



MAGICURRENTS

San Diego Ring 76

February 2020

VOLUME XXXV #2

President's Message

The Ring 76 Award Season is now upon us with the Close-up Competition coming at our meeting in February. All of our members are encouraged to sign up and show their mechanical skills and entertainment abilities. Our next competition, the Stand-up will be in May and both contests will be at our usual meeting location. Check out the article on this in the current newsletter.

The Board met recently and has big plans and hard choices for the Ring in the coming months. That is not unusual as this is the Board's job; however, it is **YOUR** Ring and we want to hear what **YOU** want from it.

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Sell Your Heart Out, and any Clubs too!

This month Ring 76 will be offering members the chance to sell their wares before the meeting.

You can reserve a half table for \$5 or a full table for \$10 and sell anything you think the membership might be interested in.

Space is limited so the sooner you contact us the better your chances of cleaning out that case you have full of magical treasures.

Simply contact the Board at Ring76ibm@Yahoo.com and tell us how many tables you want, or if you just want a small corner to show your stuff.

This is also a reminder for all members to bring a little extra cash to the next meeting and maybe go home with a bargain or two.

Our regular monthly meetings are at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of the month.

Senior Center in Clairemont
4425 Bannock Ave.
San Diego, CA 92117

Ring 76 2019-20 Calendar

Feb 10	Close-up Contest*
Mar 9	Panel Discussion
Apr 13	Teach-a-Trick
May 11	TBA
Jun 8	Election, Dues, and Money Magic*
Jul 12	Installation Banquet
Aug 10	Kid's magic / TBA*

*Opportunity for Members to Perform

Direct any questions concerning the calendar to **V.P. of Entertainment Greg Wauson**, entertainment@ring76.com

Valentine's Day ♥ and Close-Up Contest!

Valentine's Day is in February but only a select few are aware that's also the month of the Ring 76 Close-Up Contest! Yes, that's the featured event at the regular Ring 76 monthly meeting on February 10. Next to American Idol, this may be the fastest way to fame and riches! Some slots may still be available -- one could be yours!

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President's Message continued from prior page

We have a good number of new members to Ring 76 and with them come new ideas, wants, and needs. We always want to hear what those are and we are more than happy to try new things to keep the Ring as vibrant and up to date as we can.

Times change, magical needs change, and Ring 76 is eager to meet those changes. If you have any suggestions, questions, comments, or inquiries on why we don't or why don't we, please feel free to talk to any Board member at the regular meetings or come to the after meeting gathering at Denny's. You are as much a member of Ring 76 your first month as you are your 40th year. Your insights are important and we want to hear them

See you at the next meeting.

Richard Ustick
President
IBM Ring 76

Close-Up Contest continued from prior page

Here are the things to know:

Qualification: All contestants must be members in good standing of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and Ring 76.

Contest Format: Each contestant will perform his or her act just once, for the entire audience.

Time Limit: Ten minutes with a one-minute warning. Contestants will be disqualified if the time limit is exceeded.

Scoring: Only Ring 76 members present will be able to vote and each will be given one vote to cast. The score of each contestant

will be determined solely by the number of votes received.

Prizes: In addition to a medal, the top three winners will each receive a cash prize: \$50 to first place, \$25 to second place and \$15 to third place.

Number of Contestants: A maximum of eight contestants may compete. First come, first served

Equipment: Other than a table and chairs, contestants are responsible for providing all equipment and resources they need for their performances. Contestants are also responsible for the operation of any sound system used as a source of music or sound effects.

Video: A video camera and projector will be set up so everyone can get a good view.

Who to Contact: Contact the contest chairman, Greg Wauson, at entertainment@ring76.com at least one day prior to the date of the competition if you would like to compete, or if you have comments or questions.

All decisions concerning interpretations of, and exceptions to, these rules will be made by the contest chairman.

Greg Wauson
First V.P. (entertainment)
IBM Ring 76

Need a ride or have room for a passenger to an out of town event such as the Magic Castle?

Have a special skill or service another member might use? Need a temporary assistant?



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FOOL US AWARDS



DANNY RAY LECTURE



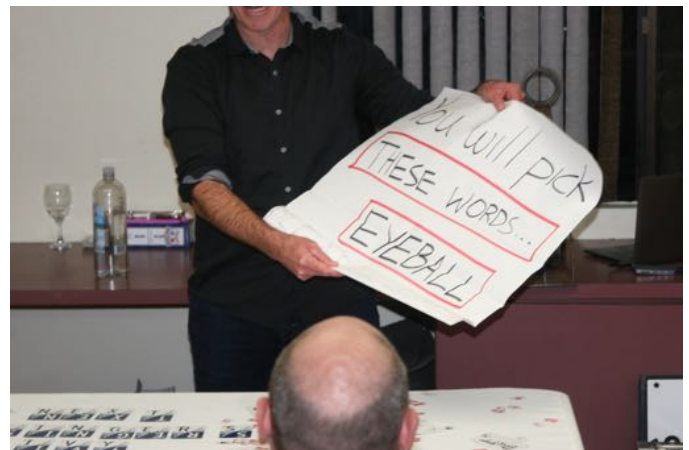
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Danny Ray lecture continued from prior page





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Trick of the Month Club - May the "Force" be With You

Bob Meigs

IBM Ring 76

In this column, we explain some techniques that are easy to learn, work almost every time, and that every magician should know - think of it as a "Teach-A-Trick" column. You may already know much of this stuff - but some members may find it instructive, and even accomplished performers may be reminded of some nearly forgotten methods.

This month, we explain three simple card forces - the "cut force," the "riffle force," and the "overhand shuffle force." Even if you don't use any of these, every magician should know what they are.



The Cut Force

While this force seems obvious, it is widely used, works remarkably well, and is very easy to do. Just cut the cards (or have a spectator perform the cut), and place the bottom packet on top of the top packet, in the form of an "X." A little patter at this stage can distract your audience from the force procedure.

Now you are ready to produce a forced card (or several cards) - which appears to have been cut to in a random manner. You can produce either the bottom card of the top stack, or the top card of the bottom stock. The bottom card of the top stack is, of course, your original bottom card, and the top card of the bottom stack is your original top card. You know this, but no one else thinks of it - especially if you move through the process as if it is both normal and fair.

If you want to produce more than one force card, simply "stack" your force cards at the top or bottom of the deck.

The Riffle Force

Start with the force card (or cards) on top of the deck. Hold the deck in your left hand, and with your right, cut a packet of any size off the top, put this packet beneath cards still in your left hand, and using a "pinky break" between the between the two packets.

A "pinky break" is achieved by inserting the tip of your left-hand little finger between the packets at the rear right-side of the deck. Angle the deck a bit to the right to conceal the pinky break. Now, use the thumb of your left hand to riffle the left front corner of the deck from top to bottom, inviting a spectator to tell you when to "stop," somewhere along the way.

Using your right hand, pull a top packet off the deck. By using your right thumb to grab all of the cards above your pinky break and pushing slightly forward, you are pulling away all of the



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cards above the original top card (or cards) of the deck. The “force card” is the top card of the packet remaining in your left hand.

If you do the “pull-away” fairly quickly, it will look as if you are pulling off the cards above the random point at which the spectator told you to stop. This is both easy to do, and very deceptive.

