

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION
ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # *89M45

Location: D2-f-2

Title: Barnum, P.T. (Phineas Taylor) Papers

Approximate inclusive dates: 1843-90

Date of receipt: circa 1902

Received from: Ford Family

Volume on arrival: unknown

Number of boxes (after reboxing): 1 flat box 0.3 l.f.

Condition: Some newspaper clippings are fragile

Restrictions: none

Description: SEE ATTACHED SHEETS

Special Formats: Photographs Maps Audio Tapes Films
 Graphics Artifacts Machine Readable Records
 Other (list) _____

Temporary catalog card added entries:

Circus owners
Kimball, Moses

Accessioned by: Laura Grant

Date: April 1989

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

P. T. (Phineas Taylor) Barnum, perhaps the greatest showman of the 19th century and the originator of the travelling circus, was born in Bethel, Connecticut in 1810. In the course of his career, he introduced to the American public the dwarf Tom Thumb, the Swedish singer Jenny Lind, and Jumbo the elephant which were only the most notable among numerous sensations. After establishing the Barnum Museum in 1842 which successfully presented a multitude of exotic exhibits and performances by man and beast, he launched the first travelling circus in 1871. Facing increasing competition in this venture, he combined with his leading rival, James Bailey, in 1881 to form the Barnum and Bailey Circus.

In addition to his career as a showman, Barnum was also involved in politics. He served in the Connecticut state legislature from 1867 to 1869, was mayor of Bridgeport, and was responsible for much of the economic development of the area in that era. He authored three books: Life of P.T. Barnum (1855), Humbugs of the World (1865), and "Lion Jack", A Story (1876). Married twice, he had three daughters. He died in 1891 at his home in Bridgeport.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection consists of correspondence, newspaper clippings, ephemera from the circus and entertainment milieu, and some biographical material on Barnum. The correspondence is outgoing, covering the years 1846 to 1890, and mostly to Moses Kimball of the Boston Museum and Gordon Lester Ford of the New York Tribune. Also included is a sketch of Barnum's career published as the introduction to the two volume biography Struggles and Triumphs (1927) by George S. Bryan; newspaper clippings, mostly from 1843, but also including later advertisements and obituary notices from 1891; and such ephemera as ticket vouchers, name tags, and menus.

An list of the correspondence in the collection is appended.

BARNUM, Phineas Taylor, 1810-91P. T. Barnum Papers

- A.L.S., 1846 Aug. 18, Barnum, at Brighton [Eng.], to Moses Kimball, at Boston, 3 p.
- A.L.S., 1846 Oct. 18, P.T. Barnum, at Kidderminster, Eng., to Moses Kimball, at Boston, 2 p.
- A.L.S., 1847 Mar. 30, P.T. Barnum, at Bridgeport [Conn.], to Moses Kimball, at Boston, 3 p.
- A.L.S., 1847 Apr. 9, Barnum, at Washington [D.C.], to Moses Kimball, at Boston, 3 p.
- A.L.S., 1847 May 10, Barnum, at Philadelphia, to Moses Kimball, at Boston, 1 p.
- b A.L.S., [1848 Feb. 2, P.T. Barnum, at "Museum", to Moses Kimball, at Boston, 2 p.
- Letter, 1848 Nov. 1, P. T. Barnum, at Bridgeport, to Moses Kimball, at Boston, 1 p.
- A.L.S., 1849 Apr. 3, P.T. Barnum, at Philadelphia, to Moses Kimball, at Boston, 1 p.
- A.L.S., [1849] Apr. 10, Barnum, at "Museum", to Moses Kimball, at ___? 1 p.
- A.L.S., [1853], P.T. Barnum, at ___? to Moses Kimball, at ___? 2 p.
- A.L.S.; [1854] Feb. 20, Barnum, at "Museum", to Moses Kimball, at Boston, 1 p.
- A.L.S., 1854 Mar. 8, P.T. Barnum, at "Am Museum", to "Friend Greeley", at ___? 4 p.
- A.L.S., 1854 Jul. 14, Barnum, at Bridgeport, to Moses Kimball, at ___? 4 p.
- A.L.S., [1856] Jun. 19, P.T. Barnum, at New York, to Moses Kimball, at ___? 1 p.
- A.L.S., 1857 Dec. 27, P.T. Barnum, at Bridgeport, to Moses Kimball, at Boston, 1 p.
- A.L.S., 1862 Sept. 26, P. T. Barnum, at "American Museum, New York", to "Miss Ford, at ___? 2 p.
- A.N.S., 1862 Sept. 26, P.T. Barnum, at New York, to ___?, at ___? 1 p.
- A.N.S., 1867 Nov. 30, G. Guålford, at New York on letterhead of "Barnum's New American Museum", 1 p.
- A.L.S., 1870 Nov. 22, P.T. Barnum, at New York, to Moses Kimball, at ___? 1 p.
- A.L.S., 1873 Jan. 18, P.T. Barnum, at New York, to "My Dear [___?]", at ___? 1 p.
- A.L.S., 1873 Mar. 24, P.T. Barnum, at New York, to "My Dear Mr. Ford", at ___? 1 p.
- A.L.S., 1873 Apr. 14, P.T. Barnum, at New York, to "My Dear Ford", at ___? 1 p.

BARNUM, Phineas Taylor,..

