

# Card Game Books

## BRIDGE, EPHEMERA, OTHER CARD GAMES AND PLAYING CARDS

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### ELIST No. 3

Another mixture of old, modern and new. I hope there's something for everyone.

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. I am happy to post worldwide, but overseas postage will be charged at cost. I post out within 2-3 days.

1. **AUKEN, Sabine: I LOVE THIS GAME.**

£6.00

Toronto 2006 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 207pp Dec card covers

The chapters begin with one of the sixteen boards from the 2001 Venice Cup final and the author uses these to discuss points about the issues raised. She discusses her approach to Bridge, illustrated with hands from her illustrious career. A great, even dramatic, read.



2. **BERGEN, Marty: POINTS SCHMOINTS!**

£12.00

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 2006 9<sup>th</sup> printing (1<sup>st</sup> 1995). 8vo 210pp Red cloth dw As new

Mingles intermediate level lessons with anecdotes; strong on general strategy and approach. Uses catchy phrases to sum up points.



3. **BERGEN, Marty: MORE POINTS SCHMOINTS!** £12.00  
Stamford, Connecticut 1999 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 210pp Black cloth dw As new

Very much in the same vein as the above item, with the author's entertaining writing style.



4. **BIRD, David: SOMEHOW WE LANDED IN SIX NOTRUMP.** £8.00  
Toronto 2009 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 190pp Dec card covers. As new

A collection of sixty three well-written columns, with no surprise about the final contract. The first half covers hands from play, the second half from the author's fictional writings.



5. **CAPPELLETTI, Mike: 100 BRIDGE PROBLEMS.** £5.00  
Subtitled *Using Poker Tactics in Contract Bridge*  
Cooper Station, New York 2004 2<sup>nd</sup> printing (1<sup>st</sup> 2004). 8vo 224pp Dec card covers. As new

The author argues that both games require the player to judge what is the best action in any situation, but you must also have regard for the skills levels of the opponents. Play the people as well as the cards.



6. **COHEN, Larry and Liz Davis: BRIDGE BELOW THE BELT.** £8.00  
Natco Press, New Jersey 1997 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 238pp Dec card covers. As new

A novel set at the North American Fall nationals, when knowing the hands in advance wins the Blue Ribbon. Some good hands. I hope I haven't spoiled the plot!



7. **DALTON, William: BRIDGE ABRIDGED.** £125.00  
London 1901 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 16mo 139pp Maroon cloth gilt dec on cover aeg

Three editions were produced in 1901, each with a different number of pages. This is a genuine first edition of a very early work.

A previous owner has added in elegant script (opposite the title page) the seven points appropriate to the revoke law(see below).

This book ran to nine printings between 1901 and 1911. Indeed most of Dalton's books ran to several editions, the public having developed interest in this 'new' game. Not surprisingly, these early books lacked the clarity of later works. It is, however, well written.

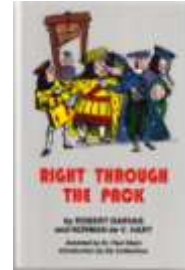




**8. DARVAS, Robert and Norman De Vere Hart: RIGHT THROUGH THE PACK. £20.00**

Louisville, Kentucky [1995?] New USA edition. 8vo 328pp Dec card covers. As new. This new edition by Devyn Press shows no publication date, but is an exact copy of the original version.

One of the most remarkable and best-loved Bridge books of all time. Each of the 52 cards tells a story as the hero of the hand. The deals are a triumph of the author's imagination. The pleasure in reading it is sublime, regardless of how many times one has done so.



**9. GAROZZO, Benito and Pietro Forquet: THE ITALIAN BLUE TEAM BRIDGE BOOK. £18.00**

London 1969 1<sup>st</sup> UK edition. 8vo 274pp Blue cloth dw  
First published in Italy in 1967

The exhaustive book on the system made famous by the authors and is very readable.



**10. HARRISON-GRAY, M: COUNTRY LIFE BOOK OF BRIDGE. £10.00**

London 1972 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 4to 159pp Green cloth dw. A very good copy

A glorious selection and presentation of Gray's Country Life articles, all featuring more than one deal. A book to dip into – the Laughing Old Ladies and Wigan article is pure joy!



