

Finding Aid to the Game Show History Collection, 1958-2023

Summary Information

Title: Game Show History collection

Creator: The Strong (primary)

ID: 2022.gameshow

Date: 1958-2023 (inclusive)

Extent: 1.5 linear feet (physical); 370 GB (digital)

Language: The materials in this collection are in English.

Abstract: The Game Show History collection contains documentation on the development, production, marketing, and distribution of game shows. As archival materials are acquired by the museum, they will be added to this collection.

Repository:

Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong
One Manhattan Square
Rochester, New York 14607
585.263.2700
library@museumofplay.org

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Use: This collection is open for research use by staff of The Strong and by users of its library and archives. Though intellectual property rights (including, but not limited to any copyright, trademark, and associated rights therein) have not been transferred, The Strong has permission to make copies in all media for museum, educational, and research purposes.

Conditions Governing Access: At this time, U-matic tapes in Series III are accessible to on-site researchers only. Advanced notice is required.

Custodial History: The Game Show History collection at The Strong is a compilation of gifts from various donors. These include Object ID 122.1315, gift of Adam Nedeff (May 2022); Object ID 122.2940, donated by Jacob Sachleben (June 2022); and Object ID 123.198, donated by Christian Carrion (May 2023). Further materials will be added to this collection as they are received by the museum.

Preferred citation for publication: Game Show History collection, Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong

Processed by: Julia Novakovic, June 2022

Revision Note: Revised to include additional video oral histories in April 2023 and additional materials in June 2023.

Controlled Access Terms

Personal Names

- Blumenthal, Howard
- Boden, Robert ("Bob")
- Brockman, Michael
- Calderwood, Dana

- Eubanks, Robert Leland (“Bob”)
- Gargiulo, Michael (“Mike”)
- Greenberg, Ron
- Itkin, Mark
- LaCock, Ralph Pierre (Peter Marshall)
- Marshall, Peter
- Martindale, Winston Conrad (“Wink”)
- McDonnell, Terry
- Monk, Bill
- Narz, James Edward (Tom Kennedy)
- Patterson, Dick
- Pomerantz, Beverly (“Bev”)
- Sherman, Robert
- Usdan, Pamela
- Woolery, Charles Herbert (“Chuck”)

Corporate Names

- BuzzerBlog
- Game Show Network
- The Strong

Subjects

- Double Dare (Television game show)
- Hollywood Squares (Television game show)
- Idiotest (Television game show)
- Name that Tune (Television game show)
- National Archives of Game Show History
- New Treasure Hunt (Television game show)
- Television game show hosts
- Television game shows
- Television game shows--United States--History
- Television programs
- Television quiz shows
- Television--Production and direction
- Tell Us About Yourself (Podcast)
- The Big Game (Television game show)
- The Price is Right (Television game show)
- To Say the Least (Television game show)
- Wheel of Fortune (Television program)

Historical Note

Established in 2021, the National Archives of Game Show History at The Strong preserves the history of game shows—from the earliest panel shows and quiz scandals, to the games and puzzles of the 1970s, to the big money network series and the classic games now in primetime. The National Archives of Game Show History focuses on acquiring the records and materials of the many professional producers, performers, directors, designers, writers, executives, and staff members who have been involved in all facets of game show development, production, marketing, and distribution. (Please see also “[A Brief History of Game Shows.](#)”)

Collection Scope and Content Note

The Game Show History collection in the archives is continually acquiring new materials. Documentation in this collection includes game scripts, specification documents, press kits, photographs, audiovisual materials, and other related information. Of particular interest to researchers are the video oral history interviews conducted by Bob Boden and Howard Blumenthal for The Strong. As materials are acquired by the museum, they will be added to this collection.

As of April 2023, the Game Show History collection is arranged into four series, two of which are further divided into subseries. The physical materials are stored in two archival document boxes and one AV box.

Related Materials

The Strong preserves many other artifacts related to the National Archives of Game Show History. To view the museum’s board games, video games, electronic games, memorabilia, and artifacts associated with game shows, please access the [Online Collections](#) portal, click on the “Popular Collections” tab, and select the web category “Game Shows.”

System of Arrangement

Series I: Production, 1998-2018

Series II: Publicity, 1977-c.2000s and n.d.

