Collection #
P 0158


Collection Information

Historical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 OVA Graphics box, 1 OVC Graphics folder, 60 Oversize Graphics folders in flat file storage


PROVENANCE: Leon Tuttle, Michigan City, IN, 1968; JG Collectibles, Barrington, IL, 2000; Raymond D. Featherstone, Indianapolis, IN, 2001; I.H.S. Development and Membership Services, 2003

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NOTES: This is an artificial collection with additions expected.
HISTORICAL SKETCH

The American circus began in the late eighteenth century in Philadelphia with a trick riding horse show at the Philadelphia Riding School. After 1812 permanent horse shows gave way to traveling exotic animal menageries. Soon these wild animal menageries merged with clown and acrobat shows and became circuses. P.T. Barnum added human and animal oddities to his traveling circus in the middle of the nineteenth century.

Indiana circuses began with Bloomington businessman H.B. Gentry in the 1880s. In 1884 Benjamin Wallace of Peru and James P. Anderson of Columbus, Ohio created a show that traveled under many names before becoming known as the Great Wallace Circus. Wallace became known as the “circus king” and established a circus winter quarters outside Peru, Indiana. In 1907 Wallace bought an exotic German animal show; it debuted as the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus and toured the Midwest. That circus went bankrupt after a tragic train crash in 1918 and was bought out by the American Circus Corporation. It was then bought out by Ringling Brothers in 1929 right before the Great Depression. Most Peru circuses went out of business during the 1930s; the only one that survived was the Cole Brothers Circus.

American circus advertising began in the late 18\textsuperscript{th} century with the printing of handbills and newspaper announcements. By the 1880s, the golden age of circus posters began with the perfection of lithography. Printing companies could generate large quantities of stock posters with generic illustrations that could be used by any circus with the addition of the circus name, location, and dates. In an advertising blitz, these posters were pasted to walls and buildings around each town by teams of workmen before the arrival of the circus.

Circus posters for the most part were production art with many artists creating the images. Specialty posters were also used to highlight acts or unique features of a circus. By the early 20\textsuperscript{th} century some circuses contracted with known artists to design their posters. Lawson Wood, Maxwell Frederic Coplan, Roland Britton, and Bill Bailey are four artists whose names appear on posters in this collection.

According to circus experts the finest printer of circus posters was Strobridge & Co. of Cincinnati, one of which appears in this collection.

Sources:
http://www.circushalloffame.com/
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The American circus posters in this collection for the most part date from 1904 to the 1940s. Processors have identified each poster by listing the title, a description of the illustration, some names of performers, the printer, and the size of the paper. Most of the posters do not identify the artist, location or date, but when it is known these are also listed.

Series 1: contains sample posters of various sizes from the Globe Poster Corporation of St. Louis, Missouri.

Series 2 to 12 contain posters that are printed on one side. Most have illustrations, some are print only. These are arranged alphabetically by the circus name.

Series 2: Al G. Kelly & Miller Brothers Circus
Series 3: Clyde Beatty Circus
Series 4: Clyde Beatty-Cole Brothers Circus
Series 5: Cole Brothers Circus
Series 6: George W. Cole Circus
Series 7: Cristiani Brothers Circus
Series 8: Hagen Brothers Circus
Series 9: Hagenbeck Wallace Circus
Series 10: King Brothers Circus
Series 11: Ringling Brothers & Barnum and Bailey Circus
Series 12: Russell Brothers Circus

Series 13: contains Small Format Posters printed on colored paper with illustrations and printing on both sides for the following circuses:
Atterbury, Cole Brothers, Cooper Brothers, Daily Brothers, Eddy Brothers, Haag Brothers, Wm. P. Hall, Jay Gould, Howe Brothers, Hunt’s, Al G. Kelly and Miller Brothers, King Brothers, Lewis Brothers, Walter L. Main, Parker & Watts, Richards Brothers, Robbins Brothers, Wheeler & Sautelle’s.

Series 14: contains one poster for the Big Top Circus and International Hall of Fame Museum. The International Circus Hall of Fame is located on the grounds of the historic Peru circus winter quarters. It has a collection of artifacts, posters, models, and circus wagons and every summer puts on a circus show with a big top, exotic animals, and nationally known performers.
SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Globe Poster Corp. Sample Posters, ca. 1940

CONTENTS

Title: Globe’s New Lithograph 6 Sheet in Brilliant Colors
Description: Sample poster with clowns and acrobats with horses.
Size: 11 x 8 3/8 inches

Title: Lithographed in Brilliant Colors
Description: Sample Riding Act poster showing clowns and dancing girls with horse and an Aerial Act Poster showing female acrobats on trapeze and aerial rings with clown.
Size: 12 x 9 inches

