

Ring 170 and SAM 99 "The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring

July 22, 2022 | Archived Famulus



Be kind and courteous. Masks, especially K95 and KN 95 masks are encouraged, but not required.

July 2022 Meeting

We welcomed our incoming President Ryan Stiner, who will be filling in for Mike Matson's remaining term. Matson has been busy with increasing professional performing activities. Mike was honored for his time as President.

We had 24 attending with a guest, Paul Thomey who just moved to Orlando from California. Greg Solomon announced that he will soon be doing a lecture for the Lakeland magic club on restaurant magic. It was announced that David Ferrari has reopened his illusion show on the Orlando International Drive tourist strip. Our recent magic flea market was a success. President Stiner gave a preview of up coming magic conventions and Luciano talked about the recent Atlanta Magic Convention and David Copperfield's virtual appearance.

The monthly meeting show began with Adrian doing a card effect with a volunteer. Adrian did a red and blue card mix and slop shuffle and ending up with all the cards right side up and when the numbers on the card were dialed on the volunteer's cell phone, they called Adrian's cell phone number.

Greg Solomon created a clever new novelty from a miniature toy polaroid camera. By added a card sticker to the toy's pop-out photo, he was able to "take a picture" of a card, in the spectator's mind, that has been just selected. He then showed a "Heavy card deck" which created a great tactile illusion, when comparing the weight of his other card decks. He concluded with small talking "Zoltar" robot.

Ravelli gave an update on his recent Mexican magic convention experience and entertained us with a great aluminum version of the Okito Coin Box. He then did a wonderful rainbow rope and linking ropes made by his Mexican magic mentor.

Dr. Ken Schreibman, Radiologist and former Wisconsin medical professor gave us an interesting Power Point personal story about a medical seminar that he and his wife and son attended in China a few years ago. He then did a fascinating mental effect where stacks of different Chinese coins were given to three different spectators, and they randomly selected coins that he filled in on a restaurant bill and they matched his predicted total on a Chinese Restaurant Menu. This was Dr. Ken's clever adaptation of John Archer's "Chinese Choice".

Dennis



Caption:

Michael Matson (Left) and Ryan Stiner (R)

Ryan giving Mike a plaque and thanking him for serving 4 terms as President.

(Photo courtesy of Phil Schwartz " Resident Ring Historian")

This note from Dr. Ken Schreibman, about Greg Solomon's great Polaroid card reveal:

**“People know that the "World's Coolest Polaroid Camera" is available for \$9 at:
<http://amazon.com/gp/product/B01LZGPV6U>
(There's also a Barbie version that's really cute for \$10)”**



Dennis Deliberations ... Ring # 170, Assembly #99

“The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring”

There seem to four kinds of people:

The optimist who sees the glass as half full.

The pessimist who sees the glass as half empty.

An engineer who sees the glass and says, “That glass is twice as big as it needs to be!”

And the magician who sees the glass says, “Darn it! I wish the magic companies would make a glass that lets ALL of the liquid drain out!”

Dick Berry, age 95, died in a nursing home near Orlando. His wife, Phyllis died in 2019.

Dick was active in the 1980s and 1990s in our Orlando Ring and a colorful character with many large illusions.



This Tribute to his parents from Dick's son, Chris

“When an old man dies a library burns to the ground.”

That ancient proverb proved true on June 24 when Richard Lyman Berry transitioned from his earthly presence to the afterlife that his deep faith promised.

For 92 years, Dick Berry accumulated enough knowledge and wisdom to fill volumes. It was a library packed with abundant treasures which he freely shared, along with his love and affection.

During his long life, he touched thousands and created a legacy that will continue for generations.

It was a magical journey.

Born on New Year's Day 1930, young Dick Berry unwrapped a present on Christmas Day 1938 which started a lifelong interest. It was a Gilbert Mysto Magic Set, and soon “Prince Marko” was performing tricks for his family and friends.

The 12-year-old was among those at Decatur's Lincoln Theatre on September 2, 1942, when fire broke out during a performance by Harry Blackstone, the great magician. As

flames threatened the theatre Blackstone was able to evacuate the audience of nearly 2000 without any injuries.

