

Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
June 2019 Volume 14, Issue 10

May's meeting

Without the use of the school staff room (due to a little school production of "*A Chorus Line*"!), we found ourselves an alternative – **Crabby Joe's** (where we usually go after meetings, anyway!). The thought of magic and suds brought out some old faces (**Dom St, Jacques**) and guests (**Patrick Jobin** and **Alan Coombs**).

Mike Fisher lead off the night of "*Coin Magic*" with his version of a "portable portal" using an *Okito Box*, where coins disappeared and reappeared in an out of the coin box at will. Mike has showed us a lovely routine using Chinese coins strung on a ribbon and penetrating through it. He could also tell if a coin was heads or tails up when locked inside a metal cylinder.

Mark Hogan went old-school and demonstrated the old "*Thieves, Sheep and the Barn*" trick, done to a pirate story. He also laid out a number of coins in a square totaling 10 on each side, and after removing one, they were rearranged and still totaled 10 on each side (and did this a number of times!).

Things brake into chaos when you're in a restaurant – there were lots of tricks being done one all sides of the table we were at – and **Kyle Robinson** and **Malachi Davey** took over another table for a while!

Next Meeting:

Date: Friday, JUNE 14 (NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE!)

Time: 7:00 PM (doors open at 6:30pm)

Topic: "MAGIC AT THE MARIENBAD" SHOW!

MARIENBAD RESTAURANT

122 Carling Street, London (corner of Carling & Talbot St.)

All in all, people had a lot of fun – and for those of us who felt the urge, the suds didn't hurt, either!

Mark Hogan

May's Meeting

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122 Carling Street, London (corner of Carling & Talbot St.)

TOPIC: "MAGIC AT THE MARIENBAD" SHOW!

The magic club usually does something a bit different in June, so this year we attend the 3rd installment of the "*Magic at the Marienbad*" comedy and magic show.

The club will cover tickets for all club members!

Our own **Mike Fisher** (as "**Corbin, the Charming Cheat**") is the host of "*Magic at the Marienbad*", which brings two new performers to the venue in June.

The show opens with **David Green**, the "Punniest" comedian in Canada, performing his hilarious stand up comedy.

Then the headliner for the evening is **Graeme Reed** "*Graemazing*", who will amaze you with his highly entertaining and incredible magic show. Event starts with a cocktail hour at 6:30pm (cash bar) with strolling magicians entertaining before the show begins.

After the show, for those who wish to stay, we'll meet as a group in *Chaucer's Pub* (right downstairs from the show). *First drink is on the club!*

So come out and support the newest magic entertainment spot in London!

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

Please send any original reviews, magic tricks or routines to:

magic_london@yahoo.ca

News Of Interest



Annual store auction at Browser's Den

(BrowsersDen.com)

SUNDAY, JUNE 9 AT 11AM -
(Doors to shop open at
10:30am):

Denizens, it is time for our annual full day auction! This is the time of the year where you get an opportunity to bid on magic props, supplies, books, etc... and the highest bidder wins!

This event is **FREE** to attend. Just come to the shop on

the day of the auction and you are certain to find some great deals!

We have been doing these semi-annual auctions for 43 years! So come and join us for the deals...and join us to be part of history.

For those who would like to bring in items to be auctioned off please bring no more than 2 lots. However, a lot may consist of as many items as you wish. You may start bringing in your auction items anytime from now until May 31st. If you have any questions simply call the shop (416-783-7022).

Canadian magicians holding world records

(Canada's Magic)

Did you know that there are eight Canadian magicians that hold world records in the Guinness Book of World Records?

