



Vol 24 No. 3

July 2026 Edition

The Magical Minutes

— RING 92 —

VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

lbmring92.com

the Charles Howard Ring



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PHOTOGRAPHY

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Vincent Lee



Marlo, Kate, Mary Jane, Henry, Dave, Bob

Three generations of the Shelly family at Shawn Farquhar's Hidden Wonders gathered around The William Shelly Trophy for excellence in Stage Magic.

This Trophy was donated by their descendant William Curtis Shelly, Co Founder with Charles Howard, of The Vancouver Magic Circle.

Hi fellow VMC Members,

The publication of *The Magical Minutes* is back in full production. We may experience a few bumps in October as we transition from Publisher to Scribus — the learning curve is steeper, but the long-term benefits will be worth it.

The highlight of the past month was the visit from three generations of the family directly connected to one of the VMC's founders, **William Curtis Shelly**. My thanks to **Charles Gauthier** for standing in for me, as I was unfortunately unable to attend.

As we look ahead, the summer break is the perfect time to start thinking about what items you might want to place in the upcoming auctions — and perhaps begin saving so you can bid on a few treasures yourself.

It seems many members are enjoying **Roy's Game**, especially last meeting's *Creative Participation* challenge (the bag game). I plan to continue the series after the break.

There is plenty to read in this edition of *TMM*, including two very interesting and thought-provoking articles from Co-Editor **John Stenning**.

A few months ago we published a series of optical illusions, and several members told us they enjoyed them. We've included a couple more in this issue and will continue adding them over the next few months.

As always, please tell John or me what you would like to see — or not see — in *The Magical Minutes*. We'll do our best to accommodate your wishes.

Talk again soon,

Roy

CO-EDITOR'S DESK: Aug 2026

Well, what can I say? It's another hot summer (with no A/C in my place) however, I'm glad to be here in Vancouver and a member of the VMC, ring 92.

I really don't have much to tell you that you don't already know:

-Lecture coming up

-Pic-nic

And here is the most exciting thing (for me anyway): ***A LIVE AUCTION NEXT MONTH!*** That is in addition to one online! Christmas in September for us magicians, so sort out your magic, go over your budget and get ready to have some fun and add some new stuff to your collection!

Oh and it's not too early to start thinking about the Halloween competition; please remember, we need at least three competitors.

Stay magical, stay hydrated and enjoy the rest of the summer.

J.Stenning

S.A.A.

Aug 10/2026.

Visit by direct descendants of William C Shelly

On Thursday, July 9, 2026 members of the VMC Executive and Board hosted the descendants— three generations no less— of William C. Shelly, a co-founder of our club, at Hidden Wonders.

Representing the family were Mary Jane Anthony (nee Shelly), the granddaughter of William; her husband Bob; great grandchildren Dave and Kate Anthony; and great great grandchildren Henry and Marlo. Whereas Kate resides solely in Vancouver, and Dave and his children live in Chicago, Mary Jane and Bob have homes in both Chicago and Vancouver.

Shawn Farquhar was a gracious host sharing much of the history of the VMC, sharing stories about prominent magicians that are/were members, and of course displaying the WC Shelly trophy to the family. The trophy is presented annually to the winner of the stage competition since 1951.

Mary Jane shared stories about her grandfather, whom she never met other than as a baby since he passed away soon after her birth. William was a successful businessman, politician and contributor to the city, province and magic club he helped co-found.

Of course, no gathering of magicians would be complete without some magic being performed. Shawn and Graham Kita, previous winners of the WC Shelly trophy, delighted the family with some routines.

Charles Gauthier, 1st Vice President and Secretary, presented the family each with a VMC lapel pin and welcomed them to our monthly meetings and other gatherings as honorary members.

Also in attendance were Scott Barker and Ken Cowie.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

“The indefatigable pursuit of an unattainable perfection...is what alone gives a meaning to our life on this unavailing star.” - Logan Pearsall Smith.

“If I have the belief that I can do it, I shall surely acquire the capacity to do it even if I may not have it at the beginning.” - Mahatma Gandhi

“When one cleans out a vacuum cleaner, does not one become, a vacuum cleaner”? - ?

J.Stenning July 30, 202

Whatever you are looking for ... it is NOT here

A picture spans generations

Three generations of William Curtis Shelly's direct descendant's at Hidden Wonders to see the William Shelly Trophy donated by and named after William Curtis Shelly.



