

The Roberto Giobbi Secret Letter # 9

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The latest *Secret Letter* from Roberto Giobbi.

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Roberto Giobbi's Secret Newsletter



Secret Letter #9 - 6th August 2020

Dear all!

Thank you all who sent kind comments on the newly released *Card College Playing Cards*. The 600 Collector Edition sets went in 78 minutes. I regret that many could not get what they wanted, but my publisher just tells me that he has one last Ace up his sleeve: they just launched a set in a beautiful acrylic box, and that's the last chance to get the Collector Edition Pop-up Card Boxes, [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the Kickstarter page. There you can also get the regular *Card College Playing Cards*, and I recommend you get a brick or two, as you will never again be able to buy them at that price. The cards and card case have some special features, and I will write more about it in the next letter.

On to this month's topic:

Ask Roberto: On Taking Notes & Store Them - Part 2

If you are new to this newsletter see *Secret Letter #6* for Part 1 of this series. The idea of these discourses is to share various ideas related to how you can study magic, especially how to take notes for optimal learning effect and how to avoid forgetting important things you've read or heard.

On making notes when reading

I'm often asked if one should write into books. I do, into most. All my books except old and valuable books are copiously annotated. I use pencil to write on the border, markers to highlight words and fine-liners to underline. I use markers of different colors, and I only highlight individual words, sometimes a few together, but not complete paragraphs. If I want to mark a paragraph, I put a stroke at its side.

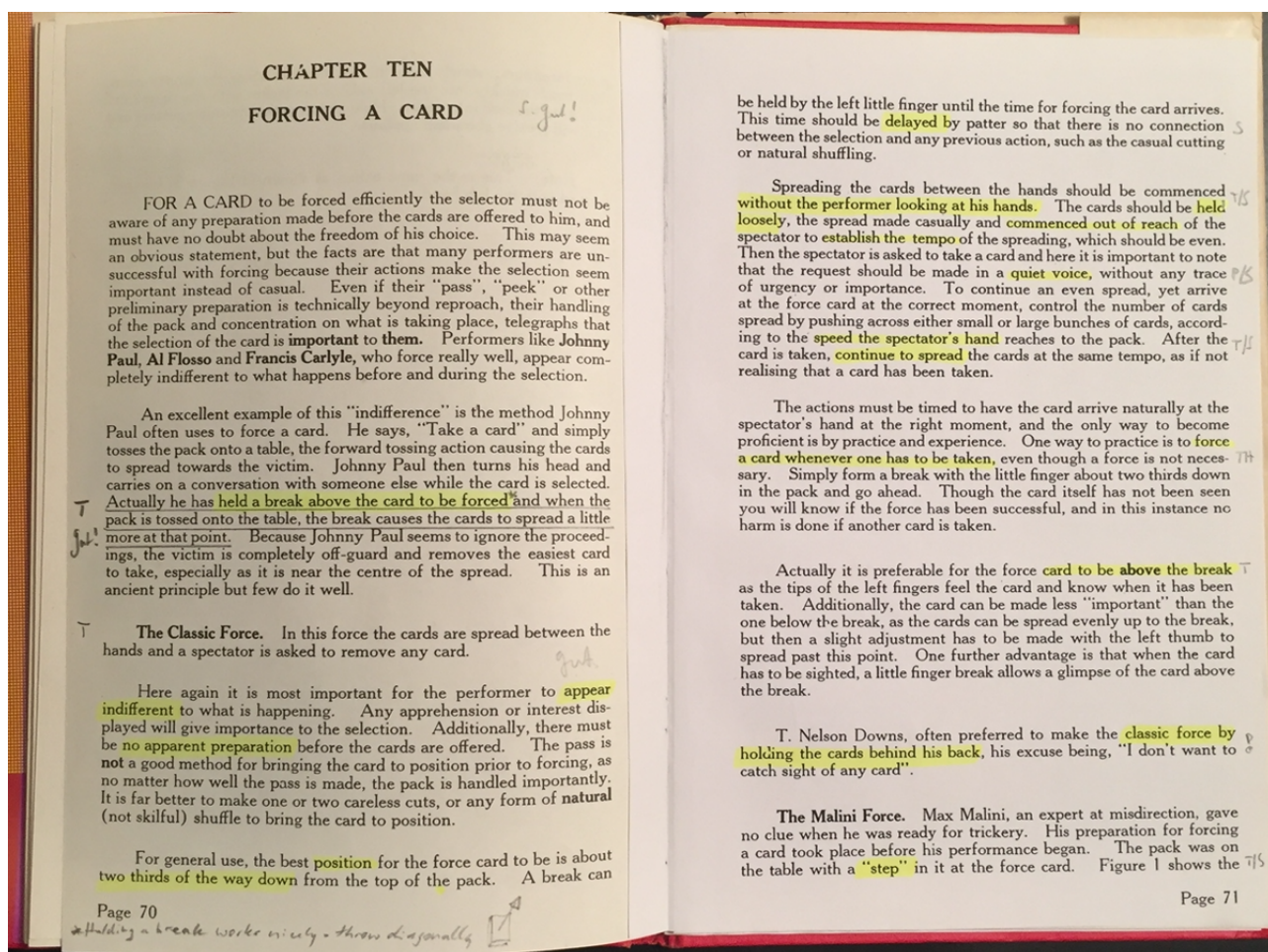
Next to the title of an item I put a score, easiest seems from 1 (lousy) to 10 (superlative), or put "good, very good, excellent" etc. Any score system that means something to you will work. However, if the book is any good, revise every 5 or 10 years, as your criteria and

