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— RING 92 —

VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

ibmring92.com

the Charles Howard Ring



The Dennis Chan Report

The Vancouver Magic Circle's Halloween meeting took place on Thursday, October 26, 2023. Several members arrived early for a jam session. **President Yoosik Oum** officially the meeting by greeting the members and guests.

The workshop for the evening was presented by **Rod Boss** and **Graham Kita**. **Rod** did a crystal ball and card routine with another card revelation using a wind up Count Dracula. **Graham Kita** did a tutorial on **MacDonald's Aces** and a haunted match box. He was dressed up as a clown.

Everyone enjoyed the workshop. The workshops have been proven to be a huge and popular event amongst the members. Members are learning a lot of magic from each other.

The competition for the evening was for the **Tip Top and Tootsie trophy**. This trophy is awarded in recognition of excellence in a Halloween themed magic by an adult or junior member. At least one magical effect (close-up, parlour or stage) with a Halloween theme must be performed. The 2022 **Tip Top and Tootsie trophy** was not contested. **Roy Hopwood** was the winner of the 2021 competition. He was the host and MC for the 2023 competition and he read the rules.

The competitors were **Daniel Schwartz**, **Jack Schwartz**, **Rod Boss**, **John Stenning**, **Robert Teszka**, and **Blake Aleong**. **Simon Cassegrain** was the time keeper.

The winner of the 2023 **Tip Top and Tootsie trophy** was **Daniel Schwartz**. Congratulations to **Daniel** and to the rest of the competitors. In between the acts, **Roy Hopwood** gave out Halloween facts. Asked a few Halloween themed quiz questions, and asked a few Halloween themed 'bad dad jokes'.

To celebrate some of the Halloween activities, there was a dessert table decorated with a Halloween table cloth and Halloween napkins. Thanks to **Graham Kita** for doing this. For the refreshments, **Dale Brown** brought donuts. It was nice to see long time Vancouver Magic Circle member **Dale** whom we haven't seen for quite a while. **Graham Kita** brought Halloween cookies, cupcakes and bottled water. **Rod Boss** brought some chocolate candies. Thanks everyone.

To end the evening's Halloween activities, there was the ever popular Halloween dress up contest. **Yoosik Oum** was the MC for this event. The winner is decided by the applause/elimination process. The one who gets the most amount of applause by the end is declared the winner. There are no prizes, just a whole lot of fun and laughter. The competitors were **Blake Aleong**, **Roy Hopwood**, **Ray Wong**, **Graham Kita**, **Rod Boss**, **Scott Barker**, and **Robert Teszka**. The winner was **Rod Boss**, who was dressed up as wizard. Photography was done by **Simon Cassegrain**.

Thanks to **Kim Fabbro** for giving me a ride to and from the meeting. There were 23 members and 4 guests in attendance.

The Presidents Report

Hi VMC!

I hope you had a fun and safe Halloween! The only Halloween thing I did on Halloween was watch Five Nights at Freddy's at the Marine Gateway VIP theatre! Hopefully your Halloween was more eventful than mine, LOL.

I'm excited for the upcoming annual November banquet coming up later in the month, which will also include the annual stage competition with both adult and junior categories. More details about this event will come to you in a future email.

December, like always, will be a time to relax with family and have good times during the holidays.

We will meet again in the 4th Thursday in January. I look forward to seeing you all again. Have a great and safe holiday.

Yoosik Ethan Oum

President

Vancouver Magic Circle, IBM Ring #92

<https://www.koreancanuckmentalist.com>

The Editors Desk

The October 'Halloween' Meeting was a fun filled event. Several members donned their best Halloween costumes, including, your editor. The well deserved winner was **Rod Boss** (at least I think it was **Rod**) in his **Hagridesque** wizard outfit. Oh thanks for the **Pharaoh Rocher**.

Well done to all of the members who competed for the **Tip Top and Tootsie Trophy**. **Daniel Schwartz**; **Jack Schwartz**; **Rod Boss**; **John Stenning**; **Robert Teszka**; and **Blake Aleong**. Congratulations to the winner, **Daniel Schwartz**.

Graham Kita and **Rod Boss** presented the evenings workshops.

Thanks as always to **Dennis Chan** for bringing us his monthly reports.

