

Ring Report Ring #170 “The Bev Bergeron Ring” SAM Assembly #99

June 27, 2019 | Archived Famulus

June, 2019 Meeting

Our June meeting was a lecture by Nathan Coe Marsh. President Mike Matson opened the meeting and introduced Nathan, who has been featured on network TV and Penn & Teller’s hit series “Fool Us”. He has appeared at The Magic Castle as well as cruise ships and corporate shows. He is an active full-time professional. Nathan has a captivating blend of audience connection, hilarious audience interaction, creativity, energy, comedy and puzzling magic. Marsh majored in philosophy in college and his performing theory and approach has an intellectual, historical and academic basis.

He opened by stuffing a white silk handkerchief in a cocktail stem glass and then adding a blue one on top. When held between his outstretched palm, the white handkerchief suddenly vanished. This is an update of a classic method and he showed every detail in all of his moves and method. Next was a classic Chop Cup with two baseballs appearing as a finale. Again, there was detailed thinking in his moves and historical credits. A spectator selected card was spectacularly caught in midair from a tossed deck. Finally, he did his version of Johnny Thompson’s \$100 Dollar Prediction. A wallet with \$100 and an envelope inside is given to the spectator to hold and then a card is selected from a deck. He promises to have predicted the card. Nathan ups the prize by also promising the contents of his own wallet, which he gave to the spectator to hold, if he failed. Even at this point, the spectator had the choice of staying with the card or selecting the next one. He then showed that he had predicted the correct card by having the spectator look in both wallets.

The second part of the lecture was close-up and Nathan showed some excellent methods of knowing which card a spectator selects by using clever peaks in a stacked deck. He ended with a well thought out “Coins Across” routine. He left us with his method for guiding the creative process: Focus, Rapport, Climax and Emotional Connection. He repeated the old Vaudeville formula of ending any show with a soft emotional connection after your most spectator effect.

We all learned much from Nathan Coe Marsh.

Dennis Phillips

<https://nathancoemarsh.com>



Photo by Dan Stapleton



Dennis Deliberations ... Ring # 170

“The Bev Bergeron Ring”

July 2019

“Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by those moments that take our breath away.”

-George Carlin-



Newell Brands Announces Agreement to Sell The United States Playing Card Company to Cartamundi Group

HOBOKEN, N.J.--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--Newell Brands (NASDAQ:NWL) continues to make progress on its Accelerated Transformation Plan, designed to create a simpler, faster, stronger consumer-focused portfolio of leading brands, and today announced that it has signed a definitive agreement to sell The United States Playing Card Company (“USPC”) to Cartamundi Group, a leading manufacturer and distributor of playing cards and board games.

USPC, based in Erlanger, KY is the leader in the production and distribution of premier brands of playing cards, including BICYCLE®, BEE®, AVIATOR®, HOYLE®, and FOURNIER®. In 2018 net sales for USPC were approximately \$112 million.

Newell Brands (NASDAQ:NWL) is a leading global consumer goods company with a strong portfolio of well-known brands, including Paper Mate®, Sharpie®, Dymo®, EXPO®, Parker®, Elmer’s®, Coleman®, Marmot®, Oster®, Sunbeam®, FoodSaver®, Mr. Coffee®, Graco®, Baby Jogger®, NUK®, Calphalon®, Rubbermaid®, Contigo®, First Alert®, and Yankee Candle®.

Cartamundi is Latin for “Cards for the World”. With a history dating back to 1765, today Cartamundi is a leading manufacturer of playing cards, card games and board games. With a network of owned sales offices, 11 state-of-the-art manufacturing plants and an over 2,200 people strong workforce,

This from Larry Nelson...

Dad suffered a stroke over the Memorial weekend. He's out of ICU and doing a bit better. Now therapy and a lot of prayers needed. He may be 90 but He's no quitter! Love ya Pop!



Jimmy Nelson was a classic Ventriloquist from a more genteel era.

I really need a larger portable sound system for those shows with noisy kids.



This one of those illusion that I like. It is a bit of a puzzle and slower in pace , but mysterious to the lay public. Today, it is different from the flashy, quick material we most often see on TV and stage.

Of course it is based off the Mc Donald Birch Scimitar and Mark Wilson's version with large playing cards cutting the girl (artwork by Francis Martineau, and input by Alan Wakeling)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPmQEpF9rEI&feature=youtu.be>



Murray Hatfield & Teresa - Swords & Shields

Bev Bergeron commented to me: "Dennis, The original was by Ed Stowell in his Oriental Oddities of the 1920s -according to George Boston in his Inside Magic page 149. Mark bought it second hand from a magician in Oklahoma, I forgot his name, but have it written down somewhere...When we started doing the "Class A" fairs in 1962, we used the illusion. But Mark used a large Blade on a handle. As he sliced through Nani's parts. I would open up the box. She was fast. Much better for the beginning. A couple of years later, Martineau worked it out with the big playing cards."

