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MagiCurrents

San Diego, California



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Honest Sid Gerhart
Ring 76

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

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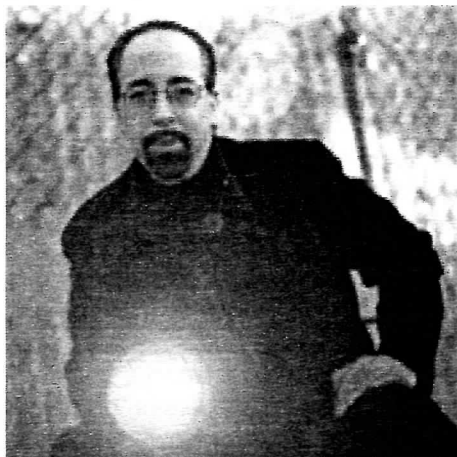
Volume XX 2 February 2006

Jamy Ian Swiss to give "Free" lecture Wed. Feb 8th

It our continuing effort to improve Ring 76 members skills in the art of magic, we are bringing one of the top names in magic today to our club Wednesday, February 8th at 7 p.m. at Jack's Magic Place for a special "free"-to-all-members lecture. Jamy Ian Swiss, writer, full-time pro who has appeared at nightclubs, comedy clubs, colleges, casino hotels, cruise ships, banquets, trade shows and corporate events, as well as being the resident Magic Bartender at the notorious "Inn of Magic" near Washington, D.C.

The Jamy Ian Swiss Lecture has received rave reviews from throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and Japan. Phil Willmarth, the Executive Editor of Linking Ring Magazine (TLR) says; "Jamy

certainly gave people their money's worth and his outline, his sense of humor, his skill and construction, and his excellent theory were much appreciated. It is a great lecture, and I would have



Jamy Ian Swiss

Close-up Contestants announced for Feb 13th meeting!

Our next regular meeting will be the Ring 76 annual Close-up competition and will feature six members from the Ring. A field of ten performers turned out for auditions to compete on Monday, January 23rd. The field was narrowed down to six performers who include Bob Pozner, Kenny Shelton, Tom McCarthy, Craig Stone, Mago Ruly, and Greg Wauson. Our judges for the audition included: Terry Lunceford, Bob Ingalls, and Richard Ustick, these three judges spent the better part of an hour following the audition session in spirited debate over who would be given an opportunity to compete.

At the February 13th meeting five round tables will be set up and the audience will be broken up into groups as the six contestants go from table to table, entertaining the members with their close-up act. Each contestant will be given a total of ten minutes to perform his or her act. Performers who go over the allotted time will be penalized, but if you are under the ten-minute time no penalty will be imposed. Each table will be assigned a timekeeper.

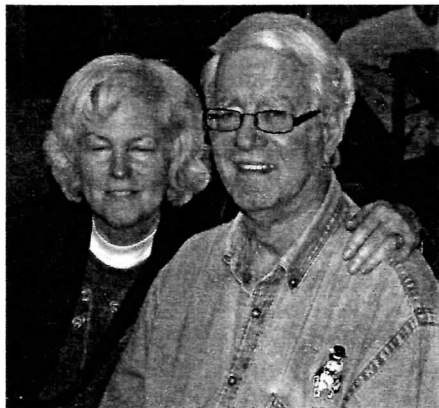
Each Ring member will have one vote for the winner, the ballots will be tabulated by Terry Lunceford and Bob Ingalls, and the winners will be announced at our July Installation and Awards Banquet, the date, time and location are yet to be determined. The winner of this contest will receive \$50 in cash and a gold medal. Second place winner will receive \$25 and a gold medal and third place will receive \$15 dollars in prize money and a medal. Everyone who auditioned and took part in this contest will receive a certificate.

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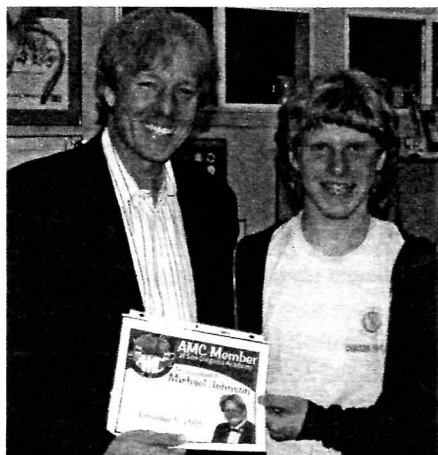
Magic "Trick Parade" a success as Ring members learn a variety of magic effects

Ring 76 started its 2006 series of meetings with a large turnout of members and guests. We had intended to install all of our new members but, because of an administrative glitch with the membership committee, that installation has been moved back to a future meeting. Thirty-eight members were present and six special guests that included: Dave Gonzales, Joseph Bradford, Raul Escasen, Jeanne Warfield, Jeff Pamson, and Bob Elliott and his wife. Bob has just moved to Oceanside; he is a well-known performer in close-up circles and after the meeting gave members a look at some of his clever magic and wonderful personality. He is always welcome at Ring 76 meetings.



