



Silent Mora
Ring 122
March, 2011

THE SILENT MESSENGER

Slydini Expert Bill Wisch Lectures and Entertains



Bill Wisch, the student chosen by Tony Slydini in 1976 to deliver lectures on his behalf

upon the release of *The Best of Slydini and More* by Karl Fulves, impressed us as a master in his own right on February 22, 2011. Slydini died 20 years ago (January, 1991), and this is a commemorative lecture filled with memories and stories by Bill about Tony.

**Next Meeting:
Tuesday, March 29, 2011**

(Story continued from page 1)



Bill Wisch performing Slydini's classic effect The Balls into the Box. He's performing The Mongolian Clock in the preceding photo.

him believe in his magic—meaning he used an interior monologue, not that he was crazy: “I put the ball in my left hand, I slowly open it, and look! Its gone!” Slydini insisted on this because he felt that more you believe that the ball disappeared, the more the audience will too.

Throughout the lecture Wisch noted the importance of angles while performing and how to use them to your advantage. His demonstration of how to use one's elbow as a servante was not only clever, but provides a great way to perform the Balls to Box or torn



The Coins through the Table

His enthusiasm for Slydini's magic was apparent from the beginning of the lecture, as he discussed meeting and studying with Slydini, which led to Wisch presenting Slydini's Balls to Box (also known as The Paper Balls in the Hat) with silent, smooth, gentle motions accompanied by music, fooling us all the way. Wisch broke the moves down in great detail, especially the vanish of the last ball and the hand motions

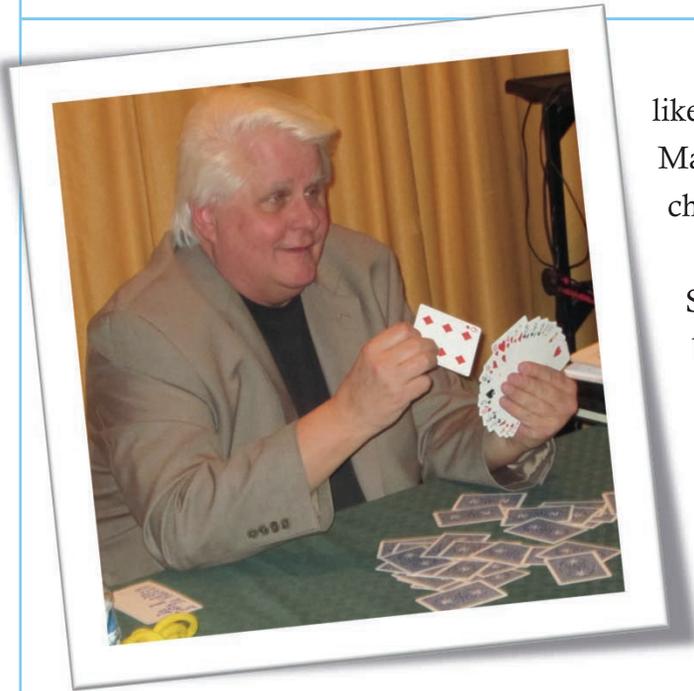
related to it. He described how Slydini taught him to talk to himself as he performed to help



Linking Rings a la Slydini

and restored napkin while standing and using a wand. It was touches like this where one can see how Wisch has created his own style of magic.

But, no doubt, the Slydini tricks were a treat to watch and fascinating to learn. For instance, I didn't know the famous Paper Balls Over the Head was originally a Blackstone Sr. effect, done with silks over the head. But among the subtle Slydini touches Wisch taught us, was how to guarantee that the spectator would not see the ball disappear as they watched you



Showing us the moves for The Helicopter Card.

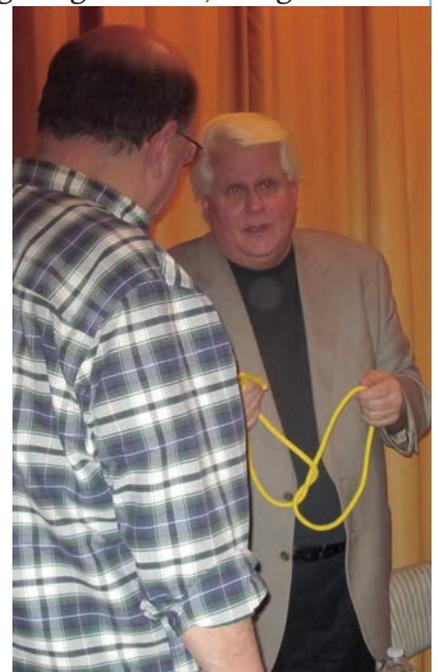
like a hawk in this classic routine. Fun fact: Slydini used Marcal napkins in performance, though Bill prefers the cheapest 1-ply ones.

