

STUNSAW

Newsletter of the Society of Irish Magicians

DECEMBER 2009

✚ CHUCK HICKOK
LECTURE A
SOLID
SUCCESS.

✚ SIM'S 70TH
ANNIVERSARY..

✚ IMPORTANT
CHANGES IN
NEWSLETTER
DISTRIBUTION

CHUCK HICKOK LECTURE

CHUCK HICKOK is a large and genial gentleman. He is not your stereo typical magician/mentalists. By that I mean he does not convey automatically an air of mystery. But that is not to say he is not one of the best.

Chuck is a meticulous performer who is generous to a fault when it comes to sharing his knowledge and experience. Take for instance his notes. They are well organized, thought through and FREE!

Distributed to all who attended they would enrich any performer who would take them to heart, read, mark and inwardly digest.

On the night of the first Tuesday in November CHUCK took a full house through his corporate

mentalism act, an act which has taken him for years through a packed date book of highly paid gigs. Each item was painstakingly performed, then explained with all those nuances that can only come from years of performance.



We got **Einstein's Demise**, a clever Magic Square presentation with an emotional backstory and – the kicker to end all kickers – the secret ostensibly given away on a free sheet afterwards. Of course, the revealed method involves complicated, ‘though genuine mathematics, while the performance uses an ultra-swift piece of super human calculation, thus making the performer seem possessed of super powers. **Triple influence** is a three part prediction mixing methodology and approaches to give a triple whammy effect.

His **BOOKS GALORE** is a multi-phase Book Test, not unlike the multiple card location so much in vogue a few years back. Up to nine books are handed out, and “freely” chosen words in each

are rapidly divined and revealed. Like many of his routines they consist of a number of effects, each building on the last. It is a great technique and makes for some amazing and hard hitting demonstrations.

Chuck's two books ***MENTALISM INCORPORATED VOLUMES 1 and 2.*** have become classics in their own right for a considerable time. Your editor bought them on publication many years ago, and was taken aback at the special offer to members on the night of both volumes for about half price! Surely the bargain of the year.

Once again the Society brought another first class lecture to its members. In this writer's humble opinion the two so far – Tony Griffith and Chuck Hickok – have more than covered the year's subscription. And we're only **THREE MONTHS** into the new season. Add to that the upcoming double header of John Archer's lecture and his prize winning cabaret act, free to all on December 4 as part of the Society's 70th Birthday celebration, and you have a rich haul to suit all tastes. Well done, those Council chappies!

And those of you who haven't done so, isn't it about time you turned over the measly sum of €80 to Joe Fortune?

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WE ARE DELIGHTED TO INTRODUCE TO OUR READERS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF OCCASIONAL PIECES BY ERIC AND MURIEL SHARP.

TO THOSE WHO KNOW THEM NO INTRODUCTION IS NECESSARY. SO LET THEM SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

**A MAGICAL
MELANGE**

***By Eric and Muriel
Sharpe***

We used to contribute to **SIM SALA BIM** at the turn of the century – the present one that is!

Reading through them recently, we felt that it might be of interest to readers if we brought things up to date sort of thing.

2000 was the year we retired, my being 79 and a full time pro for over sixty years. We were performing in a large room, a very hot day, all the women smoking, I am doing Punch and Judy and looking up at the ceiling whilst doing so. All I

could see other than cobwebs was blue cigarette smoke. I am perspiring like mad and suddenly think: 'what the hell! We don't need to do this any more.'

Immediately after the show I told my wife and able assistant, Muriel, to cancel all the bookings. We don't need to do this any more.

Next day, we sold the rabbit and all our tricks within a week. We simply rang various people and they came to collect; even those living a hundred miles away or more, such as Newcastle. Selling the rabbit first was essential, We knew that once the rabbit was gone we would not perform any more.

Magicians constantly ask: but you must have some tricks left? But as your past president and our good friend Quentin Reynolds will tell you we haven't one trick left. Of course those purchasing knew that our tricks were different to others. They had been originally published in our books. Lest this be considered as blatant advertising, it's not: alas there are none left.

Because work is not so readily available owing to the general recession, this year the Portsmouth Magic Jumbo Sales and Exchange which we visited recently was swamped with sellers, more so than buyers. Sellers lacked initiative. In our opinion halfway through the morning, with things not selling, sellers should have rearranged their prices and props, or lumped several together for a bargain price. We watched when they packed up their stalls, very little appeared to have been sold, and people walking around with packed carrier bags were non-existent.

Most appeared to be trying to sell tricks which they had not a clue how to perform or to develop a routine to go with it. Obviously, stored in the cupboard for years and never used,

As some of you know who have visited us, next to our bungalow we built a double story house just to hold our equipment. At sixty five we sold all spare props.

At seventy nine we sold the rest. We ended up

with a house valued at fifty thousand to sell. Why do I mention this?