Title: Pictorial Half Sheet with a Punch
Description: Sample poster of monkeys on high wire and playing musical instruments; a second poster of animal acts with horses, dogs and a woman.
Size: 12 x 9 inches

Title: 8 Color Descriptive One Sheets
Description: Sample Seal poster with trained seals playing horns, balancing ball, and twirling fire stick; Trained Bear poster with a bear on motorcycle and on a ball.
Size: 12 ¼ x 9 1/8 inches

Title: Lithograph Half Sheet Hangers
Description: Sample poster with an elephant carrying a girl; another poster of female acrobats.
Size: 11 ½ x 9 inches

Title: All Cards in Vivid Colors; Stock Jumbo Cards
Size: 22 x 28
Description: Sample of three cards: the word CIRCUS and a circus train; acrobats on horses and a clown; acrobats, a horse and a clown.
Size: 12 x 9 inches

CONTAINER

OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 1

OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 2

OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 3

OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 4

OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 5

OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 6
Title: Lithograph Half Sheet Hangers
Description: Sample poster of tight-rope walkers and a clown and a poster of clowns with a funny car.
Size: 11 ¾ x 9 inches

OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 7

Title: Lithograph Half Sheet Hangers
Description: Sample poster of acrobat rider on a horse; poster of trapeze artists performing.
Size: 11 ½ x 9 inches

OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 8

Title: Special Two Sheets for Your Circus
Description: Sample poster of clown riding a pig and a poster of elephants, horses and lions performing with a clown, lion trainer, ringmaster and horse riders.
Size: 12 x 9 inches

OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 9

Title: Special Wild Animal Lithograph Three Sheet
Description: Sample poster of two lions.
Size: 11 ¾ x 9 inches

OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 10

Title: Lithograph Three Sheets
Description: Sample poster of clown and dancing girl on a horse and a poster of two trapeze artists.
Size: 11 ¾ x 9 inches

OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 11

Title: Lithograph 24 Sheet Stand in Attractive Colors
Description: Sample banner style poster with word CIRCUS and various circus animals and performers.
Size: 12 x 9 inches

OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 12

Title: Attractive Lithograph Pictorial Two Sheets
Description: Sample poster of performing horse with girl and clown and a poster of a girl on an elephant and a clown.
Size: 12 x 9 inches

OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 13

Title: All Cards in Vivid Colors Stock Window Cards
Size: 14 x 22
Description: Sample of four cards, one has the word CIRCUS, a clown, an acrobat, and dancing horses; the second has the word CIRCUS and two clowns; the third has the word CIRCUS and a clown and the forth has performing elephants with a clown.
Size: 12 x 9 inches

OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 14
**Title:** Globe’s New Lithograph Liberty Horse 8 Sheet  
**Description:** Sample poster with a clown and a woman directing dancing horses.  
**Size:** 11 ¾ x 9 inches  
**OVA Graphics:** Box 1, Folder 15

**Title:** Pictorial Window Cards Size 14 x 22  
**Description:** Sample of three cards; one has word CIRCUS and various acts with animals, acrobats and clowns; second has word CIRCUS and performing clowns and animals and a tiger’s head; and the third has a tiger’s head.  
**Size:** 12 x 9 inches  
**OVA Graphics:** Box 1, Folder 16

**Title:** Globe’s New Lithograph 6 Sheet in Brilliant Colors  
**Description:** Sample poster with trapeze acrobats in different poses.  
**Size:** 11 ¼ x 8 ½ inches  
**OVA Graphics:** Box 1, Folder 17

**Title:** Lithograph Clowns Three Sheet  
**Description:** Sample poster of three clowns, one setting off a fire cracker.  
**Size:** 11 ¾ x 9 inches  
**OVA Graphics:** Box 1, Folder 18

**Title:** Attractive Lithograph Pictorial Two Sheets  
**Description:** Sample of two posters, one with trapeze acrobats and one with the head of a lion.  
**Size:** 12 x 9 inches  
**OVA Graphics:** Box 1, Folder 19

**Description:** Sample poster of three clowns with white faces and red make-up with a lit firecracker; blue-green background, top third of poster is blank.  
**Size:** 29 x 21 inches  
**Oversize Graphics:** Folder 1 Flat File 2-i

**Description:** Sample poster of three clowns with white faces and red make-up, with a lit firecracker; blue-green background; top third of poster is blank.  
**Size:** 41 x 28 inches  
**Oversize Graphics:** Folder 2 Flat File 2-i

**Description:** Sample poster of four clowns with a stick of dynamite and a car backfiring; green background with red borders; top of poster is blank  
**Size:** 42 x 13 ¾ inches  
**Oversize Graphics:** Folder 3 Flat File 2-i
**Description:** Sample poster of four clowns laughing; blue background with red border; included is sample showing two posters one same as large sample poster and one of acrobats on horse  
**Size:** 28 x 41 inches

