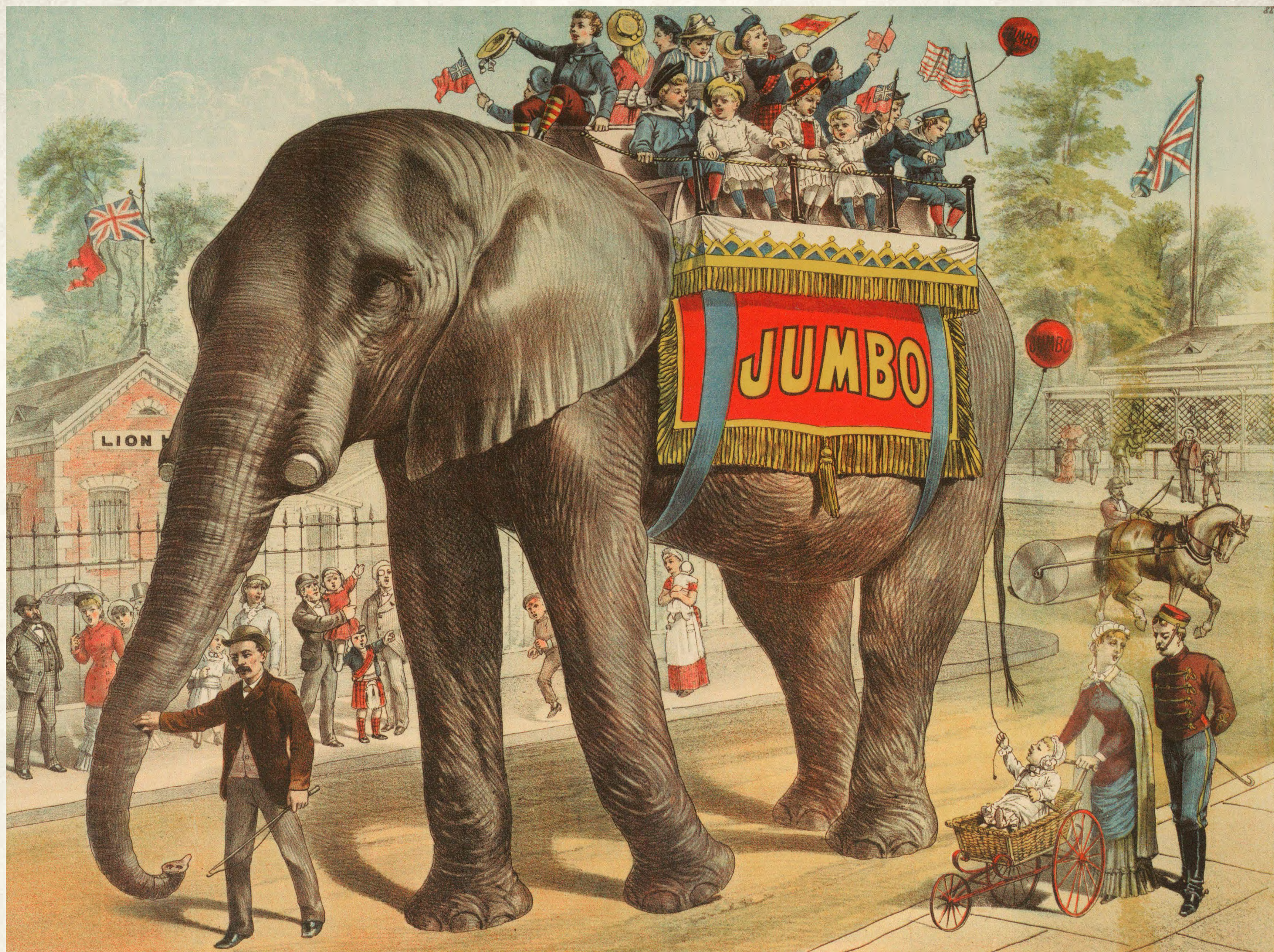


JUMBO

LIFE AND LEGACY

JUMBO was orphaned by hunters while still quite young in what is now Eritrea. He would go on to become the first male African elephant to be exhibited in Europe. Obtained by a German animal trader he was eventually sold to the Paris Zoo – the Jardine des Plantes – in 1863. He was a small, ill-kempt specimen giving no hint of his eventual size and majesty. Not greatly valued in Paris he was soon traded to the London Zoo for a jackal, a possum, two eagles, two dingoes, a kangaroo and an Indian rhino.