Newcomers Mr. & Mrs. Bob Elliott

Ring President Bob Ingalls called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. sharp and made several



Michael E. Johnson receives award from Alex Greenbaum

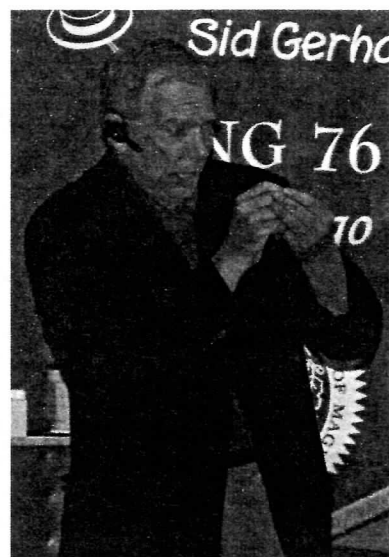
announcements and introduced Alex Greenbaum, who is a high school student. Alex then invited Michael E. Johnson to join him; Alex told the membership about his high school magic club and that Michael had come to his school and

volunteered to coach the magic club and teach them

sleight of hand and some tricks. For his volunteer efforts, Michael was being presented with a special award. Everyone at Ring 76 congratulates Michael on his continuing efforts to promote magic and magicians in San Diego County.

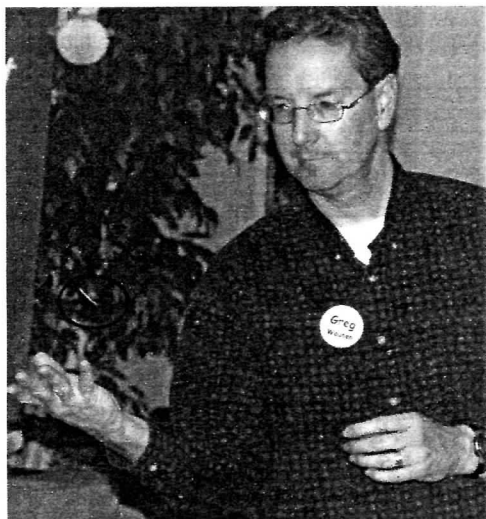
Bob Ingalls then turned the meeting over to 1st Vice President Terry Lunceford who reminded everyone that the theme of the meeting was a "Trick Parade;" eight people stood by ready to present tricks, then teach the membership how to do those effects and routines. Terry began the evening with a mental effect that he was tipped to many years ago and has used often at impromptu gatherings. It involved having someone think of a name of a president, and the magician announced the name the spectator was thinking of. In this case the spectator thought of President Taft's name and Terry got it right. How did he do it? Well, you should have attended the meeting.

Bob Ingalls was next with a very sweet card trick, sweet because the name of a chosen card turned up on some M & M candy that he was passing out. Another clever and easy to do magic trick with the secret being tipped to the audience. Jack White was next with his version of Robert Harbin's card in bottle. The trick involved having a chosen card disappear from the deck of cards and wind up in a previously empty Catsup bottle. There was some interesting handling and subtle misdirection in presenting this classy effect. Jack added a few of his own twists to make it all come together as a clever routine.



Is the phone in Terry's ear giving him the name of the chosen president?

Kenny Shelton followed Jack with a clever impromptu mental effect that used the



Greg Wauson, note flying coin in black circle

page numbers of the Ring 76 monthly newsletter. Once you know the secret this is one of those little effects you do to fool yourself. Greg Wauson was next with a very visual coin effect that requires a little skill

to make the coin jump from the palm of your hand into the air. After presenting the effect Greg walked us through the various steps of perfecting this illusion. There were many audible "oo's and ah's" from the audience as they watched the coin jump from his outstretched palm high into the air. This is something that is well worth the effort to learn.

