



REN CLARK

1904 - 1991

Alton Renerick Clark was a Texas magician and businessman. Known simply as Ren to most, he was born in Cross Cut, Texas on August 4, 1904. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the Texas A&M College in 1924 and later worked as a bank clerk, engineer, manufacturer, hotel owner, and as a board member for numerous companies.

ENTREPRENEUR

Ren owned considerable corporate investments and holdings with Texaco and other companies. He was heavily involved in the Double Seal Ring Company (manufacturers of piston rings) and served the company as secretary and treasurer, owned a candy company in Fort Worth, and had many other business interests including owning several hotels with his friend Desi Arnaz, the Cuban-born American musician, actor and producer best known for his role as Ricky Ricardo on the television series *I Love Lucy*.

Ren had two wives. After Bille his first wife past away, he married Genie, a delightful lady from Cross Plains, Texas, not far from his birthplace in Cross Cut.

Ren was on the Board of Directors of Ridglea Country Club and was very good friends with many notable people of his day including friend and fellow magician Fort Worth Star-Telegram vice-president Luther Adkins, John Justin of Justin Boots, and oil baron and tycoon W. A. Moncrief.



He was also a very good friend of A. C. Luther "The Father of the Ridglea Area" of Fort Worth, and Hank Green who with Luther built hotels and Ridglea Country Club, which opened in late 1954. An oil painting of Ren is still on display in a hallway of the country club.

MAGICIAN

Ren Clark first became exposed to magic illusions and sleight-of-hand at six years of age in 1910 when Willard the Wizard came to Cross Plains with his huge touring tent show and illusion spectacular. At age twelve Ren began buying magic tricks from mail order magic catalogs and purchasing magic tricks from stores.

Later Clark moved to Kansas City and then to Rockford, Illinois where he helped form a local magic club. In 1939 he joined the Society of American Magicians, Chicago Assembly 3. Shortly thereafter moved back to Texas and settled in Fort Worth where he joined the local Dallas SAM Assembly.

In 1940, Ren joined the International Brotherhood of Magicians, or IBM for short. Later he became the IBM 1942 convention chairman to oversee the organization's national convention in Fort Worth. He went on to serve the IBM as International President in 1947-48 and worked hard to make the IBM a true international organization by visiting many countries.

Ren was instrumental in starting The Fort Worth Magicians Club on September 6, 1940 when several magic enthusiasts began meeting together at Ren's home to share their love for magic. In 1948 the club became affiliated with the IBM as the "Ren Clark IBM Ring 15, The Fort Worth Magicians Club."

Clark entertained friends, performed for his fellow magicians, and donated his services to church groups, boys clubs, civic and fraternal organizations. During WWII he performed for hospital patients and military personnel.

Ren developed an Oriental act due to the influence of his friend Herbert J. Collings (Col Ling Soo) of London and later specialized in the performance of oriental magic. Ren adorned actual Chinese robes that once adorned Chinese nobility. Along with his headdress, Ren used facial makeup and mannerisms to look the part of a real Chinese conjuror.

He had a small 12 by 16 foot stage built in his home with secret panels in the walls and an ornate dragon tapestry as the backdrop. The tapestry is now the property of Derek Kennedy, owner of Magic Etc in Fort Worth. Adjoining Ren's stage was a larger living room/drawing room large enough to seat about 100 guests.



He owned an array of highly collectible magician's apparatus built by famous magic craftsmen such as Okito (Theodore Leendert Bamberg), Yutaka Kikuchi of Japan, and Fort Worth illusion builder Bruce Chadwick. He also maintained a substantial library on magic and the conjuring arts. His library was special and included a secret wall panel that when opened, he could access a safe and a secure area for prized possessions.

Ren's entire home was majestic, adorned by many highly collectible works of art, many of them of the oriental flair. His bamboo room was built from relics left over from his Polynesian Village nightclub that was part of the Western Hills Hotel, which was located on Camp Bowie Blvd in west Fort Worth. His home also featured an indoor/outdoor aviary where he raised finches and other small exotic birds. In the valley immediately behind his home, Ren maintained a guest house that he allowed visiting magicians to use.

