

International Jugglers Association NEWSLETTER

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This Newsletter is the official publication of the International Jugglers Association. Editors, Ken and Carol Bengel, 1551 Hillcrest Ave., Hanover Park, Ill. 60103.

CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENT

Ron Graham and Phil Berube have planned the 1973 I.J.A. convention for May 26, 27, and 28 at the Holiday Inn, 550 W. Mt. Pleasant Ave., Livingston, New Jersey. For hotel reservations you can call the Holiday Inn nearest you and have them arrange reservations for you at the Livingston Inn.

Ron informs us that the juggling room has an 11½ foot ceiling and it will work fine for juggling. Also on May 25, in the evening, there will be a get together at Ron's home for those who arrive early. R.S.V.P. Ron if you plan on attending.

Check the dates on your calender, this is a 3 day weekend so we hope to see you there!

THE WAY THE BALL BOUNCES BY ROGER MONTANDON

A recent most pleasant visit from Rosto, the Dutch Juggler who is currently working school assemblies and stopped off during the Christmas holidays on his way from Nebraska to Arkansas, gave me a chance to go through some of my collection and become reacquainted with the wide variety of collectables of juggling interest.

Usually when one thinks of Juggling collections one thinks primarily of books and photos, but there are some other fields of equal interest that can be less costly to collect and can even offer more of a challenge.

One such field is the collecting of Christmas, birthday, and other greeting cards having some juggling theme. Of course, some jugglers make up an original card and these are perhaps the most prized. To mind comes the annual card from the Willers who manage to work into the design both Betty's juggling and Ken's one-hand stand. And then along different lines would be Rosto's full color reproduction photo of an 1894 lithograph used by the 7 Perezoffs. Still another type is a commercially available card doctored up to give it a juggling theme. A unique one of this type was sent to me by the late Tom Breen. The card showed a fireplace with a set of andirons whose front looked a bit like juggling clubs. Tom had an arrow pointing to them and wrote, "Look what I did with my clubs!" Over a period of years, the

(ROGER MONTANDON CONTINUED)

quantity of commercial cards having a juggling theme may surprise you.

Another field is the collecting of cartoons. Again it is surprising to find how many cartoonists use juggling themes fairly often over the years. By watching the comic strips and magazine cartoons you can create a very interesting collection and one which portrays the layman's view of jugglers. Most cartoonists draw a juggling club that more closely resembles a bowling pin. Exceptions are such juggler-artists as Phil Berube, Kirk Stiles, Joe Marsh, or George DeMott. If this field interests you and you get duplicates send them to me and I'll send back something you'll enjoy adding to your cartoon collection.

Still another challenging field is the collection of similes and metaphors, and humorous stories. In the case of stories one must often substitute the word juggler for "actor" or "magician". To illustrate, the following is a story usually told about actors but could apply equally well to jugglers.

A troupe of jugglers was stranded and trying to reach the next river town but had no money or means of transportation. Finally they talked the captain of a river scow carrying a load of garbage into giving them a lift. As they passed a bend in the river a voice from shore called out, "Hey, cap'n, what're you carrying this trip?" "A load of garbage and a bunch of jugglers", the captain yelled. One of the jugglers was heard to exclaim, "Not even first billing!"

The collecting of similes and metaphors is perhaps the most challenging since they appear in a wide variety of books, magazines and newspapers. Here are a few samples: From the book, Gus the Great by Thomas W. Duncan; "But she really felt more like a juggler that autumn, she was so busy not letting her left hand know what her right was doing." Or from the same book, "She had momentarily forgotten Barbara; she could never juggle more than one idea at a time." From the book, How to get rich in TV without really trying by Shepherd Mead; "When one plot is half done, start another. When the first one ends, another will be building. It's like juggling Indian clubs. For every one going down there is another one going up." Or from Jay Cronley, a Tulsa World columnist: "My exit, naked, was the type you expect from a juggler who had dropped everything--a soft shuffle backwards culminated by a 'That's all folks', and a tip of the hat." Or for a closer, from Ilka Chase's book, Free Admission - "Mr (Lee) Shubert in the opinion of most Broadway producers, is a full time copee requiring the same caliber of concentration as that of a juggler who keeps two dozen balls, knives, and Indian clubs in the air, simultaneously balancing a whirling plate on a billiard cue on the end of his nose."

I wonder what juggler she saw---but that's the way the ball bounces!

A TRICK FROM JOE TEMPLE JR

This trick is a three ball finish. Juggling in a normal cascade pattern, you throw one ball high and your hand reaches way up and catches it at the peak of its arc. For the best effect on this juggling move, your hand must reach up above your head AND you should keep your eyes looking straight ahead, not at the ball.

FROM BOBBY MAY

Met Hovey Burgess and was invited to attend his Circus course class at Case Western Reserve Gym, in Cleveland Ohio. Hovey is a remarkable club and ball juggler and a first class teacher. Also met Judy, his wife, also a great juggler and wire walker. Hovey does a trick, balancing on a board on the wire, then bouncing 5 balls, which is certainly unique.

