

# BLACKSTONE BIG COMBINATION



# Magic Memorabilia

Including Apparatus, Books, Ephemera, Posters and Conjuring Curiosa

For sale at Magic Live! at

The Orleans Hotel & Casino 4500 W. Tropicana Blvd. Las Vegas, Nevada 89103

AUGUST  $14^{TH}$  2013 - 1:00 PM EXHIBITION AUGUST 9 - 13

GUEST AUCTIONEER: ROB ZABRECKY



Potter & Potter Auctions, Inc. 3759 N. Ravenswood Ave. -Suite 121-Chicago, IL 60613



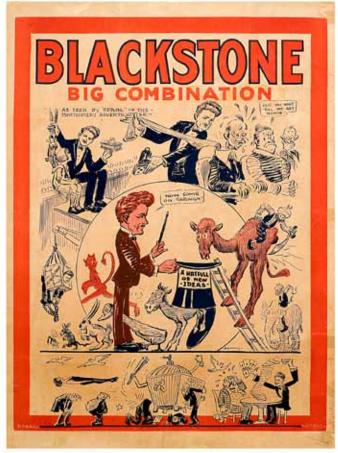


2 (verso)



2 (recto)







1. Alexander (Claude Alexander Conlin). **Alexander the Man Who Knows.** Bombay, Av Yaga, ca. 1915. Striking one-sheet (28 x 40") color lithograph depicting Alexander's turbaned head on a red field. Linen backed. A.

300/400

2. Annemann, Ted (Theodore Squires). **The Jinx "mystery" renewal postcard.** New York, 1930s. Business reply postcard printed for subscribers to Annemann's magazine, *The Jinx*. Annemann's address on recto; *The Jinx* cat on verso. One corner bumped; good. Together with a reproduction photo of Annemann.

100/200

This postcard represents perhaps one of the cleverest advertising promotions in the history of magic. Subscribers who wished to renew their subscriptions to The Jinx were instructed in the pages of the magazine to simply stroke the back of the cat printed on the postcard and mail it back to Annemann – without writing their names, addresses, or any other information on the card. Even so, Annemann was apparently able to tell who had returned the cards, and therefore renew their subscriptions.

3. **Banner Nest of Boxes.** American, ca. 1960. A dove is placed in the smallest box from a nest of three. The magician covers the box with a cloth. The box and dove vanish, only to be found

back inside the other two nested boxes. The missing dove is inside it as well. Metal tray and wooden boxes, decorated in an Okito-esque motif. Largest box measures  $12 \times 7 \frac{1}{2} \times 6$ ". Good.

200/400

4. **Billet Knife.** American, ca. 1960. Brass letter opener that allows the mind reader to covertly insert a folded billet into an envelope in the action of ripping it open with the knife. Machined brass. 8 ½" long. Very good.

100/200

5. Blackstone, Harry (Henry Boughton). **Blackstone. Big Combination.** [Long Island City, National Printing and Engraving], ca. 1929. Half sheet (20 ½ x 28") three-color poster depicting caricatures from Blackstone's illusion show, including escapes, card magic, a spirit cabinet, and more. Cartoons drawn by the staff artist of the Montgomery *Advertiser*. Over-coloring in margins and in image. Scarce. B.

2,000/2,500

6. Blackstone, Harry. **Lobby Photo of Blackstone performing on stage.** NewYork, Nasib Studio, ca. 1930. Blackstone stands between two cages, arms outstretched. In performance, birds vanished from one cage and appeared in the other. 14 x 11". Pinholes and wear at corners and margins; good.









7. Blackstone, Harry. **Portrait of Harry Blackstone, signed and inscribed.** Chicago, Bloom Studio, ca. 1939. Half-length portrait of Blackstone in profile. 8 x 10". Very good. Inscribed and signed by Blackstone's to his stage manager, Eddy Wykoff.

