



The Team



The Jumble

The Rumble in the Jumble: Coordinating a volunteer collections project (A brief overview ... and a specific case study)

2014 New England Museum Association Conference
Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014 • Hyatt Regency, Cambridge, Mass.

Advance preparation:

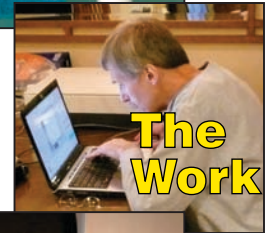
- **Assess the jumble** in order to *prioritize efforts* according to *value, use, and risk*.
- **Set an objective** that is *manageable* and *attainable*. Then *plan your work*.
- **Assemble a team** that is *reliable* and *malleable*. Then *build your team*.
- **Prepare the team** with relevant *training* and *background*. Then *follow up*.
- **Gather materials** needed for *collections care* and *records management*.

Getting down to work:

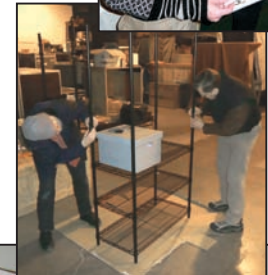
- **Work your plan.** Establish a division of labor, *ideally by interest or aptitude*.
- **Value your team.** Feed your team in every way. *They will be more productive*.
- **Be the boss.** You're the professional answer-person. *Have the answers*.
- **Start early. End late.** Work smart *and* work long. This means *you*.

The "Big Finish":

- **Execute a clean finish:** *Logically organized, secure, stable, and well-documented* according to current best-practices.
- **Ensure** that the *next encounter* with the material will not be a *stumble on a jumble*. (Be kind to your successor.)
- **Ensure** that *your volunteer team* will be viewed in the future as *heroes, not hacks*. (They might even come back for more work.)



The Work



The Big Finish

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The Rumble in the Jumble: Coordinating a volunteer collections project

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- **Ensure** that *your volunteer team* will be viewed in the future as *heroes, not hacks!*

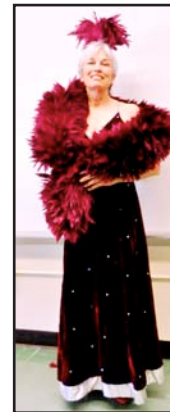
Rumble in the Jumble: A selection of projects



*George Hubler
Collection,
International
Circus
Hall of Fame
& Museum,
Peru, Indiana*

**Sorting and
stable storage for:**

- Promo materials
- Photographs
- Videotapes/DVDs
- Business records
- Show programs



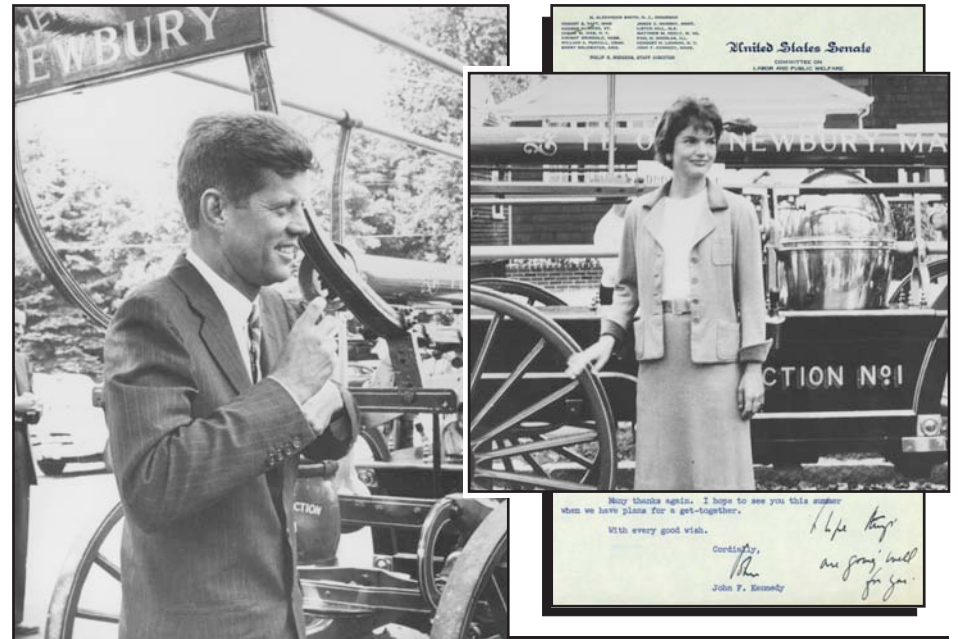
Rumble in the Jumble: A selection of projects



*Dick Walsh
(1924-2009)
Collection,
Spencer-Peirce-
Little Farm,
Newbury, Mass.*



The challenge:
From three overflowing shopping bags of ephemera to three glowing exhibition panels in three days.



Historical Collection & Archives Project – International Jugglers Association
The Team – Trained at long-distance **The Jumble** – Just a small portion ...