We know several magicians in the past who have bought on impulse, then had their tricks stored in cold damp wooden garages or sheds. The result? Most, if not all were unfit for use when they retired, as they were so effected by damp they had little or nothing left to sell when they passed on or retired. Even the garages were rotten.

The lesson here is *plan for the future*, not the present. When going round the dealers make a list of props you are interested in and by the time you come to make purchases your list of twenty tricks will be whittled down just two or three.

Looking back at the Portsmouth Jumbo Sale and Exchange, it was quite obvious to all that because of the recession there was a lot of rubbish being offered for sale that should never have been bought in the first place.

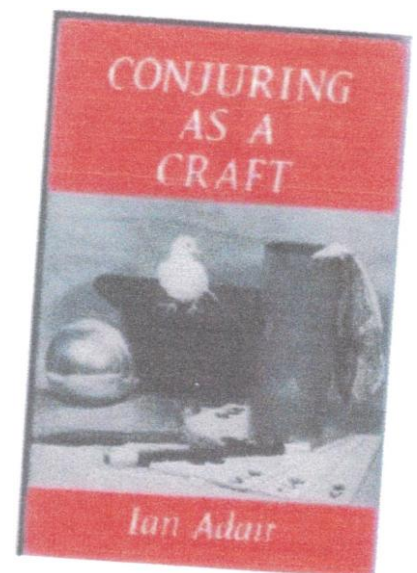
Of course none of the above applies to you: does it?

Next time we'll talk about living magic even when you retire at no expense to your self.

THE MAGICAL BOOKWORM

More musings from Michael Thurston.

This is the book that started it all for me. I couldn't sleep during the months when my wife was seriously ill and with two young boys sleeping in the house I couldn't make noise either. I started borrowing books from the public library and one day I spotted a slim volume with the title: *Conjuring as a Craft* by Ian Adair.



This is not a book for the card enthusiast, but it is a very good introduction to general magic. However one

card trick in it caught my fancy - Television Aces. I gathered what spare cardboard I could find and made the required prop. I covered it in wood effect contact paper. IT WORKED ! I was on my way. (Today I am in the process of remaking that prop in a stronger material.) Quietly playing around with magic during the remaining months was to help preserve my sanity.

Ian Adair was a prolific magic writer closely associated with Edwin (to whom this book is dedicated) and his Supreme Magic Company. Many years later I had the pleasure of speaking with him on the Supreme stand at a British Ring Convention. I told him how his book was responsible for my being in magic. He was pleased, although I was only one of many.

A few years ago I was at a car boot sale and saw a copy of *Conjuring as a Craft* for sale, so I bought it. Imagine my surprise when I started reading it that night and found the imprint of the public library service on the fly page. I have every reason to believe that this is the exact same copy I had borrowed all those years ago.

From close up to stage illusions to mentalism this book covers a very wide spectrum of magic. I owe much to it and I suspect that you won't be sorry to read it either. Thank you Ian Adair.

Editor's note: copies of Ian Adair's book are currently fetching in the region of \$60 at rare book sellers. So there is money in old magic books!



NEXT MEETING

S.I. M's 75th birthday party

TUESDAY 4TH DECEMBER

7.00 pm sharp

JOHN ARCHER LECTURE

MEMBERS and BONEFIDE MAGICIANS ONLY.

Followed at 8. 30 PM

By JOHN ARCHER'S AMAZING CABARET ACT.

ADMISSION FREE FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS TO CABARET AND PARTY

**CASSIDY'S HOTEL,
CAVENDISH ROW, UPPER
O'CONNELL ST. DUBLIN 1**

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE FUTURE DISTRIBUTION OF SIM SALA BIM.

IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE COSTS, FUTURE ISSUES OF SIM SALA BIM, THE SOCIETY'S NEWSLETTER WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE BY EITHER EMAIL OR BY ACCESS TO THE SOCIETY'S WEB SITE: www.theocietyofirishmagicians.com

A TWICE YEARLY MAILING WILL KEEP MEMBERS INFORMED OF THE UPCOMING EVENTS.

IF YOU HAVE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS AND

CURRENTLY RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER AS A PRINTED COPY BY POST, PLEASE SEND YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS TO jodon@iol.ie WHEN YOU WILL BE ADDED TO THE LIST.

WE REGRET THIS CHANGE AND ARE AWARE THAT SOME MEMBERS MAY NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER OR TO EMAIL. A LIMITED NUMBER OF PRINTED COPIES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS ON OUR SOCIETY MEETING NIGHT.



Society of Irish Magicians Programme of Events 2009.

December: S.I.M 70th Birthday Party. Lecture by John Archer (magicians only). Followed by an open night and show featuring John Archer.

January 2010 : Lecture by David Penn.

February 2010: Auction.

March 2010: The Blackpool Appraisal

April 2010: Workshop



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