It would be remiss of me not to thank **John Stenning** for his contributions to, and the huge amount he does behind the scenes in helping produce 'The Magical Minutes'

Long time member and past president, **Dale Brown**, renewed his association with the VMC and he supplied 3 boxes of **Tim Hortons** Donuts.

I spent Halloween as a treat giver while our son, **Jeremy**; his wife and the two granddaughters were out treat or treating themselves. The highlight for many of the visitors was the display the girls made from milk cartons.



267 kids later it was time to head home.

in the spotlight

This month is

Mike Vetterli

MM: Tell us a little about yourself and your family

MV: I am a physics professor at SFU. My research is in high-energy particle physics at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Geneva. My hobbies include magic (of course!) as well as hiking/backpacking, and cycling. I live in North Van with Chris, my wife of 40 years (!) this year, who is a published author (check Amazon). We are both super proud of our daughter Danielle, who is an Interior Designer at an architecture firm in Vancouver. I was born in Montreal; yes, I'm French Canadian.

MM: How did you become interested in magic?

MV: A student at the lab where I did my graduate studies was a magician and piqued my interest. After a 30-year hiatus (!) because of work, I found my magic box about 7 years ago when cleaning out my basement. I joined the VMC and dove right in.

MM: Who are your biggest influences in the magic world?

MV: I love learning about the psychology of magic. My favourite magician is therefore Tommy Wonder. I also enjoy the way Eric Meade and David Regal think about magic. And then of course there is Shawn.

MM: What is your favorite trick to perform and why?



MV: I like taking simple tricks and figuring out ways to increase their impact. Turbo Stick by Leo Smetsers and Richard Sanders is a great paddle trick because just when the audience thinks they got it, it changes. Another favourite is Coin Squeeze where quarters penetrate solid brass. This really freaks out laymen.

MM: Can you share an interesting story from one of your performances?

MV: As they say, you learn the most from your mistakes. I was performing 'Flowers from Silks' at the beach one day and it got very windy. As I was showing the 3 silks a big gust of wind blew everything sideways, except the load! Lesson learned: choose your tricks carefully depending on where you will perform!

MM: What advice would you give to someone who wants to learn magic?

MV: Nothing too original: read books! Best way to squeeze the most out of the masters. Also, study as many versions of a trick as possible and learn WHY it works, not just how. Ask yourself 'What is the audience thinking when I do this move?' 'Can I improve on it?'

MM: How do you come up with new tricks or routines?

MV: I look for commonalities in tricks to link them into a routine. This also allows me to tweak them and inject some originality. I am starting to think about designing my own tricks from scratch, but it's difficult to find an idea that hasn't already been done.

MM: What's the most challenging part of being a magician for you?

MV: Getting over the hump of performing, especially, for other magicians. My career is in a field that puts a lot of emphasis on precision and 'being right'. So, I am more worried about making mistakes when performing than I should be; because of course, this leads to making more mistakes. While I am comfortable with public speaking because I am a professor, it's a very different thing for me to perform magic...but I am definitely gaining confidence.

MM: What's the most rewarding part of being a magician for you?

MV: This one is easy. The reaction of the audience and the look on their faces when they watch the show. Most of them have never seen magic in person and I love giving them that feeling of 'what the hell just happened'?!

MM: Can you share with our readers a fun, non magic, fact that we didn't know about you?

MV: I recently started learning the Asian game Go; anyone interested in a game with a newbie?



Broken Wand

"...Any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind..."

- John Donne



Darwin Ortiz



Image credit: Scott Wells

Darwin Ortiz

November 18, 1948 - October 13, 2023



Darwin Ortiz, one of the world's most extraordinary card manipulators and gifted writers, died on October 13, 2023. Darwin Ortiz's unique ability to captivate audiences was what actually distinguished him. His performances included not only technical prowess but also superb storytelling and compelling presentations. He possessed a unique ability to connect with his audience on a deep emotional level, leaving them not only in awe of his abilities but also deeply moved by his magic.

Ortiz was born and raised in New York City, where he developed an early interest in card tricks. He dropped out of NYU Law School in 1974 to study card magic full-time. Initially, he supported himself by playing blackjack and teaching at **Harry Lorayne's** memory school in New York City.

