



MagiCurrents

SAN DIEGO RING 76

JULY 2023

VOL. XXXVIII # 7

Installation Banquet to Be a Well-Attended Event!

President's Message

Dear Ring 76 Members,

I want to express my gratitude to your board for all their help and support during my last two years as your President. I also want to thank all of our members for attending, performing, adding to our library funds, and supporting your board.

Without all of you we would not have the best magic club in the IBM.

I'm happy to report the goal I created two years ago has been met. The Ring 76 membership has increased by 15%! Pat yourself on the back for having such a wonderful fellowship of folks that share our love for magic!

See you at the Installation Banquet!

Sincerely,

Mike Stilwell

Ring President 2021-2023

June Meeting was Mentally Challenging

The theme of the June meeting was mentalism magic. "Magic Mike" Stilwell started the meeting at 7:06 PM with 39 people in attendance including 15 guests and 24 members.

There were several announcements:

1. "Magic Mike" Stilwell, Jim Sloan, and David Yee entertained with strolling magic at the Silvergate Yacht Club on June 4 for their Wheelchair Regatta.
2. Mark Booth gave us updated details about the upcoming installation banquet on Monday, July 10. 50 people have now paid and Olive Garden staff will provide and serve the food.

Continued on Page 2

88 RSVPs for the July Meeting!

This year's installation banquet will be held on Monday, July 10th, at our normal meeting location, the rec hall of the Immaculate Conception Church in Old Town. From the huge number of RSVPs (88!), there is obviously a lot of excitement about this event. People are looking forward to the camaraderie, great food and of course the terrific entertainment provided by comedy magician extraordinaire, Jeff Hobson.

Please note that we will be starting earlier than normal in order to accommodate the agenda for the evening, which includes the buffet dinner, swearing in of the new Ring 76 board of directors, presentation of the club's awards, and of course, our entertainment.

The doors will open at 5:00 pm for our members and their guests. A more detailed schedule will be sent to you by email the week of July 3rd so please watch for it. With the large number of attendees, your board of directors is working very hard to ensure everything goes smoothly.

Unfortunately, if you have not already RSVP'd to Mark Booth and paid the entrance fee, we are sorry to state the reservations are now closed. As the board has been communicating for the last several weeks, the cutoff date of June 30 will be followed. **Walk-ins will not be permitted for this event.**

Mark also reported Jeff Hobson will be our entertainer for the banquet. We'd like to show him our appreciation; if you'd like to contribute to a tip, please give cash or a check (made out to Jeff Hobson) to Mike Stilwell or Greg Wauson and they will give it to Jeff after his show. One more point: The absolute deadline to pay is June 30.

Ring 76 2023 Calendar

July 10th (Monday) - Installation Banquet
(See Page 1 & 4 for details)

August 14th - Money Magic*

September 11th - To Be Announced
Trick of the Month - Page 9

*Opportunity for Members to Perform

Direct any questions concerning the calendar to V.P. of Entertainment, Greg Wauson.

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

PUBLISHER - RICHARD USTICK, PROOF READER SHERRY LUFT EMAIL US AT EDITOR@RING76.COM

June Meeting (continued from page 1)

Elections, dues, and mental magic kept everyone entertained.

3. **Richard Ustick**, a member of the nominating committee, presented the slate of incoming officers for 2023-2024:

President-**Josh Sherwin**

VP (Entertainment)-**Mike Stilwell**

VP (Membership)-**James Thayer**

Acting Secretary-**Sherry Luft**

Treasurer-**Miguel Garcia**

Sgt at arms-**Mark Booth**

Members at large-**Gary Salisbury** and **Misha Osinovskiy**

The club is still looking for a permanent secretary!

We had two auditions. First up was "**Super Duper Santa**," **Richard Stahley**. He performed a classic "Professor's Nightmare" with a twist as "Santa's Nightmare." Richard used sleigh bells as sound effects and ended with a story about "fairy dust" and candy appearing and disappearing. It was no surprise that he was voted into the club!



Our first performer was "**Ms. Charley**" **Miller**, who kept to the mentalism theme and entertained us with a comical card counting routine. Three cards were selected and the cards were fanned to determine which cards were missing. Charley guessed all the selections correctly.



Max Long was the second entertainer., demonstrating three ways of predicting the outcome of a die: sleight of math, sleight of hand and sleight of mind.



Next was **Chris Connelly** who did a card prediction. His spectator selected a card and then dealt cards, some face up and some face down, and flipped them over. Chris predicted the spectator's card. He was also accepted as a new member. Welcome, Richard and Chris!

