

STMSA BIRM

Newsletter of the Society
of Irish Magicians

FEBRUARY 2010

=Penn lecture
beats the weather

= Books for the
budding mentalist

= Constructing an
original routine

= Here comes the
auction, folks!

PENN DRAWS A FULL HOUSE

NEVIN CODY reports on the
first meeting of the New Year.

Our thanks to Brendan Byrne
and Irishmagicnews.com for
permission to reprint this.

So where to start?
Well I must say even
though I am on the
council the SIM program
continues to impress. We have
had a fantastic year: lots of
new members and some
astonishing lectures. Over the
years many lectures tend to
fade into black and white in
the memory but the last few
lectures have been pure gold: a
rainbow of real workers
sharing their experiences with
us.

I wasn't sure what to expect
from **David Penn**. I have seen

a few of his DVD's, some bits
on You Tube and over the
years saw him demo effects on
his stand at conventions .
Add to that the fact that it was
a bleak January night with
widespread snow and ice and I
was tempted not to take the
journey from Kilkenny to
Dublin. Boy am I glad I took
that journey?

David delivered a very
polished lecture and all real
world workers. He believed
and spoke about how we need
to deliver top quality magic
when performing. Our art
requires it and one comment
he made stuck with me. When
we perform magic we
*"Change people's memories
forever"* .

Wow think about it! That's
what we do and that goes as
much for the bad performance
as for the good. The first half
of his lecture took us through a
number of effects starting with
the production of a glass of
water; one we have seen
before from Pat Page. David
took us through some changes
he worked on with Pat. He
then moved on to the
production of an eight ball and
the full routine around this.

He had some lovely thoughts
and effects for business cards:
ESP and his biz card transpo. I
would be very surprised if
some of these ideas did not
make it into some of the
member's sets.

It was very clear David
regularly works for lay
audiences and was able to
answer all question put to him

with some of his real life experiences.

One very good example for me was when he was looking for his **COINVEXED** coins and as he searched and struggled to find them he was explaining if we were a real audience he would be doing another trick. It's impressive when you get someone who is thinking and not just going through the motions of their lecture.

The second half was mainly about the Topit and how to work with it and reset between tables. This was fantastic and very magical. Later, talking to a few who had attended, the discussion was about the Topit.

It reminded me of a story from Paul Daniels when doing his Chop Cup around different locations in the early days and Ken Brooke would always know where he had been. When Paul asked him one day how he knew Ken told him that's where the orders for the Chop Cup would come from. I can see an order for some Topits going some dealers' way after seeing David perform.

David also discussed approaching tables and how to get everyone at the table involved. He finished with his **COINVEXED** sequence and a very nice fork bending routine for reception walk around work. Over all it was a impressive lecture: lots to think about. For all of us tempted to say **"IT WILL**

DO," learn an effect this week and are out doing it the next. Remember we **CHANGE THEIR MINDS FOREVER!**

We have a huge responsibility to deliver the best. The audience deserves it, our art deserves it and your fellow magicians deserve it. Those who were there will all remember the rose trick-an awesome mind reading effect and one I am sure everyone will do at some stage in the future... but lets leave that one for ourselves.

A NEW YEAR'S THOUGHT FROM NEVIN CODY:
"The world's a stage and most of us are desperately unrehearsed" (Sean O'Casey)

Afterword from Joe:

That sounded like a brilliant evening. Regrettably your editor missed it owing to weather and a persistent 'flu. As Nevin says: we're coming up Jackpots with the lectures this season. And there's more to come.

And talking of lectures, we're sorry we totally ignored the heroic efforts of the indefatigable Aonghus MacAnally on the night of the 70th birthday bash in our report on the night in the last edition of SIM SALA BIM.

On the night in question, Aonghus had the hardest job ever: to warm up the audience for John Archer. He did this, and more. With his customary ebullience he barnstormed his way through a set which

included comedy and music with that matchless élan and audience mastery. He makes it all look so easy: but we all know that that is the art which conceals art.

Well done, Aonghus. John Archer must have been standing in the wings thinking: this is truly a difficult act to follow.



MORE GLEANINGS FROM A MAGICAL BOOKWORM

by Michael Thurston

Chuck Hickok's recent lecture would seem to have stimulated a revival of interest in magic of the mind. So for those of you who would like to delve further into this realm I have two books I would recommend.

The first is **HOW TO DEVELOP A SUPER-POWER MEMORY** by **Harry Lorayne**. Harry, although an all round magician, was known for many years as *The Memory Man*. He amazed the Irish audience when he appeared on *The Late Late Show* and named correctly every person in the studio audience.

