



Vol 22 No. 6

June 2024

The Magical Minutes

— RING 92 —
VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

ibmring92.com

the Charles Howard Ring



The Dennis Chan Report

The Vancouver Magic Circle's monthly meeting was on Thursday, May 23, 2024. Several members arrived early for a chat session. First vice president, Simon Cassegrain opened the meeting as he greeted and welcomed the members and guests. President Yoosik Oum had a previous engagement and would arrive later. To start the activities for the evening, the workshop was presented by Rod Chow. He opened his workshop with a card effect. His workshop was about presentation, performance, and creativity. He calls this '*Full Circle*'. He demonstrated two routines which adapt standard effects to give them much more meaning and relevance to the volunteers to invoke a unique engaging experience. These were '*dog tricks*'; '*dim sum*' and a few variations. He also touched on the relation of the theory and practical aspects of magicians and musicians. Some day he hopes to write a book about this. He ended his workshop with a card effect and had some material for sale.

Everyone enjoyed the workshop.

Competition time. There were two contests.

The first contest was for the *Dick Gardner* trophy. This is a junior competition. This trophy is awarded in recognition of excellence in close-up magic by a junior performer. Playing cards may be used, but no stage effects will be permitted. The second contest was for the *H.B. MacLean* trophy. This is an adult competition. This trophy is awarded in recognition of excellence in close-up magic. In this contest, no playing cards or stage effects will be permitted. Last year's winner, **Billy Hsueh** was the host and emcee for the two contests.

He read the rules for the *Dick Gardner* trophy. The only competitor for this contest was **Blake Aleong**. He was professionally dressed in his burgundy jacket and bow tie. **Billy** also read the rules for the *H.B. MacLean* trophy. The competitors for this trophy (in order of appearance) were **Kim Fabbro**, **Roy Hopwood**, **Graham Kita**, and **Scott Barker**. **Simon Cassegrain** was the timekeeper. **Blake Aleong** scored enough points to win the *Dick Gardner* trophy for 2024. **Blake's** mom, **Delia** and his grandma, **Gigi** were there to witness his performance and the awarding of the trophy. **Graham Kita** was the winner of the *H. B. MacLean* trophy for 2024. Congratulations to the winners and the rest of the competitors.

Between the acts, **Billy** spoke about upcoming conventions such as the I.B.M. in Tacoma, FISM North America, the PCAM in Victoria, and the Mystify Magic Festival.

Following the contest, **Steffan Soule**, a visitor from Seattle performed a beautiful linking ring routine. It was nice to see **Gabriella Lester** our '*Diva of Deception*' whom we haven't seen for a while. Also **Cameron Minty**, who recently moved to Victoria dropped by for a visit.

For the refreshments, **Graham Kita** and **Dennis Chan** made the coffee. **Simon Cassegrain** brought cookies. **Graham Kita** brought the bottled water. **Roy Hopwood** brought two packages of cookies and two bottles of soft drinks. **Cameron Minty**, the *chef-gician* brought some baklava rolls. **Roy Hopwood** and **Graham Kita** did photography. Thanks to **Kim Fabbro** for giving me a ride to and from the meeting.

There were 31 members and 3 guests in attendance.

The Presidents Report

Hello VMC!

I just came off a fun and successful gig performing table and stage magic at the *Shanghai Speakeasy* show at **Tyrant Studios**. The show's producer and my friend, **Shon Wong**, is also the lead singer of the *Son of James* band, is always a pleasure to work with as we also worked together for last year's *Chinatown Nights* show. We plan to do more shows in the future, and I hope all of you, get great opportunities like this to get out and perform.

Our next monthly meeting will be on the fourth Thursday of June, like always, and we will contact you with the exciting things we have planned.

We were honoured to have **Rod Chow** teach us his insights into magic at the last meeting. He was the President of the Society of American Magicians. He certainly had a wealth of experience and knowledge to share with us.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next event!

Yoosik Ethan Oum

Vancouver Magic Circle, IBM Ring #92 - President
<https://www.koreancanuckmentalist.com>

The Editors Desk

I was, like most people saddening to hear the terrible news that a Fire completely destroyed the **Vanishing Inc.** warehouse in **Sacramento** recently. By the time you read this their 15% off Fire Sale will be over. However, you can support them by purchasing one (or more) items from their instant download list. They will value your custom.

