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No. One

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Vol. One

The Society of American Magicians

(INCORPORATED)

HEADQUARTERS, MAGICAL PALACE, 493 SIXTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE.

New York, October 25th, 1911

ILLUSTRIOUS MAGICIAN:

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Saturday Evening, November 4th, 1911, at the Magical Palace, 493 Sixth Avenue, at 8 P. M. Sharp.

MEMBERS ELECTED AT LAST MEETING:

- 403—Albert Morandi Bartlett, Boston, Mass.
- 404—George Berger, Long Island City, N. Y.
- 405—Jack Norworth, New York City, (Life Member)
- 406—Henry Schneider (Don De Lacie), Kansas City, Mo.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

- F. E. Karn, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Harry H. Mackirgan, Jacksonville, Fla.
- George Gregory Wallace, Girard Ala.
- Homar Herman Woulffe, Topeka, Kansas.
- George Wilhelm Fraker, (G. Wilhelm), Excelsior Springs, Mo.

The October meeting was most interesting, the next one will be better, if possible. Be there early for more surprises are anticipated.

Very Illustrious G. G. Laurens, has prepared a paper entitled "Conjuring By Electricity". This paper will be read at the November meeting and an opportunity given for the members to express their opinions on the same. This alone will be worth your time to visit the meeting.

Bear in mind that the December meeting will be first Ladies Night of the Winter season. The Committees for this affair will be appointed at the November meeting. Post your favorite friend not to make other arrangements or they will miss a big time.

Fraternally yours in M. U. M.

Attest

RICHARD VAN DIEN
R. I. SECRETARY

CHARLES ROLTARE
M. I. PRESIDENT

The Society of American Magicians



CHARLES ROLTARE
PRESIDENT

52 WEST 39th STREET
NEW YORK CITY

R. VAN DIEN
SECRETARY

53 CENTRE STREET
EAST NUTLEY, N. J.

OUR POLICY

THIS modest beginning of a paper for S. A. M. Members is designed for the benefit and upbuilding of our Society. It is not intended to take the place of our Official Organs, The Sphinx or The Magician. It will be for private circulation, to members only. In it will be discussed intimate subjects pertaining to the precepts of our Society and the promotion of magic in general. Its columns are open to members only and its future depends upon how fast contributions come in.

If you have red blood in your veins and an interest in your art, you will at once transform your wand into a fountain pen, remove the gold fish from the ink vase, and dash off that little suggestion of how magic can be helped—expose stopped—more work secured—better programs produced,—or any one of many ideas that will be of interest to others and push the good work along.

If you are nursing a perpetual grouch and see no good in the world of magic, you will immediately say "we don't need it." "What's the use?"

In preparing this paper we have discontinued the former style of monthly notice, making this answer the double purpose.

We have the premier Magical Society of the world! Among our members are some of the brightest minds in the realms of magic! Our membership embraces almost every country on the globe. Every member has something of interest to other magicians, this is the place to tell it and the time is NOW. Send in your

articles, tell your co-workers of the conditions in your immediate neighborhood. Let us all know how magic is received where you visit. When you witness anything of interest to magicians say so! Come out of your shell! Let's get together and have a general exchange of ideas relative to the promotion of our ancient art. Tell others what you think should be done to strengthen our Society, bring its members even closer together and thus bring the public to a realization of the fact that magic is the cleanest and most wholesome form of entertainment possible to witness, whether it be from the stage or at a social gathering in the home.

And paste this in your hat: If this paper fails from lack of support, a part of the blame will rest on your shoulders unless you can prove that you had sufficient interest in its success to send articles to its editors.



MAGIC IS DEAD!

WHEN "Dean" Kellar retired, Thurston continued the good work and each season his individual success becomes greater. This season he opened with a bigger and, if possible, a better show than ever. This will be his banner year.

When Houdini started in Vaudeville they made him open the show—he liked it. Then for years he was compelled to close each show, and he waxed fat. A few weeks ago he appeared at the Fifth Avenue Theatre, New York City, in the middle of the bill and his bank roll is still growing.

