



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76 SEPTEMBER 2011

VOL. XXV #9

Broken Wand

LeRoy (Roy) Armstrong

1925 — 2011

Born: Sept. 28, 1925 in Scottsbluff, NE

Passed: July 26, 2011 in El Cajon, CA

Roy's Interest in magic began at age 6 when he sent in "White King D" soap box tops for a magic trick. Later he did magic at the local movie theater's Saturday matinees. During World war II Roy joined the Navy at age 17 and served from 1943-1946 as a Seaman 1st. Class on an ammunition ship in the South Pacific (Of course, his magic went with him!)

Roy joined I.B.M. in 1943 and held #73688. (that's 68 years!!!) He attended the 2010 [San Diego] convention where he was personally presented with the Order of Merlin Excelsior certificate. He was also a member of S.A.M. for 33 years. As long as physically possible, he was very active in Ring 76 and was



presented with an Honorary Lifetime membership in 2002.

Roy married Betty Fisher in 1952 and they have 2 sons, Dave and Mike.

Roy's professional career was that of an educator beginning in 1954. He was a teacher and principal at numerous La Mesa and Spring Valley schools. He retired from the school system in 1982. Since retiring, Roy and Betty continued to do magic shows in different venues including many volunteer shows at Children's Hospital.

He was a kind man and friend to all who knew him.

— Jeff Marcus



September Meeting

Random Performers!

In September, the Ring is trying a new theme to get everyone involved as much as possible. This will be the Random Performer Night. This "random performer" event will start as you walk in for the meeting. When you check in with Derek, please have your name taken down and added to the bag. Prior to the meeting start, random names will be drawn from the bag to determine who is going to perform that evening! Every

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

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member in attendance should be prepared to perform something... a card trick, coin trick, stage illusion (ok, maybe not an illusion). If you want to perform at this meeting, and not leave it up to chance, please let Syd know to add you to the list of performers. We are only taking a couple of these as we want as many people in attendance to be a part of the random drawing.

In October, the ring continues its long-loved theme of Halloween Magic! This is your chance to perform routines based around the Halloween season. The scarier, the better!

And as always, Ring 76 is a family attended IBM Ring, and we ask that, in all of your routines and performances, please keep that in mind. No foul language, inappropriate gestures or innuendo will be tolerated.

— Syd Segal

Second Favorite Was First Rate!

The theme for our August meeting was “My Second Favorite Trick,” but WOW!, it was first rate magic! It also was the first of five competitions that will determine our 2012 Entertainer of the Year. If tonight was any indication, that should be one tough competition!



Everyone's Second Favorite Tricksters

The meeting was called to order at 7PM by President Kenny Shelton, and Kenny announced that member Mago Ruly was inviting other members to perform in his Magic Festival, September 16, in Tiajuana. Syd Segal, Entertainment VP, explained next months theme, in which names would be called at random, and every member should be prepared to perform. Kenny also raffled off the first couple prizes in a raffle that would continue throughout the evening.

Member Craig Stone, who moved to North Carolina two years ago, is doing library shows in Southern California, and attended he the meeting.

Our first performer of the evening was Larry Samuels, a new member doing his membership audition. He did an extraordinary deck memorization, and was admitted to the Ring by unanimous vote.

Bob Meigs was our first performer of the “Second Favorite Trick” theme. He described three routines from his Cabinet of Curiosities show, let the audience vote on the one they wanted to see, and performed the one that came in second. It was a multum-en-parvo routine that he calls St. Vincent’s Decanter.

Charlie Gott followed with a complex bill transformation, called Lesson in Economics, that was tied to the current debate on government

spending. Tom McCarthy then performed a series of excellent card sleights, and Alex Greenbaum did an original comedy routine using a mechanical, singing, mounted fish.

