

# Card Game Books

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

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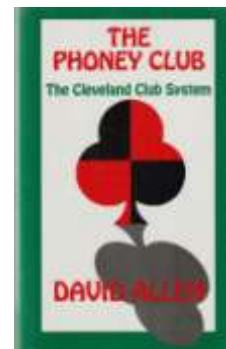
### ELIST No. 18 – SYSTEM BOOKS (2)

Here's another offering of system books, the previous one being well received – thank you. Again, system books as opposed to items about the odd conventional bid. Some are common; many are less common with dustwrappers.

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.

1. **ALLEN, David:** THE PHONEY CLUB – THE CLEVELAND CLUB SYSTEM. **£7.00**  
London 1992 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 125pp Green cloth dw

A little Club system which uses a 1D negative response. Other one level responses are limited and two level responses are game forcing. Some oddities are advocated.



2. **BEASLEY, Lt. Col. H.M.:** THE BEASLEY CONTRACT BRIDGE SYSTEM. **£20.00**  
London 1935 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 12mo 128pp Blue cloth dw

Uses the Milton Work count, as opposed to the one which featured in his *London Bridge*. The more points you have, the more you bid, but it was basically a natural system. There are no forcing twos.

An easy-to-find book, but 1<sup>st</sup> editions in dustwrappers are harder to find.



3. **BORIN, Jim and Norma: OUR PRECISION STYLE.** £5.00\*  
West Melbourne, Victoria 1981 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 72pp Dec card covers

A compact, readable summary of Italian style Precision, with their own modifications. This is one of the better presentations of this style of Precision.



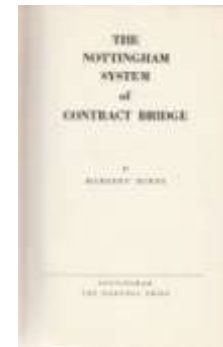
4. **BULLER, Lt. Col. Walter: THE BULLER SYSTEM OF CONTRACT BRIDGE.** £15.00  
London ND [1936] 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 12mo 128pp Dec card covers

The system adds half a point for a 10, and 1 level bids apart from 1NT are described as 'tentative'. Is this a real change, I wonder? It is quite readable, but you do conclude that most of it is common sense anyway.



5. **BURNS, Margery: THE NOTTINGHAM SYSTEM OF CONTRACT BRIDGE.** £10.00  
Nottingham 1958 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (1<sup>st</sup> 1954). 8vo 107pp Red cloth no dw

The system uses a 1C bid of 16+. My abiding memory of the system was playing against it nearly 40 years ago and finding it difficult to enter the auction. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition was only 47 pages, so this is a much expanded version of the system.



6. **BURNSTINE, David: THE FOUR HORSEMEN'S ONE-OVER-ONE METHOD OF CONTRACT BIDDING.** £10.00  
London 1932 1<sup>st</sup> edition (1<sup>st</sup> USA also 1932). 12mo 118pp Orange cloth no dw, fading to spine and part of front cover, contents tight.

This is a seminal work for its time, making one-over-one forcing but not two-over-one. It is still a playable system. It had lighter openings in third and fourth seats, weak pre-empts and a defined strength for NT openings.



7. **COHEN, Ben and Terence Reese: THE ACOL SYSTEM OF CONTRACT BRIDGE.** **£12.00**

London 1939 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (1<sup>st</sup> 1938). 8vo 64pp Dark grey card covers, evidence of fold to front cover. The early editions are quite rare.

The first edition was entitled *The Acol Two Club* with subsequent editions being titled as this one. This version has only minor changes from the original with subsequent editions having substantial revisions.



8. **COURTENAY, F. Dudley: THE SYSTEM THE EXPERTS PLAY.** **£20.00**

New York 1936 20<sup>th</sup> printing (1<sup>st</sup> 1934). 12mo 107pp + 95pp Black spiral folder

The small folder contains the contents as per the title above, plus a Supplement entitled *Courtenay on the Essentials of Play*. Both had their origins in 1934 and both ran to in excess of 20 editions. The Losing Trick Count is a feature. Originally, the Supplement was published separately.