The Overhand Shuffle Force

This again forces the top card (or several cards), apparently from a random stopping point of an overhand shuffle.

Hold the deck in your right hand, ready to start an overhand shuffle, with the card-backs facing left. Drop a small packet off the top of the deck into your left hand, but promptly shove this packet into your right hand, behind the deck. Secure this packet with the little finger of your right hand; be sure to leave some space between this packet and the bottom of the deck. Now continue doing an overhand shuffle into you left hand, inviting a spectator to tell you when to stop.



When the spectator says “stop,” bring your right hand down toward your left, and drop the packet secreted in your right hand on top of the cards in your left. This should be indistinguishable from the recurring moves of your overhand shuffle, but it places the original top cards atop the seemingly random stopping point determined by a spectator.

The key to this force is secretly returning the top packet to your right hand. This requires a bit more practice than the other forces, but once mastered, is very deceptive.

Our discussions assume a right-handed performer; if you are left-handed, you will have to make some adjustments.

Next month we plan to explain several easy methods of performing the “holy grail” of card magic – Any Card at Any Number, known in the magic community as ACAAN.

We are thinking of including this column as a regular monthly feature – so please let us know what you think. You might even volunteer to write it from time to time. You can reach the editor of Magic Currents at editor@Ring76.com, or tell any Board member what you think.



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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday January 13, 2020

North Clairemont Recreation Center

President **Richard Ustick** called the meeting to order at 7pm with a few announcements.

Next month's meeting will be the annual close-up contest. The March meeting will feature a panel discussion. April's meeting will be teach-a-trick and bring-a-friend. Members-at-large **Rich Robertson** and **Malcolm Campbell** received their hand-crafted (by Librarian **Gary Salisbury**) plaque awards for successfully fooling the judges at last month's You Fooled Us contest - congratulations! Newsletter editor **Winton Gibbons** announced an upcoming magic dealer's day on March 22 (see the club's and San Diego Magician's Facebook page for details)- tickets cost \$10 and include a \$10-off coupon for purchases. VP for Membership **James Thayer** announced about email address listings, and the options for ring members to set up a ring 76 email address that forwards to their private email address, and members can contact James for any changes or corrections. Also, Dani DaOrtiz is coming to the Red Spade Theater on January 30, and there will be a lecture there at 5pm - reserve your spot before it sells out.

PERFORMANCE AND LECTURE BY DANNY RAY

Vice President for Entertainment **Greg Wauson** recounted how he and **Rich Robertson** went together to the Magic Castle, and how impressed they were with **Danny Ray's** performance in the Close up Gallery of the Magic Castle. Greg chatted with Danny afterwards, and discovered that Danny was from San Diego and a member of Ring 76 as a teenager, from '89-'92. Greg asked Danny if he would give a lecture at Ring 76 and Danny agreed, despite his

MINUTES OF RING 76 BOARD MEETING

January 27, 2020

*The meeting was called to order by President **Richard Ustick** at 7:25 pm, following a delicious dinner prepared by **Bob Meigs' wife, Mary**.*

Present were: President **Richard Ustick**, First V.P. (entertainment) **Greg Wauson**, Treasurer **Joe "Mystic" McGrievy**, Member-at-Large **Rich Robertson**, Member-at-Large and past president **Robert Vinson**, Librarian and Member-at-Large **Gary Salisbury**, and North County and Military Liaison **Josh Sherwin**. Also present were Host **Bob Meigs** and guests **Mark Booth** and **John Hunter**.

Absent were: Second V.P. (membership) **James Thayer**, Secretary **Ken Intriligator**, and Sergeant-of-arms **David Chiu**.

Greg took notes in Ken's absence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November board meeting were approved; there was no board meeting in December.

REPORTS

First V.P. (Entertainment): Greg reported that the **Danny Ray** lecture was well received.

Second V.P. (Membership): James was absent but previously sent an email stating with the addition of **Elissa Melor** last month, we are at 61 members. This is 3 more members than last year and equals our membership total for 2017-18. (Elissa still needs to do her audition.)

Also, about 1/3 of the members have logged

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General Membership Meeting continued from prior page

having never before agreed to lecture on and tip his creations, as a way to give back to Ring 76. The performance was truly amazing, and the lecture was fantastic. Danny prepared a set of lecture notes, which he released for the first time to Ring 76. Kudos to Greg for the great call in inviting Danny, and thank you, Danny!

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm, and many of us then went to the nearby Denny's for dinner, dessert, and camaraderie.

Ken Intriligator

Secretary

IBM Ring 76



Ring 76 Board Meeting continued from prior page

into Arcanum members-only online space at least once. Approximately 1/3 of the members (but not the same 1/3) have given permission to have their contact information on the membership list.

Treasurer: Joe shared his spreadsheet and said it was \$150 off since two checks had not been cashed yet. The room rental is now \$90, since the reduced rate from our magic show at the senior center has expired.

Secretary: Ken was absent.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Dave was absent, but he had previously sent the board an email stating there were 31 members and four guests for the Danny Ray lecture. The three paid guests brought in 60 dollars (Elissa's fee was waived due to her pending membership which will become official following her audition). New name badges needed for: Richard Abello, Charlie Gott, Bob Meigs, Ricardo Silva, James Sloan, Alfonso Vasquez, Elisa (pending completion of membership)

Librarian: Gary handed out a library status report which showed improvements he plans and the methods to accomplish them. He also shared the list of donations to the server project and they are ongoing. Ring 76 currently has about 1200 videos and there are eight items currently on loan. James' email stated it would be good to get updated lists of books and DVDs.

OLD BUSINESS

There was a brief discussion of pre-meeting sales. General agreement the cost of renting a table would be preferably set to the lesser of \$10 or 10% of sales, since some sellers may sell nothing or close to it. We don't want members to lose money trying to sell.

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Ring 76 Board Meeting continued from prior page

Greg stated he talked with Sebastian re. possible venues for a magic show presentation by Ring 76. Sebastian recommended a theater of 100 or less to reduce risk until we gain more experience putting on theater shows. There seems to be a small amount of interest in the club in producing a show; Greg is not pushing it hard as something we must do.

General agreement the You Fooled Us contest needs to be tightened up, to better define what constitutes fooling the judges and also to make it more entertaining. A committee is needed to recommend specific improvements. This falls on the V.P. of entertainment.

NEW BUSINESS

Robert reported Eleanor at the senior center wants Ring 76 to produce another fundraiser magic show or haunted house. The show we produced last year was very successful in terms of money raised and it earned a 1/3 reduction in our meeting costs for six months last year. But 95% of the ticket sales were obtained by Ring 76 members and we could have made more money for the club. There was general agreement among the board members if we do another show we need to negotiate for a bigger percentage of the income from ticket sales.

There was discussion re. our costs vs. income. James previously sent an emails to the board re. approximately \$1,500 received is received in annual dues. At \$90 for the venue at each meeting, this does not leave much for other expenses.

Discussion regarding raising dues. It was agreed that Joe will ping other southern California rings to find out how much they charge for dues. Richard mentioned the income for the club is not earmarked for a

particular area, such as the library.

Greg stated **Mike Stilwell** told him **Dan Thomas** has magic props he'd like to donate to the ring. Richard and Gary both offered to store them at their homes. Greg will report that to Mike.