150/300

8. **Blue Phantom.** Asuza, Owen Magic Supreme, ca. 1980. A large blue checker mysteriously travels through a stack of gold checkers when the stack is covered by a decorated metal canister. Overall height of 16 1/4". Unusual paint scheme. Light wear at outside of canister near base, otherwise very good.

600/800

9. Cardini (Richard Valentine Pitchford). Cardini-made Wristwatch Reel. New York, Richard Cardini, 1972. Incabloc Waterproof watch remanufactured by Cardini to conceal a finely-made retractable reel. The verso of the case is signed "Made by Cardini 1972." Very good.

1,500/1,800

- 10. **Chrome Paul Fox Cups.** Phoenix, Danny Dew, 1970s. Set of three chrome plated brass cups manufactured and sold by Danny Dew. Designed by Paul Fox. Light wear; good condition. 500/700
- 11. Chung Ling Soo (William E. Robinson). Chung Ling Soo "dragon" letterhead. England, ca. 1910. Elaborately decorated notepaper for the "Marvelous Chinese Conjurer" who was, in fact, a Scotsman from New York. A medallion portrait at the top is flanked by fire-breathing dragons and gold borders. Faint old folds, otherwise good.







12. **Copenetro.** Indiana Pennsylvania, Klinecraft, ca. 1949. A shot glass rests on a small wooden pedestal and is covered by a clear tumbler. The magician vanishes four half dollars, which reappear in the shot glass one at a time. With coin rack and original glassware. Very good.

100/200

13. Daumier, Honoré. **Cups and Balls Conjuror lithograph.** France, 1836. Hand-colored lithograph depicting an itinerant magician selling books in the street; his table and Cups and Balls in the rear of the scene, his patter reproduced below, in French.  $10 \frac{3}{4} \times 14$ ". Framed; not examined out of frame. Very good.

#### 400/600

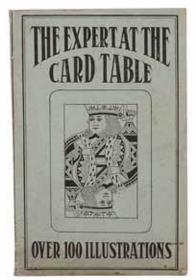
This iconic image of the street magician was introduced to many magicians in the pages of Milbourne Christopher's Panorama of Magic. This print was formerly the property of Bob Read. Daumier was one of France's best-loved caricaturists of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

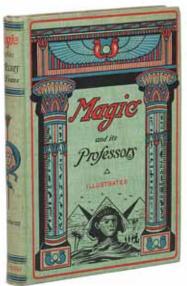
14. Dircks, Henry. **The Ghost! As Produced in the Spectre Drama....** London: E. and F.N. Spon, 1863. Blue embossed cloth, stamped in gold. Illustrated. 8vo. Corners and spine a bit worn, but overall very good. Uncommon. Toole Stott 245.

# 400/500

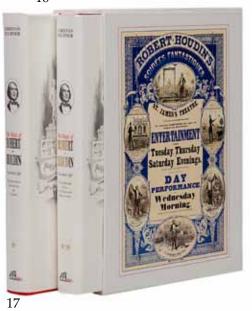
This book explains the "Dircksian Phantasmagoria," the stage illusion now commonly known as Pepper's Ghost. It was Dircks who developed the projection technique that made the effect possible; Pepper expanded on the concept and they jointly patented the invention. Dircks then signed over financial rights to the ghost apparatus to Pepper, a decision he would later come to regret.







16





18

15. Erdnase, S.W. Artifice Ruse and Subterfuge at the Card Table. Chicago: Frederick J. Drake & Co., ca. 1905. Green pictorial wraps with King of Hearts design, card lacking pips on cover. "With over one-hundred drawings from life by M.D. Smith." 12mo. Very good.

150/300

16. Evans, Henry Ridgley. **Magic and Its Professors.** Philadelphia: David McKay, 1902. Green pictorial cloth. Portrait frontispiece. Illustrated. 8vo. Very good. NICE COPY.

150/250

17. Fechner, Christian. **The Magic of Robert-Houdin, An Artist's Life.** Boulogne: FCF Editions, 2002. Two volumes in publisher's cloth with jackets. Copiously illustrated, including color plates. In publisher's pictorial slipcase. From a limited edition of 1000 copies. 4to. Very good condition.

