



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

OCTOBER 2010

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An Evening of Classic Magic

The theme for our September meeting was *Classic Magic*!

President Kenny Shelton called the meeting to order at 7PM. First on the agenda was a Broken Wand Ceremony for Ring member and magic great, JC Wagner. Past-President Terry Lunceford, a long-time friend of JC's, conducted the ceremony. Prior to the meeting, Terry brought back memories of magical times in Southern California, with stories of JC and his friends when they played such haunts as the Magic Castle, Magic Island, and The Little Club.



Sid Segal announced an upcoming memorial for JC, to be held by his family at McP's Irish Pub, in Coronado, 12:30PM, Saturday, October 2. The memorial will be open to the public; food will be provided, and donations to offset costs will be accepted. JC – you will be remembered . . . and missed.

Offsetting the sadness of JC's passing was some very good news at this evening – *Jack's Back*! Yes, Jack White, our long-time, unofficial "Ring-Master," and immediate Past-President of IBM, attended this meeting after a long health-related absence. Jack was looking good, and we were all very glad to see him. Well-wishers kept him in the room long after the meeting had adjourned. Welcome back, Jack!



The magic theme for this meeting was *Classic Magic*, and we started off with Bob Meigs performing a real classic - his version of Robert-Houdin's *Blooming Orange Tree*. Next, Malcolm Campbell performed a variety of routines based on *Deck Memorization*.

Jim Sloan, performing for the first time in front of the Ring, did an entertaining comedy version of *20th Century Silks*, using (so he said), the *Fiji Flag*. Mago Ruly performed a series of coin sleights and manipulations, concluding with Bob Kline's classic,

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

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Copenetro. Toni Perrine then did *20th Century Silks* using the classic Change Bag method.

Charlie Gott delivered a very smooth cut & restored rope routine, called *Siamese Ropes*, and “Perfesser” Howard Robinson performed the classic, *Silk to Egg*. Greg Wauson, who always adds a twist to his magic, performed *Bill to Spectator’s Wallet*.

Chuck Cook performed a couple of classics, including a soap opera themed *20th Century Silks*, and a very original *Chinese Linking Rings*. Jeff Pearson concluded our evening of classic magic with his *Color Changing Knives*.

As usual, we adjourned our meeting at Jack’s Place and reassembled at *Denny’s* for a little “after-hours” magic.

— Bob Meigs

Next Meeting Halloween Magic!

The next meeting of Ring 76 will be on Monday, October 11th. The theme of the meeting will be Halloween Magic. Members will be doing magic with an Autumn flair and a tilt toward all the fun of ghosts, ghouls, and goblins.

If you plan to perform that night please notify Belinda by e-mail so she can get you name on the list.

In the spirit of the season. All members are encouraged to show up in costume. They don’t have to be elaborate, like the ones you plan on wearing for that big shindig at the end of the month, but it is the spooky season so we should have some fun with it.

— Richard Ustick

Too Big for Our Britches

As you are aware, Ring 76 has seem phenomenal growth in the last few years. Not only do we now have over eighty paid members, but a majority of them come to the meeting each month. While this makes for warm and enthusiastic magic camaraderie, it also makes for a tight meeting at Jack’s.

While the meeting are close but comfortable, the special events we hold every year, like the swap meet, auction, and Holiday dinner, push our current meeting hall to its limits.

For that reason, the Board of Directors has decided to find a more appropriate hall for these larger events. If you know of a meeting hall that you think can accommodate a group such as ours please contact on of the Board members as soon as you can.

We are looking for a large hall, with appropriate facilities, and good parking. We are also looking for a hall that will not break the treasury to use.

If you have any suggestions, let us know.

— Richard Ustick

Door Prizes Needed

As you are now aware, Ring 76 will be having door prizes at the next meeting. It has been a while since we offered this amusing diversion and several members have been asking when we will be offering them again.

Our first drawings will be at the next meeting, October 11th.

We have plenty of interesting prizes to offer at that meeting, but we need help to keep the volume and quality going. That, dear Ring member, is where you can help.

If you have in magic lying around your house that is in good shape, complete, and with instructions, we would be more than happy to take it off your hands. Please donate to the Ring by contacting any Board member either at the next meeting, or by e-mail.

You may not do that trick anymore, but some other member may be interested. Or, you may just need to clear space for all the great magic you asked Santa for. Either way, the Ring can use your old magic now.

— Richard Ustick



Photos from the September Meeting



Bob Meigs



The Orange Tree



Malcolm Campbell



Jim Sloan



Photos from the September Meeting



Mago Rudy



Toni Perrine



Perfessor Howard



Charlie Gott



Photos from the September Meeting



Greg Wauson



Chuck Cook



Jeff Pearson



September Performers

Sleights of Mind

What Neuroscience and Magic Reveal About Our Everyday Deceptions

Reviewed by Joel A Moskowitz MD

September 27, 2010

This book is not for the Slight of Mind. Two PhDs: Stephen L. Macknik, Director of the Laboratory of Neurophysiology at the Barrow Neurological Institute and Susana Martinez-Conde, Director of Visual Neuroscience (at the same institute) teamed up with Sandra Blakeslee, a science writer, to describe the tricks of the mind which underlay the magician's craft. Alert: it is not a mysterious scientific treatise; it can and should be read by conjurers and those interested in deception. That would include sales-types and everyday victims of obfuscation.

