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THE WAND

ORGAN OF THE SRI LANKA MAGIC CIRCLE

www.srilankamagic.org

April 2015

The Official Guardian of Magic

Rohan Jayasekara
SLMC President 2015



This Month's
Star Performer
Yasitha Jayamal

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EDITOR:
HDN Gunasekara | Tel: 0812421255 | Mobile: 0716420676
E-Mail: hdngunasekara@gmail.com

No. 33/3/A, Galmaduwa Watta Road,
Kundasale 20168,
Sri Lanka

Crishantha 'New face' as 'The Secretary General'

Crishantha Silva was elected as the new **Secretary General** of the SLMC. Crishantha, an IT Consultant by profession had been interested in Magic since childhood. We wish him success in his new office.



'President Emeritus' - Lt. Col. Ronald De Alwis

Kalabushana, Lt.Col. Ronald De Alwis was awarded the highest honor '**President Emeritus**' at the A.G.M., considering his lifelong contribution to the field of Magic and the Sri Lanka Magic Circle in particular.

Message from President Emeritus

Since I joined the Sri Lanka Magic Circle (SLMC) then known as the Association of Ceylon Magicians (ACM) on 8th January 1952, I have been at two main functions where the membership conferred honours to two worthy Life Members.

The first occasion was when our first President, Gate Mudaliyar A.C.G.S. Amarasekera (Gay Deceiver) was honoured, with a presentation of a Gold Medal for his services rendered towards the SLMC. Today this 'antique' is an heirloom worn by any current President.

The next occasion was when my father, Late Linden de Alwis, Founder Member on 18th February 1922, Senior Vice President and Life Member was honoured with an "Ebony Magic Wand" at the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the SLMC in 1972.

Undoubtedly I was taken by surprise that the officials of the SLMC still continues the tradition of appreciating the services of its members, when an Honorary Life Membership Certificate and an impressive Medal was presented in the order of seniority on me, Haleem Ghouse (Gosh the Great) R.M.Piyatilleke (Prof Piya) Nihal Weerasinghe and Shelton Jayasekera (Shellon) in considering the services to date.

The biggest surprise was when I was honoured as 'President Emeritus' and a Certificate and a very unique plaque in a presentation box was presented to me. I treasure all of this. My grateful thanks, to the SLMC Board and the members for this gesture and generosity.

I trust if all our members strive hard to support all activities of the SLMC at all times, we could as a solid band of magicians create history in making Sri Lanka Magic Circle the best outfit in the international arena of magic!

Long Live the Sri Lanka Magic Circle !

Kala Bushana Lt. Col. Ronald de Alwis
President Emeritus
Sri Lanka Magic Circle



April Birthdays

- 9th A. N. Kumarage & Rohith Jude Silva
- 14th Lalindra Amarasekara
- 17th Trajan Tissera
- 19th R.M.Piyatilleke
- 21st Yasasiri Gunaratne
- 29th W.S.Boteju



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Wish all our members a Prosperous & a MAGICAL New Year!

Come and enjoy our New Years Treat at the Members Day on **April 26th Sunday.**

Magic Gifts for the First 10 members who sign the attendance sheet by 10.00 a.m. and another Special Raffle Draw with a unique Gift!

Help the Sri Lanka Magic Circle raise funds by shopping online through the link below : <http://slmc.easysearch.org.uk> **easysearch**.org.uk

 Follow us on FaceBook: <http://www.facebook.com/srilankamagic>

Message from the New President

Dear All,
 Thank you for placing your confidence in electing me once again as President. It is no easy task to fulfill the colossal amount of assignments in hand while preparing for our centenary celebrations in 2022 giving priority for the completion of our HQ building. We need to do a membership drive to infuse new blood to the Circle and also motivate our existing membership to take up Magic more seriously.



Together with IBM Ring 139, I hope to take our local talent to International standards. Let's strive within this year to seriously evaluate the feasibility of preparing a candidate for FISM 2018. To achieve all of this we need those willing to take on radical levels of personal responsibility as the engines of change. Hope our new look journal 'The WAND' will give you a head start to reach the targets successfully.

I also take this opportunity to thank outgoing President, Mr. Joy De Silva for all the trouble taken to do whatever possible during the short time of his tenure of office, and also with a very special thank to outgoing EVP / GS, my friend Devsiri Fernando, whose absence will be felt greatly.

Wishing you all, a Happy & Prosperous New Year,
 Yours Magically,
Rohan Jayasekara

Honorary Life Membership An honor for Senior Stalwarts

Five of the most senior members were elected in to the elite group of 'Honorary Life Members', at the 93rd A.G.M. of the SLMC. They were Messrs Ronald De Alwis, R.M.Piyatilake, Haleem Ghouse, Shelton Jayasekara and Nihal Weerasinghe. They were presented with a personalized insignia and a certificate to the effect.