Bill ended the first half of the lecture with card tricks. Slydini's Mongolian Card Trick, an easy to do and totally baffling trick. Slydini's Oil and Water was shown, and when explained we were introduced to Wisch's original sleights, his Phan-Thumb techniques. These techniques allow you to do a totally convincing Elmsley or Jordan count while standing up, counting the cards slowly in front of your chest, their faces to the audience and their backs to you. In fact, Wisch has created many original and practical sleights that can be found in his lecture notes and DVDs.

The second act of his lecture opened with The Helicopter Cards, a bold and challenging classic, followed by Slydini's Aces, an obscure but fantastic effect. This four ace trick led to a discussion of the Slydini Switch; the timing, rhythm, and postures involved in lapping were memorably described and demonstrated by Wisch. He next showed us the famous Slydini Knots and then the Coins through table with penny. The coins provided an opportunity for Wisch to expound further on lapping, giving us excellent advice for how best to use the Imp Pass.

The evening ended with Slydini's Ring on Rope coupled with his Linking Rings routine, using 4" rings. This was a killer routine and, once again, showed how you can take any effect and make it your own. Wisch told us a story how Slydini originally dismissed the Linking Pins trick when he was first shown it—"That's just a toy!"—but then, a week later, Slydini developed his own version of the Linking Pins that became quite famous.

The last effect, a rope trick Wisch called The Chicago Loop Mystery, was an amazing bit of chicanery. As Wisch told it, Slydini, as an older man, attended a magic conference in Chicago and he got the feeling that many of the magicians there thought that Slydini's magic was limited to performing at a table and was therefore inappropriate for modern magic; he felt they were dismissing him as an historic relic. When asked to perform something impromptu for the gathered magicians, Slydini did this rope trick, stand-up, and it baffled the magicians then, as it did us now. Knots are tied to form a figure 8 in a rope yet, despite one of the knots being held by a spectator, the magician can make the other knot vanish and



The Chicago Loop Mystery

reappear at will. According to Wisch, after performing this trick Slydini said he left the room “feeling like a matador!” What a wonderful piece of trickery to end the night with—and it can play well in a children’s show too. If you have any interest in the magic of Slydini you will find Bill Wisch a source of true insight; if you have any interest in performing fun effects that involve audiences you will find Bill Wisch to have a treasure-trove of them that he willingly shares.

—Pat Farenga

Magic News

Compeer, Steve Dacri, passed away on Friday, February 11, 2011 from colon cancer. Steve was a past president of SAM Assembly No. 16 in 1972 and has been performing as a close-up magician in Las Vegas for many years.

Cards and letters can be sent to Steve's wife, Jan, at this address:

Jan Dacri
5755 La Vista Street
Penthouse A
Las Vegas, Nevada 89113

A Money-Saving Tip

Jerry Schiowitz writes “Here's a real find from Crate and Barrel. These brushed-finish stainless steel cups are ideal for cups and balls routines, as well as for numerous coin effects (such as "coins thru cups"). They look great and pack small. They also have a nicely finished rolled edge. Check the dimensions ... they're approximately the size of most cups used for cups and balls routines. At only 95 cents each, they're a real bargain for magicians. I picked up three of them at the Natick Mall Crate and Barrel store.”

Free Magic Tricks On The Ring 122 Website

Among the many cool things Jim Canaday has done with our website is to add these original card tricks by Roger Golde, illustrated by Ring 122's own Alan Wassilak.

http://ibmring122.000space.com/html/card_treks_ii.html

Meeting Report

February Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by our president, Jim Canaday. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were accepted by the members.

Lou Taris thanked Alan Wassilak for his obituary of Walter Childs in *The Silent Messenger*.

We thanked Jared McNabb and Mickey Silver for bringing refreshments.

Jim Canaday asked for a volunteer to take over and manage our ring's website. Interested members can contact Jim at themagicportal@gmail.com

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.

—Debbie O'Carrol



Bill Wisch showing how to tie the Slydini Knots.

From Our President

A few years ago, the Harry Potter books created a stir. Some people wanted to ban them. A lot of kids today cannot read properly because they never pick up a book and open it. The wonderful thing about the Potter books was that kids couldn't wait for the next one to be released. And these were not skinny little books. They were huge tomes. As far as I'm concerned, anything that will get kids excited about reading can only be a good thing. I spent a lot of time in my youth at my public library reading almost their entire collection of science fiction. Ray Bradbury, Clifford Simak, Jack Finney and a host of others took me places in my mind that no TV show or movie could. The most powerful images are created in the imagination and books are the best fuel for starting the fire.

With the advent of YouTube and DVD's, magicians have run into the same problem. Why take the time to read when you can watch someone walk you through the whole thing. Couldn't be simpler. The problem is that you end up doing a great magic trick just like the guy you watched. There is no "you" in the trick. And it probably cost you \$30 for the disk. For the same money, you could buy a book with tons of tricks. As Ray Goulet points out, to get the good out of a book, you have to open it. That is the purpose of this month's meeting. I went through my Tarbells' until I found something that caught my eye. I look forward to sharing it with you at our next meeting and here's a surprise. It is not a card trick! See you all there.

