



Vol 22 No. 1

January 2024

— RING 92 —

VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

ibmring92.com

the Charles Howard Ring



The Dennis Chan Report

The 2023 magic year started in January with the election of new officers and the initiation of new members. February was the installation banquet and awards night with the appearance of two magic organizations presidents at a single gathering from the Vancouver area. **Billy Hsueh**, president of the I.B.M. and **Rod Chow**, president of the S.A.M. Indeed, this was a special occasion and a first. **Rod Chow** became the first-ever president of the S.A.M. from outside of the USA, and the first-ever Canadian president of the oldest magic organization in the world in its 120-year history. **Billy** has been busy doing a lot of globe trotting fulfilling his duties as the I.B.M. president by visiting various magic organizations and clubs, performing magic, and writing the president's page reports. He even got a chance to visit family and friends in Taiwan. I am sure that it was an emotional time for **Billy**. He is a great ambassador for the Vancouver Magic Circle.

Gabriella Lester, our own Diva of Deception made a successful appearance on **Penn and Teller's Fool Us** magic show by performing her upside-down straight jacket escape. She has also been busy doing some globe-trotting by performing at The Magic Castle and doing shows in New York City. **Shawn Farquhar** has also been busy doing some globe-trotting by performing shows and doing lectures. **Shawn** has also been receiving many highly recommended reviews for his Hidden Wonders shows. All his shows have been sold out.

Robert Teszka's Parlour Magic Show has been an enormous success featuring local magicians and local talent. His shows are also selling out. The mini-workshop programme has proven to be an immense success with members sharing their magical knowledge.

Dennis Chan was presented with his Order of Merlin Excalibur certificate by **Billy Hsueh** for his fifty continuous years of membership with the I.B.M. **Graham Kita** received the president's citation for his dedication to the Vancouver Magic Circle. **Billy Hsueh** made both presentations. And on a sad note, two long-time Vancouver Magic Circle members passed away. They were **Roger Sylvestre** and **Jack Lillico**. **Jack** was one of the founders of the Vancouver Magic Circle. **Alex Zander** graduated from Simon Fraser University with a degree in criminology. He also did shows at this year's PNE. The online auction was a huge success. Thanks to **Rod Boss** and **Simon Cassegrain** for organizing this event. Credits go to **Yoosik Oum** and **Rod Boss** for sending out reminders about upcoming events.

Credits also go to **Simon Cassegrain**, our computer guy for setting up the Zoom meetings, **Henry Tom** for his excellent photography work, **Roy Hopwood**, our secretary/treasurer for keeping up with the business and the finances and doing the Magical Minutes newsletter, **Graham Kita**, the "all-purpose guy" who does everything, **Dennis the "Bulldog" Chan** who keeps reminding the members to put their cards and cell phones away during a performance or lecture, and to **Jordan Vo** who helps out whenever he can. Thanks to **Rod Boss** and **Graham Kita** for bringing cookies and making the coffee for the refreshments. Thanks to **Cameron Minty**, our "chef - gician" who always brings something for the refreshments. Our sister club, The Fraser Valley Magic Company hosted a very successful PCAM convention.

The November Christmas get-together took place at Stefano's restaurant in New Westminster instead of at the hall. It was an enjoyable evening with plenty of fun and laughter. There were plenty of prizes and the ever popular bring -a - gift- get- a-gift event. Arrangements for Stefano's

restaurant were put together by **Shawn Farquhar**.

Yes, it has been a wonderful and exciting year for the 2023 Magic Year for the Vancouver Magic Circle with plenty of laughs and memories. On behalf of the executive and directors, we thank you all for attending the meetings and to those taking part in all the club's activities and supporting the club. Without you, the club would not be where it is today making The Vancouver Magic Circle one of the better clubs around. I am sure that other clubs are just as good.

The Presidents Report

Happy new year, VMC!

I was looking through my photos of the last year, and many of the great memories were with the VMC, and I hope more great memories will come in this new year for all of you.

We started off the year strong with an amazing lecture by **Jeffrey Wang**. He shared a wealth of knowledge with his work on coin magic.