abilities will change. I have several tricks from the Ganson-Vernon books that 45 years ago got a "0" now have a "10"!

Also, I advise to qualify the type of item you mark. I use a very simple system:

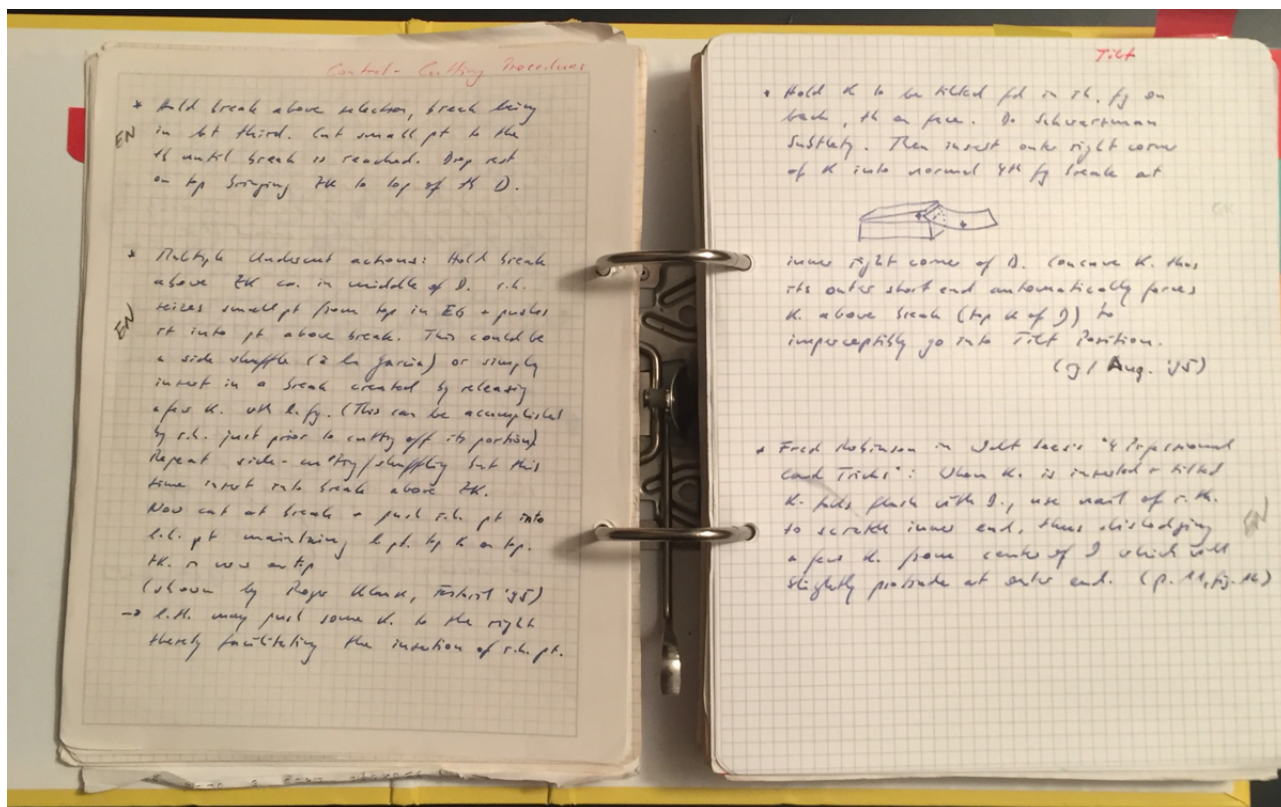
A = anecdote
BB = bit of business
E = effect
G = gag, one-liner
H - historical info
P = presentation
PRI = principle
S = subtlety
T = technique
TH = theory