<https://www.vanishingincmagic.com/magic-downloads/>

WOW!!! It is June already and almost halfway through the year. Many things have happened and there is much more to come.

VMC events do not themselves. If you feel you can help in some way with one or more of these events please let a member of the [executive committee](#) know. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Be sure to read **Shawn Farquhar's** great article on his recent trip to **Egypt**, it is a truly fascinating read. Thanks **Shawn**.

Congratulations to **Blake Aleong** and **Graham Kita**, the May close-up magic competition winners.

As always thanks to **Dennis Chan** and **Yoosik Oum** for their reports.

Special thanks to my right hand man **John Stenning** for his reviews and his hard work behind the scenes helping to produce **TMM** and keeping me on track.

If you have any news, articles, photographs etc that would be suitable for **TMM** please contact **Roy** at **604 219 0897** or hopwood.vmc@gmail.com

Important Notice

Do not read this notice, that's right, do not read this notice. This notice serves no purpose other than to say that it is important that you do not read this notice. If you have already read this notice you will note that you didn't have to read this notice. If you are reading this notice now, I am sure that you will read all of this notice, even though by now you should have realised that you didn't have to read this notice at all, as this notice is only to say that it is important that you don't read this notice. Thank you for not reading this notice.

This month is

Graham Kita

MM: Tell us a little about yourself and your family

GK: My name is **Graham KITA** and my magical alias is **Graham the Magic Guy**. I own and operate a property management company that looks after medical and dental buildings in BC. My wife's name is **Terri** and I have two beautiful daughters, **Jennifer** and **Chelsea**.

MM: How did you become interested in magic?

GK: When I was about eight years old, a visiting dentist from Japan, **Dr. Iwahashi**, Performed some close-up magic at our dining room table. When he left., He gave me 4 **Tenyo** Magic tricks. At the time, I never could perform these tricks well, but they sparked my imagination and passion for magic.

MM: Who are your biggest influences in the magic world?

GK: My biggest influences in magic were and still are **Rod Boss**, **Steve Dickson**, and **Shawn Farquhar**. These are friends that I have always admired. Their magic and they have helped me to become a better magician. My favourite celebrity magician would be **David Copperfield**.



MM: What is your favorite trick to perform and why?

GK: My favourite magic trick to perform is **Doc Eason's anniversary waltz**. I met Doc at one of the **Vancouver Magic Circles** many lectures. We became friends and I try to get together with him when he's in town. In This day and age of so much magic information being available on the Internet, so it is great that we have a magic club that supports live in person lectures. I've met so many magicians because of these lectures.

MM: Can you share an interesting story from one of your performances?

GK: It's important in magic to you always have a plan if something goes wrong. The only way you get good at this is when things go wrong, you learn from them. My daughter and I were doing a large corporate show and I was just about to produce my bunny rabbit from a production box. My daughter comes up to me and whispers in my ear, I forgot to load the rabbit. So I just produced the rabbit from under a silk and put him into the box. Not the way it was supposed to go.

MM: What advice would you give to someone who wants to learn magic?

GK: The best advice I can give to anybody in magic is to make your magic entertaining. No matter how much you work on your sleight of hand, the real magic comes from your audience being entertained.

MM: How do you come up with new tricks or routines?

GK: To create new tricks, use your imagination as much as often as possible. Once you have a trick you like, keep performing it, keep working on it and allow it to evolve. The most important thing is to perform it as often as you can

MM: What's the most challenging part of being a magician for you?

GK: The hardest part of being a professional magician for over 30 years is the business side of it. You have to talk to the clients and figure out what their needs are. They often don't know what would work best for their party. Next you have to put it into your schedule and remember all the details when the party arises.

MM: What's the most rewarding part of being a magician for you?

GK: The best part about magic is meeting people that you probably would never come into contact with. Some become friends, some become clients, and others just express the gratitude for experiencing wonder which they have never felt before.

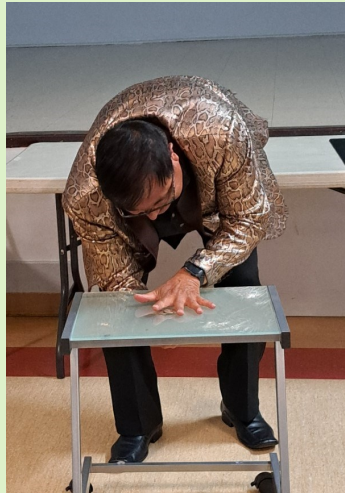
MM: Can you share with our readers a fun, non magic, fact that we didn't know about you?