Photos courtesy of Shawn Farquhar, Graham Kita, Charles Gauthier, Scott Barker and Ken Cowie

Competition Chair – Position Open

The Vancouver Magic Circle is looking for a member to step into the role of **Competition Chair**. This is a key position that helps keep our club competitions running smoothly and fairly throughout the year. **Training will be provided by Simon Cassegrain.**

Responsibilities include:

- Encouraging members to compete in our various competitions
- Organizing five judges for each event
- Ensuring a timekeeper is present
- Overseeing the flow of the competition
- Confirming competitor eligibility
- Managing electronic scoring and providing the winner's name to the MC/Host

If you enjoy coordinating people, supporting club activities, and helping maintain the high standard of VMC competitions, we'd love to hear from you. Please speak with **Simon Cassegrain** or any member of the Executive.

Editor's Note — Microsoft Publisher Retirement

For more than twenty five years I have used Microsoft Publisher, and for just over **three (3) years** it has been the tool I rely on to produce *The Magical Minutes (TMM)*. Microsoft has now announced that Publisher will be removed from Microsoft 365 and will no longer be supported after **October 1, 2026**.

Official Microsoft notice:

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/publisher/microsoft-publisher-will-no-longer-be-supported-after-october-2026>

Although Publisher has served me extremely well, I do not have a standalone copy of Office 2016 or Office 2019 on my computer. This means I will not be able to continue using Publisher once it is retired and removed.

I have begun transitioning to **Scribus 1.6.6**, an opensource layout program that will become the new home for TMM. The **August and September** issues will still be created in Publisher. After that, TMM will be produced in Scribus.

The first few Scribus editions may look a little different as I learn the new workflow, but I will improve quickly. Your patience and understanding during this transition are very much appreciated.

Roy — Editor

VMC #92 Ring Report for Thursday June 25, 2026

Our last meeting before the summer break began at 7:10 with a few announcements by VMC First VP Charles Gauthier. Charles reviewed President Roy Hopwood's club survey results with the membership. The biggest take away was that the members want to see more live magical performances. Charles also reminded everyone of the annual online auction coming up in September and the new online auction platform that past VMC president Simon Cassegrain is building. Simon will be hosting a Zoom session with all the members on July 23rd at 7 pm to show all the sellers how to enter their own items they wish to sell. There also new features of the VMC web site that Simon has upgraded to be reviewed.

The executive committee has also changed the pricing structure for members who purchase tickets to public club functions. Members plus one guest will pay a reduced price from what the public ticket price is.

Sargent at Arms, John Stenning, then reminded the members of making sure they signed in for every meeting so the club can accurately record the attendance.

First on the evening's agenda was a workshop presented by John Stenning on the importance of practicing card sleights with both hands. He emphasized developing finger strength and coordination equally with each hand. Very informative workshop John!

Shayane Mandrake, one of our newest members and granddaughter of Lon and Linda Mandrake, came up to do her three-trick initiation for membership. She did an excellent set of card tricks and was unanimously voted in for membership. Nicely done Shyanne!

Long time member, Joji Yamashita, showed us a nice colour changing pip effect with the ace of diamonds. He changed it from red to blue and back again, very cool and simple method. Thanks, Joji!

Roy then introduced a fun game that he came up with. He invited 8 volunteers, Glan LaBarre, Charles Gauthier, Ray Wong, Genpei Cai, Sam Bennington, Guang Yow-Low, Michael Glenister, and guest Jake Hermiston, to the front and had them blindly reach into a bag and select a magic prop. There were 8 props, each prop had a corresponding mate, so each volunteer paired up with the other person that had the related prop and they had to do a trick with them. It was a fun and interesting game. Good job Roy!

After the game we broke for a short 10-minute break.

Next up was the competition! Up for grabs was the Ray Gamble trophy for impromptu card magic. Competitors in performing order were VMC President Roy Hopwood, Scott Barker, Gabe (The Great Gabini) Gabini, Greg Ladret, Charles Gauthier, John Stenning, and Rob Teszka. The winner to be announced at the end of the meeting.

After the competition past International President Alex Zander took the stage to film his

audition act for Penn & Teller's Fool Us competition TV show. Best of luck Alex! Hope you fool them!

Junior member, Blake Aleoug, took the stage next to practice his new routine for Tannen's Magic Camp this summer. Very well done Blake!

Next up for the evening was Shawn Farquhar trying out one of his new tricks with helper Charles. Very amazing Shawn!