—Jim Canaday

Upcoming 2011 Magic Events

- **March 17:** Ramsdell Public Library, Housatonic, MA 4:30PM. Free to the public. Ring 122's Debbie O'Carroll! <http://www.debbieocarroll.com/calendar.html>
- **March 18:** Viva Bene, Worcester, MA. Disillusioned: Not your kids' magic show. <http://www.disillusionedmagic.com/>
- **March 18:** Woonsocket High School, Woonsocket, RI. Garry Carson from Las Vegas. Call 508-883-3621 for tickets.
- **March 19:** Bristol Community College, Fall River, MA. New England Stars of Magic.
- **March 27:** Reception Hall at 49 Franklin Street, Rumford, ME. Scot Grassette and other magicians. www.49franklin.com
- **March 29:** Ring 122 meeting. Please come prepared to show us some effects you learned from a book about magic and to tell us about the book.
- **April 2:** Greater New England Magic Contest, Nashua Church of Christ, Nashua, NH. For more information call (603) 505-8749.
- **April 8-10:** Hank Lee's Magic Conclave , Hyannis, MA.
<http://www.hanklee.org/conclave/conclave12.html>
- **June 6:** The Colombini's Farewell Lecture Tour. Aldo and Rachel will appear at the Magic Barn in Ashland, MA.
<http://www.sam16.com>
- **June 24 – 25:** John Calvert Tribute at the Fantasma "Magic on Manhattan" conference.
<http://www.fantasmamagic.com/shopping/convention.php>
- **June 28–July 2:** IBM CONVENTION, Dallas, TX
<http://www.magician.org/portal/node/6>

Performances By Ring 122 Members:

- **Debbie O'Carroll** is performing lots of public shows in March and throughout the Spring. Check out Debbie's original shows, especially her Irish Magic Show. <http://www.debbieocarroll.com/calendar.html>

- **Crazy Davy Penn's** Magical Party with **Pat Farenga** as the Master of Ceremonies was performed in Westford in the Fall and recorded by Westford Cable TV. The video has just been posted online:

<http://westfordcat.pegcentral.com/player.php?video=babf14fc6265933f5c12d35fb40fa94c>

- **Alexandria the Great:** The Escape Mom, the Houdini Housewife, the Queen of Extreme is one of Ring 122's own. She was recently profiled in several stories, including CBS news:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/02/21/eveningnews/main20034539.shtml?tag=broadcast>

The Boston Globe:

http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/articles/2011/02/01/taking_the_plunge_an_escape_artist_with_nothing_to_hide/

New England Cable News:

<http://www.necn.com/pages/landing?blockID=398516>

Further, Alexandria is a featured performer in the well-received **Lydia's Sideshow Carnival** in Salem, MA:

<http://www.lydiascarnivalsideshow.com/lydiascarnivalsideshow.com/Welcome.html>

- **Joel Acevedo** is often featured at the Mystery Lounge; check their website (see Ongoing Events, below) for his appearances.

If you have an event related to magic that you would like to have listed in the Silent Messenger please contact Pat (pfarenga@comcast.net) or Jerry (annjer@rcn.com).

ONGOING MAGIC EVENTS:

- The Mystery Lounge. Magic every Tuesday night in Harvard Square, Cambridge.
www.mysterylounge.com
- Le Grand David and His Own Spectacular Magic Company. Beverly Massachusetts. Call 978-927-3677 for show dates, times and location.



Slydini's Ring on Rope routine is a real fooler.

Photo credits: All photos in this issue are by Jerry Schiowitz.

IBM RING 122, Silent Mora

Meetings take place the last Tuesday of every month at Ray Goulet's Magic Art Studio, 137 Spring Street, Watertown, MA, 617-926-3949.

Ring 122 Officers, 2010–2011

President: Jim Canaday, P. O. Box 544, Bryantville, MA 02327, 781-293-2183

Vice President: Jared McNabb, 130 Lake St., Boston, MA 02135, 508-737-3757

2nd Vice President: Joel Acevedo, (787) 376-0225

Treasurer: Daryl Vanderburgh, 31 Stonebridge Road, Wayland, MA 01778, 508-655-8553

Secretary: Debbie O'Carroll, 51 Olive Street, Newburyport, MA 01950, 978-462-9954

Sergeant-at-arms: David Tolstrup, 44 Noble Street, Malden, MA 02148, 781-322-7789

Board of Governors: Doug Rickenback, 43 Anderson Drive, Methuen, MA 01844

The Silent Messenger
IBM Ring 122
c/o Pat Farenga, editor
13 Hume Avenue
Medford, MA 02155

The Silent Messenger is published every month except for July and August.

Editorial duties rotate each month between Jerry Schiowitz (February editor) and Pat Farenga (March editor).

Articles, inquiries, and letters can be emailed to one or both of the editors:

- Pat: pfarenga@comcast.net
- Jerry: annjer@rcn.com

The deadline for submissions is the eighth of the month.