Clark was a member of the British Ring; I.G.P. Club de Azteca of Gaudalajara, Mexico, the Ren Clark IBM Ring 15 of Fort Worth, Texas, the Swedish Magic Circle; Circulo Magico Argentino; El Circulo de Magos Mexicana, Mexico, D. F.; All India Magic Circle; and the Singapore I.B.M. Ring No. 115 of Singapore.

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF MAGICIANS

He was always emphatic in stating, "Ren Clark, founder of the Texas Association of Magicians." Historical records state otherwise. It was actually Herman Yerger who started the yearly picnics that became the Texas Association of Magicians. At best, Ren was one of the instrumental magicians that led to the founding of the TAOM. He worked closely with Texas magic legends such as Herman Yerger, Ed Deweese, Doc Mahendra and others to help form the Texas Association of Magicians at the Austin Hotel, Austin, Texas in 1946.

In 1945, Ren used his lawyers to draw-up the bylaws of the organization. The TAOM was then voted into existence in Austin, Texas in 1946, and the first convention then held under the TAOM title in 1947 in Fort Worth, Texas. Later Ren would become a TAOM Honorary Life Member.





Ren was also an Order of Merlin Excalibur member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians for fifty years of continuous membership. More importantly, he was the recipient of the highest award that can be bestowed by the IBM Board of Trustees, the Medallion of Honor. He was also MIMC (Member of the Inner Magic Circle) of London's famous The Magic Circle and was featured on the cover of the organization's periodical The Magic Circular in May 1990.

In 1944 Ren contracted a run of bottled bourbon called "Old Ren" as a promotion of his magic shows. His picture complete with top hat appears on the bottle with a motto, "There's Magic In Its Taste."

POLYNESIAN VILLAGE

A popular gathering place in the 1950's was A. C. Luther's and Hank Green's fabulous Western Hills Hotel, a resort hotel that stood at 6451 Camp Bowie Boulevard in Fort Worth, Texas, only a couple of blocks from the main entrance to Ridglea Country Club.

Due in part to the Convair Plant (Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation, now Lockheed Martin) and subsequent explosive growth of Fort Worth in the area, the hotel was an instant success. It boasted over 200 rooms, detached cabanas, and honeymoon cottages. The hotel also maintained the first hotel heliport. Guests were welcome to fly in and enjoy the Branding Room restaurant and dine under the watchful eye of a fabulous western mural painted by Fort Worth artist Emily Guthrie Smith.



Also in the hotel was Ren Clark's swank nightclub restaurant called the Polynesian Village. Operated sometime during the time from 1951 until the hotel burned down in 1969, the club was richly decorated with bamboo, tapa cloth, floats, lights, thatch and peacock chairs. Light fixtures were made from the shells of huge hawksbill turtles and elephant tusks marked door entrances. The nightclub had various rooms including the Tahitian Room, the Hawaiian Room, the Samoan Hut, and the Cannibal Cocktail Lounge. Its signature tiki was carved by Milan Guanko.

For entertainment at his Polynesian Village, Ren often performed a magic act. His performances were never per-

formed for a specific run. Rather his performances was performed as Ren had the time and unction for friends and special guests. Other magicians such as the late Bob Utter also went table-to-table to entertain the patrons.

As a souvenir, patrons could purchase a grotesque mug made to look like a severed head, items that since have become very collectible. The bar had a tropical rainstorm that occurred about every half hour. The lights dimmed, a sound system played the sound of driving rain on a thatched roof, and lightning flashed. The Sunken Galleon bar was famous for its "mermaid," a topless young woman who swam in fish tail costume in the giant aquarium behind the bar.



When I-30 was built and took much of the highway traffic away from Camp Bowie and Hwy 80, Hank Green sold the hotel and built the Green Oaks Inn in 1965 at the Green Oaks and I-30 intersection.

The Western Hills Hotel burned in 1969 and subsequently was demolished. Currently a Winn Dixie grocery store sits on the former site of the hotel.

Even in his eighties, Ren Clark was still attending local magic club meetings and occasional state and national magic conventions.

