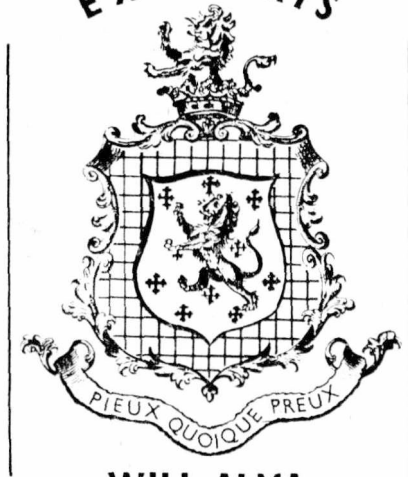


ILLUSTRATED
BY
GORDON
MALCOLM
HOWATT

R. Montandon M M Logan Wait



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Primogenitors

ROGER MONTANDON & LOGAN WAIT

present

“NOT PRIMIGENIAL”

A

Retrospect

of

*Spurious, Illegitimate Cogitations, Gags,
and Yes, Even Magic of Questionable
Origin by Those to Whom They Belong.*

but

the Illustrations by

GORDON HOWATT

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INTRODUCTION

In the Manner of the Midwest —
We Do It Ourselves

Hi!

R.M. and L.W.

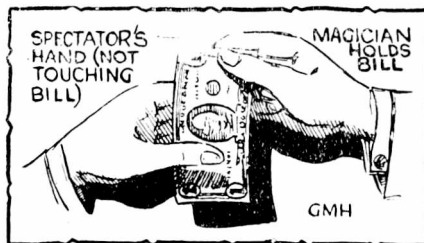
Elusive Bill

This stunt, based on reaction time, was shown us by a non-magician but it doesn't seem to be very well known among magicians.

Have a spectator hold his hand and forefinger and thumb as shown by the illustration. Take a fairly crisp dollar bill (any denomination will do, but the dollar bill is more common) and hold it as shown by the illustration between the spectator's fingers. Spectator can have his fingers and thumb as close to the bill as he likes as long as the bill does not actually touch his fingers or thumb. Now state that you will drop the bill and all he has to do is close his finger and thumb thus catching the bill before it slips through to the floor. It looks like it would be a simple job to do, but you'll find that very few people can get the bill even as much as one out of twenty-five trials. Reaction time from instant bill is dropped just isn't fast enough.

We understand that this gag has been used as a gambler's stunt, and for that matter we have had several chances to win some easy money making a bet. The bet—Borrow a bill and say to the victim, "If you catch the bill, I'll give you one to match it. If you miss, the bill is mine."

As a party stunt you can dress the gag up with a little story along the line that a president of a large and prosperous business concern was faced with the problem of selecting one of his employees for the responsible position of treasurer. Naturally he wanted a person who could hold on to money the best so he devised this test. Let each person at the party try to catch the bill.



With a little practice you can control who will catch the bill and who will miss it. The secret being that if you want the bill caught you must make a slight movement of your hand or

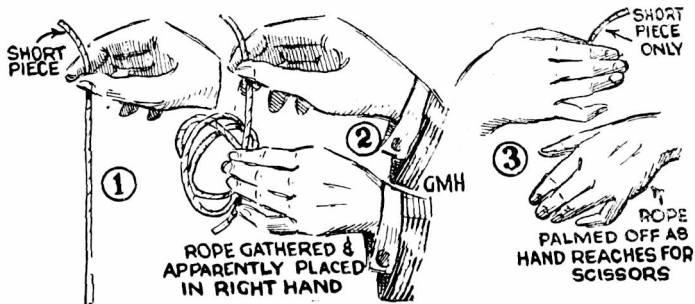
fingers just the instant prior to releasing the bill. The movement must be very slight or it would look too obvious. The slight movement is enough to give the victim a head start for the reaction. It doesn't work all the time or on all the people, but there is a percentage there.

The Invisible Rope

We've always enjoyed Tom Sellers' quick tricks. Here is an original one of his with a piece of rope that gets away from the cut and restored angle.

Performer shows a piece of rope and introduces a pair of scissors, stating that anything he touches with the scissors will become invisible. A small piece is cut from the rope, the hand is opened and the rope is seen to have vanished. The rope is still there but can't be seen, patters the magician.