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

London 1903 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (1<sup>st</sup> 1901). 16mo 346pp Green dec cloth boards, gilt dec to front cover and spine; aeg  
Inscription to title page in fine handwriting

In many ways, this is the best book on Bridge-Whist as it surveys the main methods and systems of playing Bridge. Later editions cover the author's preferred methods, and include a readable appendix.



12. **HORTON, Mark and Radoslaw Kielbasinski: THE BRIDGE MAGICIANS.** £8.00

Subtitled *Spellbinding plays from the Polish Stars*  
Toronto 2001 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 247pp Dec card covers

The book introduces twenty four of the leading Polish players and then you are invited to match their play on some tough deals.



13. **KANTAR, Edwin B: ROMAN KEYCARD BLACKWOOD.** £10.00

Subtitled *The Untold Story*  
Ballston Lake, New York 1991 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 123pp Dec card covers

The author won the IBPA award for presenting his invention of RKCB in the early 1980s. Kantar provides both innovation and detail, and this is a 'must' for any partnership wanting to use this convention.



14. **KARN, Willard: KARN'S BRIDGE SERVICE.** £15.00

New York 1933 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 363pp Dark green cloth, slight wear to spine

Compiled in folder form which can be unscrewed to accommodate the proposed updates, which never happened following a cheating scandal surrounding Karn. The book has a few rubber stamps from 'Monarch of Bermuda'. The play sections are worth reading.



15. **KELSEY, H W: MATCH POINT BRIDGE.** £12.00

London 1970 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 239pp Blue cloth dw

The author provides 200 example hands which consider the best approach playing pairs. Achieving the best possible plus score or the lowest possible minus score has always been my approach. Perhaps I should read this book.



16. **KIMELMAN, Neil: THE THIN FINE LINE.** £8.00

Toronto 2012 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 256pp Dec card covers, small ink stain to top right of later pages, which does not affect the text

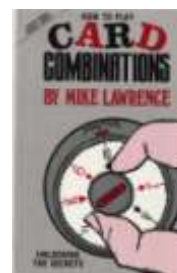
This is a sequel to the author's *Improve your Bidding Judgment*. This book identifies key areas of bidding judgment not covered in the first book.



17. **LAWRENCE, Mike:** HOW TO PLAY CARD COMBINATIONS. **£10.00**

Louisville, Kentucky 1988 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 227pp Dec card covers

There are fifty two hands in which the author plans and executes the play. In many ways it's in the 'over my shoulder' style, but features, as the title indicates, how to play certain card combinations.



18. **“LUCIAN”:** THE STRAIGHT BID. **£25.00**

London 1936 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 12mo 137pp Black cloth no dw

“Lucian” was the pseudonym of Climenson Yelverton Charles DAWBARN (1859-1951), a well known Liverpool bridge player, who was possibly a lawyer as he also wrote a few legal books.

The author promotes an aggressive bidding system. Leslie Parris described it as ‘an interesting book with a wealth of examples from matches showing how the system would have coped even when not very well.....!’

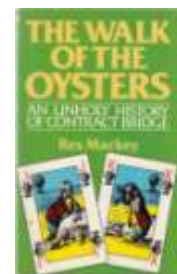


19. **MACKEY, Rex:** THE WALK OF THE OYSTERS. **£8.00**

London 1986 1<sup>st</sup> paperback (1<sup>st</sup> 1964). 8vo 217pp Dec card covers

Subtitled *An Unholy History of Contract Bridge*.

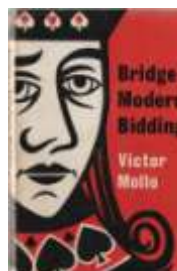
Not the best history of the game, but more amusing than others. It has been described, accurately, as ‘irreverent’. Contains 6 photo plates from the 1930s.



20. **MOLLO, Victor:** BRIDGE: MODERN BIDDING. **£12.00**

London 1961 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 124pp Brown cloth dw

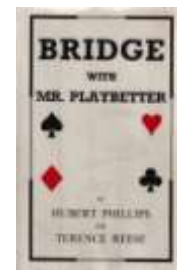
A textbook which favours Acol and CAB responses to a 2C opening are mentioned in this first edition. The specimen hands from play vary between each edition. This is the only first edition I have come across in 8 years.