Mark Booth was the third presenter. He did a prediction effect called Michael Murray's "Show Reel," guessing the correct celebrity, a book test without a book. His finale was an Inject effect by Greg Rostami. Mark showed a Google picture of a card that the spectator had merely thought of and the result was a tattoo artist revealing the spectator's card.



See Meeting on Page 3

Meeting - continued from page 2



"Magic Doc" Pearson performed a card prediction called "Coercion" by Paul Richards. The spectator thought of any card and the magician proved that he knew the selected card beforehand.

The last presenter was Steve Rowin, who did a Max Maven effect named Kurotsuke. He figured out the color of a single candy from a group of candy with an entirely different color.



The fifth entertainer was "Mr. Funtastic," who performed "Picto Play" with flash cards, another form of card counting.



Steve ended with a demonstration by his son, who solved a Rubik's Cube in record time.



Misha Osinovskiy taught us card tips, including dribbles, springing cards from one hand to the other and fanning cards.



"Mago Ruly" was up next, and he triumphed with a game to combat Alzheimer's. He produced a plush animal (unicorn) and his finale was a second plush animal (cow), which works well with both adult and children spectators.



The meeting ended at 8:55PM.
Acting Secretary, Sherry Luft



Jeff Hobson, our Installation Banquet Performer!



If you've seen him before, you'll want to see him again. That is, if you like to laugh while you're enjoying top notch magic. Any list of the best comedy magicians has to include him. We're talking about Jeff Hobson and we are incredibly excited to have him as our performer at the installation banquet on Monday, July 10.

Jeff saw a magic show at seven years old and the hook was set. He decided then that when he grew up he'd be a full-time magician. From his roots in Michigan, he traveled and performed in Las Vegas, Atlantic City and around the world. He performed with Mark Kalin and Jinger in "Carnival of Wonders" then took off with "The Illusionists" and became the emcee of that show. He's also been the featured entertainer for many Fortune 500 companies. His television appearances include HBO, Showtime's Comedy Club Network, Fox's Masters of Illusion, NBC's World's Greatest Magic as well as the star of Thames Television's Magic Comedy Strip, a 16 week television series in England. Overall, he has more than 20,000 live performances under his belt, including two seasons on Broadway and 14 years on the Las Vegas strip.

And Jeff has an entrepreneurial side, being the owner/operator of "Marvyn's Magic Theater" in La Quinta, which is close to Palm Springs. There he brings in top magic talent weekly and plays the role of host and emcee. Several Ring 76 members have gone there to enjoy first class magic and comedy and have always come back a fan of Jeff Hobson. It is our good fortune to have him come to us!

Watch for an Email from Mark

Mark Booth has graciously taken on the position of overall supervisor of the July 10th banquet. On July 5, he will send an email to those who have RSVP'd. That email will contain important details regarding the event; including the timeline. Please keep an eye out for it.

Mark expresses his gratitude to everyone who signed up by the June 30 deadline! Since we will have a very large crowd again this year, he thanks you in advance for your patience and understanding on the day of the event.

What's Coming Up

July: Installation banquet! This is one of our two biggest events of the year. First we'll enjoy great food catered by Olive Garden. Then we'll give out the awards for the close-up and stand-up magic contests, member of the year and entertainer of the year and install next year's officers. For the piece-de-resistance, Jeff Hobson, one of the world's top comedy magicians, will entertain us as nobody else can.

August: Money magic! Yep, any tricks dealing with cold hard cash or coins is fair game for your presentations this month. It's been awhile since we had this theme and since there are so many effects possible with money, we're sure to see something new. Start thinking now of how you can wow us with your moola.

September: To be announced

End of the Year Membership Report

Well, we've come to the beginning of the Ring's new year -- Happy New Year!

In the previous year, we finished with 56 members, of which 53 renewed for 2022-23.

This past year, we finished with 76 members, which is fantastic, and it remains to be seen how many will renew for 2023-24. We usually wait until the end of September to get the final count. However, 65 have renewed already, which, in itself, is a significant increase over the previous years. I will be continuing to try and get the remainder to renew but if you happen to have contact with any of these folks, please drop them a hint to renew.

James Thayer,

Vice-President of Membership





Shavings from the Board

The final board meeting for the 2022-2023 Ring year was held June 26th via Zoom.



