

New England
Magic Collectors Association

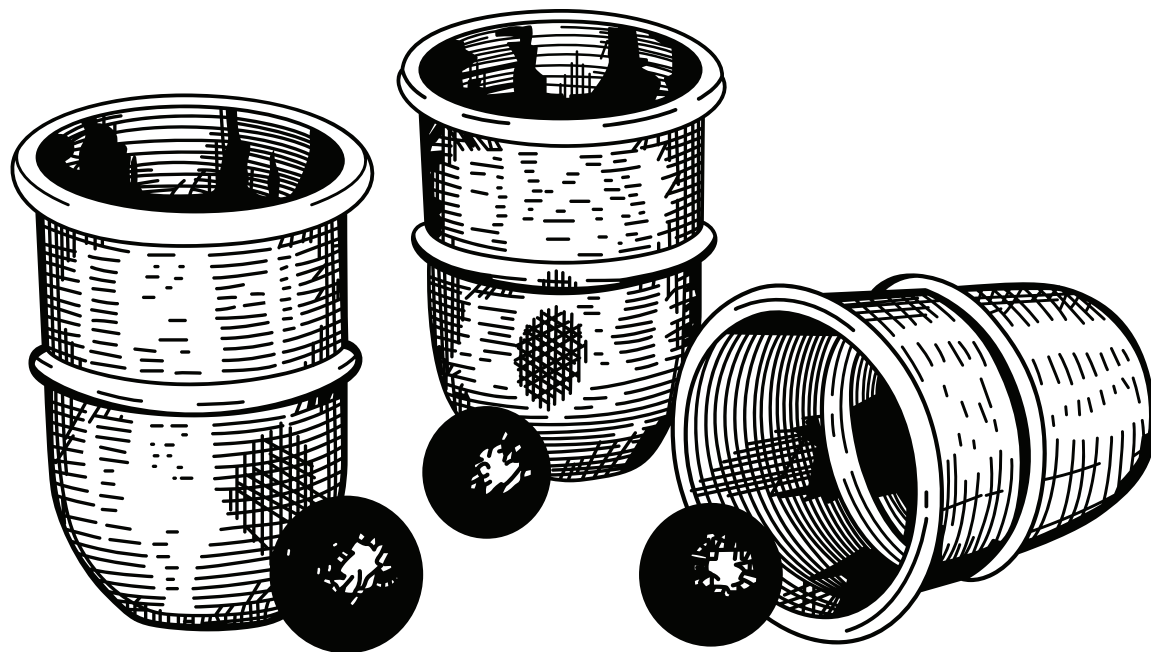
Discoveries

VOL 2 ♠ NO 1 ♠ 2023



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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 through our website, or 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: 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.

Learn more about NEMCA at www.nemca.com.

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 Gene Voshell. Be sure to check out Gene's story later in this issue.

Welcome New Members

The following new members have joined NEMCA since the last publication. Please join the NEMCA staff in extending a warm welcome. Thank you for your ongoing support of NEMCA!

Lee Asher

Bill Trotter

Jerry Fowlkes

Arun Rath

Edward O'Connell

Calling All Members...We Need You!

Discoveries needs YOU! Do you have an interest in a particular facet of magic collecting? Perhaps you have a unique collection you'd like to share. Do you have a specialty or research project you've been working on? Why not share that journey with your fellow NEMCA members! This publication relies on submissions from membership. Submit your article to newsletter@nemca.com to be considered for publication in an upcoming issue.

From the President's Desk

Jim Zoldak, NEMCA President

Welcome to the first issue of Volume 2 of our newsletter. This past year was a busy year for many of us with our primary focus on planning and presenting Yankee Gathering 2022. By all accounts, it was hailed as one of the best Gatherings in recent memory. As great as that is to hear for those of us who worked hard putting it together, it does set a high bar for our next Gathering scheduled for 2024. Nonetheless, planning for YG 2024 is already underway.

Much like the Gatherings, *Discoveries* has the challenge of topping the previous issues with every new one published. This issue is no exception. Our editor, Patrick Lusch, has put together a great collection of articles and information of interest to all magic collectors, magic historians and magicians in general.

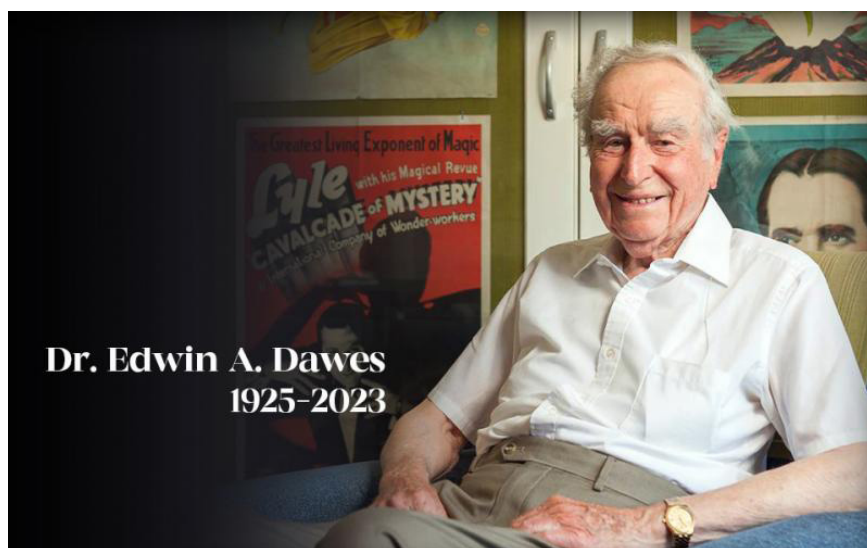
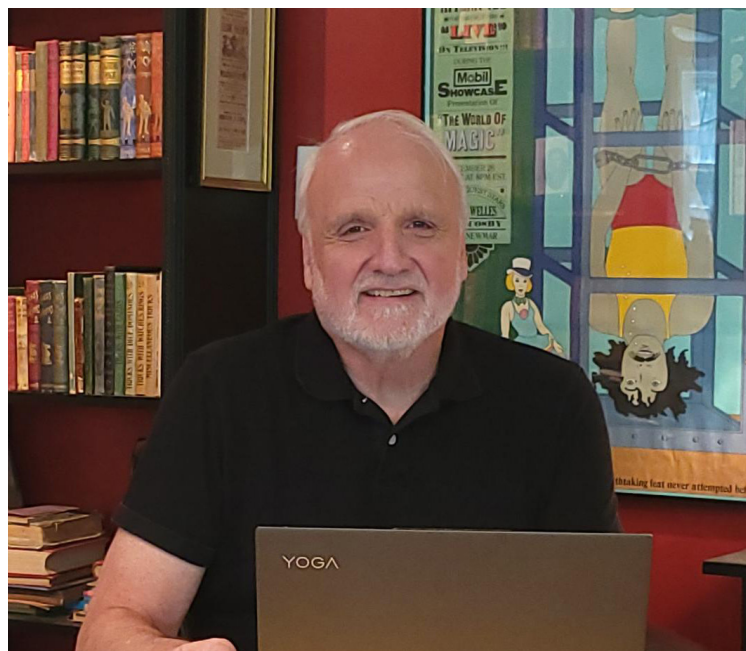
This issue presents an article by Michael Perovich on the legendary Nate Liepzig and documents Liepzig's place in the history of Vaudeville. Patrick Lusch details one of the "holy grails" of magic book collecting – *The Classic Magic Series* by Dr. Robert Albo. Patrick also takes us along the magical life journey of Gene "Uncle Gene" Voshell. Ray Ricard brings us up to date on the latest publications of interest to collectors and historians. You will also find information on auction highlights, upcoming events and even a puzzle to solve. All in all, another great issue with something for everyone.

Before I sign off, I feel it is necessary to acknowledge a great loss to NEMCA and the magic community as a whole. On March 3rd, Dr. Eddie Dawes passed away at the age of 97. Dr. Dawes, or Eddie as he was known to many, was a great friend and supporter of NEMCA. He contributed articles to the Yankee Magic Collector and presented at 18 of 19 Yankee Gatherings with the last one being a virtual conference in 2020. But much more than that, he was the greatest magic historian of modern times. He produced a regular column on magic history for the Magic Circular for over 40 years. He was the "go to" person for anyone seriously researching the history of well-known or little-known performers of the past.

A service and celebration will be held on Monday, April 3rd at 11:30 am UK time. It will be live-streamed at 6:30 am EST and available for viewing after the fact for a few days. Details as to how to view the live-stream or replay were not available at the time of this writing. Dr. Dawes will be greatly missed. We all send our condolences to his family and many friends and admirers worldwide.

That's all for now.

Jim Zoldak. ♦



Dr. Edwin A. Dawes
1925-2023

Book and Collecting Announcements

Ray Ricard, NEMCA Member & Magic Book Expert

The collecting world never ceases to amaze me when one considers the output of new material made available to the collector. I often find it an overwhelming task in trying to keep up with new books as they enter the marketplace. If you collect foreign books as well, the task is nearly impossible especially when one considers the monetary outflow.

My goal, as always, is to look at some of the newest books in the market to help the less informed sort through the chaff. The following list comprises titles that I have seen and for the most part acquired.

Serious collectors have many avenues to purchasing these titles but often the easiest way is directly from the author themselves. Most will inscribe a personal message to you if desired. 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 better yet a review copy.

Behnke, Leo. *"Magic on Magicians: A 90 th Birthday Present from Leo Behnke"*. This little monograph is the latest offering from Leo and published by his Book Group. Write to Leo for availability.



