



Richard L. Gustafson, Ph.D.

May 13, 2010

Mr. Rory Feldman
Rory Feldman Productions
P.O. Box 297037
Brooklyn, NY 11229

Dear Rory:

Absolutely fascinating! That was my exclamation as I finished watching "When Thurston Came To Town." The excitement began when I opened the informative, colorful jacket. Inside was a magnificent 3-fold presentation that contained the DVD, brief biographies of the magicians and historians who were interviewed, and a 32-page biography of Howard Thurston. The latter told of Howard's difficult childhood, his struggles to survive and ultimately enter the world of show business, culminating in the development of his full-evening shows.

Thus, even before playing the DVD, I knew that I was about to enjoy an enthralling experience. It is just that -- nearly three hours of interviews, photos and film clips that were interwoven with Bill Rauscher's masterful delivery of his lecture, "When Thurston Came To Town," which he first presented in April of 2000 at the Magic Collectors' Weekend in Maryland. At the conclusion of this stirring account of Thurston's career, the entire audience, as one, leaped to its feet and, as tears ran down the cheeks of many of the magicians, gave Bill the longest standing ovation that I have ever witnessed.

The same dynamism and masterful delivery is given in the current DVD, which surely will be treasured by every collector and historian as well as any magician who wishes to raise his or her performance to a higher level. The accolades given to Thurston by the people who either saw Thurston's shows personally or who listened to the accounts of others provide valuable information to all entertainers. The descriptions of his clean, moral, refined presentations, his marvelous showmanship, his respect for his audiences and particularly for his onstage volunteers, his refusal to resort to crude comedy in order to obtain a cheap laugh, and his dedication to the achievement of perfection provide invaluable lessons for every performer.

I recommend "When Thurston Came To Town" not only to all magicians as well as any person who has an interest in the history of show business but also to anybody who would like to experience the human drama of a man who started from the humblest beginnings and, by virtue of hard work and persistence, became arguably the greatest magician of all time.

Thank to you and Bill for your Herculean efforts in making this inspirational account of Howard Thurston's development available to us. Best wishes for your continued success.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Gustafson". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with a large initial "R" and "G".

Richard L. Gustafson

cc: The Reverend William V. Rauscher