

Collection #
P 0158

**AMERICAN CIRCUS POSTER
COLLECTION, 1904–1965, CA. 2000**

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Processed by

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

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

COLLECTION DATES: 1904–1965, ca. 2000

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

RESTRICTIONS:

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: *Life in a three-ring-circus*, [Indianapolis]: Indiana Historical Society, c2001. Folio Q: GV1803 .S65 2001

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1968.0514; 2000.0386; 2001.0700; 2003.0446

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 18th 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 20th 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/>

Brooke, Bob. *Antique Week*. Vol. 33, No. 24 (Whole 1633), August 28, 2000: page 1, 48.
Reference Room Collection: Clipping File: Collectibles

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 1/4 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 1/2 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 fourth 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

Oversize-Graphics
Folder 4
Flat File 21-f

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 ³/₄ 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 ³/₄ x 25 ³/₄ inches

CONTAINER

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 5
Flat File 21-f

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 6
Flat File 21-f

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 6
Flat File 21-f

Oversize Graphics
Folder 7
Flat File 19-e

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

Oversize Graphics
Folder 7
Flat File 19-e

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 ³/₄ x 20 ³/₄ inches

CONTAINER

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 8
Flat File 21-f

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 9
Flat File 21-f

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

CONTAINER

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 10
Flat File 2-i

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 11
Flat File 2-i

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 (?)

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 18
Flat File 19-e

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. & Nite – Sun. 2 & 5:30, Sat. Sun. Aug. 19-20

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

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 19
Flat File 19-e

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

Oversize Graphics:
Folders 20 & 21
Flat File 19-e

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 28inches

Oversized Graphics
Folder 22
Flat File 19-e

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

CONTAINER

Oversize Graphics:

Folder 23

Flat File 21-f

Oversize Graphics:

Folder 24

Flat File 21-g

Oversize Graphics:

Folder 25

Flat File 21-g

Oversize Graphics:

Folder 26

Flat File 21-g

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

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 27
Flat File 21-g

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

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 28
Flat File 21-g

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

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 29
Flat File 21-g

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

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 30
Flat File 21-g

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

Printer: Erie Litho & Ptg. Co., Erie, Pa.

Size: 40 ³/₄ x 25 ¹/₄ inch

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 31
Flat File 19-e

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

CONTAINER

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 32
Flat File 21-g

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 ¹/₂ inches

CONTAINER

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 28
Flat File 21-g

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

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 33
Flat File 21-g

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

Oversize Graphics
Folder 31
Flat File 19-e

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

CONTAINER

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 34
Flat File 21-g

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 ³/₄ x 41 inches

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 35
Flat File 21-g

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
Printer: Erie Litho. & Ptg. Co., Erie, Pa.
Size: 20 ¹/₂ x 28 inches

CONTAINER

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 29
Flat File 21-g

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 ³/₄ x 20 ³/₄ inches main poster; 9 ¹/₄ x 20 ³/₄ inches bottom piece

CONTAINER

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 36
Flat File 21-g

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

Oversize Graphics:

Folder 37

Flat File 21-g

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

CONTAINER

Oversize Graphics:

Folder 38

Flat File 21-g

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

Oversize Graphics:

Folder 39

Flat File 21-g

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

Oversize Graphics:

Folder 40

Flat File 21-g

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.

Printer: Erie Litho. & Ptg. Co., Erie Pa.

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

Printer: Erie Litho. & Ptg. Co., Erie, Pa.

Size: 26 ¾ x 41 inches

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 48
Flat File 21-h

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

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 49
Flat File 21-h

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

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 50
Flat File 21-h

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

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 51
Flat File 19-e

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

Oversize Graphics
Folder 52
Flat File 19-e

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

CONTAINER

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 30
Flat File 21-g

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.

Printer: Erie Litho. & Ptg. Div., U.S. Ptg. & Litho Co.

Size: 26 ¾ x 41 inches

Oversize Graphics:

Folder 53

Flat File 21-h

Series 13: Small Format Circus Posters, 1904–1940s, n.d.

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

CONTAINER

Oversize Graphics:

Folder 54

Flat File 21-h

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

Oversize Graphics:

Folder 54

Flat File 21-h

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

Oversize Graphics:

Folder 54

Flat File 21-h

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

Oversize Graphics:

Folder 55

Flat File 21-h

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
Printer: Erie Lithographing & Printing Co., Erie, Pa.
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

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 57
Flat File 21-h

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

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 57
Flat File 21-h

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

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 57
Flat File 21-h

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

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 58
Flat File 21-h

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

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 58
Flat File 21-h

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]

Printer: Erie Lithographing and Printing Company, Erie, Penns.

Size: 28 x 10 ½ inches

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 58
Flat File 21-h

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

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 59
Flat File 21-h

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

Printer: Erie Litho. and Ptg. Co., Erie, Pa.

Size: 28 x 10 ½ inches

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 59
Flat File 21-h

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

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 59
Flat File 21-h

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]
Printer: Erie Litho. and Ptg. Co., Erie, Pa.
Size: 28 x 10 ½ inches

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 60
Flat File 21-h

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

CONTAINER

OVC Graphics:
Folder 1

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.