

International Brotherhood of Magicians  
Ring 180, The Horace Bennett Ring, Richmond, VA

**Report of Meeting**  
**January 13, 2016**

President Watt Hyer began the January 2016 meeting with announcements. He began the performance theme, "What I Got for Christmas," or "Recently Acquired," by showing the Theory 11 playing cards given to him by his nephew. He then showed his copy of Martin Gardner's book, *Impromptu*, which he bought for himself with his "Christmas money." He reported that he also received a "Houdini, Master of Escape, Brainteaser" game, in which the player attempts to free a figure of Houdini from a series of string and ring puzzles which bind him.

Davis West nicely performed a "Torn and Restored Newspaper" effect. He then performed his version of Bill Abbott's "Celebrity Smart Ass." In this effect a spectator, Andrew Clarke, repeatedly discarded cards until only one remained. The cards had the names of celebrities on them. An envelope, placed on the table at the beginning of the routine held a prediction in the form of a large picture of the named celebrity – first as a baby, then as an adult.

Dan Dalton showed both sides of a foulard, demonstrated its emptiness by pulling it through his closed fist, and produced a birdcage. He had recently acquired the prop at the Magicians Alliance of Western New York convention.

Mike Kinnaird told of his trip to Washington, DC, where he spent two days with the Houdini collection in the Library of Congress. Mike is researching Houdini's appearances in Virginia. Members reported that one or two Houdini relatives live in the Richmond area.

Larry Rohr told of his trip to New York and his attendance at "The Illusionists" show at the Neil Simon Theatre.

Zachary Gartrell recounted several experiences during his recent extended visit to Texas while performing "Three Fly," which he learned from Eric Jones' DVD, "An Extension of Me." Coins appeared and jumped from hand to hand. Zack also produced an eight-foot pole (or drinking straw) from his small travel bag. During his Texas stay, he attended a meeting of the Ring in Austin and met Edward Boswell and John Magic.

Joe Duck invited Davis West to select a card and to sign it. Davis also initialed both sides of a quarter coin. The card was lost in the deck and the coin vanished. When Davis cut the tabled deck, he found the coin resting on the chosen card. The effect was "Block Buster" by Tony D'Amico, published by Mark Mason. Next, Joe showed a small collection of foreign coins. Mike Kinnaird mixed them and put them in his own pocket. He then removed the coins two at a time; but when he fished in his pocket for the last one, it had vanished. Mike found it in a small bag that had been on the table since the beginning of the routine. The effect was "Pocket Money" by Wayne Dobson, also published by Mark Mason.

Harry Gallant passed out two magazines for examination. A spectator selected one and chose a word from it. Harry was able to divine the selected word. The effect, Steve Thompson's "Glance," was published by Vanishing Inc.

Bill Baber and Mike Kinnaird played several rounds of "Paper, Rock, Scissors." After the last game, Bill showed that he had predicted the result, the winner and the objects played. The effect, titled after the game, was developed by Didier Dupré and was published by Colombini Magic. Bill stated that he would like to expand the effect to "Rock, Paper, Scissors, Lizard, Spock." This comment led to a discussion of the game's origins and its several forms.

Other discussions ensued with Lou Dean referencing "The Wizard's Eye," newsletter of the Norfolk Ring, and performing an effect recently published in it.