



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Circus collection**

1870s-1940s

\*T-Mss 2014-148

Compiled by Weatherly Stephan, 2015

## Summary

**Title:** Circus collection

**Date:** 1870s-1940s

**Size:** .21 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** Compiled by staff members of the Billy Rose Theatre Division.

**Abstract:** This collection dates from the 1870s to the 1940s and consists of programs, clippings, advertisements, tickets, and pamphlets that document the history of the circus as well as New York City-based, national, and international circus troupes. Many clippings and advertisements are for P. T. Barnum's and the Ringling Brothers's traveling circuses. Drafts of circus-related writings by theatre manager Frank Wilstach are also included.

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**Preferred citation:** Circus collection, \*T-Mss 2014-148. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Weatherly Stephan, 2015

## Key Terms

### Subjects

Circus -- New York (State) -- New York  
Circus -- United States -- History

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)  
Programs (documents)

### Names

Wilstach, Frank Jenners, 1865-1933  
P.T. Barnum (Firm)

Ringling Brothers