

May 2016 Ring Meeting

Posted on [May 26, 2016](#) by [Dennis Phillips](#)

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

May 2016 Meetin

President Craig Schwarz brought the meeting to order. We had two special guests, Tom Craven and his granddaughter, Michele. We are happy to see member Joe Zimmer is back after several years of performing in Japan. Dan Stapleton showed us the official poster from Magicpalooza 2016 and went over some history of magic clubs in Central Florida. He announced a Close-up Convention on May 5th through 7th in 2017 here in Orlando and it will have big contest prizes.

Bev Bergeron did a teach-in and featured an effect he had made in his Air Force days in the early 1950s. It was a visible Table Knife through Drinking Glass where the bottom of the glass falls out and is restored.

Phil Schwartz presented Magic History Moment #76 on Antiquarian Magic. He began with the story of Soto Sunetaro’s creation mentioned in the March 1902 issue of The Sphinx. It was the Japanese Box. In 1912 Floyd Thayer made a version from Honduran Mahogany called the Handkerchief Box. Phil showed several versions of the prop. Angelo Lewis is better known by his pen name, Professor Hoffman, wrote many books on magic such as his consequential “Modern Magic”. In one book he mentioned a “Dissecting Drawer Box.” Phil demonstrated the Thayer-made version. Finally, Phil showed the Thayer “Silk Cabby” which was loosely based on a Tom Sellers idea, and the “One-Hand Production Box

Dennis Phillips opened the monthly show with a salute to the late Paul Daniels and Doug Henning by doing a Chop Cup Routine.

and Daniel’s “Illusionette”, a version of Jack Hughes “My Lady Steps out”.

Guest Tom Craven had an intriguing topological puzzle with a box that opened into stars and rearranged itself. He had a baffling card effect where he read the card someone was thinking of. Mark Fitzgerald is always ready with great coin magic. He had coils coming from his ears and changing places in his hands. He did a fabulous coin matrix with bare hands and then a coin appeared under a napkin. Jimmy Ichihana had several plots to two great card effects. In the first, a simple game of “Go Fish” ends with random cards selected being in pairs. Next he showed how magicians cheat at poker. The audience seemingly dealt him a straight flush. Josh Arroya had four people think of cards at their chosen number in the deck. Using an interesting story of shrimp who stunned by snapping their claw, he popped his fingers and stunned the card from everyone. Last up was James F. Bailey III. He had an audience member select a card and it was found in the audience in someone’s carry bag.

Dennis Phillips

Dennis Deliberations ... Ring # 170

“The Bev Bergeron Ring”

June 2016

“Be so good they can’t ignore you.” – Steve Martin

<http://www.flixy.com/australian-magician-james-galeas-unbelievable-trick.htm>

Remember: Steve Martin never said, “Be so original they can’t ignore you.” We know the source of the trick this guy does, and it’s done by a lot of magicians. The Beatles did everyone else’s hits when they started out (their first album is full of them) – and still they climbed out of obscurity to become great.

One tiny bump in the road: You’ll notice when the guy accidentally left one card on the table, he had to fan through the cards and cut to the right place to put the tabled card back. A good sleight of hand worker has more balls than a naked guy swimming through a tank full of piranhas....

Don’t you think that any reasonably intelligent KNOWS it is done with a stacked deck?

Yes, this is a clever variation and done well.

I did a close-up gig years ago after Bill Malone had popularized “Sam the Bellhop” and at the gig one of the other magicians was doing “Sam the Bellhop”... He did it well. The ONLY comments I heard was about how “cute” the story was and how “The guy is great at setting up the deck”... They did not know how or anything about false cuts but they intuitively knew it had to be done with a stacked deck.

Years ago, when I was using a stacked deck in a trick for lay men at conventions, , I would just ask the people at the table, “Have you see a guy named Sy Stebbins at the convention?” They would say, “No” and I would say, “I want to give him back this deck that I borrowed from him. This is a borrowed deck.” Once I did have a magician come up and tell me that he about fell off the chair when I pulled that line.”

A surprising fact most people don’t know, is that magic has served as a “stepping stone” for talented entertainers who went on to become household names within the mainstream branches of show business. A quick glance online reveals the following list, and it’s full of surprises. Celebrities who started out performing magic include:

Steve Martin

Woody Allen

Carl Balantine

Jerry Lewis

Neil Patrick Harris

Dick Van Dyke

Andy Griffith

Bob Barker

Adrien Brody

Arsenio Hall

Jason Alexander

Prince Charles

Don Johnson

Gallagher

Dick Cavett

Johnny Carson

Jackie Gleason

Cary Grant

Tyrone Power

Boris Karloff

Fred Astaire

Buster Keaton

Milton Berle

Tallulah Bankhead

Barbara Stanwick

Harold Lloyd

Karl Malden

Dom DeLuise

John Denver

Hugh O'Brien

Chester Morris

Charles Dickens.

Dennis Phillips