In his Foreword Harry writes: "Many people have told me that they would **"give a**

million dollars" if they could acquire a memory like mine. Well, don't misunderstand me, I wouldn't turn down your offer of a million dollars; but, actually the price of this book is all you need to spend."

That sums up both the content and the value of this book.

I suffer from a poor memory and yet I mastered the art of remembering a hundred objects using Harry's system, and successfully performed the 20-object trick on stage. So for anyone interested in performing any type of memory act I think Harry's book would be hard to beat.

Mind you Tony Thursby told me an amusing incident that happened during Harry's visit to Dublin. But it is Tony's story, so I'll let Tony tell it.

(EDITORS NOTE: If you read this, Tony, any chance you might share this with us?)

The other book in this field is **13 Steps to Mentalism** by Corinda. The 13 steps were originally 13 pamphlets sold separately, but the demand for them was such that they were soon made available as a book. It has been called the mentalist's bible. All aspects of the art are covered from swami gimmicks to the Magic Square to the Knight's tour and the Million Dollar Test. It includes effects by other top mentalists, and an interview with Maurice Fogel and is well illustrated with both line drawings and photographs.

For any young magician interested in progressing as a mentalist I would recommend these two books.



NEXT MONTH IS AUCTION MONTH!



AUCTION NIGHT

Once again comes the yearly opportunity to off-load surplus books, DVDs, videos and props, and to grab a few bargains.

There have been some changes made to the format of our auctions. Enclosed you will find the form which you must fill in for the items you are selling. Entry to the auction is free to all paid up members. Members of other societies will pay 10 Euro entrance fee. Guests will not be allowed to bid. The Society will retain 10% of the selling price.

Members of other societies are welcome to put stuff up for auction.

All items must be entered by 7.30 pm, and the auction will start at 8.00pm. Lots will be taken in their order of registration.

All items for auction must be accompanied by the filled-in auction list. Please keep a copy for your own information.

DEVISING PATTERN

**Some more rich insights
from the experiences of
ERIC AND MURIEL SHARP**

Having written books with nearly two hundred comedy routines in all, in them, we are asked many times 'How do you think these routines up?' Well, I find it easy really. When we used to advertise as comedy script writers, we would receive a request through the post at 8am, I would glance at it and put it aside. When I got up I would commence the script and after about ten minutes when I went into another room for Breakfast I would inform Muriel that I had done it and sort of tidying it up a bit with her editing assistance it was done.

Let us try to explain the procedure in devising a comedy script for a trick. Take for example J F Orrin's Clickers Click. You have four table tennis balls on a stand, which you pick up one at a time and hit with a table tennis bat towards the audience and whilst you hear the bat hitting the Ping Pong ball that is the last you see of it until you reveal them back on the stand.

There you have it, nothing much going for it really, also the dreary repetition of the vanish of four ping pong balls, one after the other; one weakness your patter has to overcome: calling them Ping Pong Balls doesn't help much, So pull back for a minute and see what you can come up with, with feasibly plenty of audience participation. We had in the den a round no handle change bag. Just the job, put

the Ping Pong balls in and you have a birds nest containing four eggs. Place the eggs in the one compartment and a dove in the other. Now you have a wonderful situation for a dispute with the children. Next we must overcome the repetition of vanishing four Ping Pong balls, for after vanishing the first ball, they are watching HOW the balls disappeared. This is where I use my count one, two, three six. The children will forget about what happened to the ball for they are now so busy shouting, telling you it is one, two, three four, balls you have. You argue with them of course.

The second part of Eric and Muriel's article follows in the next issue.

***Society of Irish Magicians
Programme of
Events 2009.***

February : Annual Auction.

March : Blackpool Convention in Focus.

April : Lecture (TBC).

May :Workshop / Performance Night.

June : Lecture (TBC).

July : Summer Recess.

August : Summer Recess.

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.



Next Meeting

Tuesday 2nd February 2010,
8pm
Cassidy's Hotel, Cavendish Row,
Upper O'Connell St, Dublin1.

**AUCTION NIGHT
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AUCTION NIGHT
AUCTION NIGHT!**

IN SEARCH OF THE GREAT VALDONINI!

If you haven't heard of the –

GREAT VALDONINI-

then your magical education is sadly lacking. This modern day Everyman of the magic world is the protagonist of an heroic saga chronicled by Neville Wiltshire, and currently being

serialised on irishmagicnews.com.

If you haven't seen it, do yourself a favour. Grab a cup of coffee, log onto the site and laugh and cringe your way through this very funny narrative.

And if you are drawn to put names on what the author insists are fictional characters then beware: many of these story people are too close for comfort.



If you think one of them might be *YOU*, then –as Neville says – 'you ought to be ashamed of yourself.'

Follow the Valdonini saga on irishmagicnews.com.

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