



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76 NOVEMBER 2011

VOL. XXV #11

Aaron Fisher to Lecture!

For our November meeting (November 14th), the ring is honored to have one of the best close-up card magicians in the world coming in for a lecture. This is none other than Aaron Fisher.

The 2002 publication of Aaron's critically acclaimed book, *The Paper Engine: Tension, Focus & Design in Card Magic* cemented his reputation as one of today's most influential thinkers and writers in card magic. A professional entertainer specializing in corporate events, nightclubs and bar magic, Aaron's spends his non-performing time on his other passion - helping magicians around the world unleash their true potential.

Over the last ten years, Aaron's taught literally thousands of magicians around the world at lectures, workshops and one on one. Over the last three years, his DVD's have earned him the reputation as not only one of the best sleight of hand artists working, but also one of the best magic teachers working today.

Over the course of this powerful evening of top notch magic, you'll be fooled and amazed by some of Aaron's most powerful effects. You'll be thrilled and pleased when you discover how easy these effects will be for you to learn yourself. Be sure to bring a deck of cards to this lecture. You'll have opportunities to learn simple, powerful concepts along with Aaron during the talk. These won't be 'hard core' sleights. Rather, simple concepts and approaches that will literally transform the way you approach your magic.

This lecture is free to all ring members, however, if you are not a ring member or would like to bring a non-



member (spouses/family are included as members), the fee to attend is \$20 per person.

Also, if you are interested in a hands-on, exclusive workshop the following night with Aaron, please contact Syd Segal for details at bt16380@aol.com. This additional workshop is \$30 per person and includes over 2 hours of detailed discussion and instruction in a private setting with Aaron and only a few others.

— Syd Segal

It was "Things that Went Bump in the Night" Night

The October meeting was, of course, a night made for Halloween Magic. President Kenny Shelton called the meeting was called to order at 7PM. Jeff Marcus, TVP, performed a Broken Wand ceremony for Roy Armstrong, a former member of the Ring. Roy's wife Betty, and several family members were present. Betty

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PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

EDITOR JAMES THAYER — EDITOR@RING76.COM



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spoke about Roy for the benefit of members who did not know him.

Happy Elliott told the membership about an upcoming walk to raise money for Alzheimer's Research. Sebastian announced an upcoming show this Sunday at the Red Spade Theater in Old Town. Derek Ostovani announced an additional venue for the performers of the Magic Lounge.

President's Message

Hello to all members of ring 76,

Our October meeting was a great and amazing show. We got to see a skull on a box that sang a song and the world famous Frankenstein. All our members who performed that night did a great job. I hope every one had a great Halloween and ate a lot of candy too.

Our November meeting is a lecture by Aaron Fisher, who is a great card man. So all our card magicians will get something from him and also I hope that all our members will find something of interest as well. Please make sure you're in good standing with the Ring and IBM headquarters as well. Nonmembers will pay \$20.00 at the door.

Nov. 22 is the San Diego Chargers Blood Drive. This has always been a successful event for the Ring (and for the San Diego Blood Bank, of course!) so please sign up! Contact me for further information or to sign up.

The December meeting is our holiday banquet. It's going to be at the Lions Club. Please see the article in this newsletter for further details.

Please welcome our new member who have recently joined the Ring and show them how great this club is.

Kenny Shelton

Toni Perrine announced several events in which she will be performing. John Kellogg III and Syd Segal announced several upcoming lectures.

Robert Reidy opened the magic with his membership audition, a Rope-thru-Neck, which was right on theme. The membership unanimously approved him for membership.

Yours truly next performed a Voodoo Doll routine, with the help of Yamboo, my animatronics singing skull. Joe Mystic followed with a séance routine, involving the levitation of a very heavy table.

Leo Sy performed both a rising Voodoo doll and a self-decapitation – a device, incidentally, that he may soon be bringing to market. Alex Greenbaum, one of our youngest performers, performed a Frankenstein transformation - first transforming a picture, then upon himself. Alex's mom, Donna Greenbaum, followed with Three Pumpkin Monte.