Dawes, Edwin. *"The Rich Cabinet Collection"*. Volumes 3 & 4 are due out shortly. If you missed Volumes 1 & 2, get them you won't be disappointed. Produced in Canada by Magicana and limited to 250 sets. As most of you know, Eddie Dawes passed away in March of this year and as a result his material is surely to become more desirable. You can order through magicana.com.

Hernandez, Joe. *"Conjurer's Wisdom" Volume 2"*. This is a collection of magical facts and confabulations intended as entertainment but surprisingly offers up some unusual information. Available at \$24.95 through Meir Yedid Magic. Volume-1 is also available through this dealer.

"History of Magic, Secrets of Sorcery". Currently available is Issue #4 which was published in 2022. The set consists of 4 issues which explores the history of magic both black and white. This is a magazine published in the U.K. and mostly unknown to American collectors. Copies may be found through Ebay.

Larsen, Milt. *"The Magic Mind of William W. Larsen, Sr."* This volume which debuted last year consists of 263 pages and looks at the development of the Genii magazine and the Magic Castle. Available from most magic dealers.

Potter & Potter. *"The Ricky Jay Collection Part 1"*. This pictorial catalogue of 144 pages is the first of three catalogues to be issued by the auction house of Potter & Potter. As usual, it features wonderful illustrations and information not available elsewhere. Combined with the other Ricky Jay material recently published you have an incredible wealth of knowledge at your fingertips.

Wiseman, Richard & others. *"Hocus Pocus Magic Mystery and the Mind"*. This unusual book is issued in comic book format and contains 5 comic book themed stories related to magic history. Available from Vanishing Inc. Magic at \$49.95. ♦

Nate Leipzig's Place in Vaudeville

Michael Perovich, NEMCA Member



Cabinet Card Portrait of Magician Nate Leipzig. Brooklyn: Stacy, ca. 1910. Three-quarter length photograph of the gentlemanly vaudeville magician producing a fan of cards from his elbow. Photographer's mount, 7 3/4 x 6". (courtesy Potter & Potter Auctions).

The Zancigs, and a host of other subcategories. I'm focusing here on performers who were popular during the heyday of vaudeville (roughly 1885 to 1935).

Each magician had his specialty. Leipzig fell into a class of magicians whose acts were accompanied by spoken word or "patter," provided to clarify the trick at hand and often to amuse the audience. Magicians such as Leipzig, Fred Keating, Frank Van Hoven, Jack Merlin, Claude Golden, Judson Cole, Jarrow, and others played big time vaudeville throughout magic's golden age by both mystifying (and especially in Van Hoven's case) amusing audiences while using minimal apparatus.

Leipzig stood out from not just those in his subgroup but from virtually all others. Downs (another personal favorite and a contemporary of Leipzig) specialized in coin and card manipulation, dazzling audiences in the early days of vaudeville and was particularly successful in Europe. Even so, Joe Laurie Jr., writing in *Vaudeville from the Honky Tonks to the Palace* (1953), rattles off the names of several fine card centric magicians, concluding with "... but I believe the tops of all the card workers was the one and only Nate Leipzig!"

American Vaudeville, Its Life and Times by Douglas Gilbert (1940) is more contemporary than many vaudeville histories; he is both chatty and direct. He mentions few of the less grandiose vaudeville magicians but still gives an interesting overview of magic, as does the more detailed Laurie. Gilbert, as do virtually all others, concedes that Downs was the king of the coin manipulators. Yet he concludes with this: "Poor Downs specialized skill ruined him. It was impossible to freshen his act. He quit and went back to run a picture house in Marshalltown, Iowa." Magic histories usually present this as Downs having been so successful that he retired. Perhaps both are true. Regardless, Downs was essentially out of vaudeville prior to World War I (1914-1918).

Cardini and LePaul were manipulators who appeared toward the tail end of vaudeville and were subsequently popular in night clubs and other venues. LePaul performed for many years in USO shows, entertaining troupes during WWII and the

As a Nate Leipzig (1873-1939) homer, I feel compelled to opine on his historical place in vaudeville. I originally wrote this for laymen, so bear with me. There were several vaudeville performers who based their acts on entertaining with playing cards. This included J. Warren Keane, Nate Leipzig, T. Nelson Downs (who always included cards in his stage act and was skillful with them in close up), early Howard Thurston, Si Stebbins, Paul Valadon, and others. Later in waning days of vaudeville came Cardini, Paul LePaul, and Louis Zingone among others. Those among this group who performed in one or two, and often without an assistant, were sometimes unfairly labeled "talk lot, do little" men. They were envied by other performers because they could show up with nothing but a deck of cards, a smile, and a tuxedo and entertain theaters filled with hundreds of patrons. Except for comedians, other jealous performers were lugging around musical instruments, bulky scenery, trained seals, and all manner of other "stuff" required for their acts.

As we know, subcategories make comparing magicians difficult, if not unfair. I hope to show that Leipzig compared well with not only all types of magicians, but vaudevillians as a whole.

The often-misused term "illusionist" properly refers to those who perform tricks with large animals and people. This includes Herrmann, Kellar, Thurston, Dante, Goldin, Nicola, Blackstone, and a host of others before and since. This type of magician is, of course, best-known to the general public. "Manipulators" are formally those who perform silent acts focused on the appearance and disappearance of cards, coins, thimbles, and other small objects. While the public may know the guy with the doves or the guy with the light bulbs, they seldom know these performers by name. Then there were escapologists such as Houdini, mentalists such as Dunninger, thought transference acts such as

Korean War. Cardini is generally considered to have had the finest manipulative act ever. His timing, his skill, his pantomime were all exquisite. John Scarne was a self-appointed gambling expert, whose braggadocio, while off putting to some, had a charm of its own. He lectured troupes on how to avoid being cheated with cards and dice, and worked as a consultant to casinos, principally outside the United States. Later, in the 50s, 60s, and 70s he was a frequent talk show guest. Louis Zingone, a highly skilled card man and vaudevillian, pioneered with magic and gambling exposés in film and on records.

Henry Hay's *Amateur Magician's Handbook* (1952) is dedicated to T. Nelson Downs, calling him "'The Great Man" of my boyhood.' He felt Downs carried better across the footlights than Leipzig, with Downs portraying an "irresistible drollery." He knew both men. Regardless, Hay referred to Leipzig as a "superb manipulator," as "the late master," and "The greatest American specialist in close-up hand magic."

David Goodsell, in his 1997 biography in M-U-M magazine wrote "... at the time of his death in 1939, Nate Leipzig had the reputation for being one of the finest, if not the finest, sleight-of-hand performer of his time." He also noted that Fulton Oursler considered Leipzig "The King of Manipulators," that Wilfred Jonson labeled Leipzig a "Magician's Magician" and "incomparable" while Will Goldston "believed Leipzig to be the finest card manipulator he had ever seen."

Dai Vernon, said to rival Leipzig in skill, worshiped Leipzig and co-wrote a book about him. Leipzig told Vernon that "audiences liked to think a gentleman has fooled them," a concept that Vernon went to school on.

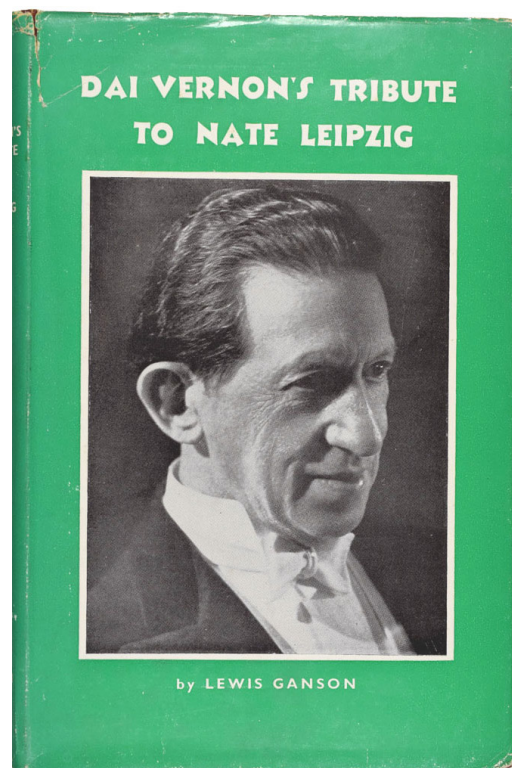
John Mulholland was a noted professional magician, editor of *The Sphinx Magazine* for magicians, as well as an author of several magic histories and texts. He often defined himself as a student of Leipzig as did the popular Broadway and vaudeville magician, Fred Keating. Keating also wrote glowingly about Leipzig. But it was not just magicians who appreciated Leipzig's skill and showmanship. Leipzig performed for the Vanderbilts and other members of New York's Four Hundred. He performed for decades in top vaudeville houses to consistently strong reviews. In London he performed for King Edward and Queen Alexandra of Great Britain, as well as the King and Queen of Spain, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and other royalty.

Jaded theater owners raved about his performances in their reports to the Keith-Albee home office. One said: "His manipulation of coins, cards, balls, etc., are as good as any that we ever played and his address and manner are very agreeable." Another said "17 minutes in one – One of the deftest manipulators I have ever seen. He has Thurston and the others beaten a mile. Excellent." Here is a manager report any performer would envy: "Quite the greatest single artist we have ever had here, and in this laudatory tribute I voice the opinion of all who witnessed his marvelous skill at all performances yesterday. His was a flattering reception, truly well-deserved."

