

Card Game Books

BRIDGE, EPHEMERA, OTHER CARD GAMES AND PLAYING CARDS

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Website link: <https://sites.google.com/site/cardgamebooks/home> OR "Card Game Books"

ELIST No. 15

Another mixture of old and new, with things in between. Items range from modestly priced to more expensive for the rarities.

If any of these items take your fancy, please contact me by email or phone. Payment can be by online banking, PayPal or cheque. Account details are: Card Game Books Sort code 40-25-23, account number 51564587. As my other catalogues say, I pride myself on accurate descriptions and most faults are described; minor flaws are, however, ignored. Books are in very good, or better, condition unless otherwise stated. Prices exclude postage which will be charged at £2.00 for the first item and £1.00 for each subsequent book up to a maximum of £7.00. **Items marked with an * are post free.** I am happy to post worldwide, but overseas postage will be charged at cost. I am still managing to post out within 2-3 days.

1. **BIRD, David and Ron Klinger: THE RABBI'S MAGIC TRICK.** **£8.00**

London 1998 1st edition. 8vo 128pp Dec card covers

This is the last in the series of three books and it is considered to be the best. The hands are superb, as are the humour and the links between the hands.



2. **BLACKWOOD, Easley: THE COMPLETE BOOK OF OPENING LEADS.** **£5.00**

Louisville, Kentucky 2nd printing (1st 1983). 8vo 475pp Dec card covers

Many of the examples from actual play highlight points, which makes the book good value because of them. A valuable book which explains things at length.



3. **BULLER, Lt. Col. Walter:** INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE TEST. **£25.00**

Sub-titled *Complete Record of Bidding Play and Scores in Duplicate Contract Bridge Match between England and America*.
London (1930) 1st edition. 8vo 222pp Stiff card covers. Grubby covers and slight loss to base of sunned spine. Contents tight – a reading copy

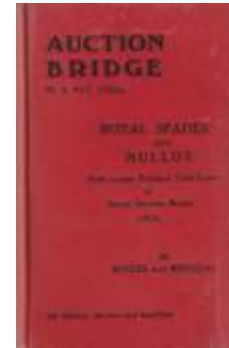
A fascinating account of one of the most famous matches in the history of the game. Both the bidding and play were reckoned to be bad, by both sides, providing writers with almost endless material.



4. **BUTLER and BREVITAS:** AUCTION BRIDGE IN A NUTSHELL. **£10.00**

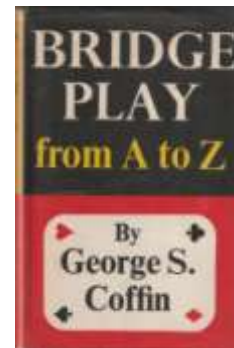
London 1919 5th edition (1st 1913). 12mo 121pp Bright red cloth, no dw
Cover has added title *Royal Spades and Nullos*

The ‘*and Nullos*’ only appeared in the later editions. 1919 saw the publication of the 5th, 6th and 7th editions. It provides a basic introduction to the game, focusing on the requirements for bidding.



5. **COFFIN, George S:** BRIDGE PLAY FROM A TO Z. **£12.00**
London 1954 1st edition. 8vo 352pp Blue cloth dw

Depending on which listing of books you read there are 175, 276 or over 300 deals in the book – trust the middle one. They are placed under 26 headings and are well chosen and analysed.



6. **COTTER, E P C and Derek Rimington:** BRIDGE PLAY TECHNIQUE. **£7.00**

London 1982 1st edition. 8vo 176pp Black cloth dw

An intermediate book on play with 189 deals, most of which are good.



