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THE WAND

ORGAN OF THE SRI LANKA MAGIC CIRCLE

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The Official Guardian of Magic

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May This Vesak Bring
Peace and Happiness



Monthly Get-together
Sunday 29th May
at 'Vishmithapaya'
9.30 a.m.

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Mini Contests
Coin, Silk, Rope & Cards
29th May

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

The monthly get together of April 2016 was held on Sunday 24th at 'Vishmithapaya', commencing at 10.15am. *Over 20 regular members and guests were present. Notable faces after a lengthy absence were Lilani, Kumarage and Noel Anandan. Farther and the brother of Lasitha Jayamal, were also present

President welcomed the members and conveyed sympathies of the SLMC to Lasitha's family members and presented an album of photographs of the funeral, prepared by Asanka (V.P. Welfare).

Then the EVP Devsiri was invited to conduct the proceedings. At the outset Devsiri stressed the importance of laughing. He then invited the member AJith Fernando (Tele-drama actor) to entertain the gathering with a hilarious act from a drama, which Ajith did very well. The star performer for the day was Noel Anandan, our member from Middle East. EVP invited Noel to the rostrum.

Noel performed paper to flower, floating ring, cards that became blank and reversed. Next he made a silk vanish and produced it from his pocket, followed by a series of thimble manipulations, colour changes and culminating with thimbles on all fingers. He then poured milk from a jug into a paper cup and pulled a several yards of ribbons from the cup and went on to a snow storm. Next a rope routine ending with the Professor's nightmare (equal unequal ropes). Finally, he gave a card each to five volunteers and asked them to memorize the cards. He collected the cards and cut them into two pieces and divided into two heaps. Then mixed them according to the wish of the audience and counted them with spellings 'will our minds merge' and the two halves matched to form the complete card every time. After the act he spoke on his experience to become a magician. He concluded saying that magic made him a better person.



Treasurer Wije was invited by the EVP to speak. As usual Wije requested the members in arrears to pay their dues at the earliest possible.

President Rohan next spoke to the members about practice and explained that all actions must be natural and spontaneous. He demonstrated how to open a bottle of water and drink using a single hand. Dinesh Thangavel performed few effects with matchsticks, ring and rope and did a few rope flourishes.

Sajeewa Hewapathirana showed a version of pen through currency note using an ordinary ball point pen and fully explained how to perform it. EVP then invited the members to perform the pen through note which they just learnt. Pushpakumari and Chenul performed the trick and Sanjeewa corrected them on certain moves.

Members were served with refreshments and the get together came to an end at 12.30pm.



Reported by Shelton Jayasekara (VP).

(Both Chrisantha & Suranjith were not at the meeting due to unavoidable reasons. Regret that the turnout list could not be included. Thank you Shelton for reporting the proceedings of the day - Editor)*



EMIL "The Dream Prince of Sri Lankan Magic"

Guest Artist at the SAARC Magic Conference, 2016



Youthful Emil with his charming wife Tani represented Sri Lanka at the SAARC Magic Conference last month in New Delhi. Emil participated at a Magic Festival in Delhi in 2013 on an invitation by Magicians Kharbanda Family. Emil had done well to impress the Indian magical community at his first visit and this year too he was invited as a special guest artist for the SAARC Magic Conference-2016 that was organized by the Indian Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM).

Over 300 magicians were there including overseas guest artists such as Dane (Australia), Martin Juan (Argentina), Safin & Olga (Kyrgyzstan), Krish (Mauritius), Suraj (Nepal), Tommy (Dubai) and Emil & Tani from Sri Lanka. Almost all the leading Indian names in the field of magic were there at the conference.

Emil described his tour as a fantastic experience. He had several opportunities to perform at Gala shows and Close-up sessions. Emil's presentations that were different from the prototype Indian acts were well received by the spectators. His acts containing sleight of hand tricks were much appreciated over the currently popular apparatus magic and frequently seen acts on the Indian stage such as, 'Dove Production', 'Parasol s' & 'Dress Changing' items. He added that the dealer display was superb and they have introduced some new items in recent years.