Darwin was a contemporary and personal friend of the prominent US coin magician, **David Roth**, and was initially mentored by **Derek Dingle**, the seminal British/US close-up performer. **Ortiz** eventually became a consultant to a number of casinos in the United States, Europe, Africa, the United Kingdom, and Australasia, and was a featured presenter at the **World Gaming Congress** in Nevada for several years.

He has received a lot of respect for his writings on the theory of magic. His book '**Strong Magic**' focuses on doable close-up magician presentational strategies. The book received initially unfavorable reviews from the two major US trade periodicals **MAGIC** and **Genii** before being widely accepted by the professional and amateur magic communities. Despite the original publisher's initial inability to republish the material, there has been a high demand for the book.

'**Designing Miracles**', which explains how to create potent magical phenomena, is "**Creating the Illusion of Impossibility**." The book puts out and examines numerous theories surrounding lay audiences' perception and cognition, and it offers helpful examples and suggestions on how to create effects to maximize their impact and deception on a lay audience.

'**Lessons in Card Mastery**' was the most current book to be released that contained **Darwin Ortiz's** original routines. '**Gambling Scams**' 1984 is **Ortiz's** most significant work on gaming protection for the general public.

In 1991, he also wrote '**The Annotated Erdnase**', an influential annotation of **S. W. Erdnase's** '**The Expert at the Card Table**' that was distributed to the magic industry.

Many magicians, as well as students who had the opportunity of learning under **Darwin Ortiz**, have expressed their profound condolences on Facebook. The outpouring of condolences and tributes on the social media site witnesses his tremendous impact on the magic community, as well as the deep admiration and esteem he earned. There are so many tributes, so I will include just 2 for members to read.

Joshua Jay writes:

"**Darwin Ortiz** has passed away, and magic has lost one of its greatest intellects. I first met him as a teenager, and we have been correspondents ever since. I wasn't a student of Darwin's, but he was my teacher. I went to DC to visit **Darwin** just last month, and we made several plans for the future, and he shared plans for his upcoming creative pursuits. This is an enormous loss for magic.

Darwin lived the exemplary magician's life. He performed professionally for the public, at universities and private functions, using exclusively original material that he created and honed in real-world environments. And when the work was fully developed he shared it with the magic community in the form of his five major collections of sleight-of-hand. My favorite of these was '**Cardshark**', which came out when I was fourteen. I learned nearly every trick in that book.

Without question his crowning achievement—and what he will be remembered for by magicians a century from now—are his two collections of magic theory, '**Strong Magic**' (1994) and '**Designing Miracles**' (2007). I refer to them as magic's old and new testament. They are masterworks, and they will be studied a century from now alongside other timeless classics of our craft. Magic theory often gravitates toward the aspirational—"we have to work hard," "practice is important," "doing magic well is difficult," and so on. Modern theory very often rehashes the ideas and theories of our past masters. But Darwin's two collections ventured boldly into new territory. He codified dozens of new concepts, coined new terms, and revealed new ways to classify and think about magic. In particular, *Designing Miracles* provided the first and best deep-dive into how, precisely, one might create magic and make their magic more deceptive.

I can think of only two reasons Darwin is under-appreciated in some circles. The first is that, perhaps, **Darwin's** strength was not charismatic performances (he was a good performer, but some couldn't connect with his performance style). It's convenient when the greatest thinkers and *creators*

also happen to be exceptionally entertaining. But by no means do these things need to go hand-in-hand. Whether or not you were drawn to Darwin's performance style, the body of work he has left to future generations of magicians is staggering and important.

The other reason: Darwin was old-school. He might have seemed cold or distant to the casual student. He didn't give just anyone access. But I can attest that if you demonstrated a serious interest, he was enthusiastic, helpful, and loyal. He was very kind to me over the course of my career, and offered specific advice and ideas to make my magic better. He cared. I mourn his loss, and I mourn the loss of his future work (particularly the planned, promised third volume of theory), which we fellow magicians will never get to appreciate.

Rest in peace, and never play cards with strangers.

A synchronous thought. I received word of Darwin's passing minutes after reading online about a magician in Darwin's hometown, DC, who was hit by a drunk driver and is in need of assistance. I don't know this person, but made a donation in Darwin's memory. I can't think of a better way to honor Darwin than helping a fellow-magician in need".

Paul Gertner-Gaertner writes:

"Friday the Thirteenth true to its reputation packed a punch this week. The news of the death of a good friend and legendary magician and gambling expert **Darwin Ortiz** made the rounds in the world of magic. It is so sad to hear **Darwin** has left us.

