

The Northwest Ring of Fire

Volume 4, Issue 1

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Words from the Secretary

Craig Colombel

January 2015 – accolombel@zipcon.com

A new year, time to start something new. Make a resolution to perform more magic, come to more club meetings, or write for the newsletter. We are looking for writers for the newsletter. Anything on your thoughts on magic, any performances you are doing, or conventions you have been to. See yourself in print. Send the articles to accolombel@zipcon.com.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Elections
- 1 Secretary's Message
- 2 December Meeting
- 3 Ring Of Smoke
- 3 Calendar of Events
- 4 Review by Payne
- 5 Magic Happening and others
- 6 Notes by Ralph Huntzinger
- 7 Notes to Self by Phil Reda

Meeting Place

We will be meeting at the Lynnwood fire house for the last time. They can no longer accomodate us and we have to find a new place to meet. If you know of a cheep(free) place for the club to meet contact your secretary at accolombel@zipcon.com.

DUES

It is now dues time, they are \$25/ year. Pay your dues to the treasure at the meeting or send them to your secretary

Craig Colombel

509 So 165 th

Burien, WA 98148

Paying your dues and becoming a member helps the club bring lectures for the members.

Annual Dinner

Another reason to pay your dues. The Annual dinner will be on January 18th at Shawn

O'Donnell's Restaurant

122 128th St. SE, Everett, WA

It is free for members and you have to be a member to come with one guest.

December 2014 MEETING

“Tell me a story” night – Spin a yarn to go along with your magic.

Ralph Huntzinger started with a rope routine and a story about a shepherd with two sheep and to control the sheep, the shepherd, using one rope tied the sheep together with loops around their necks. As the shepherd sold one sheep then the other he ended up with a rope with many knots in it. As he realize no one would by a rope with knots in it the shepherd asked Zinger the Magick for help. Zinger told the shepherd to think of good things and magically remove the knots and restored the rope.

Craig Colombel talked about the renaissance and the Borgias and how the most favorite way to remove enemies was to posion them. He then had three volunteers come up and pick from 4 wine glasses, leaving the fourth for the magician. All found a paper in their glass and the volunteers had the picture of the skull and crossbones and the magician had the happy face. This was from the routine “Dinner with the Borgias” from David Parr’s book Brain Food.

Steve Tichi performed a trick he did at Thanksgiving dinner of turning water to wine.

Devin Graupmann told a story about a longshoreman and using 3 pieces of cloth from an empty bag 3 clear boxes with flowers in them. He later in the story produced 3 appearing canes.

Jeff Dial talked about the question How do you do it? He produced a piece of cloth that was cut into a ring, tears the cloth and produces two separate rings, Tears another and produce two rings linked together one more time a produces a Mobius strip.

Payne was back from a convention in England and showed us a trick he bought from Wayne Dobson. Using a red back deck a prediction card is picked and folded and placed into a clear box. A volunteer picks a card from a blue back deck, it is signed and lost in the deck. When the magician tries to find the card it is shown that the card has disappeared from the deck. The card is reproduced and is missing the signature and the card in the box now has the signature and matches the chosen card.

We then had the drawing for some prizes.

Come to a meeting and show off your magic.

Remember, to visit the club's website, <http://www.nwringoffire.com/index.html>

And also visit the clubs Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Northwest-Ring-of-Fire/429616737105973>

Ring of Smoke Report

The December Ring of Smoke meeting was held at Ben's house and was a well-attended event. Ralph and James (Theo's dad), helped facilitate a wide variety of performance ideas and magic tricks. Ben, Otto, Theo, John and Mac worked on red and black card tricks and levitation tricks. They all taught each other great card and coin magic while feasting on hot dogs and other snacks. All in all, a great time was had by all!

Ben and Marty

For those at the meeting Linae took Photos and posted them on her Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/lgraupmann>

Thanks Linae

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**NWRF – 2015 Meeting Themes**

January 8 – Firsts – Perform the first trick you learned, bought, or knocked ‘em dead with –or- perform a trick for the first time!

February 12 – Card Magic

March 12 – Unfinished Magic – bring in effects you haven’t finished yet, or that aren’t turning out like you want, and let’s workshop them! Maybe breathe new life into them!

April 9 – Apparatus, Props and Gaffs

May 14 – Go force and conquer – Force a card, number, color, word, etc.

June 11 – Coin Magic

July 9 – Magic with Rope, String, Cord or Ribbon

August 13 – Magic with Silks (or any sort of handkerchief)

September 10 – Impromptu Magic

October 8 – Magic with Paper – Newspaper, slips of paper, note cards, stationery, origami paper – any sort of Paper!

November 12 – On the Ball – Magic with any kind of Ball - Baseballs, Tennis balls, Billiard balls, rubber balls, cork balls, Sponge balls, Marbles

December 10 – Finished Magic – Bring in Magic that you’ve been working on that’s finished. –maybe the “unfinished” Magic from March’s meeting!