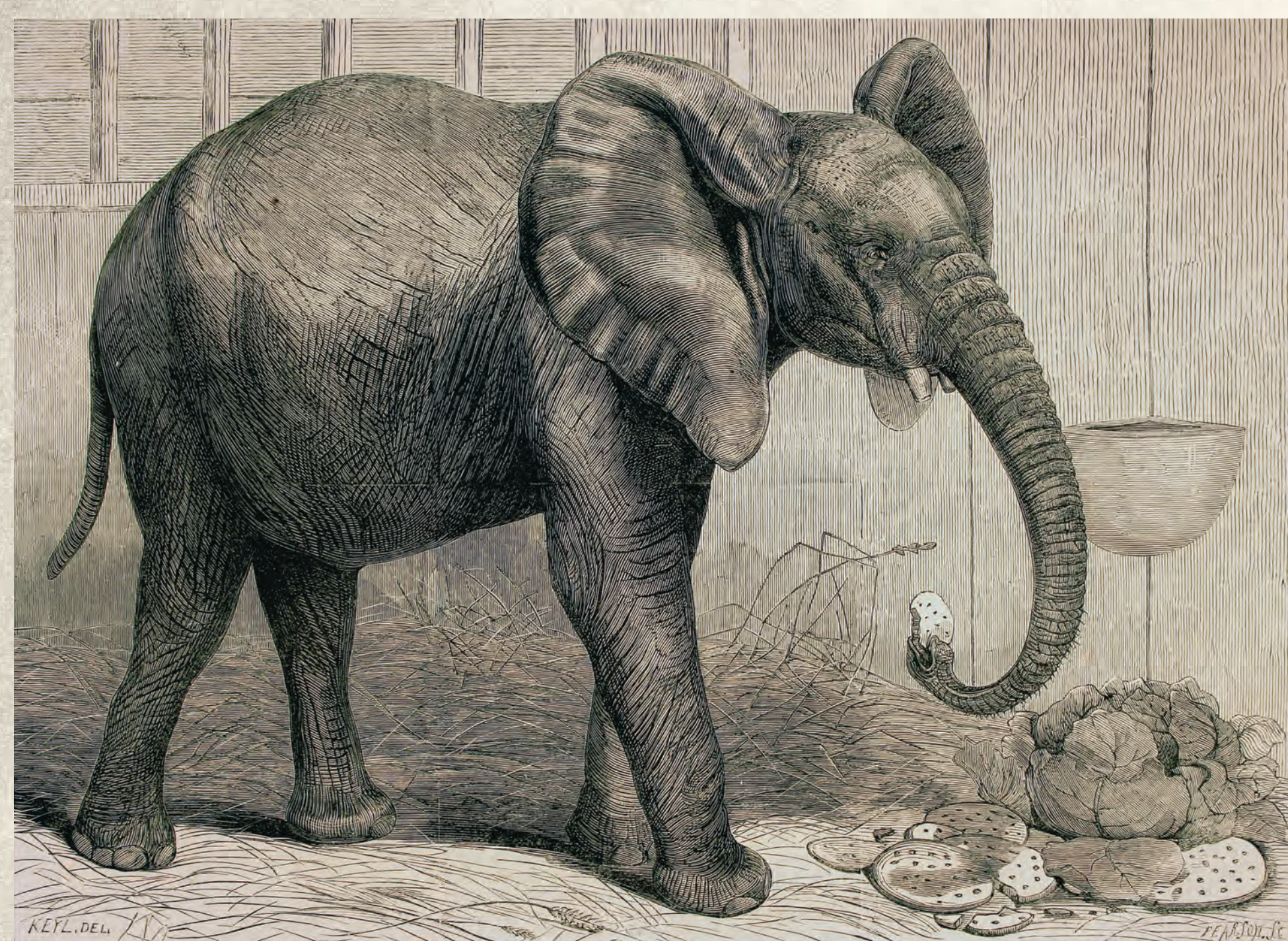


Barnum, Bailey and Hutchinson circus poster featuring Jumbo, 1883
Even though he was part of the circus when this poster was printed, it portrays his life back at the London Zoo.

He was brought to England in 1865 by the man who would become his life-long trainer and companion, Matthew Scott. Over the next 17 years he became a popular and much beloved attraction at the zoo. Growing into his full 11 foot (3.3 meter) height and 5 ton weight he could easily carry loads of visitors and their children on his broad back. Queen Victoria's own children rode on Jumbo.

By the early 1880s, as he entered his twenties, Jumbo began to exhibit violent behaviour during the night attributed to his sexual maturation. He expended his tremendous energy by inflicting considerable damage to the elephant house enclosure on a regular basis. Fearing that he would go berserk during the day while carrying visitors around the zoo, the director, Abraham Bartlett, searched for an opportunity to unload Jumbo.

Fortuitously the American circus owner, P. T. Barnum who had heard reports of Jumbo's immense size, wrote Bartlett asking what price he would accept for the elephant. They settled on 2000 Pounds (perhaps as much as \$220,000 Canadian today) with Barnum assuming the cost of shipping Jumbo to America.



The Young Jumbo
Illustrated London News, July 15, 1865



Jumbo with Matthew Scott (left) and "Elephant Bill" Newman, 1882
Here, Jumbo is introduced to the massive moving crate that would take him from the zoo to New York.

Now began a test of wills between the showman and the wily pachyderm. He was to be shipped in a large packing crate -12 feet by 14 feet by 8 feet (3.6 x 4.2 x 2.4 meters). But he could not be convinced to enter the crate and once word got out that he had been sold and was leaving for the US, the public rose in protest. A legal challenge resulted in an injunction which briefly halted the sale while on both sides of the Atlantic the publicity around the sale played into Barnum's hands. It also benefitted the



Phineas Taylor Barnum, (1810-1891)

zoo, where thousands flocked for one more ride on Jumbo before he was gone.

Scott, who may have connived with Jumbo in his refusal to enter the crate, was hired by Barnum to accompany him to New York and miraculously Jumbo now entered his crate. Thousands lined the streets as he was drawn to the docks to be loaded onto a ship. In New York City he was greeted by thousands more as he passed up Broadway to Madison Square Garden where the circus was opening its 1882 season.



A Farewell Ride on Jumbo
Illustrated London News, March 18, 1882
During Jumbo's final weeks at the zoo, thousands came for one last ride.