9. **DEWHURST, Victor: THE TWO-CLUB SYSTEM.** **£8.00**

London 1965 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 220pp Green cloth dw

Tim Bourke describes it as similar to Acol with a dash of Baron. The presentation is pleasant.

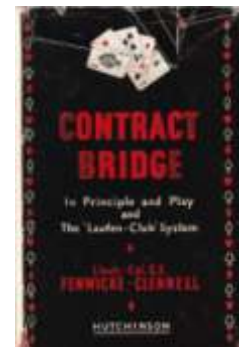


10. **FENWICKE-CLENNELL, Lt. Col. G. E: CONTRACT BRIDGE IN PRINCIPLE AND PLAY AND THE 'LAUFEN-CLUB' SYSTEM.**

**£6.00**

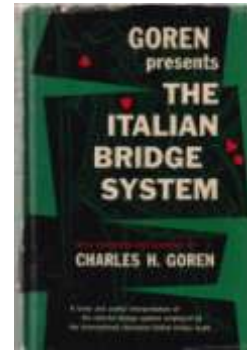
London 1947 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 12mo 112pp Red cloth dw, neatly repaired

The chapter on the 'Laufen-Club' is presumed to have originated in a WWII POW camp and is the 'system' section. 1C shows 3.5 honour tricks and a 1NT opening 5 honour tricks without a five card suit. 2C is a minimum 1C opening with a 5 card suit. Suit openings of 2D through to 3C are natural and game forcing.



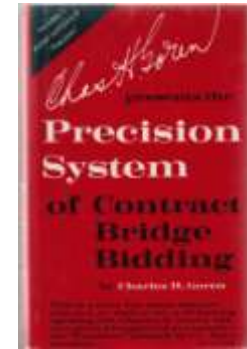
11. **GOREN, Charles H: THE ITALIAN BRIDGE SYSTEM.** £12.00  
New York 1958 1<sup>st</sup> USA edition. 8vo 216pp Black cloth dw

It describes the ‘Neapolitan Club’ system, was put together by Harold Ogust (how well we’ve come to know the name, without knowing the man) and badged by Goren. This is the original American 1<sup>st</sup> edition.



12. **GOREN, Charles H: THE PRECISION SYSTEM OF CONTRACT BRIDGE BIDDING.** £8.00  
New York 1971 1<sup>st</sup> edition 2<sup>nd</sup> printing. 8vo 228pp Red cloth dw  
(Edited by Robert Ewen)

The text is by Ewen and is an entertaining book. This 1<sup>st</sup> edition has flaws regarding interference over 1C (1NT showed all positives). This was corrected in later editions.



13. **JACOBS, Bill: FANTUNES REVEALED.** £6.00  
Toronto 2012 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 170pp Dec card covers. As new, but slight creasing to rear cover

This is the system of Fulvio Fantoni and Claude Nunes, so I need to be a little careful about their current status. Sanctions in the USA still remain, but others have been lifted, I believe. 1NT is 12-14, but the shapes are extended; 1 level suits are 14+ and 2 level suits are 10-13. Published before they were accused and it doesn’t seem that the system was on the charge sheet.



14. **JASSEM, Krzysztof: WJO5 – A MODERN VERSION OF THE POLISH CLUB.** £10.00  
Warsaw 2005 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 136 Dec card covers. As new. English translation

An in depth presentation of Wspolny Jezyk, with 1C 12-14 balanced, 15-17 with clubs or any 18+. The hope was to bring the system to a wider audience, but the level of detail.....



15. **KEMPSON, Ewart and Norman de Vere Hart: THE QUINTESSENCE OF CAB.** £6.00  
London 1959 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 160pp Grey cloth dw

Leslie Dodds' Introduction tells us that CAB is Club, Ace, Blackwood, otherwise we'd be none the wiser. But the system, which is described as 'natural' is much more than the initials. I've played the ace responses to 2C for years now (without any other part of the system) and it works for us.