Kenny Shelton showed us his close-up expertise, doing

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Photos from the August Meeting



Larry Samuels



Bob Meigs



Charlie Gott



Tom McCarthy



Photos from the August Meeting



Alex Greenbaum(l) assisted by a Singing Fish



Kenny Shelton(l) assisted by Sal Barajas



Derek Ostovani(r) assisted by Craig Stone



Malcolm Campbell(l) assisted by a Singing Richard Ustick



Photos from the August Meeting



Leo Sy



Mago Ruly



Joe Mystic



Jeff Marcus

Fame is a Disappearing Act

**Review of "Rameses - The Forgotten Star" by Christopher Woodward
by Joel A. Moskowitz M D
August 08, 2011**

"Sic transit gloria mundi" (thus passes the glory of the world). Doug Henning was much admired only a few years ago. Who speaks of him now? Few would recognize the name Albert Marchinsky or Albert Marchinski. If you were told he was billed as "The Eastern Mystic" - not even then. How he had lavish sets mirroring an Egyptian temple? That he was a follower of Chung Ling Soo (William Ellsworth Robinson)? Who was he? A leading stage illusionist who called himself RAMESES and was written about in the pages of The Sphinx (curiouser and curiouser). The Sphinx: official publication of The Society of American Magicians. Some would say that Moses was the first Jewish magician, outdoing the Pharaoh's mystifiers. In his day, the Jewish Albert Marchinsky amazed audiences all over the world then disappeared!

This superlative conjurer was born in Poland/Russia and was famous in England; made tours to South Africa and the United States, and the continent. He performed for the King and Queen of England. Maurice Fogel who became an eminent magician in his own right, acted as assistant to Rameses at the latter's decline. It is fascinating that many years later, Christopher Woodward, himself a much acclaimed magician and author, and son-in-law to Maurice Fogel should take on the labor of love to bring the story of 'this forgotten magician' to the attention of today's prestidigitators.

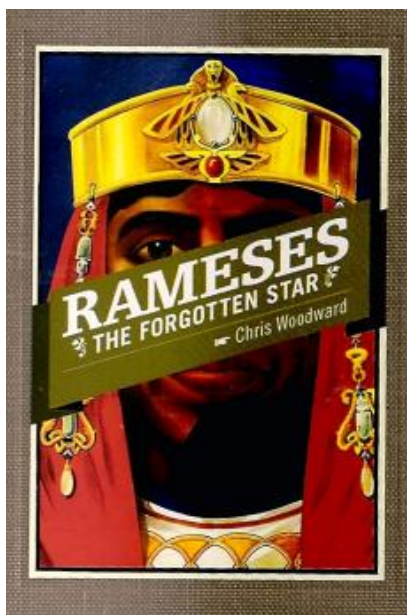
In an elegant hard bound graphic diligently researched 132 page book, published by Squash Publications of Chicago, Woodward allows the reader to experience

The Great Rameses as though you were there. Woodward is known for his writings: with Richard Mark, his co-author they wrote "Maurice Fogel - In Search of the Sensational". Woodward's much praised "The London Palladium" is another example of his wordsmith accomplishments.



The reader will doubtlessly marvel at how and where author Woodward came to the information that revealed the history of Rameses. For example, Woodward describes a review from Stanyon's "Magic" which provided a detailed record of the Rameses show and the likely methods he employed: (Kilburn Empire April 1910) i.e. "The Appearance of the Performer in Cabinet"; Handkerchief from Glass Tube to Decanter; Confetti to Water; Production of a lady with a goose from the large cabinet; Water, boiled in Cauldron, changes to Three Doves; Production of Flowers; Production of another lady from cabinet "She". Woodward even quotes an interview from Sterling's Magic World (1911) where Rameses comments upon his belief in the supernatural (he doesn't believe). He boasted about his "Cremation" effect - which others have attempted but failed.