GK: I am learning hip hop dance moves at my daughters dance school. As many of you already know, I do collect a lot of magic. Along with that, I also collect electric slot cars. These are little cars that run along a track usually with grooves in it. So If you ever come across an older set of slot cars, or just want to talk about magic, call me !!!



Have a magical day.

A picture tells a thousand words



VMC Meeting – May 23, 2024



Photos Courtesy of Roy J Hopwood

Seven days in Egypt – the Vanishing Inc Retreat

Shawn Farquhar

Lori and I were thrilled to be invited as special guests to attend the *Vanishing Inc. Retreat* in **Egypt** in May of this year. Seventy guests from around the world flew to **Cairo** to embark on a journey unlike anything I have ever experienced.

The entire trip was first class. The hotel in **Cairo** was beautiful and the view included the oldest Zoo in Africa and of course the **Pyramids of Giza**. Waking up and walking onto the balcony and seeing those pyramids in the distance was surreal. That evening we witnessed a local magician, a descendant of **Gali Gali**, perform poolside with props entirely handmade.



Our first full day of adventure began with a visit to **The Museum of Egyptian Antiquities**, commonly known as the **Egyptian Museum**. Here we saw many mummies, both human and animal, and of course the treasures of **Tutankhamun**. We raced off later that day to climb the **Pyramids**, take photos with the **Sphinx**, and of course ride a camel. Okay, so apparently it was a dromedary, which has just one hump and some other small differences. All I know is it was big and uncomfortable to ride! I also learned that they are not indigenous to **Egypt**.



The next day we arose at 4:00 AM to catch a flight to **Luxor** where we joined a river boat for the remainder of our journey. While in **Luxor** we saw the **Luxor Temple** and explored several other ruins. The ship was beautiful, and all meals were included in our trip. We all had a view of the **Nile** and since it is not that wide it was easy to see the countryside as we cruised.



Each day we docked and explored an area. Special note was the day we visited the **Valley of the Kings** where there are over sixty tombs! This is where we were permitted to descend into the actual tombs of **Ramses IV** and

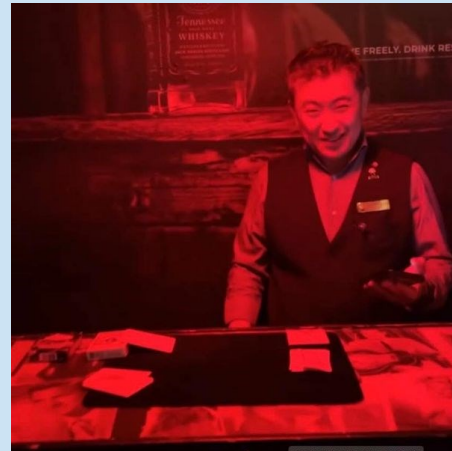
Tutankhamun. I could not believe I was standing just four feet from the actual mummified remains of Tutankhamun and the only thing between us was a glass case!

During this amazing adventure, we also saw lots of magic. **Ben Seidman**, **John Guastafarro**, **Michael Ammar**, and I performed for the guests. It was truly a weird and wondrous feeling to perform the Cups and Balls while cruising down the **Nile** in **Egypt**. We each did lectures, and **Josh** and **Andi** also did special presentations.

