

January 2008



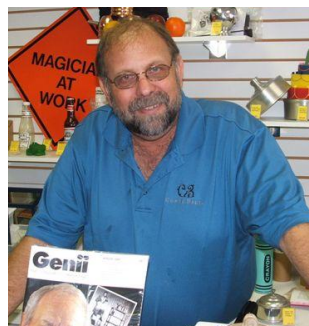
IBM RING 55 * DANNY DEW / BERT EASLEY RING

The Lota

Promoting fellowship and the advancement of magic
as an entertainment art In metro Phoenix For over 60 Years

January 2008

BARRY SCHOR LECTURE



It has been over 11 years since Barry Schor has been enticed to lectured for Ring 55. Following Barry's last appearance, George Sands declared that it was "possibly the best magic lecture he had ever seen."

While Barry is a magic dealer (Presto Magic Studio), he assures us that this is NOT a "dealer show" designed to demonstrate and sell you tricks. Rather, it is an entertaining evening of magical education filled with practical advice. Barry has worked behind the counter of magic stores since 1984, and has met and "talked magic" with thousands of magicians, including many of the world's top professionals. Many of the professionals have passed on practical tips for making standard props work better, as well as ideas on adjustments, attitude, and other suggestions to make anyone a better entertainer with magic.

Please join us on Tuesday, January 15th for an evening of fellowship and magical education. While you may not agree with everything Barry has to share, you WILL come away with many new ideas (and even some new tricks)! Some of the topics to be shared include: booking shows; record-keeping; costing out a show; how to turn a "free" show into a paying gig; thumb-tip handling; the Rick Johnson "too perfect" magic theory; and working with kids - the "do's and don'ts".

Best Western Airport Inn at 2425 S. 24th Street (just south of the airport). Social hour at 6:00, and lecture at 7:00 p.m. Paid-up members of Ring 55 are free, and guests are \$20 each.

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KJ'S CORNER



The Ring 55 Officers and Steering Team join me in wishing all of you a very happy and magical 2008! We have a great line-up of magical attractions already scheduled for your enjoyment and edification, starting with a lecture by our own Barry Schor on January 15th. That will be followed by a presentation by the very knowledgeable Joshua Jay in February, and Phoenix's world-renown Kenton Knepper on the day after St. Patrick's day. New officers need to be nominated soon, so if you have an interest in serving, please let us know.

FREE MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

In keeping with this month's theme of *to find NEW Magic, look to the OLD Magic*, here are some duplicate books from my working library that have a wealth of information. If you don't already own one of these, here's your chance. Call Larry at (480) 860-8460 and I'll bring your book(s) to the next meeting.

Harry Lorayne's The Magic Book: hard bound w. Dust jacket 306 pgs. \$25
Frank Garcia's & George Schindler's Magic With Cards: hbdj 169 pgs \$10
Jean Hugard's Modern Magic Manual: hbdj (excel. Cond.) 372 pgs \$20
W. Gibson's Houdini's Escapes & Magic: hb incl Stage Magic 316 pgs \$15
Blackstone's (SR.) Modern Card Tricks & Secrets of Magic: wonderful old hard bound book> actually two great books combined. 467 pgs \$25
Bruce Elliot's Magic As A Hobby: hbdj *you'll like this!* 230 pgs \$15
Paul Le Paul's The Card Magic of Le Paul: soft cover/photos 219 pgs \$20

Old thought for the NEW YEAR: when you buy a new trick you have just ONE trick...**when you invest in a good book you'll have literally 100's of tricks!**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Lota

The monthly publication of the International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 55

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WHAT'SIT?

HAPPY NEW YEAR to one and all! ☺



We're starting off 2008 with a Mystery Novelty Item that has to be at *least* 50 or 60 years old...

Your "victim" is instructed to take a glass of water and put the glass (real glass!) Swan into the water with the head down, until the body is filled.