300/400

18. [Fortune Teller] Traviès de Villers, Charles-Joseph. **Bonne aventure ("good fortune") print.** Lithograph extracted from the French satirical paper *La Caricature*. Paris, 1832. A fortune teller speaks in to a trumpet, telling a passer-by of his future. In the foreground sits his table, on which rests a set of Cups and Balls and a magic wand. Folio. Light spotting and old folio fold; good. **200/400** 



19. Fu-Manchu (David Bamberg). Hechizos de Fu-Manchu. El Espectaculo Mas Fantastico del Mundo. Half-sheet (19  $\times$  26  $\frac{3}{4}$ ") color lithograph bearing a portrait of Fu in the upper left with skeletons and dancing girls below. Signed in the image by Fariñas. Laid down; A.

250/350

20. Ganson, Lewis. **The Dai Vernon Book of Magic.** London: Harry Stanley Unique Magic Studio, 1957. First edition. Pebbled black cloth with pictorial jacket. Illustrated with photographs. 8vo. Jacket worn at extremities and repaired with tape, book very good. Inscribed and signed by Dai Vernon.

200/300

21. Herrmann, Compars. **Real photo postcard of Compars Herrmann.** Real photo postcard bearing two bust portraits of the famous French magician and patriarch of the Herrmann dynasty of magicians. Ca. 1890. Divided back. Very good.

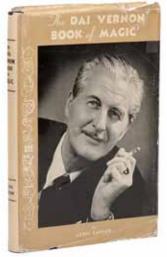
300/400

22. **Gold Himber Ring.** Solid 14-karat gold ring with large red stone. Gimmicked to allow a magician to link this ring with others borrowed from spectators in his audience. Very good.

500/800



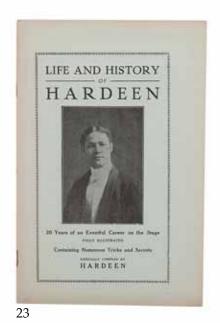
19











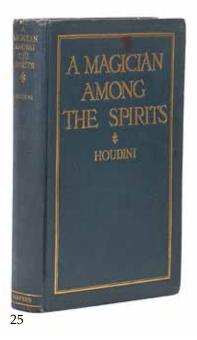
23. Hardeen (Theodore Weiss). **Life and History of Hardeen.** [New York], n.d. Light blue pictorial wraps. Pitch book illustrated with numerous photographs. 8vo. Good.

50/150

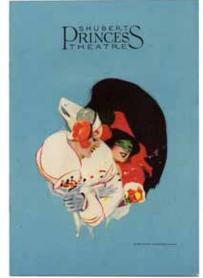
24. Houdini, Harry (Ehrich Weiss). **Houdini-owned Cobb handcuffs.** Handsomely framed with two later photographs of Houdini; in one, he wears a similar set of cuffs. With a letter of provenance from the former owner, who purchased the cuffs at sale of Houdini's personal property in New Jersey in 1982.

2,500/3,000

25. Houdini, Harry. **A Magician Among the Spirits.** New York: Harper & Brothers, 1924. First edition. Blue cloth stamped in gold. Frontispiece portrait of Houdini and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Illustrated with plates. Thick 8vo. Very good.







26 (interior)

26 (cover)

26. Houdini, Harry. Houdini Shubert Princess Theatre program. Chicago, March 1926. The program outlines Houdini's three-part show of magic, escapes and exposés of fraudulent mediums. 12mo. Very good condition.

100/200

27. [Houdini Séance] Invitation to the final Houdini Séance, signed by Beatrice Houdini. The event was hosted on October 31, 1936. Black ink on gold stock. 4 x 2 1/2". Shows wear. Signed, "Mrs. Harry Houdini."

