just has a greater variety and value, in my humble opinion. Michael Close recommended it for the same reason.

Well that is all for this article folks! It has been a lot of fun diving into the different books this year and as always, I will be back in January with another one for you. Until then, have a wonderful, fun and safe holiday and I

wish for all of you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year in 2019! Keep the magic alive!

Yours in the Secret Art,

Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala