

## 18. Death By Misadventure

1. pages 331-334. **The procession had the air...eighteen years before.** We compiled our account from many sources including “Shot On The Stage”, *The Daily Chronicle*, London, March 25, 1918, “Music Hall Stage Tragedy”, *Daily Express*, London, March 25, 1918, “Life and Death of Chung Ling Soo”, *The Encore*, March 28, 1918, “Magician Shot On The Stage Of Music Hall By Mischance”, *Lloyd’s Weekly News*, March 31, 1918, from the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin. Also see the elegant account in Jim Steinmeyer, *The Glorious Deception* (New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers), 2005, 1-16, and “A Basonful of Chung Ling Soo” by Edwin A. Dawes, *The Complete Rich Cabinet of Magical Curiosities*, CD-ROM, (Surrey, Peter Scarlett, 2005), p. 473-475.

2. page 335. **“The reason people drown on a sinking...raise his hand.”** Our account comes from “Houdini Offers Aid – Teach Soldiers Escape Methods”, *Toledo News*, February, 1918, from the Robinson Locke scrapbook, 284, in the collection of the New York Public Library, and “Ten Thousand Boys In Khaki Crowd The Five Huts”, unidentified New York newspaper, February 6, 1918, citation from the Silverman notes in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

3. page 337. **“Soo Robinson Killed Doing Bullet Trick.”** Telegram from Joe Hayman to Houdini, March 26, 1918, in the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.

4. page 337. **“It is known for a fact that the rifle..”** Letter from Joe Hayman to Houdini, March 26, 1918, in the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.
  
5. page 337. **“it seems as if there were something...”** Houdini to Kellar, April 5, 1918, letter in the collection of David Copperfield’s International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.
  
6. page 337. **M-U-M, the official organ of the SAM....** “We Sold Over \$54,000 Worth of Bonds at the Big Affair,” *MUM*, April 1918, p.1.
  
7. page 337. **“Now, my dear boy, this is advice...”** Kellar to Houdini regarding the Bullet Catch, May 1, 1918, letter in the Milbourne Christopher collection. The letter has been cited in many places including Christopher’s article “Magic Letters”, *The Magic Circular*, September 1952, p.340.
  
8. page 338. **had been recruiting local magic...President Wilson.** For example, see the Minutes of SAM meeting, October 7, 1916, Teale to Houdini, October 11, 1916, stenographic typed report from Houdini at Magician’s Club of Buffalo banquet, October 12, 1916, Houdini to Teale, October 16, 1916, Keith’s contract with Houdini, October 20, 1916, Houdini to Teale, October 21, 1916, Houdini to Teale, October 27, 1916, Houdini to Teale, December 8, 1916, material in the collection of the New York Public Library,

cited in Silverman notes in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

9. page 338. **On June 2, Houdini was nominated for president....** “Parent Assembly’s Big Show”, *The Sphinx*, March 1930, p.9.

10. page 338. **Houdini began filling the pages with news...** For example, “U.S. Government Seeks Mystifiers”, *MUM*, October 1917, p.1, and “We Sold Over \$54,000 Worth of Bonds at the Big Affair”, *MUM*, April 1918, p.1. Houdini also reproduced an article where a theatre manager was made to express his patriotism. See “Forced to Kiss the Flag”, *MUM*, August 1917, p.3.

11. page 338. **Archie Engel...** “Archie Engel Dies; Local Optometrist”, *The Washington Post*, September 26, 1949.

12. page 338. **Dr. Maximillian Toch...** “Dr. Toch, Chemist And Art Expert, 81”, *New York Times*, May 31, 1946.

13. page 338. **Dr. Charles Mendelsohn...** *The Sphinx*, October, 1939, p.202.

14. page 338. **Wilbur Weber...** *MUM*, October, 1956, p.196-197.

15. page 339. **“I register tomorrow for enlisting...too much to be said.”** Houdini to Goldston, June 11, 1917, letter in the Milbourne Christopher collection.
16. page 339. **In June, the National Vaudeville Association...** “N.V.A. Benefit Packs New York Hippodrome”, *N.Y. Star*, June 3, 1917, clipping in the Robinson Locke scrapbook #247, 275-276, in the collection of the New York Public Library.
17. page 339. **In July he embarked on a series of fund...** Houdini to Goldston , July 17, 1917, cited in Silverman notes in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.
18. page 340. **“I’ll buy another \$1,000 bond...”** *The Billboard*, October 19, 1918, 50. Also see “Houdini – Gets \$2,000 in Bonds for Shirt,” unidentified clipping in a Houdini scrapbook in the collection of George Daily.
19. page 340. **“advocate of war” with Germany...**“Confessions of a Jail-Breaker” by Harry Houdini, 1919, reprinted in Walter B. Gibson, *The Original Houdini Scrapbook* (New York : Corwin Sterling Publishing Co., Inc.), 1977, 172-173.
20. page 340. **“In private, he fretted...those lessons that he could.”** Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), 216.

