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ACCOMPANYING THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART SHOW

MATTHIAS BUCHINGER: “THE GREATEST GERMAN LIVING” BY RICKY JAY

WHOSE PEREGRINATIONS IN SEARCH OF THE “LITTLE MAN OF NUREMBERG” ARE HEREIN REVEALED

PUB DATE: MARCH 1, 2016 \$39.95 HB 8 x 10 160 pages color illustrations throughout ISBN: 978-1-938221-12-5
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Matthias Buchinger (1674-1739) performed on more than a half-dozen musical instruments, some of his own invention. He exhibited trick shots with pistols, swords and bowling. He danced the hornpipe and deceived audiences with his skill in magic. He was a remarkable calligrapher specializing in micrography—precise handsome letters almost impossible to view with the naked eye—and he drew portraits, coats of arms, landscapes and family trees, many commissioned by royalty. Amazingly, Matthias Buchinger was just twenty-nine inches tall, and born without legs or arms. He lived to the ripe old age of sixty-five, survived three wives, wed a fourth, and fathered fourteen children.

Accompanying the Metropolitan Museum of Art exhibition “Wordplay: Matthias Buchinger’s Inventive Drawings from the Collection of Ricky Jay,” this book is a cabinet containing a single, multi-faceted wonder, refracted through acclaimed sleight-of-hand master Ricky Jay’s scholarship and storytelling. Alongside an unprecedented and sumptuously reproduced selection of Buchinger’s marvelous drawings and etchings, Jay delves into the history and mythology of the “Little Man,” while also chronicling his encounters with the many fascinating characters he meets in his passionate search for Buchinger.

On January 21 at 6:30 p.m., Ricky Jay will be joined by *New York Times* architecture critic Michael Kimmelman for a look at the fascinating “Little Man of Nuremberg.” Ticket information available directly from the Met: 212-535-7710. **The “Wordplay” exhibition opens January 8 and runs through April 11, 2016.**

Additionally, **Conjuring Arts Research Center is releasing a special edition box set (\$79)** which includes the Siglio book with two limited edition decks of cards and a letterpress keepsake signed by Ricky Jay. The edition size is 500; each box is closed with a numbered Buchinger seal. Contact: (212) 594-1033 or orders@conjuringarts.org.

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Acknowledged as one of the world’s great sleight-of-hand artists, Ricky Jay has received accolades as a performer, actor, and author. He was recently profiled on the series *American Masters* and is the subject of the film *Deceptive Practice: The Mysteries and Mentors of Ricky Jay*. His three one-man shows, *Ricky Jay & His 52 Assistants*, *Ricky Jay On the Stem*, and *Ricky Jay: Rogues Gallery*, all directed by David Mamet, enjoyed long runs and garnered critical and commercial success. He has appeared in films directed by Mr. Mamet, Paul Thomas Anderson, Gus van Sant, and Christopher Nolan. His numerous television appearances include a memorable role as the gambler Eddie Sawyer in the series *Deadwood*, and he has written and hosted his own television specials for CBS, HBO, A&E and the BBC. Jay has written frequently on unusual entertainments, and his *Learned Pigs & Fireproof Women* and *Jay’s Journal of Anomalies* were both *New York Times* “Notable Books of the Year.” The former curator of the Mulholland Library of Conjuring and the Allied Arts, he has defined the terms of his profession for the *Encyclopedia Britannica* and the *Cambridge Guide to American Theater*. More information and additional material about Matthew Buchinger may be found at rickyjay.com.

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Matthias Buchinger (German: [maˈtiːas ˈbʊxɪŋɐ]; June 2, 1674 – January 17, 1740), sometimes called Matthew Buckinger in English, was a German artist, magician, calligrapher, and performer who was born without hands or feet and was 2'5" (74 cm.) tall. Buchinger was especially noted for his micrography, in which illustrations consist of very small text. Buchinger was born in Ansbach, Germany, without hands or lower legs. An artist and performer, he "traveled all over Northern Europe to entertain kings