The Rumble in the Jumble: Coordinating a volunteer collections project

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 training and background. Then follow up.
• Gather materials 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.
• Ensure that the next encounter with the material will not be a stumble on a jumble.
• 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


The challenge: From three overflowing shopping bags of ephemera to three glowing exhibition panels in three days.
The Team – Trained at long-distance

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

The Jumble – Just a small portion ...

Historical Collection & Archives Project – International Jugglers Association

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

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Hard-copy accessions record ... to augment digital database. Secure climate-controlled storage in a small locked room at a Las Vegas publisher’s warehouse.
More ‘Big Finish’... and just a few minutes of fun.

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

At right: Value/use/risk digitization scoresheet.

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.
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