Jeff Marcus did a wonderful version Haunted Hank, which was much more impressive than the long available kids' trick. James Kellogg, Jr., followed with an "impossible" location of the piece to complete a jig-saw puzzle. Toni Perrine did a classic a spirit cabinet routine, sans cabinet!

Robert and Laurie Gordon closed our haunt with a comedy cut and restored rope and a prediction routine.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM, and we die-hards made our monthly pilgrimage to Rudford's Coffee Shop for coffee, desserts, and more magic.

Holiday Banquet

This year's Holiday Banquet will be on Monday, December 12th. There was a misprint in last month's newsletter and the wrong date was listed.

This is our annual holiday potluck and everyone is encouraged to bring your favorite holiday foods for the Ring to enjoy. You should bring enough to feed ten people, and family and friends are invited.

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Photos from the October Meeting



Betty Armstrong speaking to the Ring after the Broken Wand Ceremony



Bob Meigs



Joe Mystic (l)



Leo Sy



Photos from the October Meeting



Alex Greenbaum (l)



Donna Greenbaum



Jeff Marcus (r)



James Kellogg, Jr.



Photos from the October Meeting



Toni Perrine



Robert Reidy (c)



Robert (c) and Laurie (r) Gordon



October Performers

"Trade of the Tricks"

Reviewed by Joel A Moskowitz M D

Reviewed October 5, 2011

Why would an MIT professor, much less an anthropologist, want to learn about a subculture of humans called conjurers? Graham M. Jones thought it interesting enough to enter the mysterious clan and report on it. In a University of California softbound book of 289 pp, he uses his scholarly tools to describe this secret subculture. As part of a study project focusing on 'apprenticeship' he filmed the doings of a magic shop. Fascinated that a 'simple trick' involved many elements - not only the method, but the presentation and the need to keep it secret, Graham became addicted to the world of prestidigitation. Over the course of a decade, he managed to visit, study with, read about myriads of French magicians and their various associations.

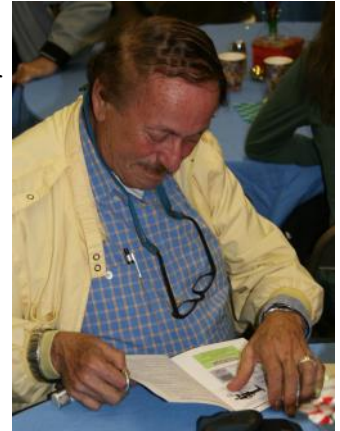
Would magicians think of themselves as a subculture of extremes? Like those who are headhunters, whirling dervishes, or those who speak in tongues?

Anthropologists are attracted to human extremes, aberrations and such specimens of humanity are what attracted Graham. He studied the French world of prestidigitation (one might say that this is not truly representative of magic as a whole but insights may be gathered).

A bow must be allowed for the Father of Modern Magic "Jean-Eugene Robert-Houdin" who in a decade beginning 1852 created the model urbane gentleman and Houdini paid homage to him by his name choice. Many American followers of legerdermain will know few of the famous French magicians absent Gaeton Bloom, Christian Girard, Dominique Devalier, and David Stone to name a few.

The author quoting Nardi describes the association of magicians as being more a male social club but persons of other genders and other races are making inroads. He details the kinds of relationships magicians have with one another; how that affects their sharing

of secrets, the circulation of knowledge and how their styles emanate. He writes of a 'community of practice' where the "newcomers" associate with the "old timers" both benefiting by the contact. Graham writes about 'Stage Talking'. Because the internet is a window for all, magicians have developed a hidden language (i.e. The Magic Cafe or the Genii Forum) for sharing and illuminating methods and tools (gimmicks)



