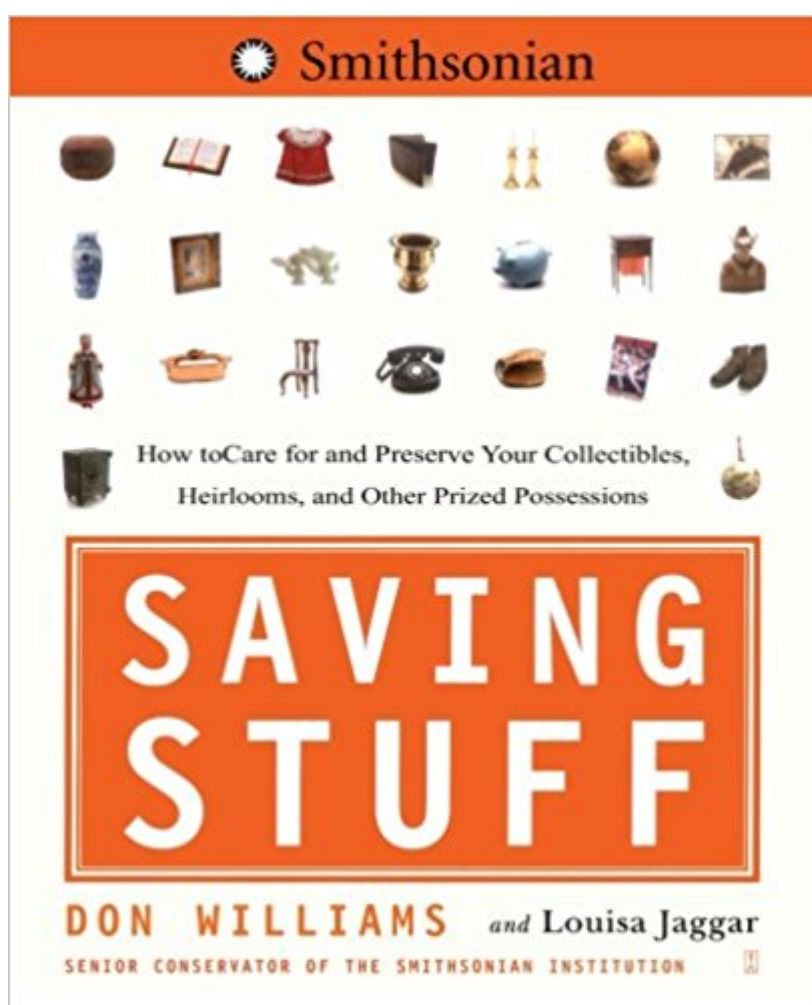


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Saving Stuff: How To Care For And Preserve Your Collectibles, Heirlooms, And Other Prized Possessions



Synopsis

The most comprehensive book on preserving every type of collectible -- from the sentimental to the valuable -- from the Smithsonian's Senior Conservator. For both the serious collector and the sometimes sentimentalist, *Saving Stuff* explains -- in plain language -- how you can use the techniques of museum professionals to keep your prized possessions in mint condition. You do not need deep pockets or oodles of time: using Don Williams's simple instructions, you can preserve anything quickly and inexpensively. In *Saving Stuff*, he demystifies preservation and presents easy, foolproof methods anyone can use to save nearly everything, including:

- Photographs -- in print and digital form
- Stuff only a parent could love -- from baby teeth to old blankets and first artworks
- Furniture -- whether it's painted, varnished, or upholstered
- Family heirlooms -- from silver to rugs to wedding dresses
- Sports and political memorabilia -- trading cards, posters, equipment, buttons, stickers
- Attic leftovers -- scrapbooks, military uniforms, medals
- Musical instruments
- Fine art -- oil paintings, etchings, lithographs
- Printed matter -- comic books, magazines, old letters
- And much, much more

With step-by-step instructions, detailed illustrations, tips for making the things you use every day last, and stories about how the Smithsonian takes care of our national treasures, *Saving Stuff* is the only book you need to take care of the stuff you love.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