Greg reported two people signed up for the close-up contest. He will send an email to the members there are spots available.

Greg will contact **Elissa Melor** to verify she will audition in February.

Richard mentioned the topics for the March (panel discussion) and April (teach-a-trick and bring a friend) meetings. Greg will put together the panel discussion for the March meeting.

Richard reminded us elections are coming up and to consider if we would like to remain in our current offices for next year.

Greg Wauson for Ken Intriligator

Secretary

IBM Ring 76





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Ex Libris

By Gary D. Salisbury



Welcome to Ex Libris, my monthly newsletter article about the IBM Ring 76 Library in San Diego, CA.

'Ex Libris' (Eh-cks LEE-breese), means 'From the Book'. Generally you will see this term used on bookplates to denote that it came from the library of its owner, "Ex Libris: Gary Salisbury."

This is where we talk about your library and do book & video reviews. Yes, your library! If you are a Ring 76 member in good standing, then this is your library! So keep in good standing by paying your dues on time.

OBJECTIVES OF THE LIBRARY

The library's primary objective is to support the art of magic by providing the best reference library in the entire IBM organization for members to learn from. It is here for you so please use it!

We will make it the best by:

- Increasing quantity and quality of materials available to members through donations and acquisitions.
- Implementing easier methods to check materials out.
- Improving communications to members about library issues.
- Implementing record-keeping and other methods to minimize loss.
- Developing a standardized set of policies & procedures on how the library will operate.

DONATIONS WANTED

- Still looking for Tarbell #2 Hardback Book. Donation or purchase? Looking for two copies. It is for a good cause.
- We are still looking for a VHS/DVD recorder to replace the club's broken unit. Currently we are borrowing Robert Vinson's unit but should not take advantage of his generosity.
- We need more books and videos to build the library. Those have to come from donations because there are no funds earmarked for library acquisitions this year.
- Currently we need money to buy software and upgrade or replace the server for the Magic Video Streaming Server project. Again, I ask if you could help out by donating something for this? Anything at all will help.



JANUARY DONATIONS

Thanks to the generosity of a few, we have a few more items that we can all share and funds to build with. Thanks again for your generosity and setting an example for others to (hopefully) follow.

Thank you, Gracias, Grazie, Merci, Danke, Arigato, 谢谢, 감사합니다, спасибо!

- Josh Sherwin \$20 for PLEX project
- David Chiu \$25 for PLEX project
- Jeff Marcus \$25 for PLEX project
- Charlie Gott \$25 for PLEX project
- Eli Sanchez \$30 for PLEX project
- Miguel Garcia \$50 for PLEX project
- Mark Booth \$50 for PLEX project
- James Sloan \$250 for PLEX project
- Bruce Wollitz \$300 for PLEX project



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WHAT'S NEW?

- **ARCANUM:**

Have you checked out the new ARCANUM section of the web site? There is lots of great stuff there for members.

- **Magic Video Streaming Project:**

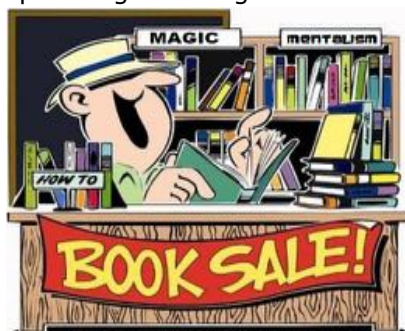
The Magic Video Streaming project is one where we will have all the magic videos we legally own available to members for streaming via a PLEX media server. At last count, we had over 1,200 instructional and performance magic videos that will be available for viewing on the server.

As many of you know, I started a fund raiser for money to buy either a new server or a used server or parts to build our own server. From that effort, we raised \$825. The Ring 76 PLEX team will make a decision as to which course of action will get us the most bang for the buck.

We can still use some more funds so if you have the heart, reach into your pockets and donate some money so we could get this project running, it would benefit you, the club, and be appreciated by all.

- **Library Sales:**

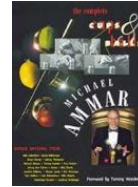
There was a small library sale at last month's meeting which made \$23. I am planning on doing one at the next February



Ring meeting. There will be lots of new items. Bring your cash but I also take IOUs from members.

MAGIC BOOK REVIEWS

-ALL AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LIBRARY-



The Complete Cups and Balls

By Michael Ammar
(from L&L Publishing)

The Cups and Balls is universally acclaimed as the effect which should be studied by every magician.

To maximize results, Michael Ammar separated all the fundamental information into an appropriate series of layers. Each layer is then revealed in the pattern perfect for your ever-evolving level of understanding, ability, and confidence. As each new branch of knowledge grows, a routine is taught which puts that information into current context. Along the way, special attention is placed on those four highly transferable skills which grow stronger as you study the Cups and Balls: Acting, Timing, Routining, and Misdirection. This complete understanding approach to building your foundation gives you the tools, building blocks, and the blueprints to build any type of Cups and Balls routine you might ever need!

You'll discover classic wand moves every sleight-of-hand performer should know, opening positions and sequences, body sequences, secret loading sequences, as well as final rhythms that create the powerful misdirection to cover your final loads. Then you'll see the real work on Mastering the Final Load. Finally the Dai Vernon routine, considered the most influential Cups and Balls routine of this century, is taught, dissected and analyzed.

There has never been a more complete or more effective way to discover the fascinating secrets of this enduring classic.

Over 750 photographs with text shaded to show you exactly what the key points are plus 18 essays written by some of the



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world's most respected magicians
devulging their secrets and insights into
this timeless piece of legerdemain!

Contributors include:

- Aldo Colombini
- David Williamson
- Bruce Cervon
- Johnny Thompson
- Michael Skinner
- Tommy Wonder
- Paul Gertner
- Johnny Ace Palmer
- Gazzo
- Bob Sheets
- Joachim Solberg
- Shakar Junior
- Eric DeCamps
- Tom Mullica
- Kate Medvedeva
- Mike Rogers
- Dominique Duvivier
- Jonathan Pendragon

- Uncle Geek
- Three-Card Monte As A Magical Entertainment
- Magic Lectures
- Rosini's Double Reverse
- Conversation at the Airport
- The Animated Matchbox
- Performing for Magicians
- Stealing
- Spirit Candle in the Bottle
- Books
- Sylvia's Cards: An Excursion into Bizarre Magick
- Negative Thought
- The Haunted Pack
- Questions and Answers on the Haunted Pack
- Daydreaming and Imagination
- An Imaginary Conversation with Eugene Burger
- A Final Examination

Pages 134 - Hard Bound



The Performance of Close-up Magic

By Eugene Burger
(From Vanishing Magic)

Eugene Burger's "Series of

Evocative Essays" that he hopes will,
"Challenge you, cause you to stop and
reflect upon your own magic, inspire you
to practice and rehearse, and, in the
process, improve your own close-up magic
performances."

- About the Writings
- Foreword by Channing Pollock
- Groundwork
- What Is Close-Up Magic?
- The Main Road
- The Bert Allerton Aspirin Tin Routine
- Hands
- Making Cigarettes Disappear
- The Pivot Vanish
- Up the Nose
- Using A Cigarette Pull
- A Question of Character



Entertainer's Handbook

By Mike Stilwell
(from Penguin Magic)

This is a book to help all
kinds of entertainers such
as: *magicians, clowns,
dancers, jugglers, comics, DJ's, mimes,
stilt walkers, musicians, balloon twisters,
face painters, puppeteers, vocalist, and
many more.*

You know your special talent but you need
help. Here is down to earth information
from the author's 40 years of experience.