Diane Lane was next to step into the spot light with a very different modus operandi for doing the age-old ring off string. Diane presented a very straightforward routine with two spectators and then gave us a very clear understanding of how the effect works with several subtle bits of misdirection. John London tossed a ball into the audience to find an assistant of random choice. After a word was freely selected from a selected book, John called a medium on his cell phone and the medium quickly announced the thought-of word. It was a real

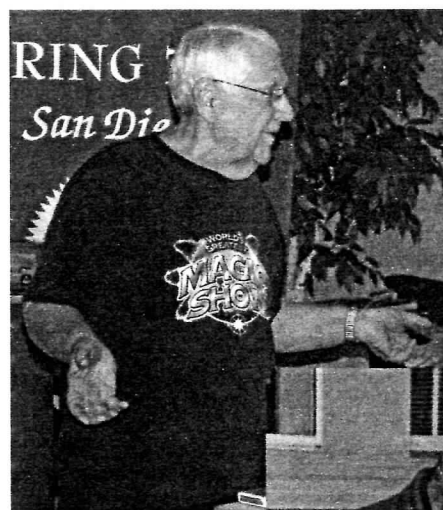


Michael E. Johnson and "Ridged Rope"

stunner, and then John told us how this knockout effect was accomplished.

Closing our "Trick Parade" session for this year was the every popular Michael E. Johnson who presented a very clever version of "Rigid Rope" that was both mysterious and funny. Always a very

thoughtful person, Michael made up 50 lengths of rope and the gimmick to make it work; he handed out the rope and gimmick and then taught the members how to do the routine.



Left: Bob Ingalls with his card trick that includes M & M Candy with the name of a chosen card.

Right: Jack White and the "Card in Bottle" trick. Robert Harbin trick with a different routine by Jack.



Left: Diane Lane with Ring on Rope. Different routine.



John London looking for an assistant.

Kenny Shelton with torn & re-stored paper

Magic Book Review by

Dr. Joel Moskowitz



The Man From Beyond by
Gabriel Brownstein
2005 W.W. Norton pp 298
\$23.95

The Man From Beyond was a failure. "The Man From Beyond" was the title of one of Houdini's unsuccessful attempts to produce and star in a movie. The same title is shared by author Gabriel Brownstein for his novel. The subjects are, of course, different but, for this reviewer, their public appreciation will be similar.

Those who have an obsession with Houdini and/or Conan Doyle will be obliged to read Brownstein's effort. The subjects: Master Magician, Debunker of Psychics vs. Creator of the ratiocinator Sherlock Holmes, failed ophthalmologist, accomplished author of adventure and romance novels, and convinced believer in spiritualism of the 1920s are conjured up by Mr. Brownstein in what he himself calls a fantasy. The author goes on to state: "The real story of Harry Houdini, Arthur Conan Doyle and the medium Margery" is a good one. He cites Daniel Stashower's "Teller of Tales: The Life of Arthur Conan Doyle or Kenneth Silverman's:

"Houdini!" as examples of recent accounts. Most of all, Brownstein, praises Houdini's "A Magician Among the Spirits" as the source of his imagination. What Brownstein hoped to add remains a mystery.

Brownstein writes from the point of view of a young woman, a daunting task in itself. The adventures of a recent Vassar graduate, Molly Goodman, recently part of the media, prefers the potential of the pithy interaction between these two luminaries to writing about cosmetics. Readers are asked to view her Jewish parents, their anguish about their son, Carl, who enlisted in the War to End all Wars, which led to the end of his life. Molly yearns for her beloved brother and in parallel, Conan Doyle sought to reach his deceased son Kingsley. Reaching those in the beyond has appeal to both Molly and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

But other features confuse: Molly's sexual identity issues might make for

a theme all its own but are primarily a distraction. Writers who conjure with words do utilize misdirection to enhance the ultimate surprise. Regrettably no rabbits are produced.

Great copy (the interaction between Doyle and Houdini) embodies Ms Goodman's hope which will enable her to escape from writing about lipstick. It does not happen. She quotes Houdini; The Doyle's motives are beyond reproach (there is that word beyond again). And I, Houdini, whatever the world may think, am no mind reader. I am, as you know, a scientific practitioner of illusion - the only honest one in existence today. The hand of Margery never demonstrated any power, at any time, over the hand of Houdini. Margery, was the psychic Houdini intended to unmask.

The reader is told that the true identity of Margery is that she was the offspring of a much-liked professor at Harvard, whose wife had mental problems. This concept fails to be developed. And Houdini doesn't quite expose Margery but he knows her methods.

Perhaps the most intriguing part of this novel is the references to the scenes of the era. The events in this book are said to have taken place circa 1922. What research provided these descriptive elements is to be complimented. The pictures of the upper West Side of Manhattan will evoke vivid memories for former New Yorkers. The motive for their inclusion is baffling and hence these images while charming, are extraneous.