Thats' all, very simple, allowing me to immediately see what type of item it is that I marked when I look at the book years later. The photo below shows a double page from *Dai Vernon's More Inner Secrets of Card Magic*:



If you do not like to write into your books, you can use Post-its in various sizes and colors to stick into the pages next to the item you want to mark.

Finally, as an alternative or complement, you can extract the information into a notebook. In my case I have various notebooks for techniques, tricks, anecdotes etc. And for the techniques I have a notebook for major categories, e.g. the "Notebook of Controls" has over a dozen categories (Crimps, Peek, Pass, Key card, Break-Jog-Step, Mathematical, SideSteals etc.). For these notebooks I use binders, which allow individual pages to be inserted whenever more are needed. The photo below shows my "Controls Notebook". The annotation "EN" means the note has been transferred to Evernote (we'll talk about this next time).



I should also mention that for almost 40 years I wrote all tricks into nicely hand-bound notebooks which I would find in paper shops around the world. The photo below shows a very nice one I found at "Papyrus" (it still exists) in Florence, and I bought half a dozen. I wrote the notes with my favorite fountain pen, a Montblanc Solitaire in Sterling Silver with thread guilloché (I gave this to myself after having written volumes 1 and 2 of *Card College* in German, the original, in 1992 - I recommend making yourself gifts for special achievements :-)

What Did Not Go Into The Agendas

I received some nice feedback for this new heading in the *Secret Letter* which, as the title suggests, has items that did fit neither into [Secret Agenda](#), nor [Hidden Agenda](#) nor [Secret Twitter](#), for various reasons, but which I believe will be of interest to some of you. If I write enough *Secret Letters*, and you collect them, you'll have a fourth *Agenda* for free! I was inspired by reading a quote from Georg Christoph Lichtenberg (1742 - 1799), which translates approximately like this, "Of some important authors I would rather be interested to know what they discarded than what they chose." I apologize for the implicit immodesty, but here we go:

To Accompany With The Gaze

I consider this a very useful communication technique, which I've never heard about before. I discovered it several years ago when I checked out from a hotel. Upon completion of checkout, and just before leaving the reception desk, the employee with whom I had dealt, immediately looked at the next customer and took care of him. This made me feel uneasy, and I wondered why.

Then and there it occurred to me that the clerk could have made me feel much more *comfortable and important* by simply keeping eye contact with me *until I broke it*. Only then should he have looked at his next customer.

Similarly, when you arrive at the reception desk and there is someone before you, it is nice to be briefly met with the eye with a very short comment, «I'll be with you in just a moment.»