He provides that firsthand knowledge you
need to get started and advance to full
time employment as an entertainer.

He shares with you what he has learned
the hard way from his gigs in many
different types of locations such as:
streets, restaurants, malls, ships, trade
shows, yachts and working with a variety
of entertainers to produce successful
events.



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In addition to being a highly acclaimed magician and widely known as one of San Diego's most favorite entertainers, he has the respect of other entertainers for his creativity and passion for his profession.

Contents:

Getting Started- identify your talent, agents, selecting a stage name, booking/invoice

Getting and Keeping a Gig- how to have a repeat/steady business and client

Fees for service- records, what to charge, getting paid, charity, barter services

Location- restaurants, boats, fairs, hotels, nightclubs, trade shows, hospitals, and parties

Prep for your gig/performance- parking, equipment, costumes, emergencies, and ethics

Marketing- business cards, press releases, direct mail, signs, and social media/internet

Terminology needed for special

locations- boats, restaurants, trade and stage shows

REVIEWS WANTED

If you have watched a magic video or read a magic book (good or bad), please drop me an email telling me what you thought of it so I can include your comments in the next issue of Ex Libris.

LIBRARY CHECK OUT PROCEDURE



Members may contact me 7x24 either by e-mail at librarian@ring76.com or by cell phone (voice or text) at 619-569-6035 to let me know what you would like to check out. (If you do not hear back from me within 24 hours, there may have been a technical problem so call me.) I will make

sure the item(s) get to the next monthly meeting or you can pick it up at my home in Blossom Valley.

There is a limit of 4 items per month. You will need to sign the library card attached to the item along with your phone number. We ask that you return the items to the library on or before the monthly meeting for the following month (for example: If you check out a book at the July meeting, it should be returned on or before the August meeting). If need be, you can keep the book or video again if nobody else has requested it but you must sign for it again.

Remember, our objective is to build the best magic reference library in the entire IBM organization world-wide but we need your help to do that. Please return overdue books & videos and donate regularly to your library.

Non-urgent communications will always be done via the [Ex Libris newsletter article](#) while more urgent communications will be done by an [IBM Ring 76 LibraryGram](#) emailed to ring76members@googlegroups.com.

Have a magical month my friends and we will see you again next month. In the meantime, email me with your thoughts about the library. I would love to hear from you. Don't be bashful.....

Gary Salisbury

IBM Ring 76 Librarian



Email: librarian@ring76.com
Cell: 619-569-6035

Objective: To build the best magic reference library in the IBM organization world-wide.

(Disclaimer: Much of this material is my own but I sometimes copy material from other sources, with and without credit, and then merged with my own commentary to give you a better, more thorough source of information. Thanks to all who have knowingly and unknowingly contributed.)



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The History of Magic

By Gary Salisbury

Welcome to our newest Magiccurrents column, The History of Magic, where we will provide you with a monthly history lesson of something special from our magical past. Many of these articles are written by magic history buffs from all around the world.

This month famed Podcaster, Dean Carnegie, tells us of one of magic's most famous performers, T. Nelson Downs. So take a seat in your favorite chair, put your feet up, read on and discover something I will bet you never knew.

If you would like to see something special featured here, please let me know.

T. Nelson Downs - Master Coin Manipulator

By Dean Carnegie



T. Nelson Downs is surely a name everyone in magic has heard of. Even if you're new to magic, you might have heard of the Downs Palm or at least the Misers Dream effect. And yet with his popularity, do we really know much

about T. Nelson Downs? Probably not, and so, decided to put on the old Detective hat and find out more...

He was born Thomas Nelson Downs, March 16, 1867 in Garwin, Iowa, though most references just say Marshalltown where he grew up. According to David Prices fine historical book Thomas was actually a twin, but his fellow twin did not survive, and word was that few believed Thomas would survive being only 2 lbs at birth. He did survive and was the youngest of three children. His father died when he was only 6 months old and the family moved around, eventually ending up in Marshalltown Iowa.

How did Downs become interested in magic? Here is it in his own words, "I was first inspired by a 'Town Hall' magician when I was

about 12 years old, after seeing him turn ink to water and make cards rise magically from the pack, etc. It was all easy and simple to me so I went home and duplicated the performance and immediately commenced to study the art by purchasing all the books on the subject I could find."

At least one of the books was likely Professor Hoffmann's Modern Magic which came out in 1876. Downs himself also said, "Ed Reno got me started in the business", but I think this refers to being a professional, NOT how he got started initially. Faucet Ross, in the Feb 1939 issue of The Linking Ring reveals that in Marshalltown Iowa, there lived a man named Frank Taylor. Mr. Taylor was the manager of a business called The Old Bowler which was right next to and actually part of The Chicago & Northern Railroad Station. Mr. Taylor was known to be an above excellent sleight of hand man and manipulator and is even mentioned in the book Leaves of Conjurers Scrap Books by Burlingame.

It turns out that T. Nelson Downs worked as a telegrapher or telegraph operator at the railroad station, the same time Frank Taylor was working at The Old Bowler. It's certainly possible that Thomas Downs learned some magic from Taylor, though Downs never revealed this to anyone during his life. If



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nothing else, Taylor could have served as an inspiration to Downs who was just learning. OR Taylor might have been the magician that Downs saw as a kid? It is hard to say.

Young T. Nelson Downs, as I just mentioned took a job as a

telegraph operator at the Chicago and Northern Railroad Station when he was 16 years old. He would continue working there until 1895. And numerous sources say that it was during his 12 years at the railroad station that he perfected his skills in manipulation. He was constantly seen with coins or cards while working. He worked the night shift when things were slower so that gave more time to concentrate on manipulation. By the way, I'll be referring to T. Nelson Downs as Tommy Downs from here on out. That was the name his friends called him.

In 1890, Tommy Downs married Nellie Stone. In October 1894, his son Raymond was born. But only a few months later, on April 8th 1895, his wife Nellie died. Raymond was sent to live with his grandparents and Tommy would go out on his own as a performer.

Now to back track just slightly. When Tommy was 16 he gave his first public performance. The program was a variety show with a number of performers, only one was singled out as probably being professional and that was Tommy. This event was recorded in his local paper, so we know that Tommy was doing shows even while working for the Railroad Station.

Now if we fast forward to 1891, Tommy Downs did not start out as The King of Coins. He worked with a partner who was a Mandolinist, Sam Siegal. Tommy presented manipulation, as well as escapes, hypnotism, and even mind reading ala John Randall Brown (which it says in the David Price "MAGIC, A Pictorial History of Conjurers in the Theatre"). BTW, I covered John Randall Brown in Ep 15 of the podcast. I would imagine that either Tommy took gigs on his days off, or during the day, so his shows had to be close enough that he could make it

back to the Railroad Station at night. The partnership with Siegal didn't last long.

