



### Greetings and welcome to e-news #6, June 2020

I very much hope that you and your families are safe and well and manage to remain so in future months. Below you'll find just a few of the 200 or so items that have recently been added to the Davenport Collection website.

#### ***Roberta Byron - The Youngest Magician in the World* presented by Brian Lead**



Roberta visited Britain as an American teenager in 1931 with her parents and sister. Her charm and quality of magic made quite an impact, not least at the first convention of the I.B.M. British Ring in Cheltenham. In Britain she is largely unknown today, and Brian tells the story of how a photograph resulted in a journey of discovery to find out more about this talented young lady. Join Brian on his quest for information [here](#).

#### **Okito glasses**



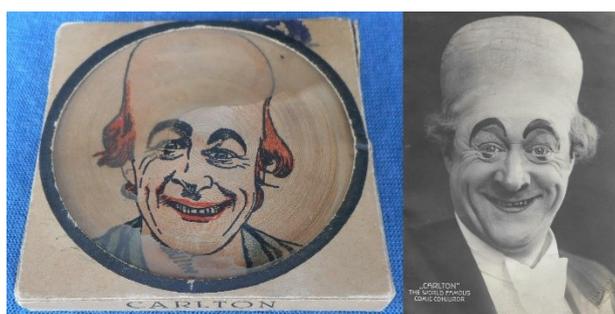
This once popular magic prop was sold by many dealers and it's interesting to compare quality and style. The one illustrated here is most unusual because it was made from one piece of glass which was twisted to provide the appealing appearance. The design also provides perfect camouflage. This glass can be found [here](#) and if anyone knows the manufacturer of it, I'd be pleased to hear. Two further Okito glass styles can be seen [here](#) and [here](#).

## Menetekel - The Writing Ball - introduced by William Berol



I have always been intrigued by this 4 page advertising item. The front page advertises Berol's appearance at the Poplar Hippodrome, London, for the week commencing Monday 24 November 1913. The pages are full of press reviews and some background concerning the act which it says played on three continents. Click [here](#).

## Printed paper coil showing the magician Carlton's head



This is a most unusual novelty which allows you to distort Carlton's head. I have yet to find someone who has seen another example of this item - if you have, please let me know. More details, including Davenport's advertisement, can be found [here](#).

## Cyraldo's Tube, Silks and Liquids



This is an excellent example of magic from the days when magicians loved tricks with nickel plated tubes. The apparatus allows an impressive series of magical effects using silks and liquids. Check it out [here](#) where the illustrated Davenports advertisement shows the sequence of effects.

## The Chinese magician automaton created by Tony Middleton



This is a relatively recent addition to the collection. Cambridge magician and family friend Tony Middleton converted a dilapidated electrically operated window figure into a Chinese magician. The magician, christened Chung Ling Soo by Tony, now levitates a Chinese lantern while passing a ring around it to demonstrate that nothing but magic holds the lantern in mid-air. View details [here](#). So far around 20 automata are on the website. Click [here](#) to see them.

**And have you seen . . .**



The main purpose of the e-news has been to update you on some recent additions to the website. It struck me that it would also be useful to highlight something that's been on the site for a while, but which you may have missed. There are many examples in the Articles Category of the website, but just now I'd like to raise the question: "How do you get an honest view of what a professional stage magician was earning, without being misled by their own hyperbole?"

A good way to do this is to access the theatre records of salaries paid. This is exactly what Anne Goulden did to discover variety artistes' salaries at the Leicester Palace, 1911-24. Salaries for around 30 magicians are given, including Carmo, Chung Ling Soo, Devant, Le Roy Talma & Bosco, Lyle, Selbit and Oswald Williams. Better still, salaries are also given for the top paid acts on the bill, so it is easy to compare and contrast these salaries with those of the magicians. It's an interesting and informative read. Click [here](#) for the link.

Take care and stay safe

John

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