Last item for the meeting was announcing the winner of the Ray Gamble trophy. This year's winner was Scott Barker! Congratulations Scott!

Thanks to Charles Gauthier and Julius Palme for picking up some snacks just prior to the meeting. Thanks gentleman! And thanks to Simon for financing the snack purchases! Hand in the receipt for repayment Simon, you will need the cash for an additional mouth to feed in December! Congratulations to Simon and Shannon as they are expecting the birth of their first child this December!

Special thanks to Simon Cassegrain for opening up the hall and making the coffee, and Rob Teszka, Julius Palme, Genpei Cai, Ken Cowie, and Shawn Farquhar for setting up the tables and chairs. Thanks also to Mike Vetteri for bringing his stage lights and table cover for the competition, and Shawn Farquhar, Roy Hopwood, and Scott Barker for taking photos. Lastly, thanks to Jeremy, Roy's son, for giving Roy a ride to the meeting, and Ken Cowie for giving me a ride as well.

We had two guests Jake Hermiston, and Sam Bennison with us tonight. Welcome to the club!

There were 28 members and 2 guests in attendance.

Scott Barker

The Magician's Pocket Problem

Every magician has faced the classic "pocket problem." You're mid-routine, the audience is focused, and suddenly the coin you *know* you placed in your right pocket is nowhere to be found. It's in the left, or tucked behind a prop, or hiding under the close-up pad.

The audience never sees this tiny moment of panic, but every performer knows it well. It's the real heartbeat of live magic: quick thinking, silent improvisation, and the ability to stay calm while your mind races. When the trick finally lands, the spectators believe everything unfolded exactly as planned — and that's the true magic.

STRANGE, INTERESTING & FASCINATING PEOPLE

Giuseppe Dosi (1891-1981)



You've of course heard of Sherlock Holmes no doubt, however, this Italian detective was the real deal!

Considered Italy's greatest detective, he had a background in theatre, which he put to good use, creating at least 17 or more disguises including:

- A banker
- A German doctor
- Two different priest characters
- A limping war vet with a bum leg

He would even impersonate women at times! And all of these personifications had fake identification as well as background stories.



His integrity ended up getting him into trouble with his fellow police, after he would not accept an innocent man being scapegoated for a series of horrific crimes he did not commit.

Much more to his story than I can write here, however, he did make it through WW2, got back

onto the force and ended up retiring in the 1950's. Definitely an interesting figure to say the least.

J.Stenning July 11/2026

I Recall...

By Roy Hopwood, July 2026 – Vancouver, BC, Canada

Edition No. 77

Why Magicians Don't Use Directors

I recall a moment many years ago, watching a young magician rehearse his act in the corner of a community hall. He ran through his tricks with great enthusiasm — cards flying, coins ringing, silks appearing in bursts of colour.

When he finished, I asked gently,

“Have you ever had someone direct your act?”

He looked at me as if I'd suggested he hand over his bank PIN.

“Direct me? Why? I know what I'm doing.”

And there it was — the sentence I've heard echoed throughout the magic world for decades.

Why Magicians Don't Use Directors — And Why They Think They Know Best

Magic is one of the few performing arts where the performer routinely works alone. Actors expect directors, Dancers expect choreographers, Musicians expect conductors,. Comedians expect coaches. But magicians? We expect *ourselves*.

1. Magic is a solitary craft

Most magicians grow up learning in isolation:

- Practising alone
- Rehearsing alone
- Performing alone

There is no built-in tradition of collaborative creation. The magician becomes a one-person production team — writer, performer, technician, stage manager, and critic. When you do everything yourself, you naturally assume you're doing it correctly.

2. Secrecy discourages outside eyes

Magic's culture of secrecy creates a barrier to direction. We worry:

- “If I show someone the method, I'm exposing too much.”
- “A director won't understand the mechanics.”

- “I can’t reveal the secret just to get feedback.”

The irony, of course, is that a director doesn’t need the method — only the moment. They care about clarity, pacing, emotion, and audience experience. But secrecy convinces magicians that inviting a director in is somehow dangerous.

3. Trick knowledge is mistaken for show knowledge

This is the great misunderstanding. Many magicians believe:

- “I know 200 tricks.”
- “I’ve read Tarbell.”
- “I’ve been doing this for 30 years.”

And they assume that technical knowledge equals performance mastery.

But knowing *how* a trick works is not the same as knowing *how* a show works. A director sees:

- character
- staging
- transitions
- emotional flow
- clarity of effect

These are the elements that turn tricks into theatre — and they are precisely the elements magicians often overlook.