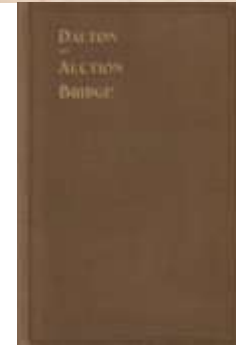
7. **DALTON, William:** AUCTION BRIDGE. **£200.00**

London 1908 1st edition. 16mo 149pp Brown cloth, gilt title to cover and spine, aeg. An immaculate copy

The title to the cover and spine are *Dalton on Auction Bridge*

Interesting bookplate of Clare Castletown of Upper Ossory. Upper Ossory is an administrative barony in what is now County Laois. When John Fitzpatrick, 1st Earl of Upper Ossory, died in 1818 his titles became extinct. His illegitimate son, John, was given the title of Baron of Castletown in 1869. He married Hon. Ursula Emily Clare St Leger. The bookplate contains some of the coat of arms of Baron Castletown.

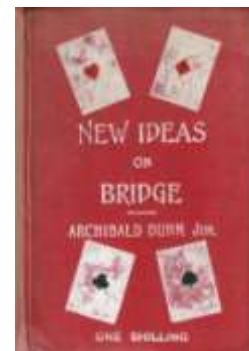
The book, clearly popular in its day, ran to 13 editions, the last being in 1928. Dalton was quite a prolific author of books about Auction.



8. **DUNN, Archibald Jun:** NEW IDEAS ON BRIDGE. **£15.00***

London 1905 2nd edition (1st 1902). 16mo 106pp Dec red cloth

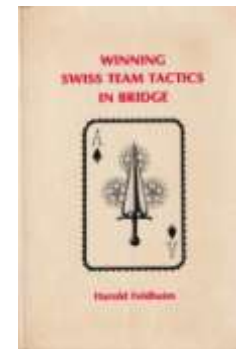
A series of essays on aspects of Bridge which are worth looking at, that about Bridge v Whist is the most interesting.



9. **FELDHEIM, Harold:** WINNING SWISS TEAM TACTICS IN BRIDGE. **£5.00**

Port Chester, New York 1976 1st paperback edition (1st 1976). 8vo 236pp Dec card covers. Some annotation, with some neat underlining in red ink

Designed to help the duplicate player to adjust to teams. Contains good advice.



10. **"HELLESPONT":** THE LAWS AND PRINCIPLES OF BRIDGE. **£25.00**

London 1904 4th edition (1st 1901). 16mo 386pp Green dec cloth boards, gilt dec to front cover and spine; aeg

The author surveys the main methods or systems of playing Bridge before recommending a style. In many ways this is the best book about Bridge-Whist. The appendix in the 4th – 6th editions is worth reading.



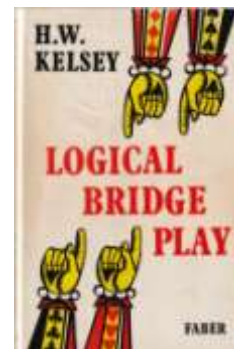
11. **KANTAR, Edwin B:** TEST YOUR BRIDGE PLAY. **£7.00**
Hollywood, California 1974 1st edition. 8vo 201pp Dec card covers

This is a great collection of single dummy problems, with problems grouped into four increasing levels of difficulty.



12. **KELSEY, H W:** LOGICAL BRIDGE PLAY. **£12.00**
London 1976 1st edition. 8vo 192pp Orange cloth dw

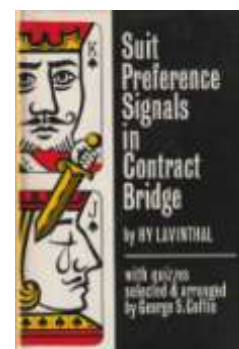
This book is aimed at the more experienced player wishing to become a more effective declarer.



13. **LAVINTHAL, Hy:** SUIT PREFERENCE SIGNALS IN CONTRACT BRIDGE. **£12.00**

London 1964 1st edition. 8vo 195pp Red cloth dw, a lovely, clean copy

A book which has three different titles, but all the same book. In the UK we know these suit preference signals as McKenney, but Lavinthal devised them in 1934 and McKenney merely publicised them.