Only requisite for the effect is a fifteen-inch length of rope having a one and one-half inch piece stuck to one end. If desired this short piece need not be stuck to longer piece, but instead can be held at end of rope with fingers and thumb as shown in Figure 1.



Have the rope and scissors in a small box on your table. Remove the rope and hold it in right hand, thumb covering the joint. Stand with your left side towards spectators, place your left hand at the bottom of the rope and start to bunch it up into right hand. Palm off the rope with the left hand, but retain small piece in right hands which turns so back is facing audience. Now put left hand into box for scissors, leaving the palmed rope in box. Cut the small piece remaining in right hand with scissors and let it fall to floor. Right hand opens to reveal the vanish of the rope. Considerable comedy can be obtained by playing up the invisible part to the full.

Don't Waste It

Martin Gardner first showed us the clever stunt of lighting a paper match twice. The effect is to light a match, extinguish it and then immediately touch it to a small piece of flash paper. The glow of the match ignites the flash paper and the paper in turn relights the match.

At the dinner table have a small piece of flash paper handy. Wait until someone lights up after the meal. As soon as he throws away the match on the ash tray, pick it up and touch it to the piece of flash paper thus relighting the match. With a remark that in these times nothing should be wasted, light your own cigarette.

Snakes Alive

In a trick where you vanish something—After the vanish point to a tall metal can setting on the table and say the article will appear in it. Open it and out fly three long green snakes. Punch line—“Wrong can.”



The can is the Peanut Brittle can made by S. S. Adams and sold at novelty dealers.

Any One Have a Ten?

“Has anyone in the audience a ten?” Then to a lady—“Lady, do you have a ten?” When she answers “no,” say to audience, “Will someone please loan this lady a ten, no need for her to run around here broke!”

It Slipped In

It wasn't intended that a card trick creep into this collection, but this one slipped in anyway. It has unusual possibilities as a publicity trick and it ends up with the spectator keeping a card with your name on it.

In "Page Wright's Notebook" one of the effects we liked particularly was one where the deck was fanned for a card selection and when the spectator looked at the card, written on it he read, "I knew I could force this card on you." The method?—Every card had that message written on it. We liked it but it was for magicians only. Here's what we did to make a publicity stunt out of it.

On the face of 26 cards of a deck we wrote, typed, or printed a message somewhat as follows:

"I knew you'd take this card!

Keep it as a souvenir.

Roger Montandon."

We treated the face of these cards with *roughing fluid*. The backs of the other 26 cards were likewise treated with *roughing fluid* and the pack assembled, alternating a printed card with an unprinted one.

With this set-up the face of the deck can be casually but definitely shown to be ordinary cards. The pack is then turned over and fanned with the request that the spectator point to any card he desires. The cards are separated at the card pointed to by the spectator and he is allowed to take that card, which of course bears your message.

Holding the Bag

Comedy effects that are sure-fire laugh getters are on the scarce side. Here is a laugh producer that has been tested on many types of audiences over a period of six or seven years. We've never failed to get a good laugh out of it. It has particular appeal to club audiences where you can pick out prominent or locally well known members as stooges.

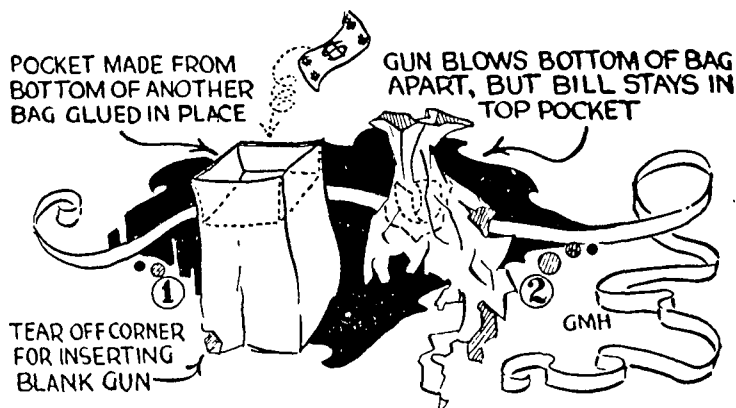
Three or four small paper grocer's bags are passed out. These should preferably be handed to members who are well known to the majority of the audience. Those who tend to be smarties or ones that are the brunt of the kidding in a club are the most desirable stooges.

