

**MONTE CARLO
ANECDOTES AND
SYSTEMS OF PLAY**

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Monte Carlo anecdotes and systems of play by V. B.

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Monte Carlo Anecdotes

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And Systems of Play

By V. B.

Author of

'Bridge Reflections,' 'Ten Days at Monte Carlo'



London
William Heinemann
1910

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PREFACE

As long as the world exists gambling is sure to continue. Of late years it seems to have increased its hold upon the members of the Upper Classes. Fortunately most of them take to it more as a pastime than a vice. They gamble to amuse themselves, and few of them lose more than they can afford. Some take it up in the same way that many others take to cycling, playing golf, and Bridge, *i. e.* more or less because they are driven to it.

They visit Monte Carlo and Ostend because all their friends go there, and having arrived, they find that they are 'out of it' unless they join in the universal pastime of Roulette.

There are many to whom it matters not whether they win or lose; in fact, the majority come fully prepared to part with a certain sum. But there are many others to whom it does make a difference, and although they may not expect to come away large winners, it will probably quite

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spoil all the pleasure of their trip if they lose more than a very limited sum.

To these—the less fortunate of the gambling community—I dedicate this little book, in the hope that each one may find herein a system suited to his or her taste. A player without a system is like a ship without a compass, and although there may be few which lead to fortune, there are a considerable number which will give the visitor to Monte Carlo plenty of play for his money, and ensure him against any heavy loss. I am informed by a gentleman who has frequented gambling establishments for most of his life, that many of my so-called systems are erroneously described as such. They are not ‘systems,’ he says, but only ‘methods of play.’ From my point of view, however, every individual may be said to have a system who takes into the gambling-rooms a certain capital, with a pre-arranged plan how he will play it—not only as regards how he will stake his money, but as regards how much it is his intention to win or lose at a sitting.

I am not sanguine that the publication of this book will cause the Administration to put up their shutters; but I do believe that if every visitor to Monte Carlo would only adopt some pre-arranged method of play, *and religiously*

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stick to it, the dividends of the shareholders would be considerably reduced.

It is the players who vote systems a bore, and can never muster up the strength of mind to come out of the Rooms when they are winners, who contribute most to the profits of the Bank.

V. B.