Thanks so much to **Jeffrey** and to **Henry Tom** for organizing the event.

There's a lot to look forward to in the coming months, including the installation banquet in March among other things. So keep doing, learning and practising the magic! It should be an eventful year!

Yoosik Ethan Oum
Vancouver Magic Circle, IBM Ring #92 - President
<https://www.koreancanuckmentalists.com>

The Editors Desk

2024 starts our 3rd year and 15th issue of 'The Magical Minutes'. With your continuing support we can make this year another great one for TMM and the VMC.

The Executive Committee have plans underway to provide events and functions throughout the year. It will take the membership to support these events and functions and make them awesome.

We started off the year with a fantastic young, but extremely talented magician, **Jeffrey Wang**, presenting an online lecture.

I must give a huge shout out to **John Stenning** for his regular contributions and his ability to find the smallest error in 'The Magical Minutes'. If you are able to contribute to this newsletter, that would be great, and you will be acknowledged.

This month's issue will be a short one, however, we will be back in full swing in February.

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and wish you a very happy, safe, prosperous 2024 and that all of your magic works all of the time.

'Keep magic alive and live'

I Recall...

By
Roy Hopwood

Young Guns

I recall around 50 years ago along with **Barry Govan** and **Ian Baxter**, from Melbourne, I was considered one of the '**Young Guns**' of playing card magic in Australia. **Barry** went on to become a world-class master of playing card sleight of hand. **Ian** also became an internationally known cardman. I didn't put in the practice necessary to reach the same standards, and somewhat fell behind.

Over the years I have met and watched others who became the new '**Young Guns**,' some attaining a great level of ability, others becoming just a run-of-the-mill cardmen.

After moving to Adelaide in 1979 I became good friends with two other exceptionally good card/coin magicians, namely **Murray Cooper** and **Reg Launchbury**.

In my July 2020 column '**To Market, to Market**' I wrote about having a trading stall at various markets, one of which was **Fisherman's Wharf Market** in Port Adelaide.

I recall writing the following.

"One day when both Garry Dunn and I were 'working' the stall a young lad came to our stall when we were practicing Dia Vernon's 'Twisting the Aces'. He asked 'Hey Boss' can you teach me that trick? We asked him; 'do you know how to do an 'Elmsley Count', he said no, and we both said then come back when you can. 2 weeks later he was back showing us the Elmsley Count, so we taught him 'Twisting the Aces'.

Who was this young lad? It was DeeJay Lloyd, who became a very good friend, he always calls me Boss".

He developed into a skilled cardman and still calls me Boss twenty years on.

I can recall about 2003, in Adelaide, I received a phone call from a young man who said he was given my phone No. from a mutual friend, he said he was a Professional Magician, I said something like "***I am sorry, but I have never heard of you***". I gave him my address and invited him to visit to show me what he could do.

When he came around, I could tell that he had great skill with a deck of cards, but no presentation or people skills. His name is **Shahin Zareei**, I took him under my wing and mentored him, smoothing out his technique, and worked on his presentation and people skills. In the process, he became a very good friend.

2007 saw me attending the ASM Centenary Convention in Melbourne along with a large contingent from Adelaide. Amongst the group was the young man that I had mentored and coached, **Shahin Zareei** an Iranian. I helped him with his routine, but he did not follow all my advice, for the close-up competition. His opening line was:

"Don't mess with me I'm a terrorist" (not scripted)

Shahin won the comp (along with **Simon Coronel**). In his acceptance speech, **Shahin** Said:

"I want to thank 3 people; My God, My Father, and Roy."

Without going into the details, instead of being judged by the Audience, the competition was judged by a panel of 5 selected persons. I am unable to recall the names of all five judges, but one was **Shawn Farquhar**, and another one was **Gerald Taylor** (Whom I hadn't seen for more than 25 years).

A little later that day a tall well-dressed gentleman came up to me and called me by name and congratulated me on my efforts with **Shahin**. The gentleman was **Gerald Taylor**, this was the last time I saw **Gerald**.

