

100 IMPORTANT BOOKS  
Of THE 20th CENTURY  
From Magic, Inc.

This is a list of books that I think are the most important books published in the 20th Century. At one time I tried to conduct a survey of various magicians dealing with books, but this proved to be impossible. So with some thought, I developed the list on my own. There are several criteria that were used in the selection process:

- 1) The book had to be first published between 1900 and 1999. (I am aware that the actual century is from 1901 and 2000, but using 1900 to 1999 has a symmetry to it.) So a book published in 1890, translated into English and published in 1910 would not make the list.
- 2) No reprints were to be used. Thus a book published in 1850 and then a new edition published in 1920 would not make the list.
- 3) The book had to be in English. It could be an English translation, but the original book had to be published in the 20th century.
- 4) If the book is in a series, then the series would count as one book. Thus the Tarbell Course is one book entry as is the four books on Dai Vernon published by L & L.

Here is my list for the most important and influential books published in English in the 20th Century:

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| Abbott, David P.                      | Behind the Scenes of a Medium.<br>Chicago: Open Court Publishing, 1912 |
| Allerton, Bert.                       | Close Up Magician.<br>Chicago: Magic, Inc., 1958                       |
| Ammar, Michael.                       | A Manual of Magic Psychology.<br>Ammar, Michael, 1980                  |
| Anderson, George.                     | It Must Be Mind Reading.<br>Chicago: Magic, Inc., 1949                 |
| Anderson, Gene &<br>Frances Marshall. | Newspaper Magic.<br>Chicago: Magic, Inc., 1968                         |
| Annemann, Theodore.                   | 202 Methods of Forcing.<br>New York: Max Holden, 1933                  |
| Annemann, Theodore.                   | Jinx. (3 Vols)   |

- Brooklyn, New York: D. Robbins, 1963
- Annemann, Theodore. Practical Mental Effects.  
New York: Max Holden, 1944
- Armstrong, Bruce ed. Encyclopedia of Suspensions & Levitations.  
Alberta, Canada: Micky Hades, 1976
- Baker, Al. Magical Ways and Means.  
Minneapolis, MN: Carl Waring Jones, 1941
- Baker, Al. Pet Secrets.  
Minneapolis, MN: Carl Waring Jones, 1951
- Bamberg, Theodore. Okito on Magic.  
Chicago, IL: Magic, Inc., 1962
- Bobo, J. B. Modern Coin Magic.  
Minneapolis, MN: Carl W. Jones, 1952
- Burger, Eugene. Experience of Magic.  
Washington, DC: Kaufman & Greenberg,  
1989
- Burger, Eugene & Robert Neil. Magic & Meaning.  
Seattle, WA: Hermetic Press, 1994
- Burger, Eugene. Performance of Close-up Magic.  
Washington, DC: Kaufman & Greenberg,  
1987
- Burger, Eugene. Secrets & Mysteries for the Close up  
Entertainer.  
Chicago, IL: Philip R. Willmarth, 1982
- Burger, Eugene. Spirit Theatre.  
Washington, DC: Kaufman & Greenberg,  
1986
- Chavez, Marian. Encyclopedia of Dove Magic.  
Brooklyn, New York: D. Robbins, 1979
- Christopher, Melbourne. Illustrated History of Magic.  
New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1973
- Clarke, Sidney. Annuals of Conjuring.

- London: George Johnson, 1929
- Close, Michael. Workers. (5 Vols)  
Michael Close, 1990 +
- Corinda, Tony. Thirteen Steps to Mentalism.  
Brooklyn, New York: Thomas W. Simpson,  
1960
- Devant, David. Secrets of My Magic.  
London: Hutchinson & Co., 1936
- Dewey, Herb. Psycho Babble.  
Herb Dewey, 1996
- Downs, T. Nelson. Modern Coin Manipulation.  
London: Downs Magical Co., 1900
- \_\_\_\_\_. The Art of Magic.  
Buffalo: Downs Edward Co, 1909
- Elliott, Bruce / Jay Marshall. Phoenix. (4 Vols / 2 Vols)  
Brooklyn, New York/ Chicago:  
Tannens / Magic, Inc, 1942+
- Erdnase, S. W. Expert at the Card Table.  
Chicago: Fredrick Drake, 1902
- Fitzkee, Dariel. Magic by Misdirection.  
Pamerory OH: Lee Jacobs, 1944
- Fitzkee, Dariel. Showmanship for Magician.  
Pamerory OH: Lee Jacobs, 1943
- Fitzkee, Dariel. Trick Brain.  
Pamerory OH: Lee Jacobs, 1944
- Fulves, Karl. Magical World of Slydini.  
Brooklyn, New York: D. Robbins, 1979
- Fulves, Karl. The Best of Slydini.  
Brooklyn, New York: D. Robbins, 1976
- Ganson, Lewis. Art of Close-Up Magic. (2 Vols)  
London: Harry Stanley, n/d

