

STMSAIBM

Newsletter of the Society of Irish Magicians

SEPTEMBER 2010

- **PAUL WILSON**
wows a full house.
- **Castle Dracula**
Magic now in top ten
attractions.
- **MICHAEL**
AMMAR due in
October.

PAUL WILSON: A CARDICIAN'S DELIGHT

It was the last meeting of the current season, and what a turn-out! From North, South, East and West they came to provide a packed house for the PAUL WILSON lecture. Many faces who we haven't see for ages were there to sit at the feet of this unassuming master. And they were not disappointed.

This was a packed lecture, pressed down and overflowing with elegant and considered magic. And Paul made it all appear so very easy. Eyes were on stalks, jaws dropped and Paul made it all appear so easy.

So much was shared that it is difficult to log all. There was a delicious coins-across with a

sidebar on the psychology of the French Drop which was a mini-workshop in itself.

Card routines brought audible groans of delight from the card *cognoscenti* – and there were a few there. Nice to see the re-introduction of the Jardine Ellis ring, one of those inexpensive gimmicks which every magician, *d'un certain age*, has in his or her back drawer. Paul's routine explored some very clever variations which will be sure to send many of us rooting in the back of our magic drawers. Sorry, maybe I should rephrase that: scurrying to the back of our magic cupboards to find this versatile prop.

The acronym ACAAN has speckled the pages of magic journals of late: it has a perennial appeal to cardicians, and raises its tricky head from time to time. To those who are puzzled, and there can't be many of them, the letters ACAAN stand for Any Card At Any Number.

There are umpteen variations, the most famous being that of the legendary David Berglas. Berglas has never revealed his method (or more likely methods, since from the many accounts it has all the hallmarks of 'jazz' magic, spontaneously changing its methodology to suit the circumstances) but Paul had a number of variations which he explored to our delight.

By the way, word has it that the Berglas Effect as it is sometimes called will be due

for release in the autumn. I'll believe it when I see it.

This particular lecture was a gift from past President **JOHN BOWDEN**, The Wizard of Urlingford, to celebrate his first thirty years in Magic. What an appropriate and generous gesture!

Thanks John. May your next thirty be as fruitful and full of magical delights as your first.



**ERIC AND MURIEL
HAVE SOME
SHARP WORDS TO
SHARE ON THE
SUBJECT OF
COLLECTORS**

We do not have much time for collectors of Magic memorabilia or tricks come to that.

We cannot see the point: after all the day they die their collection is never complete. To us it is a waste of time really, particularly collecting valuable tricks which puts them out of sight and out of use to others, and

nowadays worth less than when new.

We have both become rather hardened to the memorabilia collectors: over the years we must have hundreds of requests but we hardly every reply. The reason is that they all write detailing what a valuable collection they have and would love to add ours in their large collection.

So why do we not reply? Quite simply, they do not send an s.a.e. You may think that is a bit mean of us, but surely it is very mean of them. Those that did enclose an s.a.e. received a large package in returns: brochures, coloured cigarette-card sized picture cards much sought after by many collectors (more about our cigarette sized P & J cards which developed into a police investigation of two of their officers another time.)



They all send an envelope but fail to enclose a stamp. Even now, after we have retired, we get requests. If they did send a stamp we would have to add to the postage considerably, but then we did not mind that.

What annoys us is with collectors is that not many prepare for the final day and wives and family are stuck with loads of props that look like rubbish to them, In the process of getting rid of them they become mixed up if they weren't already, and some scarce items are sold considerably under value.

The rest of them upset us more. They promise their complete collection to the Magic Circle who in our opinion would rather be without it because over the years so much has come their way.

Yes, they have stored away valuable tricks making them unobtainable to those performers who would love to get hold of them and use.

Harsh words? Think about it: before it is too late!



Remembering an Old Friend by Michael Thurston.

It was in my early years in magic that Tommy Frederick came to lecture the SIM in Dublin. I still have the rough notes I made during that lecture. But more importantly I have the Ganson edited book, *The Magic of Frederica*, which was published by Supreme. This is a book which covers many types of magic with a little bit extra.

There are 49 pages of Card Magic, enough to keep finger flickers happy for ages. There are two kiddies' effects and a section on novel magic. Then Money and Silk magic are covered, and the book closes with a good section on Close-up magic.

The 'little extras' I mentioned are two small sections. The first is headed *Did you know that* and the second is *Bits and Pieces*. These contain interesting little gems that can be incorporated into your patter.

The book is adequately illustrated with both line drawings and photographs. It is hard backed with a paper dust cover.

What I like is when a magic book doesn't just give tricks but also informs you in some way about the art of magic. Frederica doesn't fail in this regard. He opens his mind to us so that we can understand the thinking behind the effect. For example:-

*"I have a "Bee in my Bonnet" about **Mental effects** and feel that any item of this nature should be direct and clean-cut."*

He gets no argument from me there! Tommy had a very warm and caring nature and was always willing to share with his fellow magicians and I will always remember him as a friend. *The Magic of Frederica* remains a valued volume in my library.



CASTLE DRACULA MAGIC.

It's Summer time, and if you haven't been yet take yourself off to Dracula's Castle of Magic at the other end of Fairview Park in the Westwood Complex, where every Friday night you will find – currently – the avuncular Nevin Cody, the irrepressible Pat Fallon, and the unsurmountable ('though many have tried) Ronan MacGabhann who present a mélange of magic, mayhem and horror.

Okay I know it's on the North side, but what the hell: there are things that repay sacrifice and this is definitely one of them. Bring your friends; recommend it to your visitors. Its enormous fun, but limited to over-tens. It's too scary for the little ones.

It currently plays for two and a half hours every Sunday during the Summer. But be warned. Already some of these are booked out. And if you've enjoyed it, log on to TRIPADVISOR at [www/tripadvisor.ie](http://www.tripadvisor.ie).

TripAdvisor is an international site that spares no blushes and tells it like it is. The Dracula Castle magic experience is currently in it's top ten visitors' attractions. This honour is not lightly attained. Let's help to keep it there. It's a great night out.

Next Meeting

Tuesday September 7 2009,
8pm
Cassidy's Hotel, Cavendish Row,
Upper O'Connell St, Dublin1.

This issue goes to press before the details of the meeting are finalised.

Check www.irishmagic.com for updates



JACK WISE TOPS THEM ALL

At the recent Street Performance World Championships in Dublin against the top street acts from around the world, SIM member **JACK WISE** beat all opposition to win the top award. At the risk of sounding patronizing, make no mistake, this young man is fast tracking himself straight to the top. And more luck to him.



With this issue, your editor takes his leave of you. For many reasons it has become advisable that I step down and pass on the torch to younger more energetic hands.

Thanks to all who have come to my assistance over the past years with articles, advice, pictures and letters – both

approving and censorious.

It's been fun.

Ave atque Vale!

SIM SALA BIM, newsletter of the Society of Irish Magicians is currently edited by Joe O'Donnell who may be contacted at jodon@iol.ie. All material is copyright to the owners and may not be used without permission. The views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society



**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY
OF IRISH MAGICIANS:**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY SERVED THAT THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD
ON TUESDAY, 5TH OCTOBER IN CASSIDY'S
HOTEL.**

This is a critical meeting at which matters closely connected to the future of the S.I.M will be discussed. Make it your business to be there and to make your voice heard.

The meeting will be followed by a lecture which is firmly in the category of must not be missed.

THE STAR OF THE EVENING WILL BE MICHAEL AMMAR. How can you miss it?