Make sure to check the website for upcoming events and lectures.

[HTTP://WWW.NWRINGOFFIRE.COM/INDEX.HTML](http://www.nwringoffire.com/index.html)

FACEBOOK :

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PAGES/NORTHWEST-RING-OF-FIRE/429616737105973](https://www.facebook.com/pages/NORTHWEST-RING-OF-FIRE/429616737105973)

Performing Magic on the Western Stage – From the Eighteenth Century to the Present

Edited By Francesca Coppa, Lawrence Hass, and James Peck

Forward by Eugene Burger

\$84.95

Palgrave Macmillan

<http://us.macmillan.com/performingmagiconthewesternstage>

Hardbound 5 ½" X 8 ¼" 256 pages

ISBN: 978-0-230-60788-0

Reviewed by Payne

Performing Magic on the Western Stage – From the Eighteenth Century to the Present is not only an innovative interdisciplinary study of performance magic, but also an experiment in collaborative teaching and learning. The goal of the text is to:

Investigate the emergent field of performance studies from a cross-disciplinary perspective: to find ways to incorporate performance studies methodologies into our own research and teaching; to seek out and converse with other people at Muhlenberg interested in exploring performance studies ideas within the context of their field.

Or at least that's what it says in the introduction.

As you may have already surmised *Performing Magic on the Western Stage* is not a book devoted to teaching fellow magi new tricks and routines to add to their ever expanding arsenal of astonishment. Instead it is a decology of scholarly essays, written by academics for academics.

Of the ten contributors only two -- Lawrence Hass and Robert Neale -- are active practitioners of performance magic. The other eight are a diverse group of Anthropologists, Film and Theatre Historians, Dancers, Performance Artists and Teachers of Religious Studies. Needless to say this eclectic assembly of educators has a rather unique outlook on the art of magic and the role of the modern magician in our society. We are seldom given the opportunity to view the world of magic through the eyes of others. So a book of essays written about magic and magicians by those outside our purported art is a unique opportunity for us to see ourselves as others do. It is definitely an interesting experience to see how practitioners of other theatrical and literary disciplines adeptly dissect our craft as they scrutinize it through the sagacious lenses of academia.

The essays, each around twenty pages in length, run the gamut from *The Family Romance of Modern magic: Contesting Robert-Houdin's Cultural Legacy in Contemporary France* – a paper examining the hagiolatrous attention given to Robert-Houdin and remonstrating his stature as the “Father of Modern Magic” -- to *Intersecting Illusions: Performing Magic, Disability and Gender* – a dissertation on how two magicians with physical limitations use deception to create events that alter commonly held perceptions of disability.

For many this book will be a challenging read as it is erudite in scope dry in tone and the conclusions drawn by many of the authors will raise a metaphoric eyebrow of those who have actually performed theatrical magic in front of a real world audience.

As easy as it would be to simply discount the content of this text, written as it is for the collegiate crowd, there is still much here that would appeal to the scholarly magician. For instance students of early film history and those concerned with the recent rise of the exposure of magic secrets in the popular media will find *Matthew Solomon's* essay “Magicians and the Magic of Hollywood Cinema during the 1920s” of great interest. After reading “The Body Immaterial” Magicians’ Assistants and the Performance of Labor” you may very well question authors *Francesca Coppa's* conclusion that *Selbit's* sawing illusion “was an exemplar of tensions surrounding woman’s postwar suffrage”. However you’ll find her insightful observations of the concepts and meanings behind Penn and Tellers’ performances to be quite enlightening.

One is tempted to write a review of Swissian proportions about this book. Pages and pages could be (and I am sure will be) written about many of the observations and conclusions made in this slim little text. But for me to do so here would be, I fear, a waste of resources. At \$85.00 it is doubtful that more than a scant handful of you reading this review will actually purchase, let alone read this book as it has little value or insight to offer the average magician.

So in conclusion I have shown that this book is a collection of eclectic essays about magic and magicians written in a rather pedantic style by and for those scholars who live in the publish or perish world of academia. Those of us who no longer reside in the Ivory Halls of Higher Education may find some of the writings of interest but will no doubt question many the conclusions made by the authors and feel that the most they had hoped to accomplish in their writing was for it to be cited as a footnote in a future paper on the hitherto unknown and esoteric meaning of the magicians craft.

Magic Shops in the Area

Below is a list of the Magic shops in the Area. None have paid for this listing and if anybody knows of others let me know and I will list them.