Emil was honored on stage by the IBM with usual Indian customs. **Well done & Congratulations Emil & Tani! Tani, we look forward for the day, you join the clan of 'Lady Magicians of Sri Lanka'.**



Guinness Record breaking at the SAARC Magic

A Successful World Record Attempt for most number of magicians in a single magic show was held during the IBM's SAARC Magic Conference. This time it was 162 magicians in a single show surpassing the last year's 134 magicians at the FISM-2015 in Italy.

We are proud that SLMC was represented at both occasions. Last time Yasas and this time Emil. Emil performed under No.36 at this show.



The President Indian Magic Academy contacted the President SLMC.

Rohan had an unexpected guest to chat with on facebook. He was Dr. B.S.Reddy, the President of Indian Magic Academy. Impressed by Emil's performances at the SAARC Conference, Dr. Reddy called Rohan to convey his appreciation. Also He invited the President and the members of SLMC for the forthcoming Congress of the Indian Magic Academy.

(Article on Indian News Paper]

“Knight of Illusions” proved that wasn’t an ‘Illusion’



Yasas Gunaratne, the Territorial Vice President, International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM) accomplished the Magic he determined do. With the resurrection of the IBM Ring 139 after a long slumber in 2014 he wanted to take the art to another level. With the ‘Knight of Illusions’ show last year at the Musaeus College, Yasas announced his intention of making a contribution for the ‘Cancer Treatment Centre, Kandy’ project. He was successful in getting down three world champions namely Shawn Farquhar, Tommy Ten & Amelie for his brand show ‘Knight of Illusions Returns’ in January this year. Recently Yasas concluded the initial stage of his project by donating the profit of the show together with the contributions from the well wishers (Rs. 1.1 Million) to the Cancer Treatment Centre, Kandy; at a special meeting of the Project Committee.

Congratulations Yasas. You proved that Magic can do more!

‘OUR MAGIC CLASS’ CONTINUING.....

Our Head Teacher Shelton is always at the Class on time irrespective of the number of the students. Few enthusiastic pupils attend the class regularly on 2nd Sunday of the month. This is the best opportunity for novices to improve their skills and learn new tricks, and correct presentation under the guidance of an expert. ‘The Head Teacher’ is ever ready to help you, correct you and answer your questions.

Contact Asanka, the coordinator cum ‘Assistant Teacher’ of the class (0773388195) for details.

On Sunday 15th amidst the heavy rains we had a special class as a training session for intended contestants of the ‘Mini-Contests’.

Nuwan De Silva, Naminda Paranagama, Chenul Perera, Banuka, Asanka K. Pathirana came for the training.

I believe that the SLMC & IBM Ring 139 should organize more workshops for beginners both members and non members.



‘Doyen of Magic’ in Sri Lanka Gate Mudaliyar A.C.G.S.Amarasekara

.....Continued from the March ‘Wand’



After the WWII, in 1949 Mudaliyar ACGS Amarasekara returned to the Independent Motherland as a respected civilian of the British Empire. The Secretary, International Brotherhood of Magicians’ suggestion to establish an IBM Ring came at this surrounding. Members of the Association of Ceylon Magicians (ACM) who were active and kept the Magic alive in Ceylon during his absence rallied round the leader once again. Following few preliminary meetings, the ACM was resurrected on 1st August 1952 with a new found enthusiasm. There was quite a number of Ceylonese interested in Magic by this time and some of them too enrolled as new members of the ACM. Mudaliyar made use of then available media, Press & Radio to popularize magic. He had broadcasted a series of talks titled “Magic as a Hobby”.

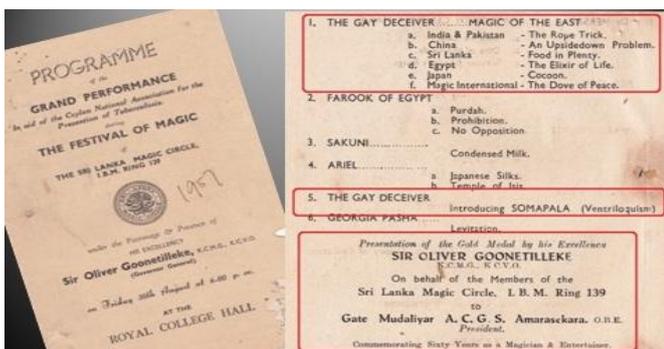
ACGS was elevated to the rank of Gate Mudaliyar by the King’s office and appointed as the Chairman of the Fine Arts Committee of the Colombo Plan Exhibition in 1952. He made use of this opportunity to take Magic into the prominence. He himself had performed at the cultural shows of the exhibition. Mudaliyar persuaded the Giant Showbiz Entrepreneur Donovan Andree, to organize an open Magic Competition at the SSC Carnival-1952, where several magicians both ACM members & non members took part.

