



Vol 21 No. 1

January 2023

— RING 92 —

VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

ibmring92.com

The Magical Minutes

the Charles Howard Ring



The Editors Desk

I hope you had a good time with family and friends over the Christmas / Holiday season. I wish you a happy Chinese New Year. Lets hope the year of the Water Rabbit is a prosperous year for us all.

I appreciated your support of 'The Magical Minutes' this past few months, and I am looking forward to once again producing it during 2023.

Thank you to everyone that contributed in anyway to its content, editing, compilation or publishing. I must however, single out the following for special thanks for their support and contributions:

- The **VMC Executive Committee** for giving me permission to go ahead, and allowing me to continue producing TMM in 2023
- **Dennis Chan** for his always on time, informative and detailed reports.
- **John Stenning** for his: Proofreading, and great reviews
- **Henry Tom** for his wonderful photos of events and members.

The **VMC** are planning a great year, with in person fun meetings; competitions, lectures, workshops and maybe a few surprises.

I look forward to seeing you at the meetings and lectures.

In this issue of TMM, you will find:

- **John Stenning's** great review and Q&A of the book '**Master of Deception**' by **John Ivan Palmer**.

Promos and photos from:

The Dennis Chan Report

There is no report from Dennis this issue, However, The Dennis Chan Report

- **Hidden Wonders**
- **The Parlour Magic Show**
- **Clinton W Gray**

'Just for Fun'

I Recall... By Roy Hopwood - **Honesty and Ethics**

'A Blast from the Past'

It is very pleasing to see so much magic happening in BC, both in Vancouver and regional centres. Not only are people publicly promoting their magic, but many are quietly going about the job of performing without fanfare or obvious advertising campaigns

Why not take the time to see some of these shows and encourage your colleagues and friends to do so as well.

I look forward to creating with your help and contributions an exciting and interesting newsletter in 2023, filled with lots of fun as well as news and photos.

If you haven't yet supported the **IBM** by purchasing the 100 year Anniversary playing cards designed by **Shawn Farquhar**, I urge you to do so, see advert in this issue.

Lets make 2023 an awesome year for the VMC.

Roy J Hopwood

Happy Chinese New Year — 2023 the year of the Water Rabbit



The Year of the Rabbit is one of the 12-year cycles of animals in the Chinese zodiac. People born in the Year of the Rabbit, which typically falls on a year that ends in the numbers 3, 7, and 11, are thought to be refined, elegant, and well-mannered. They are also said to be intelligent, sensitive, and good communicators.

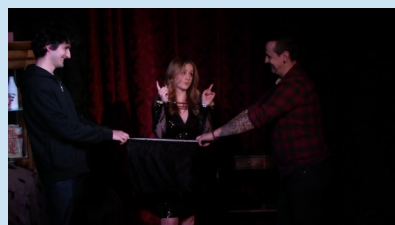
Yet it's not all gold coins and red envelopes. Rabbits are also predicted to face many challenges, with frequent life changes, and are advised to be careful. In their birth year, they are believed to have offended Tai Sui, the God of Age in Chinese mythology.

"Each animal has a different relationship to prosperity. "In the year the ox, you're supposed to work hard. If you're a rabbit, you have a lot of luck on your side, so maybe you know you don't need to work that hard."

A PICTURE TELLS A THOUSAND WORDS



Photos courtesy of Clinton W Gray



Photos courtesy of Cabaret of Wonders

I Recall...

By Roy Hopwood

Honesty and Ethics

Originally published in the November 2021 issue of ASM Magic Makers

I can recall being told on many occasions that I am 'too honest for my own good'. Maybe I am, but I was also told that 'honesty is the best policy'.

So I have always tried to be honest and ethical.

In my developing years in magic (11 year old to around 17) and before I knew about 'Crediting' sources, I learned and performed magic from my **David Nixon Magic Set** or from books I had borrowed from the Library or bought from second hand book stores.

I have always had a good memory for the things I am interested in, and have indeed, on occasion corrected, people (Maybe not the best way to make friends) including during magic lectures.