Seattle's Market Magic Shop

Pikes Place Market
1501 Pike Place #427
Seattle, WA 98101

www.marketmagicshop.com

(A store that many know about. In existence for 30 years)

Terjung's Studio of Gifts

4547 Calif. Ave SW
Seattle, WA 98116

(This is a gift store with a counter in the back were they sell magic)

Lakewood Costumes

5932 Lake Grove ST SW
Lakewood, WA 98499

<http://www.clownshop.com>

(Mainly Costumes and Clown items, they have a counter where they sell magic)

Dave's Killer Magic Shop

910 NE Minnehaha St. Ste 1
Vancouver, WA 98665

1-888-360-6244

Brian Cook's

WWW.MAGICCRAFTER.COM

Seattle Juggling and Magic Shop

9460 Rainier Ave South,
Seattle, WA 98118
206-859-8363

<http://SeattleJuggling.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/SeattleMagicShop>

Magical happenings

Magic Monday! Magic Monday is an hour of magic, conjuring, & prestidigitation which stars magicians from the Northwest region on the second Monday of each month. Location: Ravenna Third Place Books in the Ravenna neighborhood of Seattle. 6504 20th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. Time: 7-8pm Magic Monday is not only a great place to see local magicians doing what they do best; it is also a great place for YOU to perform. It happens the second Monday of each month. If you want to hone your magic skills, get in touch with Mark Paulson, the producer of this venue (mark2061@yahoo.com). It is a wonderful chance to perform for an appreciative audience. It's been standing room only all year.

If you wish to perform contact Mark at:

mark2061@yahoo.com or on Facebook at

<http://www.facebook.com/thirdplacebooksmagicmonday?fref=ts>

Illusion Factory (Seattle's Best Magicians)

Delancey's on 3rd 810 S 3rd St Renton, WA

1st Saturdays of the month. Doors open at 7:45pm

Food,Drinks Close-up Magic 8-9 pm

Emcee Tim Flynn

Stage Show 9pm. \$10/\$15

Call Seattle Juggling and Magic shop

206-859-8363

Notes by Ralph Huntzinger.

This is the start of a series of short articles by Ralph covering the theme of each months meeting. Others are welcome to contribute to this pages.

Firsts

I was chatting with Jeff McBride on TV about first or influential books and mentors, mentioned Henry Hays and Jeff immediately said, "Amateur Magician's Handbook". I countered with, "Learn Magic, his first book "and Jeff seemed puzzled. We were both wrong, Jane Burrows Mussey's first magic book was simply "Magic (1942)" followed with three books under the Hay's pen name: "Learn Magic (1947)" then "Cyclopedia of Magic (1949)" and finally the influential classic "AMHB (1950). AMHB has gone through revisions and update, is out of print, but can be found used; it belongs in your library. Lybrary.com has it in pdf and also a wonderful ebook by Mussey's widow, "A Magical Upbringing" — Linking Ring has an article about Mussey in 1971 and in April 2000, Genii Forum had it as Book of Month in '02, and Magic Cafe has several conversations about both the book and Mussey (I enjoy best the "there was nothing amateur in AMHB".) However, I remain with Pete Biro, "First real magic book was Learn Magic"

Ralph Huntzinger

Notes to Self
By Phil Reda

Happy New Year - where did the time go. My last article I reviewed Strange Secrets Vol 1. I was going to review the other two volumes but I have not read them yet. I have skimmed the third Volume called the "Strange Secrets Addendum". From my initial scan I would not recommend it unless you want to complete the collection of "Mr Albright's writings. The "Addendum" contains just two publications most of which is a long treaties on Character Reading which is probably out of date by now. The second publication is a Q&A manuscript by Mr. Albright called "Astrologica"- A Q&A system built around an astrological theme. As I mentioned in my previous article I have become a big fan of Mr. Albright. Though I am not looking for a Q&A there is some interesting ideas in this manuscript - so for \$4 I still found it of value. I might one day read the Character profiles - it just might surprise me. As they say the more things change the more they remain the same.

Also I want to share with you a website I just discovered "Q&A Believe in magic". This upstart is providing YouTube Q&A with some of the top performers. Below are links for videos available. Each video is over 2 hours and provides excellent content - the best part is it's FREE! Here are 7 links to get you started. There are more and you will find them as you watch these. These are Video chats - the video quality is ok.

1. Kenton Knepper: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=9xNQjOEyXUM>
2. Peter Turner: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ozZ8L-jvHg4>
3. Bill Montana: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ht-ewwL14ps>
4. Stuart Palm: https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=8-PmfZGF_iU
5. Morgan Strebler. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=gm4sbv-ihEs>
And. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=x5hVRnLeGZI>
6. Banachek: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=HxT5mwqqsg>

Also it is that time of year to set your goals and review last year's goals. I missed most of my goals in 2013 so I need to refine and not be so aggressive. Here is my list:

1. Will not purchase any new magic, books, DVD's. - I have enough to last a life time.
2. Learn the Hundred Dollar Bill Switch
3. Learn to use Nail Writer
4. Learn a good center tear
5. Study and work on presentation and performing

That should keep me busy.

I hope you and your family have a wonderful and magical New Year

Phil