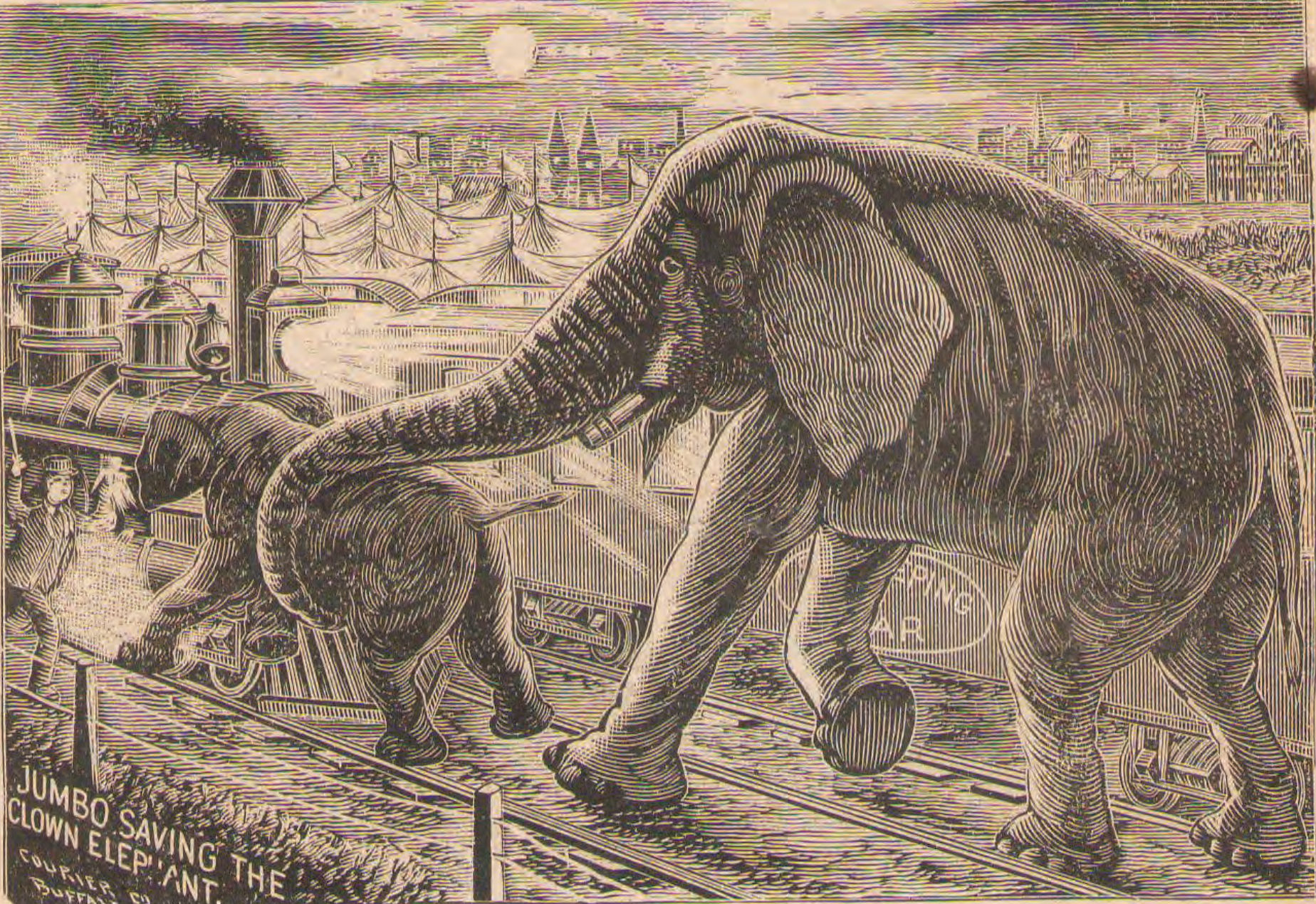
Thousands watch as Jumbo and Matthew Scott are hoisted aboard the Assyrian Monarch for the voyage to America.
Illustrated London News, April 1, 1882



Jumbo's Arrival in America
Leslie's Illustrated Family Almanac, 1883
The New York Times estimated that ten thousand people turned out to see Jumbo when he arrived on April 10, 1882.

Jumbo had by the time of his death come to be a household name. His size and strength coupled with a short catchy name was a pitchman's dream and "Jumbo" became the trade name for everything from thread to coffee to peanut butter. Hundreds of containers and souvenirs from Jumbo's era survive today.





The National Police Gazette's version of the collision
Barnum promoted the claim that Jumbo pushed the miniature elephant Tom Thumb out of the way and met the engine head-on. In reality, Tom Thumb was hit as they both ran away from the train and suffered a broken leg.



Jumbo lying dead on the embankment, 1885
One of the three owners of the circus, James Hutchinson, has his hand on Jumbo's leg, while trainer Matthew Scott stands near his head. The photograph was taken by the St. Thomas firm of Scott and Hopkins.