Now, we are up to 1895, Tommy's wife Nellie passed away and he decides to go out on his own. Despite consulting with other magicians about the possibility to doing an ALL COIN ACT....he was discouraged to do so by everyone)....he did it anyway. He took an engagement at the Hopkins Theatre in Chicago with his Misers Dream act and it was a huge hit. In a letter to Faucett Ross, Tommy shares a story from that show. "Show business is a funny thing. The first vaudeville house I ever worked was the Hopkins Theatre, in Chicago. While there the manager told me, 'Downs, you have a great act, but you will never be a real success in this country until you first make a success in Europe.' He was 100% right. After a year in England, France and Germany, I was besieged with offers and contracts in America. And it is a poor rule that won't work both ways. I have met a lot of European acts that got nowhere in their own country until they first made a hit in America."

No one had ever seen an act like Tommy's. He was the first of the specialty acts and likely the first of the all manipulation acts. His success in the Midwest caused his salary to rise and he went to New York City and then off to England.

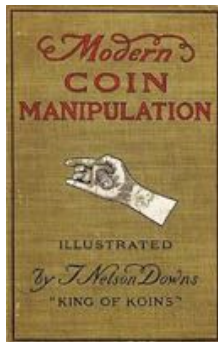
Tommy claimed to have invented the Misers Dream though the trick itself goes back many years having been presented by 19th Century conjurers as The Shower of Money, Aerial Treasury and other names. Rather it would be better served to say that Downs created the act known as "The Misers Dream", as he did greatly expand upon the trick, adding unique sleights and clever moments and bits of business to the routine. A point not often mentioned, Tommy spoke throughout the act, it was not presented silent to music. So he had witty patter to go along with his amazing sleight of hand.

His book, Modern Coin Manipulation does a great job capturing the various parts of the act. Though the book contains sleights that I can't help but wonder are not things he used in his act, but put in to create the illusion of great difficulty to anyone reading it.

In Oct 1895, Mahatma Magazine said of Downs, "All his work is absolutely new, original



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and puzzling, even to magicians. We are frank to say that we believe him to be the cleverest man living with coins, and justly entitled to the name, "King of Coins".

In 1895, the inventor of the handcuff act. Mr. B.B. Keyes, sold his act through the magic

dealer W. D. Leroy of Boston. It was sold as, "Escape From Sing Sing, or The Great Handcuff Act". The first person to purchase it was Tommy Downs. But it doesn't appear that he ever used them. In the November 1930 issue of *The Sphinx*, T. Nelson Downs relates a story of meeting up with Houdini at their hotel while Houdini was working the London Alhambra. Downs took from his trunk a ring of 52 keys and said to Houdini, "Here are the tools you do your act with." Houdini replied, "Tom, I don't use keys. You know I did not have the money to buy the keys" etc. Then Downs said, "Well you can't open them with hot air!"

From Leroy's Catalog, the price of the Great Handcuff Act was \$75.00. I went through the catalog and most everything was under \$10. A few items reached \$20 and \$30 and a Sub-trunk reached \$50. But here was the act that put Houdini on the map, and its price much, much higher than everything else. Perhaps Houdini didn't have the money or maybe he did.

There is a great story that is related in numerous sources about Downs first visit to New York City. Downs stopped into Otto Maurer's Magic shop and told him that he was in town performing, not only that, he was making \$100 a week. Maurer said to Downs, "No magician has ever been paid that kind of money, GET OUT of my shop!" At least one source claims the amount was \$150.

Otto Mauer was known to have taught the Front and Back Palm to a number of magicians. But Tommy claimed he first did the trick at the Opera House in Boone Iowa around 1891. By 1898 he had turned it into an act of its own, by making multiple cards vanish, showing his hands empty and then reproducing the cards one at a time. He would use this as an encore to his *Misers Dream Act*.

In April of 1899, Tommy Downs secured a booking to play England, specifically the Palace Theatre in London. It's safe to say he took London by storm as no one had seen an act like his. He was constantly being interviewed in the paper for his unique act. Soon, other American acts would find their way to London, folks like Thurston, Houdini, Lafayette, William Robinson and more. David Price's book even says Robinson confided in Downs that he was going to challenge the Chinese magician Ching Ling Foo. So Downs suggested to Robinson to use the name 'Chung Ling Soo'.

Will Golston wrote this of Tommy Downs " T. Nelson Downs, the King of Coins—and truly he deserves the title, is "one of the best," both as Magician and Gentleman, and as talent is sure to come to the top, and he has an abundance of it, he has certainly got there. His manipulation of coins is marvelous, his audiences are often to be seen open mouthed, and amazed at his wonderful dexterity. "

Downs tells this story about his days of working in the train station. Sometimes when things were slow he would go out into the waiting room and show tricks to the travelers, farmers, or whoever was there. There was one incident when he showed some coin magic to Fred Stone and his brother, they were working with the Taylor Circus at the time doing a high wire act. Well, fast forward 14 years and Fred Stone was in London performing. On this particular day he was visiting with some fellow performers. One of the entertainers was bragging about the incredible coin manipulations presented by T. Nelson Downs at the London Palace Theatre. Fred spoke up and said, "I'm sorry but the best coin man on the planet works at a little train station in Marshalltown, Iowa." Well it turned out they were both correct because that little telegraph operator was now headlining the Palace!

In another letter Tommy wrote, "One of the first magicians I met in London was Charles Bertram and he told me, 'DOWNS, you are really not a magician but a manipulator and juggler. Why don't you do tricks?' I answered, The reason I don't do tricks is because everyone else does tricks. If I did tricks I probably would not be playing the Palace!"

Another of Tommy Down's first contacts in London was William Hilliar who saw Tommy at



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the Place Theatre. He soon became his agent. Tommy continued on at the Palace for 6 months. They actually wanted him to stay longer but he had other engagements to attend to. It was during this time that Tommy wrote the book, *Modern Coin Manipulation*, which would explain his entire act, plus many of the unique sleights he had developed over the years. William Hilliar edited the book.

Speaking of William Hilliar, this incident involved him and takes place in the early 1900s. He says, "I visited the Theatre de Robert Houdin in Paris. They had a replica of Houdin's stage settings large center and two side tables with traps running through to the wings. The performance was given by a French conjurer named Carmenelli. One of his features was the Rapping Hand. A few years later, I again visited Houdin's theatre accompanied by Nelson Downs. Carmenelli did the aerial treasury, borrowing Down's hat for the purpose. I wonder if he ever knew that he was using the master's hat!"

Here is more from Hilliar via Mahatma Magazine. "I have been in Paris the last month, but have not seen much conjuring. According to what I am told Magic does not seem to take on here at all. There is, however, one exception i.e. T. Nelson Downs (King of Coins) whose wonderfully clever coin act goes great here and he has, I understand, been re-engaged for the next three years at the Folies Marigny, the most fashionable theatre in Paris. This notwithstanding the fact that one of his best imitators preceded him in Paris, but when Downs appeared the public could tell at once that there was only one King of Coins. I wonder what Robert Houdin would say could he but witness Down's show? If I remember rightly Robert Houdin said that with practice it was possible to palm 2 coins. Downs palms 45! But in addition to his digital cleverness, he has that gentlemanly appearance and pleasing manner which makes his show go. He is booked for three solid years in the finest theatres in the world at an enormous salary and he carries his apparatus in his waistcoat pocket! Now I'll give you the secret of Downs' success - ORIGINALITY. He originated the "King" idea, and although he has been copied by hundreds, the others are not in it. There you are my magical brothers, work out some new idea and you will suddenly become famous. "

Here is Down's talking about an incident in Paris. "I have often wondered just how much an audience sees when a magician does a trick. In 1900 I was playing a long engagement at The Marigny Casino in Paris. One night I walked out on the stage, started to do the act and then suddenly discovered that I have forgotten to load up with coins. I had a top hat but no coins. They were on a table in the wings. What could I do? Well, I started the act without the coins—just pantomiming catching them from the air for about 3 minutes. Then I took a bow and received terrific applause. During the applause, I stepped offstage, loaded up and continued the act but, honestly, I don't think that audience ever knew the difference."