### 200/300

For the ten years following Houdini's death, his widow, Beatrice, conducted an annual séance each Halloween - the date of her husband's death - in an effort to contact him in the great beyond. This invitation admitted the bearer to the final of these séances, held in Los Angeles on the roof of the Knickerbocker Hotel. Edward Saint, identified on this invitation as the "director" of the séance, was also Mrs. Houdini's constant companion and "business manager" in her last years.

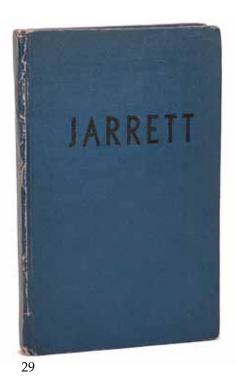
28. Japanese Conjurer automaton. Paris, Pierre Mayer, ca. 2004. Handmade wooden automaton with exposed works. The Japanese magician raises the cup to show a ball underneath. As the crank is turned, the cup descends, and the magician waves a fan in his other hand. The cup is then raised and the ball has vanished - only to reappear in his mouth. Unlike similar automata, there is no hole in the table through which the ball vanishes. Hardwood and metal construction. 6 x 3 ½ x 7 ½". Hallmarked. Fine.

1,200/1,500



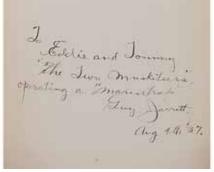








30



29 (interior)

29. Jarrett, Guy. Jarrett. Magic and Stage Craft Technical. [New York]: Author, 1936. Dark blue textured cloth stamped in black. Illustrated with photographic plates. 8vo. Front hinge starting, otherwise very good. A telegram from Jarrett has been crudely tipped on to the front free endpaper, addressed to "Eddy & Tommy" at Hubert's Museum, New York. Telegram mended with archival tape. Inscribed and signed by Jarrett to "Eddie & Tommy" and Dated August 4, 1937.

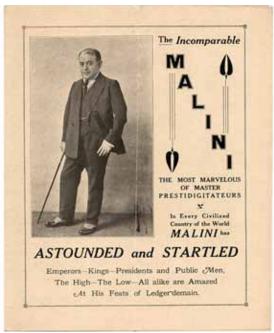
## 2,000/2,500

Jarrett's book was released with little fanfare. The author printed approximately 500 copies himself on a Kelsey hand press. Jarrett wrote the book as he set the type and printed the individual pages, owning just enough letter forms to compose one page at a time. The book was received with both delight and horror by the magic community. One critic was William W. Larsen, editor of Genii Magazine, who said, "The book is definitely lousy." On the other hand, Fu Manchu (David Bamberg), and John Mulholland were quick to praise the tome for the originality and fresh ideas it presented.

Jarrett was a prop and illusion builder for many of the greatest magic shows of the era, as well as Broadway productions. Though his book is full of coarse and racist language, its contents are still relevant today. The work's real value lies in the way it speaks about stage illusions and at the same time provides a running color commentary on the great magicians of magic's golden age, in which Jarrett was, perhaps unknowingly, a major player. Perhaps half of the original 500 copies printed - or fewer - have survived. Jarrett himself advertised that after selling as many books as he could over a 12-month period (raising the price of the volume \$1 each month in the process), he would then publicly burn all remaining inventory.

30. LeRoy, Serviais (Jean Henri Servais LeRoy). **Le Roy Talma Bosco. Servais Le Roy Co. 52 Hatton Garden London. New Illusions Original Secrets.** Hamburg, Adolph Friedlander, 1912. Half-sheet (18 x 27 ¼") color lithograph depicting a group of magicians climbing a mountain to try to reach a suspended crate filled with apparatus being sold by the Servais Le Roy shop of Hatton Garden, London. Minor wear at folio folds and margins; B+. *See front cover*.

800/1,200



31 (recto)

31. Malini (Max Katz Breit). The Incomparable Malini advertising brochure. Four-page pictorial brochure heralds the "most marvelous of master prestidigitateurs" and includes several uncommon photos, as well as press comments, etc. Ca. 1920. Old central fold, otherwise good. Rare.