I recall a particular visiting very well-known lecturer, in **Adelaide**, describing one of 'his' routines. I told him that this routine is by 'XXXX' and it could be found on page 202 of '????'. This threw the lecturer into confusion and he made a comment to the effect that he didn't worry much about sources.

Rather than give the impression that this was his work, I would much prefer him saying that he didn't know the origins of the routine.

A magician I know (I will not name) says he, and has on his web pages, has awards that he has been awarded, however, these are fictitious and don't exist, not only, but if challenged, immediately goes on the defensive, and says that he would call his lawyer, if his claims are disputed. This same person says that when he was on a visit to the **USA** that he was sought out to headline at the **Magic Castle**.

Not only are his claims totally false, but this is absolutely unethical behaviour.

I recall mentioning in a previous column, (**Telling Tales** – March 2020) a 'magician' walking past me while I was working a gig, talking on his phone about an upcoming huge gig in New York, when his phone started ringing!!!

Some years ago I had the trick, '**The No. 2 Pencil**' by **Mark Jenest**. A very good friend of mine also had this trick and it was in his working close up act, so in deference to him I refrained from performing it. In addition, I gave him mine for if his wears out or breaks.

Another trick I always liked and would have liked to have in my act was an act with matchboxes, once again a good friend of mine who was known as '**Mr. Matchbox**' was already working with Matchboxes, so once again I did not do a routine with Matchboxes.

I became well known for performing my routine with the **Jerry Andrus Linking Pins**. I have over the years shown my routine to thousands of people, and in fact sold a set to a 'friend' and taught him my routine, with the caveat that he is **NOT** to perform it when I am working the same gig, and if asked he is to give me credit and **NOT** under any circumstances to show it on Television. He disregarded all of my imposed conditions, including performing it on Television.

While the restrictions may not be legally enforceable, I believe that his actions were not in the spirit of the agreement, and it was unethical of him.

I like to think that any product I sold had the appropriate credits listed.

Also when asked about the tricks; routines or bits and piece I use, I try to correctly acknowledge my source (s), e.g. a comedy spoof on the 6 card repeat, my source was **Steve Walker**.

A gag line when I show a card (QH) with its back to the audience, if when asked to name a playing card, if they name the QH I turn the card around and show it matches, if they name **ANY** other card, I look at the card but don't show the audience and say 'You are absolutely right' then throw the card away – this line is from **Tony Ivens**.

I make no claim to getting things right, or acting ethically all of the time, but I like to think I at least try.

What about you?

FOOLED!

A FAMILY MAGIC SHOW

FREE
TICKETS
LIMITED
SEATING

JANUARY 26TH
JOHN TOD CENTRE

—MUST PRE-REGISTER—

4:30PM SHOW
430PMSHOW.EVENTBRITE.CA
6:00PM SHOW
6PMSHOW.EVENTBRITE.CA



Clinton W. Gray
MAGIC COMEDY SHOW



28 SHOWS
IN JANUARY

WWW.HIDDENWONDERS.SHOW

Almost
SOLD OUT

The Vancouver Magic Circle presents
Love Magic Dinner
featuring
Robert Ramirez
February 22nd, 2023
7pm *Stefanos* \$55
LOUNGE & RESTAURANT
Seen on **MASTERS OF ILLUSION** **FOOL US**
Tickets available at magic.eventbrite.com 315 Columbia Street New Westminster

VALENTINE'S SHOW

SHAWN FARQUHAR'S
HIDDEN WONDERS
NUM CUSTOS MYSTERIA
WWW.HIDDENWONDERS.SHOW

LLOYD GEORGE PAC FUNDRAISER

MAGIQUE!
A COMEDY MAGIC SHOW

FRIDAY, FEB 28
LLOYD GEORGE GYMNASIUM
6:30PM (DOORS OPEN 6PM)

\$12 or \$35/FAMILY
PARENTS BUY TICKETS THROUGH
lloydgeorge.hotlunches.net
PUBLIC TICKETS BY EMAIL
lloydgeorgepac@gmail.com