The Death of Jumbo on the Railroad at St. Thomas, Ontario
The Daily Graphic, New York, September 18, 1885
A more realistic portrayal of the accident.

For four years Jumbo was the circus's star attraction. He had his own rail car – The Palace – part of a 100-car train which took the circus all over the eastern US and Canada. Not surprisingly it was a train which brought about Jumbo's demise in the railway capital of Canada, St. Thomas.

On September 15, 1885, while being taken

down the tracks of the Grand Trunk Railway, a freight train, possibly unscheduled, bore down on the terrified elephant who would not leave the tracks for fear of falling into a ravine. The train caught up to Jumbo who was trying to outrun it and unable to stop, it crushed him against a circus train box car. He died within minutes.



Slice of Jumbo's tusk, made by the taxidermist Henry Ward
Ward produced five slices and sent one to each of the circus owners' wives, as well as the Smithsonian and the British Museum. This slice formerly belonged to Mrs. Barnum.



Mounted Jumbo, at Tufts, c. 1950
Bits of Jumbo survive in various places: the bones are in storage in New York City, his tail is in the archives at Tufts near Boston and there is even a piece of his ear at the Elgin County Museum in St. Thomas.
However, nothing remains of the hide. After it was mounted by Ward's associates, it toured for three years and then in 1889 came to the Barnum Natural History Museum at Tufts which burned down in 1975 taking Jumbo with it. Immediately after the fire, someone from the Athletics Department ran in and scooped up some ashes from the location of the mounted hide to try to preserve something of the school's mascot.

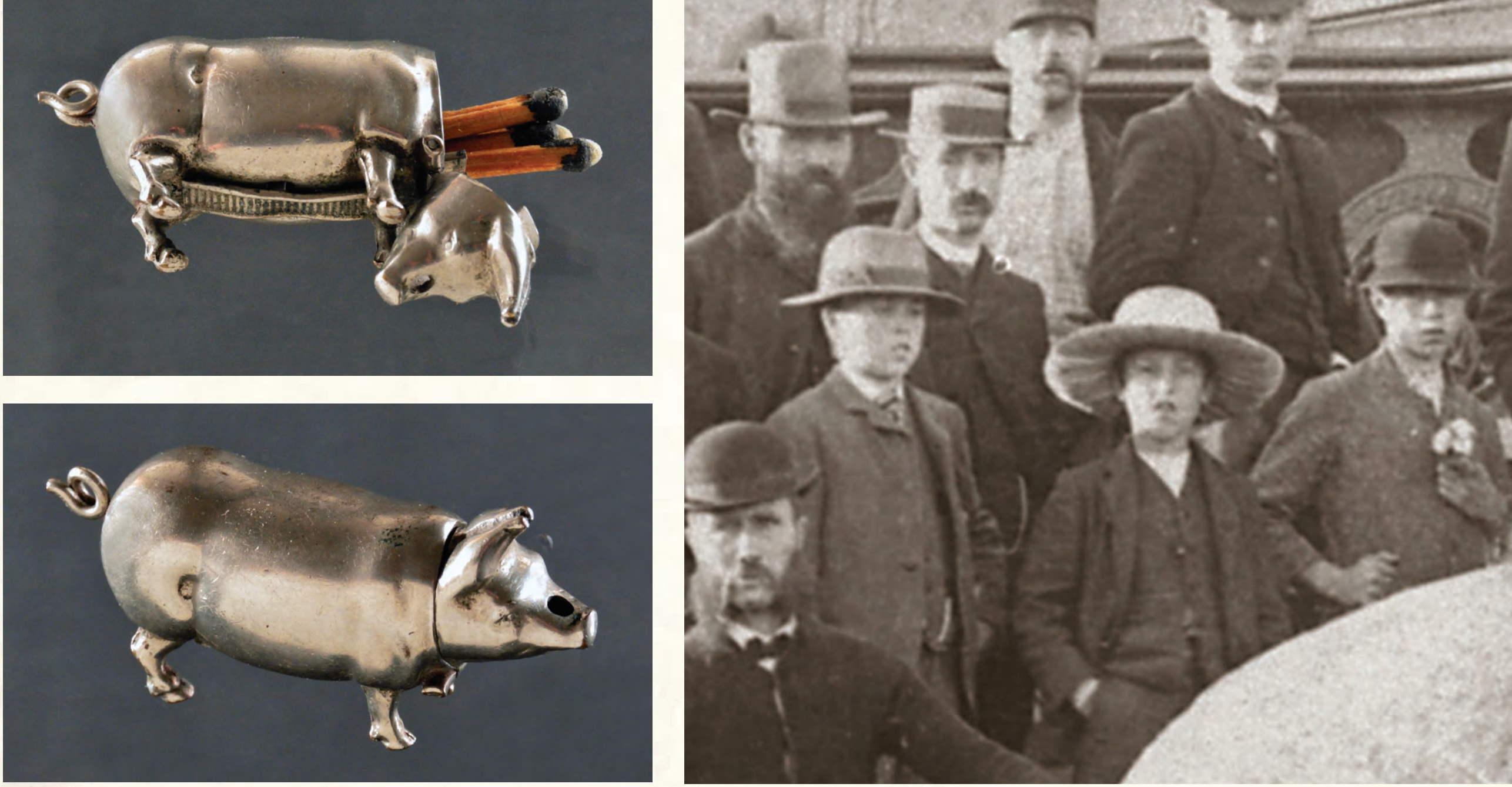
Following the accident, one of the best taxidermists in the US, Henry Ward, arrived to take charge of the body. Ward oversaw the skinning of Jumbo and the cleaning of his bones. The hide was to be stretched over a frame and the bones re-assembled so that both could be exhibited in the circus.