That evening Dick's parents took him to Blackstone's hotel and thanked the magician for saving their son's life, Blackstone encouraged the youngster's interest in magic and gave the boy his mailing address. The two began a correspondence and developed a friendship. While still a teenager, Dick was hired as an assistant to the great magician – traveling for three years across the country, rooming with Del Ray and Nick Ruggiero, and learning skills that would serve him well in the years to come.

In 1945, Dick had been seriously injured during a football game, breaking a vertebra in his neck. During his recovery his teammates brought him the new Tarbell book (Volume IV) as a get-well gesture, he studied the text and spent hours of his recuperation practicing card manipulation and misdirection.

Any magician needs a beautiful assistant and the love affair between Dick and Phyllis Phipps led to a union that lasted for 69 years, his devotion continuing even after her death on July 22, 2019.

The marriage soon took both of them on the road with Blackstone, and when they retired from the road they started a family. When he passed, the family they had started had expanded to 38 direct descendants.

For Dick and Phyllis, those offspring were always first and foremost in their lives.

While he always said that his family was his greatest achievement, Dick excelled in his professional life. As a civil engineer he would build highways and landmarks that continue to be used by countless millions.

When the Florida tourism boom began in the early 1970s, the Berrys relocated from Decatur to the Sunshine State. Over the next several years he was responsible for projects that ranged from the construction of Interstate highways to an innovative procedure which allowed for the installation of underground water mains and pipes only steps from the Gulf of Mexico. The new process permitted – for the first time – construction of high-rise buildings on barrier islands such as Longboat Key. In the years that followed he was repeatedly called upon to oversee massive developments, including the construction of Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, high-rise hotels in New Orleans and highway monitoring systems in Maryland. He also built the Houston Astros spring training facility and supervised projects at the Kennedy Space Center, including the Space Mirror Memorial, which honors the memory of those astronauts who gave their lives in the pursuit of science.

When asked about his greatest professional achievement, Dick would point to the construction of the terminals at Orlando International Airport, a facility that now serves over 50-million passengers a year. From the early 1980s until the North Terminal complex was completed in 2000, Berry was responsible for coordinating a multitude of contractors and thousands of workers, both as the lead engineer and later a consultant for the city of Orlando.

Despite the tremendous responsibility that accompanied these massive projects, Dick never lost his love of magic or performing. Whether it was breaking the tension of a business meeting through his expert sleight-of-hand, or occasionally appearing on stage with a full-evening show, “Marko” was respected by other magicians as both an entertainer and a craftsman.

Many years ago, he operated Marko Magic Studio – a magic shop in his hometown - he taught youngsters how to perform magic tricks. He started collecting magic ephemera and lithographs in the 1940s, and later acquired illusions and other effects owned by his mentor, Blackstone, as well as Thurston, Tampa, Hardeen and Kellar.

In the 1950s his spook show, “Fantom Follies” toured the Midwest during the winter months when construction slowed because of weather, and in the 1970s he created “Theatre of Illusion,” a concept that Frances Marshall wrote about in “The Success Book.”

“Theatre of Illusion” was presented on college campuses as part of drama classes where theatre students were taught the art of illusion, and misdirection. At the end of the course the students appeared in performances. Many of those who he taught have continued their interest in magic decades after their first exposure.

A long-time member of Hollywood’s Magic Castle, Berry served in various leadership roles, including President of IBM Rings in Decatur, Sarasota and Orlando as well as the SAM Assembly in Orlando.

After he retired from an extraordinary professional career, Dick and Phyllis devoted their time to their family, and spent several summers in Baraboo, Wisconsin where they presented Theatre of Illusion at Circus World, a tourist attraction near the Wisconsin Dells.

He presented magic from 1938 until he finally performed his last effect in 2021. Remarkably, he was a performer in ten different decades!

Several years ago, Dick was diagnosed with dementia, and the magnificent library that contained a lifetime of recollections slowly began to close, shelf by shelf, room by room, until he was no longer able to retrieve them. Fortunately for those who were also on the journey, many of those memories have been preserved.

Dick Berry was always an optimist and happy until the end. And why not? His mantra was simple. His advice timeless. “Stay positive,” he would say. “Better days are coming....”

Here is a fabulous “no gimmick” version of Timothy Wenk’s Mised (gimmicked version was on an old Copperfield Special)

Nothing needed but an ordinary dollar bill and pencil!

The explanation begins about 5 minutes into the clip.