16. **LIGHTNER, Theodore A: HIGH LIGHTS OF THE CULBERTSON SYSTEM.** £18.00  
New York 1931 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 12mo 238pp Blue cloth dw

Lightner was one of Ely's regular partners and this is a lively and interesting survey of Culbertson. There are many practical examples, with full deals. Rare to find a 1<sup>st</sup> edition copy with a dw.



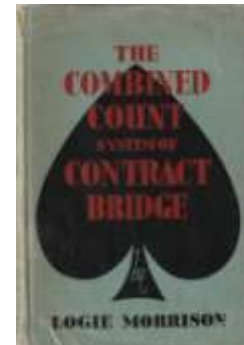
17. **MANNING FOSTER, A E: ENGLISH CONTRACT BRIDGE.** £12.00  
London 1932 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 12mo 206pp Light green cloth no dw spine faded and marked

Includes some press cuttings of hands by Reese and Harrison-Gray. A general introduction for the social player. The author is against conventions, but accepts them as a necessary evil.



18. **MORRISON, Logie: THE COMBINED COUNT SYSTEM OF CONTRACT BRIDGE.** £10.00\*  
Glasgow 1950 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 12mo 71pp Green cloth dw

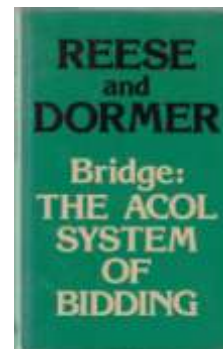
Opener shows a point range using a 7-5-3-1 count; responder must reply with a step bid which is negative, otherwise replies are natural and guarantee at least the point count for game.



19. **REESE, Terence and Albert Dormer: THE ACOL SYSTEM OF BIDDING.** £6.00

London 1979 1<sup>st</sup> edition thus. 8vo 156pp Black cloth dw  
Updated version of *The Acol System Today*.

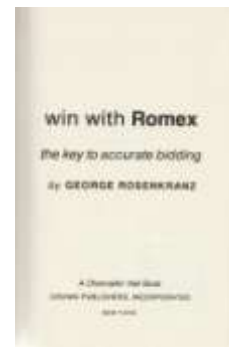
Well written and contains much good advice.



20. **ROSENKRANZ, George: WIN WITH ROMEX.** £10.00

New York 1975 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 402pp Light brown boards with dark brown spine, no dw. Includes a press release about the book, but with biographical details about his work on developing the birth control pill.

I found the Introduction interesting, in that it makes no mention of Rosenkranz's earlier book *The Romex System of Bidding*, published in 1970. I do have a copy of that if you prefer. The system employs 1NT, 2C and 2D openings as strong, but with different meanings.



21. **SCHENKEN, Howard: HOWARD SCHENKEN'S 'BIG CLUB'.** £10.00

London 1971 1<sup>st</sup> UK edition (1<sup>st</sup> USA 1968). 8vo 223pp Black cloth dw, spine sunned

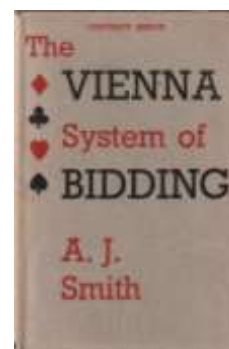
An update of the author's *Better Bidding in Fifteen Minutes*, the system is too point-count oriented and requires at least an 8 count to respond to partner.



22. **SMITH, A. J: THE VIENNA SYSTEM OF BIDDING.** £10.00\*

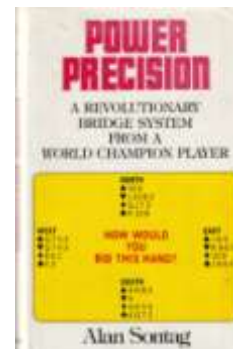
London 1944 2<sup>nd</sup> impression (1<sup>st</sup> 1942). 12mo 64pp Black cloth dw  
Contains a previous owner's typewritten summary sheets of the system.

A brief but detailed outline of this famous bidding system, including asking bids and the 4NT Norman convention.