And here is a story from a letter to Faucett Ross from Tommy Downs, "As you know I played 26 consecutive weeks at the Palace Theatre in London. After my first show there Mr. Morton, the Manager, came backstage and complimented the act. He said, Mr. Downs, I am particularly impressed by the slow and deliberate manner in which you walk off and on the stage. It is very impressive.' Well, I did not have the nerve to tell him the truth. You see, when I first arrived in London I did a lot of walking in order to see the sights. The result was I developed sore feet and there was no choice- I HAD to walk slowly. So I've been doing it ever since. Another interesting thing happened during my Palace engagement. After a few weeks I decided to build up the act a bit by using the coin wand which I always liked. Well, after the first show using the wand, Mr. Morton came to the dressing room and said, "Mr. Downs, my patrons are utterly intrigued with your great digital dexterity, but tonight you disillusioned them by using that mechanical stick which has no place in your fine act.' Well, I saw that he was right and I never used it again from that day to this. It's a good trick, but not for me."

In 1901, John Northern Hilliard was the dramatic critic and editorial writer for The Rochester Post Express. He wrote a glowing review of Downs act. Here is a little of what he said, "There is a real magician in Rochester. His name is T. Nelson Downs and he is working his wonders at the Cook Operah House this week. Mr Downs is billed as The King of Koins and there is no magician on any stage in any country today who can compete with Mr.



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Downs as a manipulator of either coins or cards. This is much conceded even by members of Mr. Downs own profession. He stands absolutely alone in his chosen field.”

While in London, Downs became a sensation. He not only worked the Palace Theatre, but he appeared before The Prince of Wales who would go on to become King of England, at a private event. The Prince loved Tommy's magic so much that after the performance was over, he was requested to stay and teach some magic to the Prince, which he gladly did.

Shortly after his performance for the Prince of Wales, he was appearing before Queen Victoria. In fact, his standing with the Royals of Europe was quite high. He performed before Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany, Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria, Abdul Hamid the Sultan of Turkey, and The Czar of Russia. As he toured throughout Europe he appeared in Paris at the Marigny Casino and the Follies Bergere, The Wintergarten in Berlin, and when he returned to London he appeared at the Empire Theatre for forty weeks at twice the money he made at the Palace Theatre.

Now here is something that came as a big surprise. Tommy Downs was interested in illusions, as in Grand Illusion. As early as 1900 he had purchased an illusion, where a woman, is tossed into the air, away from any furniture or stage settings and vanishes in a flash of flame. He purchased this from William Hilliar. In 1905 he worked with illusionist Ernest Thorn (ep 41 of the podcast), and created and patented an effect for making a person or object vanish while suspended under table. He also worked with Will Golston and created an illusion where a person could appear inside a glass bottle which was also suspended in the air. The effect is in the book, LATEST CONJURING by Goldston, came out in 1905, the illusion is called, The Goldstone-Downs Bottle Illusion.”

In 1905 Tommy married Harriet Rockey on June 3rd. She already had a son who was born in 1896. I don't know if this son was his, or if

he later adopted the boy. In 1908 John Northern Hilliard edited Downs' book, The Art of Magic. Years later John Northern Hilliard would go on to become Howard Thurston's publicity agent.

In 1910, this illusion idea comes back up, this time he teams up with a fellow from California, who was fairly unknown at the time, his name was Guy Jarrett.

Together they created a new act, which would start with Down's Misers Dream Act, and then they would present 4 unique illusions. All of these were creations of Jarrett's. The act was called 'In Mid-Air Illusions'. He clearly has something for this concept. The first illusion was Guy's Boy, Girl and Sack. It was a transformation effect where a rather large woman was placed inside a sack which was suspended in mid-air. She would vanish from there and appear in the audience, while a skinny man came out of the sack.

Another effect was The Table Coat Disappearance. A small undraped table that has been standing in plain view is now placed in center of stage. The assistant puts on a long coat and hat, climbs up on the table, the magician pulls the coat and hat up in mid-air by aid of a rope and pulley attached, when the coat collapses, the man is GONE!

The final illusion was called The Mystery of Mysteries. This was Jarrett's Bangkok Bungalow Illusion, which was an incredible mystery, which later became a feature of Howard Thurston's show. But Down's was the first to get these illusions. The coin manipulator who always traveled light, was now hauling 2,400 lbs of baggage and two additional assistants. For whatever reason, the act did not play well. Perhaps Downs was not cut out to be an illusionist.

In another letter to Faucett Ross, Tommy writes, "I have never claimed to have invented all the tricks in magic. I did take the old coin catching trick, elaborated it, added a few new sleights, a new manner of presentation and made an act out of it. I do claim to be the originator of the famous Dime and Penny trick. I got the idea in 1909 and in 1910 a jeweler friend of mine made up the first outfit for me. After a few months, I showed it to a friend of mine who was a traveling man. He showed it,



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without my permission, to Carl Brema, the Philadelphia Magic dealer, who, not knowing it was mine, put it on the market. During the past 20 years, thousands of them have been sold, but as for me, I've never received any cash or credit. The moral of this is—if you have something really good, either keep it to yourself or make sure you will be reimbursed if it is placed on the market.”

Tommy's mother passed away on February 19th 1910 in Marshalltown. But along with that a rather strange occurrence, the very same day Mrs. Down's died, her sister who lived quite a distance away in New York City, also died. Both of them were 78 years old. Another strange connection that twins have I guess.

In March of 1911, another tragedy struck, this time Tommy's house caught fire. The odd thing was he had just sold the house but had not yet moved out. He lost all of his belongings, all his furniture, clothing, and his magic equipment. The loss was reported to be around \$2,500 worth of items, but his insurance policy only covered \$500. What did Tommy Downs do about it? He quickly got back on the road and started working.

Tommy Downs was a man with a plan and that plan was to make \$50,000 - the equivalent of a little over a million dollars today. He reached that goal in 1912 and set out to retire. He apparently purchased some rental property in Marshalltown and moved back to his hometown. He was 42 when he left the stage. He would occasionally come out of retirement for private gigs and charity events. In fact, he created a full evening show, which is quite fascinating. Here again, in Tommy's own words...“My full evening show runs about like this. I usually open with the torn and restored paper ribbon (his own version). Then a simple cigarette routine concluding with vanish of lighted cigarette at fingertips. I follow this with about 5 minutes of billiard ball manipulations. next the Misers Dream, my specialty. I then go into card work—Ladies Looking Glass, General Card, Mental Spelling, Two Card Stabbing, a few fancy shuffles, and conclude with my Back Palm routine. Next, a borrowed bill in lemon, which amazes them. I vanish a handkerchief and reproduce it from a spectators coat collar, followed by a showing of about thirty more handkerchiefs. I always finish with a patriotic number. I produce a red, white and blue

handkerchief and blend the into a 36 inch silk American Flag and then when the spectators think it is all over, BINGO, I produce two big six foot flags on staffs. That's about all there is to it. Just a small three ring circus in one suitcase and no fuss or bother.”

