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W. H. Cremer

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Magician's Own Book: Recreations in Chemistry, Acoustics, Legderdmain, Electricity, With and Without Apparatus, Performances With Cups and Balls, ... Handkerchiefs, Dice, Knives, Etc., Etc.:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good for what it is...By Fora Porto!A historical document. There are plenty of "dated" books on magic out there-- there must be hundreds of routines for magicians involving cigarettes, for example, dating back to a relatively recent past when most men and many women smoked. All of those tricks, useful through the 1960s or early 70s, are much less attractive to modern practitioners of the art; most performance venues bar smoking nowadays, even if it didn't offend half the audience. This book, though, is different: it's not dealing with what was common 40 years ago, but more like 140 years ago. It's a reprint of a book written for young prospective magicians (and not so young ones) from the late 19th Century, and as such cannot be recommended to current aspiring magicians. However, it makes for enjoyable reading for anyone interested in the history and development of magic, and also for anyone interested in cultural history-- but not all that was considered highly entertaining (at least according to the author) would pass muster today-- who does acoustical tricks now, and what audience would stick around for 'math tricks'? However, some of what the book teaches, such as classic and finger palms, are as important to magicians now as it was then. So...Definitely worth having in any magician's library, but not recommended for novices for the reasons given.

"The Magician's Own Book" contains recreations in chemistry, acoustics, legerdemain, electricity with and without apparatus, performances with cups and balls, eggs, hats, bottles, handkerchiefs, dice, knives, etc., etc., ed. by W. H. Cremer... All from actual experience ...And some words from the "Saturday Review" (1871): "The Magicians Own Book" as we are told in the part of this work that is entitled Preliminary," is already world-famous. As if this were not enough, in bringing out the resent edition the publisher has again secured the services of Cremer the gentleman whose wonderful display of the "Toys of the World" attracted so much notice in the recent International Exhibition. A world-famous book edited by Mr. Cremer of the International Exhibition required only to be brought out under the sanction of Cole C. B. to render it perfect. * * * * * 200 Illustrations included.