There is also a murder and a villain, but this, too, seems a digression. Houdini is threatened. We know this from many other sources. He believed that because he ruined false spiritualists (this may be redundant), and feared they would kill him. Brownstein writes about Houdini's effect where he is submerged in a river and where he is feared to have drowned. We know he didn't die that way. So this escapade is empty.

There is a character that even the most naive would suspect with evil intentions. This fellow called himself the Houdini of the fifty-two card deck. (Houdini, early in his career, advertised himself in a well-published poster, as King of Cards.) This fellow, Diggs, by name, is described as having published a pamphlet on manual dexterity, in which Diggs advocated magicians, to maintain finger suppleness, wash their hands in urine morning and night. These anecdotes, while fantastic, offer little that is believable or entertaining.

If you have a compulsion to collect writings where the name Harry Houdini, A. Conan Doyle, or Margery appear, you might want to pay \$23.95 for this Hardback 298 pp's published by W.W. Norton. Otherwise, if you haven't yet, consult the sources which Gabriel Brownstein consulted as noted above.

Close-up Competition Story Continued from Page One:

Members attending this meeting will be treated to some excellent close-up magic and are reminded that the judging includes skill, presentation (which includes how each performer is dressed), tricks selected, and entertainment value. This year's contest may well feature some of the best talent we have had competing in many years.

This would be an excellent meeting to bring a friend who is interested in magic. Guests will not be allowed to vote, however; they can enjoy the excellent magic that is about to be served up in the 2006 Ring 76 Close-up Competition. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. with announcements and the competition will start shortly after the opening round of business. We ask that if you take part in the judging that you stay and watch each of our six contestants perform.

**Ring 76 Special Lecture
Jamy Ian Swiss**
Wednesday, February 8th
7 p.m. at Jack's Magic Place
4275 University Ave
Special Workshop Session
7 p.m. Thursday February 9th
The lecture is "Free" the
Workshop is limited to 20 people
and is \$50

Jamy Ian Swiss from Page One

to rank it among the eight or 10 best I have ever seen."

Jamy will be talking about performing magic today in a variety of venues as well as some of his commercial material that makes him a standout performer. The night following his regular lecture Jamy will be holding his Super Session that is open to 10 people only and you needn't be an expert to attend; if you are interested in the correct way to perform any sleight – Double-Lift or Bobo Switch, Retention Vanish or Side-Steal – you will profit from this experience. The Special Super Workshop Session will be Thursday, February 9th at 7 p.m. at Jack's Magic Place and the cost of this intensive session is \$50 per-person. But we remind you the lecture on Wednesday, February 8th is free to all Ring members.

The Wednesday evening lecture is filled with practical material from a professional's repertoire – filled with real-life information about the performance of magic – all delivered in Jamy's powerful, potent, and unprecedented style. He will include in this lecture "The Kiss of the Big Apple;" according to Scotty York, long-time confidant of the great Fred Kaps, "This is the final word on the Kaps method for Card in Matchbox."

Another high point of this lecture is "The Animated Ring," the easiest yet most powerful invisible thread effect yet! Jamy has added his own twists to Jon LeClair's great routine from his book on Invisible Thread.



Jamy Ian Swiss with magician David Ben at a-- magic lecture.

Don't miss the Jamy Ian Swiss lecture, Wednesday, February 8th at 7 p.m. at Jack's Magic Place; this lecture is "Free" to all Ring 76 members, guests are \$10 at the door; bring a friend to this exciting event. Jamy will accept reservations for his workshop the following evening after his regular lecture.

View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand

A Benson Classic for Standup Use

The late Roy Benson created a lasting, unique version of cups & balls with his *Sponge Balls & Bowl* routine. After the late Don Alan tightened and refined the routine to suit his performing style, most close-up pros also developed their own version of the routine, making it a bona fide modern magic classic. Indeed, the routine was my first introduction to learning and performing real sleight-of-hand magic at age 12.

Benson often performed the routine seated cross-legged on an area rug. Many pros do it standing tableside, perhaps using a rice bowl on an oriental mat and a chopstick for the wand. Alan's routine required a seated tableside position due to a large final load. You can check out Benson's routine in Bruce Elliott's *"Classic Secrets of Magic"* and also online at <http://allmagic.com/magicshow/dougwards/bensonbowl.html> (which features color photos of Benson's actual props from a 1960 incarnation and full description of the necessary sleight and the routine). Alan's early version follows Benson's in the aforementioned Elliott book, and his final version is detailed in Jon Racherbaumer's *"The Legacy of Don Alan."*

I have often felt that strong close-up routines deserve to be converted to stand-up/platform/stage routines for a larger audience. For me, the Benson Bowl routine was a natural first choice, as I have performed my close-up version for more than 40 years. The primary consideration is how to increase visibility for the larger audience. Since the routine takes place on a tabletop, the receptacle must be elevated to be seen easily. The balls must be able to be seen both individually and collectively at a glance as they arrive in the receptacle, yet they must remain hidden until their vanish from the magician's closed fist. Here is one solution.