23. **SONTAG, Alan:** POWER PRECISION. **£12.00**  
London 1980 1<sup>st</sup> UK edition (1<sup>st</sup> USA 1979). 8vo 319pp Red cloth dw

This is an enjoyable read, as the system is intertwined with the story of Sontag and Weichsell winning the Cavendish Pairs.



24. **STAYMAN, Samuel M:** THE COMPLETE STAYMAN SYSTEM OF CONTRACT BIDDING. **£8.00**  
London 1956 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 223pp Red cloth dw

Mainly 5 card majors and a 2C force with weak twos. The extensions to Stayman are detailed and the main interest of the book.



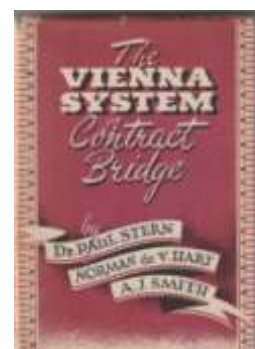
25. **STERN, Paul:** THE STERN AUSTRIAN SYSTEM. **£15.00**  
London 1938 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 12mo 192pp Red cloth dw

This was the first book in English on the Vienna system; it is very full with lots of example hands. Although reckoned to be obsolete, it has influenced a number of system developers.



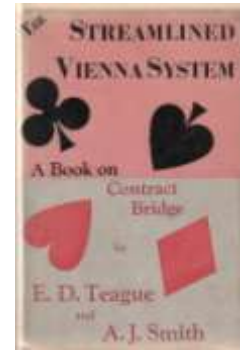
26. **STERN, Paul, Norman de V. Hart and A. J. Smith:** THE VIENNA SYSTEM OF CONTRACT BRIDGE. **£10.00**  
Leeds 1947 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 12mo 243pp Grey cloth dw

This is the last book on Vienna to which Stern was a contributor. Modern players find it difficult to appreciate the system as it utilises the Robertson 7-5-3-1 point count for hand evaluation.



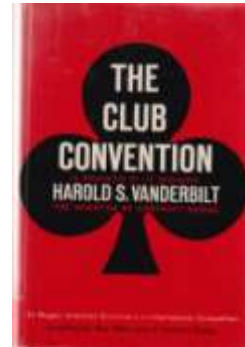
27. **TEAGUE, E. D. and A. J. Smith:** THE STREAMLINED VIENNA SYSTEM. **£10.00\***  
 Kingswood, Surrey 1954 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 12mo 72pp Red cloth dw with slight damage

This is one of the ‘modern’ variations which uses the Milton Work count. In this version 2C and 2D are single suiters with 17+ and a 6 card suit, whilst 2H and 2S are the same but with 15/16 points.



28. **VANDERBILT, Harold S:** THE CLUB CONVENTION SYSTEM OF BIDDING AT CONTRACT BRIDGE. **£10.00**  
 New York 1964 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 186pp Red cloth dw, slight sunning to spine  
 Ex Miami Public Library with library card neatly attached inside rear cover, withdrawn stamp to fep

This is an updated version of the item below and it coincided closely with Schenken’s *Big Club* book



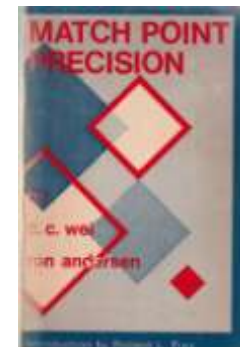
29. **VANDERBILT, Harold S:** CONTRACT BRIDGE BIDDING AND THE CLUB CONVENTION. **£35.00**  
 New York 1929 1<sup>st</sup> edition, 2<sup>nd</sup> reprint. 12mo 251pp Dark red cloth dw

This describes the original Strong Club system, in which 1C promised three quick tricks, usually with playing strength on the side.



30. **WEI, C. C and Ron Andersen:** MATCH POINT PRECISION. **£18.00**  
 New York 1975 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 8vo 197pp Dec card covers

Written when the popularity of Precision was high, it was a much sought after book.



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.