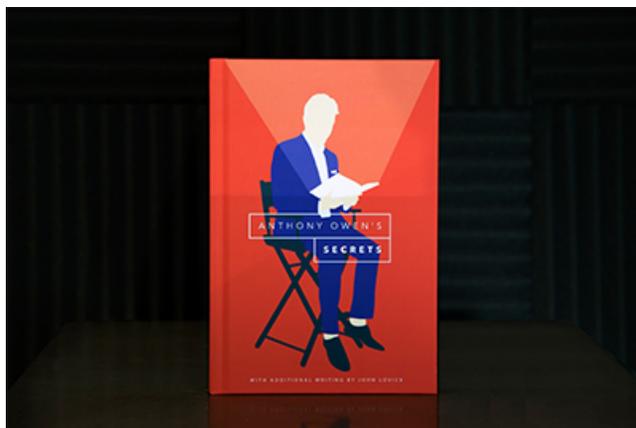
And here they are ...

1. **Doug The Great:** Heaviest Stilts Mastered. [Guinness World Record]
2. **Scott Hammell:** Highest Suspension Straight Jacket Escape. [Guinness World Record]
3. **Lucas Wilson:** Fastest Suspension Straight Jacket Escape. [Guinness World Record - 2011]
4. **Carisa Hendrix:** Longest duration fire torch teething. [Guinness World Record - 2012]

5. **Michael Francis:** Most one-handed coin rolls in a minute. [Guinness World Record - 2013]
6. **Mark Correia:** Longest Amount of Time Wearing a Straitjacket. [World Record - 2014]
7. **Gordon Precious:** Oldest heli-skier [World Record - 2019]
8. **The Sentimentalists:** (Chris Mysterion and Steffi Kay) Most items transferred from one mentalist to another. [World Record - 2017]

The passing of Anthony Owen

(Andi Gladwin)



Anthony Owen was known as one of the most influential creators in the field of mentalism, and many of his original plots and effects are featured in the repertoires of the most famous and respected performers in the field. Mr. Owen was also acknowledged as an expert in the realm of television magic, having produced some of the most memorable content for **Derren Brown, John Archer, Pete Firman**, and dozens

of others.

Our friend and colleague **Anthony Owen** sadly passed away suddenly this week. It has shocked the magic community: Anthony was an ever-present, prolific, and kind magician and TV producer, and all of us at *Vanishing Inc.* team had the great pleasure of working with him at our conventions, and on other projects.

I first met Anthony when I was fourteen years old. He was one of the key players of *The Young Magicians Club*, of which I was a member. He was extremely supportive to me at that time and, in the days before emails, he would write me letters of support and encouragement. He was a successful magician in his mid-twenties who had already published a successful journal, travelled the world (on an innovative scholarship style programme that he had arranged for himself), started a company called *Dynamic FX*, and had just started to produce television shows. I was just a kid, beginning my interest in magic — yet he still took the time to help and encourage me, when I'm sure he had much more important things on his plate.

That mentorship turned into a friendship. When I moved to London in about 2007, we reconnected and formed a friendship and would meet on occasion for lunch or dinner. He told me that he had always wanted to compile

his material into a book but that he couldn't find the time to finish it, and we joked that one day, I'd find a way to convince him to complete the project.

Little did I know that the joke of publishing his book would become a reality. After we formed *Vanishing Inc.*, Josh and I talked to Anthony about getting the book finished. It took a while, but we got there, and I know he was extremely proud of the end result. The cover artwork by **Michal Kociolek** portrayed him just as I'll always remember him: casually sat back on a director's chair, learning about a magic trick (or, just as often, casually leant back on a chair in a meeting room, or peering down at a monitor on a shoot). The name *Anthony Owen: Secrets* was an idea that I came up with as a hidden reminder of the first time I saw his work: on **Paul Daniel's Secrets** show.

As I ponder the loss that we are all experiencing, I realise one important thing: Anthony's legacy will be that he opened many doors. He gave many of my friends their start in television (both behind the scenes and on screen) and he helped many other friends progress their magic. So while we have lost a great friend, the doors that he has opened for me, and so many others will never be forgotten.

Coin effect - soldiers guarding the castle

(Mark Hogan)

At the last meeting, I performed an effect I had seen some 20 years ago. I was asked to describe it. I don't know the author, but I figure it is as old as the hills. I have seen it performed in different ways and different configurations over the years.

