

New England
Magic Collectors Association

Discoveries

Vol 1 ♠ No 3 ♠ 2022



Contents

About Discoveries	3
From the President’s Desk	4
Featured Cover Photo.....	5
Newsletter Name Contest	5
Member Spotlight – Eric Gagne.....	6
Welcome New Members	11
A Retelling from the Past	12
New Arrivals.....	17
The Process of Collecting	19
Solve the Mystery!	21
Review - “Ionia: Magician Princess, Secrets Unlocked”	23
Online Resources for Magic Collecting	25
“Puzzling Props”	30
2022 Yankee Gathering Update.....	31
Yankee Gathering Auction Changes.....	33
Registration Raffle for YG 2022.....	35
Upcoming Events	36
Highs and Lows – Selected Auction Results.....	37
Volunteer Request – Video Editing.....	39
Classifieds.....	39

About Discoveries

Discoveries is the official quarterly newsletter of the New England Magic Collectors Association. We aim to inform and entertain the Magic history/collecting community by assembling news, resources, and articles of interest all in one convenient quarterly publication. *Discoveries* is produced and edited by Patrick Lusch with content contributed by NEMCA members.

We ask you, our readers, to participate by sending content and questions for future publications to our editorial staff: newsletter@nemca.com.

Remember, you may subscribe to the newsletter by [clicking here](#).

About NEMCA

NEMCA meets at least three times a year, and one must be 18 years or older with a genuine interest in magic collecting to apply for membership status. Members hail not only from New England, but from throughout the United States and Europe.

In 2017, NEMCA became a 501(c)(3) non-profit association. Since its inception, its purpose has steadfastly remained the education and promotion of interest in the collecting of books, memorabilia, history, and apparatus relating to magic and the allied arts; the preservation of the history and knowledge of the theater arts; and the sharing of knowledge and expertise in the collection and preservation of magic apparatus and literature.

The Yankee Gathering: Essential to achieving that purpose, the New England Magic Collectors Association hosts the biennial Yankee Gathering, widely considered one of the premier magic collector's conventions, in November of even-numbered years.

The Yankee Magic Collector is the official journal of the association. Each issue contains a broad range of articles, news and research of interest to magic collectors and historians. The Yankee Magic Collector is published every two years for distribution at the Yankee Gathering and is free to NEMCA members.

From the President's Desk

Jim Zoldak, NEMCA President

Welcome to the third issue of our newsletter and the first issue using our new name, **Discoveries**. If you read on a little further, you will find out who submitted the winning entry and why we felt it was an appropriate title for the newsletter. You will also notice that our format has changed. We have taken advantage of the talents of Patrick Lusch, a new member who also dabbles in graphic design. He has volunteered to help pull this new format together.



There is much to be found in this issue. We have an interview with a man whose name is synonymous with books on magic. Although the interview was conducted over 125 years ago, many of the points of the article still ring true today. We hope you enjoy this little step into the past.

Additionally, we have a book review, a request for information regarding a piece of magic history, an insight into the collection of magic items, a list of resources for the collector, and more. We try to make every issue a little different and hope that our readers contribute items for inclusion in future issues.

I hope that you find much of interest here and that these newsletters whet your appetite to join us in person at our Yankee Gathering this November. You can go to our website www.nemca.com for more information and to register. While you are there, why not click the “Join” button and become a member of NEMCA. We would love to have you be a part of the organization and members get a number of perks worth far more than the cost of membership.

In future issues of the newsletter, we would like to feature a photo on the front cover chosen from the submissions of our readers. We ask, if you are interested in having a portion of your collection displayed on our cover, that you send us a photo (or photos) that you would like us to consider using in the newsletter. All submissions may be sent to newsletter@nemca.com.

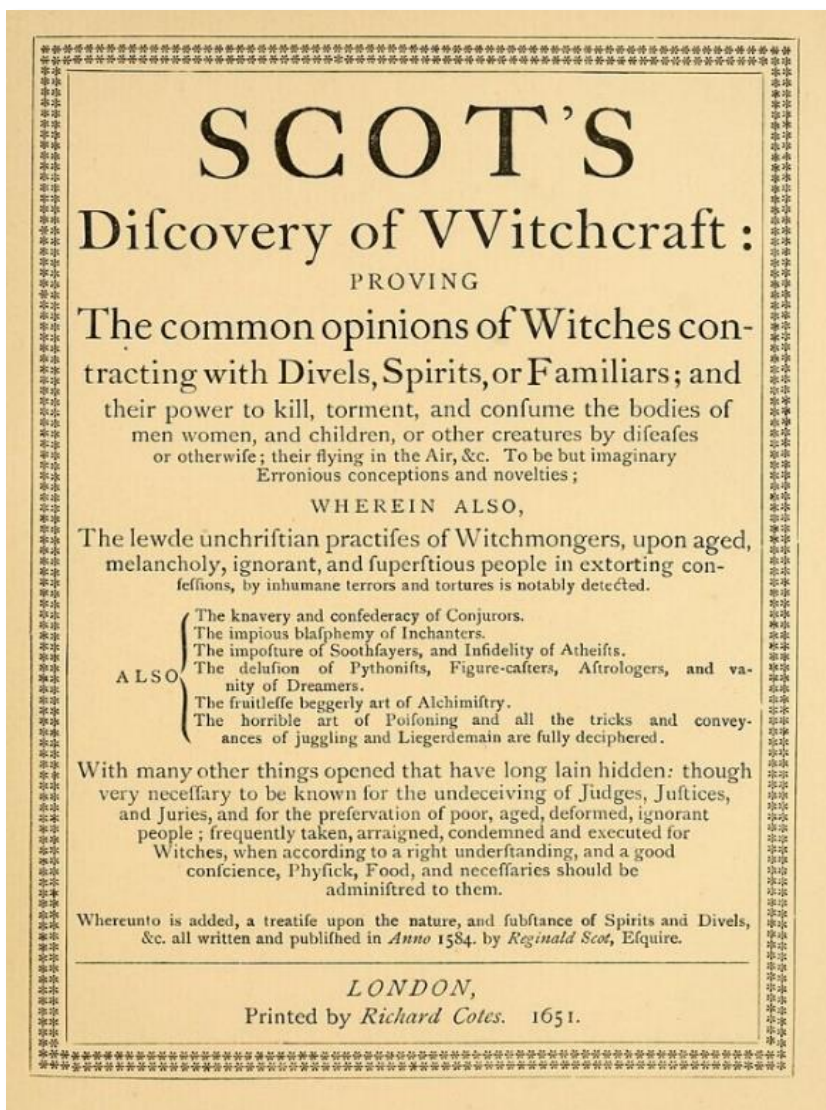
Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter. We look forward to sharing more **Discoveries** with you in the future!

Featured Cover Photo

Let us feature a photo of your collection, or a special prop from your collection, on the cover of our next issue! Submit your high quality photo to our editorial staff at newsletter@nemca.com! We will caption your photo here in the next issue.

