

George and Roxanne Miller

Individually George and Roxanne started collecting puzzles at an early age. Collectively they continue to collect at an intense pace trying to satisfy their joint desire to place the entire spectrum of manipulative problem solving into one space.

George studied Mathematics and Artificial intelligence at the university. His domicile changed on a seemingly regular basis covering both the East Coast and West Coast of the US plus a three year stint in Japan. George was agog when viewing the puzzle collection of Edward Hordern in 1999. The number of puzzles was staggering and the antiquity of so many one-of-a-kind puzzles put matching such a collection of his own out of the realm of possibility. He decided he would start from that day forward to collect all the *new* puzzles. He figured to do this by offering his prototyping services to all the puzzle designers for free! This worked for many years by asking to sell the prototypes to the pubic reimbursing the designers 10%. The money made by this arrangement allowed him to buy more equipment and materials for his ever expanding workshop. Over one hundred designers took advantage of his prototyping allowing him to observe the inner thinking of many great minds and keeping a copy of the prototype for his collection.



Roxanne studied History and Applied Linguistics with her domiciles picking up the mid swath of the US plus a stint in Germany and an extended 25 years in Hong Kong. It was in Hong Kong where she was in the center of the Rubik's Cube maelstrom befriending the Chinese manufacturers and distributors of Rubik's Cubes and the plethora of variations. Her collection of these twisty puzzles fully captures the fury and history of the fad. She attended every Hong Kong Toy Fair during her tenure in the Orient often working the booths of various puzzle manufacturers. She made fast friends with the likes of Uwe Meffert, Richard Zawitz, Da Yan, Mr. Fok of Mf8, Kyoo Wang, and too many more to list. Her collection grew when, at the end of

each fair, she was given all of the showpiece puzzles.

George and Roxanne met one fateful evening in Guangzhou, China at a puzzle party. The attraction was immediate and forced strong companionship. This companionship segued into marriage seven years later. They both desired a warm place to live and chose Boca Raton, Florida. They bought a large house there mainly to store their combined collection of puzzles. Unlike most puzzle collectors they decided to display all of their puzzles on open shelves around the house. As the collection grew, so did the shelves until there was no more room. On somewhat of a whim, they decided to buy a nearby house and use it solely as a puzzle



museum. This new, empty space gave them the confidence to inquire about the Hordern-Dalgety collection. James Dalgety had the largest collection of puzzles and was searching for a permanent place for the collection in the UK. He was intent on keeping the collection together. He had been looking for 20 years with no success. They assured him that they would keep the collection together and available for the public to view. However, this would be in Florida and not the UK. He kindly agreed and sent the collection to them.

The Hordern-Dalgety collection combined with the Miller collections resulted in an enormous number of puzzles. The shelves in the museum covered all the walls. Even the garage had been forced into service and converted into another room of displayed puzzles. A library of puzzle books took up one of the rooms. Yet ... the puzzles kept coming. Roxanne had become an auction maven and continually sought out puzzles not in the collection. George kept making puzzles of his own on his stable of 3D printers. Space once more became an issue.

Furthermore, the notoriety of the museum started bringing in serious puzzlers and puzzle donations, even whole collection donations. To date, they have nearly doubled the Hordern-Dalgety collection with their previously owned puzzles, and those they continue to add to the collection.

Fulfilling a life long dream, George and Roxanne took an Around-the-World cruise. Every port presented a chance to find new and exotic puzzles. It was in an Italian castle hosting a museum of ancient sarcophagi that they came up with an idea. They were both impressed not with the coffins, but rather the size of the rooms in the castle. Why not buy a castle and move the collection to Italy? So they did. The next day they looked up "Castles for sale in Italy", found one that looked good, hired a cab which drove them to Panicale, Italy, toured the castle, bought it, and got back to the ship in time for dinner.

Italy is a country that prides itself on rules, regulations and paperwork. They moved to Italy for three months to sign the paperwork (yes, it takes that long). While living in the soon-to-be-theirs castle they noticed a hotel for sale next to the castle. They decided to buy this hotel and connect it to the castle. This is not so crazy as it sounds as both pieces of property are part of a protective wall surrounding a 15th century medieval town and stand next to one another.

Their plan is to change the hotel into a residency and use the combined 120 rooms of the complex as a repository for puzzles. It will be an extraordinary



museum complete with room and board nestled in Italy's most beautifully preserved medieval village. Their collection will have a permanent root in a 600 year old building. The museum is centrally located in Italy which is centrally located in Europe, which, arguably is center to the world. It will be open to the public by invitation and expected to be a major destination and a credit to Panicale.

They have had the Hordern-Dalgety collection for nearly two years and have amalgamated it with their own. They have not found the time to finish counting it, let alone catalogue it all. They enjoy puzzling every day and the only thing that spoils it is the continual relocating of the collection. They are certain this will be the last move and work on cataloguing will begin in earnest as soon as all of the puzzles are in place. Although James was unable to provide a permanent home for the collection in the UK, they hope their continued efforts of maintaining and adding to the original collection will continue to be a great memorial to both of these great collectors.



The Lovers
a disentanglement puzzle