The performer returns to the stage, opens up a similar bag and requests that those in the audience who were given bags do the same, and at the same time to make sure their bags are empty.

The performer then drops a five or ten dollar bill in his bag and closes up the mouth. The stooges are directed to close the mouth of the bags they hold also.

Those holding bags are requested to stand and hold them above their heads and not to shake them until the trick is over. Picking up a blank gun the performer states he will shoot the bill from his bag into one of the bags in the audience. A small hole is torn out of the bottom of the performer's bag, the gun inserted in the hole and fired. The paper sack is torn apart by the explosion. The bill has vanished.

Turning to each spectator holding a bag in turn, the performer requests that he look in his bag for the missing bill. After the last person has looked, no bill being found in any of the bags, the performer laughingly says, "You gentlemen will kindly tell the rest of the audience exactly how it feels to be left holding the bag. I have the bill right here." So saying the performer removes the bill from his pocket.



The only fake to make is the paper sack used by the performer for the vanish of the bill. This is simply the well known double bag, made by cutting the lower part of a paper bag and pasting it inside a similar bag. The blank gun tears the paper bag all apart but leaves the secret compartment in performer's hand.

Gordon Howatt passes on this valuable tip for those who may not use a blank gun: The bag can be blown up and broken between the hands if a few holes are punched beforehand in the bottom of the upper "Pocket."

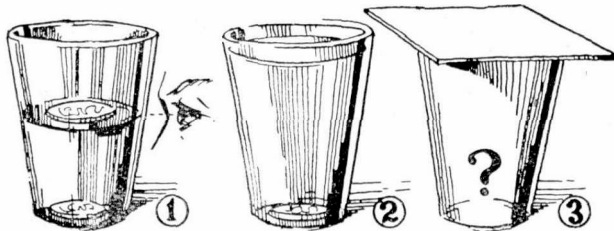
Optical Delusions

Two optical illusions together with a little magic business combine to make a swell little dinner table routine.

The magic business part consists of a shell coin, preferably a small one such as a penny, nickel or dime.

The shell coin is shown as two coins and then in the process of dropping them into a glass having a couple of inches of water in it, the coins are slipped together and dropped in as one coin. As soon as the coin hits the bottom, point to it and remark that the water has already made one of the coins practically invisible. In fact to ordinary appearances there is but one coin in the glass. But—and here is where the first optical illusion comes in—if you look closely and at the right angle (as shown in the illustration) you can see the other coin apparently floating on the liquid level.

After letting everyone look at this peculiar illusion fish the shell coin out (still together) and say, "Well, the water really has reduced the number of coins from two to one. Let's see if a little more water can completely vanish the remaining coin."



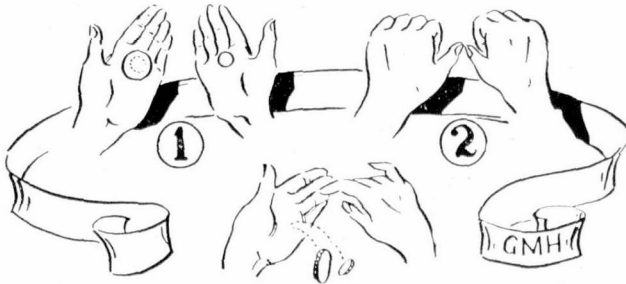
So saying, fill the glass with water up to within about a half an inch of the top and place the glass over the coin which is laid flat on the table. Ask spectators to look through the glass and see if the coin is still there. They can see the coin through the glass and water. Now without touching the glass or the table you propose to make the coin completely invisible. To accomplish this merely cover the top of the glass with a small saucer, napkin, menu card, or anything opaque. No matter at what angle the spectator looks through the glass they will be unable to see the coin.

Turn - Over

Here's a startling little coin stunt that is repeated, using a different method the second time.

Remove a half dollar from the pocket, concealing a penny behind the half. Place the two coins on the palm of the left hand and close hand, at same time turning hand over. Next remove a penny from pocket and show in palm of right hand. Close right hand and turn it over. The hands are opened up several inches apart and the penny and half allowed to drop to the table while the penny in right hand is retained in the regular palm position. Apparently the penny has jumped from right hand to left hand.