Born in Sweden but raised in Detroit from a very young age, Leipzig began performing in vaudeville from the early 1900s continuing into the 1930s. In later life, he performed principally at venues in the New York area until his death in 1939. He was very popular among the New York acting fraternity and was made a member of the Lambs Club, a notable honor for a vaudeville magician. On stage he performed tricks such as color changes with cards, thimble and ball manipulations, and a cane that mysteriously clung to his hand. These effects could be directly appreciated by theater audiences, but he also brought a committee on stage, seated them to fill the stage, and entertained and dumbfounded them in ways that played to the entire audience. Vaudeville bills specifically stated that no one coming on stage with Leipzig would be embarrassed or ridiculed. He never forgot his code as a gentleman.

There were thousands of acts in vaudeville, the vast majority being singers, dancers, and comedians. Only a very few percent were magicians. Many of these magicians were left out of the histories written by non-magicians and many of the histories written by magicians fail to comprehend who was popular in the moment of times gone by. It is notable that both George Burns and Milton Berle, who started in vaudeville and achieved success in radio, television, and film, mentioned Nate Leipzig when interviewed. Milton Berle, himself, made a point of mentioning that Leipzig had taught him magic.

I recently wrote an article for the *New England Magic Collector* comparing the length of obituaries of magicians that appeared in *Variety*. I imagine many magicians were surprised to learn that Nate Leipzig's was among the longest and most effusive. It was, in fact, longer than Thurston's, roughly equal to Houdini's, much longer than Blackstone's, and orders of magnitude longer than Cardini, Dante, Downs and many other of magic's luminaries. His obituary in the *New York Times* included his picture and appeared above the fold. He was loved, admired, respected, and praised by virtually all who en-



Dai Vernon's Tribute to Nate Leipzig, published in 1958 and co-authored with Lewis Ganson. (Courtesy Quicker than the Eye.)

countered him. His skill with cards and other small objects was unparalleled.

He was, as they say, pretty good.

If you've actually read this far, then it is a shame to inform you that there is little footage of Leipzig that gives us a window into the charm of his performances. Here are references to some of the other wonderful magicians we have discussed. Perhaps Keating and Vernon give us an inkling of what Leipzig was like, as both knew him well, and were almost certainly influenced by him in some way.

- The witty Fred Keating was a student of Leipzig who, while no doubt different in manner, performed thimble manipulations and color changes that may have been influenced by his mentor: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IW-2jQP0557E&t=27s>
- Here is Cardini's famous act, featuring his breathtaking sleight of hand: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhZ_DY-GK6xY&t=6s
- Here is a young John Scarne appearing in a Robert Benchley short called Dark Magic: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBvuQZm5AzY>
- Louis Zingone made records and film shorts associated with magic and cheating at cards. He was also credited with various tricks and sleights in magic literature. The most readily available short is a Pete Smith's *Studio Visit*. I believe this was included by Warner Brothers Archive as an extra with *Cabin in the Sky*. It's worth tracking down if you like magic and gambling sleight of hand
- Technical advisor Paul Le Paul also appeared in the David Niven/Loretta Young magic-themed vehicle, *Eternally Yours* (1939), at about 62 minutes in. This charming interlude with Hugh Herbert is worth finding: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NHixMBw9V0&t=82s>
- Dai Vernon performed into his nineties. This charismatic charmer is much loved by the magic community, as well he should be. Here's a nice clip of him among several available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=De2tyFK-8WA0&t=10s>
- Finally, if you are truly desperate, you can find me discussing the Vernon/Ganson book on Leipzig here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9--fEjoVOY&t=4s> ♦





The Holy Grail of Books - Albo's Classic Magic Series

by Patrick Lusch, "Discoveries" Editor

When I started getting into the magic collecting scene several years ago at the onset of the pandemic, I quickly became familiar with a set of books that almost every collector who was worth his salt had on his shelves. Of course I refer to the famous *Classic Magic Series* by Dr. Robert Albo. For many collector's, this series of books is the holy grail of reference material for the serious vintage magic collector. This eleven volume set of books represents over thirty years of work by Dr. Albo. The books cover a massive range of material, including the history of magic, lengthy dissertations on famous apparatus builders, and descriptions of hundreds and hundreds of effects. It is truly a "gold-mine" of magical reference material. For many collectors, myself included, two major hurdles stood in the way of acquiring a set of these long sought after books: the very few number of volumes produced and the seemingly ever increasing cost to purchase them.



There are eleven volumes in the series, all bound in beautiful red cloth covers and gold leaf stamping. Volume eight was the odd-ball which was produced as a three-ring binder, intended to hold supplements. Each volume features a color section of photographs from Dr. Albo's collection. To my knowledge, the volumes have all been issued individually with the exception of volumes six through eight which were issued as a set and which included a cardboard box for all eight (at the time) volumes. It seems that Dr. Albo intended to end the series with the eighth volume, but nine through eleven were ultimately added.

Several times a year, a complete set of volumes crosses an auction block. In 2021, a complete set sold for \$3,120, or a little over \$283 per volume. Another set sold that same year for \$4,800. But in 2020, another complete set sold for \$5,040...\$458 per volume! In general, if you wish to acquire a complete set all at once, be prepared to spend a minimum of \$4,000...and this price will only increase as the years tick by.

I was not in a position to be able to afford to purchase a complete set in once fell swoop, so I set out about acquiring these treasures the hard way: one by one. It has been over twenty-four months, and I've managed to acquire eight out of the eleven elusive volumes. On average, I've paid about \$210 per volume, which is considerably less than I'd pay if I bought a complete set outright. I've found these volumes in a multitude of places...eBay, Facebook Marketplace, vintage magic dealers, and through various social media groups. If you have the patience for the "thrill of the hunt", you'll be able to assemble a working set of volumes, but it will take time. The last three volumes I am looking for are some of the toughest volumes to find. Unfortunately, Dr. Albo didn't always print the same number of books for each volume. Rather, he printed based on the number of pre-orders that came in. This means that while some volumes are plentiful (1,000 copies) some, like Volume 5 are scarce (less than 500 copies).

Unlike many collectors who purchase books as investments, I was genuinely interested in the content that Dr. Albo had assembled over the decades. Thayer and Owen Magic are two of my favorite apparatus builders from history, and the *Classic Magic Series* largely covers apparatus from these two stalwarts of magic manufacturing. Last year, I discovered that the Conjuring Arts Library (conjuringarts.org) released an incredible (dare I say unprecedented) offer. Conjuring Arts and the Albo family had agreed to offer the entire *Classic Magic Series* for sale as a PDF download. Volumes could be purchased individually, or the entire set for the cost of what an average single printed volume could be had for. I was in heaven! Over 4,074 pages of Albo's work across 18 fully searchable PDFs (including the rarely found supplements) could be devoured on my iPad at my leisure. This offer is still available today, and I encourage anyone with an interest in these books to strongly consider this option.

I have assembled the following guide to the *Classic Magic Series* from research and text found on Andy Martin's website (martinsmagic.com), MagicGizmo.com, and Byron Walker's website (byronwalkermagicbooks.com).

Volume I: The Oriental Magic of the Bambergs

Publication Year	Number of Pages	Number of Copies Printed
1973	228	1,000

One can surmise that this volume may not have been intended to be the foundation of what would become ten additional volumes. The Oriental Magic of the Bambergs bears no volume number on the spine or elsewhere in the book. Perhaps Dr. Albo was unaware just how prolific and successful of an author he would become. The book, as the title would indicate, is a biography of the Bamberg magic dynasty. It includes many pictures of the Bamberg family and of Okito. Apparatus is described in detail, including apparatus from the early 1900's in New York to the 1940's with Joe Berg and through the 1950's partnership between Okito and Don Redmon.

Volume II: Classic Magic with Apparatus

Publication Year	Number of Pages	Number of Copies Printed
1976	208	1,000

This volume is the smallest of the entire set of eleven volumes. It covers block magic, drawer boxes, mirrors, cages, and a small section with "miscellaneous" magic. Almost half of the volume is dedicated to block magic. The volume includes eleven pages of full color photographs.

Volume III: More Classic Magic with Apparatus

Publication Year	Number of Pages	Number of Copies Printed
1976	361	1,000

Published the same year as the previous volume, volume three contains apparatus used with cards, coins, nesting boxes, change bags, and a chapter called "Potpourri", which is a carry-over from block and cage magic from volume two. Additionally, Albo adds another chapter on Okito and includes a beautiful twenty-six page color section on magic posters and their history, as well as color photographs of apparatus.

Volume IV: Further Classic Magic with Apparatus

Publication Year	Number of Pages	Number of Copies Printed
1982	346	700

After a six year pause, Albo returned to the magic community with volume four. This volume opens with a special feature article on magic collecting, followed by a detailed look the Okito Show. The rest of the volume covered magic apparatus of rice and confetti, tricks with balls, bells, and eggs, and the usual miscellaneous section with more coin, card, and block magic that was left over from previous volumes. The color section of this volume was quite large, spanning over sixty pages and includes photographs of collections and individual effects.

Volume V: Still Further Classic Magic with Apparatus

Publication Year	Number of Pages	Number of Copies Printed
1985	423	550

Volume five is one of the largest volumes in the entire series. Unfortunately, it is often lacking in most collections because of the very low number of copies printed. The volume begins similar to the previous volume, with discussion on more magic collections, including black and white collection photographs. The bulk of the volume covers magic apparatus of liquid and fish, clocks and watches, candles, the usual "miscellaneous" items, spiritualistic effects (largest section), a chapter on Hofzinser, and a chapter on magician tokens and coins. The color section contains over forty pages.