4. Ego — the unspoken truth

Magic attracts clever people. Clever people often think they’re right. And magic gives performers a sense of control: you control the props, the method, the audience, and the outcome.

This creates a subtle belief: **“If I can fool people, I must be good at performing.”**

But fooling is not performing.

5. Directors expose weaknesses — and magicians avoid discomfort

A good director will say:

- “Cut that trick.”
- “Your pacing is slow.”
- “The audience doesn’t understand what’s happening.”
- “Your ending is weak.”

Many magicians don’t want that kind of honesty. They want applause, not critique. So they avoid directors because directors force growth — and growth is uncomfortable.

A Personal Reflection

Although I've never formally used a *director* per se, I've always believed in seeking outside eyes. Over the years I've asked advice from both magicians and non-magicians — sometimes a layperson sees clarity issues we completely miss.

A very good friend of mine, **Raymond Crowe (known as 'The Unusualist')**, [Raymond Crowe - The Unusualist](#) maintains his world-class status by working with a voice coach, a choreographer, and other specialists who help shape every aspect of his performance. On one memorable occasion, Ray even hired an entire theatre and invited magicians and their families to watch him perform, simply so he could gauge honest reactions to certain effects.



That experience taught me something important: direction doesn't always come from a single person. Sometimes it comes from a community willing to watch, respond, and help you grow.

Historical Examples — Proof That Direction Matters

Robert-Houdin

Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin understood theatricality. His famous *light-and-heavy chest* wasn't just a clever mechanism — it was staged with drama, timing, and political purpose. He blended technology with performance, proving that magic is strongest when shaped, not just executed.

David Devant

Devant was one of the first magicians to think like a theatre artist. He believed in clarity above all else: “*All done by kindness.*” His routines were structured, paced, and polished — the work of a man who understood that magic is storytelling.

Doug Henning

Henning brought Broadway sensibilities to magic. His shows were directed, choreographed, lit, costumed, and scored. He didn't rely on tricks alone — he relied on theatre. And he changed the public's perception of magic forever.

David Copperfield

Copperfield is the modern proof. His team includes directors, choreographers, writers, lighting designers, and dramaturgs. His illusions are not just tricks — they are emotional experiences. Copperfield’s success is not accidental; it is directed.

A Club Reflection

Here at the **VMC**—and in other magic societies like the **ASM (Australian Society of Magicians—Assembly No. 1 Melbourne, Australia)** we see every level of performer, from eager beginners to seasoned professionals. And every year, at competitions and shows, we witness the same pattern: the acts that shine are the ones shaped by outside eyes. The acts that struggle are the ones built in isolation.

A director doesn’t take control away from a magician. A director gives the magician the one thing they cannot give themselves: **perspective**.

Closing Dedication

This column is dedicated to **Ray Crowe**, whose commitment to excellence — and willingness to invite honest feedback — remains a model for every magician who wants to grow beyond tricks and into true performance.

The greatest illusion a magician ever performs is convincing themselves they don’t need a director — and the greatest transformation happens the moment they realise they do.

Author’s Note

About the writing of this column

In the spirit of this month’s topic, I used modern writing tools as a kind of “director” for this column — helping refine the pacing, tighten the language, and strengthen the structure. The experiences, memories, and viewpoints are entirely my own. The tool simply offered an outside eye, much like a good director does for a magician.

After all, if we expect performers to embrace direction, writers can embrace it too.

DON’T FORGET...“OUR FRIEND” THE THUMB TIP!

Just a brief mention of a very versatile gimmick that you may or may not use. Why? Because the T.T, should really be in every magicians arsenal, if not (in my opinion anyway) it should be looked into and tried out at the very least. Perhaps, similar to, say, the top change in card magic, you are worried about being caught, or seen doing/using it.

If you’re not familiar with T.T.’s, I would seriously suggest you look into them, because there is so much you can do, they are light and easy to carry around.

You won’t regret it. “Two thumbs up”! (Groan)!

Stay magical.

J.Stenning S.A.A..

A Brief History of the Magician's Choice

Among the many tools in a magician's repertoire, few are as quietly elegant as the **Magician's Choice**, often known by its older name, **Equivoque**. At its heart, it is a verbal force—a way for the performer to guide a spectator toward a predetermined object while allowing them to feel they made a completely free selection. The method is simple to describe yet endlessly subtle in practice, and its history stretches back far further than most conjurors realise.