Darwin was one of my contemporaries and while a few years older than myself and other magicians like **David Roth**, **Michael Ammar**, **John Carney**, **David Williamson**, **Tim Conover**, **Paul Harris**, and **Max Maven** we all seemed to stumble into the fascinating world of magic conventions and lectures at a similar time in our lives, each of us trying to find a way to make a mark, make an impression or simply make a living in the rather strange world of magical entertainment that captured our attention.

Darwin stood out in his approach to this challenge with a very precise and low-key performance style that showcased his love of difficult routines expertly constructed highlighting his exceptional skill level with cards and his dedication toward the ritual of practice. His magic was designed and constructed to let the magic and the effect do the talking, with a preference toward magic and demonstrations centered around a gambling theme. One of my early meetings with **Darwin** was probably in the mid-seventies when I was fortunate to attend one of the Spaghetti Sessions in New York hosted by **Pat Cook** for a group that included **Darwin**, **David Roth**, **Jim Swain**, and myself at **Pat's** place in the city. A few years later, he and his partner at the time **Liz**, hosted my wife and I for a lovely dinner of shrimp primavera, a recipe which was graciously shared with us. My wife **Kathryn** who has mastered it still makes it to this day for special occasions, especially when we have a magician for dinner. It's always fun to casually mention the story of where we discovered the recipe for the magical meal they are raving about.

Around the same time in the late seventies, it seemed **Darwin** and I would often end up on the same magic convention bill usually working both the close-up show and performing a lecture for the attendees. Two conventions that stand out are the **Cuckoo's Nest Convention** in Pittsburgh where **Darwin**, **David Roth** and I were all on the bill together. **Darwin** had a great sense of humor, and I recall he and I sat in the back of the room as **David Roth** lectured to the entire convention. During the lecture, **Darwin** and I would take turns asking **David** absurd questions about a routine he just completed. Questions that were designed to sound semi-reasonable to someone new to magic, but that challenged **David** to keep a straight face while trying to answer them in front of the large audience. Of course, payback was in order and the next day when **Darwin** was lecturing on the pinky count, I recall **David** and I enjoying **Darwin's** attempt to give a serious answer to **David's** question: "Would using a small rubber thumb tip on the end of your little finger help make you more accurate when doing the pinky count?" Without missing a beat **Darwin** handled it with a respectful and professorial explanation. Classic **Darwin**. In 1978 at one of **Joe Steven's** early **Desert Magic Seminars** **Joe** invited **Darwin** and me to be the two young magicians at the convention that was headlined by **Dai Vernon** and **Tony Slydini**. **Darwin** and I were the young "up and coming" magicians to compliment the two masters on the bill. **Darwin's** performance and lecture, of course, was one of the highlights of the convention, his skill level was way beyond his years.

But I think the thing **Darwin** will be most remembered for is his prolific output in terms of published material, something the magic community will benefit from well into the future. My favorite book was '**Strong Magic**' which was released in 1994. I was blown away when I read this book by the analytical details he talked about when creating an effect. I have always loved strong, impactful close-up magic, having come of age watching and learning from performers like **Al Goshman**, **Don Alan**, and **Eddie Fechter** but here **Darwin** was detailing and breaking down why what they did... worked. I am currently re-reading that book again right now just to be reminded of his words and hear his voice one more time. I was even more blown away, and flattered when **Darwin** called me in 1995, less than a year after '**Strong Magic**' came out and asked me to write the Introduction to his next book '**Cardshark**'. I remember saying: "How can you have another book already, you just released '**Strong Magic**'?" The level of his output was impressive, and it simply continued year after year. I believe **Darwin**, a very private person, enjoyed writing as much as he did performing, perhaps even more and the magic community is the beneficiary of that. I'm going to miss our phone calls and the ability to call him about any card routine or question I have and hear him say: "That's called the '**Tantalizer**', it is in '**Royal Road to Card Magic**', I have a trick using that principle in one of my books, I'll email you a copy."