From a fragile antique quilt to a child's macaroni artwork, this book offers expert advice on saving those priceless objects from entropy for the "museum of you." Williams, senior conservator at the Smithsonian Institute, shares his extensive knowledge on the art of preservation, offering at-home

techniques for battling damage from light, humidity, rodents and other pests, like careless friends and family members. Divided into easily navigable chapters, the book offers step-by-step guidelines, lists of supplies needed and numerous rules for preserving everything from "family treasures" to "really valuable stuff," with specifics on caring for objects including record players, political memorabilia, fine art, vintage clothing and more. Sidebars detail tips (e.g. how to turn the pages of a vintage book), bust myths (don't store silver in plastic wrap-it'll cause tarnish) and offer "Smithsonian Stories," quirky anecdotes about the Institution's collection. Peppered with personal stories by Jaggar, an amateur collector, about her past maintenance mess-ups, the book is written in clear, concise language that explains these professional techniques to any reader looking to safeguard his loot. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"Saving Stuff provides a wealth of invaluable advice to anyone who wishes to care for, preserve, and display personal collections and family treasures." -- Betty C. Monkman, Curator (Retired), The White House

"Don Williams has distilled years of research and museum experience into practical advice for anyone concerned with preserving a collection -- from the beginning collector to the connoisseur." -- Joseph Godla, Senior Conservator, Historic New England

"I am someone to whom stuff is serious business, so Saving Stuff is indispensable. Luckily, it covers saving books, because one thing I know I'll always want to save is Saving Stuff itself." -- Sam Posey, the author of *Playing with Trains*

This is an invaluable reference book co-written by a Senior Conservator at the Smithsonian Don Williams and journalist Louisa Jaggar. If you ever were wondering out to save those family heirlooms, hobby collections or sentimental items, to prevent decay from the ravages of time, this is the book for you. Bringing together his extensive experience at the Smithsonian, Don Williams covers a huge swath of ground on how to preserve, clean, and display to your valuables. This book covers diverse assortment objects you might want to store. From the obvious art, photographs, and magazines to toys, children's artwork, cast-iron cookware, furniture, musical instruments, and much, much more. Since a lot of this is how-to, it can get dry, so the authors liberally sprinkle stories from the Smithsonian. Before, you get started, there is a list of supplies that will you need for that type of item. They then walk you step-by-step on what to do. Often, the book will show you 3 different levels of preservation - Quick 'N Dirty, Middle Road, and Pharaoh's Tomb. If you have anything that you want to preserve or store safely, this book is a must!!

Full disclosure: I'm friends with the author, Don Williams and briefly consulted him on marketing this book. Have known him since 1994 and his days at the Smithsonian. He really is a Walking Talking Authority on everything in this book - and then some. I have given this book as a Christmas/Birthday gift to friends and family serious about Saving family Stuff. You can take the contents to the bank of Practical Application.

Wow! Don't know how to store your marionette? What about that macaroni sculpture Junior made in the 3rd grade? This book tells you. It is really inclusive. I was expecting how to preserve photographs and wedding dresses, you know, like most of the books do, but this one knocks it out of the park. You stuff those hand puppets with quality paper and put them in a box. I have no heirlooms, my parents threw EVERYTHING away, but if you have your kid's 2nd grade drawing of you, or that sampler your great grandmother made, or whatever, this is YOUR book. I'm amazed, and I am reading it just a page then wait and think and then the next page, I don't want to put it down, but I want it to last....wanting it to last is what this book is about too!

Virtually all materials that make up artifacts and collectables are covered. Copious categories for essentially everything are covered--from baseball trading cards, Edison's wax sound cylinders, wooden artifacts, to oil paintings. Each category tells how to clean, when NOT to clean, and how to do basic restorations that a non-expert might brave. Then it details in a three-part format: Quick & Dirty Methods for fast object stabilization, The Middle of the Road for very good object preservation, and Pharaoh's Tomb to keep objects safe for centuries. This book has useful advice for preserving both household items and museum collections, and it is easy to read and understand. Our precious heritage should be saved and this book will help you do it with ease.

The graphical promise of the cover does not translate to the inside of the book; illustrations would have been very helpful. I also would have liked more specifics in the area of cleaning things.... but the Do/don't organization is helpful and there is a lot of valuable information about taking care of your treasures, from a person who apparently has been charged with taking care of some of the world's treasures...If you need a book that covers caring for a wide variety of items, this is a great general reference.

A good book to hang on to for a long time.

This is a great book for those of use who want to downsize our Stuff. I have checked it out of the library before, but wanted my own copy for reference. I love it. I'm not a hoarder, but I do have a lot of stuff and am very sentimental, so this book is so helpful to getting rid of stuff. It arrived before due date and was in brand new condition. Great seller. Would buy from this source anytime!

I'm not a hoarder, but I am a collector. This book has tons of good info. I got additional books for my sisters, who are also "not" hoarders but collectors.

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