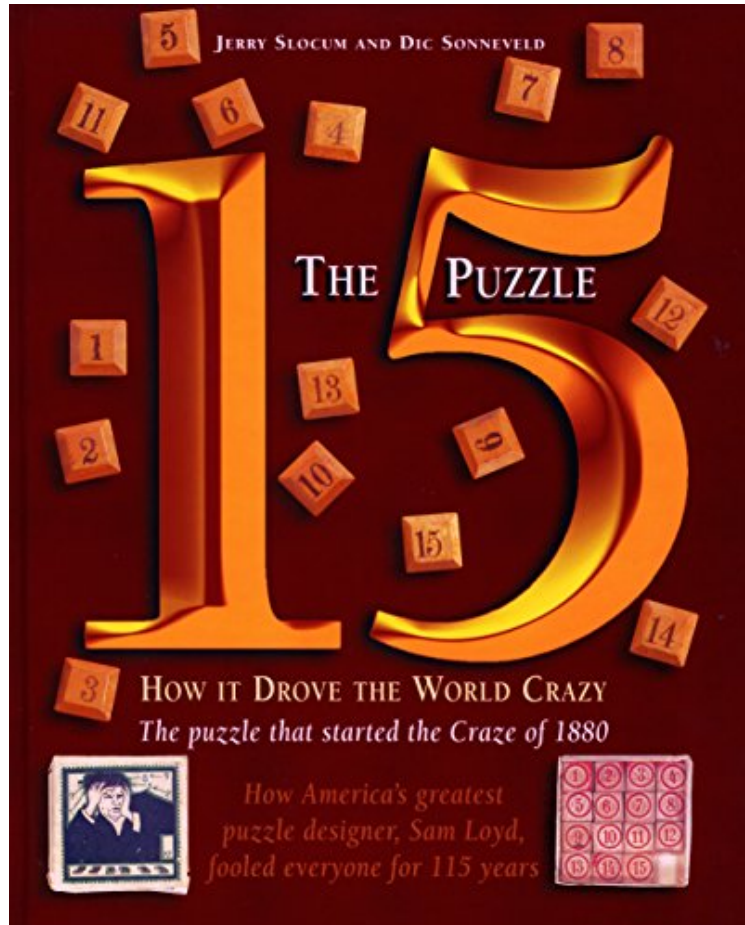


## The 15 Puzzle Book: How it Drove the World Crazy

*Jerry Slocum, Dic Sonneveld*

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**Jerry Slocum, Dic Sonneveld : The 15 Puzzle Book: How it Drove the World Crazy** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The 15 Puzzle Book: How it Drove the World Crazy:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent resource on a great puzzleBy Steven FaasI agree with the previous reviewers on the content of the book. It is very informative and provides a wealth of details and little known facts about the puzzle and it's real inventor. This is an absolutely beautiful book from the cover to the abundance of pictures and art of the fifteen puzzle. It is richly illustrated. I was a little hesitant to buy it at first because of the price but I am very glad I did. The history is interesting and it's a great addition to my collection of puzzles and puzzle books. I've since bought other puzzle books by Jerry Slocum, one of the best is The Cube. If you're interested in puzzles and their history you can't go wrong with Jerry Slocum's books.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Shel NatowskyAll top notch!5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Slocum comes up with another winner!By Jerry GuildWhenever you see Jerry Slocum and any of his associates,in this case Dic

Sonneveld,involved in something; you can count on it being First Class. This new book is simply delightful for any puzzle lover. They take one of the most common of all puzzles,The 15 Puzzle,and show that it has a background that arguably makes it the most popular puzzle craze of all time. The book is a great read,filled with everything about the puzzle; from its creation,and how it took the whole world by storm. Much of what the book covers is unknown to many who love puzzles and have seen this puzzle from the days we first became interested in them. Most of us had never imagined what an intriguing history it has had. Their search of everything written about the puzzle would take many years for one to attempt on their own; but here in this book,they give it all to us to enjoy. The book is loaded with excellent and rare photos and illustrations of the people,newspaper clippings,and puzzles from the worlds finest collections. They have run down all the legends and things said about the puzzle over the years and sorted out the fact from fiction; a major puzzle in itself. They show why the puzzle,with all the tiles in their proper locations,except for 14 and 15 reversed; cannot be solved. This was the problem that created the frenzy in 1880; and made it "The Greatest Puzzle of All Time". The book also includes several puzzle arrangements to challenge you; along with solutions. There are excellent references at the back which will be a treasure for anyone who wants to dig further. As much as anyone thinks they know about the 15 Puzzle; this book will be a fascinating eye opener; and it is unlikely they will ever look at this little gem of a puzzle the same way again. I have been a puzzle fan for over 50 years and have over 500 puzzle books in my library; however,I have no hesitation in saying this will become one of my favorites. I am sure I will pull it out many times to thumb through it in the future. The highest quality of paper,printing,color and overall construction has gone into its manufacture and it is sure to become a classic among puzzle books. There is another excellent aspect of this book,that is not at first obvious. Even if someone is not particularly interested in puzzles; they will find it does an excellent job of showing how a "craze" gets started and takes off like a firestorm. We have all seen it with things like Yo-Yos,Hula-Hoops,Pet Rocks.Rubik's Cubes;and the latest,Sudoku Puzzles. The 15 Puzzle is surely a great example,and even after 125 years,it is still one of the most common of all puzzles. An excellent treat for yourself or for anyone who likes puzzles.

The 15 Puzzle Book contains an illustrated history of one of the most popular and important mechanical puzzles of all time. It can be argued that the 15 Puzzle in 1880 had the greatest impact on American and European society of any mechanical puzzle the world has ever known. Books by famous mathematicians tell that a deaf mute invented the 15 Puzzle but other sources claim it was invented by Sam Loyd, who Martin Gardner called, "America's greatest puzzle designer." Or has Sam Loyd, who claimed to invent the puzzle, continued to fool the world for more than 100 years?The true story of the puzzle is told here for the first time:- The real inventor and his patent application records were found.- The story of how the puzzle came to be manufactured.- Proof that the 15 Puzzle is mathematically impossible to solve.- How a young New Yorker solved it.- The worldwide puzzle craze that it created.

"This is a book that everyone interested in puzzles will enjoy." Will Shortz, New York Times Crossword Puzzle Editor, from the ForewordAbout the AuthorJerry Slocum is author of many books including, The Tangram Book, The Puzzle Arcade, Swipe this Pencil, and Tricky Optical Illusions.Dic Sonneveld works at Leiden University in the Netherlands.