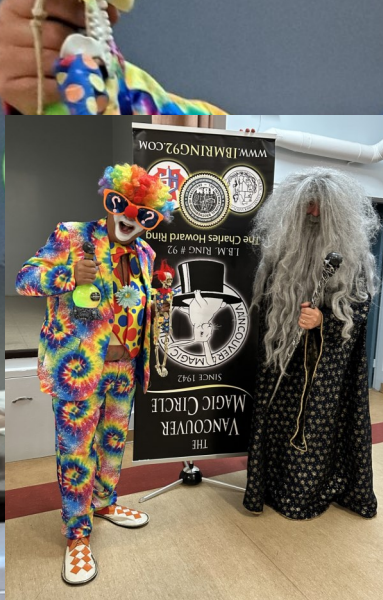
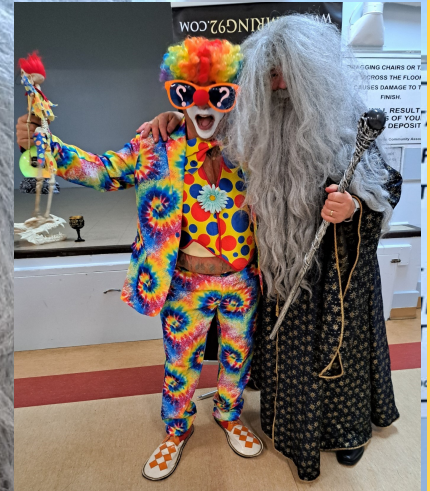
Losing **Darwin** is like losing **Johnny Thompson** and **Max Maven** who were all like fountains of magical information and knowledge that many of us drank from again and again. We will all miss that too. Teaching was another way that **Darwin** was willing to generously pass his knowledge on to the next generation. Fortunately, **Darwin** spent time with several young card experts like **Jason Ladayne** and **Ed Kwon**, and I can see his influence when I see them pick up a deck of cards. He was simply a kind and genuine person who you could tell was always thinking. I liked that about him.

And just as much as I will miss hanging out with **Darwin** at magic conventions, hearing his unique voice explaining a card effect, smiling at his dry sense of humor and marveling at his precise technique with a deck of cards, there is one thing I think I will miss most of all. I will miss those times when I called him, and he did not answer the phone. Because when that happened, I had the privilege of hearing his voice on his answering machine inform me that: "I'm sorry I cannot answer the phone right now, because I am busy practicing."

And in that moment, I would always envision **Darwin** sitting alone in a room, at a small table, light jazz playing in the background gently shuffling a pack of cards, holding the deck in his right-hand, dealing seconds or bottoms or perhaps simply fine tuning a strip-out shuffle for the 10,000th time. Yes, I think that is how I will remember my friend **Darwin**. Practicing.

Keep on practicing my friend. You have earned it.

A PICTURE TELLS A THOUSAND WORDS

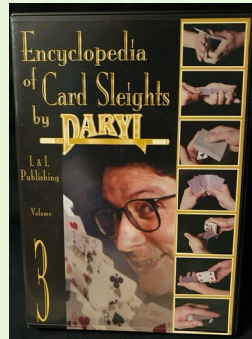


October 2023 'Halloween' Meeting



Photos courtesy of Graham Kita and Roy Hopwood

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CARD SLEIGHTS by DARYL Vol 3



This is an excellent series of eight DVD's (also available as a download).

I've always found Daryl to be easy to understand as he clearly explains his tricks and sleights and this series is no exception. As you would probably expect, the first volume covers many basics and then progresses from there. In Vol #3 he covers:

- ♦ FALSE CUTS
- ♦ THE RIFFLE SHUFFLE
- ♦ THE GLIMPSE/PEEK
- ♦ THE KEY CARD

And much more, including trick breaks and super practice sessions which use the Michael Ammar trade mark, super slow motion practice footage.

Lot's of good stuff to learn and if you already know most of it, it can always be used as a great source to review your card handling knowledge.

Till next time, keep practicing.

J.Stenning A.K.A. Melrick the magician.
Nov 17/2023.

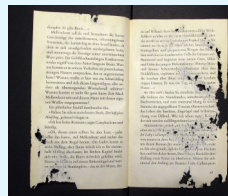
Questions and comments at: jrsbbf@icloud.com.

Quick tips (for magicians)

Do you know what silverfish are?



Do you have lots of books, magical or otherwise in your collection? If you do, you need to keep a lookout for these common pests that are in many homes; even though they are harmless to humans, they are capable of causing serious damage to your books.