During my almost five (5) years in Vancouver, I have gotten to know the '**Young Guns**' of today which include: **Genpei Cai** and **James Nguyen**. I must however give a special mention to a young man, **Blake Aleong**, who has skills way beyond his years and is also a member of Mensa.

We very recently had an online lecture by a young coin 'expert' **Jeffrey Wang**, whose skills, need to be seen to be believed, he is yet another of the up-and-coming '**Young Guns**' of magic.

My time as a '**Young Gun**' is well and truly over, but with all the '**Young Guns**' coming through magic is in a very good place.

The VMC Executive Committee has agreed to publicize the following event in this issue of our Newsletter '*The Magical Minutes*.'

Spokane Magic Club magic sale

Last year we acquired the large magic collection from the estate of **Jeffery (Jeff) Fasolino**, and we are planning to have a sale of this collection sometime this spring. The sale will be on-site in Spokane. Many of the items in this collection are new, or in new-like condition. Some of the items are unopened and some appear to be unused but more on that later. (However, I would like to add, curiously, there were no books in this collection...not a one!)

Here is a link to photos of the items in the upcoming magic sale...please note much of this is brand new like new and/or never opened.

<https://1drv.ms/a/s!AvD80MeRyKrDi0xSnFQRFZzyEqdM>

Right now, we're probably looking for the third Saturday in April for the sale.

Please contact **John Hill** (jehill51@yahoo.com) or **Matt Van Zee** (mvanzeemagic@hotmail.com) if you have any questions or need more information and they will try to help the best they can.

Wise Words for Magicians

"The end of all magic is to feed with mystery the human mind, which dearly loves mystery."

- *Harry Kellar*

"Nothing must be left to chance in a magical performance. Everything conducive to enhancing the mystery of the illusions must be arranged with painstaking care and thought."

"Never present in public any performance which has not been most perfectly rehearsed—first in detail, and finally as a whole."

"Avoid complexity of procedure, and never tax either the patience or the memory of an audience."

- *David Devant*

"Magic is the only honest profession. A magician promises to deceive you, and then they do. And, when the shows over, you go home with everything, your watch, wallet, appendix... everything! "

- *Anonymous*

"Remember, practice doesn't make perfect; practice makes permanent!"

- *Unknown*

Magicians for Hire

In the past VMC members wishing to promote their services could do so on the 'Magicians for Hire' page of our website for an annual fee.

Recently members have promoted their services without paying a fee.

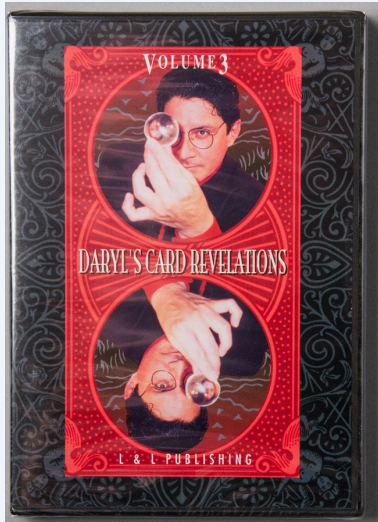
The VMC Executive Committee has agreed that a fee is to be reinstated and the fee be \$20.00 per year (January to December).

If you previously had an ad or wish to have one (or more) and would like to run it (them) in 2024 please submit a short bio and photo, if you haven't already done so, to **Roy Hopwood**, Secretary/ treasurer

hopwood.vmc@gmail.com. Payment can be made, with a note saying what the payment is for, via either:

- **PayPal** (treasurer@ibmring92.com)
- **eTransfer** (treasurer@IBMring92.com)

DARYL'S CARD REVELATIONS VOL 3



Continuing with this excellent series, Daryl, the “magicians, magician” gives you 36 more tricks/effects you can do with cards, ranging from the very easy that you can do pretty much right away, to the more challenging and complicated effects you most likely would want to practice a little (or a lot) before showing to anyone.

As I have said before, the thing I always liked about Daryl is the fact that he is easy to understand, as he explains things simply and clearly.