Gene Alcorn

10h · 🧑🏻

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The weekend prior to my 50th Reunion I had the immense honor of spending an entire day with the one and only Dennis Phillips. I went up to Orlando to get a little hands on tutelage from this juggernaut of knowledge! We laughed, he taught, we talked about everyone who is anyone in the field of magical entertainment, he introduced me to a few surprises in the trade and I left having developed a new found friend! A true plethora of knowledge and history... What a great day and I can't wait to visit him again!



Dennis Phillips

It was a fun day! My magic illusion experience goes back to Col. Alcorn, who made great illusions for the big names for the better part of the 20th Century and I am thrilled to help Gene carry on the tradition and the dynasty. Yes, lets do it again!

<https://alcornillusions.com/>

Did you know that there are so many fabulous female magicians breaking traditions and shattering conceptions?

Connie Boyd 's 2 Year Magic-Versary You-Tube clips can show you some female greats. These are women in unconventional careers with fabulous female success stories in magic entertainment.



00:00 - 00:41 - Introduction
00:41 - 00:58 - Dania Diaz AGT the Champions
00:58 - 01:20 - Milestones
01:20 - 01:34 - David Copperfield All Star Magic Panel
01:34 - 02:04 - Diana Zimmerman
02:04 - 02:20 - Penn Jillette on Women in Magic
02:20 - 02:39 - Anna Deguzman
02:39 - 03:32 - Helen Coghlan on Penn & Teller Fool Us
03:32 - 03:45 - LeRoya Sanford on Penn & Teller Fool Us
03:45 - 04:00 - Magical Women Inspires Everyone
04:00 - 04:19 - Amanda Nepo
04:19 - 05:05 - Léa Kyle
05:07 - 05:24 - Magical Women Playlists
05:24 - 06:00 - Carisa Hendrix
06:00 - 06:37 - Juliana Chen - the World's Greatest Magic
06:37 - 07:18 - Josephine Lee
07:18 - 08:03 - Fay Presto BBC Wogan Talk Show

08:03 - 08:57 - Penn & Teller Producers
08:57 - 09:51 - CTA & Alana
09:51 - 11:14 - Lisa Menna
11:14 - 12:07 - Alexandra Duvivier - Penn & Teller Fool Us
12:07 - 12:49 - VANISH Int'l Magic Magazine
12:49 - 13:17 - FISM & Magical Women
13:17 - 13:32 - Dania Diaz Magical Women Message
13:32 - 13:53 - Call to Action

Mentalist:
“Annemann”

Theodore Annemann



(1907-1942)

Theodore 'Theo' Annemann born Theodore John Squires in East Waverly, NY (1907 – January 12, 1942) was an American professional magician who specialized in the field of mentalism. Annemann is most famous for inventing and refining many of the standard mentalism routines that continue to be used by magicians today. His insider's tips on techniques, staging, patter, diversions, plants and confederates are everything you need to make any mental effect a fool-proof success. When his mother remarried, he was adopted by Stanley Anneman.

He became interested in magic at the age of 10 when he watched some schoolmates do the Ball & Vase. He started learning magic at age 14 when he was given a Gilbert magic set.

His magic debut was around 1925 when at the age of 18 he performed with the Doc Kries medicine show. Early in his life, Annemann began working as a railroad clerk and then got into showbusiness as a tenor singer and a magician's assistant.

He eventually became interested in mentalism and used his invention and performance skills to become one of the most talented and respected magicians of the 1930s. It was around this time that he added the second "n" to his name.

Annemann most famous effect was his own version of the infamous bullet catch illusion, performing the effect outdoors. Accounts of his performance describe the feat as a dramatic effect wherein Annemann would collapse from the apparent force of the gun and then produce the bullet from his blood-drenched mouth.

In 1934 he became the editor of the famous magazine *The Jinx*, published primarily for magicians. The magazine was primarily focused on mentalism but did also feature groundbreaking effects from other fields of magic. The publication of this magazine ceased after Annemann's death and copies of it have become collector's items. Effects from the magazine have been published in several books and manuscripts, among them Annemann's *Practical Mental Magic*. This book is considered a classic in the field of mentalism.