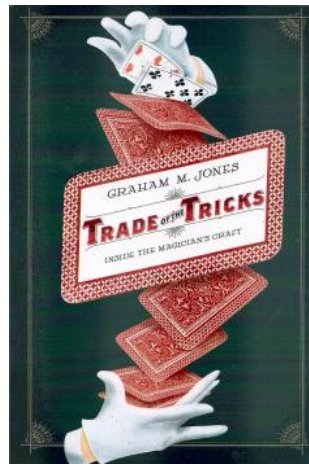
to conceal from casual observers their meaning. Another scientist, Erving Goffman's commentary about the jargonesque communications between performers include the merits and demerits of effects are analyzed, revelations of 'post-mortems' are shared, wounds are licked and encouragement given - all safe from prying eyes.

A startling but obvious concept is that magic is illusory: magicians hold only the illusory motif but the audience must believe in the actual illusion. They are complimentary functions. So devoted was

Graham to his investigations that he prepared himself and was accepted into the FFPA, the French Federation of Prestidigitory Artists. As such, he advises laymen who read his book that under oath he will not reveal any secrets. Some, he writes, may criticize that his focus was magic in and around Paris while Las Vegas or Madrid (the epicenter for European close-up) might have been more suitable. He argues that his is not a book about magic. It is a book about the social organization and valuation of knowledge that just focuses on magic.

It is worthwhile to offer a sample of a very enlightening and entertaining book. Graham describes

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(Holiday Banquet— Continued from page 2)

If you are not sure what to bring, then contact Richard Ustick, Ring Treasurer, and he will let you know what we are short of. Every food item is welcome and the more variety the happier we all are. The Ring will provide warming trays and serving utensils, but the holiday eats are up to you.

We will be starting a little earlier than a normal meeting, but that is because of the extensive set up and preparation needed. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for a meet and greet and so people can bring their food for the table. Dinner will begin at 6:30 with live entertainment beginning at 7:30.

See you there.

— Richard Ustick

Table Talk

This meeting will be the premier of our selling tables. As you recall from the last few newsletters, the Board decided to try something new.

Instead of having a swap meet this year, we are encouraging members to buy tables before each meeting to sell their wares. Up to three tables can be bought for just \$10, and members can sell their treasures before the meetings in the rear of the hall.

To reserve a table all you have to do is contact the Treasurer at rustic@flash.net and include "Table reservation" on the subject line. Any member in good standing can reserve a table, however, different members each month will have priority. This is so everyone gets a chance.

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Board of Directors.

— Richard Ustick

Just a friendly reminder.

This month's meeting will be a lecture by Aaron Fisher. It is one of the lectures the Ring provides to its members each year. It should be interesting and educational and I look forward to seeing everyone there.

(Trade of Tricks — Continued from page 6)

David Stones' instructional video on table hopping (2006): one comedic vignette in which David, table hopping in a fancy restaurant, squares off with paradoxically obnoxious spectators: he slaps someone who tries to explain a trick, head-butts a spectator who tries to interrupt a trick; and bites off a heckler's tongue. When a spectator inanely asks, "Can you make my wife disappear?" David has her bound, gagged and carted off. Similarly when a spectator smugly says, "I saw it coming" after David produces a bottle of wine out of thin air. The elegantly dressed magician smashes the bottle over the spectator's head and shoots another member of the party. "Did you see that coming", he pants ferociously.

Trade of the Tricks is studded with humor, insights, revelations about deceptions being created and destroyed. It is a scholarly sophisticated respectful examination of the world of those who amaze others. The gift to mankind is magic depends on the surprise, and uncertainty in contrast to other disciplines where predictability and seriousness are essential to achieve results. Whereas people become inured to the wonders of astronauts and being able to speak with friends on the other side of the planet, the miracle of magic still provokes 'ahh' and challenges the imagination.