Materials: (1.) a magic wand of your choosing, preferably at least 12" long and 3/8" to 1/2" thick for

strong visibility; (2.) four matching color sponge balls 1.5" or 2.0", red or yellow for best visibility against dark clothing; (3.) a tall, slender, clear, stemmed wineglass with suitable mouth diameter to hold the balls in a stacked position when three are in the glass at the same time (4.) a cylinder of mailing tube or pvc pipe of sufficient diameter to cover the wineglass, extending a few inches above the top of the glass; three fingers of the right hand should be able to enter the top of the tube when the tube is held from the front with the right thumb and forefinger. Experimentation is the key here, so when you find the right wineglass and tube combination, buy a couple of backups in case of breakage or loss.

Routine: I have included three different vanishes in this routine to make the stand-up version more interesting to watch. The disarmingly-simple sleight of the Benson original works splendidly in close-up, but I feel that a distant audience requires increasingly stringent conditions for each ensuing vanish to keep the interest level rising throughout the process.

If I were presenting this onstage, I would produce a filled wineglass, drain the contents, and then produce the three sponge balls to be used in the routine (three from the audience standpoint). The classic filled-wineglass production by Jardine Ellis can be found in the same Elliott book above, and also in the *"Mark Wilson Complete Course in Magic."* If you are familiar at all with sponge balls, you already have your own methods for producing sponge balls, and I'll leave this aspect to your own creativity.

Place the wineglass and the three sponge balls on your magic table. Reach into the prop case and remove your magic wand, placing it under your left armpit so that the bulk of it is exposed. Reach again into your prop case with your right hand and fingerpalm a fourth sponge ball in the second through fourth fingers, picking up the tube between your thumb and forefinger at one edge. Display briefly, and toss the tube to the left hand, catching it in the palm around the center circumference. Drop the right hand (with its fingerpalmed ball) to the table top in the usual curled casual stance, and look through the tube like a telescope at various parts of the audience. Take the tube by its front top edge between right forefinger and thumb once again, and place the tube over the empty wineglass. Lower the heel of the hand onto the tube and the palming fingers slightly into the tube as it covers the glass, and drop the palmed ball into the glass, making you

now the usual "one ahead."

Pick up the first visible sponge ball in the right hand, and display around. Allow the ball to sit in the palm of the right hand, and approach the left hand, which rises to meet it. Position the left hand below the right hand, and curl the left fingers to receive the ball. Turn over the right hand as if to dump the ball into the left hand, but curl the right fingers gently to retain the ball. The key to this dump vanish is the response of the left hand. The left hand should dip slightly as it "receives" the ball, and then close. The right hand stays still, and the left hand curls loosely to simulate the girth of the mythical ball. Using the thumb as a hinge, rotate the left hand away from the right hand (outward and to your left) to turn it face down. Don't just turn the wrist/forearm, but move the left elbow outward and to the left as well. Look at the audience as you execute the dump, and they will meet your gaze, attaching even less importance to the dump. As the left hand rotates, move the right hand to the end of the wand and grasp it, hiding the palmed ball between the wand shaft and the fingers. Tap the closed left hand with the wand, tap the cylinder surrounding the wineglass, and open the left hand from the little finger to the thumb, revealing the vanish as you put the wand back under the left arm. Grasp the cylinder with the left hand around its center circumference, to lift it from the wineglass. Reveal the ball which has appeared in the wineglass as you turn the cylinder sideways. Transfer the cylinder to the right hand, receiving the sideways cylinder with the right thumb and forefinger on the audience side right edge, and lift it up and to the right (which actually finishes turning it upside down). Gesture with the left hand to the ball in the glass, and replace the cylinder over the wineglass, loading the second ball in the same manner as the first.

For the second ball vanish, we are going to do my version of a poke vanish. I have done this for many years, and only recently have I discovered any similar moves in print. So, this is my version of the great "blah-blah's" sponge move, but I developed it independently too long ago to remember. Place the second sponge ball on top of a loosely-closed left fist. Hold the right hand with the fingers and thumb splayed, and bend the middle finger downward at the second joint. Lightly poke the top of the sponge ball twice, and on the third poke, push hard downward. The move looks as though the ball is pushed down into the fist, and you might practice it before a mirror really pushing it into the fist to see how the sleight should appear to the audience. Actually, the finger goes down in front of the ball, flattening it against the side of the left thumb and the

right base of the middle finger. Relax the right hand fingers and thumb so that they curl around the left fist, and curl the right middle back toward your body. Withdraw the finger quickly (but not guiltily!), catching the ball in the curl and pushing it into a palm. Look at the audience as you execute the move, as in the dump vanish. Finish as before, using the wand to command the vanish and lifting the cylinder to reveal the second ball, which will be resting atop the first ball in the tall, slender bowl of the wineglass. Transfer the cylinder to the right hand as before, and load the last ball into the wineglass as you replace the cylinder.