Early forms of Equivoque appear in conjuring literature as far back as the 1600s, though not always under a formal name. Writers described techniques for “guiding a choice” or “directing a selection,” usually in the context of predictions or small-object magic. These early descriptions relied on conditional phrasing and gentle re-framing, showing that magicians understood the power of language long before psychology gave it vocabulary.

By the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as magic books became more systematic, Equivoque began to be taught explicitly. Mentalists embraced it for its purity: no gimmicks, no sleights, only words. Performers such as Annemann and later the post-war generation helped cement it as a standard method, though each magician added their own refinements—some bold, some nearly invisible.

In recent years, academic research has finally explained *why* Magician's Choice works so reliably. Studies in cognitive psychology show that spectators often overlook small logical inconsistencies, accept post-hoc explanations, and maintain a strong sense of agency even when their choices are subtly steered. In other words, the technique succeeds because it aligns perfectly with how people naturally think.

Today, Magician's Choice remains a favourite among magicians who appreciate its blend of psychology, timing, and performance finesse. It is a reminder that sometimes the most powerful magic comes not from props or secret devices, but from the quiet precision of language itself.

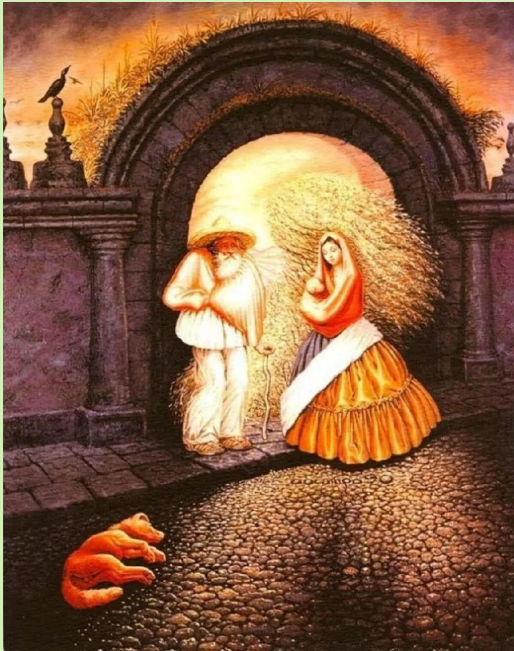
VMC Library

The Vancouver Magic Circle Library Catalogue is online!

Remember: if you want a new trick, look in an old book! Our hope is that whenever our members see a trick they really want, or are trying to learn a difficult piece of theory, or are interested in buying a book— they will first check the library. This is one way we can improve our magic, and this [searchable online catalogue](#) is the first step towards taking full advantage of this incredible resource.

Optical Illusions

How many faces can you find in this image.



Citation:

Ocampo, O. (n.d.). *Metamorphic face illusion (surreal composite artwork)*. Retrieved from <https://www.octavioocampo.com>

This artwork is a **surreal double-image illusion** that forms the face of an elderly man using entirely unrelated elements of a scene. The man's head is created from an **archway**, his beard from a **cobblestone street**, and his hand from a **stone-textured foreground**.

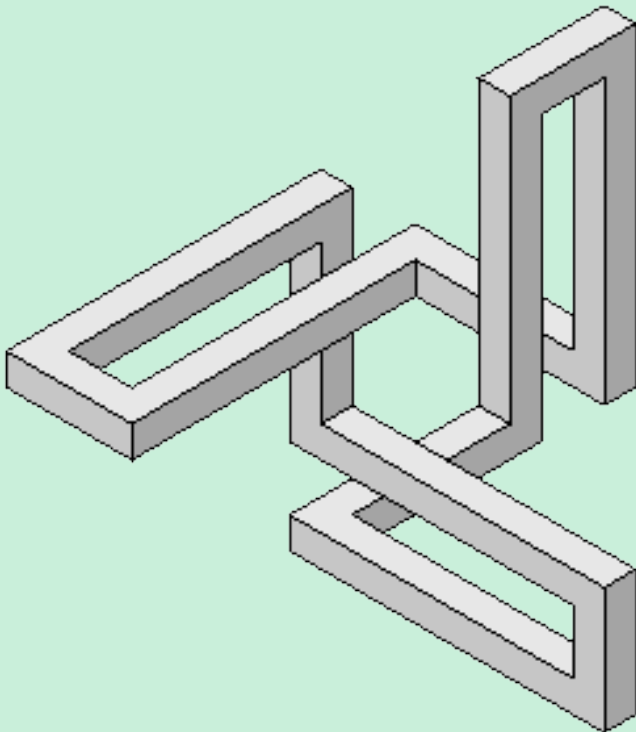
Inside the archway stands a **woman in a yellow-white dress**, and her hair blends seamlessly into the man's forehead. Birds perched on stone structures help complete the contours of the face. The warm, glowing sky behind the architecture adds depth and atmosphere, making the illusion appear both dreamlike and cohesive.

