



Vol 21 No. 3

March 2023

— RING 92 —

VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

lbmring92.com

The Magical Minutes

the Charles Howard Ring



Members of the Vancouver Magic Circle at the annual Installation Banquet and Awards night,
held on Wednesday February 22, 2023

At Stefanos Lounge & Restaurant, New Westminster, BC

The Presidents Report

Hello VMC!

It's been a great start to the year for the VMC. It was encouraging to see many new members initiated at our first meeting of 2023. This was of course followed by a great lecture by Robert Ramirez, who also entertained us all with a great show at our annual Installation Banquet at Stefano's. Thank you to all who attended the banquet and made the evening a great success.

Our next monthly meeting is in the 4th Thursday of March. March is our annual Comedy night, and we will be having our annual competition in comedy magic for the Cecil Ackery trophy for adult members and the Rick Honey trophy for junior members. An email will be sent to members shortly on how to enter these competitions, and what else will take place at our upcoming meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you all March 23, 7pm, at our usual meeting place.

Yoosik Ethan Oum
President - Vancouver Magic Circle, IBM Ring #92

The Dennis Chan Report

The Vancouver Magic Circle's February meeting was a special event.

It was the club's annual awards and installation banquet.

The event took place at Stefano's restaurant in New Westminster on Wednesday, February 22. Arriving early was Graham Kita, Roy Hopwood, and Rod Boss.

The doors opened at 6:30 pm, but many of the members and guests arrived early.

At 7:00 pm everyone was asked to take their seats and the food orders were taken. Next up after that was the club photo. All of the well-dressed members of the Vancouver Magic Circle gathered on the stage for the photo. Our photographers were Henry Tom and Vincent Lee.

The emcees for the evening were Graham Kita and Rod Boss.

There was lots of walk around magic happening thanks to magicians Simon Cassegrain, Mike Vetterli, Rod Boss, Henry Tom, Yoosik Oum, Jordan Vo, Rob Teszka, Rod Chow and Ken Cowie.

Also, intermittently throughout the night, raffle prizes were drawn. Special thanks to Shawn Farquhar, Karen Kamachi (RAPS) Rod Boss, Dennis Chan, and Graham Kita for the raffle donations. Also, thanks to our ticket sellers Jordan Vo and Graham Kita.

Then it was dinner time. The menu choices consisted of roast lamb, chicken cordon bleu, pan fried prawns, calamari, filet of salmon, moussaka or a vegetarian special.

After the delicious dinner, it was time for the installation ceremony and the swearing in of the new executive for the 2023 magic year. Presiding over the swearing in ceremony was I.B.M. President Billy Hsueh. He read out the duties and responsibilities for the new executive.

Your new executive for this year is: Yoosik Oum, President. Simon Cassegrain, first vice president, Henry Tom, second vice president, Roy Hopwood, treasurer and secretary, Dennis Chan, sergeant-at-arms.

The winner of the Murray award for the most creative performance during the course of the year was Rod Chow. The winner of the Stan Kramien award for showmanship was Henry Tom. The winner of the Dave Culos memorial trophy (also known as the golden rabbit award) was Dennis Chan. The recipient of the president's award was Roy Hopwood.

We were honoured with the presence of the Vancouver Magic Circle members, Billy Hsueh, International Brotherhood of Magicians president and Rod Chow, Society of American Magicians president. These two Vancouver Magic Circle members hold two of the most prestigious positions in magic. We, as the VMC, are very proud of the accomplishments of both of these magicians this year. After dinner, it was show time. The featured performer was Robert Ramirez from Los Angeles. He wowed everybody with a great show. He started with a ukulele routine, where a chosen card ended up being his guitar pick. He performed his version of the Afghan bands using duct tape. He also included match box juggling and a card manipulation routine. Everyone enjoyed his performance.

Again, thanks to you: Henry Tom and Vincent Lee for taking care of the photography. Vincent also took photos at the Robert Ramirez lecture, Roy Hopwood for looking after all the money during the event, and Shawn Farquhar for his help in securing Stefano's restaurant (even they're normally closed on Wednesday night). Stefano's for their great food and service. Graham and Terri Kita for organizing this event. And finally, the Vancouver Magic Circle would like to thank all who attended this year's installation banquet. It was truly a prestigious and successful event. There were 30 members and 62 guests in attendance.