Keep an eye out for damp places like under the sink and try to keep your bathroom dry and well ventilated. Might want to spray a little raid from time to time to keep them in check and protect your magical investments.

Till next time, stay magical.

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

ON DECK!

VARIOUS DIFFERENT COLOURED DECKS

I wanted to do a brief column about the various coloured decks you can get from Bicycle, which are fairly inexpensive and good for putting together your own packet tricks or if you want one card or a whole deck that is different from the standard Blue and Red decks that many of us usually use.



The picture here shows only two of many choices: Fuchsia (basically pink) and silver. Suppose you want to do a Chicago opener type trick with a red deck and have the chosen card turn out to be blue, much to the surprise of the spectator; why not a silver card, or green, pink, or orange? Do you see where I am going with this? Adding several decks of Bicycle cards to your collection that are unordinary will give you many options and can also be good give-aways that will be remembered, as how many laymen have seen an orange deck of Bicycle cards?

You can get these at most online magic shops.

Till next time, keep practicing.

Fox Lake Playing Cards

A Magicians Perspective

(First published in *Magic Makers*—October 2023 (edited))

Long before **USPCC Bicycle Rider Back Poker 808** playing cards became the default cards of choice for Magicians, **Fox Lake** bridge sized cards were the preferred cards.

Fox Lake playing cards was the creation of **John Snyder Jr** (1888 – 1946).



John Snyder Jnr.

John Snyder Jr's first job was in the office of **W. E. Bundy**, the **U. S. District Attorney** at the age of 15, which was the same year he began his successful career in magic.

Snyder was also employed by the government as a mechanic in the **U. S. Post Office garage** and later started his own '**Snyder Auto Parts & Service Co.**'

He sold his auto parts company in 1934 and retired from business life to devote his time to magic. In **Norwood, Ohio**, he had a factory to manufacture magical apparatus.

In the 1930s, **John Snyder, Jr.** arranged with the **U.S. Playing Card Company** to produce gaffed decks based on the Aviator Bridge deck.

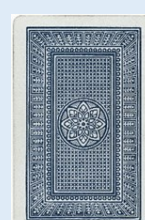
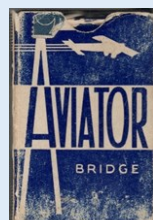
Aviator Playing Cards – Poker No. 914

Introduced in 1927 in commemoration of Charles Lindbergh's trans-Atlantic flight in the Spirit of St. Louis, Aviator poker sized playing cards (stock No. 914) feature a bordered, monochrome back design of predominantly circles. Aviator cards are less expensive compared to Bee and Bicycle as the card stock is thinner and has a smooth finish.

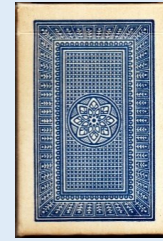
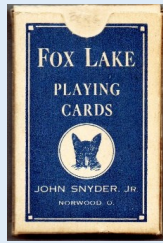


Aviator Playing Cards - Bridge

The Aviator bridge sized playing cards are of higher quality and have the Air Cushion Finish and feature the back design as used on the Fox Lake cards.



John Snyder Jnr maintained a home in **Norwood, Ohio**, and a summer retreat in **Fox Lake, Wisconsin**, which he named his **Fox Lake** cards after. He was also a member of the **Houdini Club of Wisconsin**.

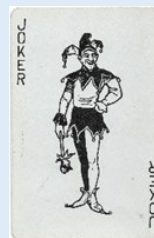
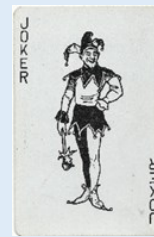


He also mentored **Don Alan** in magic starting at the age of twelve.



Ronald Haines

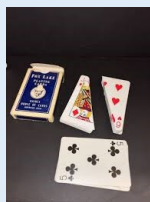
During the last illness of **John Snyder, Jr.** **Ronald Haines** (1906 – 1974) managed **Snyder's Fox Lake Cards**. Then after Snyder's death in 1946, **Haines** purchased the business and renamed it '**Haines House of Cards**' in 1947.