Mme. Herrmann still remains a strong favorite and has been busy in and around Chicago for many weeks this Fall.

Horace Goldin hasn't been idle since he built the Bridal Chamber and discovered Franceoli in it.

Elmer Ransom's magic is so dead that he only got a half page write-up in the New York papers this Summer—they gave it to him free because of his age!

Mildred & Roclere opened their season in August and now say that there is no relief in sight, they may be compelled to work all Winter!

Roltare has been busy up to the present time but on account of the hard times may only be able to work about 20 weeks between now and April First, 1912.

Truly Magic is dead, else why would so many Magicians be at work reviving it?

REPRESENTATIVES

THE Official Representatives of the Most Illustrious President for the current year, ending June 1st, 1912, are: Max Berol-Konorah, Das Program, Berlin, Germany; Frank W. Bilger, Oakland Bank of Savings, Oakland, Cal.; C. Victor Dealy, 3315 N. 16th St., Philadelphia, Pa.; George H. Heller, 114 West 27th St., New York City; W. D. Leroy, 103 Court St., Boston, Mass.; August J. Rehbein, Honesdale, Pa.; Wm. Russell, Batavia, N. Y.; David Stiff, 707 South 9th St., Minneapolis, Minn.; Harry S. Thompson, 502 Prior Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.; Francis E. Vander Veer, M. C. Equitable Bldg., Baltimore, Md.; A. M. Wilson, Editor Sphinx, 906 Main St., Kansas City, Mo.; Leclair Zelleno, (Travelling), care of Billboard, Cincinnati, O.

Their duties are to confer the mysteries of our Society on members not able to attend the meetings in New York. Also they are expected to assist in securing new members; to co-operate with the Committee on Admissions in investigating new candidates; to use all honorable means to discourage the expose of tricks, and to make it socially pleasant for all travelling members of our Society.

Any member travelling in the territory where we have a Representative should drop him a line, you will be royally welcomed and make many new friends. Try it.



\$5.00 FOR A NAME

WE want an appropriate name and design for this paper or bulletin. The name must suggest something Magical or emblematic of our Society. The design original in character and embodying the name. For the one selected \$5.00 will be paid. For the second best, one year's subscription to Sphinx will be given. The only restriction is that you must be a member of the S. A. M. in order to enter your suggestions.

We want the new name for the first number in the new year, therefore the time limit will be December 15, 1911. Get busy at once and send in your suggestions, we will, if necessary, make a new drawing from the sketch selected and pay your premium at the monthly meeting, January 6th, 1912.

JEALOUSY

JEALOUSY is one of the worst stumbling blocks that has beset the path of the men who have taken up the work of bringing all votaries of our beloved art together in harmony.

The little handful of earnest men who organized the S. A. M.—like the framers of the constitution of our country—"buildd better than they knew," for the success of the Society has been far and away ahead of their fondest dreams, but once in a while even now, the "green eyed monster" shows his wicked head, and the harmony which we have struggled so hard to establish, is threatened.

I have sat in the meetings many times and heard the Secretary read letters from members all over the world, and in most cases they have pledged support to the Society and promised to do all in their power to further the objects for which it stands. Now if these members are really in earnest they can do the Society more good by working against this tendency to petty jealousies than in any other way.

First let them look at home and see if they are entirely free from it themselves, then let each resolve to do his level best to cast all professional jealousy out of his own heart, and when this is accomplished one of the great basic principles on which the Society of American Magicians was founded will become an established fact. It looks easy—Let's try it!

JOHN W. SARGENT, Past Prest.



ANNUAL BANQUET

MAY 10th, 1912, will commemorate the 10th year of the Society of American Magicians. This seems a fitting date on which to hold the Annual Banquet. The only objection is that out of town members who wish to attend could not also attend our Monthly Meeting as heretofore. We should have the opinions of those who are interested or expect to attend so as to make this event the best ever. The actual date for the Banquet, therefore has not been fixed.