The next night, we held the Robert Ramirez lecture back at the hall. The lecture was awesome and Robert's methods were diabolical.

The remaining awards were handed out. Receiving their certificates for the 2022 contest winners were: Roy Hopwood for the Cecil Ackery trophy. Graham Kita for the Charles Howard trophy. Rob Teszka for the H.B. MacLean trophy. Mike Vetterli for the William Shelly trophy. And Rod Chow for the Ray Gamble trophy.

Graham Kita received his wand holder's certificate. Congratulations to everyone. Next, the Vancouver Magic Circle loyalty pins were handed out by Rod Boss. The five year pins went to Steve Braybrooke, Ed Goldberg, Michael Nemeth, Gary Robins, Gabriella Lester, and Mike Vetterli. The ten year pins went to Dennis Bauyon and Margaret Li, the fifteen year pin went to Bryn Williams. The thirty year pin went to Roger Sylvestre.

The Helping Hands certificates were awarded to Terri Kita, Suzanne Gustafson, Lori Farquhar, Tyler Mayfield and Chelsea Kita.

They are the people who work behind the scenes to make our gatherings successful.

The Editors Desk

This issue of **The Magical Minutes** is an absolutely crammed packed with news, photos, reviews, and much more. I do believe that this will become an issue you will want to keep. It is full of moments of history including photos of past VMC Presidents. Two of our members are International Presidents of different organisations, **Billy Hsueh** is the International President of **The International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM)** and **Rod Chow** is the International President of **The Society of American Magicians (SAM)**.

We have had our first live annual Installation Banquet since 2020. Congratulations to the members of the Executive Committee for 2023. Congratulations also to all of the award winners and volunteers who keep the VMC going. Lets make 2023 an awesome year for the VMC?

Roy J Hopwood

I Recall...

by

Roy Hopwood

New Things

(First published in Magic Makers — January 2021)

We all like 'New' things: new house; new car; new clothes; new magic etc.

Today We all is a new day; 2021 is a new year; Joe Biden is a new President of the USA; we are living in a new 'Normal'.

In these days of Covid-19 the 'new' way to perform magic is by doing 'virtual' shows on Zoom.

I can recall many years ago getting a new Amstrad Computer with a 40MB hard drive, and at a later time getting another 'new' computer with a huge 6GB hard drive. Now I have a 'new' computer with 12GB of memory and around 7TB of hard drive storage.

We are taught that there are no 'new' tricks and only, depending on your source, 7 or 11 different 'tricks', however, I can recall visiting **Gerald Taylor at Aladdin's Magic Shop** in Melbourne, and asking what 'new' magic he had.

During my lifetime I have seen many changes in the magic scene, from books to VHS/Beta to CDs to DVD's. From computers to the Internet, which has led to Facebook; YouTube; Instagram and many other 'new social media' platforms.

The way we dress as magicians is constantly changing along with the 'new' values of each generation.

I recall watching a corporate training film entitled 'What you are, is where you were when'. It hypothesizes that we grow up with the values of where we were when we were 10. In my case, this is Manchester UK in 1956.

I was always taught that, with only one exception, a magician should be the best dressed person at the function. The exception is weddings, when we should be the second best dressed after the bride.

Doug Henning introduced a new kind of image in his 'hippie' inspired outfits and relaxed conversational approach along with his 'sense of wonder'. These days with the advent of the 'new' magic style of street magic, led by David Blaine, it is a jeans and tee shirt world of magic.

Magicians throughout the ages have also been amongst the first people to utilize the latest technology.

In 1980 American magician Rick Johnsson, published a card trick using a computer. It used a stacked deck and several pages of code written in TRS 80 Basic, e.g.

```
5 CLEAR 1000
```

```
10 A$= "QUEEN OF HEARTS"
```

```
11 B$= "JACK OF DIAMONDS"
```

```
12 C$= "TWO OF DIAMONDS"
```

```
...
```

```
19 CLS
```

This was not a 'new trick' but was a 'new' way to use the 'new' technology.

