

Ex Libris by Joaquin M. Ayala, Ph.D.

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for September 2019! Every year for September and October, I try and focus on a book whose focus is bizarre magic, or at least leans toward the bizarre. For this month I have chosen a rather light book that focuses on effects using tarot cards.

Book of Thoth – Tarot Trickery by **Stephen Minch** is a 45-page softcover, stapled booklet published in 1974 by Micky Hades International.

There are not very many books out there which focus solely on effects using tarot cards, but this is one of them. You might hazard a guess that the effects contained in this book are based on standard card magic effects, and you would be right, however, though they are based on “standard card effects” they play very differently. They are all very easy to do and Stephen Minch has streamlined all of them as much as possible.

You can use any sort of tarot deck you like for these effects, but there are certain ones out there that will fit the theme of the contents better. This is for the reader to decide. Other than the tarot cards, there are effects that use other items too, but nothing that is difficult to find and most of the other items can be found around the house. Just what kinds of effects are in this book? Well...

The Magician’s Choice is probably one of the best versions of the *21-Card Trick* that you will ever see. **The Tryst** is a *Do-As-I-Do* using the Emperor and Empress cards. **Traveling the Ethers** is the divination of ten cards which are cut to, and the effect even allows you to do a reading using those cards – this is a very clever use of the old Eight Kings stack.

The Temperance of the Elements is a great coincidence effect using the elemental cards, and **The Judgement of Twin Souls** is another where two spectators think of the same card. **Towering Prediction** is rather unique in that the cards in use are laid out on the table and the successful conclusion depends on the spectator following the instructions played from a tape recorder. Among other things, you will also learn a great card force and the very deceptive **Charlier Shuffle**.

There is a lot of stuff packed into the meager 45 pages and they are all very useable effects. You can still find this booklet for anywhere between \$15 and \$30 – well worth the cost!

Join me again next month as we continue our bizarre journey! – **J.M.A.**