Before the spectator has a chance to think about the occurrence, pick up the half and place it on palm of outstretched left hand, still keeping the penny in right hand palmed. Pick up the visible penny from table and place on fingers of left hand. Point to the two coins lying on fingers of left hand with right hand forefinger. Then pick up the penny lying on the fingers of left hand with right hand, at same time letting the palmed coin in right hand fall into left hand. Left hand immediately closes.



To spectator it looks like you simply picked up the penny from left hand and then closed the left hand. Actually there is still a half and a penny in closed left hand and a visible penny in right.

Again both hands are turned over and opened up, the penny and half in left hand being allowed to fall to table while the coin in right hand is held palmed.

Worked rapidly, this makes a interesting addition to a series of coin sleights.

Read It

If anyone looks bored with the act—"Mister, here's a newspaper."

Pipe Dreams

Produce a pipe and place in mouth. Light a match or produce one already lit from a holder beneath coat and start to light the pipe. The match is held about an inch above the mouth of the bowl. Suddenly a brilliant flame leaps out of the pipe. This can be repeated several times.



Pipe bowl is loaded with Lycopodium. When match is in position above the bowl, blow on pipe instead of drawing on it. This causes some of the powder to be blown out of the bowl into the match flame where it ignites almost explosively.

Banker's Dilemma

The performer removes a half a dozen dollar bills from his wallet and fans them out casually. They are all facing "heads" up but no special mention is made of this fact. The casual fan is sufficient.

Remarking that Bank Tellers always count money and straighten out the bills so that when they are finished all bills are facing the same way, the performer lays down the first bill face up, the next bill is turned over end for end so it lies on top of first bill but with green side up. Third bill is again placed on top of stack "face" up, fourth is turned over, fifth "face" up and sixth is turned over.

To audience three bills have green backs up, three have black sides up. Performer continues to remark while bills were being turned over to the effect that he once tried to mix the bills up so that the teller would have quite a time straightening them all out. The teller, it seems, was a magician, so he merely took the bills, gave them a flip and when he fanned them out they were all facing one way again. Performer suits the action to the words and picks up the bills and in the course

of flipping them turns them all over. When he fans them out all bills are facing the same way.

The secret, based on a card effect of similar nature, involves three double faced dollar bills. In the group of six bills the three doubles are placed top, third, and fifth.

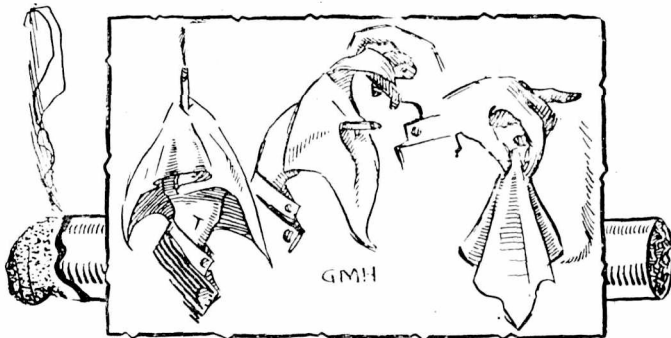
Now to prepare the double bills. The simplest method is to glue two bills back to back. Use rubber cement and they can be taken apart later if you get hard up for cash.

However, if you wish to go to a little more trouble and expense you can actually split a bill in two parts just as you can a playing card. Sounds fantastic, but it can be done with just a little patience. To accomplish, take a new bill, fray the corner enough to get the break started. Then gradually pull the bill apart. To make three double faced bills, this procedure would require six bills, but then with the remains you can make three double greenbacks.

Through the Center

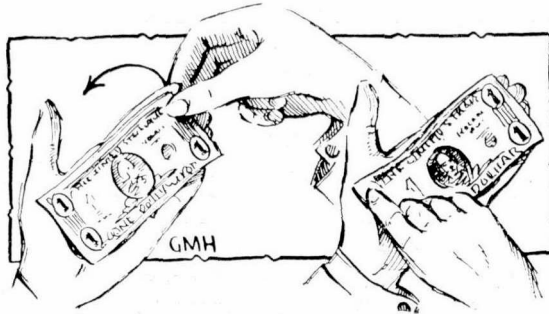
We've always enjoyed Martin Gardner's quick tricks. Here's one credited to Martin with a handkerchief and cigaret. While primarily a trick for magicians, it is a swell quickie to be included with a routine for lay audiences.