OUR ENTERTAINMENTS

ALL the Members of the S. A. M. know it is our custom to give a number of Social Nights, during the Winter months. They are always held on the regular meeting nights. On these occasions it is our custom to meet early, dispose of the business as quickly as possible and then turn the meeting over to the Chairman appointed for the occasion. The doors are then opened and the member's guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, are invited in to enjoy the entertainment which the Chairman has provided. At the conclusion of the entertainment refreshments are served by the catering Committee, which has always been represented by Francis Martinka. It seems unnecessary to say that these entertainments have always been most enjoyable. They also result in keen competition to see who can put on the best entertainment.

Our Social Evenings have become so popular that this season it will be necessary to limit the number of invitations that members may give out as our Theatre in the Magical Palace is getting entirely too small.

It has come to my ears a number of times since we began these socials that the expenses were paid by the S. A. M. I wish to correct this impression—viz: that the funds of the Society are paying for the amusement of New York City Members.

At each Social the Chairman appoints a finance Committee whose duty it is to collect the amount required. Our expenses are first ascertained from the Catering Committee, the number of members present and their guests is then ascertained, after which the sum needed is collected from the members present pro rata.

The Annual Banquet is also self-sustaining as the cost per plate is fixed to carry a sufficient sum to cover the incidental cost of the extras entertainment.

The Annual Big Magic Entertainment given in one of the New York Theatres has been a money maker since its inception and the S. A. M. is securing a great deal of publicity from it as well. Any loss that might have been incurred on our first Big Show would have been sustained by the Committee in charge or by voluntary contribution from the members of the S. A. M. as our Constitution does not permit of one cent being used for any of the above purposes, viz: Social Nights, Dinners, Entertainments, etc.

Now that we have a substantial sum in the hands of our Trustees, under an entirely separate account from the regular funds of the Society, we no longer have

any fear as to the outcome of the finances for any of our entertainments.

Please bear these points in mind when any one refers to the "big times" we are having when the magicians gather in New York.

E. P. RANSOM, Past President.



Señor Ernest Patrizio, a clever Spanish conjurer, made his first appearance in New York in the year 1878, if I mistake not. His tricks were brilliant and artistically presented. In one of these he used a bottle, from which he produced an endless flow of wine. The liquor was pumped up from beneath the stage and was led to the bottle through rubber tubes concealed in his clothes. The connection with the stage was made by means of a hollow boot heel and during the trick he was, consequently, unable to move.

A countryman of Patrizio's, by dint of much persuasion and many dollars, induced the señor to give him the secret of the trick. This secured, he purchased the necessary apparatus, hired the Union Square Theatre, and issued invitations to the best people of the city, le dessus du panier, for his entertainment. Such a thing as rehearsing his programme he did not consider for a moment. On the night of the entertainment his assistant was taken ill, and the Colonel—for he was a military man as well as a magician—called on Ned Dale, who for many years had been Robert Heller's assistant, to help him out. And Dale did help him till the bottle trick was reached. Then Dale contented himself with holding a tray, filled with glasses.

Having announced the trick the Colonel gave the signal for the man beneath the stage to start his pump. The Colonel was nervous and excited. He held the bottle over the glasses, but the wine did not come. With his free boot he stamped upon the stage. The man below pumped yet harder. Still there was no wine. The Colonel's ire was aroused, and then, on a sudden, there came a hissing sound, as of escaping steam, and the next moment the "prestidigitateur merveilleux," as he styled himself, was drenched in champagne. It poured from his sleeves, trickled down his back, and streamed from his trousers. In vain he strove to stem the flood; he could not move. True to his word the wine flowed without stint, and finally accompanied by the screams and laughter of the audience and the "curses loud and deep" of the Colonel the curtain fell.

The Colonel had forgotten to turn on the tap that regulated the flow of the wine, and when the tube could hold no more it burst.

The moral of which is: Rehearse your trick before you attempt to show it.

H. HATTON.