After purchasing the company, **Haines** eventually acquired the exclusive rights to produce all the mechanical decks designed by **R.W. Hull** (1883 – 1943) as well as other card effects by **Hen Fetch**. The Company's success continued for many decades. The '**Haines House of Cards**' shipped thousands of **Svengali**, **Stripper** and **Invisible Decks** around the world, **George Schindler** wrote in 1976, '*more than any other supplier.*'

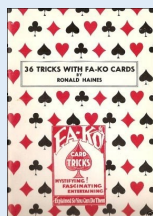
Ron Haines ran the company for nearly 30 years until his death in 1974.

The store was then run by Betty Winzig (1934 -) and continued to produce the original Svengali; Stripper; Don Alan's Invisible Deck; The Split Deck to name a few.



Not only did **Haines House of Cards** produce many trick decks, such as Svengali; strippers; Invisible

deck; Nudist Deck; Electric Deck and many more they also produced 'Fa-Ko' deck of gaffed cards and a booklet '36 Tricks with Fa-Ko Cards'



Recent information suggests that **Betty Winzig** has retired. The running of the business was turned over to **Joe Farag**, but due to personal circumstances including his father's illness and his own diagnosis with cancer, he was unable to continue running the business. **Joe Farag** died a few months ago (as posted in the **Magic Café** February 3, 2023). **Betty's** granddaughter expressed interest in buying the business but lacked the funds and knowledge to run it. As a result, the **Haines House of Cards** is believed to have closed its doors forever.

Roy's 5 question quiz

Answers in the next issue

- 1 What role did **Ricky Jay** play in the movie 'The Prestige'?
- 2 Why was **Harry Houdini** in court in **Germany**?
- 3 How many magicians have died doing the bullet catch?
- 4 Which magician was employed during World War II as a camouflage expert?
- 5 Where and when was the longest magic show in recorded history?

Why not let me know how you go and I'll list the top 5 responses

Good Luck

To most magicians, cards themselves are marvels...For one thing, they feel special in your hand. Touching them, holding them, shuffling – the whole process is almost poetic. If you're in a room full of magicians and someone just mentions the word cards, within seconds, everyone is digging into their pockets and pulling out a deck of cards. It's one of the most amazing feelings ever.

- David Blaine

Roy's 5 question quiz

The Answers to 'Roy's 5 question Quiz from the October 2023 issue of The Magical Minutes

1 What is the largest number of people ever to attend a single magic show?

The largest, verified, audience ever to attend a single magic show was 38,503 people. This record was achieved by the Ehrlich Brothers in Frankfurt, Germany, on 11 June 2016. The magic performance took place at the Commerzbank Arena and lasted three hours in total.

There are unconfirmed reports that 85,000 people attended a David Copperfield show in China!

2 What's the most expensive magic trick prop ever sold?

The most expensive magic trick prop ever sold at auction is an automatic flowering rosebush made for the famous illusionist and escapologist Harry Houdini. It was sold for \$324,000 at auctioneers Potter & Potter in Chicago, Illinois, USA, on 29 October 2022. This was nearly 13 times its estimated price.

3 Who is the youngest magician to win the 'Magician of the Year' award from the Academy of Magical Arts?

The youngest magician to win the 'Magician of the Year' award from the Academy of Magical Arts is **Yu Hojin**. He received this prestigious award in 2013 and is the only Korean magician to have ever won the award. His remarkable achievements have earned him recognition as a world-class magician.

4 Who was the first magician to perform in the White House?

The first magician to perform in the White House was **Alexander Heimbürger**, who was invited to perform for **President Polk** as early as 1845. Since then, many well-known magicians have entertained presidents. One of the earliest White House performances was by a magician known as **Wyman the Wizard**, who performed for President Lincoln on several occasions.

5 Who has / had the largest magic show?

The largest magic show in history was led by Howard Thurston, an American magician. His traveling magic show was so big that it needed eight train cars to transport his road show. He toured the world with a full-evening show and became best-known for his large stage illusions, such as the "floating lady"¹.

How did you Go?

Wise Words for Magicians

In the world of magic, the key to success lies in mastering the art of misdirection. This skill, when honed, allows you to divert your audience's attention at crucial moments, creating an illusion of the impossible. However, remember to keep your secrets well-guarded. The mystery behind your tricks is what keeps the magic alive and your audience captivated.

Engagement is another crucial aspect. Magic is not just about the trick, it's about the performance. Engage with your audience, make them feel involved, and create a connection. This will make your performance memorable.

