



Inside Ed's Head

April 2013

H. S. Card to Spectator's Wallet (Jerry Mentzer Approves)

The humble scrivener of "Inside Ed's Head" has been very busy lately, perhaps to the detriment of said column. As I mentioned shortly before Sandy disrupted all of our lives, I will be leaving New York and moving to the Orlando area. We began packing "unneeded" items into a Pod on our driveway to clear the house a bit before we put it on the market. Most of my magic props have been packed, although there are still caches here and there throughout the house. I was hoping that I would stumble across my punch, but so far, I haven't found it. As I mentioned in an earlier column, a punch is used to make small "bumps" on a card that can be felt, but not seen. Punched cards are used for some very clever tricks. I hope to give some of them to you eventually.

A couple of months ago, I had intended to write up an amazing card to **spectator's** wallet effect that combined ideas of Barrie Richardson and Jerry Mentzer. Unfortunately, Mr. Mentzer's permission to use his part of the effect didn't arrive before the publication date, so instead of card to wallet, I published it as "H. S. Card to Cardcase."

Of course, a few days after this was published, I received a very nice email from Jerry, granting permission to use the piece. So here's the piece as I originally wrote it, without any of the photos. I hope you enjoy it.

H. S. Card to Spectator's Wallet

Spread the cards **face up** and ask the spectator to name any face card he likes. Remove it from the spread, and place it face down in front of him, the long sides parallel to your side of the table, in readiness for a Curry Turnover Change. Remove a pen from your pocket, and ask the spectator to sign the face up card. After he's finished, hold out your hand for the return of the pen. Perform the Turnover Change as he puts the pen in your hand. (You should be talking to him as this is happening; the return of the pen will be the misdirection for the switch.)

Get the deck in dealing position, as you put the pen in your picket, then Gambler's cop the card as you place the deck next to the now face down card.

Ask the spectator for the loan of his wallet, have him place it on the other side of the card.

Have him lift of about half the deck, with one hand, and place the face-down card (ostensibly his selection) on the bottom half, and finally to bury the card by replacing the top half on it and squaring up the deck.

(The concept of switching out selection so that the spectator can apparently replace his own card in the deck, is from Barrie Richardson's "1-2-3 Card to Wallet," in his excellent book Act Two. The method here requires less handling, and leaves the selection in front of the spectator at all times.

Mr. Richardson uses a switch that I had never heard about, which would be good to add to the arsenal of most card men. Considering all the excellent material in his book, you'd do well to pick up a copy. Once you do that, you'll also want to buy his Theater of the Mind, and Curtain Call.)

Take the wallet and place it on the deck, orienting it so the fold of the wallet is away from you, and its opening is to your left (assuming that you're right-handed, with the card copped in your left hand.

Take some time for whatever incantations or exhortations you usually need to perform miracles, then lift the wallet with your palm-down right hand. Rotate your hand palm up, flipping the wallet open. The outer end of the wallet should land on your left hand covering the copped card. Hold the wallet with your left hand, so the card is flat against its bottom. Insert your right thumb into the wallet; your right fingers will come in contact with the card. Apparently remove the card from the wallet by dragging it straight out to the right.

(This load of a card to a spectator's wallet is from Jerry Mentzer's Card to Wallet, The Book, "Sleight of Hand Method." There are many different routines in this book for Humber wallets, Mullica wallets, etc. If you're looking for a good card to wallet routine, this is a must have. (Unfortunately, the book is out of print, so you'll have to scout around used magic venues if you want to find a copy.)

Mr. Mentzer is the author of many other well known books. The Card Cavalcade volumes, the Card File, The Close-Up File, are only a few of his titles. I happen to own twenty-one of them. If you haven't checked out his material lately, you can find it at: <http://www.magicmethodsonline.com>

Some final thoughts . . .

If you're performing this for a stranger, you should give careful consideration to borrowing his wallet. I've heard several horror stories about people who believed that the magician stole their valuables during the course of a trick. If you do borrow the wallet, you might ask the spectator to remove his cash first, or call attention to your empty hands when returning the wallet. I have done this trick by producing the card from the card case. It's not as strong, but if the case has been in the spectator's possession, almost as good.

I'd like to thank Jerry Mentzer and Barrie Richardson for their kindness in allowing me to use their material.

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