



24th ANNUAL CONVENTION

## HASTINGS MAGIC!



David Haggarty opened the proceedings, in more ways than one. He opened a young ladies' mouth, cut off her tongue and, in case it should clamp her future married life, replaced it. Throughout the convention Ted Ray knew that Ring 25 was in town.

An early innovation was the "Wizard's Meet" in which newcomers were introduced by compere Alastair. The first Clote-up Session was also on Wednesday and starred three experts, Francis Haxton, Fred Lowe and Peter Warlock.

Alastair also compered the Wednesday tea-time International Cabaret which was ably opened by Bertram Millidge and included performers from Ireland, Denmark, France and the U.S.A.

To end the first crowded day came the Civic Reception hosted by Alderman and Mrs. C. Barfoot, the Mayor and Mayoress of Hastings. The beauty of the stage setting, a replica of Hastings Castle, impressed everyone. Ray Elgar's Orchestra played for dancing, then Harold Taylor took the stage to perform his three tricks, and Bernard Hughes and Sheila presented their fast illusion act. George Smallwood's Tombola was worked to capacity.

Thursday morning saw most conventioners up early. Promenading wasn't the attraction, it was the Dealers' Demonstration in the White Rock Pavilion. The afternoon offered a choice, a lecture by Edward Victor for the men and a Yardley Make-Up Demonstration for the ladies, combined with a recruiting campaign for the "Magicals".

This year the Competition was run in two parts. Larry Spencer of Clacton won the Shield, with R. B. Swadling second and Peter Scarlett third. Helen Strachan carried away the Craig Trophy.

The Annual General Meeting filled the Monday morning, and Peter Warlock was elected President-Elect. It was Peter Warlock, too, who introduced "Classics in the Modern Manner" later the same day.

Then came a highlight, Mystic Craig's films of Jack Miller and Jerry Andrus.

Traditionally Friday night is set aside for the Banquet, and the After

Children's Playtime this year was introduced by Geoffrey Robinson, and then, at 11-0 a.m. Al Koran commenced his fabulous lecture, "Magic in the Modern Manner".

The Micro Magic Competition was followed by the first house of the main Convention event, The Grand International Gala of Magic in which Al Koran was the star of a host of stars.

Saturday Midnight brought organised chaos, the New Era Magic Co., (Unlimited), with the Directors present in person and on film.

After the short Udenominational Service conducted by the Rev. Michael Seacombe, a large crowd of conventioners gathered in the ballroom of the Queen's Hotel for the final chapter, the Farewell Cocktail Party.

Bill Stickland announced that Arturo had won the Micro-Magic Contest, and Will Tyler thanked all who had helped him in his year of office as President, before handing the President's Cup to Francis Haxton.

Many were missing, including Mollie and Eddie Dexter, but it was a pleasure to see Eric P. Wilson enjoying himself. Shows were performed by Ringers at the three local hospitals, and a party visited the Merrydown Wine Distillery where Carboni and Carbonita, of Sweden, performed their amazing cellophane bag escape.

The Welfare Stand, under the guidance of Tommy Rowe, collected over £82 and George Smallwood's Tombola resulted in £66, all for the Benevolent Fund.

Everyone agreed with Dr. Victor Trask; he said this was the most enjoyable Convention he'd attended in forty years of Magic. He also said he'd be back each year. That's good advice!

### KEN DE COURCY



WILFRED TYLER, President 1959-60



FRANCIS HAXTON, President.



PETER WARLOCK, President-Elect.



