



Society of Memphis Magicians

International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 16

October 2019

www.ring16magic.com



A Few Words from the President

Jeffrey Day - President

WHO IS ... "CHARLIER"?

If you have been studying magic for a fair length of time, you have probably picked up some pretty good "moves" with cards, coins, and even rope. You might even have a few good tricks using a borrowed iPhone. But let's focus on one of the inexpensive tools of magic. A deck of playing cards. There are so many things one can do with some playing cards. Fifty-two cards, not counting the two jokers. Besides some of the classics of card magic, such as the various types of 'color changes', "The Lie Detector", and Vernon's "Travelers", and "Triumph", there are those fancy flourishes and those that involve cutting the cards with one hand. A one-handed cut, that is sometimes called a 'control', is done by just about everyone who has been doing card magic for quite a while. It is performed in a nonchalant way and often is performed mostly to show the onlooker how skillful the magician is. There's nothing wrong with impressing an audience, as long as you can follow up with an even more impressive payoff. The one-handed pass; what is the history of that elusive, often done move? Not to mention, who came up with that. Yes, that question might be a bit trivial, and do we even care who created it, as long as we now have it to perform? Maybe it's just me, but I like to know where things come from. I have heard of Charlier, but with this "man of mystery", it's the tiny details that are the most interesting.

Some call this one-handed control, the Charlier Pass. Yes, that's great, but who is "Charlier"? Is that his first name or last name? Or, is that his only name ... like Cher, Bono, Madonna, or Sting?

Below is an article from the magic magazine started by Walter Gibson, editor, "The Seven Circles" (Vol. 1, #5 1931) regarding "Charlier", written by Albert F. Munroe.

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Notes from the VP

Bill Canaday—Vice President

Fellow Ring 16 Members: First, Congratulations and continued success for our own Jimmy Ichihana! By the time you read this, Jimmy himself will have already donated his time and expertise for a Lecture for our Ring. Jimmy, thanks so much, and keep up the great work! Next, I know that October, and really the rest of the year is busy for all of our Members, being Magicians, Mentalists, and performers. However, we at times give recommendations to each other that will be entertaining, insightful, and helpful for us, and another one of these that I can recommend is Penguin Magic's Live Acts. They were called Lectures for a long time, and now they are called Live Acts. We were talking at our September Meeting about the impact of these, and we have also talked about them at some of our Lectures. Top notch performers really give us our money's worth, and Dan Harlan does an excellent job as Host. When you can, check these out, and you will find that this is worth your time. All for now, and I am looking forward to seeing you at our October Meeting, as if you can believe it, we are getting closer to not only Halloween, The Holiday/Christmas Season, also!

- Bill Canaday ♦♣♥♠

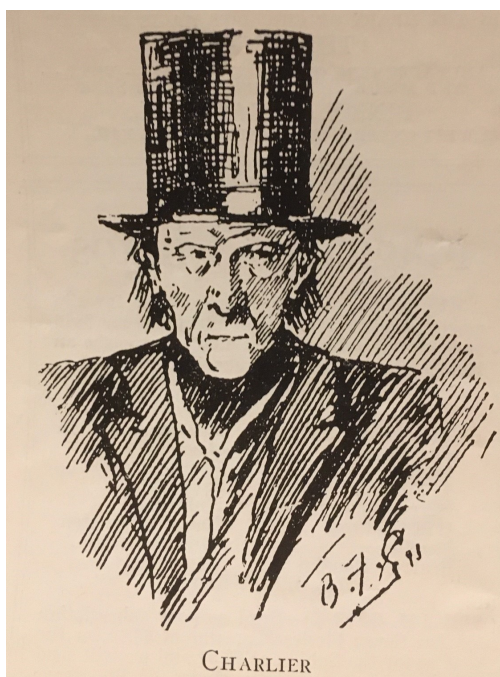
RING 16 OCTOBER MEETING

Tuesday October 1st - 7pm

Memphis Botanic Garden

MYSTERY GRAB BAG MAGIC

.... and MENTALISM !



Sketch of Charlier (circa 1880)

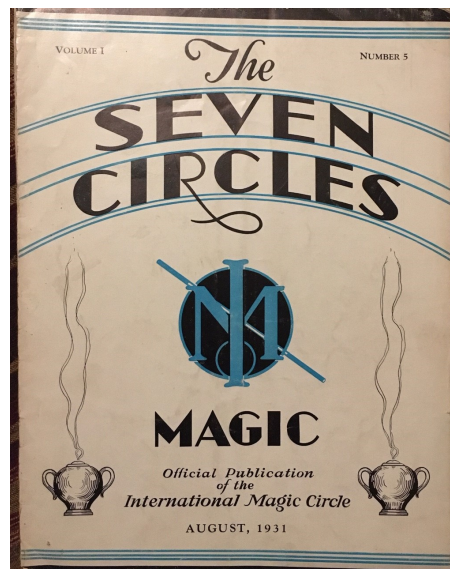
"Charlier: There WAS a "man of mystery." A strange character who was credited with extraordinary ability manipulating cards: whose very personality defied interpretation; whose life was a riddle. What is written of him here – and much more – has been written below, yet it is my opinion that as a class, magicians, and magical enthusiasts are unacquainted with the story of this human enigma.