Subseries A: Press kits

Subseries B: Photographs

Series III: Audiovisual materials, 1958-2023

Subseries A: Video oral histories

Subseries B: Show footage

Subseries C: Podcast recordings

Series IV: Undeveloped game proposals, 1989-2007 and n.d.

Contents List

Series I: Production, 1998-2018

Scope and Content Note: This series contains documentation used in the production of game shows. Examples of materials include scripts, production schedules, show notes, contestant information, prize lists, and more.

Box 1

- Folder 1 Script – *The Price is Right*, 5000th episode, Show #0724K, 1998 [122.2940]
- Folder 2 Specification documents – *Double Dare* production schedule, challenge packet, prize list, and contestant packet; Shows #122, #123, #124; Tuesday, June 19, 2018 [122.1315]
- Folder 3 Specification documents – *Double Dare* production schedule, challenge packet, prize list, and contestant packet; Shows #128, #130, #131; Tuesday, June 26, 2018 [122.1315]
- Folder 4 Specification documents – *Double Dare* production schedule, “A” Shows #204, #209, #201; #202B, #203C, #204D; February 27-28, 2019 [122.1315]
- Folder 5 Specification documents – *Idiotest* Tech Book, Season 4, equipment set up November 16, 2016, recording November 16-December 12, 2016 [122.1315]

Series II: Publicity, 1977-c. 2000s and n.d.

Scope and Content Note: This series holds publicity information from marketing teams as well as photographs and images of game show sets.

Subseries A: Press kits

Scope and Content Note: This subseries houses a press kit detailing the launch of the Game Show Network in 1994.

Box 2

- Folder 1 Press kit – The Game Show Network, 1994 [122.1315]

Subseries B: Photographs

Scope and Content Note: Photographs in this subseries include slides from the set of *New Treasure Hunt* and *Wheel of Fortune*, as well as a programming executive’s head shot.

Box 2

- Folder 2 Head shot – Bob Boden, Senior Vice President of Programming, Game Show Network, n.d. [c. 2001-2003] [122.1315]
- Folder 3 Slides – *New Treasure Hunt*, n.d. [c. 1973-1977?] [122.1315]
- Folder 4 Slides – *Wheel of Fortune* January 1977 “Wedding Week,” 1977 [122.1315]
- Folder 5 Slides – *Wheel of Fortune*, n.d. [c. 1977?] [122.1315]

Series III: Audiovisual materials, 1958-2023

Scope and Content Note: This series contains audiovisual materials, including video oral histories and footage from game shows.

Subseries A: Video oral histories

Scope and Content Note: These video oral histories, conducted in 2021-2022 by Bob Boden and Howard Blumenthal for the National Archives of Game Show History, are in-depth interviews with game show professionals.

These digital files are currently accessible on-site; a selection may be available online via The Strong's web page for the [National Archives of Game Show History](#).

Digital-III A

- “Game Show History: Interview with Chuck Woolery” [TV personality and game show host; *Wheel of Fortune*, *Love Connection*, *Scrabble*, *Greed*, *Lingo*], recorded April 18, 2022 (2:28:53)
- “Game Show History: Interview with Bob Eubanks” [TV personality and game show host; *The Newlywed Game*, *Card Sharks*], recorded November 18, 2021 (1:10:57)
- “Game Show History: Interview with Dana Calderwood” [TV producer and director; *Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego*, *History IQ*, *Idiotest*], release signed December 2021 (3:39:54)
- “Game Show History: Interview with Michael Brockman” [TV producer and executive; *Family Feud*, *Press Your Luck*], recorded November 4, 2021 (4:20:08)
- “Game Show History: Interview with Robert Sherman” [TV producer and executive; *Match Game*, *Hollywood Squares*, *The Price is Right*, *Family Feud*, *I’ve Got a Secret*], recorded November 18, 2021 (2:54:41)
- “Game Show History: Interview with Terry McDonnell” [TV producer and screenwriter], recorded November 7, 2021 (3:41:51)
- “Game Show History: Interview with Edd Kalehoff” [TV theme composer; *The Price is Right*, *Double Dare*], release signed January 2022 (3:06:25)
- “Game Show History: Interview with Mike Gargiulo” [TV director; *The Match Game*, *Password*, *The Price is Right*, *\$10,000 Pyramid*], recorded October 28, 2021 (2:23:14)
- “Game Show History: Interview with Pamela Usdan” [TV producer; *What’s My Line*, *TV’s Funniest Game Show Moments*], recorded November 10, 2021 (1:57:51)
- “Game Show History: Interview with Ron Greenberg” [TV producer; *The Joker’s Wild*, *Tic-Tac-Dough*, *Bullseye*], recorded October 26, 2021 (4:18:54)
- “Game Show History: Interview with Bev Pomerantz” [TV casting director], recorded January 27, 2022 (1:29:02)
- “Game Show History: Interview with Mark Itkin” [TV agent], recorded February 7, 2022 (2:01:03)
- “Game Show History: Interview with Peter Marshall” [TV personality and game show host; *Hollywood Squares*], recorded May 5, 2022 (1:17:20)