Best known for his contributions to the art of mentalism, he was an extraordinary card magician as well. He was voted one of the 10 Card Stars in 1938, although he was uncomfortable with sleights. Even though Annemann was an extremely talented performer, he was a very troubled person. He had almost unbearable bouts of stage fright, which gave him an ironic advantage when performing mentalism. Sometimes he would be so upset that he would shake and break out into a sweat; his audiences thought that this was "proof" that he was putting forth incredible mental effort! Theodore Annemann, through his own performances and his founding and editorship of *The Jinx* magazine, probably did more than anyone else to popularize Mental Magic as a branch of entertainment.

This extensive knowledge, experience and know-how are the foundation of many a Magicians library. His books contained such closely guarded tricks of the trade as the astonishing effects in *Pseudo-Psychometry*, one of the greatest one-man psychic effects ever achieved; *Who Killed Mr. X?*, a classic routine that combines both magic and mind reading with a triple mystery and a novel presentation; and the *Swami Test*, a demonstration of prophecy first popularized around 1920. Annemann himself came up with some 16 variations on this popular and much-practiced effect. "My Own Swami Test" is one of his best.

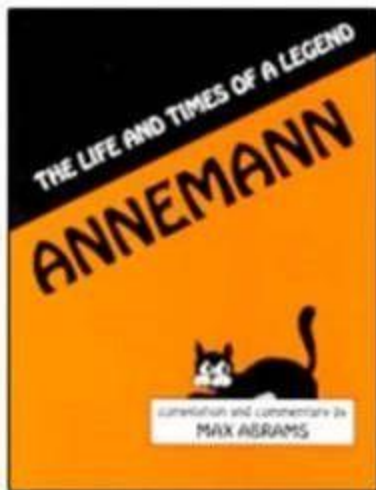
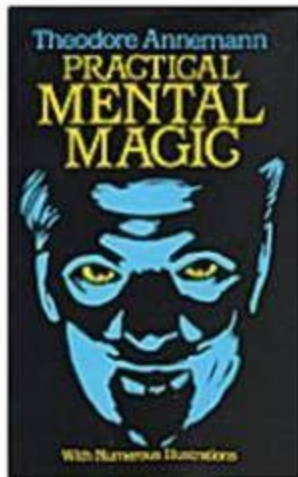
Some of his other published works include:

THE BOOK WITHOUT A NAME (Max Holden, 1931)

202 METHOD OF FORCING (Max Holden, 1932)

SH-H-H! IT'S A SECRET (Max Holden, 1934)

CARD MIRACLES AND MENTAL MYSTERIES (Davenport, 1935)



MENTAL BARGAIN
EFFECTS:ELEVEN MIRACLES OF
MENTALISM (Max Holden,1935)

EN RAPPORT (Max
Holden,1937)

FULL DECK OF IMPROMPTU
CARD TRICKS (Max
Holden,1937)

PRACTICAL MENTAL EFFECTS
(Max Holden,1944)

MIRACLES OF CARD MAGIC
(Max Holden,1948)

ANNEMANN'S CARD MAGIC (a
bound addition of Full Deck of
Impromptu Card Magic and
Miracles of Card Magic) (Dover,
1977)

In 1940 he was voted into the
New York 'Inner Circle of Magic'.
He founded-edited The Sign of
Exceptional Magic 1935-35 as
well as The Jinx 1934-41.

Annemann was married twice
and may have had a child by his
first wife. His personality has

always been the subject of much speculation.

