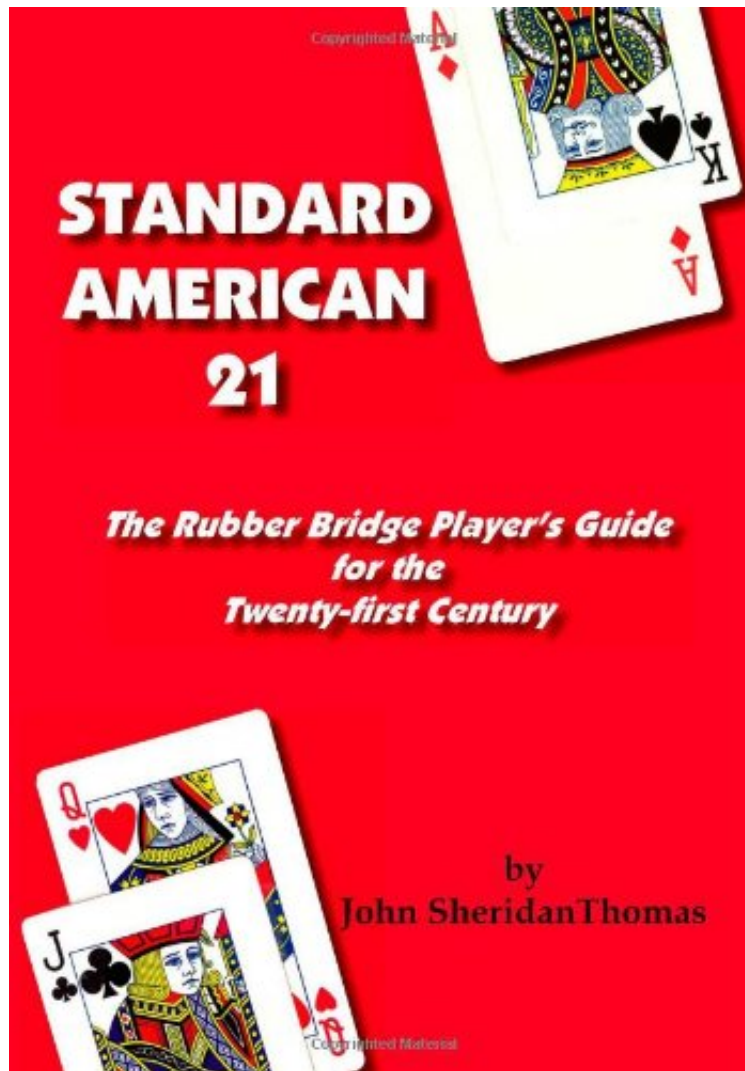


Standard American 21

John Thomas

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easy to read..i recommend this as a first book for bridge..well laid out and readable..good

Since mid-nineteenth century when Charles Goren popularized the point -count system of hand evaluation and bridge bidding, a system that became known widely as "Standard American", there have been significant advances in the art of bidding, advances that have been time-tested and proven effective. Unfortunately "Standard American" did not keep pace. Early point-count standards undervalue many hands. Furthermore, many traditional bidding rules became obsolete and fell by the wayside as new ideas were created, time-tested and adopted by the most innovative players. Prominent among the new methods are five-card majors, limit raises, preemptive two-level openers, the Stayman convention, and a reconstruction of the entire notrump bidding scheme. Standard American 21 presents an integrated, modern contract bridge bidding system. The entire system can be adopted quite readily by players of intermediate skills and beyond. Here for the first time bridge players have the tools to achieve real precision bidding from part-score through game and slam.

About the Author John Sheridan Thomas devoted most of his professional career to management consulting, as an associate with Booz, Allen and Hamilton New York, NY then as a partner of Devonshire Associates, Cambridge, MA. He is the author of the widely acclaimed "So Mr. Mayor, You Want to Improve Productivity...", published in 1974 by the National Commission on Productivity in cooperation with the Ford Foundation. Mr. Thomas has been a casual bridge player since the 1950's, but 15 years ago he began to study the game in depth, becoming a bridge teacher (accredited by the American Bridge Teachers Association and the American Contract Bridge League) and club director. Many of the bidding methods embodied in Standard American 21 were tested and validated through application of probability statistics and analysis of millions of random deals (computer-assisted of course - a tool not available when Goren and his contemporaries worked out bidding rules on table napkins). Consequently he was the first bridge authority to: Recognize the explicit value of a good five-card suit to notrump contracts. Define more precise sequences to exploit the full potential of five-card majors. Quantify the large advantage weak two bids have over their predecessors, the strong two openers and strong jump overalls. Mr. Thomas authored a variety of bridge articles published in ABTA Quarterly and in Bridge Today, and he is the editor of Bridge Snaps, an e-mail publication of bridge tips and humor. Here in Standard American 21 he presents an integrated bidding system built upon Goren's basics of 50 years ago, bringing together the best and most widely recognized innovations since then. This contemporary bidding system is in some ways simpler than the earlier standard, and in a great many ways more precise. Table of Contents and Excerpts