Enthusiastic affirmations describe Rameses: 'keeps his audience guessing and gasping'; Egyptian wonder worker; a hypnotist (goose being the one hypnotized); 'inexplicable wizardry'. Alongside the text, are period programs, front pieces of magic publications of the era, sketches of levitation effects, copies of payment to Ramses from the Chatham Empire Theatre; and



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a spectacular ace assembly devised by the late member JC Wagner. Derek Ostovani, who now performs at the new Magic Lounge, followed with a baffling double card switch, done in an audience member's hand! WOW!

Malcolm Campbell performed another great deck memorization routine. Leo Sy, winner of last-year's close up contest, performed a sponge ball routine that finished with his signature coconut under the hat. Mago Ruly followed with a comedy routine called The Sandwich Trick.

Joe Mystic changed his newspaper tear into an original, comic, Timmy Toilet Paper routine that was

(Disappearing Act — Continued from page 6)

(courtesy of Mike Caveney) three sheet lithographs in startling color; Rameses postcards courtesy of Paul Kieve; Rameses playing cards (author's collection); photograph and ticket to Empire theater April 8th 1918.

Woodward adds the whipped cream to the delicacy by including Rameses own advice to prospective conjurers. (Take a course...practice etc.) This literary confectionary treat includes commentary from the author about his research which led him, of all places, to San Diego. In 1989, he received a letter from Mrs. Margaret Doser who said she was the granddaughter of Albert Marchinski. His exploits as a literary detective compliment his persistence in making 'the forgotten star' known. If you happen to be in Los Angeles you might consider visiting the Skirball Museum, where a current exhibit promulgates the Jewish magicians of yesteryear, gigantic posters in vibrant color, of Rameses are included. Absent that, aficionados of magic can do no better than purchasing/reading this charming history of an Edwardian era magician remembered by Christopher Woodward (a member of the Grand Order of Water Rats, and Gold Star Member of the Inner Magic Circle of London and literary investigator par excellence) The doctor recommends 5/5 (Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx)

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



full
of

A magician's solution to the water shortage

unexpected twists. And Jeff Marcus closed the evening with some superb rope magic, called You Know the Ropes.

Boy, members voting for the best performance this evening had their work cut out for them!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30. But as required by Ring Rules and Traditions, we reassembled at Rudford's for coffee, camaraderie, and banana splits.

— Bob Meigs

Ring 76, Inc.

For several months now, Ring 76 has been a nonprofit California corporation. We have our



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corporate charter and our employer's number. We are still awaiting approval of our 501c-6 status from the IRS, but I'm led to believe this is more or less automatic.

What does this mean to members? Probably not much, unless you are on the Board. The corporate status makes the Ring a legal entity, responsible for its actions, thereby providing some liability protection to the individual officers and board members. As a 501c-6, we are a nonprofit which does not pay taxes, but we are not a "charity," to which you can deduct contributions on your personal tax return. So unless you are a professional magician, your dues are not deductible. (If you are a pro, they are deductible on as a business expense on Schedule C, not Schedule A.)

But also Ring 76 can now sign contracts and purchase insurance, both of which are necessary for performing in public and, in some cases, for renting facilities. Again, the Ring member who makes the arrangements and/or signs the contract, is relieved of personal liability.

Ring 76 2011-12 Calendar

Sept. 12	Randomly Selected Performers*
Oct. 10	Halloween Magic*
Nov. 14	Lecture
Dec. 13	Holiday Banquet
Jan. 9	Classic Magic (no card tricks)*
Feb. 13	Close-Up competition*
Mar. 12	Auction
Apr. 9	Teach-A-Trick Night
Apr. 10	Lecture
May 14	Stage Competition*
June 11	Hi-Tech Magic*
July 8	Installation Banquet

* Opportunity for Members to Perform

So – consider yourself officially a proud member (nonprofits do not have stockholders) of IBM Ring 76, Inc.

— Bob Meigs

To Auction or Swap meet. That is the question.

Last month the new 2011-12 Board of Directors met for the first time and mapped out the events for the Ring. In order to free up more meeting nights for member performances, it was decided to alternate the annual swap meet with the annual auction, instead of having both. One year we would have the auction, the next the swap meet, and so on. It was thought that this would free up an additional meeting for magic.