In 1856 Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin took advantage of the infancy of the usage of electricity, especially the then 'new' discovery of electromagnetism, to help quell the Marabout uprising, using his wooden light and heavy chest.

These days the new magic uses the power of our smartphones, there are many tricks utilizing smartphones.

One of the early ones was an adaptation by Ian Pidgeon called 'My Pet Boris' of the classic The Web by Jim Pace. Since then, there has been a plethora of smartphone magic apps, not all of them are good. Some are free, others free* and others are paid apps.

Seeing that I am performing my first Zoom magic show in early march, I should get my act together, and adapt my old routines and come to terms with this new media.

This is a new experience for me.

So maybe, just maybe, everything old can be new again.

Presentation of VMC Awards

The Presidents Award
Awarded to
Roy J Hopwood



The Golden Rabbit Award
Awarded to
Dennis Chan



The Stan Kramien Award
Awarded to
Henry Tom



The Murray Award
Awarded to
Rod Chow



Wand Holders Degree
Awarded to
Graham Kita



The Cecil Ackery Award
Presented to
Roy J Hopwood



The William Shelly Award
Presented to
Mike Vetterli



The Charles Howard Award
Presented to
Graham Kita



The Ray Gamble Award
Presented to
Rod Chow



Congratulations to all of the Award Winners

Is this a piece of VMC History? All are members of the VMC!!



Three past and one current VMC president
Two International Presidents
All together at the same time.

Rod Boss; Billy Hsueh; Yoosik Oum; Rod Chow; Graham Kita

Current International Brotherhood of Magicians President
Current VMC president
Current International president of The Society of American Magicians

Billy Hsueh; Yoosik Oum; Rod Chow





A PICTURE TELLS A THOUSAND WORDS



Clinton W Gray — Kamloops



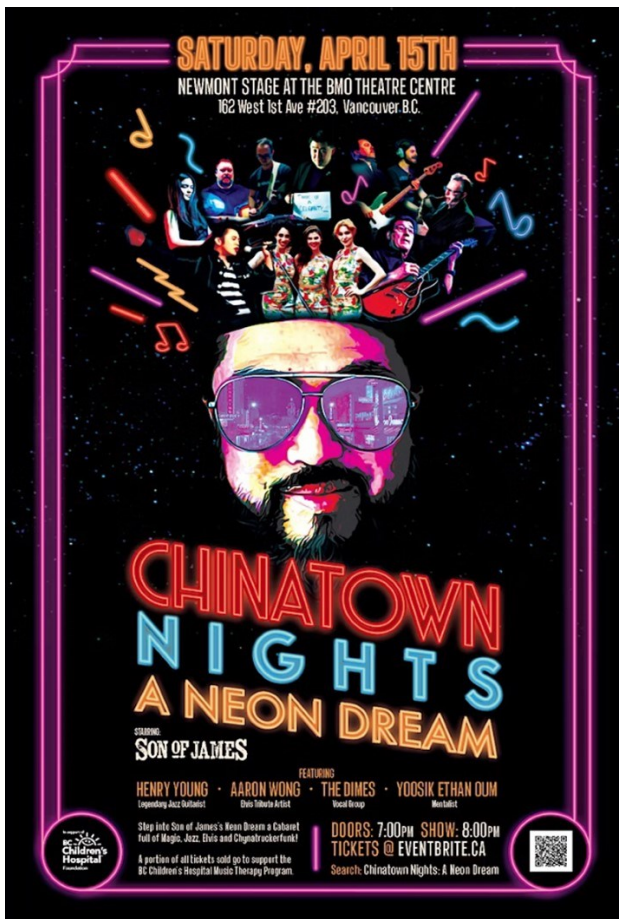
Photos Courtesy of Clinton W Gray

Chinatown Nights a Neon Dream

Featuring

Yoosik Ethan Oum

Hi. I'll be part of the lineup for this amazing show put on by a friend who is the lead singer of an amazing band Son of James. Some of the other headliners include musical and tribute acts. The poster below has a scan link to take you to the Eventbrite page to get tickets. Hope to see you there.