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**Series 2: Al G. Kelly & Miller Brothers Circus**

**CONTENTS**

**Title:** Al G. Kelly & Miller Bros. 2nd Largest Circus  
Cedar Falls, Afternoon & Night, Mon. July 16  
**Description:** Jungle scene with crouching tiger in brown, black, green, blue and red on yellow background; red letters bordered in black on yellow background; bottom section with place and date, red letters on white background glued to main poster.  
**Size:** 36 x 20 ¾ inches

**Title:** Al G. Kelly & Miller Bros. 2nd Largest Circus  
**Description:** Elephant head illustration in gray, red letters with black borders and red banner, all on white background.  
**Printer:** Neal Walters Poster Corp., Eureka Springs, Ark.  
**Size:** 21 x 28 inches

**Title:** Al G. Kelly & Miller Bros. Circus  
**Description:** Laughing clown with white face and red and yellow ruffles and red cap, white letters on blue background  
**Size:** 28 x 21 inches

**Title:** Al G. Kelly & Miller Bros. Circus Cedar Falls, Afternoon & Night, Mon. July 16  
**Description:** Lion, zebras, elephant, rhino, and antelope with jungle background in green, brown and yellow; orange letters bordered in white at top; bottom with red letters on white glued to main poster  
**Size:** 46 ¾ x 25 ¾ inches
Title: Al G. Kelly & Miller Bros. Circus Cedar Falls, Afternoon & Night, Mon. July 16
Description: Hippo, tiger and giraffes against jungle background in shades of green, yellow and brown; red letters outlined in white in middle; bottom section with red letters on white glued to main poster
Size: 47 x 26 inches

Series 3: Clyde Beatty Circus

CONTENTS

Title: Clyde Beatty Trained Wild Animal Circus
Description: Clown head in orange, red, yellow and white on dark blue background; blue border with white letters at top of poster; below are white letters with blue border on red background; blank at bottom
Printer: Majestic Poster Press, Los Angeles, Calif.
Size: 42 x 28 inches

Title: Clyde Beatty Circus, Coliseum Parking Lot, Vermont Ave. at 39th St., Los Angeles, 12 Days Starts Wed. Mar. 21, Final Performance Sun. Nite April 1
Description: Female acrobat on trapeze, yellow letters at top edged in black on red background; three inch round emblem with lion’s head encircled by “World’s Greatest Trained Wild Animal Show”; bottom section pasted on with place and date in red letters on white
Printer: Majestic Poster Press
Size: 35 ¾ x 20 ¾ inches

Series 4: Clyde Beatty-Cole Brothers Circus

CONTENTS

Title: Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus Mounds Mall, Anderson, Ind., Aug. 14-16
Description: Snarling tiger
Size: 29 x 28 inches

Title: Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus Mounds Mall, Anderson, Ind., Aug. 14-16
Description: Laughing clown
Size: 29 x 18 inches
Title: Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus Michigan City, Ind., Pullman Field, Monday Aug. 21
Auspices: Orak Clowns of Shrine (3 copies)
Description: No illustration; red letters on white background and white letters on blue background
Size: 41 ½ x 27 ½ inches

Oversize Graphics: Folder 12
Flat File 21-f

Title: Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus South Bend, Ind., 4-H Fair Grounds, Sat. & Sun. Aug., 19-20
Auspices: Avalon Grotto
Description: No illustration; red and blue letters on white background and white letters on blue background
Size: 27 ¾ x 41 ¾ inches

Oversize Graphics: Folder 13
Flat File 21-f

Title: Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. combined CIRCUS
Description: Animal trainer with lions and tigers; multicolored with red border
Size: 21 x 28 inches

Oversize Graphics: Folder 14
Flat File 21-f

Title: Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus The World’s Largest Circus
Description: Female acrobat standing on shoulder of elephant in gray, white and yellow colors; red letters at top edged in black on yellow background; at bottom white letters in small black circle.
Size: 27 ¾ x 20 ½ inches

Oversize Graphics: Folder 15
Flat File 21-f

Title: Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. World’s Largest Circus Gleaming and Glittering with Gold and Wondrous Surprises for Young and Old
Description: Yellow letters edged in black in pale red circle surrounded by clown heads, elephant head and big top tent with crowds of people; at bottom red letters on yellow background; poster is faded
Printer: Acme Show Print, Hugo, Okla.
Size: 27 ¾ x 20 ¾ inches

Oversize Graphics: Folder 15
Flat File 21-f
**Title:** Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. combined Circus  
Michigan City, Pullman Field, Afternoon and Night, 
Mon. Aug., 21  
**Auspices:** Orak Clowns of Shrine  
**Description:** Hippo “Big Otto” in water with jaws open trees in background; red letters on yellow background above hippo; white at top with red letters  
**Size:** 22 x 14 inches

