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ASM INFORMATION

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Meetings

The ASM meets on the second Monday of each month (February to December inclusive) at the Swiss Club, 89 Flinders Lane, Melbourne.

Magic Makers

Magic Makers is the official newsletter of the Australian Society of Magicians Incorporated (ASM) and is published 11 times a year (combined January / February issue).

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Hi and welcome to the September issue of Magic Makers.

I apologise for both the brevity and the tardiness of this month's issue. Unfortunately I have been travelling for business over the last three weeks and have not had the opportunity to get much done with regards to Magic Makers. Thanks to David and Ian for supplying articles for this issue!

Speaking of next month, why not come along to the meeting, as we will be officially renaming our library and releasing lots of new books and videos that we have purchased. The committee made the decision to upgrade the library several months ago and we have been generously supported by Marilyn Abbott Richards an ASM member in the USA. Marilyn has made several substantial donations to the library fund and together with some ASM funds; it has allowed us to purchase many new books, videos and DVD's. (Please see below for a full list of what material we are adding to the library). In recognition of Marilyn's contributions we are renaming the Library in memory of her father, the great Percy Abbott. So please come along and check out the new material.

See you around the club. – Nick Morton.

Library Additions

The following new material has been purchased for the library and will be available for borrowing from the October meeting onwards.

- Bill Malone – On the loose (4 DVD set)
- Johnny Thompson Video Set (5 Video Set)
- Pat Page Video Set (11 Video Set)
- Daryl Card Revelations (5 DVD set)
- Two Lectures on Theatrical Illusions - Steinmeyer. (Book)
- In a Class by Himself, The Magic of Don Alan. (Book)
- Roberto Giobbi Taped Live (Video)
- The Card Artistry of Andrew Wimhurst (Video)
- No Jacket required - Carl Andrews (Video)
- Thumb Tips and Ropes – Salvano (Video)



Magic in the Media

The Age on Friday 23 August 2002 had a couple of relatively brief articles that related to magic. Firstly, under the heading **Arts – The Bard gets a touch of magic** features a photo of **Ross Skiffington** doing the torn and restored newspaper (a copy of The Age of course!). Ross is performing in Shakespeare's **The Comedy of Errors**. This Bell Shakespeare Company production opened at the Playhouse Theatre on 24 August. This brings the best of both worlds, a great play and great magic!

The second article appearing in The Culture section of The Age was a feature on sites of importance to radical (political) Melbourne. This coverage includes a photo of **Percy Laidler** demonstrating a trick at **Will Andrade's** book (and magic shop) in Bourke Street Melbourne. It also mentions the involvement of the Andrade family in Victorian radical politics. The journalist noted that descendants of the Andrade family attended the recent release of the book *Radical Melbourne*. The article fails to record the long involvement in Victorian magic history. Will Andrade's business subsequently became part of Andrade-Allans, the magic outlet was disbanded in the early 1960s. The Allans music business went through torrid financial times and is now limited to selling musical instruments and sheet music. In its former life it sold everything to do with music and magic. A former employee of Andrade-Allans was **Ross McIntosh** who after leaving that firm commenced Seward's Magic Shop in the early 1960s. **Sewards** was located in a building where the Westin hotel/city square now is. Ross went into other non-magic business activities and he was one of the first to distribute posters in Australia during the boom period of the early seventies.

Australia has the fourth oldest magic club in the world (the ASM) and now probably has the only former magic shop that has been identified as site of political historical significance.

In conclusion it is interesting to note the references to magic in The Age from time to time. Someone at The Age obviously has a soft heart for things magical.

Ian Woods

Peter Strasser

Member Peter Strasser has been suffering from a heart problem for some time. He had been fitted with a pacemaker and a new valve several years ago. His pacemaker is no longer suitable for him.

Peter has been booked to have a biventricular pacemaker implanted at the Jessie McPherson wing of the Monash Medical Centre. He is to be admitted on Wednesday 4th September and will probably have the procedure on the Thursday or Friday of that week."

All members wish Peter a quick and successful recovery.



Meeting Report 12th August 2002

There was a good turnout for the August meeting and a LOT of excellent magic to be seen. President Charles Gauci welcomed quite a few visitors including Alan Abbot, a cousin of Percy Abbot's, who is just starting to get back into magic again after many years absence. Roy Hopwood and his wife were over from Adelaide for the week. Ben and his Mum were visiting from Woolongong and, thanks to a chance meeting at the Abracadabra Magic shop, ended up visiting the club for the night. Simon Coronel and Jason Varga were also in attendance, as was Ken Russell. Ken is a member from way back off course, but we see him so infrequently now he could almost be classified as a visitor!



Neville Finney started the evening by giving us a “mini” lecture. Before starting on the tricks and explanations however, he took the time to impress upon us the following words of wisdom: *“Never forget, when you perform – you are not doing a move, you are not demonstrating a sleight, you are not doing a trick – you are meant to be entertaining!”*

Neville then performed and demonstrated the Upsen Down cards routine, which is a small packet, three phase version of Triumph relying on some gaffed cards and clever routing. He then demonstrated the “Rope with Three Ends” routine, which he found in a Zodiac Magical Society (a London Magic Club) magazine about 18 months ago. Neville performed this in the Walk-On/Walk-Off competition in Sydney in June and won 1st prize with it. He explained the routine clearly, and then provided us all with written notes explaining both effects. This was a great start to the evening.