Volume VI: Final Classic Magic with Apparatus

Publication Year	Number of Pages	Number of Copies Printed
1986	416	unknown

Similar in size to volume five, and often just as elusive, volume six arrived a year later. The volume contains sections on apparatus with flowers, silks and flags, lamps and radios, rings, production items, livestock, with the typical miscellaneous chapter called "Final Additions". This volume contains one of the largest color sections, at over seventy-six pages.

Volume VII: Classic Magic Index

Publication Year	Number of Pages	Number of Copies Printed
1986	423	unknown

Volume seven is interesting. It appears that Albo desired to create an index to all of the previous volumes. Despite accomplishing that goal, this volume also contains additional new material. Included in this volume are chapters on Jon Martin, parasols and canes, micro magic, illusions, and a miscellaneous chapter called "odds and ends". A thirty-two page color section round this volume out. The index, while a substantial undertaking by Albo, seems oddly misplaced in the middle of the set with additional volumes coming in the years to come.

Volume VIII: Classic Magic Supplement

Publication Year	Number of Pages	Number of Copies Printed
1986, 1989	n/a	unknown

Volume eight varies from all previous volumes in that it is essentially a binder into which future supplements could be inserted. Albo's idea was to produce specialized supplements, at a lower cost, and which buyers could insert into the binder of volume eight. Only three formal supplements were produced: "The Okito Timeline", "Forcing Books and Book Tests", and the "F.G. Thayer" supplement. Each supplement was fairly short, around twelve to twenty pages and did not include color photographs.

Albo's three-hole insert supplement idea seems to have been abandoned very quickly, as two additional supplements were produced but each individually soft-bound. A maroon supplement called "Magic Supplement" contains about 108 pages and includes information on Conradi's program and a number of color photographs. A gray colored supplement called "Classic Magic Supplement II" is 167 pages long and covers special items such as the Blue Phantom, Doc Nixon Checker Cabinet, Thayer's Flower Production, Holmes Production Clocks, and has a small eight page color section.

Additionally, a few specialized inserts were released over the years and were intended to be placed into this binder. These included pamphlets on "The Magic of Germany", "The Magic of France", "Magic Collecting", "Magic", "The Magic Collection of Robert Albo", and "Thoughts and Reminiscences on the History and Mystery of Magic".

This volume is probably the most complex and confusing volume to acquire "complete". It appears that Dr. Albo changed his mind many times at what the final complete version would look like.

Volume IX: Additional Classic Magic with Apparatus

Publication Year	Number of Pages	Number of Copies Printed
1998	320	1000

After an almost ten year hiatus, Dr. Albo returned with another volume in the series. Volume nine was published as a result of newly discovered magic that he had come across in the previous years. This volume began the "Laboratories of Legerdemain" chronicles starting with "Magic of Austria" and "Magic of Holland". The "Magic of Holland" section is practically its own book at over one hundred pages. A twenty-eight page color section rounds out this volume.

Volume X: History and Mystery of Magic

Publication Year	Number of Pages	Number of Copies Printed
2001	444	500

My personal favorite book in the entire series is volume ten, which is a hard volume to find with just five hundred copies printed. It is vastly different from all previous volumes as it deals almost entirely with the history of magic rather than apparatus. There is an apparatus section that focuses on what Albo calls "New-Old Magic", such as Brema's Rice Bowls, and the Orange and Bottle Transposition. A feature section on Micro Magic of Eddy Taytelbaum is also included. The volume includes forty-two full color pages of magic posters and fifty-seven color pages on apparatus and magic sets.

Volume XI: Laboratories of Legerdemain

Publication Year	Number of Pages	Number of Copies Printed
2005	486	300

Volume eleven would truly be the final volume in Dr. Albo's acclaimed series. Printed in the smallest run of all previous versions, it is the hardest volume to find. It's a massive volume, the largest one in the series and consists of material that was previously found in some of the volume eight supplements. Albo realized some collectors did not get all of the supplements, so by reprinting them into volume eleven, he made it easier for most collector's to obtain a complete set. To make it interesting for those who already had the 4 soft cover editions, a chapter 5 was added to include more material that was not previously published including "Thayer Revisited."

Because there were only three hundred copies printed of this volume, there can only ever be three hundred complete sets of Albo's *Classic Magic Series*.

Additional Work by Dr. Robert Albo

Dr. Albo published some additional materials that may be of interest to the serious magic collector, or to someone wishing to build a complete set of materials by him.

In 1992, Dr. Albo released a set of four VHS tapes entitled "*Oriental Magic of the Bambergs*". In this series, Dr. Albo demonstrates the Okito (Theo Bamberg) effects in his collection. Interestingly, his collection is now part of the David Copperfield museum in Las Vegas. The set included four VHS tapes and an accompanying softcover book.

Following a similar format, in 1996, Dr. Albo released another set of four VHS tapes called "*The Magic of F. G. Thayer*". In these videos, a large selection of Thayer effects were demonstrated and explained. The set also included a soft cover book which accompanied the videos. Most of these demonstrations were included, or filmed a second time, for "The Ultimate Thayer" books, described here as well.

In 2004, Dr. Albo gave his last lecture on his life in magic and magic collecting. To commemorate the occasion, he sold a soft cover book which was to be included in the Supplement volume to the *Classic Magic Series* entitled "*Thoughts and Reminiscences on the History and Mystery of Magic*".

In 2007, "*The Ultimate Okito*" was released which included a book and a set of 8 DVDs. The 178 page book covered the life of Theo Bamberg as Okito, including over 500 color photographs of apparatus and ephemera. The 8 DVDs represent over nine hours of video and explanations of Okito effects. Publication was limited to 400 copies.

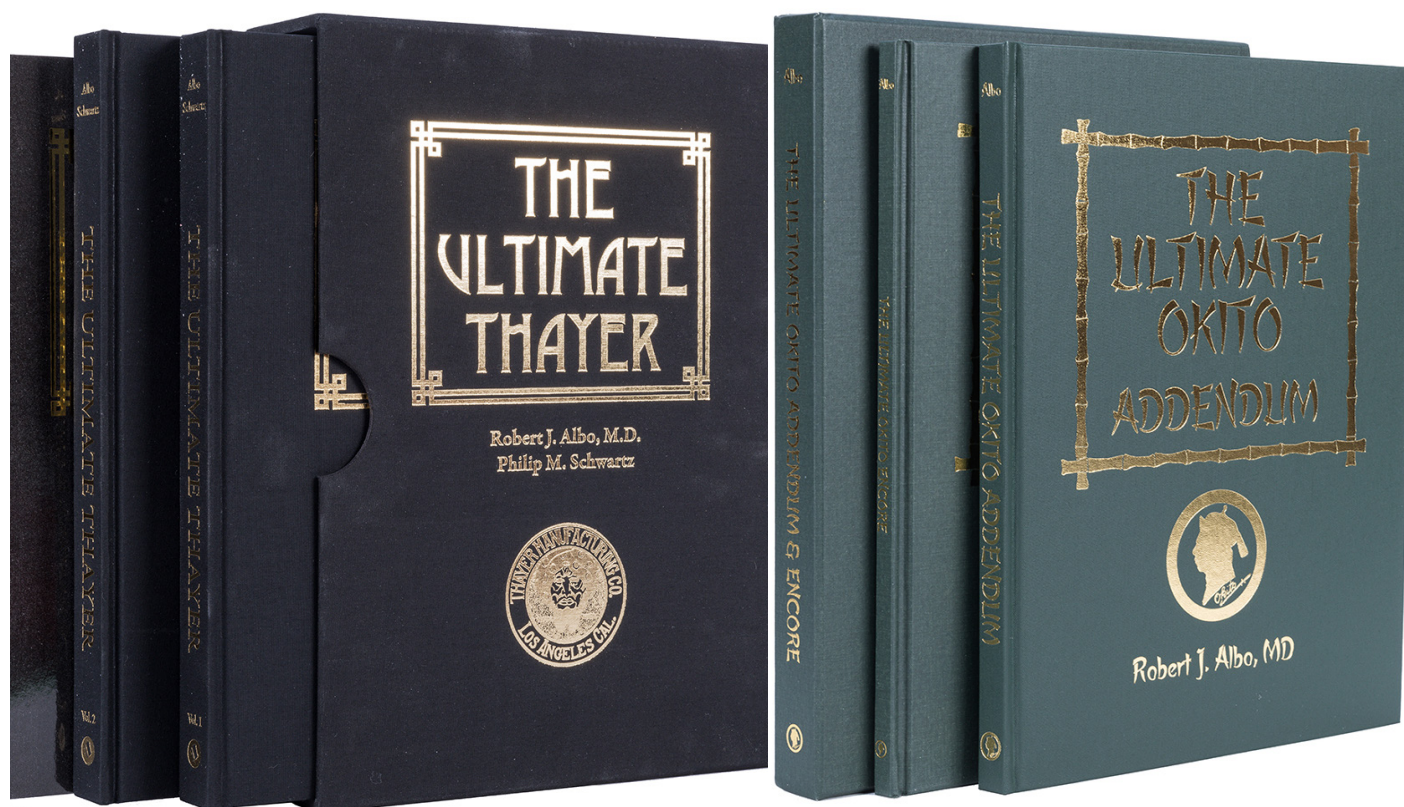
In 2008, "*The Ultimate Okito Addendum*" was released, which showcased material discovered since the printing of the first Okito volume. Dr. Albo included another DVD with an additional twenty effects performed and explained. Publication was limited to 400 copies.