T. Nelson Downs remained close to magic world, attending conferences, corresponding with and meeting with magicians when he could. He and Houdini were good friends spending many hours together talking magic. They originally met many years before at The Chicago's Worlds Fair.

In the July 1901 Mahatma, this appears, “Travelers returning from Europe report the existence of a powerful mutual admirations society composed entirely of magicians, whose acts are features. The passwords are, “HOUDINI, I've seen all kinds of magical acts, but without exception, yours is really the acme of perfection.” OR “DOWNS, I don't often praise a man, but whenever I see your act I can't help thinking that there can never be another act conceived that will be so really marvelous” It is rumored that there are only two members of this society. One year later



Downs on right side

both Houdini and Downs would be early members of the newly formed Society of American Magicians. There are many pictures of Downs and Houdini together. This one was taken very early in both their careers, probably in London. It is one of the last was taken in Houdini's backyard.

In 1935, Downs started suffering from an illness that lasted 3 years. He died on September 11th, 1938 and is buried in the Riverside Cemetery in Marshalltown, Iowa.



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I thought I'd end this podcast slightly differently than usual. Faucett Ross had exchanged many letters with Downs during his life. The GEN Magazine in Jan 1958 featured an issue with many of those letters. I've included several of them in the podcast, but I'd like to leave you with some advice from T. Nelson Downs himself.

"If I had an constructive advice to offer a young person starting out in magic, it would be this; At the outset, he should do as many different tricks and routines as possible before the public. By so doing he will soon discover the things he can do the best and the ones that register most strongly."

"I turned down a lot of chances to do my act for fifteen or twenty dollars. I could use the money but I can't afford to lower my reputation by working cheap. The more they pay you, the more they will respect and enjoy you. A fellow called me the other night and said, "Mr. Downs, we would like to book your act but we do not have much money right now." I answered, "Well, I'm a patient guy, so I'll be willing to wait until you get enough."

"Magicians nowadays are always complaining that there is nothing new but the trouble is that they can't see the forest on account of the trees. There are dozens of good tricks described in books that most magicians have never bothered to read and that one of them have ever tried out in public. Take my own book, *The Art of Magic* for example. Turn to page 107 and read the description of my own version of *The Flying Cards*. For nearly 30 years I have been doing the trick on-stage and off exactly as described. Then turn to page 71 and read details of *The General Card*. This is my favorite card trick and almost an act in itself. Let me have this one and you can keep all the rest of them."

And finally a few words from Tommy Downs that should be eye opening to every magician.

This is from the Feb 1923 MUM Magazine.

"Allow me to state that our late beloved Harry Kellar was not only my personal friend, but I was one of his most ardent admirers. However, Alexander Herrmann has always been to my mind the "Ideal Magician." Herrmann looked, lived and acted the part. He had three or four small tricks, brought to a state of, near,

perfection. These tricks were a part of his personality, and he never lost an opportunity to exploit them.

Now, I claim, the great trouble with most magicians is: They want to look and act like Herrmann, and what is more, and worse, they want to do the same tricks he did and in exactly the same style. "It can't be did." By the way, you could take out the Name Herrmann here, and insert, Copperfield, Blaine, ShinLim, Darren Brown, I think you get my point.

He further goes on...

"The late Charles Bertram of, "Isn't it Wonderful" fame was playing at the Grand Theatre in Chicago. The late William Robinson (Chung Ling Soo) took me down into Bertram's dressing room, where I did my full act for him. When I had finished

Mr. Bertram said: "Very clever, young man, but—Why don't you do "tricks." I then replied, "The reason I don't do tricks is because other magicians do tricks." I believe neither Mr. Bertram nor I realized the full significance of the remark until several years later, when I was creating quite a sensation at the Palace Theatre, London, where I remained a feature for twenty-six consecutive weeks. Your reference to the Winter Garden, Berlin, reminds me that I was warned by professional friends and theatrical agents not to sign a contract for that establishment, I was assured my act would be a complete failure there, and would ruin me for Germany. The predictions, as you are aware, were all wrong, as I played there, eight weeks in 1900, and a month's return engagement about a year later. No doubt, the fact that I possessed a very strong and penetrating voice, and knew how to use it to fairly good advantage, had considerable to do with my success there and elsewhere. I have always contended that a magician, to meet with any marked degree of success, must be an actor—hundreds of people do tricks—but they cannot all CONVINCING. Yes, that's the word, CONVINCING an audience. My point is that it is not the particular trick that makes the magician, but it is the magician who makes the particular trick. I claim the public did not go to see Kellar's and Herrmann's tricks, but, on the contrary, they went to see the individuals, great men's personalities in



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particular. Their tricks were simply incidental. I will further elucidate: A few days ago I made a long voyage to see a celebrated Mystifier getting myself up at six A. M. with the thermometer at 20 below zero and traveling some seventy miles to see this miracle worker. Can anyone imagine me going seventy miles to see a mere magician do tricks! Not on your life!" The man Downs was going to see was HOUDINI. I just found that line so incredible, "Hundreds of people do tricks but they can't CONVINCED." To do that takes a very special performer, part actor, part magician, a person who LIVES his or her material. That is incredible wisdom from Tommy Downs.

I hope you've enjoyed this episode of the podcast. I do want to mention one other thing in regards to Down's famous act The Misers Dream. Back in 2008, Levent, the great comedy magician and excellent manipulator,

put out a DVD set on the Misers Dream. It has 5 hours worth of sleights and tricks, including the routines of Al Flosso, Charlie Miller, Roy Benson, Paul Potassy, Robert Houdin and of course, T. Nelson Downs. It's well worth checking out. IT is extensive. And yes, it's a teaching DVD. I honestly do not know if they're available anymore, but you could contact Levent through his website LeventMagic.com to find out.

All of the references are in Bold Letters within the article, so they are easy to find.

This was [Episode 23](#) of the podcast and was one of the most popular of the entire run. After I put the podcast up, I wrote a companion article about Downs & Houdini which can be found here:

<https://www.themagicdetective.com/2019/05/the-king-of-koins-king-of-escape.html>

Have magic to sell, stage equipment to rent? Looking for something to buy or rent? MagiCurrents offers paid advertising for magic-related items from non-members. The rate is \$60.00 per page per issue. Advertise it at no cost to Ring 76 members in MagiCurrents.



Charlie Gott lives on Delfern street about one mile east of Kaiser hospital on Mission Gorge Road in Allied Gardens. Charlie is unable to drive at night and would appreciate rides to clubs. His phone number is 619 -583-7941.

We challenge members to also provide articles, reviews, stories, photos, or magic related comics.



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Ring 76 Membership List

Remember the old days when organizations such as ours would send out a printed membership list? It was a very handy when trying to reach out to another member of the group. The problem was that, as we moved away from printed materials, we did not have a way to keep this information private and restricted to only the membership of Ring 76.