# 600/800

On the last page of the brochure, Malini is pictured in an interesting pose: he holds a cut-open lemon in his hands, at the center of which is a rolled dollar bill. Along with vaudeville magician Emil Jarrow, Malini is reported to have been one of the inventors of this, the Bill in Lemon trick.

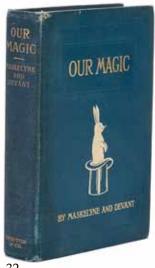
32. Maskelyne, Nevil and David Devant. Our Magic. New York: E.P. Dutton, 1911. First American Edition. Blue cloth stamped in white and gold. Illustrated with plates, most showing David Devant performing various illusions. Thick 8vo. Overslip scratched out on title page, spine slightly worn, otherwise very good.

150/200

33. Mysto Magic Set. No. 1. New Haven Connecticut, A.C. Gilbert Co., ca. 1935. Complete set, including instructions, wooden and metal props. Box shows wear. Good.



31 (verso)



32

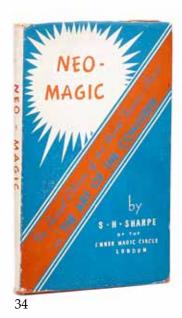


33









34. Sharpe, S.H. **Neo-Magic.** London: George Johnson, 1946. Second edition. Red cloth with jacket. 8vo. NICE COPY.

150/200

One of the first and most important books about magic theory.

35. **Silk Cabby.** Louisville, Don Redmon, ca. 1957. Handsome wooden box in which handkerchiefs can be transformed, vanished, or become tied together when pushed through holes in either end.  $7 \frac{1}{4} \times 3 \frac{1}{4} \times 5 \frac{1}{2}$ ". Good condition.

200/250

36. **Six-Shot Lota/Hindu Jug.** New Haven Connecticut, P&L, ca. 1950. Small copper vase from which the magician pours six shots, even thought it appears to be emptied completely after each pour. An additional design feature allows the magician to perform the "prayer vase" effect, as well, magically suspending the vase from a rope dropped in to its mouth. Spun copper. 3 ½" high. Hallmarked. Very good.

100/150

37. Black-to-White Spring Baby. London, Joseph Bland [?], ca. 1890. This doll, which compresses into an small space, could be produced from a borrowed hat. The magician could then change the complexion of the doll from black to white by removing a false face on the doll's head. Exceptionally politically incorrect. Faces of papier mache and composition material. 24" long when extended. Stitching and paint show wear; good overall.



38. **Tambo Rings.** North Hollywood, Merv Taylor, ca. 1955. The magician caps a large empty metal ring with two sheets of paper, forming a makeshift drum. Punching through the paper, he produces a gigantic quantity of articles. Copper and brass construction. 9 ½" in diameter. With original box. Very good.

200/300

39. Thurston, Howard. **Bust portrait of Howard Thurston.** Columbus Ohio, Baker Art Gallery, ca. 1932. Half-length bust portrait of the stage illusionist in tweed coat and tie. 8 x 10". Signed in the negative, "Best wishes Howard Thurston."

50/150

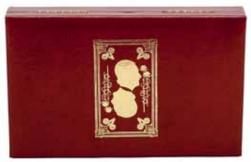
40. Vernon, Dai. Limited edition Dai Vernon playing cards. Four packs of cards produced to commemorate Vernon's 88th birthday in 1982 housed in a custom display case bearing Vernon's silhouette. Two of the packs reproduce the famous Hal Phyfe photo of Vernon. Fine condition. Together with: A souvenir pocket Swiss Army knife bearing Vernon's silhouette and issued to commemorate Vernon's 100th birthday.

200/300



39





40 (lid of case)

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Bidding Increments - Expected bid increments are as follows.