- 2 -

- P. T. Barnum Papers (cont'd)
- A.L.S., 1873 Apr. 24, P.T. Barnum, at New York, to "My Dear Mr. Ford", at ___? 2 p.
- A.L.S., 1873 May 10, P.T. Barnum, at New York, to "My Dear Mr. Ford", at ___? 1 p.
- A.L.S., 1873 May 21, P.T. Barnum, at New York, to "My Dear Tribune", at 666? 1 p.
- A.L.S., 1874 Jan. 17, P.T. Barnum, at London, to "My Dear Mr. Ford", at ___? 2 p.
- A.L.S.(facsimile) 1874 Apr. 17, P.T. Barnum, at New York, to Messrs. Dempsey & Carroll, at ___? 1 p.
- A.L.S., 1874 May 30, P. T. Barnum, at Bridgeport, to "My Dear Mr. Ford", at ___? 2 p.
- A.L.S., 1874 Jun. 2, P.T. Barnum, at Bridgeport, to "My Dear Mr. Ford", at ___? 1 p.
- A.L.S., 1874 Jun. 18, P.T. Barnum, at Bridgeport, to "My Dear Mr. Ford", at ___? 1 p.
- A.L.S., 1876 Jun. 13, P. T. Barnum, at Bridgeport, to "Mr. S.H. Hand", at ___? 1 p.
- A.L.S., 1876 Jun. 14, P. T. Barnum, at Bridgeport, to Moses Kimball, at ___? 1 p.
- A.N.S., 1877 Nov. 5, P.T. Barnum, at Bridgeport, to Gordon L. Ford written on bottom of letter from Ford to Barnum dtd. Nov. 3, 1877
- A.N.S., 1881 May 4, P.T. Barnum, at New York, to "Genl. Reilly" written on verso of letter to Barnum from Julian H. Sterling dtd. May 3, 1881
- A.L.S.(facsimile) 1886 Mar. 11, P.T. Barnum, at Bridgeport, to "A.N. Kellogg's Newspaper Company", at ___? 1 p.
- A.L.S., 1886 Jul. 10, P.T. Barnum, at Bridgeport, to "Dear Lucy", at ___? 1 p.
- A.L.S., 1886 Oct. 30, P.T. Barnum, at Bridgeport, to W.L. Sherwood, at ___? 2 p.
- A.N.S., 1887 Apr. 18, P.T. Barnum (an aphorism for autograph collector)
- A.L.S., 1890 May 3, P.T. Barnum, at New York, to "Dear Mrs. Cuyler", at ___? 1 p.
- A.L.S., n.d., P.T. Barnum, at ___? to "Mr. Ford", at ___? 1 p.
- A.E.S., n.d., P.T. Barnum, at ___? to "Mr. Baker", at ___? 3 p.
- L.S., n.d., P.T. Barnum, at ___? to "Sir", at ___? 2 p. on ltrhd. of "Barnum's American Museum"
- A.L.S., n.d., P.T. Barnum, at Niagara Falls, to "My Dear Mr. Ford", at ___? 1 p.
- A.N.signed "Jenkins" [actually Barnum] to Katharine Gordon Ford, 1 p. w/ draft of reply by Miss Ford to Barnum, 1 p.

Barnum correspondence in other collections held by the
 NYPL Manuscripts Division:

(ask reference archivist for possible updates of this list)

Edward P. Ackerman

A.L.S., n.y. Apr. 12, P. T. Barnum, at ___? to "[...?] Globe", at ___? 1 p.

Anthony Collection

Autograph dtd. Apr. 2, 1875 and envelope cover addressed by Barnum

Robert Bonner Letters

A.L.S., 1862 Feb. 5, P.T. Barnum, at Bridgeport, to Robert Bonner, at [New York],
 2 p. w/ envelope

Duyckinck Collection

Printed circular, 1850 Sept. 6 reagrdng the tickets for Jenny Lind's first
 concert, 1 p.

Letter in third person, 1850 Sept 24, at "Irving House", 1 p.

Montague Collection - item #170

A.L.S., 1868 Mar. 21, P.T. Barnum, at "438 Fifth Ave." [New York], to
 "My Dear Mr. Webb", at ___? 1 p.

Townsend Walsh Papers

A.L.S., 1861 Jan. 7, P.T. Barnum, at New York, to "Dr. Cogswell", at ___?
 1 p. on ltrhd. of "Barnum's American Museum"

A.L.S., 1868 Oct. 9, P.T. Barnum, at Bridgeport, to "Mrs Cronkhite", at ___? 1 p.

A.L.S., 1879 Oct. 10, P.T. Barnum, at Bridgeport, to "Messrs. Harper Brothers",
 at ___? 2 p.

A.L.S., 188[2?] Apr. 14, P.T. Barnum, at New York, to "Messrs. Harper &
 Brothers", at ___? 1 p.

A.L.S., 1884 Jan. 30, Harper & Brothers", at New York, to P.T. Barnum,
 at ___? 2 p.

Brown Brothers & Company

Entry for PTB in volume #122, page 1297.

BARNUM, Phineas Taylor...

- 4 -

Addendum 3/9/84

UNITED STATES SANITARY COMMISSION

A.L.S., 1863 Oct. 29, P.T. Barnum, at New York, to John S. Blatchford.

On letter head of Barnum's American Museum. Mentions 'Tom Thumb.'

See Also

Theatre Boxes