In Volume 3 you will find many modern classics of card magic that you will enjoy watching and or performing, such as:

- ♦ -Karl Fulves 3 and a half of clubs (yes, you can do something with that weird card in your collection of gimmicked cards)!
- ♦ -Triumph (Dai Vernon & Tenkai)
- ♦ -Any number down.
- ♦ -Card stab through newspaper.
- ♦ -A “Sense of Touch” Discovery.
- ♦ -Hit the deck, Cocktail cards (Dai Vernon), Ashes on the Arm, Cut the cards (Matt Schulien) and much, much more.

Always a joy to watch and or learn, check out this series if you enjoy card magic and as always, stay magical.

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

Jan 19, 2024.

And a happy, healthy, prosperous New Year to you all.

Torgmortrans Souvenir Playing Cards.

'Morflot'



The Soviet Kaliningrad company '**Torgmortrans**' provides a wide range of ship chandler services in Kaliningrad, Svetly, Baltiysk and Pionersky ports. '**Torgmortrans**' has been supplying ships in Kaliningrad since 1946. Included in the inventory were Souvenir Playing Cards that were printed at the Leningrad Colour Printing Plant [Ленинградская цветная типография](#), Leningrad, Obukhovskoy Oborony Ave., 110 in the 1970s. under the brand name of '**Morflot**.'

The **Ministry of the Maritime Fleet** (**Minmorflot**; transl. [Министерство морского флота СССР](#)) was a government ministry in the Soviet Union. The Merchant Maritime Fleet of the USSR is abbreviated '**Morflot**' (transl. [Морфлот](#)). All Soviet merchant fleet organizations and establishments were subordinate to the Ministry of the Maritime Fleet, abbreviated Minmorflot (transl. [Минморфлот](#)).

Until 25 May 1939, functions of the Minmorflot were carried out by the People's Commissariat of Water Transport, which was responsible for maritime and river fleets. The structure of the People's Commissariat of Maritime Fleet as a separate people's commissariat was confirmed by a decree of the Council of Ministers on 25 May 1939. On 15 March 1946, the People's Commissariat of the Maritime Fleet was renamed the Ministry of the Maritime Fleet by decree of the Supreme Soviet, along with all the other people's commissariats, which also became ministries. On March 15, 1953, Minmorflot was united with the Ministry of the River Fleet, becoming the Ministry of the Maritime and River Fleet.

By decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Council dated August 25, 1954, the Ministry of Maritime and River Fleet was re-established on August 25, 1954, when the Ministry of Maritime Fleet and Ministry of River Fleet was redivided. Minmorflot was liquidated on December 26, 1991, due to the dissolution of the Soviet Union.



Even though this deck of cards is around 50 years old and in used condition, the cards themselves are bridge size and of a reasonable quality. They still spread well; however, Riffle and Faro shuffles are almost impossible.

The deck is a complete deck of 55 cards which includes 2 jokers and 1 blank-faced card. The faces are quite pretty.

This is a 'hard to find' deck with only two listed in collections on Portfolio 52, one of which is in my collection of 720 decks, I have not been able to put a \$ value on the deck, even though one sold on Buyworthy (No longer in business), I wasn't prepared to pay to be a part of the site, so I have no idea what it sold for. Other similar decks are being sold on eBay for between \$20 and \$60.

If you find one for your collection, buy it.

SHADOW WALLET

Dee Christopher & the 1914



The Shadow wallet claims that it is the world's slimmest self contained index and peek wallet that will supposedly fit into any pocket including the skinniest of jeans, or purse, bag, etc. It comes in three styles: (and if you purchase yours from Vanishing inc, you will, like so many of their other products, get one that is "gorgeous"; not sure how or why they always seem to label cards, books, gimmicks, etc as gorgeous, but go figure).



There is a limited edition Bourbon brown leather, classic black leather and the carbon fiber (black). Once again, all "gorgeous" like so many of their other products, however, if NOT purchased at Vanishing inc, I really can't be sure that it will still be of the "gorgeous" variety.

So, what can you do with it? First off, let me say that it is quite small, able to hold some credit cards and perhaps a little cash stuffed in there. Quite frankly, calling it a wallet is a bit of a stretch. The Shadow wallet claims, that with it's aid, you will be able to:

- ◆ Do a unique book test with a single page folded up inside your wallet.
- ◆ Peek info written on a business card.
- ◆ Pull a named card from the wallet, then show it's empty. (everything is included to be able to do this).