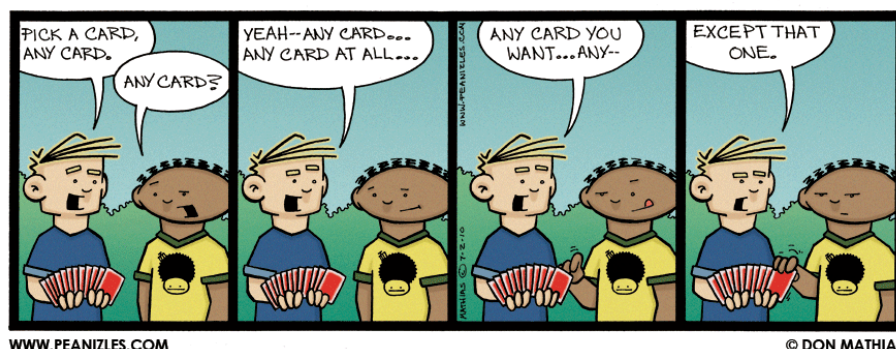
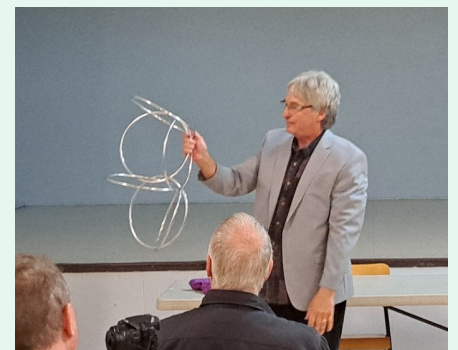
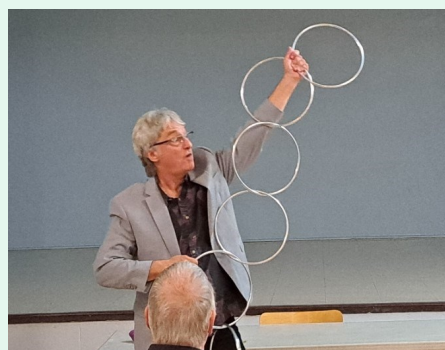


Everyone was gifted a special set of books written especially by us for this Retreat along with a deck of cards and a unique lapel pin. This gift is quite special, but not nearly as special as the friendships and memories that were made. If you ever have the opportunity to visit Egypt, don't miss it.

Yoosik Oum performing at the Shanghai Speakeasy at the Tyrant Studios in Vancouver in May.



We were pleased to welcome Steffan Soule a visiting Magician from Seattle to the May Meeting. He delighted us all with his performance of *'The Linking Rings'*.





**Cabaret of Wonders
May 28, 2024**

**Graham Kita
Trevor & Lorena Watters
Billy Hsueh**



Hidden Wonders



Photographs courtesy of Simon Cassegrain

I Recall...

By Roy Hopwood

Looking Forward Looking Back.

In 2000 Australian Country Singer Legend **Slim Dusty** released his 100th album '**Looking forward Looking Back**' with the title track of the same name. Slim left us in 2003, but I hope he does not mind me paying tribute to him by naming this column '**Looking Forward Looking Back**'.

As a 78-year-old, looking forward, my magical journey will mainly consist of an occasional show, probably at no charge, entering some **Vancouver Magic Circle (VMC)** competitions, mentoring other magicians, and working behind the scenes for the **VMC**.

I hope to continue editing the **VMC Newsletter 'The Magical Minutes'** and writing my column '**I Recall...**' for the **Australian Society of Magicians (ASM)**, Melbourne, Newsletter '**Magic Makers.**' As I complete each edition of '**I Recall...**' I add it to an edited compilation, which, is currently running at 130 pages. When I finally put my '**I Recall...**' pen away I intend to create a book of the compilations. However, to know exactly, what the future holds I would need a crystal ball.

Looking back is easier than looking forward as I do not need the crystal ball. I have already, via this column, detailed much of my magical life and events, as well as my thoughts and opinions. Nevertheless, I have not mentioned much about my health and well-being.

Let us start at the beginning.

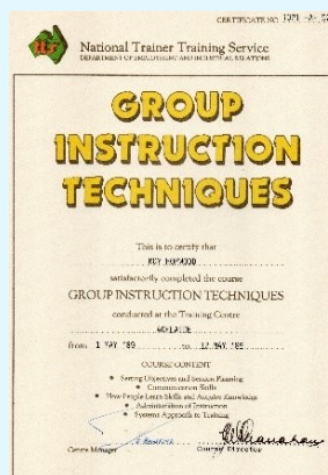
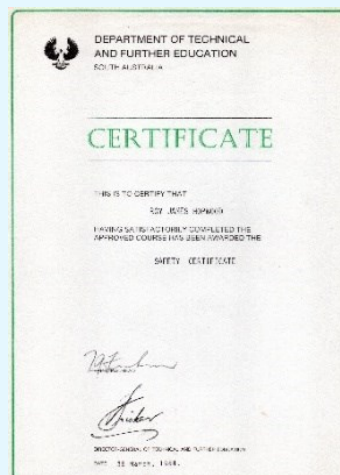
As a young child, and beyond, I was extremely timid (shy) and nervous. I would not say '**boo to a goose.**' Other than being diagnosed with **Childhood Diabetes** I was relatively well. A little time later, it was declared that I no longer had **Diabetes**.