This author celebrates the magician's craft, not craftiness. Dr. Moskowitz prescribes that you contact University of California Press for a copy that you will treasure. Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx (5/5)

As you may be aware from the last newsletter, the Board has decided to increase the fee for guests and other non-members to attend these lectures. The cost will now be \$20. This was done to help offset the lecture fees these talented performers charge, and to increase the benefits of being a member of Ring 76. The lecture is free to all paid members (as of this newsletter) as well as associate members. All others who attend will be charged.

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(Aaron Fisher— Continued from page 7)

If there is some question as to your status with the Ring, please contact Richard Ustick, Treasurer, at rustic@flash.net.

— Richard Ustick

Encyclopedia of Card Sleights

A DVD Review

As a newer member of Ring 76, I've been taking advantage of the Ring's lending library of DVDs. For the past couple of months, I've been watching parts of the DVD series "Encyclopedia of Card Sleights" by Daryl. The Ring library has all 8 DVDs of this set and Donna Greenbaum, who maintains the library DVDs, asked if I'd be able to provide a review of what I'd watched so far (volumes 1/4/5).

The volumes I've watched so far cover many subjects (and the remaining DVDs cover even more). Rather than listing them all, it might be best to simply refer to the publisher's website for a contents listing: <http://www.llpub.com/zenshop/>

Doing an advanced search for "Encyclopedia of Card Sleights" from this page should produce a listing of all 8 DVD volumes; each separate DVD listing describes the contents of that DVD.

Additionally, the Penguin Magic page for this series lists all 8 DVDs contents on one page:

<http://www.penguinmagic.com/p/95>

Rather than try to list everything I've watched, I'd like to mention some of the highlights for me. At this point in my studies I'm probably sort of an intermediate card worker - I've done a lot of studying and watching, but I know there are lots of things I'm not familiar with. Watching Daryl's demonstrations and explanations in this series added a lot of tools that I wasn't familiar with before:

- ♦ volume 4 goes through all sorts of gaff cards to use as locator/key cards, many of which were new to me

Ring 76 2011-12 Calendar

Nov. 14	Aaron Fisher Lecture
Dec. 12	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

- ♦ volume 4 also illustrates a number of simple forces; many were familiar to me, but a few very useful new ones were presented as well.
- ♦ volumes 4 and 5 present a number of multiple shifts/multiple card controls (this is why I specifically borrowed these DVDs, as some explanations I'd studied were hard to follow)
- ♦ volume 5 demonstrates some nice glimpses I hadn't seen before

One of the chief benefits of a series like this, for me, is the chance to see sleights (even those I may already know) executed from multiple angles by an expert in card technique. Even watching a sleight I think I already know, I may see some other aspect of it I hadn't considered, or a slightly different way of executing it, or a way of holding or moving the cards I hadn't thought about. I find it valuable to watch a short section each day - just one topic, perhaps - and try out a few of the techniques. My goal is not to learn them all, but to become familiar with many techniques and tools. That way, when I encounter them again, or a similar move, I'll have some familiarity with the move(s).

Daryl's teaching is uniformly excellent, and his pleasant personality comes across on the recordings. Typically, he demonstrates a sleight to the camera

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(Magic Links — Continued from page 8)

from the audience's viewpoint; of course, he makes sure the explanations are visible to the camera by turning as needed. As seems common in L & L publishing videos, a later "Superpractice" section will later show multiple sleights executed from the magician's viewpoint.

A possible weak point, at least in my eyes: the section teaching the classic force has Daryl demonstrating the force all by himself, with no one actually selecting a card. Instead, Daryl ends up pushing the force card out of the pack onto the table. Since spectator interaction may be large part of the classic force, it might have been better to work with a spectator (as Paul Green does in his excellent video "The Classic Force").

On the other hand, it may be that a comprehensive overview of sleights like this series by Daryl is not the place to learn fairly complex sleights such as the classic force; instead you might regard Daryl's instruction as an introduction to the concept and issues, with more detailed information to be acquired elsewhere. Other reviewers have noted the absence of topics such as the classic pass and the Zarrow shuffle (and I don't seem to find the Faro shuffle in the contents). In the same way, perhaps these sleights require more time and attention than they could be given in this excellent series.

