



Roterberg, August (1867-1928)

August Roterberg (1867–1928) was born in Hamburg, Germany and emigrated to the United States around 1883 as a teenager. He started out selling magic by mail order, and then opened a magic store in Chicago (A. Roterberg, at 145 Illinois Street) by 1894 to 1916, selling his mail order business in 1908 to Ralph W. Read and his shop to Arthur & Carl Felsman in 1916. Invented Multiplying Thimbles (The eight thimbles on two hands version) and Multiplying Billiard Balls (Excelsior Ball Trick 1898). . It was housed in the lobby of the "old" Palmer House Hotel.

Roterberg really started the modern age of magic publishing. His books were the first in English, written expressly for magicians. Roterberg's books were published by a magic dealer specifically for sale in magical depots, rather than for wide distribution to the general public.

He eventually retired around 1917 and eventually moved to California, where he lived until his death.

Wrote: *New Era Card Tricks* (1897), *Card Tricks and How to Do Them* (1902), *Latter Day Tricks* (1896), *The Modern Wizard* (1896).



ROTERBERG, AUGUST - MT282.100

LOCATION: Chicago, IL DATE: pre-1923 (?)

OBV: "MAJA GODDESS OF MAGIC. MAJA/ A.R.", around figure of goddess, wand in right hand raised above her head, five stars to her right, four stars to her left, no coins pouring from her left hand and no top hat on ground. Gown is held in left hand, and it flows around her body and legs, and out to her left. **check punctuation and spell of bulson note**

REV: Same as obv.

COMP: Ni Almost Medal St. 30.5-R

(From Bulson Collection, his notation, "August Roterberg, (Chicago Magic Dealer) Original Model (Old Style)" Looks like picture on cover of old Roterberg Catalogue.)

ROTERBERG, AUGUST - MT285.001

DATE:1925

LOCATION: Chicago, IL

OBV: "MAJA GODDESS OF MAGIC MAJA/*A.R.*", around goddess with wings and crown, dropping coins into a hat.

REV: Same as obv. Period after the word "MAGIC".

COMP: GS, LD, SH, Blank Obv. 31-R

ADDITIONS: In JNN, Edgar Heyl began listing die variants, counting coins, rays in headdress, wingspan, etc. If we continue that system with the following notation, the die variants can be put in order, as follows:

	<u>Example</u>
1-Count number of coins	18
2-Count number of crown rays	9

3-Determine spread of rays by extending base of W outermost rays until they meet. If angle is more than 90 degrees, spread is (W) for wide. If less than 90 degrees, spread is (N) for narrow
 4-Determine length of crown rays, (L)-long (almost reaching the inner circle). (M)- medium, (S)-short. If all are same, list as (9M). If mixed length, give number of longest, following down in order, such as 7L2S. The die variant in this example would be labeled "18 - 9W - 7L2S" In recording a single token, the die with the highest coin count would be listed first. If example die had rays of approximate equal length it would be - "18 - 9WS"
 There are other variants that Heyl lists, such as how many wing panels. LOOK INTO THIS



ROTERBERG, AUGUST - MT283.000

LOCATION: Chicago, Illinois.

DATE:1920

OBV: Goddess of Magic in center, around is MAJA. GODDESS OF MAJIC (sic) MAJA/ A.R.

REV: Same.

COMPOSITION: NS, R8.

31-R

ROTERBERG, AUGUST - MT284.000

LOCATION: Chicago, Illinois.

DATE:1923

OBV: Same as MT283.

REV: Same as MT285.

COMPOSITION: NS, R8.

31-R



ROTERBERG, AUGUST - MT285.000

LOCATION: Chicago, IL

DATE:1925

OBV: "MAJA GODDESS OF MAGIC MAJA/*A.R.*", around goddess with wings and crown, dropping coins into a hat.

REV: Same as obv. No period after the word "MAGIC".

COMP: GS

31-R



ROTERBERG, AUGUST - MT286.000

LOCATION: Chicago, Illinois.

DATE:1925

OBV: Devil's head, PRAEMIUM EXERCITATIONIS SCIENTIA EST / A.R.

REV: Same or same and incused

COMPOSITION: GS, R4; S, R9, NS and BR. (Many varieties exist, smooth edge, four different readings, medal struck and coin struck.) Two major die variants:

(a) Lower left collar line points to "P".

(b) Lower left collar line points between "P" and "R". 38-R