14. **MANNING-FOSTER A E:** ENGLISH CONTRACT BRIDGE. **£15.00**

London 1932 1st edition. 12mo 206pp Light green cloth no dw, spine faded

A general introduction for the social player. The author is against conventions, but accepts them as a necessary evil.



15. **MARKUS, Rixi:** ACES AND PLACES. **£7.00**
London 1972 1st edition. 8vo 140pp Brown cloth dw

This bears a secondary title *The International Bridge Circuit*. The usual Markus formula, but somehow this time a more felicitous mix of ingredients makes for a more pleasing read.



16. **MILES, Marshall:** MORE ACCURATE BIDDING. **£5.00***
Toronto 2011 1st edition. 8vo 89pp Dec card covers. As new

This is an advanced level book in which the author has chosen controversial topics and gives his own, often original, point of view.



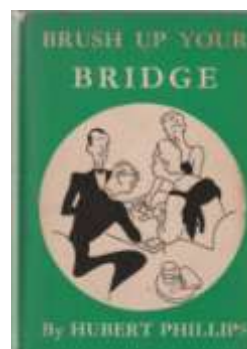
17. **MOLLO, Victor:** BRIDGE UNLIMITED – The Fateful Years. **£12.00**
London 1976 1st edition. 8vo 210pp Red cloth dw

A selection of about 200 hands from Mollo's *Evening Standard* columns. The hands feature a galaxy of famous names and interesting hands. It's an entertaining history of the period.



18. **PHILLIPS, Hubert:** BRUSH UP YOUR BRIDGE. **£10.00**
London 1939 1st edition. 12mo 119pp Fawn cloth dw
25 drawings by Ward.

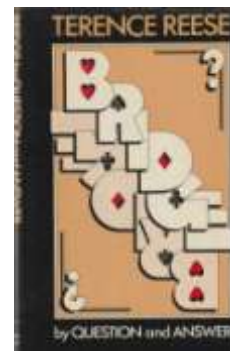
A mixed bag, with sixteen articles featuring the characters from Ruff's Club; many amusing cartoons; some poems; a double dummy problem and twenty four hands from tournament play. It's all quite entertaining.



19. **REESE, Terence:** BRIDGE BY QUESTION AND ANSWER. **£10.00**

London 1976 1st edition. 8vo 150pp Brown cloth dw

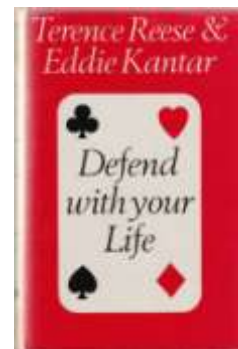
A collection of 75 single dummy problems for which Reese gives the bidding, together with some commentary on it, the lead and preliminary analysis. The reader then has to solve the problem.



20. **REESE, Terence and Eddie Kantar:** DEFEND WITH YOUR LIFE. **£12.00**

London 1981 1st edition. 8vo 160pp Red cloth dw, sunning to spine

A fine collection of defensive quizzes, originally presented by Reese. There is a 2003 USA edition in which Kantar adjusted a few auctions, changed some phrasing and added his trademark humour.



21. **ROOT, William S:** COMMONSENSE BIDDING. **£6.00**

Subtitled *The Most Complete Guide to Modern Methods of Standard Bidding*

New York 1986 1st paperback edition (1st 1986). Large 8vo 216pp Dec card covers

At the time this was published the term ‘Standard American’ was a somewhat nebulous term for a Goren-based system, the notion of SAYC having not appeared. This significant work is based on the former – strong NT, 5-card majors and short minors (but not a 2-card suit). It is a very thorough book.



22. **SANDS, Norma:** PLAYING THE CARDS. **£4.00**

Subtitled *Developing Competence at the Bridge Table*

Denver, Colorado 1984 1st edition. 8vo 127pp Dec card covers

A good book for those just beyond beginners but it lacks the space to achieve the same standard when it moves to intermediate play. That said, from a quick perusal of the pages on percentages they are easy to understand, yet beyond intermediate players without a mathematical bent.



