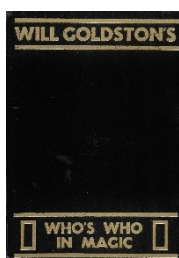


Printing the illustrations in *Will Goldston's Who's Who in Magic*

by John Davenport, 2022



In the first half of the 20th century Will Goldston was certainly one of the most influential people in magic: as dealer, author and book publisher. He was a fascinating character. If you're interested in finding out more about him, I recommend Fergus Roy's article on *Will Goldston – the man and the legend*, which can be found [here](#).

Goldston died in 1948 and Davenports bought his business. As was Davenports' custom, very little was thrown away. This explains why the family still has many of the items which came from Goldston's business.



Original artwork 300 x 510mm.

One such item ([N587](#)), shown on the left, is the original artwork for the full-page illustration opposite page 37 of *Will Goldston's Who's Who in Magic*, published in 1934. The page as printed is on the right.

The artwork was constructed by pasting photographs of the magicians onto a large sheet of paper. This large-scale artwork would have allowed the artist to add the names of the magicians and draw the outline decorations in black ink. The artist's work, excluding the photographs, would then be converted into a block with the same dimensions as the printed book.

We have some printed proofs of the illustration pages (below). These make it clear that the halftone images were printed in one operation, and the names of the magicians and outline decorations in a second operation.



Page as printed.



Left: proof taken off the halftone blocks. Right: the page as finished once the names and decorations have been added.

Our Goldston material also includes a set of around 40 halftone blocks corresponding to the images of individual magicians in *Will Goldston's Who's Who in Magic*. The table at the end of this article lists the blocks and gives the location of the images in the book. The block for Robert Harbin is illustrated in the two photographs below. Left is the front of the block, with the halftone attached to it. Right is the back of the block, with the name Robert Harbin in pencil. This same image of Harbin may be found on the page shown above, in the middle of the right-hand side.



Size of block is
26 x 35 x 21mm high

These individual blocks in our collection look brand new and it is clear that they have not been used for printing anything. It seems they must have been a spare set of halftones, should they be needed during the print run.

List of halftone blocks, and the locations of the corresponding images in Goldston's book

Name of person:	To be found in <i>Will Goldston's Who's Who in Magic</i> opposite page number:
Bertram, Charles	19
Blyth, Will	41
Braund, George	83
Cannell, J.C.	41
Chefalo	9
Collings, Herbert	57
Craggs, Douglas	71
Crowther, Arnold	37
Culpitt, Fred and Glenrose, Jan	27
Davenport, Ira and Houdini, Harry	19
De Biere	9
Fowler, Gus	9
Goldston, Will	41
Harbin, Robert	37
Hertz, Carl	19
Houdini, Harry	41
Jeans, Walter	31
Kellar, J.C.	13
Kolb, Frederick	66
Lafayette, The Great	19
Levante	71
Malini, Max	31
Margery, Arthur	37
Maskelyne, Captain Clive	27
Maskelyne, J. Nevil	19
Medrington, A.C.P.	41

Milton, Herbert	37
Mulholland, John	37
Nikola, Louis	9
Okito	23
Ottaker, Fischer	41
Princess Mary	37
Proudlock, Edward	66
Rae, Oswald	41
Schreiber, Helmut	83
Schulte, Geo.	41
Van Bern, Chris	27
Van Hoven, Frank	19
Victor, Edward	79
Weyer	19
Wilson, Leslie	37
Zanzig	19