Viewed up close, it is a village scene with a woman, stones, and birds. Viewed from a distance, it becomes a **single, unified portrait** — a hallmark of metamorphic illusion art.

This style of composite portrait illusion is characteristic of:

Octavio Ocampo- Mexican surrealist painter Known for “metamorphic” artworks where multiple smaller images combine to form a larger hidden face or figure.

Optical Illusion Spotlight: The Impossible Loop



This month's visual curiosity comes from the work of **Prof. Kokichi Sugihara**, a Japanese mathematician celebrated for creating objects that appear perfectly normal from one angle but become impossible when examined closely. His designs have won multiple international awards and continue to fascinate scientists, artists, and magicians alike.

The illusion shown here is a classic example of an **impossible object** — a structure that looks solid and three-dimensional, yet cannot exist in real space. The rectangular beams appear to interlock in a continuous loop, but the geometry contradicts itself: edges that should be in front slip behind, and connections that seem natural are actually spatially impossible.

Sugihara's work reminds us that even simple lines can deceive the eye, challenge our assumptions, and create a moment of wonder — the very essence of magic.

Citation:

Sugihara, K. (n.d.). *Greyscale figure [691–700]*. Impossible World. <https://im-possible.info/english/library/grey/grey70.html>

CARDS OR COINS?

What do you prefer? Do you work with both? I mention this because of the different opinions of various magicians in our own club and that of some “heavy hitters” in the magic community.

One example is Paul Gordan, the English magician who, throughout his entire career (I believe he’s retired now) only performed card magic and many of his tricks were not too difficult to do, however, they did get great reactions from laymen (muggles, non-magicians). I’m not 100% sure if he said this, however, I have heard the same thing from more than one magician and that is: “I don’t like coin magic” or something along the lines of: “it doesn’t look right to me”. I have to admit, that I am quite ambivalent about this issue, because I do love coin magic (and cards too of course) however, I have to agree to a certain extent, because some of the moves just, well, don’t look quite right. That’s just my opinion and I will add that MANY of the moves DO work to great effect, so perhaps it’s a matter of performing in front of people enough until you find the ones that work for you.

One of the big names in coin magic (who will not be named) has and does this one move, that, quite frankly, puts one of his fingers in a very unnatural position. Not only did I notice this, as well as a fellow member of the VMC saying: “I don’t like that”! When we discussed it, I once showed a family member a video of him doing a routine (which was fantastic) and as soon as he did that move, the person I was with said: “he’s holding something in his hand”!

This guy is extremely skilled, accomplished and intelligent and has achieved other things in his life that I never will and does do some amazing coin magic, so I just don’t understand why he would continue to do a move like that. Perhaps people are too polite to say anything?

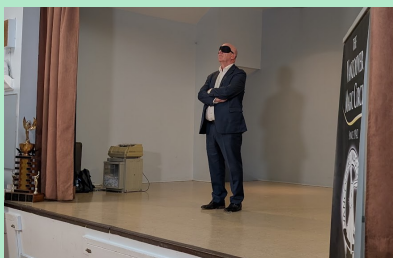
We only have so much time to do whatever it is we do, and both coins and cards take many, many, hours of practice.

What about you, will it be cards, coins, or both?

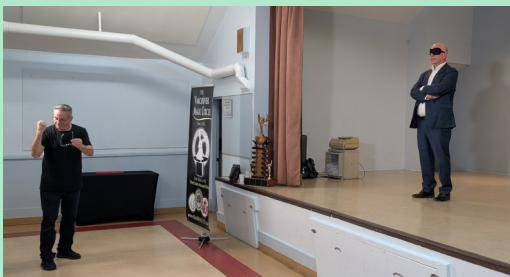
J.Stenning
S.A.A.

July 19, 2026.