In 2010, Albo released what could be considered the pièce de résistance of his life work, "*The Ultimate Thayer*". This two-volume set was co-authored with Phil Schwartz and included 10 DVDs showcasing Thayer props. Volume 1 (256 full color pages) described the life of Floyd Thayer, an Volume 2 (256 full color pages) showcases over 1,000 photos of Thayer and Owen apparatus. Printing was limited to 400 sets.

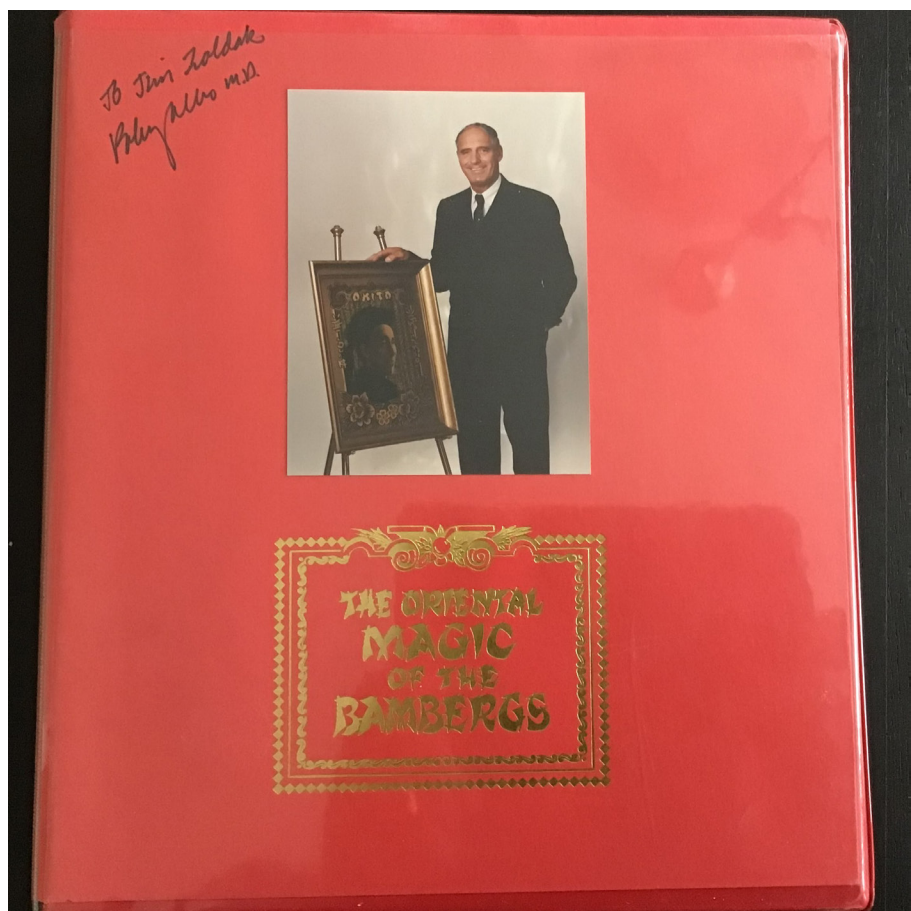
When Dr. Albo passed away in February of 2011, he had not finished his third volume in the Okito trilogy. With the help of Eric Glassy and Marge Albo (Robert's wife), "*The Ultimate Okito Encore*" was published in 2012 from notes that Dr. Albo left behind. Printing was limited to 320 copies and included a DVD of additional Okito performances. ♦



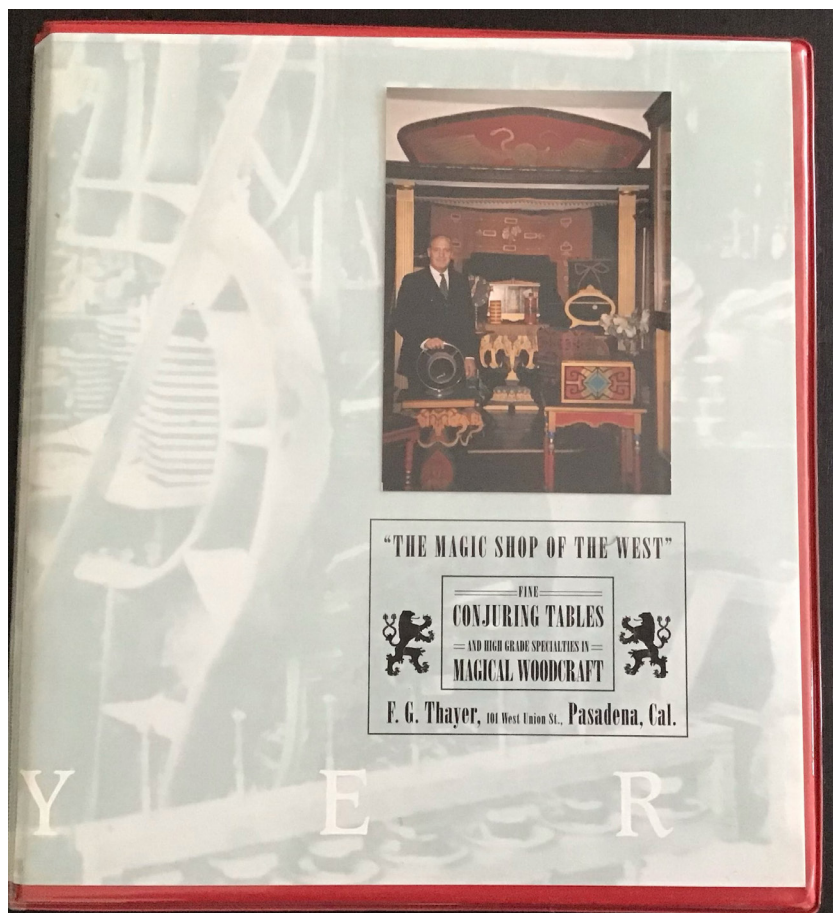
An exemplar set of Robert Albo's "Classic Magic" series, with supplement books and protective boxes. (Courtesy Potter & Potter Auctions).



"The Ultimate Thayer" and "The Ultimate Okito, Ultimate Okito Addendum, and Ultimate Okito Encore" sets. (Courtesy Potter & Potter Auctions).



Early VHS Series "The Oriental Magic of the Bambergs" (top) and "The Magic of F.G. Thayer" (bottom) by Albo. (Courtesy Jim Zoldak).



From Peddling Papers to Producing Props: Uncle Gene's Story

by Patrick Lusch, "Discoveries" Editor



Magician Gene Voshell, as performer "Uncle Gene".

New Jersey native Gene Voshell, or "Uncle Gene" as he is known during his magic show performances, is a true jack-of-all-trades when it comes to magic collecting and magic history. So much so that a more fitting name than "Uncle Gene", would be "Encyclopedia Gene". I am so grateful to have connected with Gene during the COVID-19 pandemic through David Sandy and Lance Rich's now infamous *Magic Collector's Corner* on Facebook. I've learned a ton from Gene, and thought I'd share highlights of Gene's magical journey.

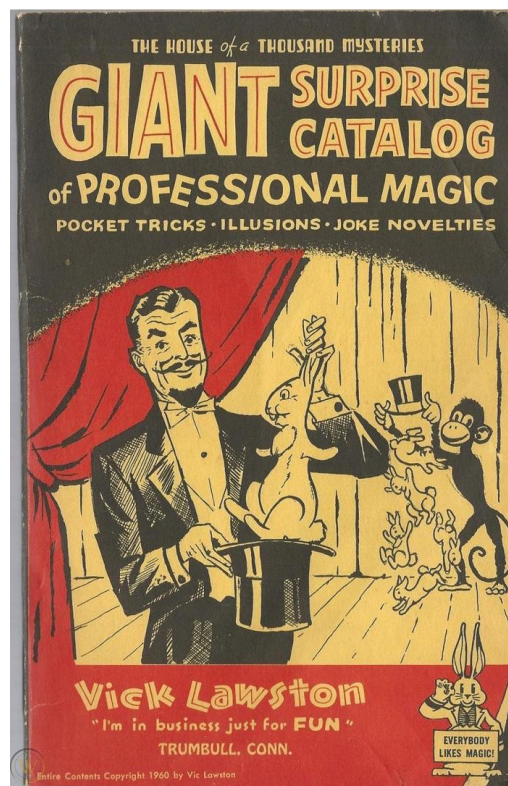
Growing up in Bellmawr, New Jersey, Gene got started in magic like most of us...at a very young age. Every Sunday night, the Ed Sullivan Show came to life on the Voshell television set. Each show featured a magician, something that caught Gene's attention. Gene recalls the most astonishing effect, despite its simplicity, was the appearing cane. He remembered that one performer, possibly Channing Pollock, turned an appearing cane into a handkerchief which then became a dove. As these miracles appeared one by one during the show, Gene's imagination began to run wild. "I'll be traveling the world!" thought Gene. In his mind, he could already hear the announcer proclaim "Right here, ladies and gentleman, from Paris, France, we have Gene Voshell!"

Do you recall your first magic trick? Most of us do. I expected nothing less from Encyclopedia Gene, who's first trick was purchased at a local farmers market. Nickels to dimes! Gene laughed when he told me that he wasn't so much interested in how the nickels turned into dimes, but rather how did the demonstrator make the four nickels disappear? Gene was about eight years old at this time, and needed to save an entire dollar to purchase the trick. Like virtually all of Gene's magic apparatus acquired over his lifetime, this first trick is still on display in his collection decades later.

