

## INTRODUCTION

This is not a book--it's a handbook, used to document the bidding understandings I might want to have (if I could remember them), so it does not represent the agreements of any my partnerships. Many of the sections of the notebook are sketchy notes that assume the reader has an extensive knowledge of bidding. Other sections, many of which were written for publication, give a fuller exposition.

This notebook is constantly changing as new ideas come in, errors get corrected, improvements are made, and excess baggage is removed. The reader's help is solicited in this effort.

The basis for the bidding system used in the notebook is the old Culbertson system, which features natural bidding with non-forcing sequences. If in doubt, it isn't forcing. Also, the emphasis is on bidding suits, not distribution. AKQ3 is not given equal standing with 7642, as in so many modern bidding systems.

There are many new gadgets that Culbertson would not like, I imagine. I have adopted them only in self-defense, not because I like gadgets.

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