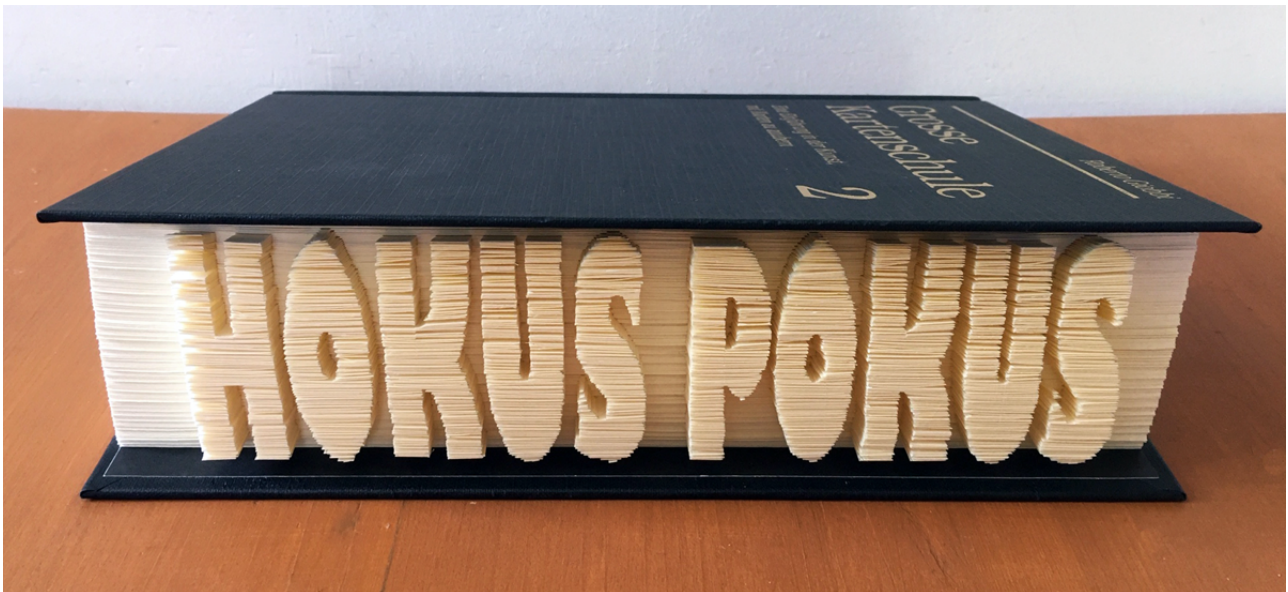
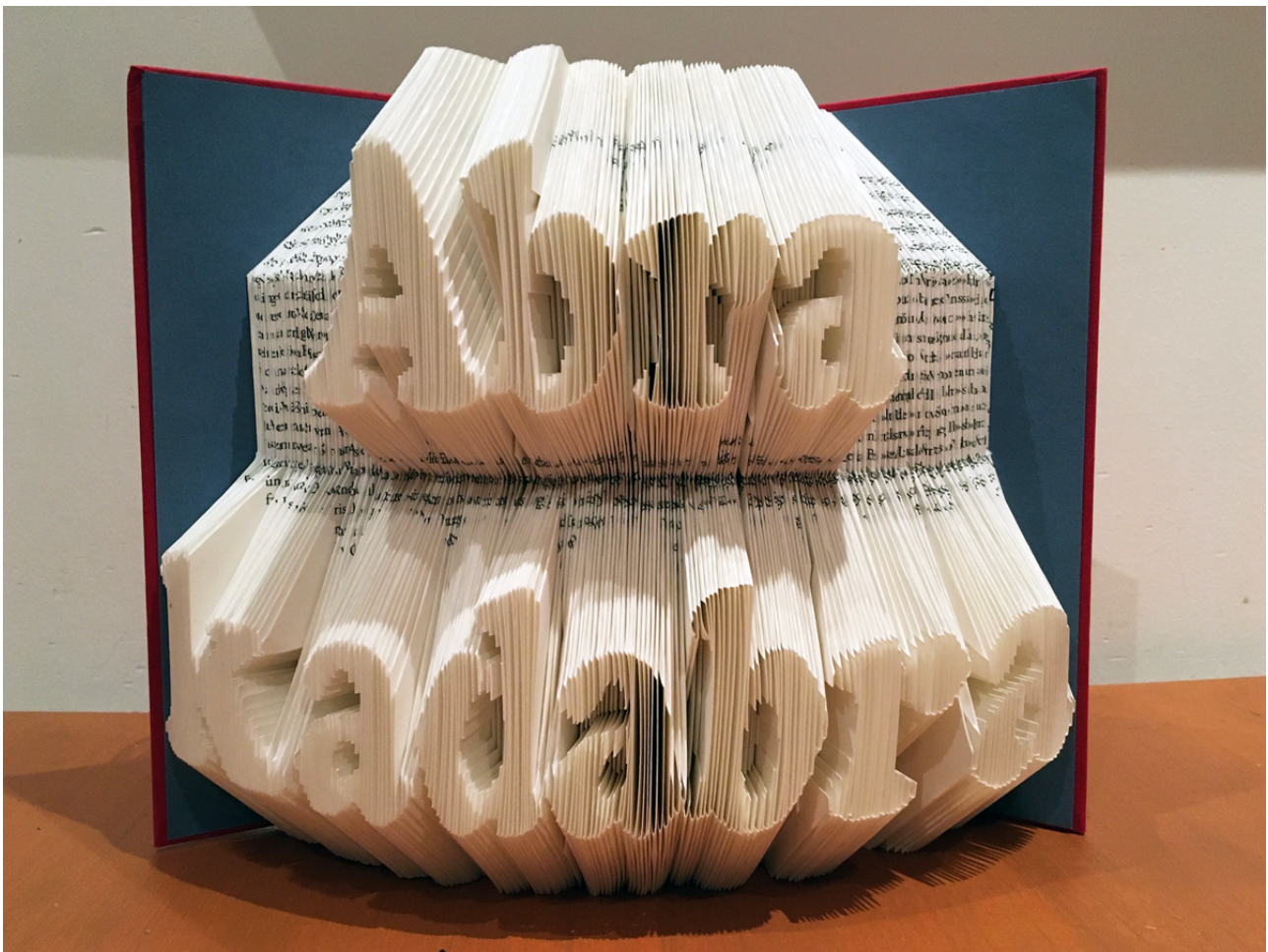
The same technique can be applied in our magic when sending a spectator who has assisted in a trick back to his seat. Even if he (or she) doesn't look at you, because he has his back turned, go along with/see him off by keep looking at him and saying a brief, "Thank you". Only then turn back to the audience, or to another member of the audience on stage or in the auditorium.