For the final ball, you need a solid retention-of-vision vanish that shows without a doubt that the ball is entering the left hand. Benson's original sleight works well here: Hold the ball in the right thumb and forefinger. Place the ball on the left palm at the roots of the left fingers. Begin closing the left fingers over the ball, and use the grip to push the ball upward into the right fingers under the cover of the left fingers. The reach for the underarm wand is perfect cover for the ball, and the retention of vision is splendid. Finish as before, commanding the vanish and lifting the cylinder to reveal the third ball resting atop the other two in the bowl of the wineglass.

You are left with a ball palmed and the cylinder in your right hand. Gesture with the left hand toward the glass to reinforce the arrival of the third ball, and pick up the wineglass in a toasting gesture to the audience. Lower the cylinder behind the table to minimize its existence, and take a bow with the head. Set the wineglass back on the table, and place the cylinder in your prop case, dumping the extra ball into the cylinder.

Alternatively, you can dump the ball into a servante or table well, even dropping it through the cylinder to do so. Give this clean-up phase a bit of thought, and adapt it to your situation.

The simplicity and clarity of the Benson routine is retained: three balls vanish one at a time and appear together one at a time. The visibility factor is enhanced by the wineglass and the stacking of the balls within it. The three different vanishes keep the audience interest building throughout the routine. Give this a try for your next platform or stage routine, and see how well it can **WORK**.

Next month: A Slydini Classic for Standup Use.
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Magic notes from:



A different kind of magic collection

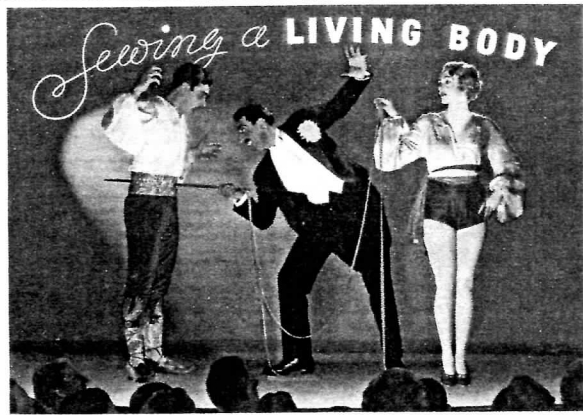
Hardly a month goes by that someone doesn't walk up to me after a Ring 76 meeting and ask me where they should start in the hobby of collecting magic. In that conversation they will add, "I don't have a lot of money to put into the hobby of collecting, but I want to start a magic collection of some kind."

My first response is get your hands on a copy of the John Booth book, "Keys to Magic's Inner World." It is all about collecting magic and was written by a man who has spent the last 70 years of his life writing about magic collectors and collecting. Much of the book is made up of articles he wrote for the I.B.M.'s Linking Ring magazine over a period of 14 years.

In recently rereading the book, a chapter on collecting magic advertising caught my eye. I called San Diego's consummate magic collector, J.P. Jackson and asked him about this area of collecting. He, of course, has been buying up old magazines, Time, Newsweek, Life, Saturday Evening Post and a lot of others and then clipping the advertising featuring magic and magicians for years, and he tells me there is a lot more of this material than you might realize.

J.P. and many other collectors of this kind of magic advertising sometimes frame the better magazine pages. Other times people have made very nice collages of the material they collect.

Camel Cigarettes used magic in their advertising from 1930 well into the 1940s. I have featured a few of their ads from the 1930s in this article. I have cropped the full-page ads so as to just show the magicians in action. I am told that by framing or saving the entire ad you are preserving the integrity of the piece, and it will be worth more money in the future.



The Camel Ad is from 1933 and shows Needle Through Body an illusion that at the time was used in the Thurston Show.

The Camel Ads were very popular because they always described the trick itself and then revealed the secret of how it was done, and we thought television's Masked Magician was the first to divulge magic secrets. All of these ads are in color and the



Another Camel Cigarette ad 1933 exposing the ever popular sawing a woman in half, however this version differed from Dante's version of the same trick.

black and white images I am reproducing here do not do these minor works of art justice.

