

An Overview of the Various Editions of
The Expert at the Card Table
by
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McKinney & Co. (printers)

McKinney and Company were the printers of the first, self-published edition of *Expert at the Card Table* and they were based out of Chicago, Illinois. The application for the copyright is dated the 15th day of February, 1902 and was noted as being received at the copyright office on the 17th day of February, 1902. Further, the requested certificate of copyright was dated the 26th of February, 1902.

1902, First Edition Self-Published, Hardcover

Fredrick Drake & Co. (Publisher)

Fredrick Drake & Company purportedly received the plates, the unsold stock of the first edition and the rights to reprint the book in 1903. There was an advertisement in 1904 for an edition which listed a Samuel Robert Erdnase as the author of the book, but that edition seems to never have been published.

1905, Drake Hardback Pictorial Green Cloth

1905, Drake Hardback, Embossed Plum Cloth

1905, Drake Hardback, Blue Pictorial Cloth

1918, Drake Hardback, Embossed Blue Cloth

1918, Drake Paperback, Green Wraps, KH (King of Hearts) Cover

1918, Drake Paperback, Green Wraps, KH Cover (without pips)

1918, Drake Paperback, Gray Wraps, KH Cover (without pips), 178 pages

1934, Drake Paperback, Orange Wraps, KH Cover

1937, Drake Paperback, Yellow Wraps, KH Cover

Frost Publishing Co.

All known copies published by the Frost Publishing Company are undated, but it is known that they were published some time during or after 1937, which is when the printing plates for the book were transferred to their ownership from Fredrick Drake & Co.

Date Unknown, Paperback edition, KH Cover with Dark Blue Titles, 205 pages

Date Unknown, Paperback edition, KH Cover with Black Titles, 205 pages

Date Unknown, Paperback edition, Yellow Wraps, KH Cover, 205 pages

Charles T. Powner Co. (Publisher)

Sometime around 1942 Chicago publisher Charles Powner published different versions of the book, ranging from a cheap paperback to a hardbound, cloth-covered edition, which at that point (in 1944) was the first cloth covered edition in over twenty-five years; it was published in conjunction with the Paul Fleming book company and in the 1944 Powner edition, the contents included critical comments on the text from Professor Hoffmann, who originally published them

in *The Magic Wand*. The paperback edition from 1944 lists those critical comments on the title page but they are nowhere to be found in the book. Powner also published the book, on several occasions, under a different title: *Card Secrets Exposed*. The early editions of the *Card Secrets Exposed* books were undated, but they were occasionally published into the 1960s under that title and were all produced for the KC Card Company. The content is the same, but the title is different and the covers were strikingly different from the earlier reprint editions of *Expert at the Card Table*.

1944, Fleming, Hardback
1944, Fleming, Hardback, includes Hoffmann Commentary
1944, Paperback, 205 pages
1945, Paperback
1946, Paperback, 206 pages
1949, Paperback
1953, Paperback
1958, Paperback, 205 pages
1963, Paperback, 205 pages
1968, Paperback, 205 pages
1975, Powner, Perfect Bound

Wehman

1953, Paperback, 205 pages

Magic Inc.

In the 1960s, Magic Inc. in Chicago decided to take a ride on the Erdnase publishing wave and put out a comb-bound edition with a familiar KH cover.

1967, Comb-bound, KH Cover

KC Card Company

Unknown Date, KC Card Company Edition (Chicago)
1946, Powner Edition, *Card Secrets Exposed*, KC Card Company

Gambler's Book Club

After 1964 Gambler's Book Club published a number of different editions, the more commonly seen versions of which had the Bee playing card back design on the covers. Each version of the book published by GBC opens with "Re-printer's Notes", which explain the historical importance of the title(s).

Date Unknown, Gambler's Book Club Comb-bound, White and Yellow Cover
Date Unknown, GBC Comb-bound, Blue Cardstock Bee Design Cover
Date Unknown, GBC Comb-bound, Red Bee Design Cover, GBC Address with ZIP Code (No price on cover)
Early 1980s, GBC Perfect Bound, Red Cover with Bee Design, (Price on cover: \$2.50)

Early 1980s, GBC Perfect Bound, Red Bee Design Cover (Price on cover: \$3.50)
Date Unknown, GBC Hardcover Edition

Conjuring Arts Research Center

There were two very nice editions put out by the CARC, one of them was a pocket-sized so-called Bible edition which featured brand-new typesetting with numbered lines for referencing the slights, via the Bible verse method. It is printed on lightweight offset paper (the same kind used for Bibles) featuring gilt edges, a sewn-in ribbon page marker and it is bound in soft leatherette. Three colors were offered according to the availability, which were green, red and black.

The second offering from CARC was the Indestructible Erdnase which was printed on waterproof, tear-resistant paper and had a sewn binding.

2007, Paperback, the Bible Edition

2010, Indestructible Erdnase, Waterproof Cover

Other Editions

1945, Fireside Publications, Toronto, Canada, KC Card Company Edition Cover, Chicago

1980, Coles, Softbound Edition, Canada

1984, Casino Press, Softbound Edition, New York

1995, Dover Publications, Softbound Edition

2002, Facsimile Edition, Gold Stamped Hardcover, Publisher Unknown, Distributed Michael Canick Booksellers

2008, Softcover Pocket Edition, 6 inches by 3.5 inches, 218 pages, Distributed by Houdini.com

2008 The Erdnase Scroll Edition by The Miracle Factory/Todd Karr, Handwritten Calligraphy on Parchment Paper, Wood Ornamentation with Velour Carrying Bag

2010, Hardcover Edition with Dover Edition Text, 144 pages by Obscure Press, Print on Demand)

2010, Softcover Facsimile of the 1902 First Edition, 7" x 4", 206 Pages, Anonymous, Printed as a gift for friends with leftovers sold for a limited time

Annotated Editions

1944, Card Mastery, Hardbound Edition with Dust Jacket, Circle Magic Shop

1975, Card Mastery, Paperback Edition, Tannen's, (Back cover price of \$2.50)

1975, Card Mastery, Paperback Edition, D. Robbins

1984, Revelations/Magical Publications Edition, Contains thoughts by Dai Vernon

1991, The Annotated Erdnase by Darwin Ortiz, Contains Two Appendices: "New Moves" and "The Search for Erdnase" by Martin Gardner

2007, Marlo on Erdnase, Edited by Jon Racherbaumer

2008, Hardbound Edition with Dust Jacket, Revelation/Magical Publications (This is an update of the 1984 edition containing 100 pages of added material, included 160 long-lost photographs of the hands of Dai Vernon, taken in 1961 specifically to illustrate this manuscript.)

2010, The Notebook Edition, (Contains only the 101 original drawings by M.D. Smith in the 1902 publication, in their respective positions)

Electronic Editions

2011, Kindle Edition, Edited by Marty Demarest

Translations

1989, Japanese

1991, Hardcover Edition, German, *Der Experte m Kartentisch*

Date Unknown, Paperback Edition, German, *Der Experte Am Kartentisch*

1992, Softcover Edition, Spanish, *El Experto En La Mesa de Juego*

1992, Hardcover Edition, Black Cloth Cover, French, *L'Expert aux Cartes*

2002, Hardcover Edition, Green Cloth Cover, French, *L'Expert aux Cartes*

1996, Softcover Edition, Italian, *L'Esperto al Tavolo da Gioco*

2008, Hardcover Edition, Italian, *L'Esperto al Tavolo da Gioco*