

SINE NOMINE – 14
[TWEE GOOCHELAARS]
[Due maghi / Two Magicians]
(FR? 1910?)
35mm, 2'57"

If you missed the film, you can watch it here on Eye Youtube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6r5gQASRD/>

Robert Kiss suggests [scroll down to read his detailed comment]: "reminiscent of Théophile Pathé...I wonder whether this could be an April 1908 comedy for which the original French title is uncertain, but may have been LA BAGUETTE MAGIQUE ...The film was released in the U.S. twice; initially by Geoge Kleine as THE WAND HAS LOST ITS MAGIC,...., then reissued in May 1909 by the Chicago Film Exchange under the title THE MAGIC WAND.



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And you can read below a detailed comment by Dr. Robert Kiss: The sets, staging and camerawork are all somewhat reminiscent of Théophile Pathé, although there are very few surviving films from the studio's 1908 output against which to compare this. But I wonder **whether this could be an April 1908 comedy for which the original French title is uncertain, but may have been LA BAGUETTE MAGIQUE** (not to be confused with a 1908 Lux release of the same name). The Théophile Pathé short was released in Germany and Austria as, with a length of 65 metres, which is already a good match for this footage. The film was released in the U.S. twice; initially by Geoge Kleine as THE WAND HAS LOST ITS MAGIC, for which the synopsis in Moving Picture World [2:19](#) (May 9, 1908), p.423 reads: 'The experience of a boy who tries to imitate the tricks of a magician. He purchases a wand from the fakir and endeavors to fry eggs in his father's silk hat. Result, a well-thrashed boy.' After Kleine ceased representing Théophile Pathé in the US, the short was then reissued in May 1909 by the Chicago Film Exchange under the title THE MAGIC WAND, with the synopsis in MPW [4:19](#) (May 8, 1908), p.609, this time reading: 'A magician performs wonderful tricks, and a small boy in the audience induces him to tell him his secrets. The magician accordingly loans him his wand, which the small boy uses later at his home, with the children. Somehow or other, the magic wand does not work, and much amusement and destruction of property results.' Between the two synopses, there are certainly enough points that correspond to TWEE GOOCHELAARS and make this seem like a reasonable contender for its original identity.

regia/dir: ?. cast: ?. prod: ?. copia/copy: 35mm, 67.50 m., 2'57" (18 fps); senza did./no intertitles. fonte/source: Eye Filmmuseum, Amsterdam. (Numero di inventario/Archive no. KOP1071377 D 8448).

Two boys are impressed by the tricks of an illusionist, particularly when he turns eggs into straw and flowers by tossing them in a hat. After the show one of the boys buys the magic wand from the magician, and they try to do the same tricks at home, creating a mess and enraging their parents.

Not much can be deduced from the print itself, but during research a theory was voiced that this might be a Théophile Pathé film from 1908 called Der Zauberstab [The Magic Wand]. There are no titles or intertitles on the print.

There is no information about the provenance of the nitrate print. It seems that it had already arrived in the archive by 1959, which loosely suggests that it might be related to the Desmet Collection. – *Elif Rongen-Kaynakçi*

(summary copied from <https://silentlondon.co.uk/2024/10/05/sine-nomine-unseen-and-unidentified-silent-films-at-pordenone-2024/>)