



Society of Memphis Magicians

International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 16

July 2019

www.ring16magic.com



A Few Words from the President

Jeffrey Day - President

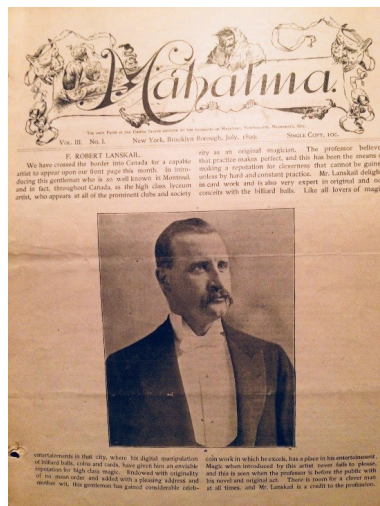
120 Years Ago Today in Magic

"The First Magazine in The World, Printed In The English Language, and Devoted Exclusively to The Interests of Magic and The Kindred Arts"

This statement is found at the top of "*Mahatma*" magazine. I was going through my collection of historic magic magazines looking for mentions of Houdini or Kellar. I found a couple of things about Houdini "tearing up the newsprint" during his tour in San Francisco, and something about Kellar "resting after his tour around the US". These articles were spotted in an issue from July 1899. I thought I would share with you what magicians, or conjurors, were reading 120 years ago.

This magazine often highlighted magicians that were starting to make a scene in the world of magic or were doing a bang-up job in the entertainment stages here in the US. I have rarely seen Houdini on the cover for some reason. On this issue, the magician taking the stage by storm is F. Robert Landskail. Mr. Landskail hails from the land of Henning, Farquhar, and Vernon. F. Robert Landskail comes from Montreal, Canada. He was well known throughout all of Canada in the high-class lyceum circuit and appeared in prominent clubs and society entertainments. He was a fine digital manipulator with billiard balls, coins, and cards. He was sought after by well-known clubs because of his polished magic.

"Endowed with originality of no mean order and added with a pleasing address and mother with, this gentleman has gained considerable celebrity as an original magician. The professor believes that practice makes perfect, and this has been this mean of making a reputation for cleverness that cannot be gained unless by hard and constant practice."



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Brian Edward Staron
Oct 6, 1962 – June 27, 2019

Brian Staron came to one of our Ring16 meetings a couple of months ago and joined up immediately. If you were present during that meeting, you would have seen him perform an impromptu card routine that kept everyone laughing. It was amazing to watch him after all of these years. He was going to be a great addition to our IBM chapter. Life sometimes has a different plan. Brian and I were good friends during our high school years in Dyersburg, TN. If he wasn't over at my house, I was over at his taking shop. It wasn't until a few years later we both started out on our own careers, and we didn't stay in touch as often as we should have. I guess that's a lesson that we all need to listen to. Never let your friends slip through your fingers. He was extremely busy with his contract at Disney World working his Vaudeville magic on the Boardwalk, while I was working up in Alaska and down the West Coast during that time. Brian later worked cruise ships and went to Europe with his wife Carol and saw amazing things. He traveled all across the world eventually settling back in the US. He performed on "America's Got Talent" as well as the prestigious Magic Castle, which Brian said was the "top of the heap" in the magic world. Later, Brian became very involved with ministry in his church in Kentucky, and they had just recently moved to Bartlett, TN and was youth minister at the Bartlett Woods Church of Christ. I am not aware of any details of Brian's death which was very sudden, but I do know that his family is devastated. Please keep Carol, and their two sons, Kyle and Casey in your thoughts during these difficult times. You can read more about Brian by going to his Facebook page.

-Jeffrey Day ♦♦♣♣♠

T. Nelson Downs.

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The Great and Only **"DOWNS"** There Can Be No Other.

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Appearing nightly at the Palace (handsomest music hall in Europe), re-engaged for 6 consecutive months.

Mr. Downs had the honor of appearing privately before his Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, and a select party of Royalty. N. B.—The party who came to America with a combination of DeKolts and Carl Hertz acts also returned to London for a short stay at one of the small halls with an imitation of "Downs" and the back and front hand card trick. This card trick was introduced by Downs at Hopkins theatre, Chicago, in September 1897, and the "Idea" was taken from his original methods with coins and the trick has since been introduced by other performers. Owing to the increasing demand for Mr. Downs' Original Creation and to the fact that it is physically impossible for him to accept all offers; unscrupulous imitators are springing up and attempting to trade on his reputation.

Palace Theatre, London, Indefinitely.

T. Nelson Downs

Downs was making a great name as a stage magician, but he was more chiefly known as a closeup manipulator of sleight-of-hand magic. His coin work was extraordinary and his deception with words was like non-other. He traveled the world over, performing for royalty and many thought himself as a prince, although that was only his manner.

Magicians

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The photo above shows advertisements from magic shops of the era

IBM ~ RING16 ANNUAL MAGIC AUCTION, 2019

This month's magic auction will probably be familiar, if you are visiting by way of time machine from the 19th century. It is something that magicians and magic clubs have been doing for many, many years. Gather up your well-rested magic items and bring them to the auction!

RING16 Magic Auction
Memphis Botanic Gardens
JULY 2nd
Time: 6:30 – 9:00PM

See you all there! - Jeffrey Day

June Ring 16 Minutes - Kathy Kalagias, Secretary

The June meeting of Ring 16 was very well attended. Our President Jeffrey Day led the meeting. Vice President Bill Canaday discussed upcoming lecture by Nathan Coe Marsh, and possible lecture from Bill Wisch in October. Jeff Day reminder everyone that he hosts Magic Jams every other Monday night. Larry DuFrene, Treasurer, presented his financial report.

Several of our Ring 16 members performed this past month! Grayson Smith performed at the Botanical Bars event at the Memphis Botanic Gardens, and at the Botanic Gardens Food Truck Wednesdays. Magic Brunch at the Railgarten has come to a stop. We were happy to have been able to share our magic with the patrons there for the past 8 months or so. Jeffrey Day is working on the 16 Days of Magic to help us promote Ring 16 and also to give some magic to our local community. Jeff will also be holding a Magic Summer Camp July 8th through 12th for boys and girls ages 8-14. Later in July Jeff's one man show "The Mesmerist" will return to the historic Woodruff-Fontaine House. Paul Frankel performed magic during the 3 Cushion USA's Summer Shootout in Tuscon, AZ.

The theme of the meeting was Mental Effects...and Mentalism.

Jeff started the performance part of the meeting with his "Front Table" presentation. The winner of the annual SMMURFFF competition is supposed to do a "Front Table" for the members of the Ring. Jeffrey Day did the following 5 tricks.

- 1) First trick is 'Silver & Gold / Coins Across'
- 2) 'Mental Telepathy', by Rufus Steele, 1928
- 3) 'Di-Cyphering', circa 1920
- 4) 'ANAAC', Colin McCloud
- 5) 'Crossfire', by Chris Philpott

Grayson Smith then performed his 2 rope tricks with Paul Frankel and Aston. Don Berry performed "Psypher" with Richard Hillier. Aston performed "Bounce, No Bounce." Looking forward to our annual magic auction at next month's meeting. If you are in the Memphis area the first Tuesday of the month, we would love for you to join us after the business of the meeting is taken care of. We love to have visitors! ♦♣♥♠