David Chiu, Sergeant-at-arms, reported that there were 39 people at the June meeting, including 24 members and 15 guests. **James Thayer**, V.P. of Membership, told the Board that we ended the year with 75 members and that membership renewal was proceeding briskly. **Greg Wauson**, V.P. of Entertainment, reported that he will give Awards by Navajo, our awards provider, the name of the "entertainer of the year," the person who collected the most votes throughout the year on performance nights. Awards by Navajo has already been informed of the "member of the year." These names, as well as the first, second and third place winners of the close-up and stand-up contests, will be announced at the installation banquet on Monday, July 10.

Next on the agenda was closing out the old business of the Ring so that the new Board will have a fresh start. **Mark Booth**, in charge of the installation banquet, stated that the final head count will determine the number of tables and amount of food. **Mark Booth**, **Richard Ustick**, and "**Magic Mike**" will help serve the food to ensure things move efficiently. We are buying round tablecloths for the banquet and other club activities. **Richard Ustick** is bringing water, ice, and cups. **David Chiu** will be bringing wrist bands, with a rule of "no wrist band, no food." The final items of old business, the I.B.M. Quality Ring award and job descriptions, were tabled.

The only new business the Board approved of was the theme for the August 14 meeting, which will be "Money Magic." Max Long will be teaching an origami money trick.

With that, the meeting was adjourned.

Acting Secretary, *Sherry Luft*

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Sick & Convalescent

Ring 76 is a tight and supportive community. MagiCurrents' duty is to keep the membership informed on all aspects of that community. If you know of a member who could use a kind word to aid in their recovery please let us know at Ring76IBM@yahoo.com.

Charlie Gott has had a stroke and is recovering at the *Divine Light Care Home*, 5105 Bancroft Drive, La Mesa, CA 91941. While he has problems communicating, he is alert and loves visits from Ring members. The is an assisted living home and there is easy parking in the driveway. I would suggest calling first to make sure he is not in physical therapy. The number is 619-713-1053

Other members who should be in our hearts at this time are **Alvin Revilas**, who is recovering from heart surgery, and **Malcom Campbell**, who is having other health problems.

Days of Future Past

Many of us started magic many years ago. While we are all good looking and seasoned professionals today, there was a time when the world was young. From time to time MagiCurents will show the less-than-seasoned side of members. If you want your picture posted, please send it to Ring76ibm@yahoo.com. You do not need to have your name posted; sometimes it is fun for us to guess.



Long before he managed Ring 76's money, current treasurer, **Miguel Garcia**, shown above, was wowing audiences with his conjuring skills.

A special thank you to this month's Guest Editor, **Greg Wauson**. With **Sherry Luft** filling in as Secretary, **Greg** has graciously offered to lighten her load and make sure *MagiCurrents* is prompt and punctuated.

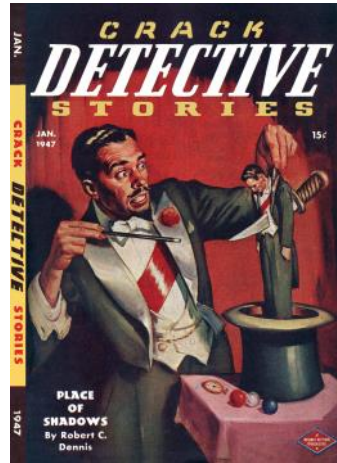
Thank you, **Greg**.





New Location for Post-Meeting Meeting

Many of us gather together to eat and talk magic and news of the world after our monthly meetings. We have moved the “after meeting” to what we feel is a better location. From now on we will be meeting at the Denny’s in Mission Valley, 1065 Camino Del Rio South, right across I-8 from Target.



Thank you to this Month's Photographer

Once again I would like to thank **James Thayer** for providing the pictures for this month's MagiCurrents. The editors cannot assemble this publication alone and thank all the members who contribute to it.



Good crowd for the June Meeting

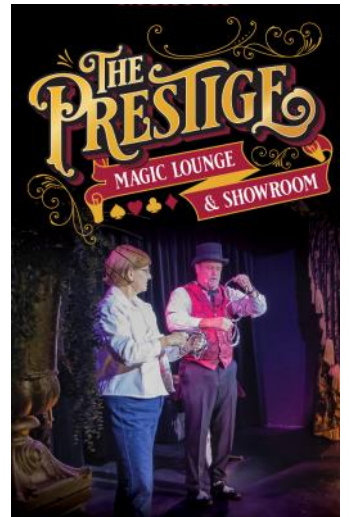


RING 76

THE HONEST SID GERHART RING



MEMBERS ONLY FACEBOOK GROUP



Grand Opening!

