

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

**Report of Meeting
March 11, 2016**

President Watt Hyer opened the March 2016 meeting with announcements and a call for performers to fulfill several Ring commitments. He reminded the session of the evening's topic, "Tech Tricks," effects using smart phones, tablets, and other electronic devices. However, several young boys were visiting with their mothers. They were invited to perform first and were not required to adhere to the topic.

Jayden Johnson showed his use of a thin, plastic card-sized box to make a playing card appear and vanish.

Isaac Hughes invited a spectator to select a card. Its image appeared on the screen of his Nintendo DS. He reported learning this effect from YouTube.

Cody Johnson showed a magical Egyptian box. He placed a ball in it. The ball vanished and reappeared.

Seth Hughes folded a coin in a small piece of paper. He placed the paper with the coin on his palm and took a picture of it with his smart phone. He then tore up the piece of paper, showing that the coin had vanished. When he showed the screen of his smart phone, there was a picture of his palm with the vanished coin on it. He said that he had assembled this effect from pieces that he had learned on YouTube.

Mike Kinnaird asked Seth Hughes to hold an ancient copy of *The Memoirs of Robert-Houdin*. He told the audience that he was so familiar with the book that he remembered the first and last words on each page. He loaned his cell phone to Isaac Hughes. Isaac used the phone's calculator app to multiply two randomly chosen three-digit numbers and to divide the result by a randomly chosen four-digit number. The resulting quotient was rounded to an integer, which was used as a page number in the book. Mike stated his recollection of the first and last words on the page, and Seth verified that he was correct. The effect was "Magic Trick #3" by Mikael Montier, which is available for iPhones and Android telephones.

Michael Douglas asked Ashley Johnson, mother of Jayden and Cody, to sit near a Guillotine-like apparatus. A series of gags followed with Jayden trying to ring a bell that didn't respond to his shaking ("Tel's Bells" by Terry Herbert and Guy Bavli). He also was not able to control an electric doorbell mounted on a board ("Don't Ring That Bell" by John Breeds). In the end Ashley's hand appeared to fall into the Guillotine's basket, but Michael was able to restore it with duct tape.

Harry Gallant presented Seth Hughes a choice of paper strips, each bearing a column of words. Seth chose a strip. The audience chose a random point. Seth cut the strip at that point, also cutting a word in half. The cut word matched the predicted word on a card that Harry had laid on the table when he began the routine.

Harry then asked if anyone knew someone who could be reached by mobile phone. Of the several volunteers, he chose Christine Hughes, mother of Seth and Isaac. He showed a deck of cards. Christine called her husband, who named a card. Harry showed that one card was reversed in the deck – the one that the distant husband had named. Of course, Harry was using an "Invisible Deck" or "Ultra Mental Deck" with a routine adapted to the evening's "tech" theme.

Bill Baber placed a tiny "butterfly egg" on Christine's palm. He took a picture of the egg on the palm with his iPhone. He spoke of eggs, Easter, and transformation. A cocoon now appeared in the picture of Christine's palm. A butterfly emerged from the cocoon. It flew out of the picture and returned, only to fly away again. Bill told Christine that she could make the butterfly return by waving her hand over the phone. When she did, she saw that the butterfly was now on the back of her hand. The effect was the "butterfly" version of "My Pet Boris" or "Magic Spider" by Ian Pidgeon. It is available for Android devices, too.

Watt Hyer spoke of the several effects that he carries on his iPhone and of non-phone gadgets that he uses. They included "iBeer" in which the phone appears to be a mug of beer from which the owner drinks. A "soda" version of this effect also exists. He mentioned "Card Now" in which the iPhone appears to print a business card. His iPhone also had "Dazzler App" by Jordan Gomez and Fabien Mirault, which allows the iPhone to flash at the exact moment desired using a control delay and sound recognition to trigger the flash. He also had a rechargeable electronic flash unit in a thumb tip that delivered a very

bright light. The last item he showed was “Magic Shuffle.” It allowed his iPhone to serve as a deck of cards.

With all presentations completed small groups formed to pursue additional information about the demonstrations.