

Jan. 25th, 1959

LINKING RINGS: Yes, I am still interested in the Linking Rings and it is surprising to hear you extol a routine with them.

L. R. Parades: So! It will be interesting to BOTH of us when the effect you contributed appears in print. I just got a letter yesterday from James Lake asking for a trick for the Canadian Parade next August. I must stir my stumps and get ~~some~~ something away to him this time. Started going through some of my files and find that a surprising number of carbon copies of letters sent to you have been used in these files instead of re-writing the explanations. Sorted them out and placed them back in the letter files. Suppose I should index them so that I will know where to find them.

LETTERS: The first letter copy I have to you is dated Nov. 3rd, 1946. Apparently I didn't value my own letters in the early days of our correspondence. But come to think of it, my discharge was received only a year earlier...Nov. 10th, 1945. The first letter I have from you was dated 28th November, 1943.

GENERAL CONDITIONS: I really do not miss getting around among the magicians as much as I do the opportunity of having a quiet and ~~undisturbed~~ undisturbed time by myself. There are several magical problems I would like to ring the changes on with a prolonged siege ..and when there are no longer those problems or they lose their interest for me then I am kaput. I am really ashamed at how slowly I get around to answering letters from you and others.

RUSS WALSH: Haven't heard anything about him recently but notice that he has a full page ad in the January 1959 Linking Ring.

ROBINSON: Read his comment in December GAZETTE. Another reviewer that boasts about not reading the magazines.

BOOKLET: You ask about suitable plots for the type of booklet you and Warlock are writing. In my unsystematic manner which you deplore, the way I would approach it would be to first make a definite ruling as to just what common denominator all acceptable material must possess with a contrasting list of what will be considered out of bounds. I would consult my file of tables and list all effects that would be applicable. I would star-mark the best of these. I would consult my files as to what had been produced in these areas and create a family tree. I would explore the dead issue and dwindling returns. I would then permutate, refine, extend principles and experiment with side effects. Then I would sit at a table with my Three Companions Who Never Were (Kharova, Faxton and Rigonally) and I would discuss it with them and probably keep a tape recording of our decisions.

There is no lack of material in which two contrastingly coloured -back decks are used and it would probably not be necessary to go to the end of the string as I have outlined above ... but I fail to see the commercial appeal of a book on that basis.