Clark passed away at age 86 in Fort Worth, Texas in on May 3, 1991 due to complications of cancer. The eulogy at his funeral was read by past president of the International Brotherhood of Magicians Roger Crabtree, with two family members and magicians David Hirabayashi, Derek Kennedy, Bill Palmer, and Bruce Chadwick as pallbearers.



The Most Fabulous Dining Room East of the Rockies
an exotic, Authentic Tropical South Sea Island Dining

OPENING JUNE 17th

Ren Clark's Polynesian Village
Exotic Food and Drink

Three Beautiful Dining Rooms and Cocktail Lounge

THE SAMOAN HUT is a beautiful island-themed structure, built with a beautiful thatched roof and decorated with native motifs and weapons. Here guests will enjoy island food and drink, featuring native and authentic Polynesian cuisine. Accommodating over 100 diners, the hut is a perfect place for a romantic dinner or a large party.

THE HAWAIIAN ROOM will capture the exotic charm of the islands in style. This beautiful dining room is especially designed to accommodate small parties and is located on the right of the main dining area.

THE TAHITIAN ROOM will display authentic decor native to this South Sea island. This beautiful dining room overlooks the Samoa Hut and will accommodate 100 guests for private parties, dinners and group functions.

THE CANNIBAL ROOM for those moments of leisure and relaxation of fun, this exotic cocktail lounge offers the ultimate setting for relaxation. Guests can enjoy dancing and exotic cocktails served in this lovely setting.

South Sea splendor and picturesque Polynesian architecture will make a visit to Western Hills Hotel an exciting and memorable experience. Ren Clark's Polynesian Village Restaurant will also give the excitement of the islands in the heart of a modern, elegant and sophisticated setting of South Pacific decor.

WESTERN HILLS HOTEL
 601 CAMP BOWEN BLVD. P. O. BOX 600 FORT WORTH, TEXAS

MING and JADE ROOM Available In a Wide Combination of Table and Seating Arrangements

WESTERN HILLS MING & JADE ROOM NOW OPEN

Setting the precedent for outstanding accommodation, Western Hills Hotel's Expansion Program includes a unique convention hall... the Ming and Jade Room... designed to meet the needs of business conferences, sales meetings and private functions. This functional convention room replaces the commonplace and dated banquet hall, formerly found in most hotels. The Ming and Jade Room features a large island view, tastefully and beautifully decorated with the most modern and sophisticated facilities.

SEATS UP TO 340 BANQUET STYLE

A variety of seating and table arrangements are available for the Ming and Jade Room. The room is designed with areas partitioned and screens may be used singly or in groups for the full range of the complete and spacious room. The room will seat 500 guests maximum with Maximum seating arrangements for banquets in 1961.

For traditional group meetings and dinners, one half of the Ming and Jade Room can be set up for food service while the other half is partitioned off to conduct business meetings or conferences. Special delegations of a convention can have separate meetings in a partitioned portion of the convention hall and then a combined general meeting in session when desired.

This elegant convention hall is equipped for motion picture showings, slide movies and has facilities for sound equipment for speakers and programs.

A meeting service corridor flanks one side of the convention hall for efficient service, and the special Ming and Jade Room kitchen allows for rapid and quiet catering.

The Ming and Jade Room is directly accessible to the sports deck of the new Polynesian Village Restaurant and guests may enjoy the exotic Tahitian Room planned to accommodate 75 guests.

50 additional deluxe guest rooms have been added to the Center and West Wings. These units include a number of beautiful suites. The Center Wing overlooks the Polynesian Village.





Ren Clark's Polynesian Village

Day is done—enchanting back-
ons—the shimmering of mixed
down heralds your arrival at
a typical Polynesian village—
where exotic winds and pota-
tions await—native chefs have
been at work all day mulling
a lavish repast for the return-
ing travelers and warriors—you
are invited to join in the revel-
ry—formality is forgotten—im-
balance is unbridled—soft
tropic breezes carry away care
—the gods appear the war
spirits—leaping flames and
glimmering shadows the
taverns in the twinkling
dances—the tropic moon—
dusk night is for fun, and
dancing parties around—tomorrow is
another day.



Appetizers of the Pacific

A savory selection of Chinese delic-
ies which will delight your palate and
renew your heart. Nothing better to
complement the enjoyment of your
Tropical position.