- Ganson, Lewis. Dai Vernon Book of Magic.  
London: Harry Stanley, 1965
- Ganson, Lewis. Dai Vernon's Further Inner Secrets of Card Magic.  
London: Harry Stanley, 1978
- Ganson, Lewis. Dai Vernon's Inner Secrets of Card Magic.  
London: Harry Stanley, 1959
- Ganson, Lewis. Dai Vernon's More Inner Secrets of Card Magic.  
London: Harry Stanley, 1960
- Ganson, Lewis. Dai Vernon's Ultimate Secrets of Card Magic.  
London: Supreme Magic Company, 1976
- Ganson, Lewis. Magic of Slydini.  
London: Supreme Magic Company n/d
- Gardner, Martin. Encyclopedia of Impromptu Magic.  
Chicago, IL: Magic, Inc. 1978
- Gibson, Walter B. Houdini's Escapes & Magic.  
New York: Blue Ribbon Books, 1930
- Ginn, David. Kid Biz.  
Scarlett Green Publishers, 1982
- Giobbi, Roberto. Card College. (5 Vols)  
Seattle, WA: Hermetic Press, 1995-98
- Goldstein, Phil. Verbal Control.  
Phil Goldstein, 1976
- \_\_\_\_\_ Color Series (5 Vols)  
Phil Goldstein, 1970
- Gresham, William Lindsay. Houdini, Man Who Walked thru Walls.  
New York: Henry Holt, 1959
- Harbin, Robert. Magic of Robert Harbin.  
Robert Harbin, 1970
- Hatton, Henry  
& Adrian Plate. Magician's Tricks.  
New York: The Century, 1910



Leech, Al.	Don't Look Now. Chicago, IL: Magic, Inc., 1948
Marlo, Edward.	Cardician. Chicago, IL: Magic, Inc, 1953
Marlo, Edward.	Revolutionary Card Technique. (13 Vols) Chicago, IL: Magic, Inc. 1957 +
Marshall, Frances.	The Sponge Book. Chicago, IL: Magic, Inc., 1960.
Marshall, Frances.	Kid Stuff. (6 Vols) Chicago, IL: Magic, Inc. 1958 +
Marshall, Frances.	Success Book. (4 Vols) Chicago, IL: Magic, Inc. 1973
Maskelyne, Nevil & David Devant.	Our Magic. London: Routledge, 1911
Mentzer, Jerry.	Magic with Finger Rings. Jerry Mentzer, 1984
Minch, Stephen, Keith Burns & Bruce Cerven.	Vernon Chronicles. (4 Vols) CA: L & L Publishing 1987-1992
Neil, C. Lang.	Modern Conjures. New York: Lippincott, 1902
Nelms, Henning.	Magic & Showmanship. New York: Dover, 1969
Novak, John.	Art of Escape. (8 Vols) Micky Hades, 1989 +
Ortiz, Darwin.	Strong Magic. Silver Spring, MD: Kaufaman and Greenberg, 1994
Rice, Harold.	Encyclopidia of Silk Magic. (4 Vols) Wynnewood, PA: Silk King Studios 1948-1962
Schnieder, Al.	Schnieder on Zombie.

- Goldshadow Industries, 1981
- Sharpe, Sam H.                   Conjurer's Hydraulic & Pneumatic Secrets.  
Alberta, Canada: Micky Hades, 1991
- Sharpe, Sam H.                   Conjurer's Mechanical Secrets.  
Alberta, Canada: Micky Hades, 1992
- Sharpe, Sam H.                   Conjurer's Optical Secrets.  
Alberta, Canada: Micky Hades, 1985
- Sharpe, Sam H.                   Conjurer's Psychological Secrets.  
Alberta, Canada: Micky Hades, 1988
- Sharpe, Sam H.                   Neo Magic.  
London: George Johnson, 1932
- Starke, George.                   Stars of Magic.  
New York: Tannen, 1961
- Steinmeyer, Jim.                 Device & Illusion.  
Burbank, CA: Hahne Books, 1991
- Steinmeyer, Jim.                 Jarrett.  
Chicago, IL: Magic, Inc., 1981
- Steranko                         Steranko On Cards  
Chicago, IL: Magic, Inc. 1960
- Tamariz , Juan.                 Five Points of Magic.  
Madrid, Spain: Editorial Frakson, 1988
- Tamariz , Juan.                 Magic Way.  
Madrid, Spain: Editorial Frakson, 1989
- Tarbell , Harlan.                Tarbell Course. (8 Vols)  
Brooklyn, New York: D. Robbins, 1941-1993
- Victor, Edward.                 Magic of the Hands.  
New York: Max Holden, 1937
- Victor, Edward.                 More Magic of the Hands.  
London: Davenport, 1942
- Victor, Edward.                 Further Magic of the Hands.  
New York: Max Holden, 1946

- Waters , T. A.                      Mind, Myth and Magic.  
Seattle, WA, Hermetic Press, 1993
- Wels , Byron G.                      Greater Illusions of Magic.  
Brooklyn, New York: D. Robbins, 1977
- Willmarth , Philip Reed.              Jim Ryan Series. (4 Vols)  
Philip R. Willmarth, 1981 +
- Willmarth , Philip Reed.              Magic of Matt Schulien.  
Chicago, IL, Magic, Inc, 1959
- Wilson , Mark.                      Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic.  
Running Press, 1975
- Wonder , Tommy.                      Books of Wonder. (2 Vols)  
Seattle, WA: Hermetic Press, 1996