For the card experts only

One handed Bottom Deal by Barry Govan—Australia

FOR THOSE MAGICIANS who have mastered Dai Vernon's one hand "shooting deal" (Inner Secrets, Part 1), a perfect bottom deal can be woven into this deal—but it will require some practice. The grip is the well-known mechanic's grip.

TO DEAL:

Hold the deck tight in the mechanic's grip. The left thumb draws the top card in an arc to the right, about halfway across the deck, the left second finger goes under the deck and engages the bottom card slightly under and to the left of the top right hand index corner and buckles the bottom card inwards. Now, with a movement back, give the left side of the second finger a flick outward and to the left, at the same time bringing back the top card level with the deck. Once you have mastered the flick, the cards can be spun of the bottom at a very rapid tempo.

Incidentally, I found that the bottom cards can be flicked off with more force than the top one hand deal.

It is difficult to describe this sleight but I am sure some of you cardicians will give it a fair trial.

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.

Please Do Not Forward The Magical Minutes to Non-Members*

This is just a friendly reminder to all our members to please not to forward our newsletter, 'The Magical Minutes' or any private newsletter links, to people who are not financial members of the VMC. The online VMC Library, and The Magical Minutes newsletter is a membership privilege. It takes a lot of time and effort to write our newsletter, and we do it exclusively for the benefit of our members.

If a non-financial member asks you to forward The Magical Minutes to them, please refrain from doing so.

Lastly, the Executive Committee would like to thank everyone who has contributed to and / or sent positive messages about The Magical Minutes newsletter. It is truly appreciated and makes all the hard work worth it.

Thank you

The VMC Executive Committee

* Except with express permission of the VMC Executive Committee

Photos courtesy of Vincent Lee and Rod Boss

Opinions expressed in this newsletter 'The Magical Minutes' are not necessarily those of the Editor or the VMC

John's Reviews

Product Review Packet wallet 2.0 By TOC



This is a step up from those cheap vinyl wallets that usually come with packet tricks; you can easily fit five cards in each side and the clear plastic is curved, making it easy to remove the cards. Some are selling this as a Leather packet wallet, then go on to explain it is PU leather, which, basically, is not leather, but a synthetic, although a very good quality one.

So for about \$5 U.S. it's still a pretty good deal and is much, much, better than those old, ratty vinyl cases as it not only looks better and is easier to use, but it should also last longer and keep your cards in better shape. Vanishing Ink and Penguin magic both sell it.

Till next time

J.Stenning A.K.A. Melrick the magician.

jrsbbf@icloud.com

March 8, 2023

Questions and comments at: jrsbbf@icloud.com.

ON DECK!

HYPNOSIS



I thought this would be a good deck to review since St Paddy's day is in March and it has a lot of different shades of green in it. A really colourful deck; released in 2019, it comes with a double backer card, the hearts and diamonds are a light lime green instead of red, and is, of course, of the high quality you would expect of Bicycle cards; the backs look good when fanning and can also be used as a subtle one way deck.

These are out of stock at Vanishing Ink and Penguin magic, however, you can get them on Ebay at various prices and there are other colour schemes available. As usual, you may end up paying quite a bit for shipping from some people and yet others are offering them with free shipping (don't ask me why).