New to San Diego! The Prestige Magic Lounge and Showroom has arrived in the Gaslamp Quarter!

827 4th Ave
Formerly, Illusions Theatre and Bar

Experience a 3 course dinner prepared by Award Winning Chef John Hornbrook featuring delicious entrée choices including:
Roasted Prime Rib
French Onion Chicken
Vegetarian Lasagna
Gourmet Mac and Cheese



Dinner is served in our grand showroom. Spirits and specialty drinks available. Witness highly acclaimed, award winning magicians amaze and dazzle every night!



SAVE 50%

Use Promo Code:
Prestige50

We are excited to be here and to celebrate we are offering 50% off EVERY night!

This promo code may end without notice. Cannot be combined with other offers.



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. For example: “*Ex Libris: Gary Salisbury.*”

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

Someone recently asked me, “*What is the Ring 76 Library?*” I responded, “It is currently over 1,000 volumes of magic books and over 2,000 magic magazines, all available for check-out. It is over 1,500 magic instruction videos, over 500 magic performance videos, and over 150 magic related audiobooks, all available for streaming from the *Ring 76 Magic Media Server*. It is also a museum for a collection of historic Ring 76 memorabilia from one of our founders, Honest Sid Gerhart. It is a magical learning source unparalleled in the entire IBM organization and it is funded totally from donations and fund-raising efforts that I have engage in for you.”

WHAT’S NEW AT YOUR LIBRARY?

Funding & Expenditures-----ON GOING

Last month we made \$65 from the 50/50 drawing and \$46 from the door prize drawing/library sales.

Library Donations-----ON GOING

We need your DVDs, VHS tapes, and video downloads. They will be put on the *Ring 76 Magic Media Server* so you will still be able to watch them or check the physical media back out. Please help. Sharing is good! Sharing is fun!

I would like to give a big magical **Thank You!** to everyone who has donated to the library.

Ring 76 Magical Arts Library-----ON GOING

The library purchased a new book from Viking Magic entitled, *Magic with Electronics* by *Julio Caso*. It will be available for check out.

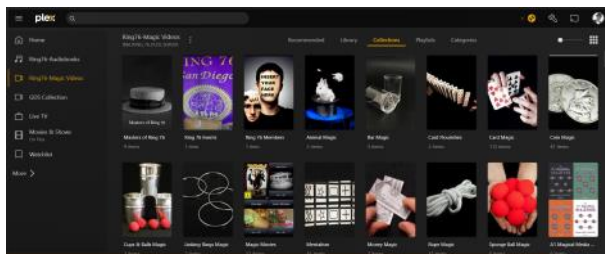
Ring 76 Magic Media Server-----ON GOING

We purchased two audiobooks entitled, “*I Lie for Money* by *Steve Spill*” and “*The Wizard’s Dog* by: *Eric Kahn Gale.*” These books will be put on the *Ring 76 Magic Media Server* for you to stream to your favorite device. Listen while you walk or drive. See the audiobook review later in this document.

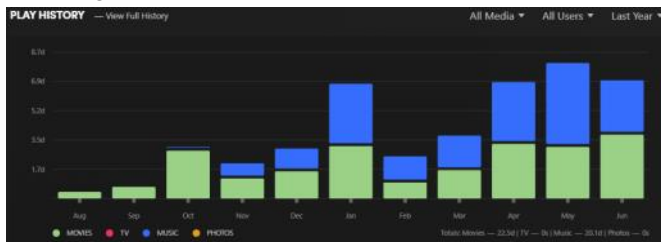
I have been hard at work on developing new sections of magical information and entertainment for the *Ring 76 Magic Media*

Server. We are co-hosting a number of *Magic Podcasts* and have a new section of *Magic Performance* videos. This will be something you can show to friends and family without worry of there being any magic secrets exposed. And don’t forget we will also have a new *Magic Movies* section too. If you have a favorite magic movie, let me know and I will buy a copy to put on the server.

How would you like to be featured on the *Ring 76 Magic Media Server*? Just forward any of your performance videos to me and I will put them on the server under our *Ring 76 Member’s* section where everyone can see you work your magic. Come on, this will be fun. I would like to see at least one video from every member here.



Here is the utilization report for the *Ring 76 Magic Media Server* over past 12 months. Videos are in green and audiobooks are in blue (under music). We had the highest utilization last month since we have brought the server online.