Min Value	Max Value	Increment
\$0.00	\$29.00	\$5.00
\$30.00	\$99.00	\$10.00
\$100.00	\$499.00	\$25.00
\$500.00	\$999.00	\$50.00
\$1000.00	\$1,999.00	\$100.00
\$2,000.00	\$5,999.00	\$200.00
\$6,000.00	\$9,999.00	\$500.00
\$10,000.00	\$19,999.00	\$1,000.00
\$20,000.00	\$49,999.00	\$2,000.00
\$50,000.00	and above	10% of current bid

Note: the auctioneer may modify the increments at any time.

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Successful Bid - The highest bidder acknowledged by the auctioneer will be the purchaser. In the case of a tie bid, the winning bidder will determined by the auctioneer at his or her sole discretion. In the event of a dispute between bidders, the auctioneer has final discretion to determine the successful bidder or to reoffer the lot in dispute. If any dispute arises after the sale, the Potter and Potter Auctions, Inc. sale record shall be conclusive. Title passes upon the fall of the auctioneer's hammer to the highest acknowledged bidder subject to the Conditions of Sale set forth herein, and the bidder assumes full risk and responsibility.

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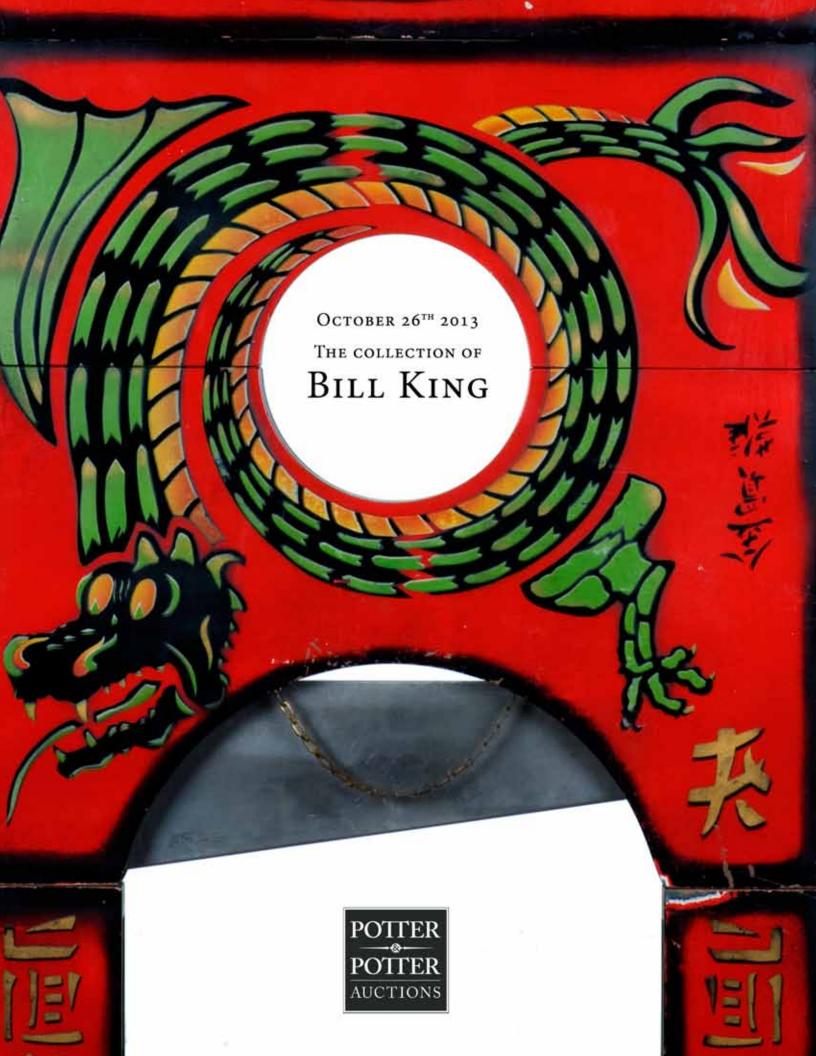
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