1953 the ACM was re-named as the Sri Lanka Magic Circle (SLMC) and the logo of the circle too modified sans the ‘Swasthika’ sign which had an ill repute as the ‘Nazi’ logo.

By 1954 the membership swelled and he was in a position to carry out the IBM Secretary’s request. Herbert Gonzal a founder member in 1922 was the man who did the spade work with IBM. The SLMC was affiliated to the International Brotherhood of Magicians and received the Charter IBM Ring No.139, dated 2nd August 1954, with the names of 13 SLMC members who took the membership of IBM. ACGS as the President of SLMC became the first President of the IBM Ring 139 and Herbert functioned as the Territorial Representative.

The SLMC cum IBM became an active organization having regular meetings and public shows. Charity shows at Hospitals and other institutes were a common feature. ACGS described himself as the “Leader of the Gang of Deceivers” and performed at almost all the shows throughout the island. His act was named as the “Magic of the East” and the ventriloquism act with “Somapala” was loved by the kids as well as adults. At this period Magic was not taken as a profession or mode of earning. It was a fine art taken as a hobby by people of all walks. Prominent professionals in upper circles of the society such as Raja Hewavitharana, TCP Fernando, Herbert Gonzal, Melson Fernando and many others were regular performers at these charitable shows.

1957 Fellow Magicians decided to honor Mudaliyar commemorating sixty years as a Magician & Entertainer. (Mudaliyar started performing as a teenager). He was presented with a Gold Medal at the Festival of Magic held on 30th August 1957, by H.E. the Governor General Sir Oliver Gunatillake. Accepting the decoration Mudaliyar declared it as the ‘Badge of Office’ of the ‘Presidents of the SLMC’. (Even today President Rohan wears the same badge)



Programme of the 1957 show



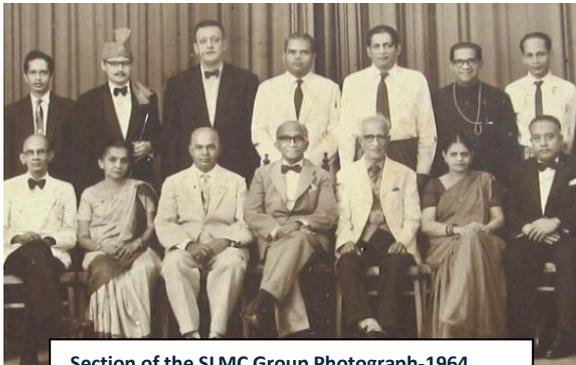
Ventriloquism act with Somapala



Mudaliyar Amarasekara Challenge Shield

1958 the President of the Society of Art Prof. Gunapala Malalasekara was appointed as the Ambassador to USSR and Mudaliyar had to succeed him which position he continued till 1968. (1968 The Society of Art published a commemorative volume 'Doyen of the Ceylon Art')

'Gate Mudaliyar A.C.G.S. Amarasekara Challenge Shield' was designed by himself and an annual event, 'Magician of the Year Contest' was launched. The inaugural contest was held in 1961 and the winner was Wickramapala Alwis aka 'Professor Akbar'.



Section of the SLMC Group Photograph-1964. Note the two young men standing at either ends.

1967 Mudaliyar wanted to step down from the Presidency and named Ranapala Bodhinagoda as his successor. 'Bodhi' and the council persuaded him to remain as the 'Life President' of the SLMC and amended the constitution to have an Executive Vice President to carry out the arduous duties.

