

Ex Libris by Joaquin Ayala, Ph.D.

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for December 2019! Recently I had attended an event where the best of the best products for a company were highlighted, and it was based on the annual revenue of each of the products. It was very interesting to see the variety of things that were named, as well as the parameters for being the "Best of the Best" for the year.

This reminded me of a book that was long out of print, which was recently rereleased this year (about a month or so ago), which is the focus of our article this month. It is a book called **Best of All Worlds** – a 377-page, hardcover book published in 2009 by The Magic Apple in California. It was written and compiled by **Brent Arthur** and **James Geris**, with **Bob Postelnik** and **Duppy Demetrius**, and it was illustrated by **Stephen Mitchell**. As mentioned above, it sold out rather quickly and has been out of print since the first run, and it was rereleased again due to popular demand.

If you have not figured it out per the title, this book focuses on various ways and means of performing one of the greatest card effects (if not *the*) greatest card effect ever created – *Out of this World* (a.k.a. OOTW) created by **Paul Curry** back in 1942. If you are unfamiliar with the effect: Two face-up marker cards, one red and one black, are placed on the table. Using their intuition as to the color they think each face down card is, a spectator deals cards face down one at a time onto the marker cards. After a bit the marker cards are swapped from one side to the other and the intuitive dealing process repeated. At the end the blindly dealt cards are found to be perfectly separated into reds and blacks along with their marker cards!

This is a very strong impossibility and the effect is not difficult to do. This book gives you many variations and it is even broken up into sections like OOTW with a ¼ deck, ½ deck or full deck, gimmicked versions, ungimmicked versions, versions requiring a bit of set up, impromptu versions and more. The contributor list reads like a Who's Who of magic: **Paul Curry, Alan Ackerman, Michael Ammar, Eugene Burger, Aldo Colombini, Steve Draun, Ed Marlo, Doc Eason, Norman Gilbreath, Martin Gardner, U.F. Grant, Roberto Giobbi, JK Hartman, Herb Zarrow, Gary Ouellet, Gregory Wilson, Juan Tamariz** and MORE! Whew!

Now, normally I would not necessarily talk about video products in these articles, but this one is relevant to the topic and very much worth mentioning. It is a marketed item called **Off World** by **Jean-Pierre Vallarino**. It uses a special deck that is a one-trick pony, but oh-so-worth-it! This version of OOTW is done with the deck *FACE UP!* The spectator does

not handle the deck in this case (nor can they), but that is okay. The effect is the same, but they are naming the color they think the second-from-top card is, and because of how this handling works, they are always right! This is also worth checking out if the plot intrigues or interests you. Better still, your teacher is the excellent **Gregory Wilson** who is a great teacher and does a great job with everything.

Well, that is all for this month folks – have a fun, safe and Happy ChristmaHannuKwanzikas!

Yours in the Secret Art,

J. M. A.