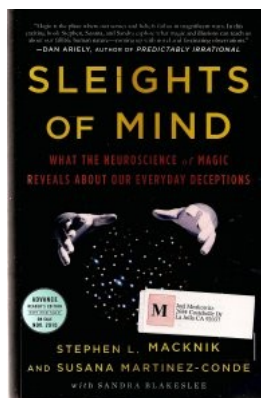
“Clark’s Third Law: Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.” The authors were able to make contact with Mac King, Teller (Penn & ?), Johnny Thompson and Apollo Robbins (“The Gentlemen Thief”) as their sources for their inquiry into the brain’s process of attention and awareness.

Henry Holt Publishers brings the reader 245 pages in a soft bound volume. With slight respect to the secrets of magic, Macknik et al. interpose ‘Spoiler Alerts’ which identify how each illusion is done. If you don’t want to know how Johnny Thompson, for example, makes his alluring assistant’s dress change instantly from white to red, don’t read this section. The brain’s visual circuitry is a function of us having evolved but not so much that we cannot be deceived. The accidental discovery of ‘black art’ by actor/director Max Auzinger and perfected by Omar Pasha is dependent, we learn, by camouflage decreasing visual contrast.

Jamy Ian Swiss’ exposition of the retention effect is another illusion based on cognitive hardwiring of our senses. Vernon’s Depth Illusion (or Marlo’s Tilt) is another phenomena card handlers use to mislead spectators. Even experts (think of Stanford Research Institute and Geller’s spoon bending) can be fooled. Scientists have a word for it: “amodal

completion” when we think that the bent spoons are straight.

The art world is dependant on illusion. Mona Lisa’s smile has enchanted the public for centuries. If you wish to know how it came to be so elusive, this book reveals. While you are at the museum, you may be visited by a pickpocket. Heaven forefend! How they do it is dependent on sensory perception failure. The concept of ‘Frames’ (windows of space that the magician creates to localize your attention) is part of the ‘how’ in misdirection.



Ventriloquism is a magical sensory diversion. It is the feat of shifting sound to a visual target, write Macknik et al. Mass hypnosis (remember The Indian Rope Trick) has enduring appeal. Even though the story in 1890 was a fraud. Bewildering memory, hot/cold reading, offering false solutions, taking advantage of erroneous assumptions (making an ASS of U and Me), equivocate or illusion of choice, superstition and flimflam are topics.

Devotees of the sworn secrecy of prestidigitation may scorn the authors for exposing too much. In defense of such criticism they refer to: Reginald Scot in *The Discoverie of Witchcraft*, 1584, who is quoted as having written an apology to those who commendably perform for entertainment but who do not abuse the name of God in this occupation but acknowledge that their feats are merely tricks. Scot’s motives were to expose “umpious and unlaw deceivers”. Macknik et al align themselves with Scot that their interests are in understanding how the brain works. Magic is a window.

Magicians will learn the scientific principles of some of their wizardry. This book is highly recommended. The doctor prescribes that you purchase/read this book: Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx (5/5).



Magic Notes

Have a performance coming up? An interesting tidbit that you'd like to share with the Ring76/ Tales of brave adventures in far away lands? The motto of The MagiCurrents is "All the news that fits, we'll print." Please send any contributions to Editor@Ring76.com



Terry Lunceford will be performing at the Magic Castle behind the W.C. Fields Bar on October 29th and 30th.



One man's "magic" is another man's engineering.
— Robert A. Heinlein



Magic-Con is going to happen again... and in SAN DIEGO! The conference will take place March 24-27,

‘MagiToon’

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



“Now that’s what I call good table work.”

Ring 76 2010-11 Calendar

Oct 11*	Halloween Magic
Nov 08	Auction Night
Dec 13	Holiday Banquet
Dec 14	Lecture
Jan 10*	Open Stage Night
Feb 14*	Close-up Competition
Mar 14	Swap Meet
Apr 11*	Animal Theme Magic
May 09*	Stage Competition
Jun 13	Lecture and Elections
Jul 10	Installation Banquet

* Opportunity for Members to Perform

2011 at the Double Tree Hotel in Mission Valley (Hazard Center). See www.magic-con.org for further information.



An idea can turn to dust or magic, depending on the talent that rubs against it.

— William Bernbach



Do you want a Ring76.com e-mail address? You can have a new e-mail account set up or you can direct mail to an existing e-mail account (the Ring76.com address will be an alias.) Contact James Thayer at Webmage@Ring76.com.