1970, for the first time the SLMC conferred the title M.I.M.C. (Member of the Inner Magic Circle) on five members including Mudaliyar Amarasekara, for distinguished services rendered to the Circle. Others were Linden De Alwis, Simon Perera, Herbert Gonzal and G.C.Nanayakkara.

1972, the Golden Jubilee Year was a unique occasion for the Mudaliyar. At the ripe old age of 89 he had been continuing to be the president of SLMC for 50 years. (Probably a world record, though not gone into the books.) The SLMC celebrated this event in grand scale with a Festival of Magic, Banquet and a reception at the Queens House by the Patron H.E. the Governor General William Gopallawa. The 'Sri Lanka Magicians Open National Contest' for the 'Four Aces Challenge Trophy' was inaugurated in 1972. The first winner was Tuan Akbar Ramblan aka 'Akbar the Great', who continued the winning spree for three consecutive years.

Mudaliyar was somewhat feeble in his 90s. But he graced almost all the functions of the Circle, and especially he himself came on stage to hand over the 'Gate Mudaliyar A.C.G.S. Amarasekara Challenge Shield' to the winners.



At a contest award ceremony



Hand bill. 1982 Felicitation show



2nd March 1983 on his 100th Birthday with President, Prime Minister, Minister of State & 'Bodhi'

The SLMC & IBM felicitated the 'Doyen of their Art' with an unusual 'Felicitation show' on 12th March 1982. It was a great show where 27 magicians performed in honor of their 'Gang Leader' on achieving the 100th year of his life. (A Guinness Record in 1982 ?)

Mudaliyar became a centurion on 2nd March 1983. Recognizing Mudaliyar Amarasekara's services to the nation, H.E. the President J.R.Jayawardane re-named the Dowson Road, Colombo 5; as 'Amarasekara Mawatha' and an exhibition of paintings was opened at the Art Gallery.

17 days after his 100th Birthday, on 19th March 1983 this great son of mother Lanka bade good bye to the earthly world and proceeded to take his seat in the 'Walhalla' of visual and performing artists.



BIRTHDAYS OF MAY

- 2nd Joy De Silva
- 3rd Gayan Wickramage
- 6th Iranga Gunawardane
- 13th Chandrasena Gamage
- 14th Dinesh Thangavel
- 17th G.S.Rodrigo & Anuradha Perera
- 18th Felix de Alwis
- 20th Merrill Weckasinghe
- 21st Ranjith Silva

Sri Lanka Magic Circle – Mini Contests- May 29th, 2016

Mini-contests for **Silk Magic, Rope Magic, Cards Magic & Coin Magic** will be held at the May Get-together.

This is going to be an interesting event of the year. You may take part at the contest. If not, come and encourage the contestants at the Get-together on 29th May.

If you wish to take part contact V.P. (Contests) Suranjith de Soyza for details. (0777208660)

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WORLD NEWS

Paul’s Nephew on Britain’s Got Talent!

Debbie McGee said she hopes that the “legacy” of her late husband Paul Daniels will be continued in their nephew, who has auditioned as a magician for this year’s Britain’s Got Talent series.

James Phelan, 23, will follow in the footsteps of Paul, who died in March from a brain tumor, as he shows off his sleight of hand in the talent competition – and he’ll have a personal cheerleader in the form of Debbie.

She explained: “As his Uncle Paul got ill, James applied for Britain’s Got Talent. He’d never been on the stage, he’s very brave, and he didn’t have any help from myself or Paul because Paul was too ill and I was nursing him. We’d just have phone calls – he’d say, ‘Don’t worry, Auntie Deb, I’ve come up with this idea, it’s going to be great.’

Paul would be so proud. It would be fantastic if he won.”

Debbie, who was the popular magician’s assistant and then wife of 28 years, revealed Paul had been impressed with James since a young age when he showed off a cheeky entrepreneurial side.

Tom Mullica

The brilliant and unique Tom Mullica passed away on February 18, 2016 after being disconnected from a life support machine. He had gone in for a hernia operation, blood clots formed and brought with them several strokes and a shutdown of his kidneys. The decision was made to disconnect the artificial life support and Tom passed away shortly after 7:00 p.m. Las Vegas time. Tom was a true great of magic and will be sadly missed by magic fans around the world.