Had a letter from Rudy Horn, he was playing a return engagement at Kelvin Hall in Glasgow Scotland.

Going back to Hovey Burgess, I was very much impressed by the aptitude of the college kids in his class. He had them juggling clubs and balls and it is remarkable what they have accomplished in the short and limited time that Hovey is conducting the Circus Seminar. They were most enthusiastic students, some are pre-Med and Drama students, and their objective is not to do juggling or acrobatic acts, but to learn this side of the Theatre Arts.

Hovey had very good newspaper and television coverage here and deserved the attention the media gave him and the Circus Arts course, which is only for part of this month of January. Then he goes back to teaching the course at N.Y.U.

QUESTION FROM RICHARD LOBS

In a newspaper article the Moscow State Circus star juggler, Sergei Ignatov was quoted by the paper as saying "With an odd number of balls there is a cross over and always a pause. With an even number there is no crossover." I would like to know if any of our more experienced colleagues can clarify the "always a pause" part of this quote?

FROM LANE BLUMENTHAL

[ED-Lane is at the Union Printers Home in Colorado Springs, Colo.]

I get good care from the Doctors, Nurses, and orderlies here at the home. On March 14 I will be 85 years young. I want to thank one and all of the jugglers for remembering me at Christmas. Will you thank them through the Newsletter for me.

JUGGLING ACT REVIEW

Sampione
11-21-72

3 clubs-doubles
through legs (back to front)
shower
backcrosses
2 and 1 split
high backcrosses
club to balance on head several times
club spins on head several times
chops
under legs-solids
catch behind back for finish

4 clubs-regular
split 2 and 2
shower

Combination trick-mouthstick and ball
headstick and ball
ring on foot spinning
spinning ball one hand
3 rings juggled in other hand

6 rings-in pairs
alternating

5 clubs with excellent control

7 rings flashed-with stick and ball balanced on head

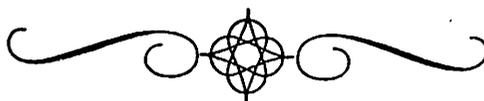
3 fire torches-regular
high backcrosses

FROM JOE TEMPLE JR.

My Sister and I did a show for kids at the local library. The juggling and magic went well with the kids---and my sister's remarks went well with the adults.

Saw the Russian Circus in the Garden and I confirm that Hovey wasn't exaggerating a bit. It was a tremendous show.

This semester I'll be teaching a juggling class at the Easton "Y" as part of organizing a student weekend circus sponsored by the area Lions club. Bob Good is also working on this. The show is being organized by Dick Polanki of Easton and he plans to have it "on the road" playing schools and colleges by the fall of 1974.



Sergei Ignatov by Roger V. Dollarhide

Have you ever seen anyone juggle 11 rings? No? I didn't think you had. There are probably only 2 jugglers in the world who do it and they're both Russians. I saw one of the two-Sergei Ignatov with the Moscow Circus do it on Sunday, Feb. 5, 1973, and I want to tell you it is unreal!

I visited with Sergei during the circus's tour in New Haven, Conn. To my delight, he speaks understandable conversational English and we were able to discuss many things. As a result of these discussions, I would like to relate to you the facts about this amazing young man, who after only six years of practice (yes, I said s-i-x years) has become one of the greatest jugglers in history.

Sergei is 22 years old. He looks about 18 when performing tho he uses no makeup-it is just his very youthful style. He started juggling when he was 16. He attended the Moscow Circus School for 4 years. His home is Moscow with his mother and younger brother. His brother juggles in a 3 man club passing act and also attended or is attending the school.

Sergei learned his juggling from Alexander and Violetta Kiss, Stars of the Moscow Circus. Violetta is the head juggling teacher in the school. Alexander, who appeared in the U.S. with the circus in 1963, is Sergei's idol. Sergei considers Kiss to be the greatest living juggler: "His technique is very good," says Sergei.

Sergei makes his own typical European style clubs and his own plastic rings. The rings are approx. 12" outside dia., 1 1/4" wide and 1/10th in thick. The clubs weigh about 9 1/2 oz. The balls he juggles are rubber and about croquet ball size. All his tricks are straight toss juggling using balls, clubs, rings.

In addition to the tricks in his act, Sergei claims to be able to do the following when he is home and practices regularly:

1. 9 croquet ball size balls. An assistant stands behind him holding 2 balls. Sergei grabs them after setting 7 going.
2. 9 rings for 135 throws (15 times around).
3. 11 rings for 22 throws and catch down around head. He uses the belt to go into 11 from a 9 ring juggle.

Sergei said they were not allowed to practice on tour-only warm up for performances. Thus he was out of practice for 11 rings, but he got them up about a dozen times so I could take pictures of it. He only caught them all 3 times. He hopes to do 11 in the act in 2 years.

