

RING 180, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA – Horace Bennett Ring

Meets 2nd. Wed. each month, 7:00 pm, Children's Museum, 2626 West

Broad St., Richmond, VA 23220
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Vice President Bill Baber opened the August meeting in the absence of President Watt Hyer with a summary of the business meeting held the previous week. He then introduced the night's theme, "Mentalism and Mental Magic," and told of his discovery of *Prism* by Max Maven (Hermetic Press, 2005), a republication of the Phil Goldstein "Color Series." Bill then showed two effects, which did not come from the book. First, Bill chose Randy Earley and Mike Kinnaird as assistants. He gave each a set of five cards with the standard Rhine-Zener symbols. Randy and Mike chose symbols. Bill spoke of the projective hypothesis in psychology and the ability of psychics to read personal auras. He then read the auras of the two spectators, describing personality aspects (cold-reading). From their personalities he deduced the symbols which each had chosen.

Second, Bill showed "Token" (Paul Richards, Elmwood Magic, 2013). Bill placed a small envelope on the table. Mike Kinnaird then chose a face-down ESP card. Neither Mike nor Bill looked at the face of the card. Bill spoke of precognition and removed a token, emptying the tabled envelope. When Mike turned over the card and the token, he found both bore the same ESP symbol.

Mike Kinnaird asked Landon Davis and Amy Duck to assist him in performing "Finger, Finger" from *Self-Working Mental Magic* by Karl Fulves (Dover, 1979). Mike blindfolded himself with his tie and turned his back on the assistants. Each assistant held up a number of fingers.

A member of the audience called out the total number of fingers displayed. Mike then announced the number of fingers that each assistant had displayed.

Harry Gallant used Barry Mills as an assistant for two effects. Both relied on fishing using word trees and a "slate" with hidden prompts. In the first, Harry introduced a portfolio marked with several travel destinations. He was able to reveal Barry's choice. In the second, Barry chose a word from a newsletter on the theater and the arts. Again, Harry discovered Barry's choice. Harry began his presentation with the classic "No" gag. Having written something on his slate, Harry asked Barry if he knew what had been written on the hidden side. When Barry said,

142 www.magician.org *The Linking Ring*

"No," Harry showed that "No" was, indeed, written on the slate.

In "To-Do Voodoo" (Robert Lax), Lou Dean

asked Mike Kinnaird to think of an item on his to-do list. Lou then immediately stated the item. He then showed another list and read items from it, a hodge-podge of objects. He asked Amy Duck and Mike to select an item from the list. Lou immediately named the items that Amy and Mike had chosen. The second effect was Jim Pace's "Magic List." Lou identified Bill Goldman's "Mental Yarn" as a similar effect. Lou then demonstrated an effect similar to "Brain Wave," but without a gaffed deck. Lou recalled it as being from a past issue of *The Linking Ring*.

Mike Kinnaird returned to test the principle used in "Money Sense" in Fulves's book, cited above. In this effect the performer determines which of a spectator's hands holds a hidden object. Though he failed on his first attempt, the next two were successful.

With the performances concluded, the meeting adjourned and small groups formed to pursue clarifications of the presented material.

Wm. C. Baber