Personal Coaching Live or via Internet

I've been doing coachings in my studio in Muttens, Switzerland, now for many years, and am flattered to have people come to seek my advice from the four corners of the world. In Corona times Internet coaching via FaceTime or Skype have become very popular. If you are interested to receive personal advice on anything related to your magic, want to be coached on a trick you're studying, or if you merely want to ask me questions, contact me [HERE](#). Internet-coaching is \$150 for 75 minutes, but you get a deal if you take 5 sessions.

Orimotos by Barbara

Barbara's Orimotos from *Secret Letter #6* got us some great comments, and orders kept Barbara busy for a while. Here are two new motifs. Each one is a hand-made, unique signed book. Prices go from \$150 to \$300 plus shipping. For other motifs see *Secret Letter #6*.



In case you would like to buy one, answer this email, and we'll give you details. *Please only write in if you really want to buy one.*

Additional Information

Back Issues of *Secret Newsletter*

Back issues of *Secret Letters* can be downloaded for free by going to the webshop and clicking the menu item "Newsletter", or simply [CLICK HERE](#).

Interview With Roberto Giobbi

If you're interested to know a little more about myself and some of my thoughts on various issues of magic, here is a lengthy interview conducted by *BoardGameGeek* reviewer *EndersGame*. I suggest you use "Pocket" app or "Evernote Web Clipper" to download it and read it offline. In such cases I convert the text into a *PDF*, which I can read anytime on the plane or in the train, and also *annotate* it or *extract* relevant text passage. To get to the interview [CLICK HERE](#).

Wer deutsch versteht, findet hier den zweiten Teil eines Interviews, das Semjon Sidanov mit mir geführt hat und das etlichen Usern seines YouTube-Kanals gut gefallen hat. [HIER GEHT'S ZUM INTERVIEW](#).

Want a book signed to you personally?

When you order a book or DVD from my webshop, you can ask it to be signed to your name, but *you must mention this in the "comment" field of the order form, please*. I do not automatically sign, as I never know who eventually gets the book/DVD.

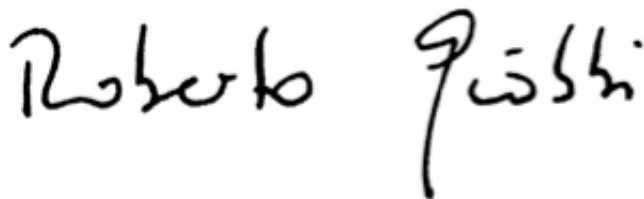
The Missing Link

Under this heading I propose one unusual web-link, which you'll hopefully find inspiring, and if nothing else simply amusing. Watch the Puffer Fish, also called Nature's Greatest Artist by [CLICKING HERE](#). Wonder what came out if he was a magician, with so much attention to detail.

Let your friends know, please

If you believe that this newsletter (and those before) could be of interest to your friends, please forward this *Secret Letter* to them. To get it directly, they simply have to sign up for it [HERE](#), where they can also download previous issues.

More on the next occasion, there are several questions of yours waiting to be answered - take care of yourself AND the others!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roberto Giobbi". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Roberto" and the last name "Giobbi" clearly distinguishable.

Roberto Giobbi