EGGROLL

Crisp golden butter envelopes
a medley of Mandarin morsels \$1.25

CHINESE FRIED SHRIMP

Quantities of the Deep for your
dining delight \$1.40

FRIED WONTON

Meat Puffs wrapped with this from
the Court of Kuba Khan \$.90

BARBECUED SPARERIBS

Done to a turn in our Chinese room \$1.50

BARBECUED PORK TENDERLOIN

World famous One Stop \$1.50

CLAM PUFFS

Chickensauce meat this
European Original \$1.25

RUMAKI

Spiced chicken liver with water
chestnuts wrapped in bacon \$1.45

Flaming Hibachi Treats

TERRYAKI

Tenderloin strips with sauce
Chinese sausage \$1.50

SUVA SHRIMP BALLS

Serve shrimp balls and Piquette
Park Puffs \$1.40

ON THE SILVER SEA SHELL

Pacific Lobster, Open House \$1.40

Japanese Crab, Shrimp Supreme \$1.25

Thompson Crab Legs \$1.40

Blue Point Oysters on the Half Shell \$1.15

(In season)

European Boqueron—a dish of the
Rosa French style in garlic, butter
and fine herbs \$2.50

Tahitian Fruit Compote, no Kiosk \$.75

Beijing Giant Egg Cakes—Grand Duke,
green salad \$3.00



Soups

From Across the Border
Ranches of the Pacific

PORK or CHICKEN with Chinese Vegetables

Thickening Oriental Gravy
served with rice and dry sherry \$.40

TAHITIAN Crab Bisque

Served with rice and dry sherry \$.90

ABALONE and Black Mushrooms

A Sapporo favorite with rice
served with the Map Diner \$.90

WONTON

Served by all circumstances of
Chinese custom \$.75

BIRDNEST

Exquisite delight from C.H.
Bridgman of Boston \$1.00

SHARKFIN

Get your strength on the wall
using Tiger Shanks of Kato
Soup \$1.25

Beverages

Flaming Cafe Rum Sea Up .75c

Cafe Double Sea Up .75c

Formosan Japanese Tea .25c

COFFEE .25c

TEA .75c

MILK .25c

ICED TEA .25c

ICED COFFEE .15c

SANKA .25c



of Fire and Brimstone Steaks

- Charcoal Broiled
FILET MIGNON, HAWAIIAN \$4.75
- U.S. Prime New York
BONELESS STRIP SIRLOIN \$6.25
- SELECT CLUB STEAK \$4.50
- CHOPPED SIRLOIN, Polynesian \$2.25
- CANNIBAL TARTAR STEAK \$3.00
- CHATEAUBRIAND, on Flaming Sword
(Serves limited to two or three)
The price of food is listed at your table on a flaming
base, about and served on a hardwood plank in your
choice of Bismarck or mushroom sauce in the
Molokai room per person \$5.75

Fowl and Things

- BIRD OF PARADISE
A royal selection of individual Bird-Goddess goes
in a bed of black mushrooms, with rice, mushroom
and green grapes and baked in Champagne
sauce \$4.25
- HAM STEAK OF HONG KONG
Flaming such savory accompaniments as preserved
ginger and tangy, breaded potatoes in (red) sauce,
plumage sauce and sautéed butter \$2.50
- BRANDIED CHICKEN BREAST
One of the outstanding creations of our chef in
which whole pieces of fowl and Wine sauce \$3.00
- SWEETBREADS DEL MONICO
Infused with mouthwatering pearls in cream
sauce, topped in most mouth-watering garnish
served in some pieces with plump Bismarck sauce \$2.50

Beyond the Reef SeaFood

MAHI MAHI A LA KING KAMEHAMEHA

That famous fish of the islands never
before presented in such glory. The
meditation that is filled with our rich
meat molting and green gill shrimp, deli-
cate cream and mushrooms in a white
wine sauce on papillon and
served flaming in your table \$2.00

DUNGENESS LUMP CRAB MEAT, ESCOFFIER

Delicately broiled Pacific crustacean
Garnish with cognac, rolled in French
cream, and served with cream, honey
sauce, Parmesan cheese, and garnish
on the border, Molokai!
Of course! \$3.25

