

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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President Watt Hyer opened the December meeting by announcing upcoming activities, and citing the members who attended the local comic book convention. He then introduced the evening's topic, "Seasonal Magic."

Watt showed two blue-backed aces with a redbacked king between them. When a spectator removed the middle, red-backed card, and turned it over, instead of a king, he saw the message, "Ho, Ho, Ho," which Watt reported showed Santa's approval and guaranteed a merry Christmas. Watt then invited Elmer Deffenbaugh to step forward and play the role of a young boy. Watt showed a box with an empty drawer. When he closed the drawer and reopened it, it was filled with crayons. Watt then invited Elmer to color portions of a picture on a pad. Watt removed the picture from the pad, and Elmer held it against his chest. When Elmer next showed the picture, it was completely colored, showing Santa and a sleigh filled with presents. This effect, SPS Publications's "Magic Christmas Picture," is based on Silly Billy's "Magic Party Picture." Tom Olshefski showed his four-ace routine, "Holiday Aces." His patter involved encountering a boy who showed him the effect, but vanished, leaving behind his magic wand, by which the effect was accomplished, as a Christmas gift for Tom, providing Tom the ability to perform and an opportunity to wish his spectators a Merry Christmas. Tom's original routine in which four aces were laid down separately, three cards dealt onto each ace, and the aces assembled into a single pile, was repeated several times with different twists. Tom said he built his routine from Brother John Hamman's "Final Aces" and John Bannon's "Bullet Train" (John's own combination of "Iconoclastic Aces," "Syncopated Aces," and "Interrobang Aces").

Larry Lessner has been improving his coin work. He showed versions of "Coins Across" for one coin, three coins, and four coins. Each routine involved repetitions of a coin jumping from one hand to another – sometimes a spectator's hand – even when a spectator held the performer's wrist. One version used a shell, but the others were pure sleight. He said that one of the routines was essentially developed by Chris Priest.

Elmer Deffenbaugh resurrected an effect that he used to perform regularly. He had acquired it ten, or more, years ago from a "British Ring Parade" in *The Linking Ring*. Elmer showed a cord, a brass, Chinese coin with a hole in its center, and a brass ring about 1.5 inches (38 mm) in diameter. He threaded the coin onto the cord and

tied a knot beneath it so that it would not fall off. The ring was also on the cord. The assembly was placed into a spectator's hand. The spectator chose the coin; and, when Elmer pulled the two ends of the cord from the spectator's hand, the coin remained, having penetrated the cord. Elmer then showed that the cord could penetrate the ring, too. Elmer reported that, in addition to the standard ring and string moves, the routine *146 www.magician.org The Linking Ring* used the "Block-Kord" technique. During and after performances there was discussion of several topics: the types and sources of bullion coins, books and DVDs, future meeting themes, and the availability and marketing of effects. The meeting adjourned with members looking forward to the coming weekend with its Saturday lecture by Mr. Tango and the Ring's holiday party on Sunday. *Wm. C. Baber*