

## **The Society of American Magicians Background**

The Society of American Magicians, founded on May 10, 1902 in Martinka's famous magic shop in New York City, is the oldest and most prestigious magical society in the world. For over a century it has promoted the ideals shared by Kellar, Houdini, Thurston and over 45,000 others world-wide who have held membership in the society. These ideals include the elevation of the Art of Magic, the promotion of harmony among magicians, and the opposition of the unnecessary public exposure of magical effects.

Members in the society have included Harry Houdini, Harry Blackstone, Jr., Siegfried & Roy, Lance Burton and David Copperfield.

The S.A.M. offers the opportunity to unite and associate with leaders in the World of Magic – not only professionals, but with amateurs, manufacturers, magic dealers, book authors and magic collectors. Through its monthly publications, annual conventions, and with almost 300 chapters throughout the world, the S.A.M. provides the necessary forum for the advancement of magic through discussions, lectures, research, performances, and exchange of magic secrets within the magic community. To promote these endeavors the S.A.M. presents awards and fellowships in recognition of outstanding achievement in the Art of Magic.

*Other programs of interest in the Society of American Magicians include:*

*The Houdini Hospital Fund* for magicians who need financial medical help.

*The Paranormal Investigation Committee* – begun by Houdini to warn the public about fake claims of psychic and paranormal activity.

*Heroism and Patriotism Awards* – To honor magicians who perform extraordinary deeds.

*The Society of Young Magicians (S.Y.M.)* – a youth program to mentor the art of magic to youth aged 7 thru 17.