

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

Posted on [February 26, 2017](#) by [Dennis Phillips](#)

Ring Report Ring #170 “The Bev Bergeron Ring” SAM Assembly #99 February 2017 Meeting

The February meeting was preceded by a board meeting. President Craig Schwarz called the meeting to order. Bev Bergeron explained that our corporate legal structure is now in place for our Ring. Mike Matson was appointed to the board as our new Director at Large. It was determined that it is too late to have a flea market this year so we will begin planning in November for a Flea Market to be held next year.

Our meeting came to order. Twenty nine were present. We had three guests, Cato and Susan Holler, DDS from North Carolina Ring #392 and Ron Vega, who we welcome to the Ring as a new member.

Dan Stapleton gave an update on this year’s Magicpalooza on May 12-14 which will be the Florida Close-up Conference and Competition. Details and registration from lynnmf1952@hotmail.com. Dan added that this year there will be a showing of some rare magic film clips.

Bev Bergeron’s monthly teach-in was an impromptu “Burning a Table Napkin”. He pulled a napkin up through his fist and burned a small section. On opening the fist, the burned part was restored.

Phil Schwartz presented Magic History Moment #82. He gave the story of what may be the most Famous Magician in history, “Rhia Rhama Rhoose”. Almost every educated person knows him but not because of his magic fame. He was born in Portsmouth, England in 1812.

He was fascinated with circuses, wax works, ventriloquism, ghosts and magic. He worked as a law clerk and then as a newspaper reporter and married and had 10 children. In his advertising he described his magic somewhat extravagantly and current magicians will recognize the classic effects as a Nest of Boxes, Burned and restored Handkerchief, Pocket watch vanishing and appearing in a loaf of bread and Baking a cake in a hat. This fellow magician is better known as Charles Dickens, famous for his many novels and the classic “A Christmas Carol”. Dickens visited America in 1867 on a lecture tour. He died in 1870.

Dan Stapleton began this month’s Ring Show with Cidentaquin by Howard Anthony Adams using ESP cards and a mental prediction effect by Sammy Smith called Radar Vision. Cato Holler showed how to instantly tie a Snap Knot into a rope. He learned this from Bill Spooner. Greg Solomon said he was celebrating 49 years of magic and showed a clever way that an upright plastic strip would bend different ways when held upright. Mark Fitzgerald showed his version of Professor’s Nightmare with an impressive smoke finale. He followed up with a Ring on Rope. He then did a card selection and reveal effect using an i-Pad and having an audience member read aloud the instructions. Dennis Phillips concluded by showing a version of Thayer’s Bamboo

Table made in his home workshop. He used it with his own variation of Histed's Square Circle with viewing holes in both square tubes.

Dennis Phillips

Dennis Deliberations ... Ring # 170

"The Bev Bergeron Ring"

March 2017



fides quaerens intellectum

Our "faith" is that magic as an entertainment art, will survive. I don't know how and in what form but magical entertainment will always be with us.

It's no secret: These 7 things are killing magic as we knew it. It remains to be seen what "Magic" will be but we are at the end of an era.

Famous magicians draw large crowds in a few places but the art of illusion is withering at a grass-roots level. Here's why.

In the last 15 years or so, magic has nearly pulled off the one trick it would rather avoid: vanishing from public view.

At the turn of the 19th century, magicians were among the world's most popular performers, drawing thousands as they traveled across country.

Despite the efforts of David Blaine, Penn & Teller, Cris Angel and other famous magicians that few people can name off hand, the art has suffered greatly, according Emory Williams Jr., a member of the Society of American Magicians.

Here are the seven factors sawing magic's popularity in (far more than) half, Williams said:

The Internet. The slayer of everything from print to brick-and-mortar stores is the go-to place for illusions, Williams said. Neighborhood magic stores can't compete.

1. The Internet, part 2: It is the medium of choice for those who can't keep a secret. Hundreds of videos explain how tricks are done, robbing the magic from magic.
2. Lack of practice. A great act requires hours and hours of practice, a price few young illusionists are willing to pay.
3. One-hit wonders. Kids will buy a trick, fool their friends and immediately show them how it's done. "They're pranksters, not magicians," Williams said.
4. Delusional illusions. Famous acts continue to draw crowds, but magic's popularity starts at the birthday-party level, where poor performances can resonate for years, Williams said. Amateurs trying to make a few bucks on the side turn the art into hokum-pocus.
5. Pirates. An inventor can spend years developing an illusion, only to see knock-off versions all over the Web at half the price. Williams blames China as well as customers happy to snag a cheap, if pirated, trick.
6. Reluctant magicians. Given the failing state of magic, Williams said, experienced magicians prefer to keep their prized illusions to themselves, depriving future generations of the secrets needed to advance the art.

There's a "magic" quote that I found recently, that I think is refreshingly astute. It comes off as a bit of a self-evident cliché, read in isolation, but when viewed from the perspective of what I'm about to say here, I think it speaks volumes in just 12 succinct words. First, a preamble: As you know, there has been, lately, a number of neurologists taking magic into account in their studies of the brain, with regards to human cognition and all. And one husband-and-wife team has even written a book on the subject, touting their studies as if they represented some kind of revolutionary new understanding of the workings of the mind/brain complex. They even coined a new word to describe their studies: "Neuromagic", as if it was some kind of brand new discipline. If you put that word into Google, as I did just now, literally dozens of "hits" come up (running for several pages).

But I like Teller's very succinct and intelligent response to it all:

I'm sure it's just Teller's way of saying that there's really nothing "new" here. Neurological researchers may like to believe they've discovered a profoundly great way to tap into the nature of human consciousness and perception (and maybe they have), but magicians have taken it almost for granted for as long as they've been practicing their craft.

Magicians have done controlled testing in human perception for thousands of years- Teller

Criss Angel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5gK2MxGRoM>

Angel uses lots of edits but mostly it is the Kevin James' method of using people with a deformity.

The two stooges have *sacral agenesis*.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caudal_regression_syndrome

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/photos/man-half-body-10272168/image-10272176>



As a teacher, I came across this video of the ways that students cheat on tests. It contains some great ideas for hiding information a mentalists Question and Answer Act.

http://search.aol.com/aol/video?q=how+to+google+your+way+through+high+school&s_it=video-ans&sfVid=true&videoId=15CC872B7FBDA7B4AF9D15CC872B7FBDA7B4AF9D&v_t=keyword_rollover

Why I often Cringe at card tricks.....

The British show host asks actor Chris Pratt if he is *really* a magician.

“Yes I am!” Pratt replies with a straight face. (He then goes on to brag that he “played a magician” in *The Magnificent Seven*.) So the host hands Pratt a deck of Bicycle cards and lets him prove it.

Chris begins his sorry-excuse-for-a “card trick”, and he starts out by apologizing that he may goof it up, and that “It only ‘works’ 50% of the time.” That constitutes one lousy beginning, and it’s all downhill from there. What then follows, is the *lamest and longest*

card trick you'll ever see! Pratt's presentation is pure torture to watch. But the audience and other guests are eating it up. Pratt calls the effect "Burn 'Em". Then his disastrous efforts are "topped" when he hands the deck out to black rapper "Wil.I.am", who couldn't shuffle a deck of cards if his life depended on it. Each time he cuts the deck (about five times) he calls it a "shuffle."

You'll be FACE PALMING yourself several times when you watch this train wreck masquerading as magic.

Here it is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fy3Mi8rOB3U>

Then as if that wasn't enough ... along comes another guy who puts on a YouTube video "explaining" Pratt's card trick! As if it was worth explaining at all.

If you do this card trick...speed it up.

Dennis