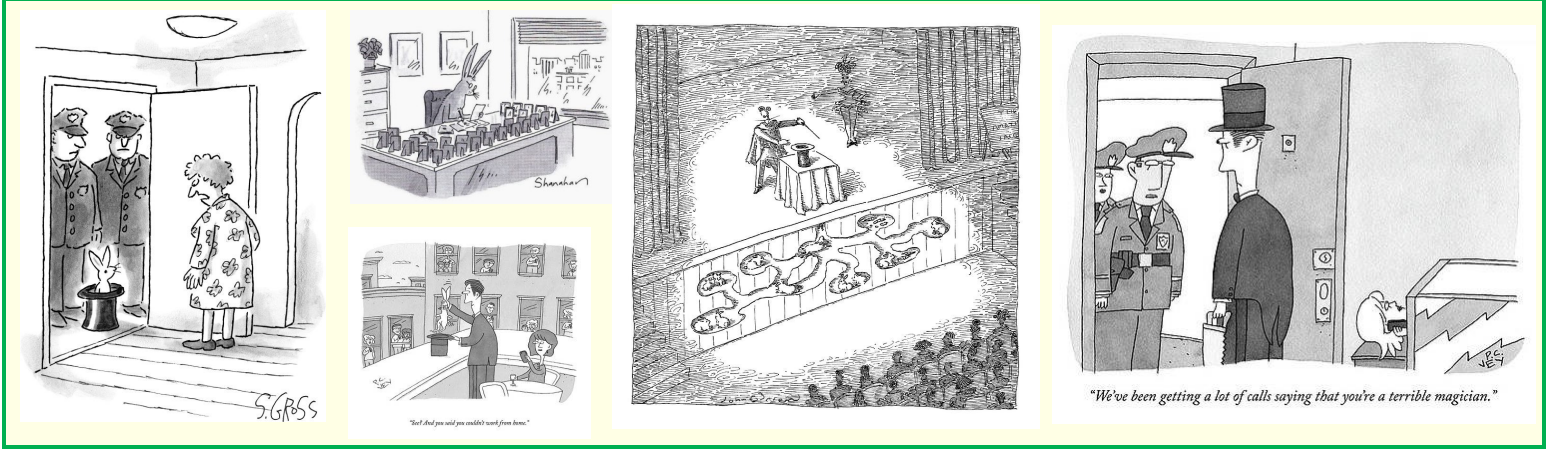
Happy St Patrick's day everybody! (I should say belated)

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

jrsbbf@icloud.com

March 19, 2023

Questions and comments at: jrsbbf@icloud.com.



Groaners

A magic genie tells Tom, "I can make anything of yours disappear!"

Tom: [raises his mug]: Okay, get rid of my tea.

Genie: Poof!

Tom: It didn't work.

At a bar, my friend made a remarkable shot in pool, and I asked how he did it.

He said, "When I am about to take a shot, it's like magic, I can just see the line where I need to shoot."

Then he threw a dart and got a bullseye on the first throw and I asked how he could aim the dart so well.

He said, "When I am about to throw a dart, it's like magic, I can just see the line where I need to throw it."

Later, he got in a fight with another guy at the bar. He threw a punch and missed badly. I asked how he could throw such a poorly aimed punch.

He said, "There is no punch line."

A man stumbles upon a magic lamp.

He rubs the lamp and a genie pops out!

The genie says that he will grant the man only one wish, and that he has to pick from three choices.

He can either be the richest man in the world, the most popular man in the world, or the wisest man in the world.

The man says, "We all know that money does not bring happiness, and that popularity just makes you a slave to the whims of others, but wisdom is everlasting. I want to be the wisest man in the world."

The Genie goes "poof" and suddenly the man's face assumes a serene expression.

He sits down, rubbing his chin in thought.

Then he looks towards the genie and says, "I should have taken the money."

My son asked me to make him a paper airplane.

I tried all the magic I know but he's still just a boy.

"There is no magic. There are only magicians."

Harry Anderson

"Dai Vernon, the greatest sleight of hand figure in the history of the art, rarely performed. But he invented magic and had an enormous influence on the whole range of sleight of hand. And so often, the magic he was doing was to fool other magicians."

Ricky Jay

"For centuries, magicians have intuitively taken advantage of the inner workings of our brains."

Neil deGrasse Tyson

This is the seventh 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.

- Q1** *Humming loudly instead of using an orchestra while performing tricks that often failed, who was the man often credited with inventing 'comedy magic'?*
- Q2** *The ability to make an object disappear is one of the most impressive illusions that can be performed because it seems to contradict the laws of nature. The use of mirrors is especially effective when performing a particular illusion in which a person disappears into a special cabinet that has been wheeled on stage. This cabinet has a name. What is it?*
- Q3** *What was Houdini's occupation before he quit in 1891 to pursue his career in magic?*
- Q4** *Siegfried and Roy's full names are?*
- Q5** *Many illusionists use misdirection to trick their audiences. One illusionist, born in 1849, was a master at misdirection. In fact, some believe that he was the inspiration for the character of the wizard in L. Frank Baum's book "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz." Name this illusionist.*

Answers in next issue

Did you have a go at 'Roy's 5 question quiz' in the last issue? How did you go? Two members submitted their answers to the last quiz: John Stenning got 3 correct, and Yoosik Oum got 2 correct—well done. If you try this issues quiz, why not let me know how you went.

