
The "Die Box" Controversy.

Before concluding, I should like to mention a few facts concerning the origin and first production of the above trick (with four doors), the honour of which so many eminent (and otherwise) conjurors have been claiming. Sidney Lee claims to have "worked" it ten years ago, Julian Wylie seven years ago, and others at more recent dates. Most of the fraternity will probably be surprised to hear that the trick as now performed was worked so far back as 1886, and possibly before. This was in the "States," the inventor and producer being Alex Davis, an English magician and ventriloquist, and uncle to Prof. Davison, of Bolton, Eng. Alex Davis sold the making rights to Otto Maurer, a New York magical dealer, who "listed" it in 1887. Prof. Davison, after seeing it out there, brought it across the pond and produced the trick in England in 1889. These facts prove conclusively that none of the present claimants have any need to argue over first production.

THE END.