When I started in magic at age 11 (1957) I was still timid and nervous in front of people.

It was not until the 1970s that my confidence improved, partly due to being a **St John** first aid instructor on **King Island**, Tasmania, where I had to be in front of people teaching first aid.

I moved to **Adelaide** in **South Australia** in 1979 and was diagnosed and treated for an ulcer with **Tagamet**

It is now the 1980s and I went to **TAFE** (Technical and Further Education) College and studied, Occupational Health and Safety, and obtained my **Safety Certificate**.

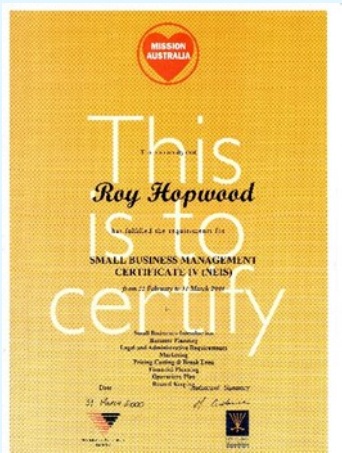


I was now working as an Industrial Safety Officer/Consultant I had to be able to run meetings and present training and information sessions to all levels of employees and management.

As well as performing regularly, I was also drinking heavily.

It was in the 1980s that I was first diagnosed with **depression/stress/anxiety**. I am still being treated for these conditions.

Following taking a **Targeted Separation Package (TSP)** from work in 1994 I obtained a **Certificate IV in Small Business Management** and started my entertainment booking agency '**Endeavour Entertainment**'.



The business was not making a fortune, but it helped to keep me and others busy with gigs. That is until 2008 when the 'global financial crises' decimated the entertainment business.

It was during the 1990s that I started developing **Dupuytren's Contracture** in my right hand, to date, I have had 2 surgical operations. As a result, I have had to modify how I handle cards and other items. Over the past few years, **Dupuytren's Contracture** has also developed in my left hand, meaning I need to modify how I handle props again. During a recent **VMC** close-up competition, one of the judges commented:

"The way you cupped your hands made it very difficult to see what was in them."

Generally, I have been well and fit, competing in many running races including 5 **City to Bay** (12 km) in **Adelaide** and more recently, albeit much slower, 5 **Run the Bridge** (10km) in **Hobart**.

After moving to **Hobart** in **Tasmania** in 2009 I was treated for **Major Depression** and in 2010 after being classified as being **prediabetic** for several years I was finally diagnosed with **Type 2 Diabetes** and was able to access services and treatments that were not available as a prediabetic.

Since moving to **Canada** in 2019 my health issues have increased, I can no longer run and sometimes have trouble walking. I have also been diagnosed with **Pancreatitis** (caused by my drinking in the 1980s?), **Barrett's Esophagus** and **Diabetic Neuropathy**.

Although my confidence level these days is generally good, I can still have periods when my mood is low, my confidence drops as well, and my **Stress Levels** go through the roof as does my **Anxiety**.

As well as being a **Type 2 Diabetic** I have several other ongoing health issues, including **RLS**; **PLMD** and **major sleep issues**. Finally, although never been diagnosed I have suffered from **OCD** all my life, this is possibly why I am good 'at' numbers but not maths.

Although I am retired and no longer work or perform often, I am looking forward to what magical events await me and even if my hands no longer work well, if my mind is working, I can help fellow magicians with their routines; and write more columns for '**Magic Makers**', as well as continue to produce '**The Magical Minutes**'.

Magicians' Mini Biographies

Daniels, Paul



Paul Daniels (1938-2016) born in the north east of Yorkshire, England as **Newton Edward Daniels**, **Paul** started to read magic books at the age of 11. After 19 years as an amateur and then semi professional, he turned full time pro at the age of 30. According to a TV records book, he became the most successful television magician of the 20th century, with regular audiences of 15 million viewers in the UK and TV program sales to 43 countries. His live shows were also successful, including a 14 month run in the West End of London. His assistant (later wife), **Debbie McGee**, became as well known in the UK as **Paul** himself. A poll once showed him to be the second best known person in the UK, second only to **Prince Charles**. One of his three sons, **Martin Daniels**, is carrying on the tradition.