- “Game Show History: Interview with Wink Martindale” [TV personality and game show host; *What’s this Song?*, *Tic-Tac-Dough*, *High Rollers*, *Trivial Pursuit*, *Debt*], recorded January 30, 2022 (2:49:26)
- “Game Show History: Interview with Bill Monk [TV game show technical expert], recorded December 13, 2021 (2:11:19)

Subseries B: Show footage

Scope and Content Note: Video footage in this subseries includes episodes of *Name that Tune*, *To Say the Least*, and *The Big Game*.

[U-matic tape stock is indicated in brackets; original tape labels are denoted in quotation marks.]

AV Box 1

- Object 1 U-matic tape – [Sony KCA 60] R-4092, “Name That Tune, air 12/8/76, Evelyn Key Tries \$100,000, Daytime Name That Time Debut, 1/3/77 (actually 3rd show taped),” 1976-1977 [122.1315]
- Object 2 U-matic tape – [Scotch UCA30] R-4093, “NBC Burbank, To Say the Least, 2-25-78, Birthday Surprise w/ Betty, Julie, Skip & Courtney,” 1978 [122.1315]
- Object 3 U-matic tape – [Sony tape stock] R-4100, “Name That Tune, From the Desk of... Dresser Dahlstead, Fred Wostbrock will pickup Friday,” n.d. [c. 1970s?] [122.1315]
- Object 4 U-matic tape – [Unidentified tape stock] R-4102, “1958, The Big Game, Tom Kennedy, 30:00 minutes, b/w,” 1958 [122.1315]

Subseries C: Podcast recordings

Scope and Content Note: This subseries holds unedited recordings from the *Tell Us About Yourself* podcast from BuzzerBlog.

Box 2

- Folder 15 *Tell Us About Yourself* – unedited recordings from first 25 episodes, BuzzerBlog, 2022-2023 [two DVDS; audio files saved to network] [123.1983]

Series IV: Undeveloped game proposals, 1989-2007 and n.d.

Scope and Content Note: Within this series are treatments or proposals for game shows which were never produced. (Many of the developers of these show ideas worked on other various successful game shows during their careers.)

Box 2

- Folder 6 Undeveloped game – “Marriage Go-Round,” Wink Martindale Enterprises, 1989 [122.1315]
- Folder 7 Undeveloped game – “Dealer’s Choice,” Wink Martindale Enterprises and Fishman-Freer Productions, 1991 [122.1315]
- Folder 8 Undeveloped game – “Can You Solve the Mystery?” Martindale Hillier Entertainment, 1994 [122.1315]
- Folder 9 Undeveloped game – “Home Free!” Wink Martindale Enterprises, 2003 [122.1315]
- Folder 10 Undeveloped game – “Wink Martindale’s Blackjack Bonanza,” Wink Martindale and Hope Murray, Wink Martindale Enterprises, 2007 [122.1315]
- Folder 11 Undeveloped game – “Let’s Go to the Movies,” Joseph Massa, n.d. [c. 2007?] [122.1315]
- Folder 12 Undeveloped game – “Double Take!” Dick Patterson, n.d. [c. 1990?] [122.1315]
- Folder 13 Undeveloped game – “Passport to Paradise,” Dick Patterson, n.d. [122.1315]
- Folder 14 Undeveloped game – “Who’s Calling?” Dick Patterson, and Pat Lynn-Patterson, n.d.