Antique shops and antique shows offer a good chance for finding this kind of advertising and you will find that most dealers will give you a deal if you purchase four or five images from their shop or booth. This is an area of magic collecting that has been overlooked in the past but is now just beginning to catch the eye of many magic collectors.



Strathmore Magic ad from 1949 was red with black & white photos.

Magic sets were often times advertised in major magazines in the late 30s and after World War II in the mid to late 40s. The A.C. Gilbert Mysto Magic ads are highly collectible, as are the Strathmore magic sets and drawing boards. Strathmore took out full-page ads in both Life and Saturday Evening Post, and you could buy their products at better department stores or directly from their retail center in Aurora, Illinois.

The 7 Up Company was another major company to use magic and magicians in their magazine



The 7-Up ad from 1948 features many real magic props that a childrens show magician would use.

advertising. The 7 Up ads are among the most interesting to collectors of magic apparatus because the ads featured real magic props on tables and in

the hands of the performers. The magic series for 7-Up began in 1946 and ran through 1951, I have included a couple of ads from that period. Some of the apparatus shown in these ads like the National Magic Die Box and the National Magic giant size water cups and balls are quite collectible today. In fact, the magic table itself in a very desirable Merv Taylor, fold up Night Club Table.

Over the years, Coca Cola employed some top name artists to design their print ads, Coke Trays, as well as giant stand up ads for soda fountains and grocery stores. They, too, included magic and magicians in their advertising. The Coke ad I have



This Coke ad is from Life Magazine 1946 simply titled "The Magician" is a beautiful painting in the style of Norman Rockwell.

included from 1945 is truly a beautiful painting and a piece of Americana, and it features a magician working close-up for people in a soda fountain in a neighborhood drug store.

I have not touched on the dozens of magic catalogs and other magic related publications that carry very clever collectable art associated with magic. You can still pick up these pages of magic art and trivia for \$2 to \$10 dollars apiece. If you really shop around and make deals for as little as \$100 dollars, you can have a very different and unique collection. Display it and care for it, and it will appreciate in value very quickly. It is original art in its original print form.

It's an area of collecting we don't often think about and I thought I would mention, in case you have an interest.



Message from the Ring 76 President

I have a couple of important bits of information to share with all of our members this month. First, I want to tell you I had a preview of the close-up competition contestants auditions which were held just after our recent Ring 76 board meeting January 23rd. Everyone is in for some excellent magic along with a great competition at our February meeting, so plan to attend February 13th.

In the last year or so I have received some complaints from concerned members who felt we were neglecting the art of close-up magic at Ring 76 meetings. As a result, the board has made a concerted effort to make sure that is not the case. I want to remind all of our members that Jamy Ian Swiss will be presenting a "free" lecture on Wednesday, February 8th at Jack's Magic Place at 7 p.m. Jamy is well known for his reviews of magic books and is himself an excellent and most respected close-up worker. Plan to attend this lecture and workshop because you will be learning from one of the best.

Speaking of the best I want to reinforce our efforts to expand close-up magic by again reminding our members that J.C. Wagner, a legend in San Diego close-up work, will be presenting his all new "free" lecture at our March meeting on the 13th. If you enjoyed seeing his work at our

December Holiday Party, you will definitely want to be part of his anticipated lecture on March 13th.

Those two special events, coupled with our annual close-up contest, should let everyone know that close-up magic is alive and thriving at Ring 76, now and in the future.

There are a couple of house keeping chores I must bring to your attention. We as a group have become rather lax in picking up after ourselves during meetings. I want to remind all of our members that we are guests at Jack's Magic Place and instead of leaving popcorn bags, soda cans, cups and raffle tickets lying about, pick them up and deposit them in a trash can. If you see a mess left by someone else, pick it up for them or remind that person they have left something behind.

I should also remind you that the refreshments that are supplied each month are not paid for by the Ring; they are paid for by donations from the folks who enjoy having fresh popcorn, hot chocolate, soda, and bottled water to drink. Feel free to help yourself to any and all of the refreshments but drop something in the kitty to help pay for having that service available at each meeting.

One other note about our refreshments, the clean-up crew has been finding a growing number of cans and bottles with only a swallow of liquid consumed and the can or bottle sitting on the floor or the bar. If you can't drink it all take it with you or pour it out in the sink. Please don't leave half consumed containers of soft drinks and water just sitting around.

