

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

Hello everyone and welcome to the Ex Libris article for July 2020! If you are a loyal reader of this column you will know that I primarily write about older books with a few newer or more modern ones here and there. This lockdown has encouraged me to read even more than I normally do and as such, I have some newer books to share with you in the coming months!

I will begin this month by introducing you to a new personal favourite – *Rubinstein Coin Magic* by **Dr. Michael Rubinstein**. At the time of writing this is still a brand-new book, a 500-page hardcover published in 2020 by R.O.P.S. Press. I was fortunate enough to have this book for almost three whole weeks before its worldwide release on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. I was able to read the entire book and worked through 95% of it so far, and I am far from finished!

If you are familiar with Dr. Rubinstein (a now-retired D.V.M.) and have studied/performed any of his previously published work, you will be already familiar with a lot of the content in this book. That should not deter you from getting this book because just about everything has been completely updated. This book includes some of his marketed items such as *Fusion*, *Smileys* and even some work on his revolutionary *Rattle Purse*. Also included are many pieces that have never been previously published in print or on video. *These* items are especially a big treat!

I will go on record right now to say that this book is destined to become a classic that belongs on the shelf of anyone interested in coin magic, and to be of similar importance to *Modern Coin Magic* by **J.B. Bobo**\* and *Expert Coin Magic* by **David Roth**\*\* (both of which have been previously featured in this column).

This book begins by teaching the sleights and moves that are used and featured in the effects and routines throughout, the first of which is a signature creation of Dr. Rubinstein, the *R.O.P.S. Move*, which stands for Retention Open Palm Steal. It is a technique for vanishing a single coin. You will also learn a few other uses for this technique.

The six chapters which follow are dedicated to false counts, click passes, transfers, Spellbound moves, various subtleties, switches, changes and so much more, including his work on the very devious *Stealth Palm*, which is every bit as stealthy as it gets when used correctly!

Section Two is where the fun really begins with all the routines and effects! The opening effect of Chapter Eight, *Copper/Silver*, is *The Purse and the*

*Glass*, Rubinstein's homage to the **David Roth** *Purse and Glass* effect. This handling is also great for making use of the aforementioned Rubinstein Rattle Purse – a coin purse that contains two hidden American half-dollar coins in its lining, and which allows you to create the illusion of coins inside, even when it is completely empty.

Chapter Nine is entirely dedicated to his *Twilight Zone Wild Coin*, which was originally published back in 1985, and which he also performed on *Penn & Teller: FOOL US!* in 2018. This is truly a showpiece routine and the moves used are different from what is normally used. This chapter also include no less than eight variations, and includes the full script and handling used on *FOOL US!*

In Chapter Ten you will find several *Spellbound* effects (a silver coin changing to copper and back, etc.). Very often when you see this effect it is performed without any sort of ending, but *Shattered Spellbound*, you end with the copper coin turning into a bunch of loose American pennies – quite different! *Chinese Explosion* is another example where a genuine Chinese coin turns to gold and then vanishes, reappears, and changes again. In the finale, it changes into a handful of loose Chinese Feng Shui coins!

Chapter Eleven focuses on *Coins Through the Table* and my favourite one is the *CSB Coins Through the Table*, which uses ungimmicked copper, silver, and Chinese coins. There is also a very whimsical *Giant Four Coins Through the Table* which uses four jumbo coins!

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I am going to stop right there for this month, just to keep the reading from getting too dry. I will finish up the summary of this book next month and I will also be posting a more in-depth review of this book soon so until then, stay tuned and enjoy! – **J. M. A.**

\*See #12, March 2016

\*\*See #22, January 2017