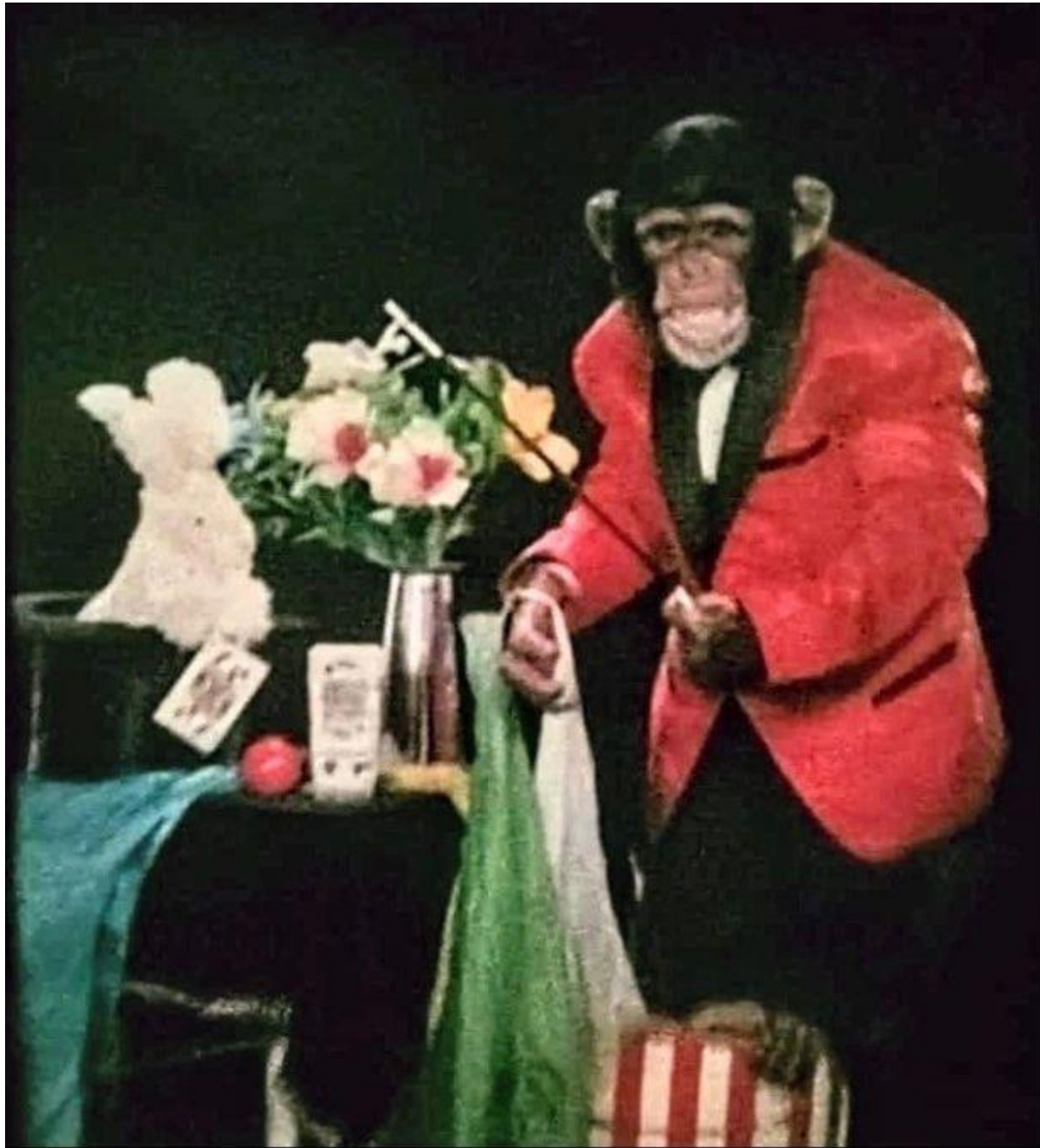
On the night of January 12, 1942, Annemann was scheduled to perform his bullet catch indoors for the first time. Before the performance, he committed suicide. It is believed that he was suffering from severe stage fright and possible drug abuse.

First and foremost, a Mentalist should be... entertaining. So, few of them are...

He is a kind of “Carl Ballantine” of mentalism. Great stuff for adult comedy clubs.

COVID was a challenge.

I don't know how to handle the new Monkey Pox threat.



For all you card guys. Here is a mental miracle and the complete tutorial.

**Beware of a new
online shopping scam.
I ordered my wife some
expensive jewelry and
they sent me a box of
magic tricks.**