Bob Ingalls
President Ring 76



President

Bob Ingalls

1st Vice President

Terry Lunceford

2nd Vice President

Kenny Shelton

Secretary

Jack White*

Treasurer

Richard Ustick

Sgt at Arms

Sal Barajas

Member at Large

Jacques Lord

Immediate Past President

Diane Lane*

Territorial Vice President

Jeff Marcus*

*denotes Past Ring President

For information on membership, or Ring events, contact Jack White, Ring 76 Secretary by e-mail prestoone@cox.net or by phone at 619-299-9037

News

Jim Whiting was set to do some magic and talk about his new book "Analecta" which covers his life as a cartoonist, broadcaster, and magician, for the downtown San Diego Lions Club, January 17th. But a variety of health issues caused him to bow out of the engagement that was filled by **Bob Ingalls** and **Jack White**; it took two people to take Jim's place. Everyone at Ring 76 sends our best wishes for a speedy recovery, Jim.

Diane Lane reports that the "Bad Boys of Magic" **Penn & Teller** were recently seen with a film crew at San Diego's Seaport Village. Perhaps that location will turn up on a future Penn & Teller TV Show.

Joe Mystic has just signed a four-year deal with the Lawrence Welk Resort Theater in Escondido. Joe will present his show on the nights the theater is dark between musical shows. Accompanying Joe in his show is **Kevin Johnson**, with his vent act from Lego Land in Carlsbad. In February Joe can be seen on the 15th and the 22nd at the Lawrence Welk Theater.

Sad News Department:
Ed Keener died at University Medical Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, on January 14th. **Ed** and **Nanci Keener** were longtime performers, having toured for many years with their magic. They were good friends to Ring 76 and were past members of our Ring. The Keeners helped **Art** and **Pat Hannum** with their act and were close friends to the



Freeland family. Ed Keener was 82 and died of kidney failure, after a short bout with pneumonia.

We also received word in late January that mentalist, lecturer, TV Show Writer, **Dennis Marks** had died. Marks had been in poor health in recent months. Dennis Marks lectured several years ago to Ring 76 and is remembered for his Dai Vernon spinning coin.

Jack White attended the mid-year board meeting of the **International Brotherhood of Magicians** in Kansas City, Missouri, January 19th to the 21st. The three days of meetings included plans for the future of the I.B.M., planning for the Miami Convention this summer, and budget reports. Jack tells us the weather was very cold, but there was some social time to share a few magic tricks with those attending the sessions. Of special interest is the creation of a new Web page at magician.org, the I.B.M. Web site that will allow all I.B.M. members to have access to the entire run of Linking Ring Magazines. This will be a bonanza of reference and research material for all paid up I.B.M. members. Details will be forthcoming. It is hoped this page will be up and running by late spring 2006.

Kenny Shelton, who is a good magician and a fine juggler, has

Briefs

been added to the program of the "Liver Foundation Walk" set for May in Balboa Park. Kenny will be presenting his juggling act for those taking part in the fund-raising walk to aid people with liver disease. Kenny has also auditioned to take part in the close-up contest at the World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas, February 19th to the 22nd.

Ring 76 member **Alex Greenbaum** was the featured performer at the San Diegito Academy on February 1st. Alex did his platform magic act to a large gathering of enthusiastic students and family members to promote the reading and library program at the school. The show took place in the Mustang Center.

Ring 76 Past President **Diane Lane** has had a full schedule of magic shows since the first of the year. She had planned to audition for the Ring 76 close-up contest but doubled booked herself into a "Blue & Gold" show in Rancho Bernardo on the same evening as the auditions and says all of the work she put into a close-up act will now have to wait until another time.

Bob Ingalls and **Ralph Mauzy** were at the Magic Castle the last week of January and saw FISM Winner **Jason Latimer's** new laser light show, and both men say it is a sensational act. It, of course, is not unusual that Jason would come up with an act featuring high tech laser lights because his major in college is electrical engineering.

Coming Attractions

February 13, 2006, Annual Ring 76 Close-up contest. At Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue at 7 p.m. Six people have been nominated to perform in the contest. This is always a much anticipated evening, so plan to attend.

March 13, 2006, J.C. Wagner will present his long-awaited lecture, "free" to all Ring 76 members. This is a must attend meeting to see J.C., a past Ring 76 member and legend in close-up magic. There will be a few surprises at this meeting as well.

April 10, 2006, Ring 76 Swap Meet. A chance to sell your unwanted magic. See Terry Lunceford or Richard Ustick to reserve a seller's table.

May 8, 2006, Ring 76 Stand-up contest. Get your stage act ready and sign up for the contest. Cash awards to the winners.

The next Ring 76 board meeting will be Monday, February 27th, a week later than usual to accommodate those attending the World Magic Seminar. Board Meeting is at Jack's Magic Place; all interested members are invited to attend.

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