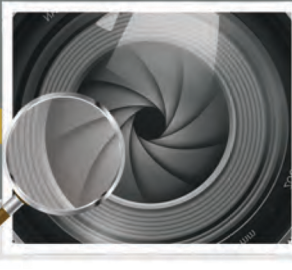


Hocus in Focus

A CLOSER LOOK AT MAGIC ON THE MARKET



Books

Dice Mysteries

Steve Drury. Available from www.mysteryentertainer-products.com/mysteries. Hardback, 500 pages. \$127 + S&H.



For more than seventy-five years, the definitive book on dice was *Scarne on Dice*. That's not the case anymore. Steve Drury's *Dice Mysteries* is a must-have resource for any magician, gambler, or mystery entertainer.

Five hundred pages of meticulously researched material take the reader through the use of dice from antiquity to modern times. While covering the requisite areas of probability, statistics, and cheating methods, *Dice Mysteries* sets itself apart with psychological and entertainment explorations of mental logs, math sticks, and color vision boxes, as well as divination, dream interpretation, and cold reading techniques.

To make *Dice Mysteries* an essential and relevant book, Drury called on well-known

contemporary experts and performers to provide some of their best material which has been tested in front of modern-day audiences. Richard Webster discusses dice throwing. Les Cross covers Geomancy. Stephen Ball provides an essay on Elemental Divination. David Berglas, Richard Osterlind, and Kotah (Ron Dayton) contribute mentalism effects. Pablo Amira contributed his Insane Cube presentation. The Bizarre/Mystery Entertainer section includes submissions from Docc Hilford, Kenton Knepper, Neal Stryer, Cara Hamilton, and Christian Chelman.

The book is brilliant in its scope and examination of the historical, social, cultural, and entertainment evolution of dice and related objects. After a lot of thought, I can say that *Dice Mysteries* makes the classic *Scarne on Dice* seem like a detailed bare-bones primer on dice. Scarne's book has its deserved place in the history of dice. On the other hand, *Dice Mysteries* is a compilation of historical perspective, plus psychologically powerful material from some of the best thinkers in modern magic, mystery entertainment, and psychic reading. At \$127, this book is not cheap, but it is a dice and performance reference book for the ages.

Highly recommended. *Rolando Santos*

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