Clinton W. Gray
— THE 'W' IS FOR WOW!! —

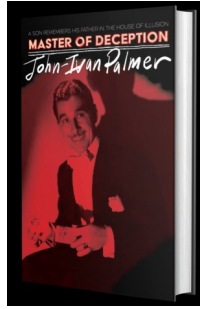
"a roller-coaster ride of antics,
that cause the audience
to be belly-laughing one
moment and speechless with
amazement the next."
— Edmonton Journal

*The
Parlour Magic
Show!*

Tricks, Stunts, & Magic
Monthly at Havana

MASTER OF DECEPTION

John Ivan Palmer



A Review by John Stenning

This is John Ivan Palmer's account of growing up while traveling in a trailer, going from show to show with his father Jack Pyle, a professional magician and his mother who assisted in the shows. At times funny, shocking and even tragic, this is a unique and fascinating one of a kind book, as are some of the odd characters we meet: a ventriloquist, a simul-talker, a man who uses a bullwhip to knock dimes off of his wife's head, the guy who's act consisted of doing a handstand on one finger, these are some of the people we meet who are just trying to etch out a living in post war America, before television ruled and live shows were the norm.

I recently reached out to the author, complimenting him on his book and thanking him for sharing so many details of his life. When asked if he would answer a few questions for this review, he graciously agreed.

J.S: You are currently a successful writer and also work as a hypnotist, is that correct?

J.I.P: Has always been the case; I also did magic early in my career.

J.S: What was the most important thing you learned from you father?

J.I.P: Endurance, how to travel fast over long distances; to do as many shows as humanly possible.

J.S: Thank you again, last one:

You saw your father perform in the 50's as well as many different acts and have been around/involved with magic for many decades. What, in your opinion has changed the most about magic since the time your father performed live?

J.I.P: Definitely the marketplace, there is no longer an industry of agents to work within.

I urge you all to pick up a copy of Master of Deception as I've really never read another book like it.

It was published in 2020 by Rare Bird Books. You can get a copy from Vanishing Ink or online.

All the best to you all for 2023.

J.Stenning A.K.A. Melrick the Magician.

Questions and comments at: jrsbbf@icloud.com.



VMC Library

The Vancouver Magic Circle Library Catalogue is online!

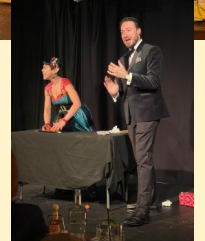


Remember: if you want a new trick, look in an old book! Our hope is that whenever our members see a trick they really want, or are trying to learn a difficult piece of theory, or are interested in buying a book— they will first check the library. This is one way we can improve our magic, and this [searchable online catalogue](#) is the first step towards taking full advantage of this incredible resource.

Pics from the Shows

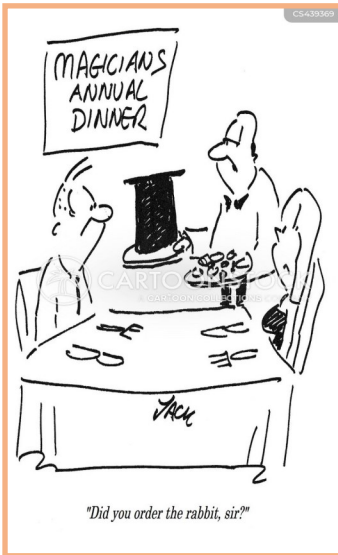


Photos courtesy of Hidden Wonders



Photos courtesy of The Parlour Magic Show

Just 4 Fun



Read this sentence:

Finished files are the result of years of scientific study combined with the experience of years.

Now count the F's in that sentence. Count them once, **don't** go back and count again.

You will find the answer below;

There are 6 F's in the sentence. One of average intelligence finds 3 of them. If you spotted 4, you're above average. If you got 5, you can turn up your nose at most anybody. If you observe all 6, you're a genius and a lot too good to be wasting your time on foolishness like this.



Jeff walks into a magic shop.

He walks up to the man at the counter and asks "What magic can you do"

The man at the counter replies "Voodoo, magic reversal, time travel, and--"

Jeff interrupts him and says "Wait, go back"

Jeff walks into a magic shop, and the man at the counter says to him "That'll be \$30.75"



...Help needed...

Call for Contributions

...Please help ...