REN CLARK'S LOBSTER STUFFED GIANT MUSHROOMS

The epitome of gourmet perfection.
Our famous triple shrimp dish is served
in your table and the single lobster
flamed with cognac, powdered with
red hot carbon, and accompanied
by steaming wild rice and a breaded
potato. We consider this one of our
greatest culinary
achievements \$4.50

AFRICAN LOBSTER TAILS POLYNESIAN VILLAGE

Broiled with authentic fish butter and
flamed at your table with the finest
Kauai Butter—a new
and old \$1.75

Wines

- White Table Wines**
- Chablis (Domestic) 3.00
- Graves (Bordeaux) 3.50
- Loire Valley (White) 4.00
- Chateau Moutonnet
(Bordeaux) 3.50
- Bordeaux (Taylor's N.Y. State) 3.00
- Sauterne (Bordeaux) 4.75
- Chateau D'Yquem (Bordeaux) 9.00
- Sauterne (Taylor's N.Y. State) 3.00
- Red Table Wines**
- Lancers 6.50
- Pomeroy Cabernet (Bordeaux) 4.25
- Claret (Taylor's N.Y. State) 3.00
- Burgundy (Taylor's N.Y. State) 3.00
- Chianti (Italy) 3.50
- Nectarine 3.50

- Champagnes,
Sparkling Burgundy**
- Piper Heidsieck Village
Taylor's N.Y. State Champagne 12.00
- Korbel's Pink Champagne
(American) 6.00
- Sparkling Burgundy
(Crest France) 7.50
- Western Hills Special 6.50







A. RENERICK (REN) CLARK

MAGICIAN OF THE MONTH

A. Renerrick (REN) Clark was born August 4, 1904, in the small west Texas town of Cross Cut. He first became exposed to magic in 1910-15 when Williard, the Wizard, annually pitched his tent for a week's performance in Cross Plains where Ren was growing up.

After graduating from Brownwood High School in 1920, Ren entered Texas A. & M. College at College Station, Texas, where he graduated in Electrical Engineering. By necessity, Ren waited on tables in the mess hall at A. & M. three meals per day during his four years of college and, to further supplement his income, picked up papers on the campus at twenty cents per hour, operated the two picture shows, worked in the R.O.T.C. Armory, and made and sold radio sets.

After graduating, Ren worked for the West Texas Utilities Company, but left shortly thereafter to start his banking career, thence into building and operating gas properties, and later a distillery. He became one of the owners of the Double Seal Ring Company with manufacturing plants in Fort Worth, Los Angeles, and New York. He and his associates built and operated a number of hotels in Texas, California, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Florida. He purchased his partners' hotel interests and added Ren's Polynesian Village to his Ft. Worth Western Hills Hotel. In one of its private clubs, the Sunken Galleon, he had an aquarium in which, every hour on the hour, a nude girl apparently would swim about. This was his first use of a magical illusion in one of his business interests.

Ren became a partner in Ridglea County Club, Ft. Worth's larg-



Ren Clark receives recognition for his contribution to the world of magic at a T.A.O.M. Convention in Forth Worth.

est and finest club. He was an active Treasurer, Director, member of the Executive Committee, and Entertainment Chairman for more than twenty years until the club was sold to its members. From a poor heritage, Ren was fortunate to become one of Ft. Worth's highly respected and successful business men, serving on numerous civic boards; e.g., All Saints Episcopal Hospital, Ft. Worth Opera Association, etc. He sold his hotel interests, except for a hotel in Mexico City which he still retains, and retired in 1961.

While living in Kansas City in the early thirties, Ren's interest in magic was rekindled. He started buying small tricks from a local magic shop, purchased most all of their small magic with which he entertained friends, and then started looking for new items of magic. Sherms sent him his first magic catalogue and, after acquiring most of the magic they produced, thereafter obtained catalogues from Arthur Felsman, L. L. Ireland, and National Magic Company.

