Circus

The Circus and the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art are inextricably linked. John Ringling, one of the Ringling Brothers who merged their circus with the Barnum & Bailey Circus, was the founder of the Ringling Museum. In 1948, A. Everett Austin, the first Director of the Ringling Museum, established the Ringling Museum of the American Circus. Since that time it has continued to be at the forefront of documenting, preserving, and exhibiting the history of the circus.


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General Collection

*Click the title to find it in the library catalog.*

**Sarasota and the Circus**


The Ringling Brothers Legacy


The Life of P.T. Barnum


Circus History


**The Circus: Theory and Critical Discourse**


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**Rare Book Collection**

*Please note that items in the Rare Book Collection require advanced notice for access. Please contact a librarian about accessing these materials.*

The general Circus Collection and Rare Collection include works on the circus from the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries. Books in this collection are considered rare because of either their age or scarcity. These books serve as a research source to circus scholars. To browse the Circus and Rare Collections, search the library catalog (lib.fsu.edu), then narrow results by “Library/Collection – FSU Ringling Museum,” then by “Library/Collection – Circus Collection, Rare.” You may also search for works in the Disend Collection and Tibbals Collection.
Periodicals

Bandwagon. Columbus, Ohio: Circus Historical Society, 1957 - .
View online – click here


Online Resources

Circopedia, online encyclopedia of the international circus.

Museum Resources

Ringling Museum of Art, circus poster collection, over 4,000 images
Ringling Museum of Art, circus photographs.
http://ringling.org/CircusMuseums.aspx

For further assistance please contact us at library@ringling.org.