To perform, you will need 28 coins, arranged in a square on the table – 3 coins in each of the corners, and two sets of 2 coins on each side (see below):

3	2	2	3
2			2
2			2
3	2	2	3

Tell the spectators that the layout represents the top of the castle, and the coins are soldiers that protect the castle. Each side must have 10 soldiers during a battle, or else the castle cannot defend itself. Ask the spectators to count the number of soldiers on each of the four sides – they will each count 10 coins.

The enemy has finally come! And one of the soldiers has been killed! Ask one of the spectators to remove any one of the soldiers (coins) from the square. Whatever coin they remove, one or two of the sides won't total 10.

That's when you do your "magic" to save the castle. You will move the remaining coins around the square and unbelievably, all sides will still total 10! And you can do this again, and again ... and the sides will still total 10!

To move the coins properly, I will describe the positions on the square with letters:

A	B	C	D
L			E
K			F
J	I	H	G

Coins at the corners are in positions A, D, G and J; coins at the sides are in positions B, C, E, F, H, I, K, and L.

There are only two rules to follow:

1. *If the spectator takes a coin at a side position:* Take one coin from one of the side positions from either one of the adjacent sides & slide it to the corner of that side & the affected side
2. *If the spectator takes a coin at a corner position:* Take one coin from one of the side positions of the two opposite sides from the affected corner and slide them to the adjacent corners of the affected corner.

Got it? Didn't think so.

Hopefully the following examples will help. I would strongly suggest trying this with coins on your table in the above positions.

Example #1: Spectator removes a coin from position B:

- Position B is a side position. The adjacent sides of the side with position B are the sides ALKJ and DEFG. *Decide on one of those side positions (L, K, E or F) and pick up a coin from that position.*
 - *If you decided on L or K:* move the coin to position A.
 - *If you decided on E or F:* move it to position D.
 - All sides will still total 10 coins!

Example #2: Spectator removes a coin from position A:

- Position A is a corner position. The opposite sides of position A are the sides JIHG and DEFG.
 - Take a coin from one of the side positions of the first side (I or H). Slide that coin to the corner adjacent to the affected corner (position J).
 - Then take a coin from one of the side positions of the second side (E or F). Slide that coin to the corner adjacent to the affected corner (position D).
 - All sides will still total 10 coins!

Once you do understand these two examples, you will see how you will be able to remove any side or corner position and move the remaining coins appropriately.

You may be able to remove up to 8 coins! – but the more coins you remove, the better the chance that the spectators will be able to figure it out. I would suggest removing no more than 5 coins.

Once you do the above moves, you can confuse the spectator further by adding further moves that do absolutely nothing to the total! For example:

- You can move a coin from B to C (i.e. a side position to the other side position on the same side). There is no effect on the total of that side.
- You can move a coin from B to E, then another from F to C (i.e. from one side position to a side position on another side, then another coin from the second side back to the first side). There is no effect on the total of either side.

Try this out with coins on the table. When performing, you can use up to 4 spectators – one to count the coins for each side. Have fun!

Kyle Robinson shows off brass rubbing creation

(Facebook)

Here's a picture of our own **Kyle Robinson** showing off a dragon he created by performing a technique called brass rubbing at the *Elgin Heritage Centre* during this year's *Shunpiker Tour*.

♥ London Free Press liked



Barbara Taylor @SUNtravelgal · 3h

#ldnont Kyle Robinson shows a dragon he created brass rubbing at Elgin Heritage Centre St Thomas #shunpiker tour



↻ 2

♥ 3



Brass rubbings are created by laying a sheet of paper on top of a brass and rubbing the paper with graphite, wax, or chalk, a process similar to rubbing a pencil over a piece of paper placed on top of a coin.

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The Shell Game is a free newsletter sent to members of the London Magicians Guild and other people in the community interested in magic.

Opinions expressed do not reflect the views of the London Magicians Guild.

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