



# Society of Memphis Magicians

International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 16

December 2019

[www.ring16magic.com](http://www.ring16magic.com)



## A Few Words from the President

*Jeffrey Day - President*

### COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

The title of this article is something that was said early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and before. It was a greeting, usually meant as a celebratory announcement of the Christmas season. This is also the title of an article, and poem, that appeared in the December 1898 issue of the magic magazine known as "Mahatma". It was cleverly written by magician, John William Sargent. Sargent performed as "The Merry Wizard", and was elected as the second President of The Society of American Magicians. Shortly before his death, he was the Secretary of S.A.M. when Harry Houdini was elected National President in 1917. Houdini held this position until his untimely death on October 31, 1926.

The following is the poem that Sargent composed and that appeared in the 1898 issue of "Mahatma". See if you know what magicians Sargent is referring to.

### **COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON**

By J.W. Sargent, 'The Merry Wizard' (1852 - 1920)

Full of fun from head to feet,  
Just the man one likes to meet;  
On the stage he stands alone  
With an act that's all his own;  
In many lands his work is know –

**That's Fox.**

Guardian of an honored name,  
Struggling toward the goal of fame;  
When once entered in the race  
A magician with that face  
Could not fail to win a place –

**That's Herrmann.**

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## Notes from the VP

*Bill Canada—Vice President*

Fellow Ring 16 Members: Well, it is hard to believe we are coming to a close of another year! This has been a great year for all of us here at Ring 16, and I am sure 2020 will be even better! Thanks to each and everyone of you, as you have continued to make our Ring better each and every year. Thanks for your continued support, and I am looking forward to seeing each and every one of you at our Annual Holiday/Christmas Party next week. Until then, I hope this finds you and yours well, and Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families, and all of the best this Holiday Season! Thanks so much again!

- Bill Canada



### RING 16 DECEMBER MEETING

Tuesday December 3rd - 6pm

Coletta's Italian Restaurant

2850 Appling Road

Christmas Party Magic .. (and MENTALISM)

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Cultured, earnest, grave is he,  
Model man of mystery;  
A man on whom you may depend,  
Who to no meanness will descend,  
One that you're proud to call your friend.

**That's Powell.**

There is a little Frenchman here  
Who drifted to our shores last year,  
In guise of Mephistopheles  
He took the lead with greatest ease,  
Wherever he goes he's sure to please –

**That's Leroy.**

Then there's a man that you know,  
Who in art is sure to grow;  
Each day he's working up a peg;  
To see this chicken grow, I beg  
That you will "watch the little egg!"

**That's Hornmann.**

Nimble fingers, nimble tongue,  
Shall his victory pass unsung?  
Each magician girds his loins  
And heartily the chorus joins,  
"Long live the clever 'King of Coins,' "

**That's Downs.**

Then there's another clever one,  
We all respect him for what he's done;  
A man with brains to set things right,  
With others shining by his light;  
He modestly keeps out of sight –

**That's Robinson.**

Another name I know recall,  
A sort of uncle to us all,  
Though on no stage he doth appear,  
Without his help I greatly fear  
Some of our tricks would show up queer.

**That's Martinka.**

With face like hooded monk of old,  
With heart as pure as virgin gold;  
He who is greatest in the land,  
With full consent now takes his stand  
As dean of all this mystic band –

