

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

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for August(!) 2020! If you read the article last month you will know that we left off *Rubinstein Coin Magic* by **Dr. Michael Rubinstein**, Part One and we will continue here with Part Two.

In Chapter Twelve which focuses on the *Coins Across* plot. *The Specciolini Brothers* is the best one because it is done all in the hands, no table needed and suitable for all venues. Right behind that is the *Shell CSB Coins Across*, which is based on his *Tallahassee Jumping Coins* except it uses a shell and three different coins.

Chapter Thirteen gives you plenty of wonderful coin productions and vanishes to use, but to me the most novel and entertaining one is *Magical Money Rap*, which is a production of four coins to a rap song. The given rap song is rather personal to the author, but he does give alternative suggestions to use which make it more generic. *Vegas Math* is a clever blend of *Coins Across* and *Gadabout Coins (2-in-the-Hand, 1-in-the-Pocket)* with a slot machine ending!

Next up is *Coins and Cards* with a mix of Matrix handlings and some card/coin mentalism effects. The standout effect by far is the original *Voodoo Revelation*. It requires an extensive (relatively speaking) set of props but if you like the effect it is well worth seeking them out. In this effect a card is chosen, then a colored sticker is chosen and attached to one of four coins. The sticker jumps from coin to coin magically, and the coins are used to reveal the identity of the chosen card, after which the colored sticker is found on its back!

In Chapter Fifteen you will find magic with gaffed coins. In *Silver Extraction* you pull the silver out of a coin, leaving a clear interior, after which the coin is eventually restored. *Thumb Through Coin* is a great handling for the old *Karate Coin*, and *Smileys* sees you change a sad face drawn on a half dollar to a smiley face, which turns into a smiley face button, which then transforms into a jumbo smiley face button! In *Fusion*, you borrow a quarter and penny, only to cause the penny to be embedded in the quarter, later being magically separated.

Chapter Sixteen is a collection of miscellaneous effects but a few standout favourites of mine are his presentation for the *Nest of Boxes* in which a marked silver coin and a copper coin perform a *Substitution Trunk* effect, with the marked silver coin eventually found in the smallest of a nest of brass boxes. *Coin in Coin Roll* is the old *Ball & Tube* but done with a coin and

a paper coin roll, and finally *Polarized Plastic* is a novel quickie where you cause a pixelated image of a coin to appear in a plastic disc, which then turns into a real coin and then back to a pixelated image and then a plain clear disc again.

Chapter Seventeen, *Coins & Poker Chips* is one of my favourite chapters in the whole book because the effects quite different, almost new, and yet very novel. All the effects use stickers on poker chips. One is a force of the names of three different coins on each of three spectators. *Poker Chip Spellbound* starts with a normal poker chip, on which a sticker with the image of a silver coin appears, which then changes to copper, to silver to copper and eventually, a Chinese coin. The chip itself does not change – just the image on the sticker! There are several mentalism effects using these chips and stickers, and *Three Coin Monte* is an entire 6 to 8-minute presentation of a Monte which is very entertaining! I really love playing around with the effects and ideas in this chapter.

Chapter Eighteen is the Friends section where you will find some excellent contributions from friends of the author. Friend of the A.A.M.C. **Nathan Kranzo** presents his *Shuzbut Coins* where three copper coins appear, then change into three silver coins. Young gun **Moritz Mueller** brings you his *Slide of Hand Vanish*, a rather difficult vanish and reproduction of a coin, which can also be used as a complete vanish. **Tom Gagnon** teaches his *Shell-Acted*, a beautiful penetration of a coin up through a table and card under a shot glass, which is reminiscent of the **Bob Kline Copenetro**. **Marc DeSouza** shares his miserly (not cheap to put together) *Cylinder and Coins for Three Friends*. Among other contributors you will find **David Roth**, **Miguel Ángel Gea**, **Giacomo Bertini**, **John Carey**, **Lawrens Godon** and more. There is even a great effect with an actual chicken recipe courtesy of **Karen Dorangrichia**, who is married to the author.

The book is rounded out with Chapters Nineteen and Twenty, which focus on over puns for any occasion and a curtain call section, respectively. The latter contains three bonus effects and handlings. Throughout the book you will find hundreds of very clear B&W photo illustrations all taken by the author and his wife, as well as inspirational quotes (some witty, some genuinely insightful and others, hilarious) from the author and a few others.

It has taken a lot of space to write about this massive book, but I do hope it did not bore you to death and I highly, highly recommend checking this book out if you have any interest at all in coin magic! Join me again next month as we examine another new book (and I promise, that will be a much shorter article!) – **J. M. A.**