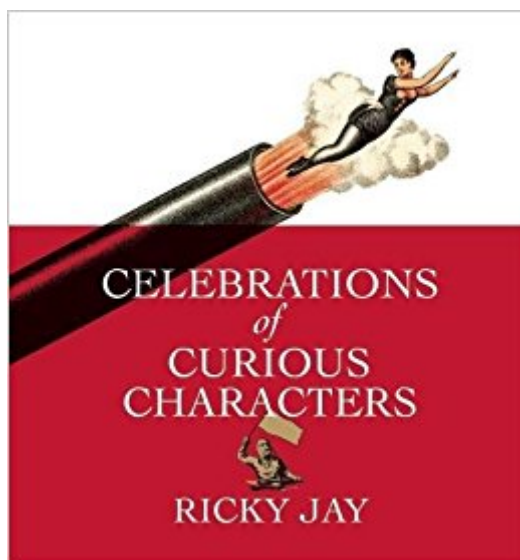


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# Celebrations Of Curious Characters



## Synopsis

Celebrations of Curious Characters cracks open the personal vaults of Ricky Jay's raconteur, historian, and one of the world's great sleight-of-hand artists; exposing a wonderful world of amusing and arcane knowledge. Adapted from his popular radio series 'Jay's Journal of the Air,' Celebrations of Curious Characters features one-page anecdotes of mind-bending performers (limbless jugglers, banjo-picking birds, Anglo-Texan saxophone-playing siamese twins) paired with engravings, mezzotints, and broadsheets from the author's remarkable collection. You'll find engaging vignettes on a daunting variety of topics: musical prodigies, cannon-ball catchers, conmen, card cheats, and performing politicians. Plus, a man who made a model of Lincoln Cathedral out of 1,000,800 bottle corks; a woman continuously pregnant for six-and-a-half years; a theatrical strong man who became the world's leading Egyptologist; and a healthy number of digressions on time, money, and the argot of thieves.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Acknowledged as one of the world's great sleight-of-hand artists, Ricky Jay has received accolades as a performer, actor, and author. His heralded one-man shows Ricky Jay & His 52 Assistants; Ricky Jay: On the Stem; and Ricky Jay: A Rogue's Gallery were all directed by David Mamet. As an actor Mr. Jay has been seen in many films, including House of Games, Things Change, Heist, Red Belt, Boogie Nights, Magnolia, Last Days, The Prestige, The Great Buck Howard, and Tomorrow Never Dies. He appeared regularly in the television series Deadwood, The Unit, and Flash Forward and has written and hosted his own specials for CBS, HBO, A&E, and the

BBC. His consulting company, Deceptive Practices (with partner Michael Weber), has supplied  
• Arcane Knowledge on a Need to Know Basis • for theater, television, and more than a score  
of films, including Forrest Gump, The Illusionist, and Oceans 13. He is the former curator of the  
Mulholland Library of Conjuring and the Allied Arts and has defined the terms of his profession for  
the Encyclopedia Britannica and the Cambridge Guide to American Theater. More information is  
available at [rickyjay.com](http://rickyjay.com).

I have been a fan of Ricky Jay's work for a long time. He may be the most talented living close-up  
magician, but he is also the preeminent collector of all things odd and unusual. Every one of his  
books is a treat to read, no matter your interest in the subject matter. I pre-ordered this work as  
soon as it was available and have not been disappointed. There are few authors who care about  
their work as much as Jay. Every word is carefully selected, each picture is one of a kind, and even  
the design of the book is top notch. It's the type of book that you will want to display on a table  
rather than hide on a shelf. It's the perfect size for the subject matter and, thankfully, this is the kind  
of book that is so well done that it will never work as an ebook. Each chapter consists of one page of  
text and one full page print. Each picture is both interesting and beautiful. In fact, you may want to  
get two copies just so you can frame a few of the pictures from the book. Some of my favorite  
chapters include: Tossing The Broads - Jay's thoughts on the 3 card monte Twins - A Celebration of  
Siamese Twins (the print accompanying this chapter is one of the very best - twins sharing a  
mustache) Coffee - A History of the first Coffee Shops/Museums of the Unusual Taking It on The  
Chin - The Story of the best "musical face player" Misconception - Women who have given birth to  
animals Shot From A Cannon - The first woman to be shot from a cannon (one of my favorite  
prints) Death By Misadventure - The story of Chung Ling Soo There is not a clunker in the entire  
book. Each short essay and every picture are nearly perfect; in short, this is a collection not to be  
missed. Whether you are fascinated with the unusual, curious about the odd, or just a lover of  
books, this is a must.

An absolutely beautiful book....the subject matter and writing are also wondrous, and its  
old-fashioned embossed hardback cover and gorgeous design are a perfect marriage to its  
contents. Everyone should have this book.

Ricky Jay writes an informational, entertaining book celebrating curious characters. Pictures are  
quality. Paper & print are easy to read. I'm glad we purchased all the Ricky Jay books we have.

Very disappointed, have not finished it, but it is boring.

nicely produced book, but 'thin.'

Another triumph by Ricky Jay

I have known Ricky Jay for years, and own almost all of his books which are always very good reading.

Big fan of Ricky Jay

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