My first live magician and magic influence

David Nixon



David Nixon¹ (1919-1978) was an English magician and television personality. At the height of his career, **Nixon** was the best-known magician in the **UK**.

Nixon's father was a lawyer whose hobby was magic and who took **David** to watch performers such as [Nevil Maskelyne](#) and [David Devant](#). One magician who made an early impression on the young boy was [Stanley Collins](#), who had a gentlemanly image that influenced Nixon's later performing style. **Nixon** started performing magic after an aunt bought him an [Ernest Sewell](#) Magic Box one Christmas.

On leaving school he got a job with the *Henley Telegraph*, the in-house magazine of the *W. T. Henley Telegraph Company*, a publication which **Alfred Hitchcock** had founded. In 1938 he joined the **Magic Circle**. He also became an accomplished double bass player and performed with a local band.

With the advent of the *Second World War* **Nixon** joined [ENSA](#), the organization set up to provide entertainment for British troops. He had been prevented from serving in a front-line role because of suffering from pneumonia when he was a teenager. After the war, he joined the *Fol de Rols*, a variety troupe based in Scarborough.

In addition to his magic act, he sang, danced and worked '*front of house*'. In 1949 he married a singer named **Margaret Burton**. The same year he got his first break into television in a show called *Café Continental*. **Margaret** died in 1952 and later the same year Nixon married his second wife **Paula Marshall** who had worked with him in his act.

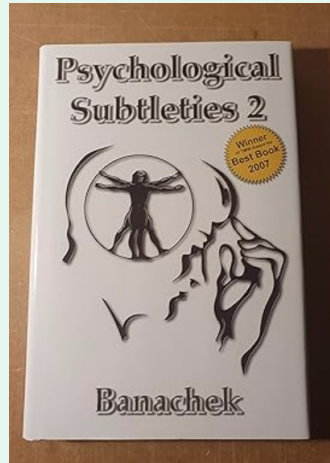
Nixon's big break came in 1954 when he was invited to be a panellist on the British version of the highly successful television quiz show *What's My Line?* He went on to present series on various subjects, including the British version of *Candid Camera*, *Comedy Bandbox* (1962) (later *David Nixon's Comedy Bandbox* (1966), and was **Basil Brush's** first partner. His magic shows included *Tonight with David Nixon* (1969), *David Nixon's Magic Box* (1970), and *The David Nixon Show* (1972). He also appeared as a panellist on TV and radio game shows, most notably on the UK TV version of *What's My Line?* He famously presented one episode of *This is Your Life* in which the subject was none other than the series' host, **Eamonn Andrews**. **Nixon** also hosted a TV series on chess.

David Nixon has been recognized as influencing future UK magicians as diverse as [Wayne Dobson](#) and [Jerry Sadowitz](#).

Nixon died of lung cancer. He was a heavy smoker and was first diagnosed with cancer in 1976. He underwent treatment which appeared to have been successful, but the disease returned a couple of years later and he died just short of his 59th birthday.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUBTLETIES 2

By Banachek



Volume two in this excellent series continues where the first one left off, however this book not only offers tips, ideas and observations of natural human responses that can be inserted into situations that will make an effect much more entertaining, stronger and memorable, it also contains some complete routines from professionals who value and understand the ideas in the first book.

Some of those who have contributed routines are:

- Greg Arce
- Peter Arcane
- Dr Bill Cushman
- Patrick Kuffs
- Ian Rowland

And more.

Psychological Subtleties 2 was the winner of the TMW award for best book 2007.

J. Stenning

June 11, 2024

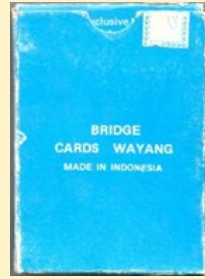
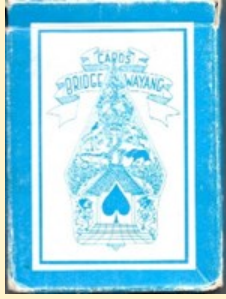
Congratulations Gabriella

Congratulations to **Gabriella Lester** for being awarded the Magicana Sharing Wonder Canadian Rising Star 2024.