Always be prepared for the unexpected. Even the best-laid plans can go awry, so have a backup plan ready. The show must always go on!

Lastly, never stop learning. Magic is a vast and ever-evolving field. There's always something new to learn, a new trick to master. Keep exploring and expanding your repertoire. Remember, the aim is not just to deceive the audience but to create a sense of wonder and enjoyment. Good luck on your magical journey!

Jest for Fun



Groaners ... sorry

If I want to be a good magician I really have to focus on my craft.

I have got a magical hoodie. I call it hoodieni.

I'll just locate the middle of the rope, should be somewhere near the center I think

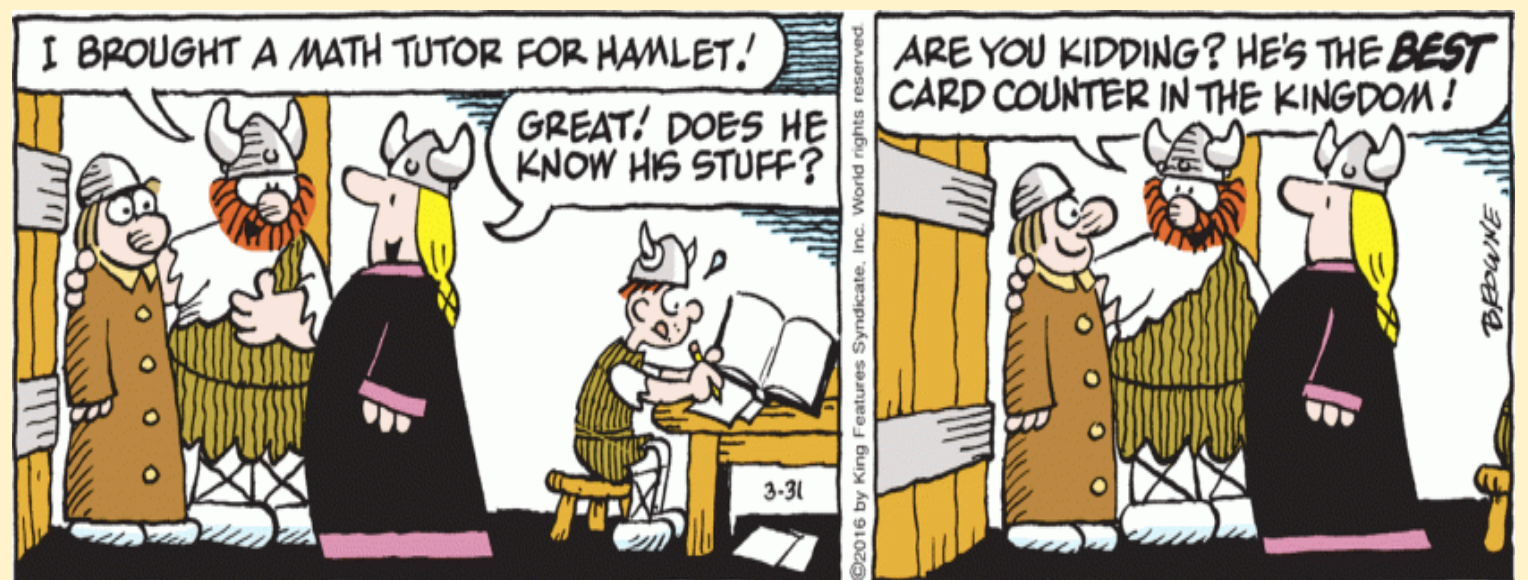
A good magician's assistant is hard to find. They're highly sawed after.

I went to witch school when I was a kid. I didn't love it. All we did was spell.

I was fired from my job today as a children's magician. Apparently, when I make the kids disappear out of thin air, I also have to make them reappear.

The magician was sad he'd failed at his trick. He became a wand erring soul.

What do you call a magician who has lost their magic? Ian.



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 - via Zoom

November 2023:

Wednesday November 22, 2023—Venue—Stefanos
Christmas Dinner
Stage competition—William Shelley Trophy

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

The Parlour Magic Show

[The Parlour Magic Show](#)

Monthly on the third Wednesday

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

"The easiest way to attract a crowd is to let it be known that at a given time and a given place someone is going to attempt something that in the event of failure will mean sudden death." – Harry Houdini

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 are 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.

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