21. page 340. **“the biggest magical feat...”**SAM “Supplementary Report of the Secretary embodying the Principle Events of the Year”, 1917, by Oscar Teale, cited in Silverman notes in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin, with reference to material in the collection of the New York Public Library.
22. page 341. **In February, he wrote Secretary of War...** “Houdini Offers Aid – Teach Soldiers Escape Methods”, *Toledo News*, February, 1918, clipping in the Robinson Locke scrapbook, 284, in the collection of the New York Public Library.
23. page 341. **“daily besieged by hosts of boys in khaki.”** *The Billboard*, March 2, 1918, 14, cited in Silverman notes in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.
24. page 342. **“My heart is in this work for it is not....”** Houdini to R.H. Burnside, June 10, 1918, from the manuscript collection of the New York Public Library.
25. pages 342-344. **“La-dies and gen-tle-men. Perhaps...elephant had disappeared.** *The Sphinx*, March, 1918, 11. Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), 13, 259. Also see Jim Steinmeyer, *Hiding The Elephant* (New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers, 2003).

26. page 344. **was at best a mediocre magician...** Bruce Cervon & Keith Burns, *The Vernon Chronicles - Volume 4 - He Fooled Houdini : Dai Vernon – A Magical Life* (Tahoma, CA : L&L Publishing), 1992, 82.

27. page 344. **“He is a grand man when you know him...”** “Kellar Letters” by Robert Lund in *The Linking Ring*, August, 1958, p.52.

28. page 344. **“I hear Carter has been..”** Houdini to Kellar, February 12, 1918, letter in the collection of David Copperfield’s International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.

29. page 344. **“So Mr. Houdini puts his title...”** “Houdini Hides An Elephant”, *Variety*, January 11, 1918, clipping found in Houdini Pressbook 1906-1918, 155, in the collection of the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

30. pages 344-345. **“Houdini’s prodigious presentation...do next, Harry?”** “Magic & Magicians” by William J. Hilliar, *The Billboard*, January, 19, 1918.

31. page 345. **Houdini’s elephant mystery drew so...** Houdini to Kellar, February 23, 1918, letter in the collection of David Copperfield’s International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.

32. page 345. **With a seating capacity of more than five thousand...** "The American Variety Stage: Vaudeville and Popular Entertainment, 1870-1920", American Memory collections, Library of Congress : [http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb/wwii/hippo\\_2](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb/wwii/hippo_2)

33. page 345. **Henry Gavin, aka Arthur Finley...** Houdini's guest register from 278 West 113<sup>th</sup> Street, February 26, 1919, cited in the Silverman notes in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

34. page 345. **"Magic is now the vogue..."** Houdini to Kellar, January 16, 1918, letter in the collection of David Copperfield's International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.

35. page 345. **Maskelyne & Cooke's Egyptian Hall in London...** "New York's Magic Theatre", *Variety*, 1918, clipping in the Egyptian Hall Houdini Scrapbook in the collection of George Daily.

36. page 345. **Film Development Corporation, was hemorrhaging...** Houdini often made note of the prodigious sums of money he was putting into his film company, usually in letters to Harry Kellar. For example, see Houdini to Kellar, August 8, 1916 and Houdini to Kellar, November 27, 1918 where he claims he's invested \$65,000 into the FDC to date. These letters are in the collection of David Copperfield's International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.

37. page 346. **“if I had been flush....”** Houdini to Quincy Kilby, January 27, 1918, in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University.
38. page 346. **After four years of living with Hardeen...** Houdini to Teale, October 25, 1916, cited in the Silverman notes in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.
39. page 346. **“I bot for my Beloved Mother...”** Houdini to Kellar, December 22, 1917, letter in the collection of David Copperfield’s International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.
40. page 346. **“I am fighting hard not to feel....”** Houdini to Kellar, January 31, 1918, letter in the collection of David Copperfield’s International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.
41. page 346. **“Been having a hard time with my...”** Houdini to Quincy Kilby, February 25, 1918, letter in the Kilby scrapbook in the Boston Public Library.
42. page 346. **“It’s been a bit cloudy...”** Houdini to Teale. Silverman quotes letter, but unfortunately does not provide an exact citation. From Kenneth Silverman, *Houdini!!! The Career Of Erich Weiss* (New York : Harper Collins), 1996, 231.

43. pages 346-347. **They met in small cafe...She was Charmian London.** We have dramatized this meeting between Houdini and Charmian London, basing the dialogue on actual diary entries of Charmian London that are housed in the Huntington Museum in California. We placed the café in Greenwich Village, near the house that London was renting while she stayed in New York and where Houdini visited her, according to her diary.

44. page 347. **“many a deft little artifice...escapades of Houdini.”** Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), 297-298.