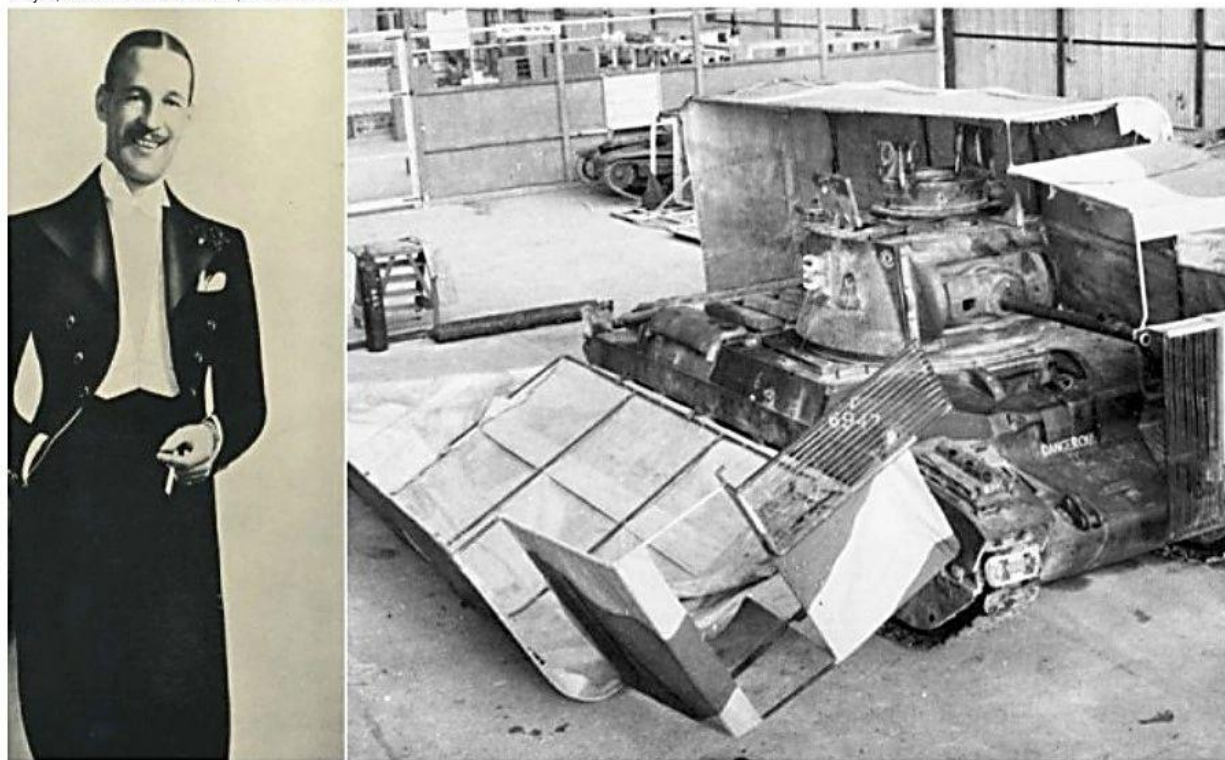
The De Biere (1933) Egg Bag on a British Pathe Newsreel

The double-lift is one of the most powerful card techniques.

The Magician of WWII who Made Tanks Disappear

WORLD WAR II

May 8, 2019 Claudia Mendes, Guest Author



Maskelyne was approached by Brigadier Dudley Clarke who asked whether he would consider adapting his skills for espionage with MI9 as part of 'A Force'.

Before the Second World War, the Maskelyne family was a well-known British stage magician fixture. John Nevil Maskelyne invented the levitation trick while his son continued in his footsteps as a magician. John's grandson, Jasper Maskelyne, was also a stage magician but became famous for his work with British military intelligence during the Second World War.

In the years leading up to the war, Maskelyne had a successful career in London. But the outbreak of war led to a drop in ticket sales which damaged his finances. He joined the army as a solution to his financial difficulties and soon reported for duty with the Camouflage Development and Training Centre on October 14, 1940.

Here is a classic method that I used for a stage mentalism effect for my friend, the late Vince Carmen.

Congratulations to our own Dan Stapleton for being a 50 Year member of the SAM.



**THE SOCIETY OF
AMERICAN MAGICIANS**
MAGIC · UNITY · MIGHT

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July 18, 2022

DAN W STAPLETON

8227 BANKMAN BLVD
DENVER, COLORADO 80231
United States

Dear Compeer STAPLETON,

Enclosed is your new Membership card for the current year, known as the Talisman.

Our records show that the original date of your election into the Society of American Magicians was 11/14/1973. This year you have reached the milestone of **50 years** of membership in the S.A.M.

Enclosed is a Certificate to acknowledge this accomplishment and a lapel pin to wear proudly. The National Council thanks you for your continued support of the Society and wishes to congratulate you.

In Service to Magic

Manon Rodriguez
National Administrator

Cc: Assembly Secretary #99 D. Phillips

Old memories...in light of recent news events.

The late Ivana Trump, David Copperfield and his ex-girlfriend Claudia Schiffer.



Dennis