This issue's cover photo comes courtesy of NEMCA Member Eric Gagne, whose amazing collection is featured later herein!

Newsletter Name Contest



Congratulations to **Tom Interval** for proposing the winning name of our quarterly newsletter. The name *Discoveries*, pays homage to Reginald Scot and his 1584 publication "The Discoverie of Witchcraft".

"Discoveries is an appropriate name not only because of the nod to Scot's work, but also to all the wonderful magic discoveries found and added to magic collections. It's one broad term that can apply to books, posters, apparatus, ephemera, and other magic collectibles."

– Tom Interval

As you ponder your own collections, whatever they may be, may you always remember the journey and the joy found with each new discovery!

Member Spotlight – Eric Gagne

Patrick Lusch, Discoveries Editor

This quarter, we'd like to spotlight new NEMCA member, magician, and collector Eric Gagne. Eric grew up in Oakland, Maine and was first introduced to the art of magic when his uncle taught him his first coin trick at age 5. The 38-year-old Boston area based magician has been performing and collecting magic ever since.

Most notably known in Massachusetts, Eric had his own successful weekly show called "Backstage Magic" at the Stuart Street playhouse in the Boston Theatre District for over a year. The parlor show was performed in a custom black box theatre for 55 people "in the round."



A young Eric performing the "Linking Rings".

Eric has amassed one of the largest privately kept and curated magic collections on the East coast which is comprised of thousands of effects built by notable and historical makers including Thayer, Owen Magic Supreme, Milson Worth, Abbott's, MAK, Vienna Magic, Viking Magic, Mikame Craft, Collectors Workshop, Wolfe Magic and Mingus Magic...to name a few! The bulk of his collection is housed in two very large studios in his Boston suburb home while the overflow and intake of new effects, which have not yet been catalogued, are housed in a 1,500 sq. ft. warehouse.

Eric is a proud member in good standing of the SAM, IBM, NEMCA and a magician member at the Magic Castle in Hollywood, CA. Eric also has a large presence online. He has an audience of more than 30,000 followers on TikTok ([EriclsMagic](https://www.tiktok.com/@EriclsMagic)) and his website of the same name: [EriclsMagic.com](https://www.EriclsMagic.com).



Having also appeared on National Television, most recently on a show called “Right This Minute”, his version of Harries Magic’s *Mutilated Parasol* was performed on the show and witnessed by more than 4 million people online!

Eric is always happy to help educate and speak to others about collecting and maintaining a magic collection of any size.

It is safe to say that Eric’s collection will not stop growing anytime soon. Please enjoy the photos that Eric provided, which are a small vignette of his incredible collection. No doubt, Eric will not only be a huge asset to NEMCA through his vast collecting and performing experience, but also as a welcoming and generous resource.

I am proud and honored to call Eric my friend. Welcome to NEMCA, Eric!







Welcome New Members

The following new members have joined NEMCA since January 2022. In future issues of *Discoveries*, we will welcome all new members since the last publication. Thank you for your ongoing support of NEMCA!

Abe Carnow

Joe Danciger

Diego Domingo

Adele Friel Rhindress

Eric Gagne

Daniel Holtan

Gary Howard, Jr.

Angelo Iafrate

Richard Kaufman

John Kokot

Paul Lembo

Jeffrey Mielke

Gary Morton

Lupe Nielson

Richard Nunziato

Michael Perovich

Julie Saylor

Steve Schlanger

Joel Zaritsky

A Retelling from the Past

In this issue is uncovered an interesting article, which coincidentally ties into last quarter's feature. Those who can correctly identify two of these connections between the following article and last month's interview with Steve Cohen will receive a prize from the NEMCA store (chosen at our discretion). Send answers to newsletter@nemca.com.

We now revisit an interview of Professor Hoffmann, originally published in *The Windsor Magazine* circa 1896. The *Windsor Magazine* was a monthly illustrated publication, produced by Ward Lock & Co from January 1895 to September 1939 (537 issues).

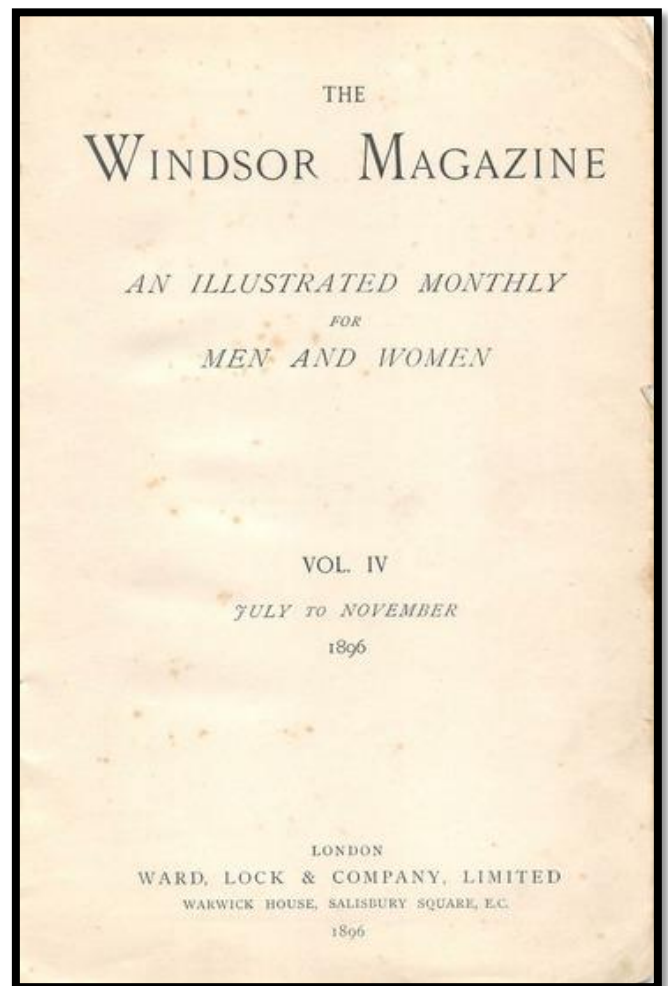
"Professor Hoffman" and Conjuring

by *George Knight*

(Reprinted from *The Windsor Magazine*, Vol IV. July to November 1896. #372 - Pg. 362)

Twenty years ago, a certain volume bearing the seductive title "Modern Magic" was published, notwithstanding that its price was three half-crowns, and that it appealed to a comparatively limited public, its first edition of two thousand copies was sold out within seven weeks, much to the surprise of its modest author – an unknown though clever amateur conjurer practicing at the Chancery Bar. Since that time "Professor Hoffmann" has been an acknowledged authority upon conjuring, and "Modern Magic" has run through no less than nine editions. In propria persona Professor Hoffman is Mr. Angelo Lewis, and Mr. Angelo Lewis is a litterateur, who resides in a charming little villa at Highgate.