21. **PHILLIPS, Hubert and Terence Reese:** BRIDGE WITH MR PLAYBETTER. **£10.00**

London 1952 1<sup>st</sup> edition. Small 8vo 221pp Black cloth dw, with the 32 page insert of the deals. A really clean copy.

Phillips wrote three books about Bridge at Ruff's Club with Mr Playbetter described as ‘insufferable’. That said the books were generally well received and Reese's input improved them.





22. **QUINN, Terry:** THE GREAT BRIDGE CONSPIRACY. **£10.00**  
London 1980 1<sup>st</sup> UK edition (1<sup>st</sup> USA 1979). 8vo 196pp Green cloth dw

An espionage caper mainly centred around a members' only Congressional Bridge Club in Washington DC.



23. **REESE, Terence:** THE MOST PUZZLING SITUATIONS IN BRIDGE PLAY. **£10.00**

London 1979 1<sup>st</sup> UK edition (1<sup>st</sup> USA 1978). 8vo 160pp Dark green cloth dw, very slight spotting to page edges and sunning to spine

This covers some less well known aspects of play, using a quiz format. The problems are arranged by type, with an introductory section for each group. Enjoyable, testing and instructive.



24. **RIGAL, Barry and Josh Donn:** MORE BREAKING THE RULES: SECOND HAND PLAY. **£10.00**

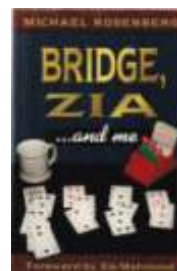
New York 2013 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 226pp Dec boards, not issued with dw. As new

This book is aimed at intermediate and advanced players and deals exclusively with second hand play. We all learnt that second player plays low, but I have a feeling that this book does not *always* advocate that.



25. **ROSENBERG, Michael:** BRIDGE, ZIA...and ME. **£8.00**  
Toronto 1999 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 191pp Dec card covers

Not all will be aware that Rosenberg is a Glasgow lad, albeit that he has lived in the USA for many years. He spent much of his Bridge-playing career partnering Zia Mahmood. The problems presented are not easy – Rosenberg had the reputation of being a master solver of obscure hands.



26. **SOBEL, Helen:** WINNING BRIDGE. **£12.00**  
London 1950 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 253pp Green cloth dw

This is the UK edition of a book first published in the USA in 1949 under the title *All the Tricks*. This UK version has two quite different dustwrappers, yet the book was not reissued.

A very personal book, it is the only one by one of the very best players of all time. It contains practical advice, with many hands featuring the author and other US experts of the time.



27. **STEWART, Frank and Derek Rimington:** THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO DEFENSIVE PLAY. **£10.00**

London 1990 1<sup>st</sup> UK edition 1<sup>st</sup> published in the USA (1988) under the title *The Bridge Player's Comprehensive Guide to Defense*. 8vo 234pp Black cloth dw

A readable book which is ideal for the intermediate player, combining instructional text with many quizzes. Derek Rimington produced this edited, anglicised version.



28. **THURSTON, Paul:** BRIDGE AT THE BREAKFAST TABLE. **£8.00**  
Toronto 2011 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 175pp Dec card covers. As new

The book is a collection of the author's daily Bridge columns from Canada's *National Post*, one of only two newspapers in circulation throughout Canada. The hands provide tips, oddities and stories. A book to dip into.



29. **TOLLEMACHE, Lord:** THE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER SYSTEM. **£85.00**

The cover bears the title *The Key to Safe Calling in Contract Bridge* Chester [1933] 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 69pp Dec boards

Upside down inside the rear cover is a **signed dedication**. A rare item

Leslie Parris describes the system as strange, as it attempts to graft a 2C force onto Culbertson, but goes on to say that one should open the suit with the greatest honour strength and rebid in the long suit giving a canapé effect. All bids are under strength and in general the opener values on honour tricks, the responder on the Work count.



30. **WOOLSEY, Kit:** MATCHPOINTS. **£25.00**

Louisville, Kentucky 1992 3<sup>rd</sup> printing (1<sup>st</sup> 1982). 8vo 343pp Dec card covers. As new

This is a similar book to the Kelsey book above, but all authors can write differently about the same subject. I do, however, like the notion that a bid or play which produces a less than optimal result on a hand is not a mistake, it's merely that the decision turned out wrong. One to keep up your sleeve! This is not an easy book to find in the UK.



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 Sachen.