Do you have an account on the *Ring 76 Magic Media Server* yet? Why not? It is the best thing since Netflix and it’s FREE for members of IBM Ring 76!

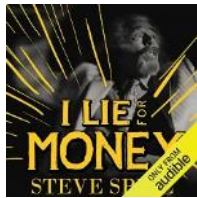
Tired of high cable TV bills? Wanna watch free movies & TV? You've come to the right place. We've got a bunch of them here on the *Ring 76 Magic Media Server* and you can start watching right now, all courtesy of PLEX! There is a wide selection of gandra to choose from.



See Ex Libris page 8

Ex Libris continued from page 7

AUDIOBOOK REVIEWS



I Lie for Money

by Steve Spill
In this funny, irreverent, unique, eccentric memoir, magician Steve Spill reveals how he managed to survive decades inside a rarely profitable, sometimes maddening, but often deliciously rewarding offbeat showbiz profession - magic!

Spill tells of how his tailor grandfather sewed secret pockets in a magician's tuxedo back in 1910, which started his childhood dream to become a magician. This dream took Spill on a journey that started with him performing as a young boy at a "beauty on a budget" neighborhood house party to engagements in Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean, to today in Santa Monica, California, where he's been starring in his own shows since 1998 at Magicopolis, the theater he designed and built himself.

Being a magician has given Spill the opportunity to interact with the world's most famous and fascinating people. In his memoir Spill reveals the many unique encounters that his profession has led him to enjoy and endure: hosting Sting as his opening act one night, spending two days on camera with Joan Rivers, and selling tricks to Bob Dylan, as well as encounters with Adam Sandler, Stephen King, and other celebrities.

I Lie for Money is a literary magic show that captures the highs and lows of an extraordinary life that will delight and amaze you with wit and wickedness. This book should be an obligatory listen for anyone considering a creative career, and it serves as an inspiration to those who desire to craft an independent life.

©2015 Steve Spill/Magic Concepts, Inc (P)2015 Audible, Inc.



The Wizard's Dog

by Eric Kahn Gale

For fans of *The Hero's Guide to Saving Your Kingdom* comes an offbeat, comedic spin on the Excalibur legend told from the point of view of a talking dog who wants to be a magician!

Meet Nosewise. He's spunky. He's curious. And he's a dog who can't understand why his packmates Merlin and Morgana spend all day practicing magic tricks. If it's a trick they want, he's the dog to ask! He can already Sit!, Stay!, and Roll-Over!

But there's no way Nosewise is staying when his master and best friend, Merlin, is kidnapped. There's nothing Nosewise won't do to get Merlin back, even if it means facing the strange Fae people and their magic-eating worms or tangling with the mysterious Sword in the Stone. But it may take more than sniffing out a spell to do it!

Nosewise's hilarious escapades and steadfast loyalty get him and his companions through King Arthur's Dark Ages.

©2017 Eric Kahn Gale (P)2017 Listening Library

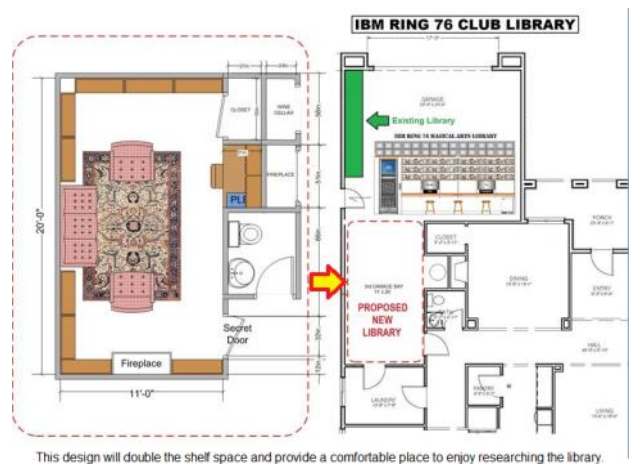
A PERSONAL NOTE (repeat from last month)

Four short years ago, I was asked if I would like to be the club's librarian. I thought about it long and hard before replying. I first asked what the current state the club's library was in and found it was in 8-9 delapidated, insect and rodent infested, cardboard boxes that were stored in someone's open garage. I then asked what the club needed. It needed a complete overhaul! How could I get it from point A to point B? How could I make this library the "Best in Class?"

I had a vision of making it the best magic reference library in the IBM organization and to bring it into the 21st century with new technology – streaming! I stipulated that I would accept the position if I could run it like it, was my own business. I laid out my vision before the board of directors, which they accepted, and then, and only then, did I accept the position as your librarian.