"I haven't done any conjuring myself for over ten years," he tells me. "The strain upon an amateur's nerves is too great to be healthy for a man who does much brain – work in other ways. The professional, constantly repeating a fixed programme, soon finds the work comparatively easy. 'Custom doth make it in him a property of easiness,' as Hamlet says of the gravedigger; but the



occasional performances of the amateur 'take it out of him' terribly, especially if he aspires to produce novelties, and I was always rather ambitious in that way."

The Professor's eyes gleam humorously behind his glasses.

"A new trick," he explains, "may be very good in itself – indeed many of the best tricks are invented by amateurs – but it is the professional who brings it to actual perfection.

The amateur, as I say, hasn't enough chances of practice – I don't mean rehearsal, but public performance. I have myself invented many tricks, though nothing very big or sensational, and when I was in the habit of giving conjuring performances – for charitable and such like objects – I think I generally managed to please my audiences, thanks to a certain facility in devising effective 'patter.' But I was always better as a writer than as a performer. What I might have been as a professional of course I can't say. Even as an amateur I had at one time a good deal over a hundred pounds' worth of apparatus.

"How did I acquire my knowledge of magic? Well, it really began with the casual purchase of a simple trick in my boyhood. Later on, and purely out of



***Mr. Angelo Lewis
"Professor Hoffman"***

my interest in the subject, I studied French and German handbooks (in the intervals practicing at the Chancery Bar, to which I was called in 1861), and learnt a great deal from them.

Early in the seventies there was announced a new series of Every Boy's Magazine, and thinking to turn my hobby to account, I wrote and offered to do a few articles on conjuring. I was asked to call. The publishers were impressed by the extent to which I had studied the subject and suggested that I should undertake something more important – something which they could republish in book form after it had run as a serial. Ultimately, I agreed to turn out a book of four hundred pages. We settled upon the title 'Modern Magic,' and then I remarked that I should want the book produced anonymously – I didn't expect that it would do a practicing barrister any good to pose as the author of a work on conjuring. But Mr. Edmund Routledge urged that such a course would be prejudicial to the book, and I consented to a nom de plume. 'While you are about it,' Mr. Routledge observed 'be a Professor.' I hit upon 'Hoffmann' as a name of uncertain nationality, and left the public to imagine, if they chose, that some distinguished German or American wizard was giving away the secrets of his craft. What the success of the book was you know already.

"By-the-by, to hark back to my acquisition of information upon the subject of conjuring. When I started to write 'Modern Magic' I took a course of lessons from Professor Robert Hellis, an admirable drawing room performer, whose success in another walk of life has since caused him to withdraw from the profession of wizard. By the time I had half a dozen lessons he found that my book-knowledge was in its way the equivalent of his practiced skill, so he proposed that thenceforward we should teach each other, which we accordingly did to our mutual satisfaction.

Subsequently I studied card-conjuring under that extraordinary man M. Charlier, whose portrait I have endeavored to draw – under the name of Ledoyen – in my story, 'Conjurer Dick,' and to whom my friend Bertram has devoted a large part of a chapter in his book, 'Isn't It Wonderful?' The rest of my knowledge, such as it is, comes of personal observation and friendly tips from the fraternity. For many years I never lost a chance of seeing a new conjurer, and often went over and over again in order fully to fathom his tricks.

"How does one find out a trick?" By seeing it several times. Upon the second or third visit you perceive that some trifling incident, apparently unimportant, is repeated each time the trick is shown. The inference is clear that the movement in question, instead of being an accident, is really of the essence of the trick. Knowing this, and applying the general principles of conjuring, one is able almost invariably to see 'how it is done.'"

“My knowledge of conjurers in general?” I know most of the leading professionals, Maskelyne, Hartz, Bertram, Devant, Morritt, Stuart, Strode, Corelli, and many others. Know all their secrets? Scarcely that; but they tell me a good deal. I am happy to say that, although I do write books on conjuring, they are not afraid of me. They all know that anything told to me goes no further without special permission. Of course, many things are given me expressly for publication.

“Have the fraternity resented the exposure of their tricks?” As a rule, not at all. The rank and file gained from it more than they lost. Previously there was no English textbook, and they had to buy their instruction very dearly. As for the higher class of performers, they rose to the occasion, took the tricks which I had described as a basis, and set to work to invent something better.

With regard to the dealers, they were not too pleased at first; the immediate effect of the publication of ‘Modern Magic’ being to lower their prices. Of course, they could not get as much for the secret of a trick which was no longer a secret; but on the other hand, for one customer they got in the old days they now have five or six. They push my books to the utmost. Hamleys in particular deal in them largely; so did Bland in his lifetime.

“As regards other books”: in 1890 I published a sequel to ‘Modern Magic,’ a volume called ‘More Magic.’ But prior to its appearance, and since that of ‘Modern Magic,’ I had done a good deal of similar work. I translated all of Robert Houdin’s works, with the exception of his ‘Confidences,’ which had already been done, and I had written one or two other books on conjuring.

“Yes, I am quite a practical literary man”. I served my apprenticeship on the Saturday Review, under Douglas Cook’s editorship, and have contributed to the Cornhill, Temple Bar, Chambers’ Journal, and many other publications. In 1885 I took the prize of a hundred pounds offered by the Youth’s Companion for the best short story (three columns) for boys. Then in my legal capacity I am the author of a couple of manuals on Indian Law. Besides all this, I have written on Cycling, on Puzzles, and on Home Gymnastics, and I have edited ‘The Book of Card and Table Games,’ the more important items being written by experts in the particular subject. Just now I am editing another big volume, ‘Every Boy’s Book of sport and Pastime,’ put together on the same principle.”

“To come back to conjuring”, Mr. Lewis, what kind of an audience is most difficult to deceive? “All adult audiences are more or less easy to carry off their feet. The worst of all possible auditors is the small boy. He has no imagination, and he is all eyes and ears. The imagination of his elders is what undoes them. Here is an instance. There is a very simple trick in which the conjurer, placing a pack of cards in a man’s inside breast-pocket, commands him to take out quickly some

particular card, and he does so. The explanation is that almost inevitably the card taken is the top card, that coming quickest to hand. A friend of mine once performed this trick, telling his subject jocosely that he would feel the card push itself into his finger. So much was the subject impress by the success of the trick that he confided solemnly to a neighbouring auditor that 'those cards were jumping about in my pocket.' Pure imagination, of course; but individuals, and audiences too, not seldom help a performer in this fashion." "A species of self-hypnotism?"

"Yes, using the word in a very lax signification. But then there has always hung about the conjurer's art a something quasi-supernatural. True, it is fast dying away; but I remember my mother – dear old soul! – remarking at the close of a magical performance which I had been giving: 'Well, I hope it's all right.'"

"And now do you mind telling me, for my own information, something of how it is all really done. May I ask you some more questions?"

"Certainly," returned the Professor; "but the answers must be strickly entre nous."