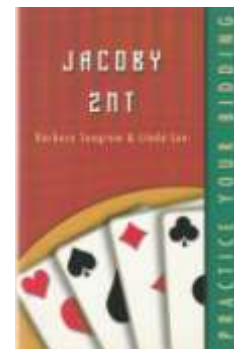
23. **SCARFI, Pablo:** BASIC CONTRACT BRIDGE. £6.00
Newport, IoW 1947 1st edition. 8vo 110pp Red cloth dw

The first half presents a strange bidding system, with the second half on play and defence. However, the defects make it a curiosity. Leslie Parris suggests that the bidding system is adventurous and would probably be expensive at rubber bridge!



24. **SEAGRAM, Barbara and Linda Lee:** JACOBY 2NT. £5.00*
One of the *Practice Your Bidding* series
Toronto 2003 1st edition. 8vo 74pp Dec card covers

The authors wrote a series of five such books, this one being aimed at novices/intermediate players. Not sure I would expect Jacoby to be a gadget used by intermediate players. The books outline the theory behind each convention and provide forty practice hands to bid.



25. **SHEINWOLD: Alfred:** A SHORT CUT TO WINNING BRIDGE. £10.00
London 1962 1st UK edition. 8vo 160pp Maroon cloth dw

Although the title suggests an intermediate level book, a glance through the contents indicates that advanced level players would benefit. After a bidding summary, there are 100 hands, followed by 24 short essays on a variety of subjects.



26. **SIMON, S J:** DESIGN FOR BIDDING. £15.00

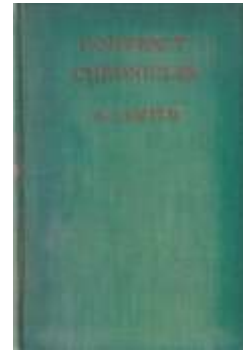
London 1949 1st edition. 8vo 268pp Maroon cloth dw
Inside is a small collection of articles, a letter to *The Times* and a handwritten Bridge poem written on Naval Message paper.

An idiosyncratic but brilliant examination of the ideas behind bidding, written in a delightfully witty style and leading to a full outline of Simon's ideas of what a good system should be and do. He argues for an Acol *state of mind* style of bidding.



27. **SMITH, A J: CONTRACT CHRONICLES.** £25.00*
London 1936 1st edition. 12mo 52pp Green cloth no dw

A collection of around fifty hands played by fictional players in a club setting - an interesting and amusing collection. The bidding is often primitive but the points on play are instructive.



28. **STEWART, Frank: BETTER BRIDGE FOR THE ADVANCING PLAYER.** £6.00
Subtitled *An Introduction to Constructive Thinking at the Bridge Table*
New Jersey 1984 1st paperback edition. 8vo 234pp Dec card covers

Based on the thought processes behind our actions, there are 35 'Not So Hard' hands, 35 'Not So Easy' hands and 10 'For You, The Expert' hands.



29. **STREET, Charles Stuart: STREET ON CONTRACT.** £18.00
New York (privately printed) 1928 1st edition. 16mo 129pp Blue cloth no dw

A general survey of bidding, a little early in the development of Contract. Interestingly, he mentions that some players use opening three bids weaker than twos!



30. **WISS, Mike Dorn: HOW NOT TO PLAY BRIDGE.** £8.00
Subtitled *The Bridge Seminars of Professor Gaston Gitane-Gauloise*
Toronto 2013 1st edition. 8vo 245pp Dec card covers. As new

This is an intermediate level book which you will either love or hate. The author uses satire as a presentation and there are fifty hands from which we should learn by our mistakes. All of these are highlighted by this eccentric professor.



I am indebted to Tim Bourke and John Sugden for letting me use some descriptions of the content of books. Some others come from earlier works by Leslie Parris and Bill Sachse.