**Oversize Graphics:**  
Folder 16  
Flat File 21-f

**Title:** Clyde Beatty and Cole Bros. Circus, World’s Largest Circus South Bend, 4-H Fair Gr’ds, Sat. Mat. & Nite Sun. 2 & 5:30, Sat.-Sun. Aug. 19-20 World’s Largest Circus  
**Auspices:** Avalon Grotto  
**Description:** Clown trying to ride horse, two female performers in shades of brown, yellow, white, purple and blue on blue background; yellow strip at top with red and black letters, bottom section with red and blue letters on white background and red box with white letters glued to bottom of main poster  
**Size:** 49 ½ x 28 inches

**Oversize Graphics:**  
Folder 17  
Flat File 19-e

**Title:** Clyde Beatty and Cole Bros. World’s Largest Circus Michigan City, Pullman Field, Matinee and Night. Mon. Aug. 21  
**Auspices:** Orak Clowns of Shrine  
**Description:** Female performer standing on horse in shades of pink, gray, blue and white; white strip at top with red and black letters; bottom section with red letters on white background and blue square with white letters glued to bottom of main poster  
**Size:** 49 x 27 ¾  
**Illustrator:** Roland Britton (?)
Title: Clyde Beatty – Cole Bros. Circus presents
Quarter-million pound act of performing elephants
The most colossal trained animal display ever
presented South Bend, 4-H Fair Gr’ds Sat. Mat. &
Auspices: Avalon Grotto
Description: Elephants in three different acrobatic
positions, four animal trainers in shades of gray, red,
blue and white; spectators in background scene; red
letters outlined in black at top; dark blue strip with
yellow letters at bottom of poster; section with red and
blue letters on white, blue box with white letters, and
red box with white letters glued to bottom of poster
Size: 36 ¼ x 41 ½ inches

Title: Clyde Beatty – Cole Bros. Circus Blood
Sweating Hippopotamus from the River Nile World’s
Largest Traveling Zoo Michigan City, Pullman Field,
Matinee and Night Mon. Aug. 21
Auspices: Orak Clowns of Shrine
Description: Hippopotamus with blood in its open
mouth in shades of brown and red; top of poster has
red letters outlined in black and a 4 ½ inch yellow
banner; section with red letters on white and blue box
with white letters glued to bottom of main poster
(2 copies)
Size: 49 ½ x 27 ¾ inches

Title: Clyde Beatty Cole Brothers World’s Largest
Circus Gleaming and Glittering with Gold and
Wondrous Surprises for Young and Old Michigan
City, Pullman Field Matinee and Night Mon. Aug. 21
To the Circus Main Entrance
Auspices: Orak Clowns of Shrine
Description: Elephant head, 2 clown faces, and
stylized spectators entering big top on sides, in center
yellow letters in red circle; at bottom a section with
red letters on white and blue box with white letters
 glued to poster
Size: 50 x 28 inches
Series 5: Cole Brothers Circus

CONTENTS

Title: Cole Bros. Circus HUBERT CASTLE – World’s Foremost Artist of the Silver Wire
Description: Upside down male acrobat performing with large ring; profile of man in circle with blue background and red border; figures are mainly blue and gold; at top are red letters with black borders; yellow strip at bottom with red and black lettering
Printer: Another U. S. Poster
Size: 41 x 28 inches

Title: Cole Bros. Circus AFRICAN HIPPOPOTAMUS
Description: Front view of hippo in brown, gray and yellow; at top red letters with black borders on white background; red strip at bottom with white letters
Size: 42 x 28 inches

Title: Cole Bros. Circus Presents The Great Cristiani Family of Bareback Riders
Description: Large letters in red with black borders, other letters in red and navy blue on white background with navy blue border (no illustration)
Size: 42 x 28 inches

Title: Cole Bros. Circus Something New! Direct from England “BOXING HORSES” First Time in America
Description: Large circle with two boxing horses wearing trunks and boxing gloves; below that two horses in trunks and boxing gloves sitting on stools attended by three clowns; red letters with black borders at top, navy blue strip with yellow and white letters at bottom; poster in shades of red blue and white. Jagged edge at bottom.
Size: 41 ½ x 28 inches
**Title:** Cole Bros. Circus Jennie O’Brien Famous Equestrienne Greatest Bareback Rider of all Time  
**Description:** Female rider standing by white horse with clown giving her flowers; two horses and acrobat in background; inset picture of Jennie O’Brien and small inset pictures of two men; red letters with black borders at top; poster primarily in red, blue, brown and yellow. Tears around edges and on fold lines, some tape pieces at bottom.  
**Printer:** Erie Litho. & Ptg. Co., Erie, Pa.  
**Size:** 28 x 41 inches