A picture paints a thousand words



June 2026 meeting



R.O.T.I.M. (Part 2)

(Rise of the instant magicians, con't)

Well, they're at it again, that is, the "big boys" on the block who sell magic; what do I mean by that? I'll tell you, because, perhaps like yourself, I get daily emails telling me, not only that something is the best, greatest, sure-fire, etc, etc, it's usually endorsed by well known names in magic (who also sell their own products). That's all well and fine, however, when they start with the simple, easy to do, add it to your show tomorrow jargon, it bothers me for many reasons. Let me tell you why, but keep in mind, the companies we know and love are businesses and businesses have a goal of making money.

Recently, the new effect/trick, mentioned, as one of its attributes "no double lifts"! Has it really gotten to this? Now magicians don't even need to learn how to do one of the most essential and important moves in card magic? Sheesh!

Think about the packaging and the ads.... Are you getting sucked into it by the hype? Does a fancy box with a flap that closes with magnets make the trick it comes in any better? Do you have the 8 Tarbell books? Have you read them? Do you read any magic books? And how much magic do you have in your collection?

Another thing I've noticed, since I joined the VMC over 15 years ago, is that many of the items people are selling at our auction, are newer products like the ones just described. Some of the gems I got years ago go back to the 70's or are even older; sure, I have enjoyed buying newer effects, however, many times I am disappointed, don't get what I expected, have to pay duty and to return it? What a hassle!

I'm tired of it myself and will work with what I have for now, which is plenty and besides, how many things can you practice at once, or in a day, a week, or year?

I'll try to keep the majority of my money (what little of it I have) in my bank and in Canada.

Stay magical and practice....and maybe read a magic book?

J.Stenning July 31/2026

Executive Decisions Update

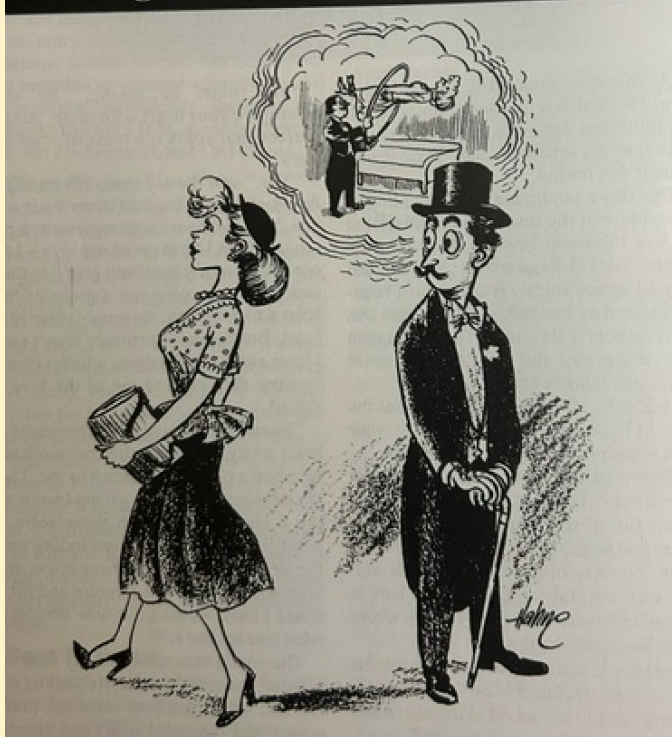
VMC Executive Committee — One-Page Summary (July 14, 2026)

- Website & roster completed; tutorial July 23.
- judge training confirmed.
- **Dennis Chan Memorial Picnic** set for Aug 22; tasks assigned (site setup, snacks, water balloons, Ring Report, member reminder).
- Financials strong: **\$33,356.78** plus a **\$500** donation from the **William Curtis Shelly** Descendants.
- membership at **107**.
- **William Curtis Shelly** descendants visit summarized;
- upcoming workshops adjusted (no Sept/Nov).
- Competition chair vacancy announced;
- New Competition placement-announcement
- Awards voting open to all members;
- Voting Rules approved.
- Open mic proposal at Hidden Wonders to be discussed;
- Equipment list pending for meeting-recording setup.

Look out for the next update.

TEST FOR FUN

Linking Ring CLASSICS By Nelson Hahne



Linking Ring CLASSICS By Nelson Hahne



Did you hear the one about the ...

magician who lost his rabbit? He pulled his hair out instead — said it was the only thing still multiplying.
magician who quit his job? He said he needed to *disappear for a while* — the audience is still waiting for the reappearance.
card magician who joined a gym? He wanted to work on his *sleight of hand stand*.
dove magician's assistant? She flew the coop — literally.
magician who couldn't find his wand? He said, "It's vanished!" — audience replied, "That's the first trick that worked!"
magician who opened a bakery? Every loaf was *half baked and full of secrets*.