<https://www.magicana.com/news/blog/canadian-rising-star-2024>

Roy's Deck Review

Cards Bridge Wayang



This extremely beautiful, deck was made in Indonesia by Percetakan Populair Printers, featuring wonderful original Wayang designs on the court cards and Jokers. It has a fabulous Ace of Spades... a "Gunungan" (Mountain).

Wayang, also known as Wajang, is a traditional form of puppet theatre play originally found in the cultures of Java, Indonesia and other parts of Southeast Asia, wherein a dramatic story is told through shadows thrown by puppets and sometimes combined with human characters.

These Indonesian playing cards are described, as being 'Bridge' size but are 'poker' size, they are 63 mm x 88 mm (2.5" x 3.5").

My deck is blue backed, it also comes in red and is on my wish list. Although my deck is used, it is in a reasonable condition, however, it does not spread or shuffle well.

The spot cards have standard faces, but the court cards are a custom design to represent the Wayang Puppets.



In his article published in August 2022 in '[WOPC](https://www.wopc.co.uk)¹', Roddy Somerville (Somerville, 2022) writes:

"Wayang is a traditional form of puppet theatre entertainment which originated on the island of Java but which is also known in Bali and elsewhere. The name wayang can refer to the entire show or to the puppet itself. The delicacy and apparent fragility of these colourful puppets are well conveyed in this pack with its double-ended courts and black-and-white Jokers. The gunungan (Javanese "mountain") is a particularly suitable figure to be represented on the Ace of Spades because of its conical shape".

My blue deck is the only one² listed on Portfolio 52³

One was recently listed on eBay at around \$65 CAD, but seeing I am missing a Joker; Jack of Spades and an information card I have valued it at about \$50 CAD.

This is not a deck to play games or do magic with, but it is HTF (Hard To Find) and is highly collectable.

Works Cited

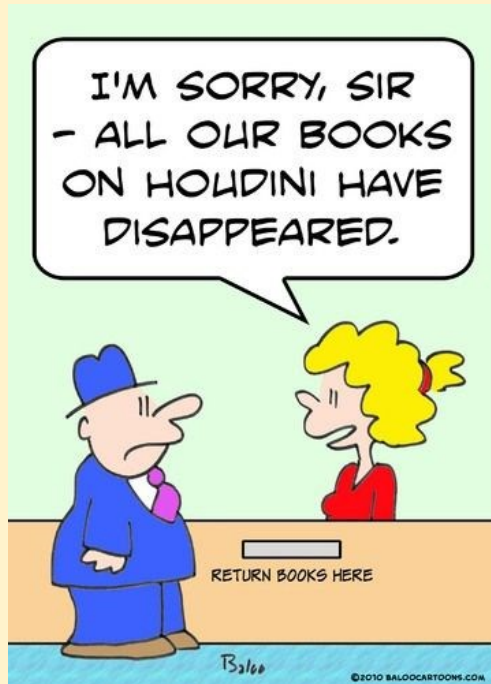
Somerville, R. (2022, August 20). <https://www.wopc.co.uk/indonesia/wayang-bridge-cards>. Retrieved from <https://www.wopc.co.uk/>.

