

# **Camirand Academy's Masters Of Magic Series**

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Published by  
**MEIR YEDID MAGIC**

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# FOREWORD

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Gary Ouellet and Guy Camirand were instrumental in building my brand and I am very happy that I am able to publish their *Masters Of Magic Series* and keep their legacy alive.

I am not sure when we met but they attended the very first magic convention I ever went to, the 1978 *Tannen Jubilee*. It is likely that we became friends in 1981 at the SAM Convention in Boston where I had a booth, launched my *Finger Fantasies* book, and won the Close-Up Competition.

It was then that I was showing everyone the magic I was creating and sessioning at every opportunity. It was also then that Gary and Guy became interested in publishing my first hard-cover book, *Meir Yedid's Incredible Close-Up Magic*, which was released in 1982.

In Guy's Introduction he explains why they decided to launch the *Masters Of Magic Series* and how it was different from what was available at the time.



The routines you are about to learn are ones you could use for the rest of your life and actually earn a living performing. They are mostly formal routines that can be presented in a theatrical performance or in a casual manner. Along the way you will learn the many techniques, sequences, and routining that make great magic.

The series was written and photographed in a way that allows you to learn everything you need to know about every routine. Since these were released, they inspired many other variations and you often read and hear about these moves and routines when magicians publish their takes on these classics.

The routines are not pipe dreams. I have seen Gary perform every one of these routines in his act multiple times and Eric DeCamps often presented his *Coin Connection* when he wanted to impress.

I am sure that if you study, practice, master, and perform these routines you too will experience the pleasure and success that they felt.

As a special bonus I am including my *Royal Takeover* routine which was also written by Gary and photographed by Guy in the same style as the *Masters Of Magic Series*.

If you previously owned and read the original series, you will notice that there are two major differences. The *Finger On The Card* has been completely re-written and includes additional sequences and techniques. This version was published in 1986 as a second edition. There is also a new ending to the *Silver Passage* which was scheduled to be included when it was reprinted.

There is one thing I want to mention. The series was released before desktop publishing became available, so all the photos were hand cut, the pages were pasted-up by hand, and every effort was made to keep the photos next to descriptions. This made the layout and pages uneven. The original photos are no longer available, and the print technology was not as precise as it is now. I did my best to bring this to life, while keeping the original vision intact. It's not beautiful but all the content is top notch.

Meir Yedid  
New Jersey, United States  
December, 2022

# INTRODUCTION

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About the Camirand Academy's *Master of Magic Series* and in memory of Gary Ouellet.

I am very pleased Meir Yedid elected to reprint the entire *Masters of Magic Series* as a book. My partner in this adventure was Gary Ouellet to whom I give full credit for his ability as a writer and his extensive knowledge of close-up magic. The Camirand Academy of Magic existed from 1978, incorporated in 1979, and closed at the end of December 2016.

The *Masters of Magic Series* came about while Gary and I were discussing the quality of magic instructions, while driving back from a Tannen Convention in the fall of 1978. In summary, many of the magic instructions were missing the history of the effects and the full details of the sleights or methods needed, often assuming that the reader already had that knowledge. Most had minimum illustrations to help with the text, which made it even more difficult, the illustrations were from the spectator's view while the magician's view would have been more helpful. Furthermore, there were often no suggestions as to how to make the effect entertaining and magical to an audience.



A week later I sat with Gary in his already extensive magic book library and came about the idea of starting the Camirand Academy of Magic, as publishers of academic style textbooks and later produce teaching videos.

For this Series the selected effect had to be a full routine that would please both magic and lay audiences. These books were to include clear descriptions of the effect, some history of how the effect came about and a full write-up of the method with photographs for each step of the sleights involved, from the magician's point of view. When appropriate give credit to the originators of the effects and sleights. The instructions were to provide suggested patter to smooth out the presentations and maximize the impact of the routines.

The first in the Series was *Finger On The Card*, it was very well received, and then came *The Supershells* and *Silver Passage*. When *Finger On The Card* sold-out we decided to rewrite the original booklet to account for what we learned since its release. The last book in this Series was Eric DeCamps' *The Coin Connection*.

Guy D. Camirand  
Montreal, Canada  
September 2022