Here is the original Birch prop being performed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozrYKG3tyU4>



Charles Bach (paying this summer at Myrtle Beach, S.C.) generated a lot of excitement and discussion with his complex balloon trick on Penn and Teller.

It seemed a bit overly complicated to the audience and more of a “magician fooler” than for lay entertainment.

Teller did figure out the method.

Here is the clip from the show

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ghn31-4MPeE>



Here is the explanation offered on the Internet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1lRf2dVRbw>

The effect is complex and requires audience attention to follow along.

I still use the smaller and almost as effective “Comedy Card in Balloon” by Warren Stevens. It packs small and gets big laughs.

Joe Eddy Fairchild has a stage version of the Warren Steven’s effect.

http://fairchildmagic.com/fairchild_magic_v2_041.htm

Here is another version by Christian Augustine.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=6&v=KUk2xskET2I



Watch this and please tell me that the Chinese will not soon rule the world, or at least the magic world.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pV08tEMP8qU&feature=youtu.be>



Chinese magician performs world's best magic trick

It really is the end of a magic era, the classic style American touring big illusion show: The days of Thurston, Dante, Blackstone, Virgil, Kramien, Calvert are gone.

My upcoming lecture, here in Orlando, at the September Magic History Conference will feature Three Stage Magician/Illusionists who I knew.

I will not only talk about their personal lives but about their small town Americana touring business models. We call that “The front end”, it is based on an analogy with a passenger train.

What is the power that moves the show?

What markets did they go after, how did they book shows, how did they sell tickets? How did they keep playing the same route, year after year? How did they frame their shows to please their audiences?

A lecture by Dennis Phillips

THREE WHO I KNEW

Their beginnings, their talents, their glory and their legacy!

A personal remembrance of their contribution to the history of the Magic Arts.

Philip Morris Paul Osborne Vince Carmen

See examples of the sets, their magic, their routines and hear the back story on their business models, methods and markets, especially the workings of “the spook show” and the “the phone room ” used in the 1950s to 1990s for touring a magic illusion Show.

Only at the 2019 Florida Magic History Conference

Can it all be revived or reformatted to today’s population?

We do know that the end of that era was brought about by several factors:

- *The Internet and instant ubiquitous secrets ,as well as unlimited handheld amusement and shorter attention spans.

- *The Mega destination resort where the audience moves and the complex show stays. These killed the smaller amusement attractions.
- *The economic and social collapse of small towns and rural areas along with the dissolution of “community” which destroyed the marketing base.
- *Competitive Capitalism without regard for local culture and art. Also seen in the end of local non-news TV programming and local radio.
- *Complex Theatrical technology which makes everything else obsolete and mundane.
- *The only economically viable magic market left : Walk around and street magic.
- *The utter collapse of localism: small towns and their small local businesses which supported local shows and local civic and fraternal clubs.

I watched most of this happen during the 1990s to 2000. It happened quickly. The collapse of vaudeville circuits took less than 10 years as movies quickly took over.

In my show markets, as local factories closed in small towns, the economic base evaporated , downtowns died and only the regional Walmart survived. That was not enough to support a local show.

The pace quickened with the 2001 downturn following 9-11 and then in the 2008 Great Recession and Malls began to die. Middle class and small town America has not reverse the downward trend.

In the meantime, more jobs are headed off shore, more social division, more Malls and stores close, less small town stage magic shows, less local support for a touring illusion show....

Sadly for living magicians, *America may never have great touring stage magic in small towns again*, or at least not for many generations.

David Copperfield “completes” the Star Spangled Banner Flag is an interesting video sketch. The concept is to send someone back in time to find the Star that had been missing from the flag

(cut out as a souvenir but then destroyed in the Great Baltimore Fire). The sketch is classic Copperfield with the cinematic theme music, David’s narration and the need for suspension of disbelief.

But, it is good to see him back on TV again.



David Copperfield Blends Fact and Fiction to "Find" the Flag's Missing 15th Star

See the

effect: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ylv81fohvUk&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3cXnmUpvxwBNtNNIHVDyr7lO2WGSuRWqkl7wTRUNKGmlBha3FGaBMDkzc>

Speaking of stunts:



Magician's body found after failed river escape stunt

(CNN) Indian police have recovered the body of a stuntman who went missing in the Hooghly River Sunday while attempting a daredevil trick, authorities confirmed.

Chanchal Lahiri, 40 -- better known by his stage name "Jadugar Mandrake", or "Wizard Mandrake" -- was undertaking an escape stunt near the Howrah Bridge in Kolkata, where he was tied up with steel chains and rope and lowered into the water.

He was expected to free himself and swim to the surface as he had done many times before. Yet worried spectators, which included team members and his family, launched a frantic search along the banks of the river after he failed to emerge 30 minutes later.