Mr. Haleem Ghouse been honoured

Thank You Joy

Immediate Past President Joy De Silva, the eldest among us who shouldered the President's responsibilities at the time of need gracefully stepped down after a successful tenure.

Joy has sent a letter congratulating the new board of management, with suggestions to consider. His valuable suggestions and advice will be displayed on the notice board, on the Monthly Members Day meeting.

Thank you Joy! We wish you good health at your retirement and a long life.

Executive Committee 2015

President

Rohan Jayasekera

General Secretary

Chrisantha Silva

V.P Training

Shelton Jayasekara

V.P Welfare

Chandrasena Gamage

V.P Contests and Admin

Suranjith De Soysa

Treasurer

Amarasiri Wijesinghe

Assistant Secretary

Gayan Wickramage

Librarian

Wilhelm Perera

Editor 'Wand'

H.D.N. Gunasekara

Committee members

- Asanka Pathirana
- Emil Eranga
- S.K.Dharmapala
- Hiran Seneviratne

The WAND is the monthly publication of the Sri Lanka Magic Circle (SLMC).

Edited by:

HDN Gunasekara

Tel: 0812421255

Mobile: 0716420676

E-mail: hdngunasekara@gmail.com

No. 33/3/A, Galmaduwa Watta Road,
Kundasale 20168,
Sri Lanka.

Design & Layout by:

Gayan Wickramage

Mobile: 077 334433

E-mail: g.wickramage@gmail.com

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History of The Sri Lanka Magic Circle; Men & Events from 1913 to 2014

Mr. HDN Gunasekara, historian for the circle, undertook a gigantic task of recording the events and personality's of the history of Sri Lankan Magic. He presented a manuscript of his collected data to the circle and requested the members to go through the book and to point out any omissions and add-ons'. He also welcomes any suggestions to improve the booklet.

This book contains the 'Total Membership from 1922', 'Office Bearers from the inception', 'Contest Awards and Winners' and a 'Chronological Record of Major Events and Occurrence's of the Circle'. Also included are the articles on 'life and achievements of outstanding Magicians' and Past Presidents.

හැරල්ඩ් හෝල්ඩන් යනු 1922 ආරම්භකළ ලංකා මායාශිල්පීන්ගේ සංගමයේ පළමු උප සභාපතිවරයාය. ඉංගිරිසී ජාතිකයකු වූ හෝල්ඩන් එවකට කේවිස් සහ සමාගමේ ක්‍රීඩා සහ ළමා අංශයේ කළමනාකාරවරයා විය. ඔහු කුමන වසරේදී මෙරටට පැමිණියේ දැයි පැහැදිලි නැති නමුත්, මැජික් ශිල්පියා පිලිබදව උනන්දුවක් දැක්වුණි ඉංගිරිසී උගත්ණි ඉහළ පන්තියට අයත් සියලුම තරුණයන් සමග සබදතාවයක් ගොඩනගා ගැනීමට ඔහු සමත් වී ඇති බව පැහැදිලිය. එවකට මැජික් පිලිබද පොත පත ලබා ගැනීමේ ප්‍රධානම මධ්‍යස්ථානය වූ කේවිස් සමාගමේ ක්‍රීඩා අංශය ඔවුන් නිතර ආ ගිය ස්ථානයක් වුවාට සැක නැත. වෙළද ප්‍රවර්ධනය උපක්‍රමයක් ලෙස මෙම කණ්ඩායම වැඩිකර ගැනීමේ අරමුණින් හැරල්ඩ්හෝ ලංකා මායාශිල්පීන්ගේ සංගමය ආරම්භ කිරීමේ මුලිකත්වය ගත්තාද විය හැක.

හැරල්ඩ් හෝල්ඩන් මෙරටට පැමිණීමට පෙර එංගලන්තයේදී මැජික් ශිල්පියෙකු ලෙසට කටයුතුකර ඇති බවට සාක්ෂි තිබේ. ඔහු ලන්ඩන් නුවර ගැමේපස් නම් සුපිරි වෙළද සංකීර්ණයේ මැජික් උපකරණ වෙළදකුටියේ බාරකරු ලෙස කටයුතු කරන අතර ලියොන් බොස්කෝ නම් විනෝද සංදර්ශන ශිල්පියා මොහුට මැජික් ශිල්පියෙකු ලෙසට ඉදිරියට ඒමට අවස්ථාව දුන් බව සදහන් වේ. ගැමේපස් වෙළද සංකීර්ණයේ අත්දැකීම් ලංකා කේවිස් සහ සමාගමේ කළමනාකාර තනතුර සදහා උපකාරී වුවාටද සැක නැත.

හැරල්ඩ් හෝල්ඩන් එංගලන්තයේදී වේල්ස් කුමරු ඇතුලු රාජකීයයන් වෙනුවෙන් පවා මැජික් සංදර්ශන පවත්වා ඇත. යුධ සමයේදී හමුදා සෙබල කණ්ඩායම් පිනවීම සදහාද දායකත්වයද සපයා ඇති ශිල්පියෙකි.