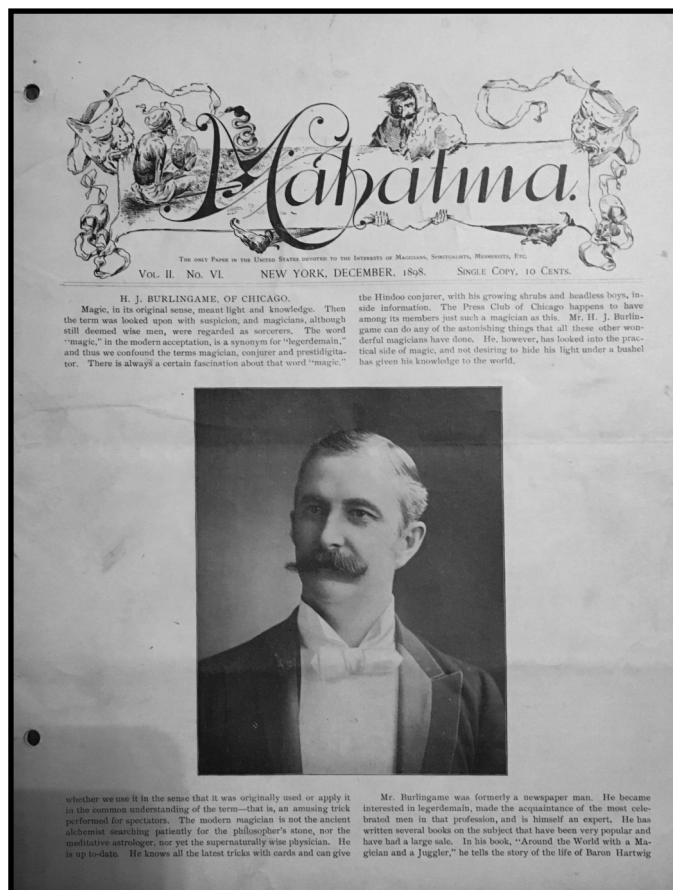
**That's Kellar.**

"What is this, and who is here,  
Meekly bringing up the rear?"  
Among the great here stands the small  
Wishing while these lines I scrawl,  
A Merry Christmas to them all –

**That's Me!**

- - > I echo that final line to all of you fine magicians of RING16, The Society of Memphis Magicians. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday! See you soon!!

**... JEFFREY DAY, President - Ring16**





## November Business Meeting - Kathy Kalagias, Secretary

The November meeting of Ring16 was very well attended once again. We discussed events that were in the area, such as the Penn & Teller appearance at the Orpheum Theatre several weeks ago. Also, there was a magician named Grant Freeman who was at the Evergreen Theater who performed an "X" rated comedy show, at least that is what one of our members relayed to us! Our president, Jeffrey Day, read the minutes and mentioned his upcoming, "Magic Basement" shows on Nov 15/16 at the historic Woodruff-Fontaine House at the Victorian Village here in Memphis, TN. He will also be performing his one man show, "The Mesmerist" at the same venue on Dec 14.

There was a return guest in attendance at the meeting. Drew Steele and his mother Natalie Steele. Last month his father was with him. I'm sure that Drew (17) will be joining our Ring16 group very soon.

This meeting was special because November is when the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual S.M.M.U.R.F.F.F. Award Magic Competition is held. For those who do not know what that acronym stands for, it is the "Society of Memphis Magicians Unique Reward For Finishing First". Yes, it's a mouthful alright. This was a magic contest that began in 1981 here in Memphis, TN, and it helps to support magicians that are just starting out and who will be performing in front of large audiences in the near future. There is a "SMMURFFF Award" and "Novice" categories. This year there were only four participants in the SMMURFFF category, and no one in the "Novice" category. Jeffrey Day, Don Berry, Grayson Smith, and Chad Elgelbert were the contestants this year. Numbers were chosen to see the order each contestant performed. Jeffrey Day started the evening's contest with a color-change flourish routine with a selected card being changed many times with a surprise ending. He then proceeded with a card stab effect where a chosen card was signed on both sides. The card was mixed into the deck, then placed on the blade of a "sword" that was inside a walking cane. The cards were flung into the air, and the blade was thrust into the cards. On the blade was the selected, signed card. Second was Don Berry performing a well-choreographed "Copenetro" routine where coins vanished from his fingertips, only to appear in a covered shot glass several feet away. Grayson Smith performed "soft magic" ... using ropes. Three different rope routines including a very nice Professor's Nightmare routine, a two rope routine where the short rope and long rope become equal in length, and a superb linking rope routine. Chad Engelbert rounded out the competition with a card routine with many levels. His finale wound up having the selected card not in his jacket pocket, but rather in his other hand. The OTHER 51 cards were in Chad's pocket! Nice job. When the votes were counted, Jeffrey Day won the SMMURFFF Award. BUT, it was very close with Grayson Smith just 2 votes behind!

We are all looking forward to our next meeting, which is RING16's annual Christmas Party at Coletta's restaurant. If you are in the Memphis, TN area on the first Tuesday of the month, we would love to see you. Bring some magic and come to the Memphis Botanic Gardens and show what you can do. ATTENTION LECTURERS: If you are planning a lecture or seminar tour, drop us a line and let's work out a plan for you to come present your lecture for our RING16 magicians. If you're in the MidSouth area, please contact us!

