



International Brotherhood of Magicians
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Feather Mysteries

Steve Drury.

Hardcover, 288 pages.

Available from:

www.lulu.com/shop/steve-drury/feather-mysteries/hardcover/product-23194659.html.



British mystery performer and consultant Steve Drury has published an extraordinarily well researched and concisely written work on an area of our craft no one else has ever focused on: the myth, lore, and associated use of feathers in mystery entertainment.

The first part of the book examines what Drury calls the mystical aspects of birds, before diving deeper into other aspects from the rich realm of feathers, including superstition, symbolism, traditional ritual use, and divination. The remainder of the book consists of other performers' presentation perspectives, including fully scripted performance pieces, ideas, and other concepts. Performers such as Docc Hilford, Marc Salem, Ron Dayton (Kotah), Paul Gertner, Jeff McBride, Jerome Finley, and Mary Tomich collaborated on this project. Richard Webster wrote the foreword.

One of the notable contributions is Paul Gertner's complete award-winning routine, "Feathers and Fire." Jeff McBride's "The Shaman's Bag" is a Mystery School mainstay. The shaman removes several items from a leather shaman's bag; each represents one of the four elements of earth, air, water, and fire. The shaman and the participant are drawn to the same element when a freely selected item matches the one the shaman predicted. I went out and made up my own bag, which I still use, after seeing Jeff perform it several years ago. Drury's own "Angelic Connection" uses a dreamcatcher design on paper to capture a person's dream, which is then revealed in an alternative Ashes on the Arms method. In Brother Shadow's "Feather Telekinesis," a feather inside a glass bottle covered by a glass dome mysteriously begins to spin and move. This had me driving to the craft store in the rain to get materials to build my own version. Another contribution I liked, Mike Kay's work on Pteromancy, involves divination readings using feathers. Mike offers a detailed list of the numerology and color meanings to use with nine feathers that are randomly tossed on a table or casting cloth.

Drury pulls together bits and pieces of lore as well as facts on feathers in such a way that my entire perception of the feather changed, and a whole new realm of entertainment possibilities opened up.

Feather Mysteries will be an instant classic, and is the definitive reference book for anything related to feathers in magic entertainment, mentalism, séance, readings and Magick rituals. The book is thought provoking and, more importantly, a creativity-inducing read.

Highly recommended. *Rolando Santos*