**Title:** Positively Coming Here Soon Wait For The Big One – The Show You Know The Gigantic Cole Bros. Circus One Of The Largest In The World Don’t Be Misled by the Advertising Used by So-Called Shows. Why Not Wait and See a Real Circus Only Big Railroad Circus Coming  
**Description:** Red and black letters on yellow background; black border one inch from edge, no illustration, on verso is “Mike Terry 1935 Season”  
**Size:** 22 x 14 inches

**Title:** Cole Bros. Circus The Cristiani Family in thrilling feats of acrobatic skill  
**Description:** Six acrobatic tumblers in shades of blue, red, yellow and white; red letters bordered in black at top; red letters and black letters on yellow background at bottom  
**Printer:** Another U. S. Poster  
**Size:** 28 x 21 inches

**Title:** Cole Bros. Circus Allen Sisters America’s Greatest Equestriennes  
**Description:** Two women acrobats on a horse in shades of brown, blue and white; red letters on dark blue background at top, red letters and black letters on yellow strip at bottom; one inch border  
**Printer:** Erie Litho. & Ptg., Div. of U.S. Ptg. & Litho. Co.  
**Size:** 41 ½ x 13 ½ inches
Title: Cole Bros. Circus Marion Knowlton America’s Most Fearless Horse Woman
Description: Female acrobat in blue gown on rearing black horse against yellow oval; yellow letters bordered in black on red background at top of poster; red letters and black letters on yellow background at bottom of poster; upper corners torn off, glue residue at bottom, tears on some edges; 1946 penciled on back
Size: 40 ¾ x 25 ¼ inch

Series 6: George W. Cole Circus

CONTENTS
Title: Famous Geo. W. Cole Circus All New This Year
Description: Clown in yellow costume with red and white trim, red letters bordered in yellow on blue background; at top white letters on blue background; 8 inch white circle with red letters, bottom has outline of big top tents
Printer: Neal Walters Poster Corporation, Eureka Springs, Ark.
Size: 42 x 28 inches

Series 7: Cristiani Brothers Circus

CONTENTS
Title: Cristiani Bros. 3-Ring Wild Animal Circus
Description: Four monkeys, two playing drums and cymbals, one on high wire and one tipping his cap; colors are brown, red, green blue and white; at top are large white letters on red background; white border and stamp “Bill Posters & Distributors Union Label”
Printer: Globe Poster Corp., Chicago
Size: 28 x 20 ½ inches
Title: Cristiani Bros. Big Wild-Animal Circus; Waterloo, Old Ball Park – Westfield Ave., Matinee and Night, Sat. July 30 Aft. & Nite
Auspices: B’nai Brith
Description: Giraffe, lion, tiger and rhino in tall grass; hippo in water and polar bear on ice; in shades of blue, green, pink, gray and white; yellow letters bordered in black at top; bottom section with place and date in red letters on white background and white letters on blue background taped to main poster
Size: 30 ¼ x 28 inches

Title: Cristiani Bros. World’s Largest Circus
Waterloo, Old Ball Park, Westfield Ave., Sat. Afternoon & Night, July 30
Auspices: B’nai Brith
Description: Female acrobat in costume with butterfly wings on head of elephant, clown and Indian in lower corners; in shades of red, yellow, blue and gray; bottom section with red letters on white background glued to bottom of main poster; some edge tears
Size: 49 ½ x 26 inches

Series 8: Hagen Brothers Circus

CONTENTS

Title: Hagen Bros. Circus
Description: HAGEN BROS. in red and CIRCUS in blue with red borders printed on white blanket covering body of elephant in center; a clown in both lower corners; other performers and animals around the elephant; “HAGEN” is on separate paper and glued in place; border with holes and tears and tape
Printer: Central Shaw Prtg. Co., Inc., Mason City Iowa
Size: 28 x 42 inches
Title: Hagen Bros. 3 Ring Wild Animal Circus
Description: Four laughing clowns in red and white costumes with blue background; red letters at top on white background; red border with one inch white outer border; some small tears
Printer: Globe Poster Corp., Chicago, Ill.
Size: 27 ¼ x 41 inches

Series 9: Hagenbeck Wallace Circus

CONTENTS
Title: Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus
Description: Head of hippo in upper right corner, head of lion in lower left corner both in shades of brown; red letters with black borders on yellow background, one inch white border
Size: 20 ½ x 28 inches

Series 10: King Brothers Circus

CONTENTS
Title: King Bros. Circus Muskegon, Ellis & Harvey Sts., Sun., afternoon only, July 10
Auspices: Jay Cees
Printer: Acme Show Print, Hugo, Oklahoma; Copyright 1965, Acme Show Print, Hugo, Okla.
Description: Female acrobat posed above white horse, surrounded in blue with white background; at top are red letters bordered in white and black and red letters against a white background; separate piece has place and date in red letters on white background
Size: 27 ¾ x 20 ¾ inches main poster; 9 ¼ x 20 ¾ inches bottom piece
Title: King Bros. Circus Muskegon, Ellis & Harvey Streets, 2 & 4:30 P.M. Sun., July 10 (4 copies)
Auspices: Jaycees
Description: Top third has white letters on blue background, bottom two-thirds has red letters on white background; all text
Size: 28 x 21 inches

