



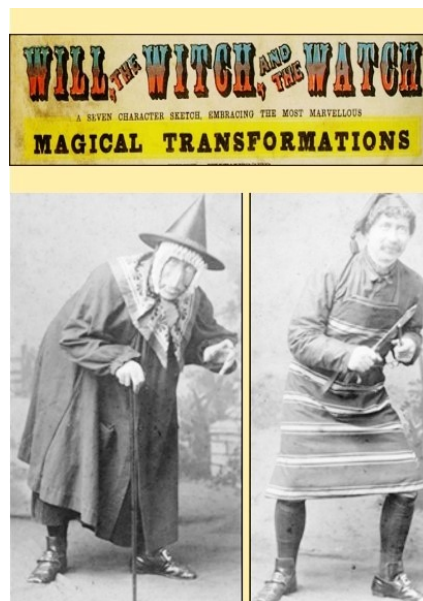
Greetings and welcome to e-news #9, March 2021

In case you've noticed . . .

I've been aware over the last few months that the response time of the website has become very slow. I'll spare you the details, but the platform used for the website has been struggling to cope with the number of items now included. This is not the fault of the website designer: he took technical details to be the technical specification for the platform, but they turned out to be marketing hype.

Anyway, a new platform is currently underway. I'm certain that this will speed up response times and improve the search options. When it arrives, feel free to let me know if you have any problems, or spot errors. You will also notice that the POTPOURRI category will be renamed ARTICLES. I only called it Potpourri because, at the time, it wasn't clear what it might contain!

Gems from The Magic Circle Collection: Mr Maskelyne's famous play



Everyone with even a slight interest in magic history will know of JN Maskelyne's magical play Will, the Witch and the Watch. However, very few people are able to tell you what happened on stage. The Magic Circle owns the original script for Maskelyne's famous play. This is the play that brought Maskelyne's Box Trick to the attention of the public. In 2019 Anne Goulden gave a talk at The Magic History Gathering @ The Magic Circle which traces the history of the play and paints a vivid picture of the story and how the magic fits into the plot. Click here for the [PDF](#).

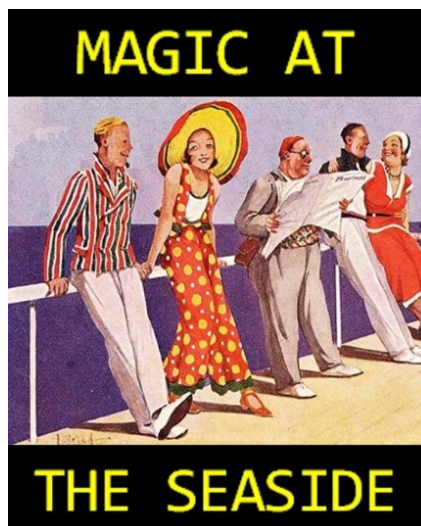
Gus Davenport – the man and the magician



This is a personal choice in that it concerns my father, Gus. Growing up in the Davenport family, Gus was surrounded by magic performances and the manufacture and sale of magic. Fortunately, he embraced it. This short article describes Gus the man and the personality and skills that led him to particular styles of performing. You can find the PDF [here](#).

He was a great dad and always had time to talk with me about magic. His approach was valuable in that he would demonstrate a trick and fool me, before explaining how it worked. As a growing lad, this helped me understand that the magic was in a good performance, rather than in the secret of the trick.

Magic at the Seaside



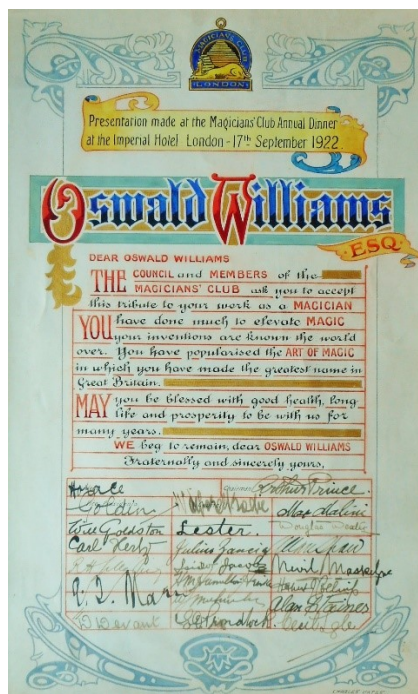
People have been generous in allowing the Davenport Collection website to include PDF versions of their talks. Roy Field's talk on Magic at the Seaside has yet to be given live, because recent events have had to be cancelled. So be among the first to read it here.

Over the centuries British seaside towns have continually adapted to meet the requirements of visitors. So too have the entertainment opportunities for magicians, the tricks they are able to do, and the places in which they do them. It might be at fairs, on the beach, and increasingly in indoor venues ranging from lowly to grand. Roy traces these developments in words and pictures and on the

way meets many well-known, and not so well-known, magicians. Click here for the [PDF](#).

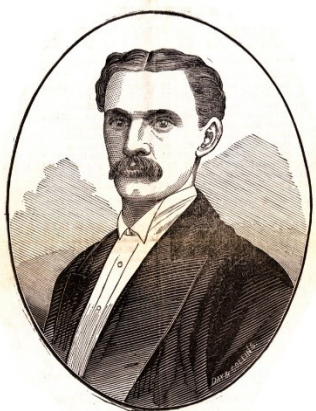
Unfortunately 2020 did not see much Magic at the Seaside. Let's hope there will be more this year.

Honouring Oswald Williams



In his role at the Magicians' Club, Will Goldston loved to find opportunities for making presentations. This ornate presentation is a good example. It was presented at the Magicians' Club Annual Dinner at the Imperial Hotel, London 17 September 1922. It is signed at the bottom by many well known magicians. If you want to see the detail of the presentation, click [here](#) where you will be able to enlarge the image.

And have you seen . . .



Paul Freeman, sadly no longer with us, gave an insightful talk about Adalbert Frikell. The magical career of Herr Adalbert Frikell, the son of Wiljalba Frikell, saw both high spots and low spots. Paul charts his life from the time he arrived in England, through to the high point of his royal performances, to the lean years and his ultimate death in poverty. Did he commit suicide or was it death by

natural causes? Paul's illustrated talk answers this question and sheds much light on the rise and fall of this talented magician. Click [here](#) to download the [PDF](#).

Although this story is not entirely happy, Frikell did perform magic at the seaside and so Paul's talk provides more insight into the topic explored in Roy Field's talk.

Take care and stay safe

John

John Davenport curator of www.davenportcollection.co.uk

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