Albert Piotroski (see photos in Jan., 1970 Newsletter) is the only other juggler Sergei knows that does 11 rings. Piotroski also does 10 rings with a head balance. Sergei does not do 8 or 10.

Some Russian jugglers do 6 clubs, but none do more than 5 in performances. Two Russian acts pass 10 clubs between 2 people and 12 clubs between 3 people. One of the acts is the Gratshovis.

Sergei says that for him, the 5 club backcrosses is easier than 9 rings. I asked him that question for the benefit of those of you who were wondering which trick to learn first. He says, "There are many very good jugglers in Russia."

A SPECIAL I.J.A. THANK YOU!

THANK YOU Windfield Buzby for your contribution to the I.J.A.

JUGGLING TIPS

When using fire-torches on a casual date soak them at home and wrap the fire ends in regular kitchen aluminum foil. In this way you do not have to carry any fuel and they are ready to go. This makes for a big savings in time and trouble.

It has been said that a mixture of half alcohol and half lighter fluid as the gas for your fire torches will create less odor than using straight gasoline.

Some jugglers use magnesium carbonate on their hands to help prevent perspiration from effecting their juggling. However, other jugglers prefer the natural oils on their hands and therefore do not wash their hands before a show. And, still others wash their hands so they are very clean before they go on. Therefore, I guess you have to try different methods and find the one that works best for you.

If you spin rings on your arms or legs, you can square off the outside of the ring to get a nice visual effect.



For those of you who ride unicycles and do childrens shows, a good idea is to put on a blindfold. [ED-Use a fake blindfold available from most magic dealers] Then as you ride around the stage, have the children tell you when you are getting close to the front or sides of the stage.

Theme your juggling act. For instance be "the juggling chef", "the juggling school teacher", "the juggling jeweler", etc.

NEW MEMBER

Cecil Mac Kinnon
331 W. 19th (#1)
New York, N.Y. 10011

FROM LARRY WEEKS

As to my personal activities I had a very busy December and did 47 one-man Christmas show club dates. I am now in my 4th season with the N.Y. City Opera Company appearing at the New York State Theatre in Lincoln Center every time they do "FAUST" as I appear as the juggler in Act.1 Scene 2, The Kermesse...lots of fun doing these costume character parts.

I am in the seventh year of producing the LARRY WEEKS ALL DAY MAGIC CONVENTIONS which are held four times a year and always in the midtown Manhattan area. These are always held on a Sunday and we generally draw an average of about 250 people per convention. We run movies, kid shows, dealer demonstration shows, auctions, and all star shows during the one day...and we usually have one of the booths where equipment is for sale...featuring juggling

(LARRY WEEKS CONTINUED)

equipment etc. Juggler Francisco Alvarez has helped me out in running the juggling booth and we always try to have jugglers on the kid shows and evening all-star shows. Some of the jugglers that have appeared during the past 26 of these conventions are Lou Meyers, The Sparrows, Jay Green, Hovey Burgess and Judy, Adrian Sullivan, Larry Weeks, and others.

LARRY WEEKS' ALL DAY MAGIC CONVENTION NO. 27 will be held at the Hotel Diplomat, West 43rd St. between 6th Ave. and Broadway on March 4th (Sunday). Doors open at 11 A.M. Ivor Price as Taffy the Juggling Clown will be one of the acts on the 2P.M. kiddie show. And we will probably have The Sparrows for a return engagement with their juggling act....as we will be using the Grand Ballroom which can accomodate 800 people for the All Star nite show starting at 8:30 P.M. If you're in the area come on over as no advance registration is required and \$4 pays for everything for the entire day. I.J.A. members are always welcome.

EDITORS NOTEBOOK

Many people have asked about the drawings on the Newsletter. The drawings are from our own personal collection. We have collected them over the years from artists, newspapers, show business magazines, and circus programs.

For those of you who visit with Roger Montandon when going through Oaklahoma you may have a surprise next time. Roger now has a - - - -burro farm!

I took a quick business trip to Las Vegas and then on to San Francisco. In Las Vegas I was treated to a great time by John McPeak and his girl friend Lorraine. I am sorry to report that I saw no jugglers working on the shows. And in San Francisco I had a pleasant phone conversation with Homer Stack. Homer said to tell all the I.J.A. members hello.

Regarding Roger Dollarhide's article on Sergei Ignatov, I had some other members send in the same information regarding age, length of time juggling, and number of objects juggled. Also several days ago I saw a movie of Sergei's act---FANTASTIC! Thank you to all of you who wrote in on this unbelievable juggler.

Also Roger sent me a complete run-down on Sergei Ignatov's act. I will publish it next month in the juggling review part of the Newsletter.

All for now and best wishes until next month---and as Ron Graham said over the phone "Everyone should at least try and juggle one more ball at this years convention."