I am now thinking of abandoning journalism for magic. It's so easy – when you know how it's done.



New Arrivals

by Ray Ricard

The purpose of this issue's column is not to rate new titles, but rather to inform the collecting fraternity of new titles concerning magic history as they become available. Too often, I have learned of new books being published in our field after they have sold out or were now available at twice the price. The following list comprises titles that I have seen, and for the most part, acquired.

It goes without saying that any serious collector today should be subscribing to *Gibeciere*, produced by William Kalush at the Conjuring Arts Research Center in New York, *Ye Olde Magic Newsletter* produced by Marco Pusterla in the United Kingdom, and of course the *Yankee Collector* produced by NEMCA. Anyone interested in knowing more about the titles listed is welcome to email me at rricard264@aol.com. Likewise, if you have written a new work that you want mentioned here, please send me an email or and a review copy. Happy collecting!



Budd, David. "Milton Woodward". SB. 119pp. Illus. Photos. (n.p.), Budd Enterprises, 2021.

This well written biography of Milton Woodward produced in a limited edition. Contact David's daughter, Janet Budd, for availability and pricing: mwoodbud@gmail.com.

Cohen, Steve. "Max Malini King of Magicians, Magician of Kings". Gilt cl. 526pp. Illus. Chicago: Squash Publishing, 2021.

Wonderful in-depth look at Malini. Available through Gabe Fajuri at Potter & Potter.

Evans, Peter. "19th Century Conjuring Books A Study of a Private Collection". Pictorial perma brds. 839pp. Illus. Australia: Author, 2020.

Although far from complete, this in-depth look at rare conjuring books shows numerous variants and is a welcome addition to any magic book collection. Available through Amazon and listed here because many collectors missed this work when issued.

Greene III, Charles. "Ionia Magician Princess Secrets Unlocked". Pictorial perma brds. 305pp. Canada: Author, 2022.

For those looking for information on Ionia and her magic related family, this is the book for you. Chock full of information and well-illustrated. Available from the author's website ioniasecrets.com, and numerous booksellers.

Moses, Arthur. "The Houdini Pitchbooks". Pictorial perma brds. 67pp. Illus. Author, 2022.

Reproduces many variants of Houdini pitchbooks, a must for the Houdini collector. Available through Amazon. A soft cover version should be available for the NEMCA convention.

Treece, Phillip David. "Magic Papers Conjuring Ephemera, 1890-1960". SB. 144pp. Illus. London: CentreCentre, 2020.

Another volume that may have passed under your radar. This work looks at many unusual titles produced in England and is useful of variants. This work is available through CollectingMagicBooks.com.

The Process of Collecting

by Scott Martell

While reading Rick Heath’s comprehensive article regarding the nature of collecting (*In Defense of Collecting*, NEMCA Newsletter, Vol 1 No. 1 – pg. 4), I was struck by one particular assessment, stating that “the preservation of magic history does matter”.

I began considering why it matters to me. Clearly something about this activity brings pleasure. (Beyond the fleeting dopamine gained from simply buying something new and of course bragging rights).



While examining my own participation, I soon noticed that the process of collecting magic is not linear. We collect knowledge and history in-step with tangible items such as apparatus, ephemera or posters. The order in which this occurs often follows various progressions.

Perhaps owning a unique piece of apparatus exposes the collector to new knowledge. Inversely, conducting a research project might lead to the eventual ownership of a marvelous trick, costume or ephemera. Regardless, the result is a wholesome journey.

In one example of the latter, a collector first having fundamental knowledge and appreciation of Robert Harbin’s genius, soon discovers the artful methods, rarity and craftsmanship of “My Lady’s Ring”. The joy and pride in later owning that apparatus is strengthened due to the path of discovery. Alternatively, as a result of acquiring and performing the Card Spider Illusion, one might begin to explore the vast body of work and creative mind of J.F. Orrin.

Oddly, these introductions can transpire independently. One may enjoy reading about Bill Neff without bidding on his letterhead or Spook Show accoutrement at auction. Conversely, some collectors simply acquire more ‘stuff’ and never procure its provenance.

It’s fun to learn and then own a piece of history which bears significance to your life. We strive to uncover, pursue, and with some luck, obtain connections to the past. With a little context and reflection, we might understand why the process can be so enjoyable (as David Kaye elegantly stated, “It’s not the destination, it’s the ride.”)

In deciphering this process, one might ultimately realize that in-fact, we are the current stewards of the magical arts. History’s possessions along with their relevance (stories) continue to exist in the present, (usually on our shelves, mantles and display cases) waiting to be discovered, coveted, and perhaps acquired by the next willing participant of this exciting collecting process.



Arguably more important than the physical objects themselves, are the caretakers, curators and keepers of that relevance and knowledge. These trinkets and mechanical boxes are simply wood and springs without the underlying awareness of why they are special.

I suppose all our answers vary, but for me, collecting is a way to tighten my comprehension of why Magic can be enjoyable. Discovering something new can feel exhilarating. To then gain possession, to touch it, keep it, display, and talk about it, adds tactile meaning to the collecting experience.

Solve the Mystery!

This issue's mystery comes courtesy of Scott Martell.

If you have a question for a future "Solve the Mystery!", please email newsletter@nemca.com.



Several years ago, I came into possession of a wonderful Kellar Style Center Table through a private estate. I had no idea who made it or its potential value.

The craftsmanship was excellent, and I soon discovered the tabletop featured three deceptive black art wells, along with a drop-down access door in the rear. The table has the added convenience of matching cover blocks to eliminate or open any of the three wells. Finally, the base, legs and tabletop can all be separated for storage or cleaning.

Eventually, I was fortunate to uncover documentation stating that the piece was created by George Robinson Jr., the immensely talented craftsman and owner of Viking Magic Manufacturing.

After contacting George, I discovered the table was made in the likeness of Harry Kellar's famous Louis XIV-style gilded center table. The latter incorporated some thirteen secret devices, including traps of varying designs, electrical connections, as well as pistons to control a Devil's Head automaton.

George recalled how he made three tables similar to this, two were for Mark Wilson, but without the wells. The two Mark received were for a Nest of Boxes Routine. George then made the table described here with the accompanying wells in the early 1990's. It was the only one made.



Now, back to my plea for assistance...

1. Do you recognize this table, and who was its first owner?
2. If you have photo or video of Mark Wilson performing the Nest of Boxes with the two similar tables, please contact us by email at newsletter@nemca.com.



