

It was 50 years ago



this year that one of the most important things to happen to close-up magic occurred. Harry Lorayne published *Close-Up Card Magic*. This was closely followed by two small paperbacks *Personal Secrets* and *My Favorite Card Tricks*. I've always considered the threesome to be a single event.

Like many others I cut my teeth on this book. There are items in there that I continue to see performed with great regularity. Harry also brought a new informal style of writing to the forefront and his *afterthoughts* were I think, a stroke of genius. Just this week, I took the book out again and some of the thrill returned that I experienced many, many years ago. I suggest that anyone that has the book on their shelves do the same.

Those of us that admired Harry certainly regret to see what has happened to him over the past few years. He has become mean and just plain cruel to anyone that dares to question anything he has done. A lot of the douche bags on the Café want to excuse him and I would like to do the same, but this has been going on too long to blame it on age. The fact is, has never again achieved the level he first reached 50 years ago and his last overpriced book was an embarrassment.

He will always have *Close-Up Card Magic* as a monument to be enjoyed by future generations. Time will gradually heal the many wounds he has opened among his former admirers.