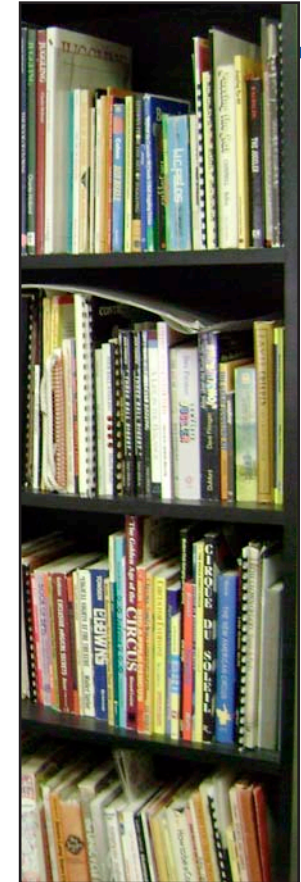
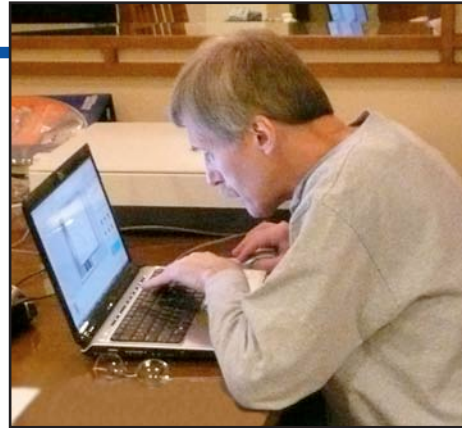


NOW APPEARING – FOUR DAYS ONLY!
BROWN ~ FROST ~ BACON
RAHN ~ BITTENBENDER ~ JIZBA



IJA Archives Team Advances Juggling History in Las Vegas

The Work – Proper object, photo, & paper conservation and acid-free storage; digitization (scanning & photography); organization; and digital & hard-copy records



- *3 hotel suites – one for food!*
- *Photography studio*
- *Scanning work station*
- *Data entry work station*
- *‘On the floor’ work station*
- *Library organization area*
- *Collections transport*
- *Food & provisions runners*



IJA Archives Team Advances Juggling History in Las Vegas

The ‘Big Finish’ – Stable storage, logical organization, and documentation, so that the next intrepid collections team can confidently pick up where we left off.

INTERNATIONAL JUGGLERS ASSOCIATION ARCHIVES
ACCESSION RECORD

Accession#: _____ Date Received: _____
 Source: _____ Received by: _____
 Address: _____ Date Accessed: _____
 _____ Accessed by: _____
 _____ Received as: _____
 _____ Purchase Price or Value: \$ _____

Description: _____

Remarks/Provenance: _____

Condition Report (w/date): _____

Conservation Treatment (w/date): _____

Storage Type (w/date): _____ Location (w/date): _____

Digitization Report: _____ Date: _____

Image Type	File Name	Resolution	Dimensions	File Size	File Format
<input type="checkbox"/> Scan <input type="checkbox"/> Color	Archival Image				
<input type="checkbox"/> Digital <input type="checkbox"/> Monochrome	Thumbnail Image				
<input type="checkbox"/> Photo <input type="checkbox"/> Grayscale	Web Image				

Remarks: _____

File Storage & Backup: _____

Accession#: _____



Hard-copy accessions record ... to augment digital database.

Secure climate-controlled storage in a small locked room at a Las Vegas publisher’s warehouse.



IJA Archives Team Advances Juggling History in Las Vegas

More ‘Big Finish’... and just a few minutes of fun.

INTERNATIONAL JUGGLING ASSOCIATION ARCHIVES	
ACCESSION RECORD	
Accession#: _____	Date Received: _____
Source: _____	Received by: _____
_____	Date Accessed: _____
Address: _____	Accessioned by: _____
_____	Received as: _____
_____	Purchase Price or Value: \$ _____
Individual Object ID#	Description
Total objects - this sheet: _____	
Accession#: _____	

At left:
Accession
record
composite ...
to augment
digital
database

At right:
Value/use/risk
digitization
scoresheet.

INTERNATIONAL JUGGLING ASSOCIATION ARCHIVES										
DIGITIZATION SCORESHEET										
Description / ID# of Object/Collection	Evaluation (Y/N - see list of evaluation factors)						Prioritization (0-10 scale)			
	Scope	Rights	Cond.	Visual	Doc.	Other	Value	Use	Risk	Score
Total objects/collections evaluated - this sheet: _____										



At left, the team rehearses for an after-hours exhibition of precision club-juggling – an ‘unadvertised special’ for hotel patrons returning from a night on the town.



IJA Archives Team Advances Juggling History in Las Vegas

Post-Project Outcome:

The beginnings of collections accessibility, plus awareness leading to future support.

A sample of online content made possible by the ‘Rumble in the Jumble’:

A selection of props & photos from the Eddy & Eleanor Johnson Collection
(2004.1.x) (Donated by Eleanor Johnson)

Eddy Johnson Promo Photo c. 1950
(2004.1.3g)

Edwin G. “Eddy” Johnson (1922-1999), one of the eight founders of the International Jugglers’ Association in 1947, worked professionally and semi-professionally through the years, both as a solo performer (“Eddy Easy”) and in an act with his wife, Eleanor Johnson (“Eddy & Ellie”). He was involved with the IJA throughout his life, serving as an officer in the 1950s and organizing the 1952 convention in Altoona, Pa. (He was designated an Honorary Life Member of the IJA in 1995.) A graduate of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, he pursued a career with the federal government, ran a travel agency in his retirement, and served 16 years in the Pennsylvania state legislature. Upon his death in 1999, Eleanor Johnson donated his props and collection of photos to the IJA at his request.

Dimensions: 8" x 10"

Material: Coated glossy print (gelatin / silver chloride POP print)

Photographer: Studio photo - Bruno of Hollywood, New York, N.Y.

Date/Location: Early 1950s



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