



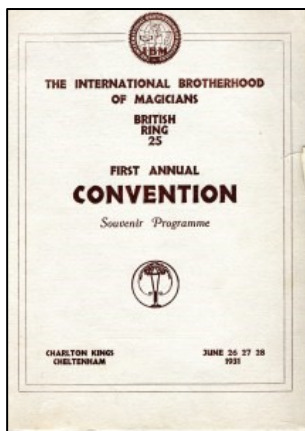
Greetings and welcome to e-news #2, February 2019

I'm pleased to say that three talks in PDF form have been added since my last newsletter in September. Thanks are due to Anne Goulden, Roy Field and Paul Freeman. It is sad that Paul is no longer with us.



Intermittently on the halls

On 9 February 2012 Anne Goulden gave this talk at the British Music Hall study group in London. It follows Lewis Davenport's performing career from around 1900 to around 1930 and explains how he juggled his time between his magic business, music hall work, and other performances. On the way it provides an overview of the different types of variety entertainment during the period. Click [here](#) to download the PDF.



The first of 80 British Ring conventions, Cheltenham 1931

Roy Field presented this talk in the History of Mystery session at the British Ring of the International Brotherhood of Magicians convention in Buxton, 9 September 2016. Click on this [PDF](#) to join the conventioners of 1931, and to understand what happened and why it was so enjoyed by the participants.



Noms de Theatre – stage names for magicians

We are grateful to Paul Freeman who has given us permission to include this PDF version of his talk, which he has given in England and Austria between 2008 and 2011. Paul relates the interesting and often surprising ways in which magicians have ended up with a well-known stage name. Click [here](#).

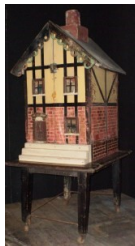
Gustave Fasola introduces to this country the Famous Indian Rope Trick



Some more posters have been added to the website, including this unusual lithograph which was printed by Wal Mallyon, Leeds. Item [N1748](#).

Magic

The Magic section of the website has some one-off items which it is a pleasure to share.



Culpitt's Doll's House

Frederick Culpitt opened the doors of the doll's house and removed some furniture, showing that the doll's house was now empty. As Culpitt removed the chimney pot, the roof opened and a lady was found inside, his wife Jan Glenrose. Item [N194](#).



Oswald Williams' Noah's Ark illusion

A Noah's Ark is built on a low platform from flat walls and a roof. Despite the ark being obviously empty, the magician opens the roof and produces a huge number of animal caricatures from it. In the days of this illusion the Noah's Ark was a well known

trade mark for Bryant and May's matches, so to give a magical finish to the illusion, the magician would patter along the lines of: "And what happened to the ark? It was turned into matches by Bryant and May." At this point the ark would instantaneously transform into a giant box of matches, as in the illustration. The illusion is being performed here by John Davenport with Nikki and Ellen. Item [N193](#).



Production of a Ford car

This item has a purpose built wooden carrying case with Jasper Maskelyne's name on the outside. We believe it was originally an Oswald Williams item. In 1988 the magician Eric Widger said he remembered seeing this presented in a Maskelyne show as follows: 'Oswald Williams and Jasper

Maskelyne were on stage, with Williams holding what looks like a flat tray. Maskelyne says: "If the King of Siam bought a motor car, what sort of motor car would the King of Siam buy, if he bought a motor car?" Williams replied: "It would depend on what he could afford." At that moment Williams turns the tray over so that the audience see the words A FORD. While the audience laughs

at this play on words, the flat tray instantaneously transforms to a 3D car to give a surprise finish.’ [At the time, the King of Siam was a well known rich person, hence the use of his name for this trick.] Item [N156](#).



The Friendship Clock – a gift from Punx to Lewis Davenport

This clock has an incredible story. The German magician Punx (Ludwig Hanemann) became a good friend of Lewis Davenport before World War II. During the war Punx found himself in a prisoner of war camp in Wales. Lewis Davenport showed great kindness by sending him cigarettes and magic tricks. To repay this kindness, Punx arranged for this clock to be made and sent to the Davenport family. The clock is covered in pictures familiar to magicians, with a Davenport Demon trademark on the pendulum and the emblem of the German Magic Circle on the weight. The full story is told by Punx in his own words in his book *Farewell Performance*. Item [N180](#).

There's plenty more on the website. I hope you find something of interest.

Take care and stay safe

John

John Davenport curator of www.davenportcollection.co.uk

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