Next Charles Gauci provided us with a small “sampler” of the full lecture he is going to give us at the November meeting. Charles started by performing his “Eye to Eye” effect, which is simply stunning, direct mind reading. A small white ball is given to a spectator. She places both hands behind her back and conceals the ball in one of her hands. Both hands are now brought forward and Charles was able to tell her (with certainty) which hand contained the white ball. Charles did this three times, and wagered a \$10 note on the outcome each time.

Charles followed this with his “Body Language” routine, a very much-improved version of a Max Maven effect. Four silver balls and one black ball are placed into a small cloth bag. One by one each of five spectators reaches into the bag and removes one ball, keeping the colour of the ball hidden to everyone, including themselves. Charles was then able to discern, again, with certainty, which spectator was holding the black ball.

Next Charles performed a very strong card trick, which I think fooled everyone in attendance. A spectator (myself this time) was able to cut a number of cards off the top of a pack. I then dealt cards face down onto the table until I felt like stopping. The cards remaining in my hand were replaced in the card case. I next looked at the top card of the dealt cards, replaced it in the pile, and shuffled the cards. Charles was unable to see any of this. I then called out the name of every card in the dealt pile and Charles then named my card. An extremely strong effect.

The Houdini card trick followed. This utilised a deck of card with two holes punched through every card. A spectator chose a card and this was then returned to the deck and lost. Charles then threaded a ribbon through one of the holes in the deck. Through the other hole he placed a bolt, and then secured it tightly with a nut. The cards were then covered with a handkerchief for just a moment and the selected card was immediately released from the pack. The remaining 51 cards were still threaded on the ribbon and secured by the nut and bolt.

To close, Charles performed a very strong card routine. First a deck was thoroughly shuffled and then divided between two spectators. A card was selected from one pile, shown to the audience, and then lost in the other pile. The spectators then shuffled both piles of cards. Charles then quickly ran through the pile containing the selected card and claimed to have memorized the cards in that particular pile. As proof, the selected card was named and Charles immediately called out its location, which proved to be correct. Then, as further proof, he proceeded to name each and every card remaining in the other pile of cards.

Charles then treated us to some explanations. First the Houdini card trick, and then the explanation of his first card trick. I won't repeat these here; you'll have to come along to the club one night! Charles then performed a “bonus” item, “Nostradamus”. This involved 16 numbered tiles being placed in a totally random way on a 4 by 4 grid by four different spectators. Amazingly, Charles had already predicted the total of the four numbers thus formed. The effect



was then repeated, a different set of four numbers was totaled, and again Charles had predicted the outcome!

Next it was time for Harmony. I performed yet another card trick, which involved having a card selected and lost in the deck. The deck is then cut into a number of piles and the spectator and I eliminate all but one of the piles of cards. The spectator himself then eliminates all but one of the cards from the remaining pile. The remaining card, of course, is the selected card. I was just as amazed myself when it worked!

Ken Russell then expertly performed a mini magic act. He started with the sucker silk to egg, where the egg at the end is proven to be real by breaking the egg and dumping the yolk into a glass. He then performed the Collector's Workshop effect "Jumbo Sidekick". This is a hilarious routine. Too long to describe here, you should have been there. Ken performed it beautifully and had us all in stitches.

Graham Etherington then performed a "murder mystery". Various cards were displayed, representing the residents and staff of a large English manor house. Spectators chose one card to be the victim, and another to be the murderer. Graham then revealed that he knew who each of these was all along. He then signed off with a quick commercial, this time for his new appearing wands.

Visitor Roy Hopwood from Adelaide then performed a card trick, which was a cross between a four ace trick and a four card discovery trick. Briefly, four cards were selected and lost in the pack. An attempt to find the cards resulted in finding the four aces instead. Undaunted, Roy launched into a four ace trick. First the four aces were turned face down and four indifferent cards then placed on each ace. But the last four indifferent cards turned out to be the four aces, and the four facedown cards were the four selections!

Simon Coronel then used a pack of cards to demonstrate the difference between a card trick, and card magic. In essence, this was a presentation for a Slop Shuffle Triumph, and like all Simon's presentations this was well thought out and very effective. This brought the formal part of the evening to an end, but there was quite a lot of chat, demonstrations, and explanations of further effects for quite a while amongst the 25 or so members and visitors. I know it was a cold and wet night outside, but those members who decided to stay rugged up at home missed out on a very good meeting.

David Jones.

Magic Menu - Regular Meetings for 2002

Note: Regular meeting time is 8.00 pm at the Swiss Club. "Video Show" starts prior to the meeting at 7.30pm with a different video every month. Come and watch or bring along a video for the other members to view.

9th September	<p>Spotlight on a 'New Video'</p> <p>Graham Etherington presents a Workshop on 'Expansion of Texture' revisited and 'The Acro Card' Hands on learning with lecture notes provided free.</p> <p>Ted Heath on "Entertainment in Magic"</p>
14th October	<p>Keith Lawrence, ASM member and well respected Agency owner. "The Agents Point of View".</p> <p>Nick Morton - "Mentalism"</p> <p>and Spotlight on 'New Video'</p>
11th November	<p>" The Charles Gauci Lecture"</p> <p>See and Learn what hundreds of Americans and Europeans have been paying to see.</p>