Ren moved from Kansas City to Rockford, Illinois, and, while there,

formed a local magic club which later bore his name during its active days. His first magic convention was "Nicola's Testimonial" held in Peoria, Illinois, where Jim Sherman and Dorny Dornfield kept the attendants in stitches with their wisecracks and antics. In 1939 Ren joined the Society of American Magicians, Chicago Assembly No. 3, and he has remained an S.A.M. member since that time. Faithfully for almost three years, he attended all of the Assembly's monthly meetings. If weather conditions were bad and driving conditions were hazardous, i.e., ice and snow storms, he would travel to Chicago by train.

During Ren's sojourn to the Chicago Assembly meetings, together with some of the shows and visits to places where magicians were performing, he became acquainted with such magicians as Johnny Paul, Johnny Platt, Matt Schulien, Bert Allerton, Chic Schoke, Dorny Dornfield, Vic Torsberg, Jim Sherman, Harlan Trabell, Jack and Anne Gwynne, Laurie and Frances Ireland, Joe Berg, Al Wheatley, and many others. When he moved back to Texas and settled in Fort Worth, he transferred his S.A.M. membership to the Dallas Assembly where it is still retained.

In 1940 John Snyder, I.B.M. International President, and Charles Harad talked Ren into joining the I.B.M. and persuaded him to be I.B.M. convention Chairman in 1942 and to hold the convention in Fort Worth. This was the first time ever for an I.B.M. convention to be held so far south; but, even though the attendance was limited because of the war, it was a resounding success and received much praise from John Mulholland and others in attendance because of the innovations and especially fine talent on the shows. For the Night Before Party Ren had arranged for a special rodeo

at a friend's ranch where they saw a parade and grand entry of nationally known rodeo participants, i.e., trick riders, champion ropers, bulldoggers, etc. This was the first rodeo for many of those in attendance from the East. Two whole steers were barbecued and served, and there was plenty of country western music and a dance in a real barn. The shows to follow in the Will Rogers Auditorium were great, with such performers as Keith Clark, Russell Swan, Jimmy Muir, Pookie Pookie Allstrand, Maldo, Paul LePual, and Tung Pin Soo (Al Wheatley - Chop Chop).

Ren's handling of the 1942 convention gained him a place on the I.B.M. Board where he served in various capacities until he was elected International President in 1947-48. During his term of office, Ren's motto was to make the I.B.M. "International in scope as well as in name." He formed Rings outside of Continental United States, appointed "Ambassadors of Good Will" in foreign countries, promoted the international feature of the organization, encouraged the Board to add members of other countries to the Executive Committee and to allow them to serve as officers. As a result of Ren's efforts, a lot of his work bore fruit in later years, and he was credited with having been the first one to stress and promote the international aspect of the organization. At the end of his term of office, he made a six month's trip around the world visiting magic clubs, magicians, and promoting the organization he had been serving.

While visiting his hotel in Mexico City, Ren went to the Teatro de Arbeu to see the Fu Manchu show that had been performing in the same theater for several months. David Bamberg—Fu Manchu—was well known in Mexico, having made a number of pictures and being regarded as a "movie idol." He also made frequent appearances on television and was very popular. David's father, Theo Bamberg (Okito), was a constant attendant of every show performed by David. It was during one of Ren's visits to the show that he met Okito and later David. This was the beginning of a very close friendship between Okito and Ren.

After Ren met Okito and their friendship blossomed, his interest

increased in Oriental magic. Previously Ren had been performing an Oriental act due to a large extent from the influence of his friend Herbert J. Collins (Col Ling Soo) of London, Past President of The Magic Circle and Comman Performer for Her Majesty, the Queen of England. Ren still wears Chinese robes, some of which he purchased from Col Ling Soo, in his Oriental stage act. In his collection, he has an Emperor's robe and number of Imperial robes worn by the Imperial family of China.

Ren bought an Okito Checker Cabinet from Joe Berg in Chicago; and, after Okito went to work for Joe, he learned of Ren's former purchase and wrote him on June 1, 1947, the history of this particular Checker Cabinet. It was one of the first that he made that made use of three compartments and was made for Dr. Samuel C. Hooker in 1910. He recites in this letter that his father originated the Checker Cabinet, but that he was the one that had improved it by making it with three instead of two compartments and further by making it so that all three doors could be opened at the same time. Other well known magicians have claimed to have originated the Checker Cabinet. One of these was Bill "Doc" Nixon, but this simply is not true. During the first World War, Okito sold Nixon his act, and in 1929 Nixon publicized his Dove Vanish and the Checker Cabinet which he claimed as his own. But this was the one that Okito had sold him.