Around 1964 when Gene was in Boy Scouts, he saw an advertisement for Vick Lawston company in Boys Life magazine. For fifty cents, you could send away for a catalog from this mail-order magic company. At the time, a Russ Walsh Appearing Cane sold for \$12.50, or over \$120 in 2023 dollars adjusted for inflation. A pricey sum for a small lad! The Vick Lawston company had a deal that if you purchased \$12.50 or more, your entire order would ship for free. Gene only had a few dollars saved up, so the wheels of entrepreneurship started to turn. Gene took that catalog and went door to door in his neighborhood, asking people if they wanted to buy magic. This turned out to be his way of getting a large single order to get free postage. He ended up selling to a few of his neighbors and submitted his first order.

When Gene turned twelve, his family moved to Vorhees, a small farmland town in New Jersey. He procured a paper route and began to get to know his customers and his new neighborhood. One of his customers, Mrs. Dougherty, sold Avon products, and her son Don became good friends with Gene. The boy's father smoked cigars, and Gene learned to make magic props out of the cigar boxes. This streak of creativity will become important later in Gene's life. Eventually, the boy's mother found out Gene was interested in magic, and told Gene about a local professional boy magician named Ron Kauffman (stage name Ron Chanin). Gene rode his bike all the way to Ron's house to meet him. He was amazed at all of the apparatus and professional props that Ron had. Ron worked the magic circuit and even appeared on Tony Grant's *Stars of Tomorrow*.

Ron eventually went out west to California to work in the movie industry. Sadly, he died of a heart attack a few years later at only forty-eight year young.



A Vick Lawston catalog, which fueled Gene's magical interests.



A young Gene Voshell performing in a school show with the table crafted by his father and uncle.

cane design on the front. A family friend, who worked for the highway department, obtained some glass beads used in reflective lane striping. The beads were added to the table paint and now, when the spotlight hit Gene's table, the artwork sparkled.

One day, when Gene was about twelve years old, the mailman knocked on the door while Gene was at school. He was knocking to collect \$25 for a cash-on-delivery magic trick. Bewildered, Gene's mom paid the mailman and when Gene arrived home from school, got the third-degree from his angry mom. "Why did you spend so much money on a MAGIC trick?" she cried. Gene responded simply "that's the price you have to pay for professional magic props!"

Gene would do several more talent shows before taking a hiatus from magic for a little while. Sound familiar? It seems all of us have taken a hiatus at one time or another.

The small, sleepy town of Vorhees began to grow as more people moved in. Gene's paper route started with about fifty-five customers. Then the shopping mall came and more homes along with it. Consequently, it swelled to more than one hundred fifty-eight customers at its peak. It would take Gene two nights' work to collect payment from all of his customers. He would keep up the route for four years until he got a job in the shoe department at Lit Bros. Department store. This would ultimately be his first formal training in salesmanship.

After high school, Gene was promoted to the men's department and continued working a job he began in high school as a car porter at a local night club and entertainment venue called The Hideaway in Cherry Hill. He would go on to meet famous entertainers and affluent horse owners jockeys and trainers from the race track located in the same town. One night, a patron asked Gene to hail a taxi. Gene replied "I'll do you one better, I'll drive you!". He drove the patron in the club's custom Cadillac on the twelve mile drive home with some small talk along the way. Gene, only eighteen years old at this time, pulled in to a lighted driveway in front of a mansion. Parked in front were a lot of fancy cars. Inquisitively, he asked the patron what he did for a living. The mystery patron wouldn't answer. It would be a few years later while selling real estate advertising at a newspaper, that the mansion would go up for sale and Gene would discover who the mystery patron was: Fabian Forte, the American singer and actor.

Gene would go on to work a long and successful career at the Courier Post newspaper in New Jersey. Magic was put on the back burner while he went to night school for advertising. Gene would soon marry his wife Cathy and start a family. After a two-year stint in an apartment, they bought their first house. Once they moved in, Gene began to move stuff from his mom's home....including all of his glorious magic from his youth. In 1980, "Uncle Gene" started doing magic shows again. The name came about because he knew that people always remembered their Uncles and generally had a lot of fun with them! He also became a dealer for MAK Magic as a mail order business. He then decided to upgrade his show. Rather than just sell MAK items, he began to reinvest his profit into newer MAK products that he incorporated into his show. He would end up performing about three shows a week for events such as birthday parties, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Halloween and Christmas parties. One problem he ran into was there were only a handful of magicians around and a small town audience. Sometimes, during a performance, a kid would yell out "I've seen that one before!"

Gene continued to help Ron's mother around the house, and she ended up gifting Gene with a lot of Ron's magic equipment. Most of the props he inherited were from Kanter's Magic in Philadelphia or Tannen's in New York. Gene learned he could buy things from the magic shops and have them delivered COD (Cash on Delivery for you laymen out there). This was easier than attempting to take the train into town to get to the stores. The first time Gene snuck off on the train, his parents found out and were wildly upset. Eventually, Gene acquired that \$12.50 Appearing Cane, a black Rice handkerchief with white tip for \$1.00, a jumbo rising card deck (possibly Joe Fenichel) for \$25, a card tripod from Sherm's and a card in balloon.

By the time the ninth-grade talent show rolled around, Gene was well on his way to building up a working collection of magic apparatus. One item still remained...he needed a table. At the time, a magician's nite club table was \$65, so Gene's father and his uncle built one instead. Gene's great-grandfather worked for the Victrola company and built beautiful furniture grade cabinetry for Victrola players. Scrap mahogany wood would be brought home and used for various knick-knacks around the house. The Kanter's catalog had a photo of the nite club table, and showed that the table folded up for transportation. Plans were drawn up and executed. His dad painted a top hat and

So, he divided his show up into an "A" and "B" performance to add variety.

Speaking of unruly kids, David Ginn's book *"Professional Magic for Children"*, was instrumental in getting back into magic. He noticed that kids kept creeping closer and closer to him during performances. Ginn's book suggests placing masking tape on the floor and indicating "your side" and "my side" to the young audience. Remind the rambunctious youth that the last time a kid crossed the line, he disappeared and it took hours to find him!

One Friday night, a man hired Gene to do a show for his son's birthday. Arriving to the high-rise apartment complex, he went up the elevator and knocked on the door to confirm he was in the right place. The father asked if he had some things to bring up, and Gene replied he had a few suitcases. The father sent his son, about eight year old, back down the elevator with Gene to assist him. Dressed in his full performance tuxedo, the little boy inquired to Gene, "so you have a few suitcases to bring up, how long do you think you'll be staying with us?" A moment that Art Linkletter would be proud of.

The local Knights of Columbus answered Gene's advertisement one day, and asked if Gene would perform a Christmas show for underprivileged children. Gene started what would be a thirty-five year tradition of performing for these children until the pandemic. The show would often reduce Gene to tears, who would come home and confide to his wife how sad it was to see these children who had virtually nothing to their name.

In the early 1990's, Gene was fortunate to meet William "Bill" Rauscher, prolific magician, pastor, and author. Bill hosted a local IBM Ring meeting at his church in Woodbury, New Jersey. Bill was retiring and starting to write books. He was in need of a graphics illustrator to assist with his publications and Gene, experienced with a background in newspaper layout and publication, jumped at the chance.

Bill had a vast library and an enormous collection of magiana. Gene offered his photography and graphics editing skills to Bill in return to borrow a few of his magical collectible pieces so he could examine and draft blueprints so he could build duplicates for himself. The cost of professional props was prohibitive, so Gene set out to make his own "new and improved" versions for his own show. The Milson-Worth "Chinese Flame Clock" was the first prop Gene made, using Rauscher's as a template. Gene had just put together a small wood and metal shop in his house. The next prop he made was a replica of Massey's "Strange Cabinet of Deodar". Now, when you're a young kid assembling a model airplane or car, you tend to do it in a hurry. Glue and paint all over everything. These replicas took Gene an extensive amount of time. Little by little Gene fabricated his versions to make a high quality product. Soon other props followed, including a replica of Owen Magic Supreme's "Card Spider".

Ultimately, Gene would assist Rauscher with over ten books. The first one was the SS Adams book where he got to tour the Adams factory with David Haversat. For all of Rauscher's book, Gene estimates he scanned and restored over 5,000 photos. Bill Rauscher and Gene have remained friends for over twenty-eight years.

Becoming fairly accomplished at simply building replicas of props, Gene began to study certain pieces of apparatus and think of ways they could be improved. He had met a lot of people through his book projects with Bill Rauscher, including Ray Goulet of Massachusetts and Bill King of Maryland.

Bill King's magic collection was absolutely incredible. Each room housed a (complete) collection of a specific manufacturer, complete with instructions displayed for each item.

One item he saw there was Milson-Worth's "Mephisto Dice Tube". He liked the effect, and went home and improved the design. The Voshell version, "Tut's Tunnel" was made in a limited edition of just ten pieces.

Following on the success of "Tut's Tunnel", Gene produced a remake of Thayer's "Presto Frame" in walnut, with a chromed easel stand and coupled with a Mirage deck for a fail-safe performance. The frame can be scrutinized without fear of the audience finding anything amiss. Again, these were produced in a limited run of ten pieces.

Gene teamed up with his son Blake, a trade-show designer and artist to create a modern version of Thayer's "Devil's Mailbox." The new piece uses an average #10 envelope, they were produced in a small variety of colors and designs, each taking 15 hours to construct. They are truly beautiful works of art, if you can find one for sale. It remains Gene's favorite prop because it is so deceiving. You can perform this from just a few feet away and the audience has no idea what is happening.



**Voshell's version of Mephisto's Dice Tube, known as "Tut's Tunnel".
Made in a limited run of ten units.**

Today, you can still purchase one of Gene and Blake's latest products called "The Nibbler." This fascinating device can make eight different type of gaff cuts on playing cards and currency.

