

**International Brotherhood of Magicians
Ring 180, The Horace Bennett Ring, Richmond Virginia**

**Report of Meeting
January 28, 2015**

Bad weather caused postponing the January meeting from its usual second Wednesday to the fourth Wednesday. As usual, President Watt Hyer opened the meeting by announcing upcoming activities and recent past accomplishments. He then introduced the evening's topic, "What I got for Christmas," or, more properly, "Recently Acquired." Members were welcomed to share anything acquired, purchased or learned, in the past twelve months, provided it had not been shown at an earlier Ring meeting.

Watt then discussed his recent interest in "flexagons" and showed his resulting accomplishments with them. He noted that information could be acquired by Googling "flexagons."

Mike Kinnaird read a passage from *The Secret Life of Houdini: The Making of America's First Superhero*, a Christmas present from his wife.

Tom Olshefski presented his original routine, "The Wizard that Fooled Dai Vernon," which was inspired by a Michael Close Routine. Spectator Mike Kinnaird selected a card, signed it "Vernon," and watched it repeatedly rise from the middle to the top of the deck. In the end it rose from the middle of the deck into an empty card box.

Harry Gallant performed "Cards in Your Pocket." Zack Gartrell put a number of cards into his pocket. He then turned over an instruction card which read, "Take a card from your pocket and turn over the next card." After several repeats, he reached a card that said, "Now, there are no more cards in your pocket" – a true statement!

Larry Lessner, assisted by Tom Olshefski, showed how the stage illusion of sawing a lady in half could be accomplished with playing cards. The "lovely assistant," a selected, marked, folded, and torn card, vanished and reappeared, fully restored, in an envelope. Larry then discussed various ways the several parts of the effect could be accomplished and noted their sources.

Davis West presented "Confinement" by Phil Dacosta from Ellusionist.com. A card, chosen and signed by Mike Kinnaird, vanished from the deck and was found folded in a new box of gum which, in turn, was sealed in a cellophane wrapper.

Barry Mills had acquired a set of silver and gold coins. When he removed one from its mate in his hand and put it in his pocket, it mysteriously reappeared in his hand with its mate. These actions were repeated twice; and, in the end, both hands were empty.

Zachary Gartrell asked Tom Olshefski, Barry Mills, Watt Hyer, and Davis West, to call out small numbers. As each did so Zack counted the called number of cards off a deck of cards. Each time the count ended with an Ace. A gaffed card from Tango Magic aided in accomplishing the effect.

Watt Hyer told of his acquisitions of *Del Ray America's Foremost* book with DVD, "Tango Ultimate Coin," Joshua Jay's "Triad Coins," and Tony Miller's "Möbius Wallet," and performed coin effects involving productions, vanishes, penetrations, and transformations.

Bill Baber, assisted by Davis West, Watt Hyer, Barry Mills, Mike Kinnaird, and Tom Olshefski, performed "Arcana" from *Capricornian Tales* by Christian Chelman. Each assistant received a small number of tarot cards from which he chose one. After collecting and redistributing the cards, Bill revealed each person's choice.