

March 22, 1975

Topper Martyn  
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Sweden

Dear Topper:

Many thanks for your last and the enclosed clippings. We are finally back in Brussels for a while and are more or less settled. I think I wrote you a few weeks ago that we found a lovely apartment. We still haven't finished fixing it up but most things - including the guest room - are functional now.

I saw the TV show of the Magic Circle show you were on. They did cut you to ribbons, but they did that with everybody. They had your opening bit and the closer with the valise, ~~umbrella~~ umbrella and hat. I presume they must have had some of the in between stuff too but those are the only things I specifically remember. To give you an idea of how much they cut everyone, ~~it~~ I tuned in about three minutes late and Michael Bailey was already finishing.

Gay's Fables is a charming little book, originally published in 1798 and running through many editions. It consists of fables in poetry on many different subjects, each one headed by a lovely little woodcut. One of the poems - quite a long one - is called The Jugglers. It's about a contest between a ~~fix~~ fairground magician and Vice, in the form of a lady who does better tricks than the magician. The woodcut shows a typical fitup of the period, including a draped table with assistant peeking out from underneath. The poem recounts a lot of the standard tricks of the day, as well as some fanciful one attributed to Vice.

I too got the new Kaps routine for Sidewalk Shuffle. It is a good routine - and the new cards with it are very nice, I think - but it still suffers from being unsuited as ~~it~~ is to platform presentation. I worked out a different handling for the original Sidewalk Shuffle which kept the cards ~~vertical~~ vertical and ~~facing~~ facing the spectators at all times - in other words, a good platform handling (also one in which you don't have to be turning from side to side all the time as in most handlings of this sort). Haven't experimented ~~yet~~ yet to see if it can be adapted to the Kaps routine, though I would think so. I also have a similar type of handling for the original 3 Card Trick with 4 cards, and frankly I still prefer this to the Sidewalk S<sub>h</sub>uffle versions because of the completely open handling of the cards, since ~~you~~ you don't have to hide any faked indices, and also because of the variation in the second stage when you perform it with the faces towards the spectators, and for the final touch at the end where you turn the cards back to they way they were atk the start. When you come to see us I'll show you the handlings.

One nice feature about my job here is the travelling. Was in Geneva and Lausanne last week. Will spend a few days in Fontainbleau in April, a week in England in May and again in August. Will also probably spend some time in Germany in the summer or fall. Am then planning ~~on~~ on two or three weeks in London over Christmas and New Years. ~~Simplex~~

Couple of my things have appeared in Pabular recently. Another one due sometime. Also trying to come up with something for Peter Warlock who wants to include me in the "modern givers" series he's running in New Pentagram.  
All the best. Come see us.