Series 11: Ringling Brothers & Barnum and Bailey Circus

CONTENTS

Title: Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows Bring ’Em Back Alive Frank Buck Positively Appearing Twice Daily in Main Performances
Description: Color portrait of Frank Buck in center surrounded by wild animals in natural settings; at top red letters bordered in black and purple; at bottom green letters bordered in black, red letters bordered in black and black letters, all against nature background
Printer: The Strobridge Litho. Co., Cin’ti. & N.Y.
Size: 21 x 28 inches

Title: Ringling Bros Barnum & Bailey
Description: Monkey playing trombone and drum at entrance to show, monkey families entering show, elephant holds a pan collecting nuts for admission, performing pig sticks head out of tent, all in brown, green, white, yellow, blue and gray; at top and bottom are red banners with white letters shaded in black.
Printer: Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc.
Size: 28 x 42 inches
Illustrator: Lawson Wood

Title: The Greatest show on Earth Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus
Description: Blue globe with white letters; two elephants, a clown and a horse holding a sign with white letters on red background; all on yellow background; white edge with red border; bottom edge damaged from tape removal, back has some tape
Size: 28 x 42 inches
Title: Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus The Rieffenach Sisters Riding Beauties of International Fame The Greatest Show on Earth
Description: Two female acrobats in pink costumes on a white horse; dark blue tent shaped background, upper corners have red letters on yellow background, yellow triangle with red letters and black letters, yellow banner at bottom with black letters; white border damaged at bottom where tape was removed
Size: 41 x 28 inches

Oversize Graphics: Folder 41
Flat File 21-g

Title: Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus The Greatest Show on Earth
Description: Female acrobat in blue costume holding head of white horse; blue letters on pink and white background; blue globe with white letters; white border has some tears and damage from tape removal, some tape pieces on back, 1936 written on back
Size: 28 x 42 inches
Illustrator: Maxwell Frederic Coplan

Oversize Graphics: Folder 42
Flat File 21-g

Title: Ringling Bros Barnum & Bailey The Greatest Show on Earth
Description: Large lion head, red and black letters on white background, on back is a Bill Green’s Magazine Exchange stamp, 1940 written on back, small label with 1940 and other information
Size: 28 x 42 inches

Oversize Graphics: Folder 43
Flat File 21-g

Title: Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus
Description: Dark blue letters on orange background on left side, white background on right, snarling panther leaping across poster, large red circus letters outlined in white and blue at bottom; tape on back and front, fold lines, holes and tears around edge.
Size: 28 x 41 inches

Oversize Graphics: Folder 44
Flat File 21-h
Title: Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus The Greatest Show on Earth
Description: Mother and baby hippos swimming in water, top half has red letters bordered in black on a white background; yellow globe with black continent and white letters; lined with yellow, black and blue and ¾ inch white border; one copy is mended on fold lines and has tears and two missing corners; second copy has tape marks at bottom. (2 copies)
Printer: Copyright 1945 Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc.
Size: 41 x 27 ¾ inches
Illustrator: Bill Bailey

Oversize Graphics: Folders 45 & 46
Flat File 21-h

Title: Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey The Greatest Show on Earth
Description: Top half of poster has snarling tiger head against full moon with dark blue background; bottom half has light blue letters against black background; blue globe with black continent and white letters, light and dark blue and white border; edge tears.
Size: 28 x 19 inches

Oversize Graphics: Folder 16
Flat File 21-f

Title: Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey The Greatest Show on Earth
Description: Seven wild cats on stands in a round cage, a lion jumping over four women performers, two leopards being held by women and one leopard lying in woman’s lap, floor of cage and audience in green; at top arched letters in red on yellow background; light blue globe with dark blue continent and white letters; mended on back, several tears around edges
Printer: Copyright 1945 Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc.
Size: 28 ½ x 41 ¾ inches
Illustrator: Bill Bailey

Oversize Graphics: Folder 47
Flat File 21-h
Title: Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Combined Circus The Durbar of Delphi Most Gorgeous Spectacle in History
Description: Parade with Indian elephants carrying sedan chairs with people, horses with riders, camels, and musicians; in many colors with a yellow background; at top are red letters bordered in black, at bottom a yellow banner bordered in red with blue letters bordered in black and black letters
Size: 26 ¾ x 41 inches

