



Ring Events

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

John Bannon Lecture – Ring 17 (Toronto, Canada)

David Peck, Ring President, introduced the lecture by quoting John Bannon: “There is always room for a few more good card tricks; like any discipline, magic needs innovation and experimentation to evolve and improve. I’m just a tinkerer who has been lucky enough to strike some chords that resonate.” John treated us to chords from his previous works and his lecture notes titled *Barrage*; all of them certainly resonated with our group.



John Bannon lecture for Ring 17 members.

The first offering was called “Heart of Glass,” which is a two-card transposition of the Ace of Spades and Queen of Hearts from the top to the bottom of a glass and vice versa. John mentioned that this effect was performed by John Scarne in a beer commercial. However, Bannon’s version uses no special props and 50 percent of the moves (i.e., one). Inspirations came from Peter Duffie and Jack Carpenter.

Next, John demonstrated what appeared to be a Stewart Gordon turnover, but with a

handling that has the cards under complete control in the process. “Game Set Match” used some coins and cards that were jingled and shuffled respectively by various spectators. The cards were mixed further based on the number of heads and tails showing on the coins after they were dropped on the table. When the pairs of cards arrived at were added up, their total matched the amount of change that was in use the whole time. Al Warren assisted John with this trick (and others) and prior to the trick’s denouement mentioned that the coins added up to \$1.75 (the pairs of cards would be shown to total 175). John mentioned that Al was the first person to ever notice the value of the coins!

“Fours Majeure” is a series of amazing transpositions. Quartets of jacks, queens, kings, and aces magically move around as directed by a participant, finally transposing with a randomly chosen four of a kind. Perhaps the most amazing part is that this “Follow the Leader” effect is self-working. He then demonstrated a routine wherein a performer cuts to the kings and the spectator cuts to the aces.

Next, was one of my favorites of the evening, “Spin Doctors.” A “Twisting the Aces” routine with kickers; after the aces have all turned over, the Ace of Spades is placed on the table, turns into a blank card, then reappears amongst the other aces! Finally, each ace is shown to have a different-coloured back!

“OMG Morigami” involves rows of cards, some with letters on their backs, and the spectator indicating how to “fold” the



Enjoying a laugh.



Signing books.



Workshop for small group.

rows of cards over on each other. After the folding process is complete, five of the cards spell “L-U-C-K-Y” and the other five cards are a Royal Flush.

“Paint it Blank” was another favorite. A thought-of card appears between two jokers on the table. “Double Barreled” is a card version of U.F. Grant’s Million Dollar Mystery. This can be found in *Very Hush-Hush*. “Royal Scam” is a Wild Card-type effect in which several Aces of Spades turn into a Royal Flush and then their backs change colour.

The last trick of the night was “Sympathy” which at first appears to be a matching coincidence trick but turns out being a Magic Square.

I also attended John’s workshop the following night with a few other members. A good portion of the material that was shown will be in John’s upcoming book *Outnumbered*, and look for “Smack Monte” in the February 2024 issue of *Genii*. There were

several packet tricks for sale along with one of the best-quality sets of lecture notes I’ve ever seen, the aforementioned *Barrage*. In addition, John mentioned that a trick he always performs is “Final Verdict,” in which a spectator cuts the aces (from his book *Dear Mr. Fantasy*). Amazon sells an aluminum wallet that is perfect for holding several packet tricks. A few versions are available, and the large size is recommended since it will hold playing cards (the smaller ones only hold credit cards).

I will close this article with some pearls of wisdom from John that were sprinkled throughout the lecture: Effect is not everything. It’s all about the right amount of work to achieve an effect. There’s a pain-to-glory ratio that should be taken into account. (“Fours Majeure” has the lowest pain-to-glory ratio to date, FYI.) No explanation is better than a lame explanation. Take advantage of discrepancies; nobody notices, and nobody cares!
David Sutherland

Ring 50 (Washington, D.C.) Celebrates Its First 75 Years

Ring 50, the National Capital Ring, celebrated 75 years in existence with a gala dinner and show November 12 at Maggiano’s Little Italy restaurant in Washington, D.C. The sell-out dinner attracted one hundred fifty participants, including two I.B.M. Past International Presidents, Bill Wells (1983 to 1984) and Bob Patterson (2017 to 2018), and eighteen former Ring 50 presidents –

two more than the number who attended the club’s thirty-fifth anniversary celebration.

Four outstanding magicians, Whit ‘Pop’ Haydn, Kayla Drescher, John ‘Handsome Jack’ Lovick, and self-proclaimed master magician Chris Capehart, provided the evening’s entertainment.

A Broken Wand Ceremony was held in honor of world-renowned magician Darwin