Classic Tommy Cooper magic gags

- "I went to a magic shop. They said, '*We've got a trick that makes you invisible.*' I said, '*Can I see it?*' They said, '*No.*'"
- "I bought a magic carpet yesterday — it's driving me round the bend."
- "I told my wife I'd bought her a magic mirror. She said, '*What's magic about it?*' I said, '*It makes you look thinner.*' She said, '*That's not magic — that's cracked!*'"
- "I went to a fancy-dress party as a magician. Everyone disappeared."
- "I was doing a trick with a pack of cards — suddenly I couldn't deal with it."
- "I went to The Magic Circle once. They said, '*Pick a card.*' I said, '*Visa.*'"
- "I did a trick with a rope — it was knot funny."

Two Ronnies-style magician jokes

- "I saw a magician last night. He said he'd make my wallet disappear. He succeeded — right after the interval."
- "A magician asked if I wanted to see a trick. I said, '*Only if it works.*' He said, '*Well, that's ruined the evening.*'"
- "I bought a book called *Easy Magic for Beginners*. The first trick was making the book vanish. It worked — I left it on the bus."
- "A conjurer said he could read my mind. He looked disappointed. I said, '*Don't blame me — you asked.*'"

Diary Dates*

Vancouver Magic Circle

lbmring92.com

Generally meets on the fourth Thursday of the Month—January; February; March; April; May; June ; September; October: November; Plus August—Picnic on date tba.

VMC Executive Meeting:

TBA - via Zoom

August 22, 2026

- Dennis Chan Memorial Picnic from noon to 4 pm at King George Park, Richmond.

August 26, 2026

- Felice Ling Lecture at Hidden Wonder

September, 2026

- Online Auction

September 23, 2026

- Live Auction

Other Clubs (as a courtesy)

Society of American

Magicians #95 [SAM#95](#)

Meetings of the SAM #95 are held the **first Tuesday of the month** at members homes.

TBA—check web site for dates and times

Fraser Valley Magic Company

[FVMC](#)

Regular monthly meetings take place on the second Thursday of most months, at a private home in Mission, BC.

TBA—check web site for dates and times

“If you can’t amaze them with your magic, baffle them with your nonsense.” — Tommy Cooper

When magicians genuinely got things wrong but still recovered.

David Copperfield – The Duck That Wouldn’t Vanish

During a live show in the 1980s, Copperfield attempted a comedic vanish of a duck. The duck refused to cooperate, flapping wildly and escaping the prop. Copperfield paused, looked at the audience, and said: **“Ladies and gentlemen... a *free-range* illusion.”** The crowd erupted, and the routine became funnier than the scripted version.

Lance Burton – The Dove That Quit Mid-Act

In Las Vegas, Burton produced a dove that immediately flew into the rafters and stayed there. He tried coaxing it down. Nothing. He finally shrugged and said: **“He’s doing his own show tonight.”** The audience loved it, and Burton continued without missing a beat.

Juan Tamariz – The Wrong Deck Miracle

Tamariz once began a routine only to realize he had picked up a deck arranged for a completely different trick. He stopped, smiled, and said: **“Ah! A miracle has happened — but not the one I planned.”**

He improvised a new routine on the spot, and it fooled everyone.

Please Do Not Forward The Magical Minutes to Non-Members*

This is just a friendly reminder to all our members to please not to forward our newsletter, ‘The Magical Minutes’ or any private newsletter links, to people who are not financial members of the VMC. The online VMC Library, and The Magical Minutes newsletter are a membership privilege. It takes a lot of time and effort to write our newsletter, and we do it exclusively for the benefit of our members. If a non-financial member asks you to forward The Magical Minutes to them, please refrain from doing so. Lastly, the Executive Committee would like to thank everyone who has contributed to and / or sent positive messages about The Magical Minutes newsletter. It is truly appreciated and makes all the hard work worth it. Thank you for respecting member privileges

Roy J Hopwood, Editor and John Stenning, Co editor, under the Authority of the VMC executive Committee. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding

* Except with express permission of the VMC Executive Committee.

*** Do NOT rely upon this newsletter for critical dates and times of meetings; events or shows. Always check the official source of the information.**