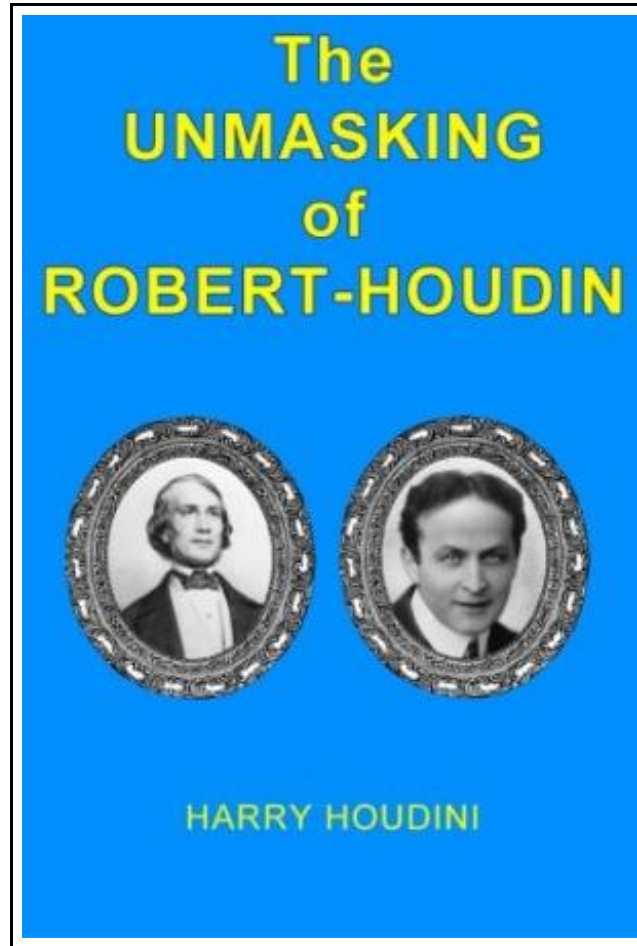


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THE UNMASKING OF ROBERT-HOUDIN



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Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.It is common knowledge that one of the world's greatest magicians gave himself the stage name of Houdini. He was born as Erik Weisz in Budapest in 1874. He emigrated to the United States of America with his mother and four brothers in 1878. The family changed the spelling of their surname to the German Weiss and, in turn, Erik became Ehrich. In turn that was shortened to Ehrie and anglicized to Harry. According to his boyhood friend, Joseph F Rinn, in his book *Sixty Years of Psychical Research*, Weiss started his magic career some time in 1889. A couple of years later, in early 1891, he read *The Memories of Robert-Houdin*, the well known French magician. In part tribute to Robert-Houdin, and because he apparently believed that adding an i on the end of a name meant like in French, Harry Weiss decided to rename himself Harry Houdini and become a professional magician. The rest, as they say, is history. Unfortunately, the story doesn't end there. Houdini later found out that a number of the effects that Robert-Houdin claimed to have invented were not invented by him at all. This was obviously a crushing blow to Houdini who was now so well known under his chosen stage name that he could not change it. In a personal crusade he researched and wrote his book *The Unmasking of Robert-Houdin* which he finished on 20th July 1907 and which appeared in print the following year. Bizarrely, the printing in England claims copyright in 1906, 1907 and 1908. The book was dedicated to his father and contains many reproductions of photographs, playbills and illustrations from his own collection....



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