It's pointed out to your friend(?) that the beak of the Swan has a very tiny hole in the front; this means it takes a powerful set of lungs to blow all the water out of the Swan with one strong blow.

Your innocent acquaintance is thus enticed to take up the water-filled Swan and blow as hard as he/she can. **WHEN HE DOES, THE ENTIRE CONTENTS OF THE SWAN BLOWS OUT THE BACK OF THE SWAN AND ALL OVER HIS FACE.**

Whatta way to win friends and influence people, huh?

The first member to contact LARRY WILFONG (480) 246-1296 or Bestmortgagesolutions@yahoo.com before the next meeting with the correct name of this strange little gizmo wins a **FREE TEN DOLLAR GIFT CERTIFICATE** to **BEST TRICKS ONLINE MAGIC SHOP.**

The answer to last month's **WHAT'SIT?** = **_YOURCARD** by Supreme

Welcome to the first 2008 edition of your

KOLLECTOR'S KORNER

This month we're going to take a look at some common Magic from days gone by that was standard fare in most "old timer's" Accumulations.

HOW MANY DO YOU REMEMBER? ☺



Rare Adams' COIN CUP: This is a classic piece of close-up apparatus from the time when quality props were made of metal instead of plastic and cardboard. The performer invites anyone to drop a quarter into the little red can and put the lid on same. With a smile on his face, the performer then asks the helper that if he could make the quarter disappear, in the spectator's opinion, would the trick be worth a dime? Naturally, they answer, "yes" and the Magic Maker immediately dumps 15 cents out of the cup. THE QUARTER HAS COMPLETELY VANISHED.

This always gets a laugh and the cup and lid are 100% examinable!

WONDER BLOCKS: This neat little trick is still being manufactured today both as a cheap plastic inclusion in children's Magic Sets and in larger stage effects such as the entertaining Strat-O-Spheres by U.F. Grant and others. The principle goes 'way back and even body parts, fruit and various and sundry other items have been used in place of the round blocks. The more recent (1960's forward) close-up versions in heavy plastic were quite serviceable. The set pictured (from the 1940's) consists of a polished **metal tube** and relatively heavy "catalin" blocks. The general effect is that the red block just won't stay put; it keeps "jumping" out of order when placed into the tube with the other blocks. The Magician finally resolves the matter by placing the black and beige block into the tube without the red block. The red block is caused to vanish (YFM) and is found to have reappeared inside the tube nestled *between* the black and beige blocks.



Royal Magic's Phantom Block: This is one of my personal favorites from the late 1950's to very early 60's. It, too, has been reproduced by many folks from the plastic Tenyo-type efforts through the likes of true crafts men such as Taytelbaum and recently Colin Rose in Jolly ol' England. The set pictured is made of wood (and used to sell for \$1).

The enameled wooden block with a hole is dropped into the wooden cover and the holes in each lined-up. The metal rod is shoved through the cover thereby securing the block within the cover. The spectator holds both ends of the rod, the Magician speaks the mystical incantation and taps the top of the wooden cover; immediately the block falls out of the cover having penetrated the metal bar. **All components may be examined by the helper.**

Adams' Glass of Water from Napkin: This little goodie always reminds me of my friend **Sam Berland**. Sam embodied the dapper nite-club entertainer and was forever developing routines involving the surprising production(s) of liquid/liquor in attractive glasses. Simply stated, this apparatus enables the performer to produce water, real wine or cocktails from a napkin that is first shown empty. The little rubber cover (which, believe it or not, is still supple and unbroken) is placed over the glass of liquid, the glass is inverted and the stem slipped into the metal holder pictured. A clip built onto the holder lets the performer conceal the set-up on his belt or waistband under his coat.



I guess it's still true...if you want some great NEW Magic take a look at some of the OLD Magic!

Comments or suggestions for future columns? Contact Larry Wilfong (480) 246-1296 or Bestmortgagesolutions@yahoo.com **SEE YOU AT THE MEETING!**

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