ලංකා මායාශිල්පීන්ගේ සංගමයේ පළමු සංවත්සර සංදර්ශන සිහිවටනයේ මුල්පිට තමා හා සම තත්වයෙන් දැක්වීමෙන්ම මුදුලිදු අමරසේකරයන් හෝල්ඩන් මහත්මා වෙත දැක්වූ ගෞරවය පැහැදිලි වේ.



Gamage's London in early 20th century (අප විනෝදය පිණිස මෙය 'ගමගේ කඩේ' යනුවෙන්ද හදුන්වමු)

Let us know our ancestors

We have heard a lot about the “Gay Deceiver”; Gate Mudaliyar A.C.G.S.Amarasekara , the founder President of SLMC. We know about “Professor Dalvo”; the founder member and Senior Vice President at the time of his demise. That was because his son Ronald was the live wire of SLMC during the last two decades or so. What do we know about other pioneers of modern Magic in Sri Lanka?

I was able to trace some of the details of those during my journey to the ‘History of Sri Lanka Magic Circle’. As you entrusted me this year with the responsibility of your Editor, let me make known some facts about them in time to come.

Harold W. Holden, the Man behind the ACM



It was true that A.C.G.S. Amarasekara was the founder President and the live wire behind the success of the Association of Ceylon Magicians (ACM) and Sri Lanka Magic Circle(SLMC). But the man behind the scene was none other than H.W.Holdon the founder Vice President.

Harold was an Englishman; Manager of the Toy Department of the H.W.Cave & Co., Colombo in early 20th Century. He left Ceylon in 1923 one year after the establishment of ACM.

How did Harold get involved in Ceylon Magic?

There is only little information available about him. He had been a performing magician before his arrival in Ceylon to work with the Cave & Co.

Magicpedia describes about a magician by the name ‘Harold W. Holden’;

“London magician also performed before H.R.H., The Duke of Windsor (then Prince of Wales) on two occasions.” Further describes that Harold was discovered by Leon Bosco (A showbiz entertainer) working behind the

magic counter at ‘Gamages’. Harold Holden also known as ‘Hove’, mystified the troops during the war, in France, Belgium and Italy, and later in Germany, with over 600 performances.

Gamages was a well established Department Store in London. They were very popular for toys and recreational items. Probably Harold’s experience at Gamages’ made his way to Caves & Co. Colombo.

Being a salesman he would have had a friendly nature. While working at the Caves he might have taken steps to promote his expertise among the

Ceylonese youth who were smitten by the ‘Magic Bug’. He came in contact with all who were looking for books and magazines on magic. He had brought them together as a group, and suggested ASGS, the senior who had already made a name by then as a magician, to form an association.

A hand bill announcing the ACM and calling those who interested in magic for support described him as “Mr. Holden who has performed before several Crown Heads in Europe”. Together with the other experienced magicians, Holden performed at the Concert after the Inaugural Meeting at the Regent Hall on February 18th 1922. He established the ACM to a

firm foundation together with ACGS and left the Island in 1923.

Past ‘Wand’ bulletins quoted certain news items appeared in the press on meetings of the ACM where Harold suggests solutions for smooth running of the association. The ACM First Anniversary cover page, most probably designed by ACGS, gives an equal status to Harold as well.



Photos from the AGM



Mr. Devsiri Fernando receives the President's award for "Most Valuable Member"

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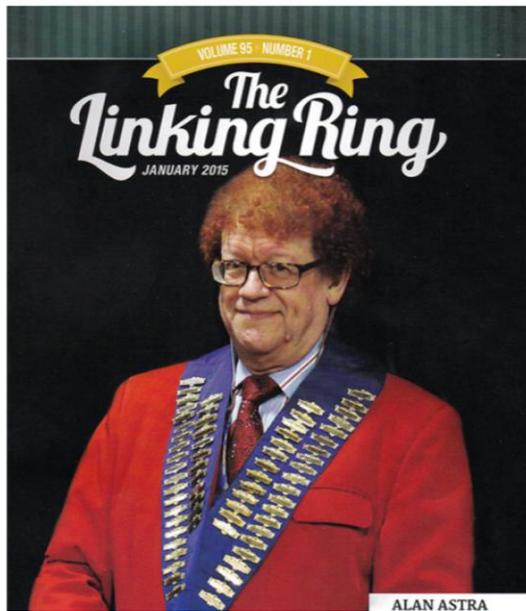
Ron & Ro with Maheshi.. Pem Mal Mala...



Sing-along

An Article written by AS Gayan Wickramage about the revival of Ring 139 was published in the I.B.M "The Linking Ring" magazine - Vol. 95, No.1 Page 54, January 2015.

Become a RING 139 member and add prestige to your profession!



ALAN ASTRA



(l to r from top): Attending group. Presentation of the charter. Lighting of the oil lamp. Meeting.

Vice President Rohan Jayasekara, Secretaries - them of the history, responsibilities, chal-

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