¹ <https://www.wopc.co.uk/indonesia/wayang-bridge-cards>

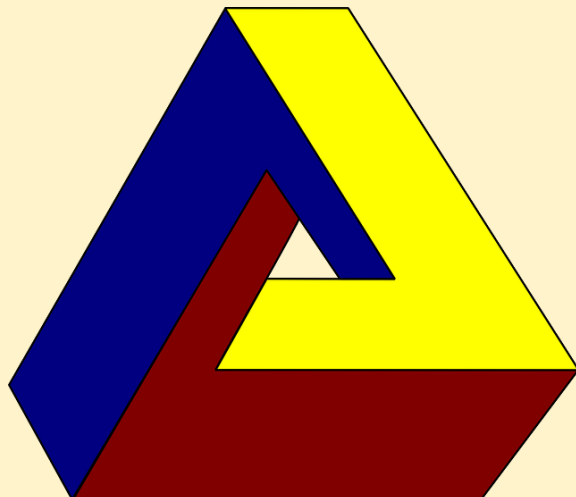
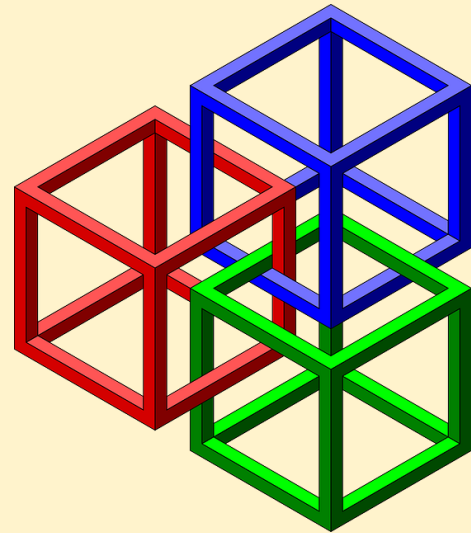
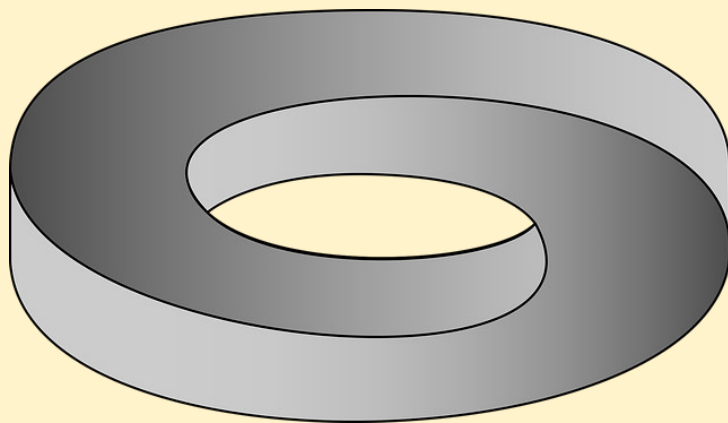
² <https://www.portfolio52.com/deck/18546/view>

³ <https://www.portfolio52.com/>

Jest for Fun



Some optical illusions for you to ponder



Diary Dates*

Generally meets on the fourth Thursday of the Month—January; February; March; April; May; June ; September; October: November; Plus August—Picnic on date tba.

VMC Executive Meeting:	TBA - via Zoom
June 2024:	Thursday June 27, 2024 Workshop — Roy Hopwood Competition — Unopened Deck Competition
July 2024	NO MEETING IN JULY

Vancouver Magic Circle
lbmring92.com

Shows (as a courtesy)

Hidden Wonders https://hiddenwonders.ca	Shows are generally on Thursday 7 PM, Fri & Sat 7 & 9:30 and Sunday 3 & 7 TBA—check web site for dates and times
The Parlour Magic Show The Parlour Magic Show	Monthly on the third Wednesday TBA—check web site for dates and times

Other Clubs (as a courtesy)

Society of American Magicians #95 SAM#95	Meetings of the SAM #95 are held the first Tuesday of the month at members homes. TBA—check web site for dates and times
Fraser Valley Magic Circle FVMC	Regular monthly meetings take place on the second Friday of most months, at a private home in Mission, BC. TBA—check web site for dates and times

Magic quote of the day

Anyone who believes in magic is a fool.

Harry Houdini

VMC Library

The Vancouver Magic Circle Library Catalogue is online!

Remember: if you want a new trick, look in an old book! Our hope is that whenever our members see a trick they really want, or are trying to learn a difficult piece of theory, or are interested in buying a book— they will first check the library. This is one way we can improve our magic, and this [searchable online catalogue](#) is the first step towards taking full advantage of this incredible resource.

Please Do Not Forward The Magical Minutes to Non-Members*

This is just a friendly reminder to all our members to please not to forward our newsletter, 'The Magical Minutes' or any private newsletter links, to people who are not financial members of the VMC. The online VMC Library, and The Magical Minutes newsletter are a membership privilege. It takes a lot of time and effort to write our newsletter, and we do it exclusively for the benefit of our members. If a non-financial member asks you to forward The Magical Minutes to them, please refrain from doing so. Lastly, the Executive Committee would like to thank everyone who has contributed to and / or sent positive messages about The Magical Minutes newsletter. It is truly appreciated and makes all the hard work worth it.

Thank you
The VMC Executive Committee

* Except with express permission of the VMC Executive Committee.

** Do NOT rely upon this newsletter for critical dates and times of meetings; events or shows. Always check the official source of the information.*