

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 November meeting by announcing upcoming activities, stating that the present officers will continue to serve in 2015 because there was no one to contest any office, and calling for themes for meetings in 2015. He then turned the meeting over to Nathan Kranzo, the lecturer for the evening.

Nate's current lecture is captured on the DVD, *Kranzo in Detroit*.

He began his Richmond appearance with a flash of fire from green flash paper, leading into a coin routine using a "Silver, Copper, Brass Transposition" coin set. He stated that his sweater was made of "cash-mere" as he appeared to pull a coin from his arm. He flipped a coin and asked a spectator to call "heads" or "tails" as he caught the coin and dropped a cloth pet toy in the form of an animal tail onto the table. A version of his "Silver, Copper, Brass" routine also appears on his *Stand-up Coin Magic* DVD.

In "Voodoo Card" he spoke of the principle of sympathetic magic. A selected card was signed and returned to the deck, which was encased in its box. A business card was folded. When the deck was removed from its box, the selected card was found folded in the middle of the deck. The business card was given to a spectator, and Nate tore a corner from the selected card. When the spectator examined the business card, a corner was missing.

Nate asked the audience to choose one of three magazines. He flipped through the chosen one and stopped when a spectator called, "Stop." Nate tore the indicated page from the magazine and handed it to a spectator, who tore the page into progressively smaller pieces from which he mentally chose a single word. Of course, Nate divined the word. This magazine test was an adaptation of U. F. Grant's "Tru Test" to which Kranzo has purchased the manufacturing rights. There was considerable discussion of technique and presentation concerning this effect.

Nate also presented a similar effect and led a thorough discussion of his "World's Coolest Book Test" in which a spectator selects one of two books, another spectator calls out a page number, a third spectator thinks of a line of text on the selected page, and the performer reveals the content of the text.

Nate performed a series of card revelations which were possible due to several glimpses or peeks, which he demonstrated and explained. Nate showed three leather products from Anthony (Tony) Miller of RFA Productions: the "Complete Peek Wallet," the "Möbius Coin Wallet," and "The Badger," a Mullica-type card

wallet. Comparing the live lecture to the DVD reminds us why we attend live lectures. The live lecture may not include everything on the DVD, but there are often bits in the live lecture that are not on the DVD, including the considerable interplay between the lecturer and his audience. Nathan Kranzo, like other good lecturers, responds completely to questions from the audience; but he is able to sense when discussions should be postponed to an after-lecture session.

Wm. C. Baber