Charles Bertram's, "Isn't It Wonderful" references to Charlier in works by Angelo Lewis (Prof. Hoffman), and Henry Ridgely Evans' "History of Conjuring and Magic." Have in the man, been the sources from which the Information herewith was obtained. To the sources named, due acknowledgment.

Charlier, who probably was the inventor of the one-handed pass, which we know as the "Charlier Pass", was master of a marking system which enabled him to perform seeming miracles with cards. This, coupled with masterly manipulative skill, made him a conjurer very much out of the ordinary, if we take the reliable opinions of Lewis and Bertram.

Not only was he a conjuror, but a monogram designer. He first became known to Lewis, in London, in 1874. Lewis described Charlier's condition as that of "chronic poverty". His nationality was in question, some insisting

he was a Frenchman. Others called him an Italian, some a Greek. Others said he was "The Wandering Jew." No one seemed to know his age. Certainly he was an old man when Lewis and Bertram met him, for his face was 'wrinkled like that of a mummy and his shoulders were bent with years'. Bertram described him as "having a thin, clean shaven face; long, long, gray straggly hair; small piercing eyes, and a firmly closed mouth, and a 'Jewish' type of nose."



A strange garb he wore, comprising a high silk hat; old looking clothes which were too large for him, except the trousers where were baggy and too short; a clean but cuffless shirt and white stockings. Bertram tells of Charlier's greeting, "I'll denounce you before the cardinal", or "I give you my blessing." Charlier did other unusual things, refusing for one thing, to take pay for performing tricks for Bertram, although from all appearances he was in need.

Bertram relates how an old friend and also a friend of Charlier's reported the conjuror's death and burial. Later Bertram heard that Charlier had been seen alive and had announced he was going to Naples to be married. Henry Ridgely Evans, in his book, reports about a conjuror, calling himself St. Jean, who mysteriously appeared in California in 1877. The man answered the description of Charlier.

Certain it is that Charlier was a real "man of mystery" and a wonderful performer of card tricks. Other forms of magic were out of his line."

Our art form is full of mystery. There is always something new to learn. It's there .. hidden away and begging to be revealed! ♦♣♥♠

September Business Meeting - Kathy Kalagias, Secretary

The September Ring 16 meeting fell the day after Labor Day, so we had a smaller group. Vice President Bill Canaday led the meeting. The President, and Treasurer were both absent.

Richard Hiller gave us a report from Larry Clark's "Smoke & Mirrors" show that he recently attended. Doug Green and Grayson Smith were both happy to have been at Jeffrey Day's "Magic Basement" show at the Woodruff-Fontaine House. We discussed the recent Nathan Coe Marsh lecture which was enjoyed by all who attended. Doug Green and Larry Hass discussed Magic Live. Larry Hass also told us about the two new Eugene Burger books that are in the works. We also discussed upcoming lectures such as Jimmy Ichihana, Bill Wisch, and Dan Fleshman. Bill Canaday confirmed up our December meeting. It is scheduled for December 3rd at Colettas!

Upcoming performances include...

Larry Hass will be performing his show "Magical Life: An Evening with Larry Hass" at the Halloran Centre on September 27th. Larry Hass will also be teaching a class at Rhodes College called "The Art of Magic" for three Tuesdays in September.

Jeffrey Day will be performing closeup this month at Ridgeway Country Club for members during Family Night. Penn & Teller will be back at the Orpheum on October 18th.

For this monthly meeting of Ring16, the theme was Magic with Money...and Mentalism. We were so engaged in the magic conversation that we did not perform much magic this time. Bill Canaday, and Doug Green worked on a trick.

Looking forward to more magic at next month's meeting. If you are in the Memphis area during the first Tuesday of the month, we would love for you to join us. If you want, bring some magic and show us a trick or two. We love to have visitors!♦♣♥♠

Jimmy Ichihana Lecture
was held September 25th!



Upcoming Lectures:

Bill Wisch— October 22nd

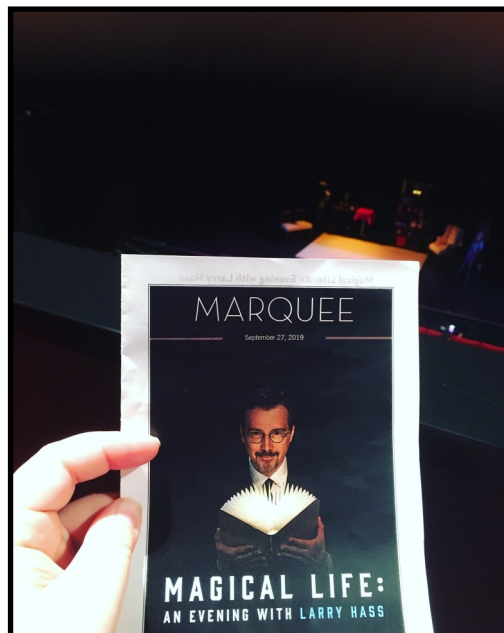
Dan Fleshman— November 4th

SEPTEMBER MAGIC PHOTOS

Grayson Smith



Several Ring 16 Members attended Magical Life: An Evening with Larry Hass and attended the after party the next day. Congratulations Larry on a wonderful show!



Monday Night Magic Jam

October 14th

6:30 pm - 9pm

Germantown Presbyterian Church

2363 S. Germantown Road

Room 214