COVID-19 was the beginning of regular magic performances for Gene, although he still enjoys performing for friends and family. Gene maintains an active presence on various Facebook groups devoted to collecting magic and is a major resource for solving "what is this?" and "who made this?" mysteries.

He maintains his collection of over 1,200 pieces of apparatus...from pocket tricks to parlor and stage size effects. Additionally, his curated magic library contains over 1,000 books which are used mostly for reference and research. His favorite books remain the *Classic Magic Series* by Dr. Robert Albo and the Phil Schwartz' *Ultimate Thayer* books.

Gene has one piece of advice for the magic collecting community: collect what interests you! Don't worry about what might be collectible in the future, or what is considered collectible today. Gene enjoys seeing how things work mechanically and that became the basis and passion for his collecting, although he has recently started dabbling in newer electronic magic. Although regular performances by Uncle (Encyclopedia) Gene may be hard to find these days, one thing is for sure. Gene remains an active, vibrant, and integral part of the magic collecting community. His knowledge and expertise will be relied upon for years to come. ♦



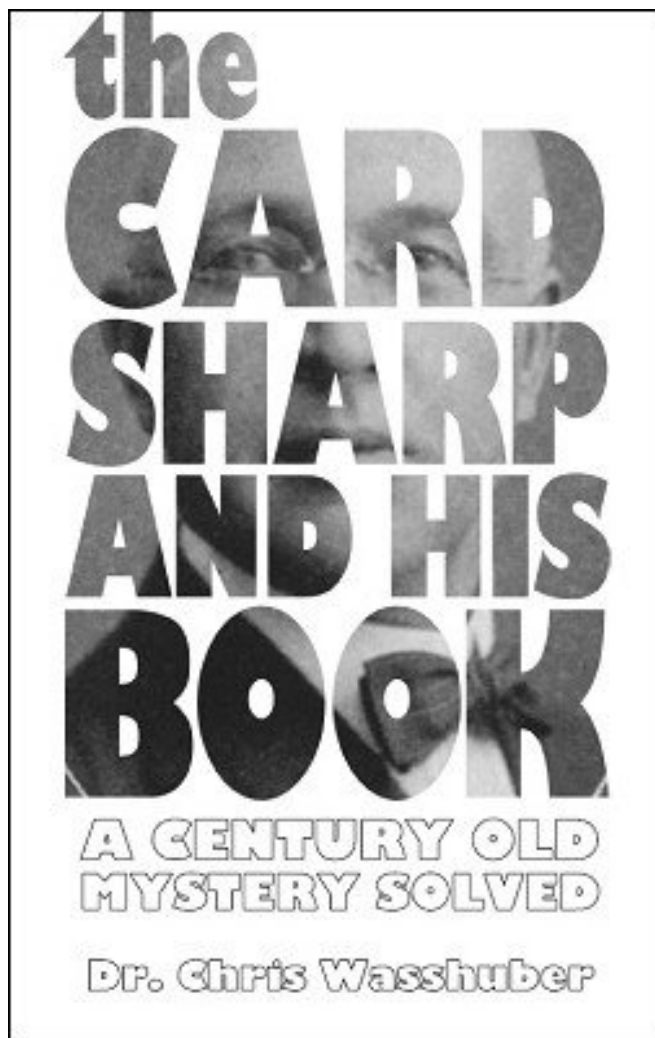
A portion of Gene's collection, an advertisement for "The Nibbler", and "Mephisto's Mailbox", a Voshell custom remake of the famous Thayer "Devil's Mailbox".



A small portion of Gene's collection of over 1,200 pieces of apparatus, many of which he built himself.

Presentation by Dr. Chris Wasshuber

Text from [lybrary.com](https://www.lybrary.com)



On March 19th, members were treated to a presentation by Dr. Chris Wasshuber who presented on his fascinating book, *The Card Sharp and His Book: A Century-Old Mystery Solved*. Most if, not all of you, are aware that *The Expert at the Card Table* by S. W. Erdnase is the "bible" for many card magicians. But who was S. W. Erdnase? Many researchers have investigated this question and now Chris believes he has finally found the truth.

The hunt to find the true identity of S. W. Erdnase, the author of *The Expert at the Card Table*, published in 1902 in Chicago, has been raging for more than a century. The book is as revered by gamblers and magicians as the Bible is by Christians.

One of the first and most active Erdnase hunters was well-known science writer, puzzle expert, and magician Martin Gardner, who erroneously thought he identified cardsharp and murderer Milton Franklin Andrews as being Erdnase. After Andrews, many other candidates were proposed, but none had a case strong enough to withstand scrutiny. None wrote like Erdnase, nor had sufficient opportunity, nor even a good motive, to write the book. Their cases were largely based on wild theories built on little evidence and held together by flawed assumptions.

Dr. Chris Wasshuber, a trained scientist, engineer and hobby magician with an interest in puzzles and hard problems, took on the challenge of trying to find Erdnase. Rather than continue to massage the same old evidence, he decided to look for new documents that would aid in the search. In a breakthrough discovery, he found the James McKinney and Jamieson-Higgins bankruptcy files from 1903. James McKinney & Co. was the printer for the self-published *The Expert at the Card Table*.

In this book Dr. Wasshuber tells the story of how the bankruptcy records were found, and how they allowed him to zero in on Edward Gallaway. Rather than focus on aspects we had no good

evidence for he centered his investigation around the book itself and the linguistic 'fingerprint' of the author. Over the course of six years, Dr. Wasshuber inspected and searched in countless newspapers, archives, and genealogical records to piece together the remarkable life story of Edward Gallaway, a learned printer and entrepreneur, who was fluent in German, who had an insatiable appetite for reading and knowledge, and who most surprisingly also had a circus career performing magic and Punch & Judy. Every new piece of evidence found about Gallaway further confirmed that he was S. W. Erdnase.

Dr. Wasshuber hired renowned forensic linguist Dr. John Olsson to conduct a detailed study of the writings of Erdnase, Gallaway, Roterberg, Hilliar, Sanders, and Wilson, which resulted in Gallaway most likely being the elusive Erdnase due to their very similar linguistic profiles. Dr. Olsson's entire report is included in this book.

The book includes all the primary evidence, and analysis on which Dr. Wasshuber bases his conclusions, except the bankruptcy records, which are available separately. A century-old mystery has been solved. Erdnase has been found. Read the fascinating story and learn everything we know about a man who made quite a name for himself in the print industry, but whose alter ego would become revered by gamblers and magicians the world over.

If you are interested in purchasing Dr. Wasshuber's book, please head over to the following link:

<https://www.lybrary.com/the-cardsharp-and-his-book-p-673843.html>

Highs & Lows - Selected Auction Results

by Patrick Lusch, "Discoveries" Editor

The following are auction results (the highest and lowest grossing lots) for selected auctions since the previous issue. All photos courtesy of the respective auction houses.

February Online Auction - QualityMagicSales.com (February 15, 2023)

Lot Number: n/a

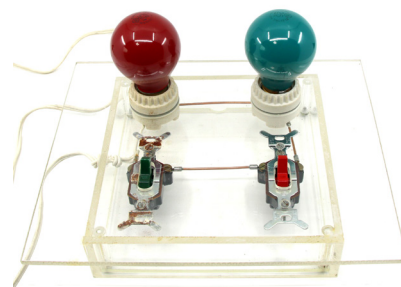
Description: Impossible by T&L Magic

Estimate: \$315 - 585

Price Realized: \$1,415

Description:

A Transparent Plastic Box containing two common light sockets and switches attached to a lamp cord is shown to Spectators and may be examined by them. Performer calls attention to the fact that the Switches and Sockets are wired in Series (much like the old fashion Christmas Tree Lights that all went out if one bulb was loose or burned out). The bare copper wiring clearly visible thru the transparent box shows this to be true. Despite this, the magician can control either bulb from either switch at his command. Created in 1968, a switchboard light effect created by T and L Magic from Detroit, Michigan.



Lot Number: n/a

Description: A Lot of (9) Supreme Magic Books

Estimate: \$205 - 380

Price Realized: \$129

Description:

This lot contains nine books from Supreme Magic Company most in new to like new condition (the Ken Brooke book has some fading due to age, but it otherwise good and clean). Includes *An Invitation to Mystery* by Tony Griffith, *Ken Brooke's Magic The Unique Years* by Ken Brooke, *Introducing Bill's Magic* by W.G. Stickland, *Baker's Brainwaves* by Roy Baker, *Master-Mental-ity* by Stanton Carlisle, *Best Sellers* by Tom Sellers, *Best of Belcher* by Len Belcher, *The Magic of Frederica* by Frederica, Lewis Ganson, and *Weston's Ways With Cards* by Mark Weston.



Auction #40 - Haversat & Ewing (February 24, 2023)

Lot Number: 66

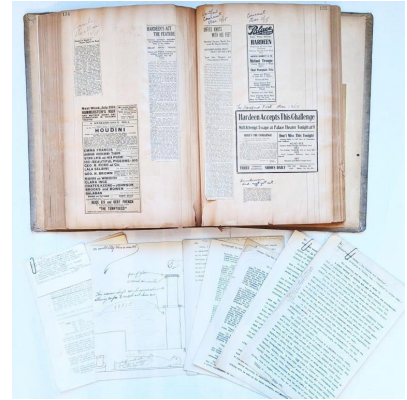
Description: Houdini Family Scrapbook & Documents

Estimate: No Estimate

Price Realized: \$8,260

Description:

Massive Scrapbook and important documents pertaining to witchcraft, spiritualism, crystal gazing, and a seven page document relating to Houdini's underwater coffin stunt with entry of Houdini's temp, pulse, respiration and the temperature of the casket for the Shelton Pool Test.