Well, I am happy to announce that with the introduction of a private, password protected website, we again have the ability of offering a membership list to the members of Ring 76. You can find this list at Ring 76's private website, Arcanum (<https://arcanum.ring76.com>).

First things first, we will not publish your e-mail address or your phone number without your permission. **So this is where we need your help.**

If you do not wish to have either your e-mail address or your phone published in the membership list, you need not do anything. Your name will appear, but no contact information will be shown.

If you want either your e-mail address or your phone published in the membership list, please send James Thayer jt4@ring76.com an e-mail with the e-mail address and/or the phone number that you would like to be used to contact you.

If you would like to be contactable but don't want to publish your personal e-mail address, there is a solution for this. I can create a ____@ring76.com e-mail alias for you. You can include this alias as your contact e-mail address and any mail sent to that address will be forwarded to your personal e-mail address.

If you want to take advantage of this option, please send me your preferred ____@ring76.com alias

IBM Ring 76 Members Only Facebook Group

Late last year, **Mark Booth** started a new Facebook Group for Ring 76 members. It is a members only group online for members to share their passion for the art of magic with their fellow Ring 76 members. Photos, videos, articles about magic, upcoming magic events and performances, articles and stories regarding the art of magic, various IBM/Ring 76 discussions.

The Group is hidden and private so it cannot be found using search on Facebook. If you have a Facebook account and you'd like to be a member of the IBM Ring 76 Members Only Facebook Group, please send an email to Mark at markbooth@cox.net, and he will invite you to join the group.

The Facebook Group is open to all Ring 76 members that are in good standing (current with their dues). The Group is private, so only members of the Group can read posts and who is in the Group.



Ring 76 Membership List continued

name (yes, you get to choose!) and the e-mail address that you would like e-mail to be forwarded to. (All aliases are available but they are first come, first served and we reserve the right to reject anything that is inappropriate. Please stay away from anything that you would not use in polite company.) If, at anytime in the future, you change your mind about your contact information, please send me an e-mail and I will make the requested changes.

Arcanum!

Arcanum is Ring76's private website. To access it, you must be a member in good standing of Ring 76.

At this juncture, the website contains:

- The Ring 76 membership list
- Ring 76 related documents -- our Constitution and Bylaws, for instance
- The Ring 76 Library catalog -- all of the books and DVDs that you can check out plus a collection of magic PDF files that you can download (there's a lot of good material here...)

So hopefully, by now, you are asking yourself, "How do I get access to this?" (This will only work if you are a member of Ring 76.)

1. Go to <https://arcanum.ring76.com>
2. Click on "Forgot your username?"
3. Enter the e-mail address at which you received MagiCurrents. You'll get an e-mail message with your username. (In most cases, your username will be your first initial and last name.)
4. Click on "Forget your password?"
5. Again, enter same e-mail address. You'll get an e-mail message with instructions on how to reset your password. Follow this procedure to create a new password.
6. Login using your username and new password.

If you have any suggestions for how to improve Arcanum or additional content that we could add, please let us know.



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San Diego or San Diego Magician Magic Events

Submit magic events to Michael Johnson at hellomichaelj@gmail.com or editor@ring76.com.

First Thursday of every month, the **North County Magic Club** meets on the at the CoCos in Vista, and all are welcome to attend. It's more of a meet-up of both magicians (including some youngsters) and those who come to watch the magic.

January 30 - February 11, 2020, **Joel Ward** performs at The Loft at Heavenly Village at 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. in South Lake Tahoe. Info <https://thelofttahoe.com>.

February 5 and March 4, **Elias Sanchez** will be performing in The Magic Underground SD at Amplified East Village.

February 15, **Jason Ladayne** from New York will give a lecture, then do a show, at the Red Spade Theater. Info <https://www.redspadetheater.com>.

February 21, the **Magic City Hippies** perform at 8:00 p.m. at the Belly Up Tavern, 143 S. Cedros Ave., Solana Beach. Info www.bellup.com.

February 28 and March 1, **The Illusionists** bring their show to the San Diego Civic Theatre. Info www.sandiegotheatres.org.

March 2, **Nathan Kranzo** will give a lecture at the Red Spade Theater. Info <https://www.redspadetheater.com>.

March 8, **Shin Lim** performs at 7:00 p.m. at the San Diego Civic Theatre. Info www.shinlimmagic.com.

March 13, a play "**The Aging Magician**" is scheduled at the Balboa Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

March 22, **The Real Magic Roadshow**, premier dealer event, will take place from 10 am to 4 pm at the Double Tree in Mission Valley. Info www.realmagicroadshow.com.

March 25 - 29, **Joe Ward** performs at Marvyn's Magic Theater in La Quinta; show times are Wednesday-Thursday 6:00 p.m., Friday - Saturday 6:00 and 8:30 p.m., and Sunday 3:00 p.m. Tickets available on-line. Info <https://www.marvynsmagictheater.com/index.html>.

June 27, **Anthony the Magic** presents "Welk Illusions 2020" at 7:00 p.m. at the Welk Theatre in Escondido; shows will be every Saturday through August 22. Tickets are now selling online at \$37 plus fees. This is his fifteenth year performing at the Welk Resort. Info www.anthonymagic.com.

Fridays and Saturdays, **Illusions Theatre and Bar** offers their magic dinner show at 6:00 p.m. in the Gaslamp, at 827 Fourth Avenue, Diego. Tickets are \$119 or \$150 (VIP). The location is unique--a speakeasy hidden behind a magic shop. Book on-line at www.illusionstheatre.com.

Mondays are **Open Mic Night** for ages 21 and up at **Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill**, 136 Encinitas Blvd. in Encinitas; sign-up at 7:00 p.m. with the show starting at 8:00 p.m.

Wednesdays are **Open Mic Night** for ages 21 and up at **710 Beach Club**, 710 Garnet Ave. in San Diego, Pacific Beach area; starts at 9:00 p.m. with 15-minute slots available.



February 2020

San Diego or San Diego Magician Magic Events continued from prior page

Thursdays are **Open Mic Night** at 7:00 p.m. at **Navajo Live**, 8515 Navajo Rd. in San Diego, San Carlos area; and at 7:30 p.m. at Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill Rancho San Diego, 2955 Jamacha Rd. in El Cajon.



To register for the I.B.M. Convention, [CLICK HERE](#)

****BREAKING NEWS** FREE Convention Registration for all Junior I.B.M. Members**

The I.B.M. is excited to announce that under the leadership of our youngest elected President, Alex Zander, the convention committee of Pittsburgh 2020 has decided to allow **I.B.M. Youth members** the opportunity to register for our annual convention for the low cost of **NOTHING!**

Yes, you read that correctly. All *youth members* in good standing will be able to register for **FREE**. That means they'll be able to attend the convention, participate in events, lectures, contests and see all the shows for absolutely no cost to you.

There are a few stipulations to this amazing deal though.

As *youth members*, they must be accompanied to the convention by a parent or legal guardian and as such they must be registered for the convention. The good news is the cost for registration for a non-magician parent is considerably less than the cost a magician would have to pay.

As a free registrant to the convention, we will be calling on them occasionally to help us with such things as backstage helpers, set-up crews, line up maintenance and even assisting some of our magical stars.

We do have a limited number of these FREE registrations available so you need to act quickly to ensure your spot at what is certain to be one of the most epic magic events ever.