I requested a commitment from the board for regular funding but that was refused so I set out to raise the needed funds on my own. I did so through donations, monthly opportunity drawings, as well as sales of books, videos, and magic props that were donated to the library. To date, I have raised over \$5,100 for the library. Early on, I secured the largest donation ever made to the ring with a collection of magic videos valued at over \$12,000 from Dr. X, an anonymous friend of the library. There have also been several other large donations of books, videos, and props valued from \$1,000 to \$5,000 from throughout the United States. I have even willed my personal magic library of over 300 volumes (valued at over \$15,000) to the Ring 76 library.

We currently have over 1,000 magic books, over 1,500 magic instructional videos, over 500 magic performance videos, over 150 magic oriented audiobooks, and over 2,000 magic magazines. We have one of the first audio/video streaming libraries with the *Ring 76 Magic Media Server*. The Ring 76 library is now one of the largest, if not the largest, ring libraries.



We have accomplished a lot and have so much more to do but let's face facts. I am 77 years old and do not know how much longer I have left so I need to do the prudent thing and start grooming the next librarian. We need someone who can be as passionate about this project as I am. Someone who is willing to give their time, energy, and space for the library. Someone who is willing to make themselves available for the membership 7x24.

See Ex Libris on page 9



Ex Libris continued from page 8

If you think this could be you, then let me know and we will talk. I am looking at this as a long-term apprenticeship. Maybe a year, maybe two or three. I will stay on as long as I can but who knows? I do promise you that it will be "A Most Excellent Adventure!"

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.

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 over-due books & videos and donate regularly to your library. The library is here so YOU can learn how to perform magic. Use it!

Non-urgent communications will always be done via my Ex Libris newsletter article while more urgent communications will be done by a Ring 76 Librarygram emailed to:

ring76members@googlegroups.co.

Have a magical month my friends and we will see you again in the next newsletter. In the meantime, email me with your thoughts about the library. I would love to hear what you want the library to acquire next. Your input is critical for the library working properly for you.

Gary Salisbury



IBM Ring 76 Board Member-at-Large

IBM Ring 76 Librarian

Email: librarian@ring76.co

Cell: 619-569-6035

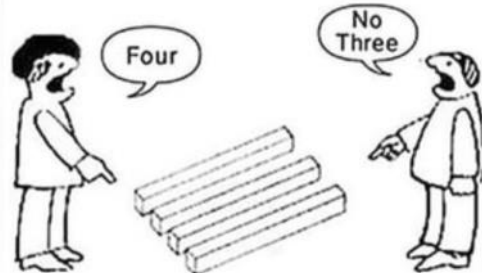
CREDES QUOD HABES, ET HABES

What you believe is real, is real.

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.)

It is really confusing!!!



The August Meeting theme will be Money Magic so brush up on your currency conjuring. To get you started here is this the current Trick of the Month from the November, 1941, issue of Gags pulp magazine.

See you then.



DISAPPEARING COIN

A coin, two glasses and two sheets of paper of the same color are all the equipment you will require to perform this most mystifying trick.

First, AS SHOWN IN ILLUSTRATION NO. 1-A, the first step is to cover the rim of one of the glasses with glue. No special glue is needed, but be sure that none of the glue can be seen.

Second, AS SHOWN IN ILLUSTRATION NO. 2-A, place the glass on one of the sheets of paper, of course with the glued and open end of the glass down and coming in contact with the paper. To make the paper adhere evenly press down while the glue dries, which should take only a few seconds.

Third, AS SHOWN IN ILLUSTRATION NO. 3-A, cut away the surplus paper and make sure your cut is absolutely flush with the rim of the glass. Leaving ragged edges or surplus paper lapping outside the rim will give the trick away.

Fourth, AS SHOWN IN ILLUSTRATION NO. 4-A, you start your trick by placing the two glasses on the other sheet of paper and placing the coin under the glass with the uncovered mouth. Also hold the glasses as shown in the illustration, because this allows the audience to watch the coin.

EFFECT—Next you start sliding the glasses around in the path of circles. While doing this, shift the coin from one glass to the other right before your audience. When under the open glass, they will see the coin; but when it is placed under the covered glass the coin cannot be seen, therefore it will seem to rapidly disappear.

So, as simple as the trick seems, when you slide your glasses around rapidly and make the coin disappear and appear again a few times, you will be surprised at the amazement of your audience.

