

About the Author

Reginald W. Bacon is a museum and history professional with specialties in 17th-century New England architecture and life; and early 20th-century music, vaudeville, and circus. His first career as a journalist, editor, and publication designer informs his current work for museums. His ensuing 35-year career as a jazz and ragtime musician, acrobatic juggler, and comedy tap dancer informs his research and writing on the performing arts.



For 25 of those years he had the good fortune to work in crowd-pleasing synchrony with a stellar musical and juggling partner – his wife L.J. Newton – in their now-retired touring theatrical show, *Mr. Slim's Goodtime Ragtime Vaudeville Revival*, and in their circus/variety act, *Mr. Slim & L.J. – Classic Comedy Juggling*. Venues along their on-stage odyssey ranged from palatial theatres to plywood platforms ... from circus arena to cobblestone streetcorners ... and from the heights of New York to the depths of Hollywood.

R.W. Bacon absorbed early exposure to the world of entertainment – his father was a sleight-of-hand artist in the nightclubs of the 1940s, and his grandmother was a theatre pianist for the silent movies of the 1920s. In his early travels he was fortunate to encounter and learn from master artists in the worlds of music, vaudeville, and circus.

Through the years the author has shared insights on his performance specialties through books and workshops for avid amateurs and aspiring professionals. Upon retirement from showbusiness he created the illustrated lecture and exhibition, *A Vaudeville Retrospective*.

A graduate of Syracuse University (journalism/sociology) and Harvard (museum studies), R.W. Bacon is the author of 15 books on history and performing arts topics.

Reg Bacon and his wife L.J. Newton live in Newburyport, Mass., a small city north of Boston where the Merrimack River meets the Atlantic Ocean.