In 1889 the stuffed hide arrived at Tufts, a college near Boston where Barnum had funded a natural history museum, filled with many other mounted animals and birds from his circus. As had the zoo and the circus – Tufts became enamoured with Jumbo and soon his name was synonymous with the college – the teams became the "Jumbos" and today his image is everywhere.

His name and likeness are still instantly recognizable and in two places - St. Thomas and Tufts - life-size statutes stand testament to a time when the world knew and loved the elephant Jumbo.



Jumbo's skull and teeth
One of the discoveries made during the examination of the skeleton done for **The Nature of Things** episode was that Jumbo had really bad teeth. A poor diet had not allowed for the natural replacement of his teeth, instead, new teeth continued to push their way in, undoubtedly causing him terrible pain.



Match safe, c. 1875
One of the many things found in Jumbo's stomach during the cleaning of the hide and bones. Hundreds of coins had also found their way in there.
A young man, Bert Sumner, (visible in the large photo of the dead Jumbo in a wide-brimmed straw hat) collected several items from Jumbo's stomach during the cleaning, including this match safe. Eventually they were presented to the Elgin County Museum. They were loaned to Tufts for the 125th exhibition in 2014.



Jumbo's stomach contents, Elgin County Museum, gift of the Sumner Family.



Jumbo's skeleton at the American Museum of Natural History. The skeleton has since been dismantled.

