

STMSAIBIM

Newsletter of the Society
of Irish Magicians

APRIL 2007

✚ BLACKPOOL
REGRETS

✚ GEMINI
REVEALS ALL!

✚ EUGENE
LAMBERT

✚ A FORGOTTEN
MASTERPIECE?

A MORATORIUM ON BITCHING?

A year ago, I went on a rant about the annual **BLACKPOOL REGRETS** night, which had for long been the bane of my existence. Reporting on it, I wrote something on the lines of:

Our March meeting was well attended by as pernicious a bunch of magi as ever conjured rancour from the ambient air.

And the occasion for this surgical evisceration? The report on the Blackpool convention. Yes, who would have thought it? An international convention that pulls in over 3000 of fellow enthusiasts must have something for everybody, you would have thought. But no – it did seem that what was on offer had little to tickle the

jaded palates of those who reported on it.

So it was with drooping spirits and fearing the worst that I joined the throng who arrived at this years meeting. And it is with soaring spirits that I am happy to report that what we got and heard was funny, relevant and painted in broad strokes a telling picture of what was described elsewhere as the best Convention ever.

Those who attended including **BRENDAN BYRNE, PAT FALLON** and **JOE FORTUNE** acted like a tag-team with stories, reports and incisive analysis ricocheting off one another as one item after another sparked a Roman Candle of recollection and reflection.

Now, that's more like it. Well done everybody!

And there was magic too – in abundance. **Pat Fallon** showing a version of the **HOLE CARD** with side-bar acknowledgements to Tony Griffiths

We heard of **Wayne Dobson's** lecture which given the circumstances of Wayne's illness was highly emotional and poignant.

And talking of illness, **RONDO**, one of the visiting Mystics at the Convention suffered a heart attack from which he is still recovering. We send him our warmest regards and best wishes for a swift recovery.

NEVILLE WILTSHIRE brought along another of his 'lucky bags'. The contents of this particular bag fitted in nicely with a report of Banachek's lecture at Blackpool which failed to stir the excitement of most that saw it. The connection was that Neville had taken two effects constructed from Tony Corinda's **13 STEPS TO MENTALISM**. The first was Corinda's OUIJA BOARD, and the second was the MONEY BOX, both of which evoked loads of comment. The book was recently featured by Michael Thurston in his bookshelf series. And also the release by L& L of Richard Osterlind's six-disc DVD of the book with interviews by Jim Sisti. It struck me that there is more than enough scope in the book, perhaps the seminal work on mentalism, to provide an evening's performance material for a future meeting.

BRENDAN BYRNE did a splendid Rope and Ring routine with many variations which again sparked a mini-workshop with valuable tips and variations from the floor including some valuable insights from **Aidan Toomey**.

NEVIN CODY provided a clever routine featuring, I think, a Bill Abbot Deck which stirred up a considerable discussion on R and S and the umpteen uses to which it can be adapted.

A great night. Welcome back the **BLACKPOOL REPORT!**



MORE GLEANINGS FROM A MAGICAL BOOKWORM

By Michael Thurston

When I first started in magic I bought from a dealer a paperback book by Marvin Kaye. It was, I considered, great value for money. Then I came across a hard cover edition and came to realise how very good the original Marvin book was. The text is the same but the hard cover edition has some excellent illustrations sadly missing from the paper back version. You can guess which copy I kept. The book is *The Complete MAGICIAN*.

There are over 150 effects to be found in this book and yet it is not just a book of tricks. As the title implies it covers a lot more; What to say and how to say it; when to move and why; Controlling the Audience's Attention; Assistants and Volunteers - the list goes on.

Magic books are generally written to be read through rapidly first and thenceforth to be dipped into as a reference. Good magic books become good friends. *The Complete MAGICIAN* has

been a very good friend of mine for many years - and I hope will remain my friend for many years to come.

Back to the tricks. Unusually, these are not just presented with the helpful secret move. Each trick in this book is presented in such a way as to force you to consider every aspect of it. It is a book that not only presents magic, but makes you think about your presentation as a magician. After you read this book you naturally approach each effect you later acquire in a more professional way. It isn't about magic for magicians, but about giving each effect that extra something that will make a fee paying punter believe he's got value for money.