Hank is draped over left hand, and fingers hold burning cigaret as shown in illustration. Right hand lifts up back edge to show cigaret is really in middle, then left hand turns over so that hank falls down from fingers. Right hand jerks hank downward, leaving cigaret in left hand. Hank is shown both sides.



Secret: Hank has a small slit near center. Slit is concealed by checked design, or any type of design near center. When cigaret is first placed in left fingers, it goes through the slit so left fingers grasp the end. When hank is pulled downward, it naturally leaves cigaret in left hand.

Doubles



If you make up a double greenback as described in Banker's Dilemma, you can have a lot of fun with fellow magicians. Hold the double greenback as shown in illustration. Keep the bill in motion, showing first one side and then the other by letting the bill slide across palm of left hand as it is turned over. At the same time remark, "Doesn't it look like this bill has two backs on it?" When he admits that it does, stop moving the bill and hand it to him with the remark, "Well, it does have."

Don't Take Any Wooden Nickels!

Just a gag, but one that can net you a little publicity and leaves a souvenir with the victim.

Get some light colored hardwood veneer and cut out a round piece, the same size as a nickel. Take two new nickels, ones that have a good impression, and place the head of one nickel against one side of the wooden piece and the tail of the other nickel against the other side of the wooden piece. Square up and place in a vise or press and squeeze tightly together. This gives you an imprint of the nickel in reverse on the wood. A genuine wooden nickel.

Borrow a nickel from your victim and in the course of a few slights pull an exchange for the wooden nickel. Hand it to him with the caution, "Don't take any wooden nickels!"

If you want to carry the effect a step further, reach behind trousers and produce five pennies and give them to him saying, "Thank you, here's your change."

The five pennies can be obtained from a dropper under coat. Ireland's gimmick for his trick, "The Fifty Cent Routine," serves nicely to deliver the pennies at the desired time.

Not Loaded

The performer raises his right hand with first finger straight forward, thumb at right angles and other fingers



curled into palm (representing a gun). Making a motion with hand and moving thumb down as if firing the gun only results in silence. Moves repeated but still "gun" doesn't fire. In disgust performer points "gun" toward himself as if to look down the barrel. "Gun" goes off with a bang in his face.

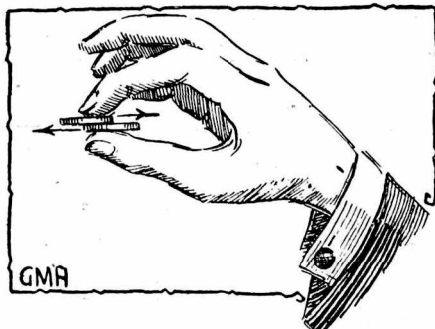
The bang is produced with a "bingo shooter" held in left hand and released at the proper time.

In Triplicate

Hold two dimes or pennies between the tips of thumb and forefinger (as shown in illustration) and slide them back and forth rapidly. Looking down on the edge of the moving coins for a second or two gives the illusion of three coins. Try it. Now combine with this illusion the following bits of magic and you have a novel effect.

Secretly hold another dime (or penny) concealed in hand by third and little finger, these fingers being closed into palm of hand. This same hand holds the two visible coins between tips of forefinger and thumb where they are slid back and forth rapidly. Tell spectator to let you know when he sees three coins. As soon as he catches the illusion he will say it looks like three coins. At that instant the two visible coins are allowed to fall into palm of hand, which is turned upward, and mix with the coin which has been concealed by the third and little fingers. Performer says, "Well, there really are three coins."

You may carry the effect a step further.



Request a spectator to remove one of the coins and then place the remaining two in the original position between tips of forefinger and thumb and slide them back and forth again requesting that the spectator tell you when he sees three coins. When he does, the two coins are thrown into left hand where they mix with a coin which has been secretly obtained from a dropper while all eyes were on the sliding coins in right hand.

A simple holder for this single coin can be made by pinning a paper clip to inside of coat at proper position.

Whose Picture?

Remove a five or ten dollar bill (this makes this an exclusive trick) from your billfold and hold it up. "I'll give you this bill if you can tell me whose picture is on this bill," states the magician. The observer may know whose picture appears on a five or a ten spot, although most people do not, but regardless of what he says, you turn the bill around and show him—Your picture and name is on it!

