

Our March meeting was a lecture. We all gathered in the home of Michael Goldman for a lecture by Carl Mercurio. Carl is a New York City bar magician. By that I mean either as a bartender who also does magic or his performance venue is behind the bar. Carl started things off with a nice dollar bills across which he based on a Paul Harris cards across idea. He followed that with Shark-A-Kahn where a head of a shark on a stick pulls a selected card from a deck in a glass that is also covered by a silk. A very entertaining bit. Next he performed a bit with the silk and a big ring which was also fun to watch. Carl followed that with the Smiling Mule using that vehicle for an in-depth discussion on Paul Curry's Turnover Change. Next was a very entertaining repeat coins under glass and a coins across routine. Following that he performed a routine of his own creation called Litmus Test where cards change color as they are dealt from the deck onto the table. It kind of reminded me of Lennert Green who vanishes a card as he deals it from the deck. This was followed by a discussion of the Push-off Second Deal which, Carl says he learned from Simon Lovell. And we all know that Simon is a master of the second deal. He ended the lecture with a demonstration and discussion on his own method of getting one ahead when performing Matrix. It was a unique method to say the least. Throughout the lecture, Carl was constantly discussing why he selects certain material when working behind the bar. He believes that short, powerful material is the way to go.

It was an extremely enjoyable and informative lecture. If you think that working behind the bar might be your thing, then look up Carl Mercurio because you can learn a lot from him.