Title: Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey The World’s Biggest Menagerie, The Greatest Show on Earth, Afternoon and Night, Waterloo, Fri., Aug. 30
Description: Wild animals on exhibit at circus entrance, surrounded by elephants, spectators and wagon cages with animals in them, in center are two apes in cage labeled “Mr. and Mrs. Gargantua the Great”, at top right is a sign “Entrance to all Seats”, at top are red letters against yellow background, at bottom is a yellow banner with red letters and at lower left a blue globe with white letters; bottom section taped to main poster has red letters and blue letters against white background
Size: 31 ¼ x 41 ¾ inches
Illustrator: Bill Bailey

Title: Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey The Greatest Show on Earth
Description: At top leaping and snarling tiger and at bottom leaping and snarling lion, both in shades of yellow and brown against a green background; in center are red letters against a dark blue background; blue globe with white letters; blue and red border and one inch white outer border
Printer: Copyright 1944 Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc
Size: 37 ¼ x 28 inches
Title: Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey The Greatest Show on Earth Waterloo, Afternoon and Night, Fri. Aug. 30

Description: Clown lying on elephant’s trunk in gray, red and white; yellow letters outlined in black, red globe with black continent and white letters on blue background; bottom section with red and blue letters on white background glued to bottom of main poster

Printer: Copyright 1945, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc., Chicago Show Printing Co.

Size: 36 x 41 inches

Illustrator: Bill Bailey

Title: Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus The Greatest Show on Earth Afternoon and Night Waterloo Fri. Aug. 30

Description: Elephant and majorette parading, in black, yellow, green, red and white; on left half red letters on yellow background; 2 inch black strip with green letters across main poster 10 inches from bottom; section with red and blue letters on white glued to bottom of main poster; tears on edges mended with tape

Size: 36 ¼ x 42 inches

Series 12: Russell Brothers Circus

CONTENTS

Title: Russell Bros. 3 Ring Circus, Pottstown, afternoon & night, Wed. Aug 21, Twice Daily 2 P.M. & 8 P.M.

Description: Blue letters on white background; Pottstown in red; small tears around edges

Size: 10 ¾ x 41 ½
Title: Russell Bros. 3 Ring Circus
Description: Horseback riders, clowns, acrobats, trapeze artists, tumblers, high wire acrobats, acrobats with horses, elephants, camels and seals, in many colors; at top red letters with black borders on yellow background; fold marks and tears on edges.
Size: 26 ¾ x 41 inches


CONTENTS

Title: Atterbury Trained Animal Show
Description: Printed on both sides of orange newsprint with clowns, horses, elephant act and performers, date 1940 written on top margin.
Printer: Central Show Ptg. Co. Mason City, Iowa
Size: 28 x 10 ½ inches

Title: Atterbury Trained Animal Show
Description: Printed on both sides of yellow newsprint with animal, trapeze, and dog and pony acts, date 1934 written on top margin.
Printer: Central Show Ptg. Co. Mason City, Iowa
Size: 28 x 10 ½ inches

Title: Cole Bros. Greatest World Toured Circus
Description: Printed on both sides of orange newsprint with portraits of the Cole brothers, lists of shows, animal acts, railroad trains unloading the circus, Oakland [CA] September 12, 13, 1936
Printer: none listed
Size: 28 x 10 ½ inches

Title: Cooper Bros. Circus
Description: Printed on both sides of yellow newsprint with tents, circus rings cowboy act, clowns, horses, dogs and pigs, date 1923 written on top margin
Printer: none listed
Size: 28 x 10 ½ inches
Title: Daily Bros. Circus  
Description: Printed on both sides of orange newsprint with Teddy the wrestling bear, chimpanzee, dogs, and dancing girls, no date  
Printer: Central Show Ptg. Co. Mason City, Iowa  
Size: 24 x 9 inches  
Oversize Graphics: Folder 55, Flat File 21-h

Title: Eddy Bros. Big 3 Ring Circus  
Description: Printed on both sides of orange newsprint with circus rings, horse show, elephants, clowns, tents, date 1926 written on bottom margin  
Size: 28 x 10 ½ inches  
Oversize Graphics: Folder 55, Flat File 21-h

Title: Haag Bros. Three Ring Circus  
Description: Printed on both sides of orange newsprint with circus rings, lion act, wild animals, horses and tumblers, date 1936 written on side margin  
Printer: Central Show Ptg. Co. Mason City, Iowa  
Size: 24 x 9 inches  
Oversize Graphics: Folder 56, Flat File 21-h

Title: The Great Wm. P. Hall Colossal Circus Shows  
Description: Printed on both sides of purple newsprint with portrait of William P. Hall, St. Leon family acrobats, elephants, DeNova family aerial daredevils, 1904 written in upper and lower margins  
Printer: Distributed by Advertising Car No. 2  
Size: 28 x 10 ½ inches  
Oversize Graphics: Folder 56, Flat File 21-h