But it's almost silly to complain about what is not there, in light of all that **is** there. I anticipate slowly going through the entire series and using it to supplement my other studies.

(Editor's note: An excellent complement to Daryl's Encyclopedia is Roberto Giobbi's Card College series.)

— Larry Samuels

Note: Ring 76 has an extensive collection of DVD's available to members to borrow. The DVD's are listed on the Ring 76 website. If you are interested in borrowing a DVD, please contact Donna Greenbaum at 858-793-0785 or dmgreenie@yahoo.com no later than the Friday before the meeting. You can also arrange pick up DVD's from her

house in Solana Beach. Members are limited to 2 DVD's at a time. If you are interested in borrowing any books from the library (also listed on the website), please contact Derek Ostovani at librarian@ring76.com

‘NET CONNECTIONS

In my October "Net connections, I overlooked a few very fine Halloween sites, some of which are having great sales now. One is <http://scarefactory.com/> which has some of the best animatronic props in the industry – check out the piano, under Haunted Furniture.

I found another great talking skull to keep Yamboo company. This one is produced by Cesaral, at <http://www.cesaral.com/> Skullly is the new guy. And there is another Frankenstein Lab site, interestingly called <http://frankensteinlabs.com/> This one has some great props, now at sale prices.

To round out this month's Net Connections, here's a few more manufacturers that are fun to visit. Black Magic, <http://www.blackmagic-sh.net/>, is the "secret arsenal" of one of our pros. They are located in Iran, but they have some remarkable apparatus, at equally remarkable prices.

On American soil, Peter Loughran's Master of Illusions, <http://www.masterofillusions.ca/>, has some interesting stuff, including some new "mini-illusions." And if you are not familiar with Michael Baker's work, you HAVE to visit http://www.themagiccompany.com/cat_main.html This guy is a craftsman extraordinaire. Finally, here's one I'll bet you don't know about: <http://www.goodmanmagic.com/> Rodney Goodman is another craftsman in the Michael Baker mold.

— Bob Meigs

Magic Notes

Godfrey the Magician (Our member Terry Godfrey) entertained at the Lane County Fair in August. The Lane County Fair is located in Eugene Oregon. He performed a newspaper headline prediction which received the fair a tremendous amount of publicity.

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On August 12th he did a radio interview with Robb Holloway and Bill Lundun during the WakeUp call show. The WakeUp radio show is a local broadcast in the Eugene, Oregon area. It was an 18 minute interview. During that time he performed magic on the radio and also made the newspaper headline prediction. The prediction was what the major headline would be on August 17 in the Register Guard. This was all performed live on the radio via the telephone. The prediction was certified by a notary public and shipped to KMTR-TV on August 12th.

Godfrey was interviewed over the telephone by Mark Baker from the Register Guard

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



Hoping to book more children's shows Valdero considers a new tactic.

Newspaper. Register Guard Newspaper is the paper that Godfrey wrote the prediction about the headline. On August 16th an article came out about the newspaper headline prediction promoting Godfrey and the Lane County Fair in the Register Guard Newspaper.

On August 17th, Megan Higgins who is a reporter for KMTR-TV brought the sealed prediction package to the fair. On live TV the prediction was seen to match the headlines of the paper. As soon as Godfrey the magician was finished with the TV appearance Mark Baker from the Register Guard once more called and interviewed him. Mr. Baker also interviewed Megan over the telephone as well.

A second article was in the newspaper on August 18th discussing the prediction. You can see a video of the newspaper headline prediction at www.youtube.com/watch?v=_FBvishJYP4.

Godfrey is becoming known as the publicity magician expert. In June he drove a car blindfolded to help promote the San Diego County Fair. The vehicle was provided by our member Bob Meigs.

The blindfold drive was covered by three of the major TV stations in San Diego. You can see video compiled of the coverage at www.blindfolddrive.com. It is the second video on the webpage.