Have a photograph made with your name printed on it. Cut it out and have a number of pictures lithographed on suitable paper and paste these lithographs over the present picture on the bill using rubber cement.

Ear Muffs

Hand some one in the audience a pair of earmuffs. "Put these on; they may help a little—I go on like this for hours!"

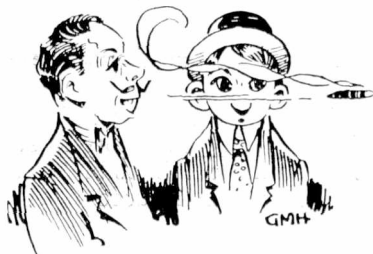
For Magicians Only

While this trick was primarily concocted for magicians only and specially during magician's convention, it has a satirically humorous appeal to people who know magicians and their queer ways.

The right hand is shown empty both back and front with just a suggestion that something might be cleverly concealed all the time.

The left hand then reaches out into the air and brings into sight a half dollar which has been there all the time.

Pop-Out Cigar



Just after moistening a cigar and biting off the end preparatory to lighting it, the cigar is placed in mouth but instead of clamping on it with teeth hold it between lips. As match is brought up to light the cigar the lips are pressed together and the pressure causes the cigar to fly out of the mouth. The free hand catches it before it falls to the floor and returns it to mouth. Repeat several times. With a little practice the cigar can be made to jump out several feet and caught each time by the free hand.

You'll Be More Comfortable!

During the show the performer picks up a pair of flashy, comfortable looking house slippers, goes into audience, gives them to someone, and returns with a pair of shoes. Patter—"You'll be more comfortable with these." Have the shoes planted.

A Matter of Money

If ever you get flush enough try this one. Ten postal orders are used, five of these are sixpenny ones and five are value one shilling. Arrange them in a pile in the following order, 1/-, 6d., 1/-, 1/-, 6d., 6d., 1/-, 1/-, 6d., 6d., this last one being the bottom of the pile, stack them in the above order face down and mark the top one (a shilling) with a secret dot on the back. When about to start the trick cut the pile as often as you like, but finish up with the marked order on top.

The story goes that two partners, Abraham and Patrick, owned a store and at the end of the week, Abie took all the money earned, let Pat mix it up and then let Pat have every fifth bill in the pile, at this point, shift four orders from the top to the bottom of the pile and throw out the fifth order, continued this move another four times, throwing out the fifth order each time. Of course at the finish, Pat will have all the sixpenny orders and Abie all the shilling ones.

Match From Somewhere

Asked for a light, the magician reaches into air and produces an invisible match and attempts to strike it on trousers without success. Striking the invisible match on sole of shoe results in a lit match which is used to light the spectator's cigaret.



The match, of kitchen variety, is attached to the instep of shoe sole with a dab of wax. In this position the match can be carried indefinitely without inconvenience, ready at any instant for the production. Several matches may be carried if the effect is to be repeated during the same evening.

You're Crazy Than I Am!

Having slipped one card trick in, we'd like to slip another one in just to give it company. But seriously, if you can take this one seriously, here is really an unusual card trick because it's done **WITHOUT ANY CARDS**.

It's particularly good for a party where you run into a guy that knows all the rest of your card tricks.

Get your victim lined up with everyone watching the action and offer to do a card trick without any cards.

Pick up an invisible case of cards and remove from it an invisible deck of cards. Shuffle the invisible cards with your best imitation of a shuffle, square up the invisible pack and then fan them out and ask the victim to remove any card, look at it, show it to rest of crowd but not to let you see it. If he's a good sport he'll play right with you, removing the invisible card, holding it so you can't see it and showing it to surrounding spectators who by now are in the spirit of the farce and look at the invisible card and nod their heads in verification of selected card.

Now have victim return the invisible card to the invisible deck which you still hold fanned out. Square up the invisible deck after the card has been returned. Look at the victim and say, "Do you remember the card you looked at?" Again being a good sport he'll say yes or nod his head in the affirmative. When he does you hand him the invisible deck and say, "Here you take the deck and find your card; you're crazier than I am."

Military Miser's Dream

Instead of a top hat or felt hat for the miser's dream, go to the dime store and get a tin army helmet at the toy counter. The coins dropping against the tin makes an impressive sound and the helmet is appropriate for the times.



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