Before being lowered into the water, Agence France-Presse (AFP) reported that Lahiri told the crowd: "If I can open it up then it will be magic, but if I can't it will be tragic."

Syed Waquar Raza, deputy commissioner at the Port Division of Kolkata Police, told CNN that police had found the magician's body on Monday evening around two kilometers from the site of the incident.

The body was identified by his brother, and a police investigation has been launched into how the accident occurred, Raza confirmed.

Jayanta Shaw, a photographer with a local newspaper, told CNN that Lahiri would usually break free from his bonds, swim ahead and emerge from the water.

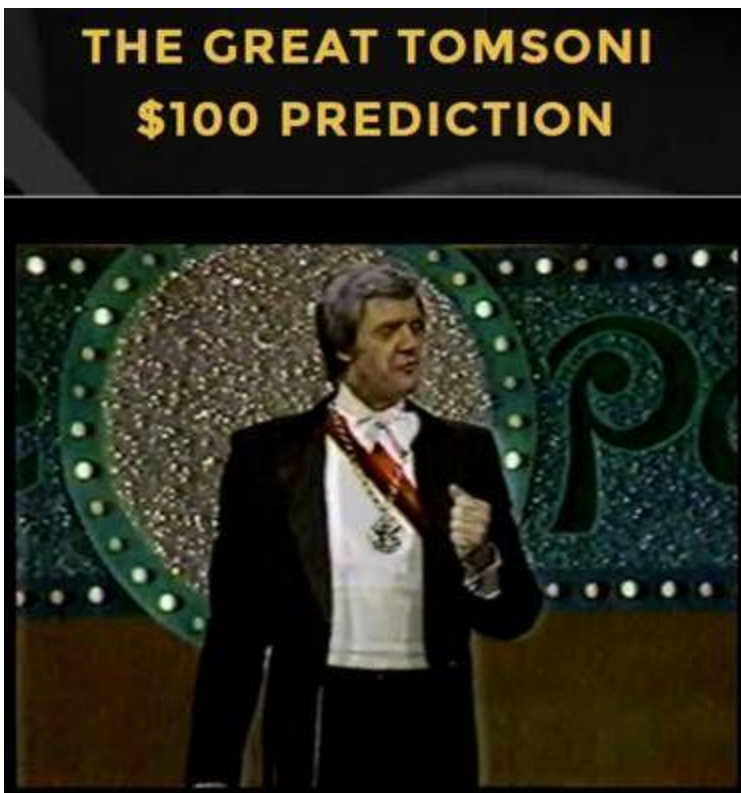
"When he failed to emerge from the river for a while, the authorities began the search," Shaw said.

Shaw also noted that Lahiri had expressed a desire to complete the stunt in order to promote the performance of magic, which has become unpopular in India despite its traditional roots in the country.

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/18/india/india-magician-drowned-body-found-intl-scli/index.html>

Nathan Coe Marsh's lectured at our 6/19/2019 Ring Meeting. He did not fully explain his version of Johnny Thompson's \$100 Prediction but he said he would give enough clues so we could find the solution, if we wanted. The major clue was the Koran 101 Deck.

<https://www.magicana.com/video/great-tomsoni-100-prediction>



Johnny's \$100 Prediction, uses multiple outs, a version of the Koran 101 deck, and some tricked out wallets. But it takes keen audience management and fast-thinking plus audience management.

The "101 Deck," most famously used by Al Koran. This is a deck of four force cards running in sequence (10C JH 4S 6D 10C JH 4S 6D, etc.) but interleaved between each force card is a no-force random card (e.g. n—10C—n—JH—n—4S—n—6D, where n is a no-force random card). The 8 card sequence is repeated 6 times to make a 48-card deck.

There are variations of the basic method.

In my simplified version, the random cards were between banked sets of 4 force cards with a no-force between each bank. You will need a lot of byplay so they don't look at the dealt cards very long. I use a mechanic's grip so the fingers obscure the cards and I rush them along with lots of comments about running out of time and looking at my watch.

Cards are dealt off into a face-up pile, in my hand, and the spectator calls, "Stop," at any time. If he stops on a force card, in my hand, that card is interpreted as the choice and the choice is made between it and the next force card; if he stops on the last force card, in the banked section, the optional card is the one before it. The point is that you set it up so whichever card is selected, you have a preset reveal. You make a big deal about having a totally free choice. Unknown to the audience it is a choice between just two cards.

Given Koran's clever history, maybe he was the one who came up with this basic idea. Harry Lorraine and others claim credit for various banked decks.

And why is the original called "101"? The "1-0-1" name comes from a simple description of the deck: One force card, one null, one force card..."

I use 2 wallets , in my back pockets for the last part, each with the embossed card and holding the card.

The wallet the spectator holds can be a Himber Wallet, if you want them to tear open the envelope, or you can simply have the 2 cards, or a double-sided card in the same envelope, in an unprepared wallet and simply pull out, or show, the appropriate one.