Answers to Roy's 5 question quiz from the February Issue of TMM

- Q1** A very common magic word makes fun of Latin words used in the Catholic mass. It was used as the title of a movie starring Bette Midler. It is generally used to indicate that one thing is being transformed into something else, through either sleight-of-hand or alchemy. Which magic word am I referring to?
- Answer: Hocus Pocus**
- "Hoc est corpus meum" is the original Latin chant, meaning, "this is my body." Spoken during the consecration, it is the most sacred moment of the Catholic Mass. It became "hocus pocus" as it moved from holy usage into alchemy and magic.
- Q2** P.T. Selbit was an English magician who cut through the conventions of the time and invented one of the first "jaw-dropping" illusions. Which of these tricks was it?
- Answer: Sawing a woman in half**
- Selbit (birth name Percy Thomas Tibbles) was always inventive in his magic act and tried to always have something new for his audiences. The idea of a sawing-a-woman-in-half trick had been discussed for many years but Selbit was the first to present it to an audience, in January, 1921. There were claims that the trick was done earlier but none have ever been proved and illusionists in general credit Selbit with bringing it to fruition.
- Q3** Which much missed comedian, also a member of the Magic Circle was known for his red fez and magic that never worked? You'll get this "just like that".
- Answer: Tommy Cooper**
- Cooper was a talented magician, much respected by his peers, but to his adoring public he was always the magician for whom nothing went right, apart from that one moment, during his most ambitious trick when it did. A natural showman, he died on live TV in 1984, midway through his show and his place as a magical buffoon has never been filled.
- Q4** A very old trick involves moves like galloping, transportations, vanishes and reappearances. Quite often a few transformations are also thrown in as a climax. What's the name of this trick?
- Answer: Cups and Balls.**
- 'Cups and Balls' are a real classic in magic. In fact it is widely regarded as the oldest tricks of all since it has been traced way back to the ancient Egypt.
- Q5** You may have seen him on TV as a con-man, a Saturday Night Live guest or a late-night judge but he has always been a magician. Who is he?
- Answer: Harry Anderson**
- A fan of magic since childhood, Harry Anderson practiced magic every day after high school classes in Los Angeles, California. He worked as a street magician for a while, then became an actor, appearing as con man "Harry the Hat" on "Cheers" and as judge Harry Stone on "Night Court". Moving away from television in the 21st century, Anderson has concentrated on performing magic in clubs and restaurants he has owned.

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: April 11, 2023 via Zoom

March 2023 :

March 23, 2023 — Venue — Hall

*Workshop by Henry Tom — Rubber Band Magic

*Comedy Magic Competition

April 2023:

April 27, 2023 — Venue — Hall

*Unopened Deck Competition

Shows (as a courtesy)

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

Ken Brooke

Although his public recognition was not great, **Ken Brooke** had a profound influence on the greats of the UK magic scene, the likes of **David Nixon**, **Tommy Cooper**, **Paul Daniels**, **David Berglas**, **Geoffrey Durham**, and **Wayne Dobson**.

British magician and magic dealer does not do him justice. **Ken Brooke** wasn't just another magic dealer. When he sold someone an effect, many times it included his own instructions sheets, which reflected the real experiences of a performer who not only cared about how the tricks should be performed, but who also cared enough to provide information on the proper performance to those who bought his products.

Even for those who do not do particular effects that were sold by **Ken Brooke**, reading these instructions sheets provided real lessons in magic.

Invented a version of "**Chase the Ace**" (1955), "**Fido**" (a card trick) and may have invented "**Professor Cheer's Comedy Rope**" (at least he was the first magician on record who performed the trick at Glasgow, Scotland).

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