Review - “Ionia: Magician Princess, Secrets Unlocked”

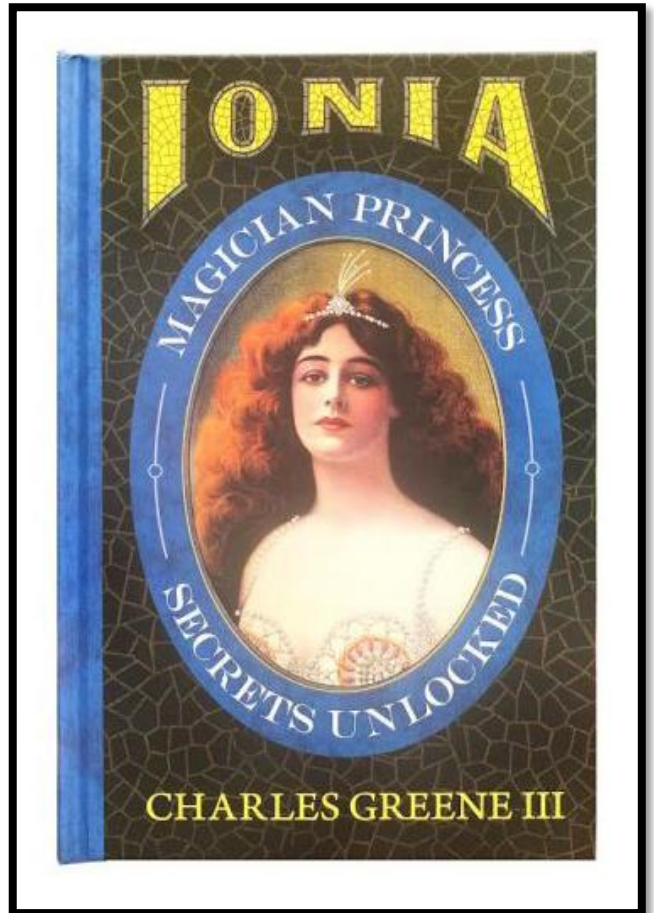
Authored by Charles Greene III, *Reviewed by Ray Ricard*

This book represents Charles Greene III’s first foray in writing about a historical figure. The life of “Ionia” whose real name was Clementine de Vere is treated from birth through a fantastic lifetime of magic and mystery. The daughter of famous magic parents Charles de Vere and Okita (Julia Ferrett) further adds to the intrigue created in this wonderful, almost fairy-tale-like story. As Charles points out in his introduction to completely learn the compelling story of Clementine one would need to walk the streets of Paris, Hong Kong and New York.

I believe all well written books produce in us certain areas of fascination. I must say, I was very happy to read about her early life and the De Vere connection. Charles did a wonderful job of putting together original source material and pulling together a fascinating read. For those who like following timelines of events through history, Charles does not disappoint. His passion in examining every minutia of Clementine’s life is evident.

My absolute favorite parts of this book are the wonderful colored illustrations sprinkled throughout the volume giving the reader a chance to fully immerse themselves in this wonderful story of Clementine’s life. For those looking for a fascinating fast-paced read of a small slice of magic history, this is the book for you. Well produced and certainly not a disappointment you will enjoy “Ionia Secrets Unlocked”.

Written and produced by Charles Greene III in 2022. Over 180 full color images shown through 330pp in a hardcover volume measuring 6.25 x 9.25”. Order yours today at ioniasecrets.com.





Online Resources for Magic Collecting

By Scott Martell, with contribution from Patrick Lusch

The numbers are rising! Overall, the cumulative group of magic collectors and historians is growing, as are the prices on magic memorabilia. To be frank, we do not have statistical evidence to confirm these evaluations, but from a strictly observational standpoint, this appears to be the case.

The culprit of these accumulating participants and prices, can be attributed to that wonderful technology – the internet. Social networks, online auctions, virtual marketplaces, email marketing, search-engines, online forums and Zoom are new tools used to connect us all; and the fundamental activities pertinent to our collecting community have thrived.

In previous decades, magic knowledge and collectibles were shared through books, catalogues or in-person visits to private homes or conferences. Now, with the click of a button, we are immediately connected to hundreds of resources and like-minded individuals.

Are you looking for insight as to who made a certain magic device? A quick post on the Thayer Magic Community or NEMCA's Facebook page might help shine some light on your query. Perhaps acquiring Houdini memorabilia is to your taste? Potter & Potter Auctions or Haversat & Ewing offer many chances to bid on your favorite desirables. Do you crave a comprehensive platform for entertainment, insight and live Magic comradery? This is easily remedied through such events as the Magic Collectors Corner or our very own Virtual Yankee Gatherings. There's even a Facebook group dedicated to "knolling" – that is, the displaying of magic collections arranged in an eye-pleasing manner!

Perhaps the exact number of collectors has not risen dramatically, but the visibility of online interactions is cumulative. We see more and it's an easy assumption that has added to the number of partakers. This is good news for our community of collectors. Maybe you're turned off by the increasing prices and competitors at magic auctions. However, the more involved, the better chance magic history and collecting sticks around for a long time to come.

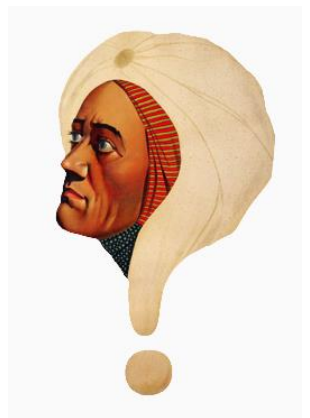
Whether you're a seasoned user of online magic resources or have never joined a magic collecting group online, you may be surprised at the new and potentially beneficial resources available to us. To help incentivize you in joining the rabble, here's an incomplete list of our favorite online magic collecting/history resources.

Online Research

- **Conjuring Arts/Ask Alexander** (www.conjuringarts.com / www.askalexander.org)

- The Conjuring Arts Research Center is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of magic and its allied arts, which include psychic phenomenon, hypnosis, deceptive gambling, mentalism, ventriloquism, juggling, and sleight-of-hand techniques. Currently, Conjuring Arts functions primarily as a research library, of over 11,000 book and magazine titles, dating back to the 15th century and representing multiple languages. However, the library itself is only the first in a long list of roles Conjuring Arts plays. By providing its holdings, online database, semi-annually published journal, and performance component to the public, Conjuring Arts strives to preserve the rich histories and traditions of this ancient performing art.
- Ask Alexander is one of the most valuable resources in magic today. At present, it contains over 2,500,000 pages of great material dating back to the beginning of printing. All access levels feature keyword search; instant translation into nearly fifty languages; and personal search history. In addition, you can easily create personalized bookshelves and collections from your favorite documents.

CONJURING ARTS



- **Magicana** (www.magicana.com)

Magicana is a Canadian not-for-profit arts organization and registered charity dedicated to the exploration and advancement of magic as a performing art. The

Screening Room on the Magicana website contains hundreds of hours of magic videos featuring magicians from around the world performing all ranges of magic.



- **Magicpedia**

- Think “Wikipedia” for magic! The free encyclopedia, dedicated to preserving the history and techniques of magic, that anyone can edit.
- Become a member (it's free) and help improve one of the 8,645 articles or create one that is needed.