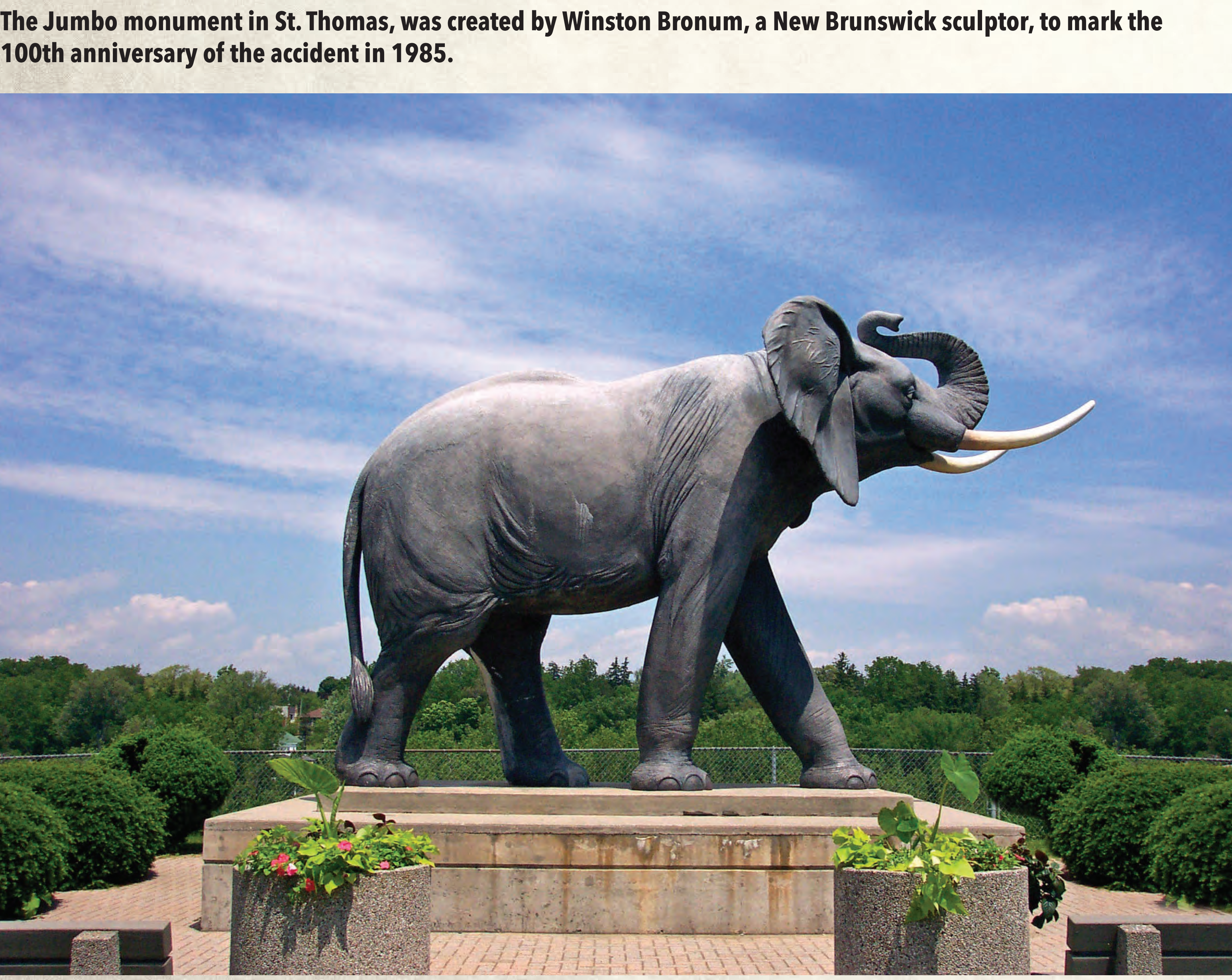


Jumbo's tail in the archives at Tufts. Pulling on Jumbo's tail for luck soon became a tradition at Tufts. Eventually it fell off and was stored in the archives. As a result it survived the fire in 1975.



Dr. Andrew McClellan, a professor of art history at Tufts and the curator of Jumbo: Marvel, Myth and Mascot, with the jar of Jumbo's ashes.

The Tufts University team logo.



The Jumbo monument in St. Thomas, was created by Winston Bronum, a New Brunswick sculptor, to mark the 100th anniversary of the accident in 1985.



To commemorate the 125th anniversary of the arrival of Jumbo at Tufts, California-based artist Stephen Whyte created this life-sized statue of Jumbo which arrived on campus in April of 2015.