DON'T FORGET:

PAT FALLON presents his amazing evening of magic - **RABBITS, HATS AND BIG BOXES FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY** at the Pavilion Theatre, Dun Laoghaire on Saturday 3rd April at 7.00 pm. This is a must see - a show packed with classical magic, comedy and illusions. Come on, how often do you get the chance to see a true master of the craft in action? Bring all the family. It's a great night.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 6th April 2010,
8pm

Cassidy's Hotel, Cavendish Row,
Upper O'Connell St, Dublin 1.

**NEVIN CODY AND
STEPHEN THOMPSON
PRESENT ANOTHER OF
THEIR MIND-BLOWING,
NOT TO SAY MIND
STRETCHING
WORKSHOPS.
COME AND BE AMAZED.**

Here's another in our popular series of profiles. This profile gives your editor particular pleasure. So please welcome, Mr. Patsy Murphy, a.k.a Gemini



Please state your name and current position in magic:

Patsy Murphy, stage name "Gemini".

Professional magician and entertainer currently performing at social gatherings, weddings, children's birthday parties and stage shows. Also dice stacking at hotels and casinos.

What got you hooked on magic?

A performance by a travelling side show magician known as "Royal Kadir of India". He came to our town with a carnival. I used to collect the tickets for his shows. We got friendly, and he showed me a lot of tricks. I never came across him since.

What's the best magical performance you have ever seen?

In my opinion there were two that stand out from a host of

performances. Harry Blackstone's Floating Light bulb and David and Dania's quick change act. Both had a remarkable sense of theatre.

What book or DVD is your favourite and why?

My favourite DVD would be Jim Zackery's Dice Stacking routine and Goodlette Dobson's Card Fanning Book. To me they were a great help in my career.

What is your pet peeve in magic?

I won't be popular for saying this, but my pet peeve must be the way some magicians just 'do tricks'. Thought sometimes very good, they are presented without any sense of entertainment or theatre.

What do you think of the current state of Irish Magic? Irish Magic in my opinion has greatly improved over the years. Due to a hard working council doing their best and succeeding.

What advice would you give to those starting out in magic?

To join if possible their local Drama Group or Musical Society to get a knowledge of stage craft. Then practice whatever branch of magic that suits them.

What's your most embarrassing moment performing magic?

You won't believe this but it is true. Some years ago I was

booked to do a children's show out of doors. As I got started, a lady came out of the house. She was the grandmother, ordered me off the property and began to throw potatoes up at me. The act wasn't all that bad! But there was panic: children crying. Her son rushed over and took her back into the house. He told me she had just been discharged from hospital, suffering from depression. Afterwards, he invited me in for tea. The lady in question was there and was most friendly as though nothing had ever happened.

What was your funniest moment performing magic?

It was during my cards across routine. I got a small man to sit on the chair and a rather large lady to sit on his knee. The chair sadly didn't take the weight. It collapsed, and they came crashing to the floor. The audience went wild. I was worried about broken bones and so on, but thankfully nothing came of it.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

I am grateful to Patsy for taking the time out in the middle of a brief engagement in hospital for some necessary procedures. We wish him a speedy recovery.

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BROKEN WAND: NEVILLE WILTHSIRE COMMEMORATES THE DEATH OF EUGENE LAMBERT

With the death of Eugene Irish Magic has lost a good friend. In the 1950s and 60s, before he established his permanent Puppet Theatre he was a close associate and friend of magicians working the Dinner and Concert circuit. I worked with him many times. Here are some of many pictures in the archives of him at Society Meetings and on Convention Shows. He also appeared for a week on one of the Magic Circle Scala Shows. His ventriloquial technical skill was at world class level, so good that on occasions he was accused of using a recording for his duet with Finnegan. I saw him do this two years ago when he was 80 and it still sounded as if there were two voices at the one time. Those of my generation who had the privilege of knowing and working with him will miss the happy feeling he always left with you.

Neville Wiltshire.



Eugene at an S.I.M. Show in 1953. He did two spots changing his jacket for the second. His dummy Frankie was home made when he was a teenager and had only one fairly crude lower lip movement.



Eugene on stage at a charity concert in the Olympia in 1953. Top of the bill were Laurel and Hardy. Eugene told how he came off after his act and met Oliver Hardy watching from the wings. He said to Eugene "I wish I had a solo act like that".