Online Communities

- **Magic Collectors Corner** (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/magiccollectorscorner/>)

- Founded by David Sandy and Lance Rich, the primary purpose of this group is to promote online ZOOM conferences geared toward magic collectors, historians, enthusiasts, etc. Past episodes of the MCC are available in the group archive. The group also serves as a way to extend conversation and discussion from the weekly episodes.



- **The Magic Emporium** (<https://www.facebook.com/magicemporium>)

- Weekly live magic sales every Saturday evening at 7:00pm Eastern Time. Vintage, estate and new items each week! Visit their online retail store at www.themagicemporium.net.



- **Sterlini's Magical Mayhem**

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sterlinismagicalmayhem>)

- The rising stars of Colon, MI, the Sterlini's are manufacturers, performers, theater operators, and retail brick and mortar store operators! Visit their online retail presence at www.usedmagic4sale.com.
- Sterlini Magic's vintage, used, and surplus blow-out page featuring LIVE online broadcasts from the Magic Capital of the World in Colon, MI!
- Weekly live auctions every Thursday evening at approximately 8:08pm-ish Eastern Time. Weekly live magic discussions every Monday at approximately 8:08pm-ish EST.



- **Thayer Magic Community** (<https://thayermagic.ning.com/>)

- A private magic history and collecting community. Membership is by invite only, so ask around and get invited! Note: this site is not just for Thayer magic discussions.



Auctions & Retail

- **Hard to Find Magic (www.hardtfindmagic.com)**

- Are you looking to add to your collection, replace a hard to find piece of apparatus from your act, or just want some unique magic from days gone by? Our goal is to provide a source for your magic needs and wants.



- **Haversat & Ewing Galleries (<http://www.haversatewing.com/>)**

HAVERSAT & EWING GALLERIES

- Haversat & Ewing Galleries, LLC, is a full-service company devoted to bringing high-quality magic and conjuring collectibles to market. Our regular auctions feature magic prints, posters, broadsides, equipment and photographs from some of the nation's leading collections.

- **Hocus Pocus (www.hocus-pocus.com)**

- Retailers of vintage, estate, and new magic! Hocus Pocus, while continuing to carry the very best of all the new releases from the world's top magicians and magic companies, also works with many professional magicians to produce their exclusive effects for sale at Hocus Pocus. This partnership with professional magicians allows Hocus Pocus to continue to be the leader in the magic industry, bring the best in magic effect development to its clientele.



- **KTMagic Auction (www.ktmagicauction.com)**

- Online auctioneer of magic. Also buying, collecting and selling related items.



- **Magic Collectibles (www.magiccollectibles.com)**

- We have been in business for over 10 years selling and buying quality antique magic collectibles. We are experts in the field of magic collectibles whether they are props, posters, magic sets, books or ephemera.



- **Potter & Potter Auctions (www.potterauctions.com)**

- We're a Chicago auction house specializing in the sale of collectibles and antiques of all types, including paper Americana, vintage advertising, rare books, coin-op, playing cards, gambling memorabilia, vintage posters, prints and magicana - antiques and collectibles focused on magic and magicians. Between world-record prices, lavish catalogs, aggressive advertising and promotion, and a team that cares about your experience - as a customer or consignor - we strive to make the auction experience exemplary in every way.



- **Quality Magic Sales (www.qualitymagicsales.com)**

- QualityMagicSales.com was created to sell some of the beautiful magic that appears at MartinsMagic.com. QMS holds auctions several times a year with magnificent collectibles.



- **Quicker than the Eye (www.quickerthantheeye.com)**

- Quicker than the Eye is the online shop for Potter & Potter Auctions. We sell vintage magic memorabilia, used and collectible magic props, stone lithographs and vintage posters, antiquarian books, and virtually anything else related to magic and its history - as well as collectibles related to magic's allied arts - playing cards, gambling, fortune telling, circus and more.



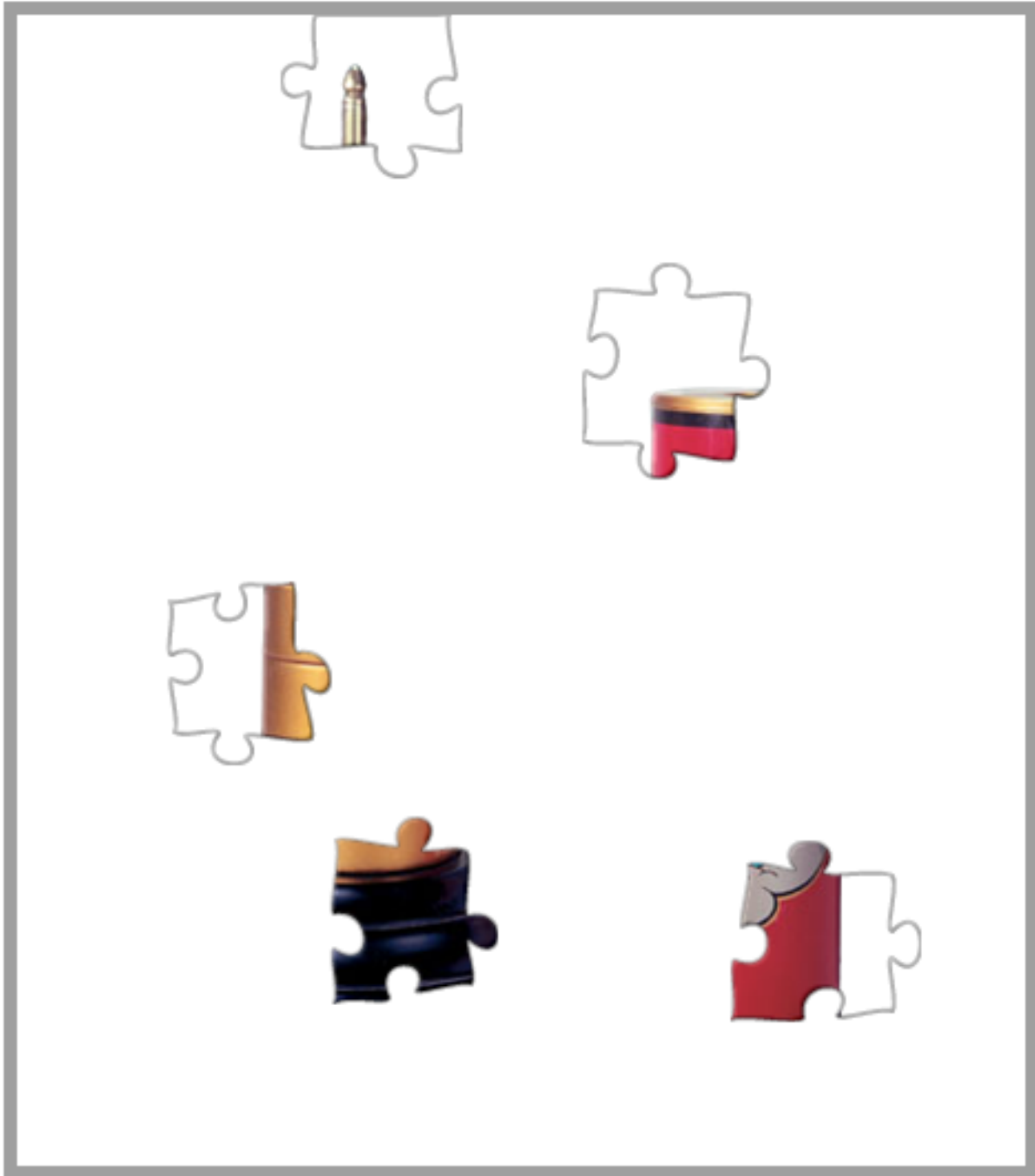
- **Viking Magic (www.vikingmagic.com)**