Title: Jay Gould’s $1,000,000 Circus and Continental Revue Produced by Chris Cornalla  
Description: Printed on both sides of orange newsprint with photos of Jack Chase and Rex the Wonder Horse, girl with guitar, trapeze artists, elephants, clowns, and Tiny Cowan 650 pound man, date ca. 1927  
Printer: Central Show Ptg. Co. Mason City, Iowa  
Size: 28 x 10 ½ inches  
Oversize Graphics: Folder 56, Flat File 21-h
**Title:** Howe Bros. 3 Ring Wild Animal Circus  
**Description:** Printed on both sides of orange newsprint with photos of Herr Driesbeck wild animal trainer, elephants, hippo, horses, lions, and menagerie, no date  
**Printer:** U.S. Printing & Engraving Co., K.C. MO.  
**Size:** 24 x 9 inches

**Title:** Hunt’s Three Ring Circus  
**Description:** Printed on both sides of salmon newsprint with images of three circus rings, wire artists, elephants, horses, clowns, a bear, lion, tiger, dog, lamb, and jaguar in a cage, patriotic George Washington Bi-centennial spectacle, no date  
**Printer:** Erie Litho. & Ptg. Co., Erie, Pa.  
**Size:** 28 x 10 ½ inches

**Title:** Al G. Kelly and Miller Bros. 3 Ring Circus  
**Description:** Printed on both sides of pink newsprint with photographs of elephants, horses, side show acts, clowns, no date but ca. 1940s  
**Printer:** Central Show Printing Co. Mason City, Iowa  
**Size:** 24 x 9 inches

**Title:** King Bros. Circus  
**Description:** Printed on both sides of pink newsprint with photos of the King brothers, clowns performers, elephants, inside the tent, and illustrations of unloading the circus from a ship, and animal exhibits, no date but ca. 1935  
**Printer:** not listed  
**Size:** 28 x 10 ½ inches

**Title:** Lewis Bros. 3 Ring Circus  
**Description:** Printed on both sides of yellow newsprint with photos of Gray Sisters aerialists, ponies, clowns, Mae Lewis equestrienne, performing Arabs, and illustrations of elephants, date 1938 written on upper margin  
**Printer:** Central Show Ptg. Co. Mason City, Iowa  
**Size:** 28 x 10 ½ inches
Title: Walter L. Main 3 Ring Trained Wild Animal Circus
Description: Printed on both sides of pink newsprint with photos of Walter L. Main, Rex Cole movie star, camels, horses, and a chimpanzee, illustrations of elephant Jumbo Jr., a three ring circus and tents, and high diver the Great Delno, date Sept. 3, [1925]
Size: 28 x 10 ½ inches

Title: Parker & Watts Circus
Description: Printed on both sides of pink newsprint with photos of parade, elephants, horses, Brock Sisters aerialists, big cats, hippo Andy Calino ape man, date Oct. 4, 1937 written on top margin
Printer: Central Show Ptg. Co. Mason City, Iowa
Size: 28 x 10 ½ inches

Title: Richards Bros. Shows
Description: Printed on both sides of yellow newsprint with illustrations of the Da Comas aerialists, Baby Maxine the elephant, tigers, lion, leopards, clowns, and tents, date 1922 written on top margin
Size: 28 x 10 ½ inches

Title: Robbins Bros. Greater Circus
Description: Printed on both sides of pink newsprint with photos of the Robbins brothers, the Billetti Troup high wire act, Jennie O’Brien bareback rider, equestrians Peggy Moore and Lillian Bell, the Flying Hammonds, and clowns, dated July 3, [1940] written on top margin
Printer: none listed
Size: 28 x 10 ½ inches
Title: Wheeler and Sautelle’s Combined Shows

Description: Printed on both sides of yellow newsprint with photos of Wheeler and Sautelle, illustrations of clowns, the Grays wire artists, horse and dog acts, tents, and dancing horses, Wakefield [R. I.], dated Sept. 1, [1920]

Size: 28 x 10 ½ inches

Series 14: Big Top Circus and International Hall of Fame Museum, ca. 2000

CONTENTS

Title: Big Top Circus and Hall of Fame Museum, Southeast 3 Miles off SR 124, Peru, IN. ... June 24 Thru Labor Day

Description: Color illustration of elephants, acrobats, clown and spectators. Across the top of the illustration are the words “Clowns*Elephants*Tigers Live Professional Circus Showtimes: 12:00 & 3:00 P.M. Sun. 3:00 P.M.” and the word CIRCUS in red and yellow outlined in black.

Printer: The Enquirer Printing Company, 310 Culvert St., Cincinnati, Ohio
Size: 22 x 14 inches
CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:  
   http://opac.indianahistory.org/
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0158).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.