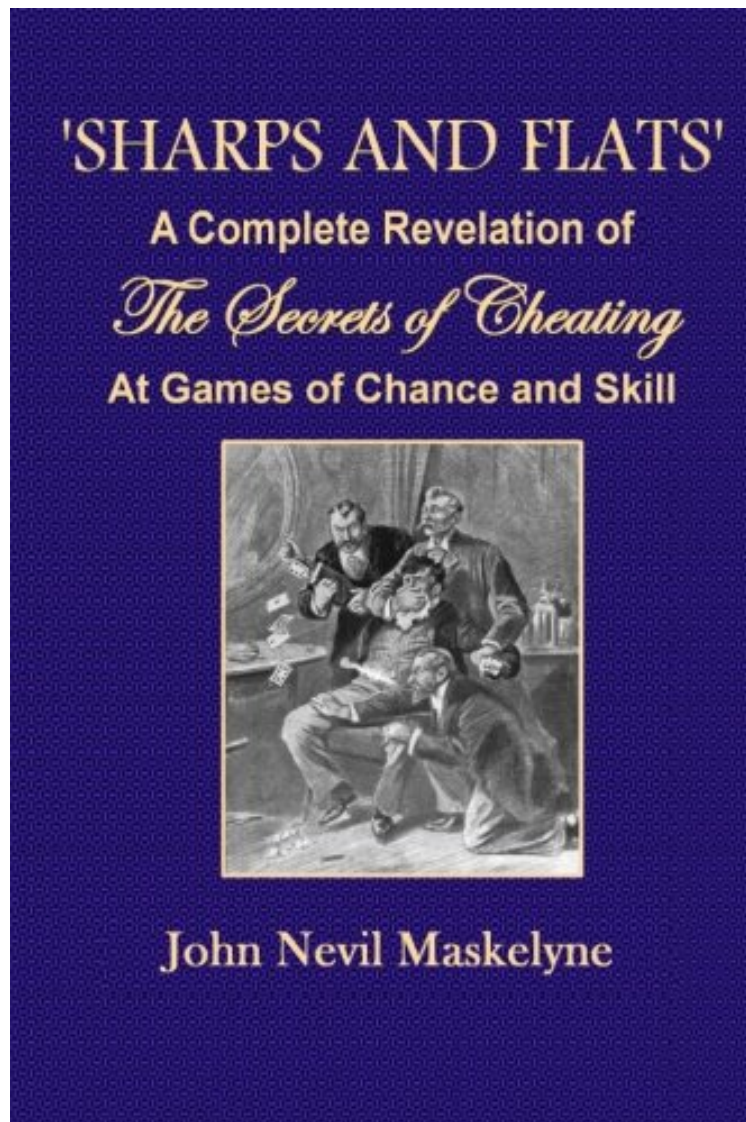


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## 'Sharps and Flats': A Complete Revelation of the Secrets of Cheating at Games of Chance and Skill

*John Nevil Maskelyne*  
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**John Nevil Maskelyne : 'Sharps and Flats': A Complete Revelation of the Secrets of Cheating at Games of Chance and Skill** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 'Sharps and Flats': A Complete Revelation of the Secrets of Cheating at Games of Chance and Skill:

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the ways to cheat at gambling. If you want to steal from others through gambling, this is your indispensable primer. It is equally valuable for the honest who use its knowledge to defend against the "sharps" and avoid becoming a "flat". In addition to giving us this resource, John Maskelyne gave us another gift, his son Jasper, memorialized in David Fisher's "The War Magician", who employed the family tradition of stage magic so effectively in the British WWII war effort that General Montgomery rated him, individually, as valuable as an armored division. I like this family and their work. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent. By Customer Review This is a detailed, interesting, and well written book. Unfortunately, no illustrations were included in this Kindle edition, making explanations more difficult to understand. Despite this, the book is well worth reading. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting title-By Mrs. Beasley Now I know how to watch for cheaters by reading this book- Very happy with the book, and the overall purchase.

An excerpt from the Authors Preface: IN presenting the following pages to the public, I have had in view a very serious purpose. Here and there may be found a few words spoken in jest; but throughout my aim has been particularly earnest. This book, in fact, tends to point a moral, and present a problem. The moral is obvious, the problem is ethical; which is, perhaps, only another way of saying something different. In the realm of Ethics, the two men who exert, probably, the greatest influence upon the mass of humanity are the philosopher and the politician. Yet, strange to say, there would appear to be little that can be considered as common knowledge in either politics or philosophy. Every politician and every philosopher holds opinions which are diametrically opposed to those of some other politician or philosopher; and there never yet existed, apparently, either politician or philosopher who would admit even that his opponents were acquainted with the fact of two and two making four. So much, then, for dogmatism. In the natural order of events, however, there must be things which even a politician can understand. Not many things, perhaps; but still some things. In like manner, there must be things which even a philosopher can not understand and a great many things. As an illustration, let us take the case of 'sharpping.' Politician and philosopher alike are interested in the origin of crime, its development, and the means of its prevention. Now, even a politician can understand that a man, having in view the acquisition of unearned increment, may take to cheating as being a ready means of possessing himself of the property of others, with but little effort upon his own part. At the same time, I will venture to say that not even a philosopher can render any adequate reason for the fact that some men will devote an amount of energy, labour, perseverance and ingenuity to the gaining of a precarious living in the paths of chicanery, one-half of which, if directed into legitimate channels, would serve to place them in a position commanding both affluence and respect. To my mind, the only hypothesis which in any way covers the facts of the case is that some men are born to crime. It is their destiny, and they are bound to fulfill it....