- The Viking Mfg. Co. stable known as VMCW, LLC is one of the world's largest Magic producers, providing unique Magic props to performers the world over. Only the finest materials, expert craftsmanship and advanced thinking go into every Viking/CW product. Viking is one of the most imitated companies in the Magic world, having reached the rare honor of having the most copied effects taken from any one company in current Magic history!



“Puzzling Props”

Can you identify the magic prop in the photo below with just a few jigsaw puzzle pieces? We’ll give you between 4 and 5 puzzle pieces in each puzzle. Try to identify **the maker** and **the prop name**. Submit your answer to newsletter@nemca.com for a chance to win some NEMCA swag! Winner chosen randomly from all correct responses. The answer will be revealed in the next issue. Good luck!



2022 Yankee Gathering Update



This year, we honor Jim Steinmeyer. Jim Steinmeyer's contributions to magic and to preserving magic history have earned him recognition inside and outside the world of magic. This November, the New England Magic Collectors Association is paying tribute to his life-long list of achievements. Please join us in honoring this unique individual by attending the Yankee Gathering 2022 with Jim as our Guest of Honor.

Featured Speakers

Our featured speakers include Robert Olson, Gabe Fajuri, Richard Hatch, Rick Heath, Charles Greene III, Lee Asher, Tom Ewing, Richard Hughes, Michelle Ainsworth, and Rosemary Reid.

Performers

Our featured performers include Nick Diffate, David Garrity, Marc DeSouza, Richard Hatch, Alyx Hilshey, Matt Roberts, and Alex Boyce.

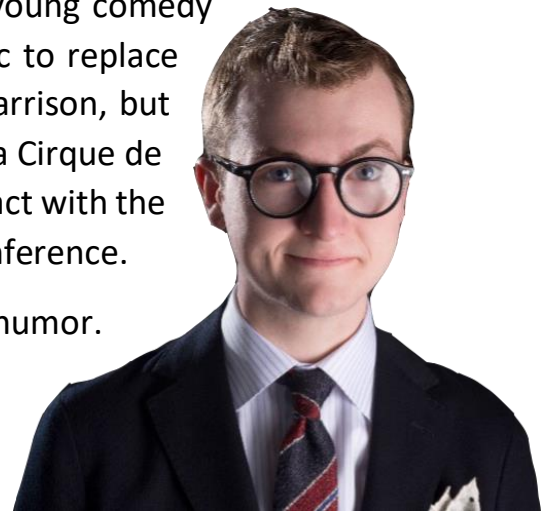
Events

Aside from our great lineup of speakers and performers, this year's gathering will also include an opening night wine and cheese reception, a Saturday evening banquet, a dealer's room with choice collectibles, a lively magic auction, and a festive flea market!

Performer Change

We were extremely lucky to be able to sign Nick Diffatte, a young comedy magician who is really making his mark in the world of magic to replace previously scheduled, Harrison Greenbaum. Fortunately for Harrison, but unfortunately for us, Harrison was so successful as a fill in for a Cirque de Soleil show in Las Vegas that he was offered a long-term contract with the show! His commitment extended beyond the dates of our conference.

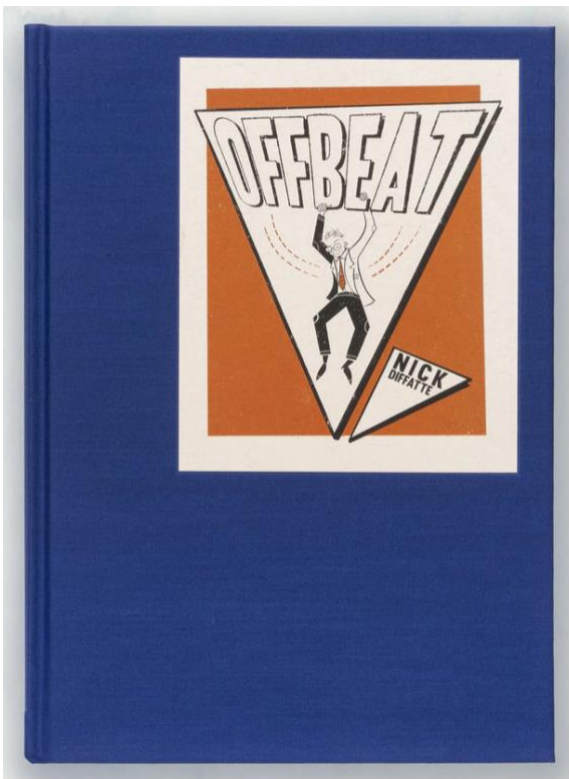
Nick Diffatte is a very talented magician with a unique style of humor. Nick is Mac King's stand-in in Las Vegas!



Some information on Nick's background can be found on his website:

"Nick is quickly becoming one of the most talked about and in demand young comedians working today. His unique brand of entertainment seamlessly blends dry humor, quick wit, and incredible skill. His performances are presented with perfect comedic timing far beyond his years and a deadpan delivery that has audiences laughing uncontrollably from beginning to end.

At the age of 23, Nick has already been a featured performer at the world-famous Magic Castle in Hollywood, appeared on The Late Late Show on CBS, appeared on the cover of both Genii and Vanish Magazine, has won multiple awards for both his magic and his comedy, has held multiple long-term residencies on the Las Vegas strip including filling in for Mac King, headlines on Disney Cruise Line and has performed a multitude of shows at casinos, comedy clubs, and corporate events internationally."



Nick has also recently released a book, **OFFBEAT**, which contains a number of his routines, and

it has received great reviews. We think you will really enjoy Nick at the Saturday Gala Show along with the other great acts that we have lined up. We hope to see you there!

***Yankee Gathering 2022 is limited to 200 attendees.
Plan now to attend!***

Yankee Gathering Auction Changes

The Friday Auction has been a key component of our Yankee Gatherings. This year should be no exception. To make it more efficient and interesting, we have opted to make a few changes to the way the Auction is conducted. Here are the new Guidelines for the Auction:

As always, NEMCA would like to offer only true collectibles at the Auction. Damaged, incomplete, and reproduced items, unless of a rare or limited nature, would not qualify as items for the Auction.