Several members have since come to the Board and complained of the decision to not to have a swap meet this year. The Board took up this issue at the last meeting and came up with a compromise.

Starting with the next meeting, we will be setting up three tables, in the rear of the hall, for members to sell their magic. The table fee will be \$10 and the selling will be strictly pre-meeting. That means the tables will be set up and that month's seller can conduct business before the meeting, but when the meeting starts, the selling stops.

Any member can sign up for the tables and the Sergeant-at-Arms will have a sign up sheet at the next meeting. Once you sign up for a table, you cannot sign up again for three months. This is to give all the members a chance to have a table and sell their magic. However, if there is a table free, anyone can claim it.

This is an experiment and there will be some bugs that need to be ironed out. But the Board hopes that this will allow members to continue to find bargains and sell their magic.

— Richard Ustick



Net Connections

This is a column introduced in the last Magic Currents. Its purpose is to identify some interesting magic websites. If you have any favorites to suggest, or are looking for websites in a particular category, please contact Bob Meigs, at thehauntedhotel@sbcglobal.net.

Last month, I listed one retail magic shop (Hocus Pocus) among several auction sites. It was a major oversight to list a retailer without listing the local magic shop owned by a couple of members – James Kellogg, Jr.; and James Kellogg, III. They own 3 Generations of Magic, which maintains a GREAT inventory, as well as an interesting website. The store is located at 741-B Olive Avenue in Vista. The phone number is (760)842-1552, and the website (which includes a map), is <http://3generationsofmagic.com/>

One of my favorites are the bizarre magic websites. For those who are interested in the nature of bizarre magic, there's <http://www.bizarremagic.net/>, and icbmmagick.com. If you are interested in the products, Rick Rothbart is a semi-local (LA area) who owns Outlaw Effects. Visit <http://www.outlaw-effects.com/store/> and check out the wild stuff. A similar site is Dan Baines' famous Lebanon Circle, at [/www.lebanoncircle.co.uk/magic.html](http://www.lebanoncircle.co.uk/magic.html). Though he's known as a card man, and not a bizarrist, Guy Hollingworth has a site that seems to continue the theme: <http://www.guy-hollingworth.com/home.html>.

Happy Surfing!

— Bob Meigs

Magic Notes

Toni Perrine will be combining magic with dance when she performs at the Bedouin Bazaar. This event will be held on October 15th and 16th from noon until 7pm at the Al Bahr Shrine Center; 5440 Kearny Mesa Road; San Diego, CA; 92111 Further information can be found at <http://www.bedouinbazaar.com>



Tony Clark will be presenting a lecture called "Timing for Everyone" at the The Red Spade Theater - 2539 Congress St. Suite B San Diego California 92110 on September 14th at 7pm. The cost will be \$20. For further information, contact Jose Sanchez at jsanchez@jsanchezmagic.com



Also at The Red Spade Theater, Tom McCarthy, Austin Fields and Sebastian are presenting "The Three Faces of Magic" This show will run every Saturday through October at 8:00pm.

Sebastian is also presenting his Intimate Miracles close-up show on Fridays at 8pm through October at the same theater.

Both shows are \$30. Tickets can be purchased from <http://www.redspadetheater.com>



"Love and magic have a great deal in common. They enrich the soul, delight the heart. And they both take practice."

— Nora Roberts



Circus Magic Productions is presenting its third annual Circus Magic West Coast Convention on September 15 –17th at the Kings Inn in Mission Valley. The cost is \$55. Come learn about magic, juggling, balloon sculpture, clowning and more. Further information can be found at <http://circusmagicwest.com/>



"...of course you might be asking yourself why rip the card up if I'm just going to put it back together again but then please keep in mind that it isn't nearly as impressive to put the card back together again if I first haven't torn it up ..."

— Guy Hollingsworth

