

Taschen  
MAGIC. 1400S-1950S (IEP)

Mike Caveney, Jim Steinmeyer, Ricky Jay, Noel Daniel  
FP

Taschen's 25th Anniversary

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## MAGIC. 1400S–1950S (IEP)

### **Illusion, enchantment, and wonder**

#### **The world's greatest magicians from the Middle Ages through the 1950s**

Magic has enchanted humankind for millennia, evoking terror, laughter, shock, and amazement. Once persecuted as heretics and sorcerers, **magicians have always been conduits to a parallel universe of limitless possibility**—whether invoking spirits, reading minds, or inverting the laws of nature by sleight of hand. Long before science fiction, virtual realities, video games and the internet, the craft of magic was **the most powerful fantasy world man had ever known**. As **the pioneers of special effects** throughout history, magicians have never ceased to mystify us by making the impossible possible.

This book celebrates more than 500 years of the stunning visual culture of the world's greatest magicians. **Featuring more than 850 rarely seen vintage posters, photographs, handbills, and engravings** as well as paintings by Hieronymus Bosch and Caravaggio among others, *The Big Book of Magic* traces **the history of magic as a performing art** from the 1400s to the 1950s. Combining sensational images with incisive text, the book explores the evolution of the magician's craft, from medieval street performers to the brilliant stage magicians who gave rise to cinematic special effects; from the 19th century's Golden Age of Magic to groundbreaking daredevils like Houdini and the early 20th century's vaudevillians.

#### **The authors:**

**Mike Caveney** is a writer, collector, professional magician, and the publisher of over 50 books on the theory, practice, and history of magic. His biographical works include *Kellar's Wonders* (2003) with Bill Miesel, and *Carter the Great* (1995). An avid collector and performer for over four decades, he has appeared onstage or on TV in more than 20 countries.

**Jim Steinmeyer** is the author of many books on magic history and practice, including *Los Angeles Times* bestseller *Hiding the Elephant* (2004) and *The Glorious Deception* (2006). He has created deceptions featured by magicians such as Doug Henning, David Copperfield, and Siegfried and Roy, and critically acclaimed illusions for Broadway hits *Mary Poppins*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Into the Woods*.

#### **The contributing author:**

**Ricky Jay**, who has contributed the introduction to this book, is one of the world's great sleight of hand artists, and a distinguished actor, historian, and best-selling author. His *Learned Pigs & Fireproof Women* and *Jay's Journal of Anomalies* were both *New York Times* "Notable Books of the Year," and he defined the terms of his art for *The Cambridge Guide to American Theatre* and *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

#### **The editor:**

TASCHEN editor **Noel Daniel** graduated from Princeton University and studied in Berlin on a Fulbright Scholarship. She earned a master's degree in London and served as director of a photography art gallery before becoming a book editor. Her TASCHEN books to date include *The Fairy Tales of Hans Christian Andersen* (2013), *The Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm* (2011), *Magic 1400s–1950s* (2009), and *The Circus 1870s–1950s* (2008).

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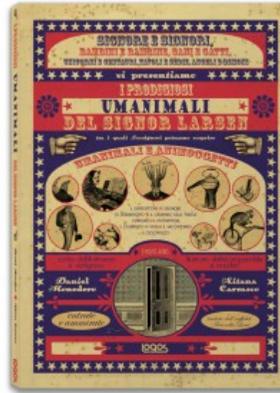
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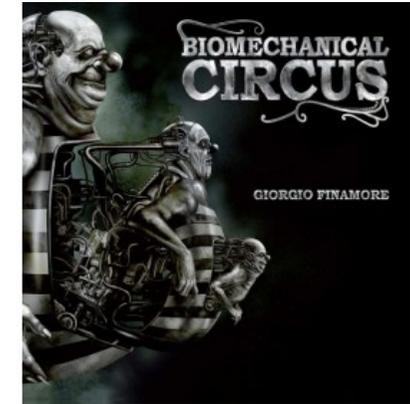
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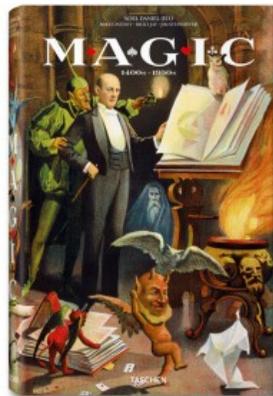
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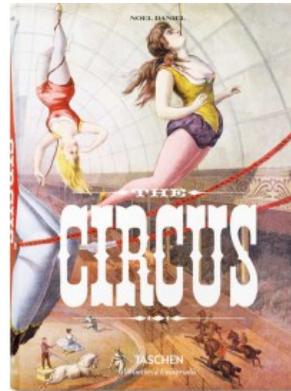
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