You also get a 2 hour "Masterclass" download on/about using your "gorgeous" new wallet.

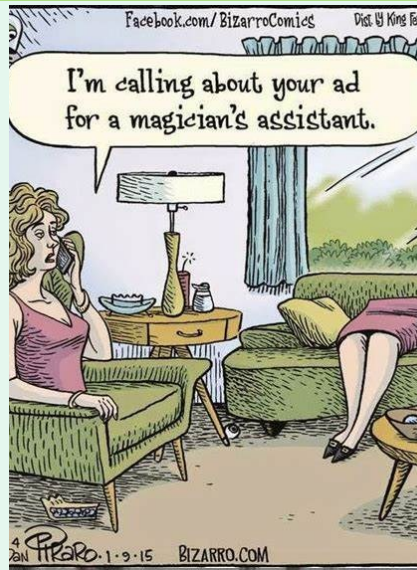
All for just \$65.00 U.S. which as you know, these days is like what? \$200 Canadian? But I digress, please forgive the sarcasm, however, I truly believe that you are much better off purchasing a good magic book, or a real/full sized wallet if that's what you want. Then again, maybe just leave it in your bank account.

It is well made and real leather, however, some of the handlings are a bit awkward and fussy for my liking, then again, maybe I'll give it another chance one day.

Rating? Neutral at best.

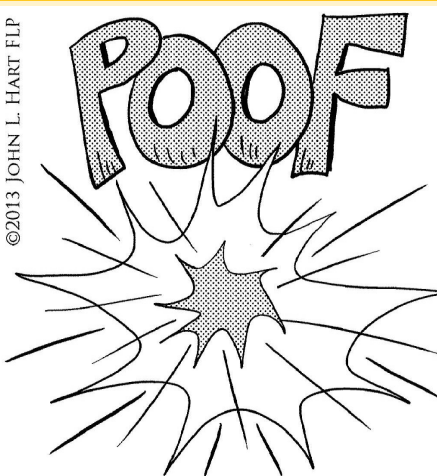
J.Stenning Jan 20, 2024

Jest for Fun



Groaners ... sorry

- ◆ Did you hear about the guy whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.
- ◆ Did you hear about these new reversible jackets? I'm excited to see how they turn out.
- ◆ I'm a big fan of whiteboards. I find them quite re-markable.
- ◆ Doctor: "Sir, I'm afraid your DNA is backwards." Me: "And?"
- ◆ I'm reading a horror story in Braille. Something bad is about to happen... I can feel it.
- ◆ How does a magician fix a broken wand? With spell-o-tape!
- ◆ Just burned 2,000 calories. That's the last time I leave brownies in the oven while I nap.
- ◆ Did you hear about the two silk worms in a race? It ended in a tie!
- ◆ Thanks for explaining the word "many" to me, it means a lot.
- ◆ The future, the present and the past walked into a bar. Things got a little tense.



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

January 2024:

Thursday January, 25, 2024 VMC Meeting at the Hall
AGM
3 tricks
Initiation
And much more

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

VMC Membership Fees

VMC Membership Fees became payable on January 1, 2024 and need to be paid before January 31, 2024

These fee can be paid via the VMC website <https://lbmring92.com/pay-for-stuff/> or:

eTransfer (no fees incurred by VMC) treasurer@lbmring92.com or **PayPal** (Incurs fees by VMC) treasurer@lbmring92.com

Membership type	Fees—1 Year	Fees—3 years
General member	\$40.00	\$105.00
Senior member	\$30.00	\$75.00
Junior member	\$30.00	\$75.00
Out of town member	\$25.00	\$60.00

The treasurer has sent out emails to members whose VMC membership fees are due.

If you are unsure if your fees are due for payment or have any questions contact the Treasurer (Roy Hopwood): treasurer@lbmring92.com.

Thank you for your continued support of the VMC.

Roy J Hopwood

Treasurer VMC

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.*