General

1. Auction set-up will begin after the last Friday morning lecture at approximately 11:30 AM.
2. Preview and Pre-Bid will begin at 12:45 PM, or thereabouts, when things are ready.
3. The Auction will run from 2pm to 4pm on Friday.
4. Bidders will use their registration number as their bidder number during both the Pre-Bid and live sessions.
5. Sellers will submit their items in groups of 5. Multiple groups of 5 may be submitted.
6. The lots for sale will be ordered on a “first come” basis with the first submission received becoming Seller #1, the second becoming Seller #2, etc.
7. Bidders will have an opportunity to place a “Pre-Bid” or “Absentee Bid” on the items up for auction during the Preview Period. All Pre-Bids will be a formal commitment by the Bidder. The highest Pre-Bid will be used as the Starting Bid in the Live Auction.
8. The Live Auction will progress starting at the first group of Seller #1 and then go on to the first group of Seller #2 until all Sellers have had at least one group of 5 offered. The Auctioneer will then cycle back to Seller #1’s second group of 5 and so on until all lots are exhausted or the time for the Auction has expired.
9. In the event that items receiving Pre-Bids do not make it to the Live Auction, it will be at the Seller’s discretion to either accept or reject the highest Pre-Bid. Should the Seller accept the highest Pre-Bid, the Seller will sign off on the Pre-Bid sheet and the price will be added to the Bidder’s Auction total.

Sellers

1. A copy of the blank item submission sheet for the Auction is available on the NEMCA website and in the email accompanying the rules. It is strongly recommended that the Sellers fill out and print the item submission sheets in advance of the Friday Auction to expedite the set-up process.
2. The submission sheet is divided into sections of 5 items each. It is recommended that Sellers prioritize their items with the highest priority items in group #1, etc. The Auctioneer will do his best to get to as many groups as possible.
3. No single item in the auction should have a value of less than \$25. Items of lesser value, or those not meeting the stated criteria of the Auction, should be sold at the flea market. Sellers may combine items into a larger lot valued at \$50 or more, but no item in the lot should be valued at less than \$25.
4. Items of reasonable value may have a Reserve. If the Reserve is met during the Live Auction, the item will then be sold to the highest Bidder. If the Reserve is not met, it will be at the discretion of the of the Seller to accept a bid lower than the Reserve.
- 5.

Bidders

1. As stated above, Bidders will use their registration number as their bid number. There will be no need to register for the auction during the Preview Period.
2. Bidders will have the new option of “Pre-Bidding” on items. There will be bid sheets for each item/lot during the Preview Period. Bidders will leave their signature, Bidder # and Bid. The highest Pre-Bid will be the starting point for the live auction.
3. Bidders do not need to be present to bid during the live auction. If their Pre-Bid is the highest bid and is accepted by the Seller, then the winning Bidder will be contacted at the end of the Auction to arrange payment.
4. All bids, either Pre-Bid or Live, are a commitment by the Bidder to pay that amount should it be the highest bid on the item and accepted by the Seller.

These changes will, hopefully, be beneficial to both Buyers and Sellers. We hope that you will agree with the changes we have made and be an active participant in the Friday Auction!

Registration Raffle for YG 2022

There is less than 3 months to go until The Yankee Gathering! Have you registered yet? If not get your names on that list! For the first time, we have put together 7 bonus packages with a value of approximately \$130, such as the one pictured below. Every 3 weeks leading up to the convention a name will be picked at random from those already registered, and the winner will receive an assortment of items from our inventory that will be given out with your badge at the Gathering.

Congratulations to **Robert Kirkpatrick** and **Kevin Ladd** for being our first 2 package winners! Head on over to nemca.com to register and for more details.

We can't wait to see you this November!



Upcoming Events

If you know of an upcoming event that would be of interest to NEMCA members, please send details to newsletter@nemca.com.

September 2022

DC Festival of Magic, Washington, DC	Sep 2 – 5
Fall Magic Auction, Potter & Potter, Online	Sep 17
Magic Capital Standup Convention, Colon, MI	Sep 23 – 24

October 2022

Milbourne Christopher Award Ceremony	
Garde Arts Center, New London, CT	Oct 1
Klosterman Auction Part III, Potter & Potter, Online	Oct 29

November 2022

Daytona Magic Convention, Daytona Beach, FL	Nov 4 – 6
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December 2022

Winter Magic Auction, Potter & Potter, Online	Dec 10
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May 2023

Magic Collector Expo, Cleveland, OH	May 9 – 11
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Highs and Lows – Selected Auction Results

On July 16th, 2022, Potter & Potter held an auction of the Jim DeLoach collection. Here are the highest and lowest grossing lots. *Photos courtesy of Potter & Potter.*

Lot #3: Okito Checker Cabinet. Chicago: Theo Bamberg, ca. 1947.

Estimate: \$10,000 to \$15,000

Price Realized: \$13,200

Description: “Club size” Checker Cabinet for the magical transposition of a stack of checkers and a glass full of rice. With original checkers, tube, and glassware. Hand-painted finish and decal work. Light wear to finish at corners and extremities, two unobtrusive stress cracks in roof, else very good. Considered by many to be among the finest of all magic props manufactured in the twentieth century, and the pinnacle of Okito’s achievements as a craftsman.



Lot #140: Daring Spring Trap. Colon: Abbott's Magic, 1960s.

Estimate: \$50 - \$100

Price Realized: \$48

Description: A chromed metal animal trap the performer can slam his hand into and trigger without harm. 10" long. Very good.



Volunteer Request – Video Editing

NEMCA is looking for a volunteer to assist with video editing. The ideal candidate will have experience working on video editing, but this is also an opportunity for someone looking to learn and develop this skill. Complete this form (<https://nemca.com/wp/volunteer/>) to learn more about the videographer role or other NEMCA volunteer opportunities.

Classifieds

Submit your “Wants” and “For Sale” items to our editorial staff at newsletter@nemca.com.

- **Ray Ricard:** Interested in books, pamphlets and catalogs on magic, gambling, and ventriloquism prior to 1876. rricard264@aol.com
- **Steve Lerner:** Looking for gambling items and equipment, especially info on old dice-makers. WTB, Crooked/gaffed carnival games. stvlrnr@gmail.com
- **Scott Martell:** WTB, J.F. Orrin books - On With the Show: Part 2. (1943), Easy Magic for Evening Parties (1923), Carboard, Glue & Elastic (1946), Mechanical Magic (1952), Cardano the Gambling Scholar (1953). wiffne1@gmail.com
- **Jim Zoldak:** Looking for rare/uncommon Mysto magic sets or 19th/early 20th century European magic sets. Please contact me with details and pictures. jzoldak@aol.com
- **Doc Rogers:** Is offering a pdf list of magic books for sale. Contact him to request a file: rogersmagic50@gmail.com
- **Michael Mayo:** Looking for books with a John Brown Cook bookplate, photos of John Brown Cook. 1880-1930 Magician programs from Boston theaters. cityside.mm@gmail.com