Okito visited and stayed in Ren's home on numerous occasions. So close was this relationship that he wrote that he wanted to leave all of his magic to him so that he would know that it was in good hands instead of having it disappear as had been the case of one of his well known friends. Ren refused his offer, but did accept many priceless gifts from him each Christmas. Of each of his inlaid wood pictures, Okito remarked that each one took him dozen and dozens of hours to make; and they could not be purchased, but were "a gift of love." Shortly before his death, he gave his son, Donald, his Double Dragon finger ring with the request that he see that it was given to Ren who considers it one of his prize possessions. Incidentally, Ren is writing a book which will contain

additional history of the Bamberg family not heretofore published, together with a bit of Okito magic and one effect given exclusively to Ren that he would not reveal to others.

Ren's first interest was primarily in parlor, or stand-up, magic and was used to entertain friends, to perform for his fellow magicians, to donate his services to church groups, boys clubs, civic and fraternal organizations, and during the war years to the entertaining of hospital patients and to military personnel. In order to develop an act for larger groups, and periodically the T.A.O.M. convention, he developed his colorful Oriental act. Following in the manner of Fu Manchu and Chang, Ren comes on stage wearing three or four Chinese robes and/or over robes.

As the years have passed, Ren has become interested more and more in close-up magic. He has gathered close-up magical effects from many overseas friends and has worked out routines and decorated his effects with an Oriental flavor. One of his favorite suppliers of close-up magical apparatus has been his friend Eddy Taytelbaum of Holland. Eddy's effects are all precision made and beautifully decorated, and his workmanship and decorations compare with those of Theo Bamberg.

At the age of eighty one, Ren's love for magic is still great. He not only attends and is active in local club meetings, but he manages to attend several national conventions and seminars. His friend Yutaka Kikuchi from Japan has made several exclusive effects for Ren's latest Oriental act; and, if you should be fortunate enough to see the "Oriental Magic of Ren" at some future date or perhaps (he says, maybe) see his colorful act on videotape, you will be in for a real treat.

When one thinks of magic in Texas, his first thought is that of Ren Clark. For many years he has been a great influence in the advancement of magic. He has encouraged the organization of clubs and presented charters to record the founding of a number of magic clubs. At one of Herman Yerger's picnics for friends and magicians in Austin, Texas, Ren had Ed Deweese and Doc Mahendra approach Herman on the formation

of a Texas Association of Magicians with him as its first President. Herman agreed. Ren's attorney, Sproesser Wynn, drew up the Constitution and By-Laws, and thus the T.A.O.M. was born in Austin, Texas, in 1946 with Ren as its founder and Ed and Doc as co-founders. The first T.A.O.M. convention was held in Fort Worth in 1947.

Ren's influence in magic is not limited to the State of Texas. Instead he has an international status and is favorably known and has many friends in magic throughout the world. To show the esteem in

which Ren is held, he has been made an Honorary Life Member of the following magical organizations: Texas Association of Magicians; International Brotherhood of Magicians, the British Ring; I.G.P. Club de Azteca of Gaudalajara, Mexico; Ren Clark I.B.M. Ring No. 15 of Fort Worth, Texas, Swedish Magic Circle; Circulo Magico Argentino; El Circulo de Magos Mexicana, Mexico, D. F.; All India Magic Circle; and the Singapore I.B.M. Ring No. 115 of Singapore.

Ren has graced the cover page of the following magical publica-

tions: twice on *Genii*, 1942 and 1947 - *The Linking Ring* - *The Dragon* - *Illusionismo de Espana* - *Onda Magica de Mexico* - *Singapore Sorcerer of Singapore* - twice on *Illusioiniste of France* - and now, on the Society of American Magicians' *M-U-M*.

It is a privilege for *M-U-M* to have Ren's photo on the cover page of this issue. Several of his friends have contributed one of their magical effects and/or routines, and they are to be found in this issue.

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