This is the fifth issue of the revived 'The Magical Minutes', I hope it has and continuous to meet with your approval. I would, however, welcome contributions from the membership. So if **you** have any articles; ideas; anecdotes; show / book / video reviews; photographs; cartoons; jokes; or anything else that you feel would be suitable for 'The Magical Minutes' please submit them to:

Roy Hopwood via hopwood.vmc@gmail.com or 1 604 219 0897.

Diary Dates*

Vancouver Magic Circle lbmring92.com

Generally meets on the fourth Thursday of the Month—January; February; March; April; May; June ; September; October: November; Plus August—Picnic on date tba.

VMC Executive Meeting:

TBA

January 2023 Meeting:

January 26, 2023 - venue - hall

- * AGM
- * Past Presidents Night
- * Election of Officers
- * One trick Night
- * Initiation of new members

February 2023:

February 22, 2023

*Installation Banquet - venue TBA

February 23, 2023

*Lecture - Venue - Hall

Shows

Hidden Wonders

<https://hiddenwonders.ca>

Shows are generally on Thursday/7 PM, Fri & Sat 7 & 9:30 and Sunday 3 & 7

TBA—check web site for dates and times

Hidden Wonders

<https://hiddenwonders.ca>

February 14, 2023 — Valentines Show

Cabaret of wonders

[Cabaret of Wonders | Facebook](#)

February 27, 2023

The Parlour Magic Show

[The Parlour Magic Show](#)

Monthly on the third Wednesday (See advert below)

TBA—check web site for dates and times

Other Clubs (as a Courtesy)

Society of American

Magicians #95

[SAM#95](#)

Meetings of the SAM #95 are held the **first Tuesday of the month** at members homes.

TBA—check web site for dates and times

Fraser Valley Magic Circle

[FVMC](#)

Regular monthly meetings take place on the second Friday of most months, at a private home in Mission, BC.

TBA—check web site for dates and times

During World War II, the magician Jasper Maskelyne hid the Suez Canal and Alexandria Harbor from the Germans and helped the Allied Forces win the war in Africa. In the book Top Secret, Maskelyne tells of his war experiences and of the time when he performed at the Empire Theater in Cairo, Egypt as "The Royal Command Magician." Few people actually realized that the performance was a front for the British intelligence service.

** Do NOT rely upon this newsletter for critical dates and times of meetings; events or shows. Always check the official source of the information.*

A Blast from the Past

Below is part of page 3 from the March 2008, Vol 6 No. 3 issue of The Magical Minutes

THE
MAGICAL MINUTES
March 2008

Installation Banquet!



On hand to award the Murray award for the "Most Creative Magical Performance" were Murray's parents, John and Arlene Sawchuk. This years recipient was Glen LaBarre. Also on hand was nominee Rod "always a bridesmaid" Chow.



On February 29th several of our prestigious awards were handed out to deserving individuals. There are so many people that deserve these rewards that it's incredibly difficult to narrow them down to single recipients.



The inaugural presentation of the Stan Kramien award for "The Best Showmanship" in a magic routine was presented to the first ever recipient, Gary Savard. Other nominees were Jack Bastow and Rod "always a bridesmaid" Chow.

It was then on to the Presidents Award, for demonstration of commitment to performing a role or duty. Once again it was difficult for our then-still-president Mike Norden to narrow it down to a single recipient from the many deserving individuals, but there is one name that rose above the others because of the many things he does to contribute to the success of the club. Not only performing a role or duty, but performing several including being an official club photographer, being a stage manager at numerous events throughout the year, not only being an active member but also bringing the rest of his family to partake and participate at many meetings and events, the very deserving recipient is Rod Chow. Thank you for all your hard work Rod!!

Ray and Judy Culos were on hand to award the Dave Culos Memorial Trophy for the Golden Rabbit Award to a member who has unselfishly given of their time and efforts for the advancement of the Vancouver Magic Circle. The recipient was Clinton W Gray. Other nominees included David Wilson, Karen Eskilson, Munro Mackenzie, Frank Pataki, John Smithman, Mike Norden, Dennis Hewson, and Rod "always a bridesmaid" Chow.



Keep Magic Alive