



Original Creation
for
MAGICIANS

Hitherto Kept

“Up His Sleeve”

—*By*—

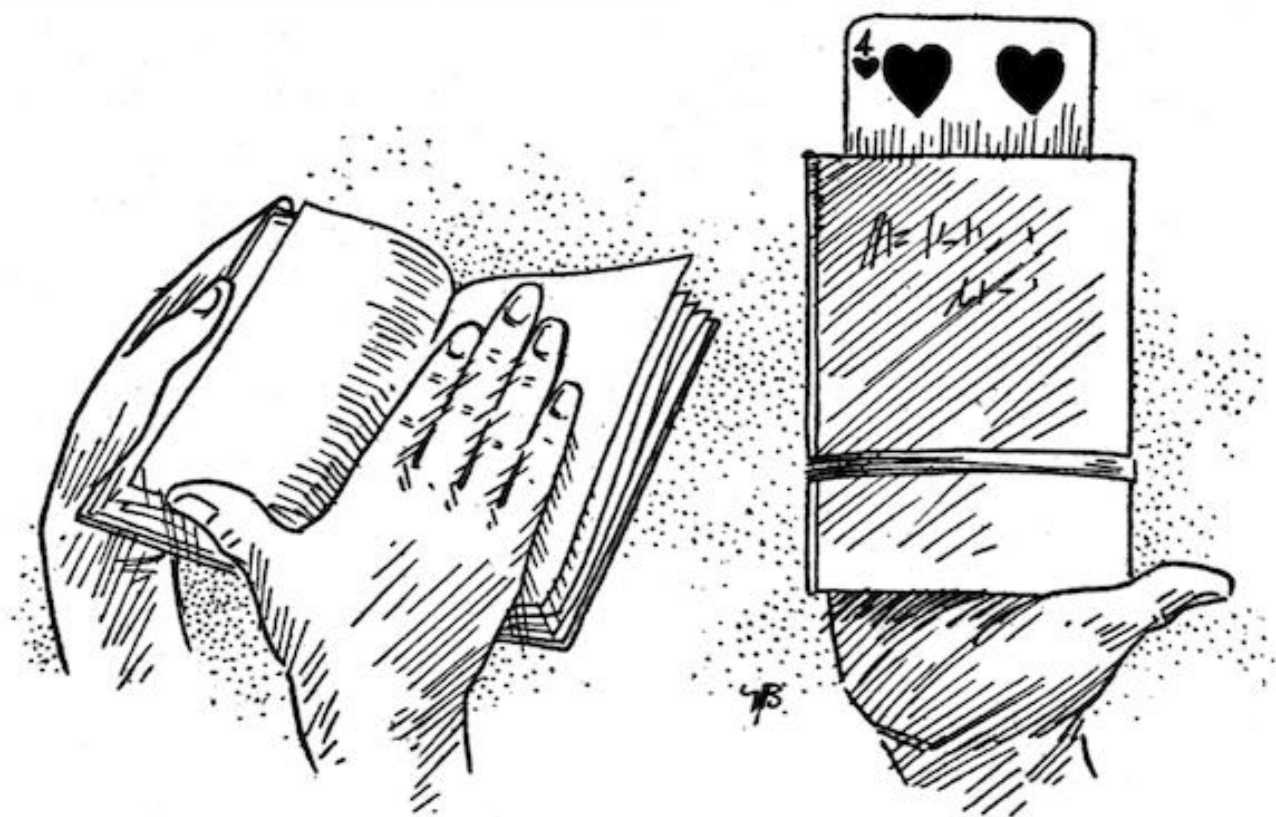
CHARLES WALLER
OF AUSTRALIA

PUBLISHED BY F. G. THAYER
334 S. SAN PEDRO ST., LOS ANGELES, CAL.

Copyright, 1920
By F. G. Thayer

The Bookworm EIP Gut!

IN THE beginning a lady examines a book—a small edition of one of the earlier writers, as Dickens or Thackeray. Taking it back, and mentioning that the pages run to (say) 800, the magician invites his fair assistant to state a number, less than that, and preferably about the middle of the book. Let me imagine that she calls 452. He casually turns over the leaves and stops at a certain page, which then he displays, and announces as the chosen one. The same lady selects a card, and after its return shuffles the pack.



The book is then laid on the palm of the performer's right hand, and the lady asked to encircle both book and hand with a rubber band. Thus, the hand may be held upright above the head, and the book supported without aid from the thumb.

Speaking of the literary tastes of his cards, performer

states that it is difficult to keep them from browsing into any book that may chance to be about. "Now tell me please, madam, what card you looked at. The four of hearts—how strange! That card, in particular, is a regular bookworm. It would not surprise me to find it already in the book, and at the page selected by you. Now, four of hearts, will you kindly leave, for a time, the love affairs of David Copperfield, and show yourself?" As all eyes are directed to the book, the card is seen to slowly emerge from the pages, atop.

"Very good," says the magician. "Now you may return, and finish the chapter, after which—bedtime, my lad." (With a comical little rush, the card retires.)

"Madam, if you will be kind enough to remove the band, and open the book, I am sure that you will find the card at the page selected by yourself."

Explanation.

On top of the deck at the outset are two editions of the four of hearts. Casually handling the pack, performer palms off one of these. After hearing the number of the selected page, he runs the leaves over with the right thumb. Approaching the chosen page, he commences to call off the numbers, in a nonchalant, meditative manner of one engaged in such a task. On reaching the actual place, he announces it as 454 and turning back one more leaf boldly shows the open pages and calls in a louder tone, four hundred and fifty-two. Really, the book is open at 450, but as nothing has been done to indicate the purpose of this operation, the spectators, though they cannot see the page numbers, have no reason for doubting the magician's word. It will be remembered that the right hand held the four of hearts palmed. When the correct place was reached, the hand was held flat on the right page (453) and kept there till the right thumb, reaching across, had drawn the opposite

Up His Sleeve

leaf (451-452) to hide the card. The reader has my positive assurance that this barefaced, though subtle, move is entirely deceptive. The second four of hearts, after being forced on the lady, is returned to, and palmed from the deck. The volume is laid over the palmed card, which remains, after the fixing of the rubber band, firmly held between the book and the hand. Now, when the book is held in the air, after the manner of a pack, in the old feat of the "Rising Cards" the card may be pushed up by finger pressure from the rear. (Fig. 2.) The effect is particularly striking because the extended thumb suggests the impossibility of action by the hand. In reality, the elastic band provides the resistance that in the "Rising Card" trick is given by thumb and fingers gripping opposite sides of the deck. The disappearance of the card is caused by the fingers being quickly bent back, to give space in which it may fall. The hand, with the card palmed, is removed, and the book passed to the assisting lady.