Lot Number: 100

Description: Magic Modern Magical Mysteries

Estimate: \$25+

Price Realized: \$18

Description:

Magic Modern Magical Mysteries and Magician's Cigarette Tricks. Originally published in 1933, this was a reprint released by R.J. Reynolds.



The Ricky Jay Collection - Potter & Potter Auctions (February 25, 2023)

Auction House Note: This record-setting sale from Ricky Jay's collection was superlative in nearly every respect, from the amazing antiquarian works crossing the block to the curious characters advertised on a host of bombastic broadsides. At the end of a day of exceptionally spirited bidding, an astonishing 99.1% of all lots sold, bringing in just under one million dollars in sales, 33% above the pre-auction high estimate!

Lot Number: 185

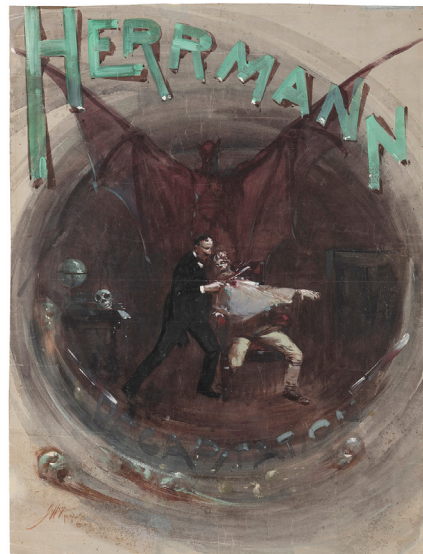
Description: Alexander Herrmann, Decapitation Poster Maquette

Estimate: \$20,000 - 40,000

Price Realized: \$38,400

Description:

The Jeffrey Printing Co., ca. 1878. Hand painted poster maquette presenting a dark and menacing scene. Herrmann stands beside a horrified man with a large knife (or possibly razor) in his hand. The man's eyes bulge as the magician draws the steel across the hapless victim's neck, and blood visibly flows. A giant winged demon surveys the scene from behind the conjurer and his victim, with red wings outstretched above the grisly tableaux. At the right appears a glass-fronted cabinet, and at the left, a table laden with a globe, skull, and other accoutrements. Two disembodied heads float below the caption at the bottom of the image. 27 3/4 x 20 7/8".



Lot Number: 144

Description: Fat Lady, A Good Piece

Estimate: \$200 - 600

Price Realized: \$218

Description:

London: Published by W. Holland, October 23, 1801. Print depicts a corpulent woman standing in the foreground of a scene at a London fair; in the background a crowd is gathered around a booth advertising a Punch & Judy show and exhibit of "a fine collection of wild beasts." 10 3/4 x 9 1/2". Two tiny stains, one closed tear. Matted. ♦



Puzzling Props

by Patrick Lusch, "Discoveries" Editor

Can you identify the magic prop in the photo below with just a few jigsaw puzzle pieces? We'll give you a few 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!

Last Issue's Puzzle: "Tea Canister Mystery" by Okito (Theo Bamberg)

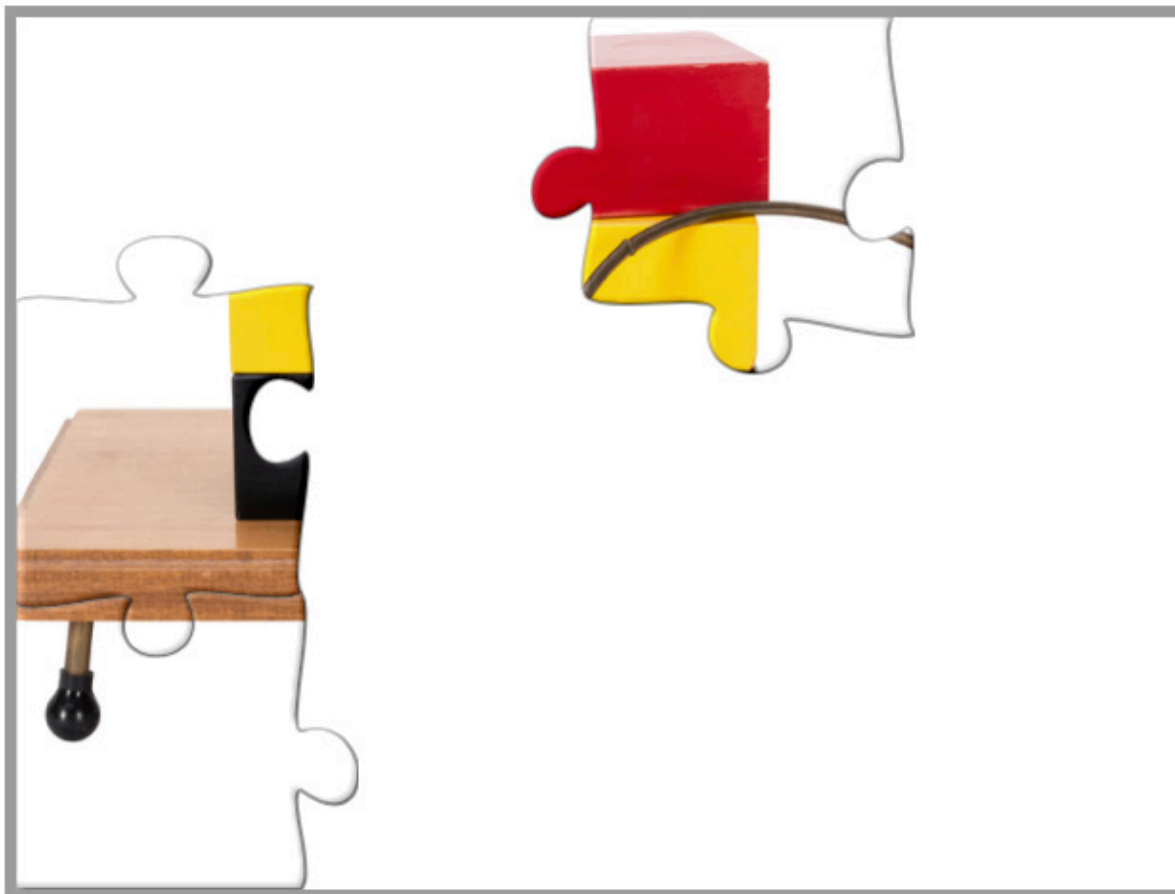
Winner: David Brisbois

Photo courtesy of Potter & Potter Auctions.

ca. 1948. An orange canister magically transposes from underneath one green cylinder to another, then a small bowl of water on a wooden pedestal appears under the first cylinder. ♦



This Issue's Puzzle



Online Collecting Resources

For additions, removals, and corrections, please email newsletter@nemca.com.

Online Research / Periodicals	
Conjuring Arts / Ask Alexander	www.askalexander.org
Magicana	www.magicana.org
Magicpedia	geniimagazine.com/wiki/index.php
Magic Knowledge Base	www.lybrary.com
Ye Olde Magic Mag	yeoldemagicmag.com
Online Magic Collecting Communities	
Abbott's Magic Collectors	facebook.com/groups/791854717936718
Fans of Thayer & Owen Magic Supreme	facebook.com/groups/owenmagicfans/
Fans of Milson Worth	facebook.com/groups/592662305901319/
MBA (Magic Books Anonymous)	facebook.com/groups/321189766372397
Magic Collectors Corner	facebook.com/groups/magiccollectorscorner
Thayer Magic History & Collecting Community	thayermagic.ning.com
Auctions & Retail Sales	
Don's Magic & Books	donsmagicandbooks.com
Hard To Find Magic	hardtofindmagic.com
Haversat & Ewing Galleries	haversatewing.com
Hocus Pocus	hocus-pocus.com
KTMagic Auction	ktmagicauction.com
Magic Collectibles	magiccollectibles.com
Potter & Potter Auctions	potterauctions.com
Quality Magic Sales	qualitymagicsales.com
Quicker Than The Eye	quickerthantheeye.com
Sterlini's Magical Mayhem	facebook.com/sterlinismagicalmayhem
Steve Myers Magic	stevemyersmagic.com
Steven's Magic	stevensmagic.com
Viking Magic	vikingmagic.com

Upcoming Events

For additions, removals, and corrections, please email newsletter@nemca.com.

March 2023

Houdini Festival of Magic, Danville, VA (facebook.com/events/467735704850928/)..... March 23 - 26

April 2023

Michigan Magic Day, Marshall, MI (<https://www.eventcreate.com/e/michigan-magic-day>) April 1

May 2023

Magic Collector's Expo, Cleveland, OH (www.magiccollectorexpo.com) May 9 - 11

AbraCORNdabra Convention, Des Moines, IA (<http://abracorndabra.com/>) May 19 - 21

June 2023

Central Illinois Magic Get-Together, Springfield, IL (ring239.com/general-6) June 3

Tannen's Magic Camp, Philadelphia, PA (www.tannensmagiccamp.com/about-magic-camp) June 24 - July 1

July 2023

IBM Convention, Pittsburg, PA (<https://ibmconvention.com/>) July 12 - 15

SAM Convention, New Orleans, LA (<https://www.samconvention.com/>) July 23 - 25

August 2023

Abbott's Magic Get-Together, Colon, MI (<https://www.magicgettogether.com/>) August 2 - 5

Magic Live! Las Vegas, NV (<https://www.magicconvention.com/>) August 6 - 9

European Magic History Conference, Ghent, Belgium (emhc2023.com) August 24 - 27

