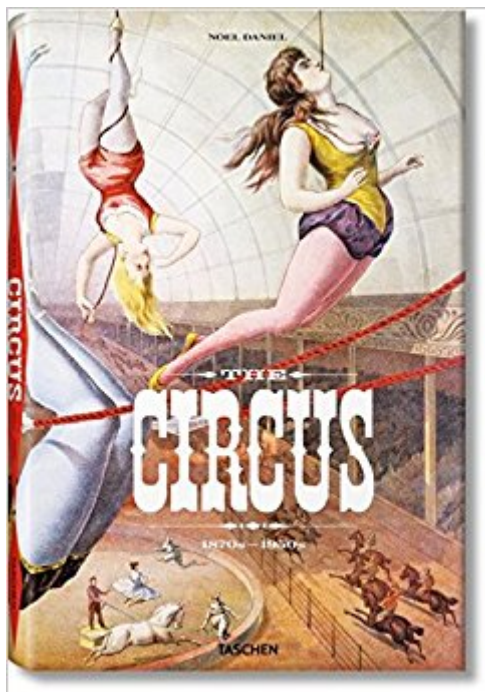


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# The Circus Book, 1870s-1950s



## Synopsis

The greatest show on earth: The history and legacy of the circus     During its heyday, the American circus was the largest show-biz industry the world had ever seen. From the mid-1800s to mid-1900s, traveling American circuses performed for audiences of up to 14,000 per show and crisscrossed the country on 20,000 miles of railroad in one season alone. The spectacle of death-defying daredevils and strapping super-heroes gripped the American imagination, outshining theater, comedy, and minstrel shows of the day, and ultimately paving the way for film and television. The circus offered young Americans the dream of adventure and reinvention. This book brings to life the grit and glamour of the circus phenomenon. Images include photographic gems by early circus photographers Frederick Whitman Glasier and Edward Kelty, many of the earliest color photographs ever taken of the circus from the 1940s and 1950s, iconic circus photographs by Mathew Brady or Cornell Capa, and little-known circus images by Stanley Kubrick and Charles and Ray Eames. For the first time, contemporary readers can experience the legend of the American circus in all its glory.     Text in English, French, and German

## Book Information

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"This is a gee-whiz spectacle of a book, a three-ring extravaganza as bright as a pinball machine."

-The New York Times Book Review "This is a gee-whiz spectacle of a book, a three-ring extravaganza as bright as a pinball machine." -The New York Times Book Review"

With 670 pages and nearly 900 color and black-and-white illustrations, this book brings to life the grit and glamour behind the circus phenomenon. Images include photographic gems by key early circus photographers such as Frederick Whitman Glasier and Edward Kelty, about 180 of the earliest color photographs ever taken of the circus from the 1940s and 1950s, 200 posters by the famous Strobridge lithographers, iconic circus photographs by Mathew Brady, Cornell Capa, Walker Evans, Weegee, Lisette Model, and little-known circus images by Stanley Kubrick and Charles and Ray Eames; also included are rare color and black-and-white lithographs and engravings from the 16th-19th centuries illustrating the worldwide roots of the circus, as well as original sideshow banners by legendary sideshow banner artists Nieman Eisman, Fred G. Johnson, and David "Snap" Wyatt. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This gorgeously illustrated tome just arrived and I've been pouring over the contents since. I have been in love with the circus since I was a child. Each year when the weather warms up and summer begins, I dream of the dusty days of brilliant circus trains in times long gone. In the past twenty years I've collected and read many compendiums on the subject. But, this book is "the one". First, its enormous. Its larger and heavier than any art museum coffee table book I own, and comes in its own sturdy book-box sleeve. The pages are heavy weight, with brilliant illustrations of antique circus posters and never before seen photographs that belonged to the performers. This volume is simply enchanting. My one and only complaint is that the print is small, and the text often on red paper leaving it near impossible to read without a magnifier. But, that's okay. I have one. Its touching, inspiring, exciting, and so well written you wish you could travel back in time to see these wonderful and exotic shows; I always have, and this book helps you do a little time travelling. I cannot give enough praise for this thoroughly researched, well written, and beautiful book. My hats off to the author and all the performers both human and animal, past and present. This book reminds us that circus performers, no matter their exquisite talents, are just people like you and me. The contents were compiled and written with passion and love.

THE CIRCUS 1870 - 1950. This is a behemoth of a coffee table book and is quite simply the last word on the subject of circus in America. I bought the book on-line as a Christmas gift for my husband, an ardent circus fan. I was unprepared for the enormity of the volume, when the at least 20 pound package arrived. But, when opened, I discovered a treasure chest of marvelous art and history. He loves it! The big and boffo art posters spell CIRCUS in the best of hyperbole and the

book is a treat to peruse. Better get something like a dictionary table, though, to hold it. Then, pull up a chair, roll up your sleeves and have at THE CIRCUS, for an hour or ten of delightful immersion and celebration of an entertainment institution not just American, but world wide, with a rich and lustrous history.

This book is truly amazing. Lots of great photos and posters. Many of the photos looked as if they were taken only last year! The quality of the images are large and amazing! The text of the book is in three languages, which sometimes can become a nuisance if only interested in reading your own language, but not a real big issue at all. The only major flaw with the book would have to be that it isn't in chronological order, instead, the chapters go by areas of the circus, such as aerial performers, back lot, sideshows, etc. If you're one interested in reading this book for the visual history of the American circus, it can get quite confusing with the book jumping around so often. Another thing I disliked is that each chapter is repeated and additional 2 times for the other 2 languages, but with different images (thank goodness). But with that said, all of the very rare images of performers and posters make up for these issues tenfold and worth the price. As of this writing, the book is only 44 dollars on . A total steal for such a behemoth of a book! Looking forward to getting the "Magic" one!

Beautiful and humongous book. Perhaps with not as much information as the book about magic from the same series, but just the collection of circus posters is worth several times the price.

Received the book today and I am extremely happy with the product and packaging. I bought this book because I saw it at a retail store while looking for something else and strangely (as someone who is indifferent to all things Circus) it had been stuck in my head. I thought it would be an ideal coffee-table book and interesting conversation piece. The book is well put together, undeniably classy and seems to be of exceptional quality and by that I mean it doesn't seem like it will fall apart after lots of handling. Oh, not to mention it feels as if it weighs about 20 lbs. This book was going to be a Christmas gift however, this copy is mine and will be ordering another.

I am a writer, actor, and costume designer and I LOVE this book. This fabulous collection is a bargain bin of inspiration and ideas! The book is HUGE just like the circus itself! The paper quality and dollar value is extraordinary. At \$45.00 it feels like a steal. I was taken aback at first because when I first opened the book I saw written German, and freaked until I realized that the book was in

3 languages. So don't freak. It's okay. I am the envy of all my friends that have seen the book. One friend was caught taking pictures to post her wish on her FB wall. I can't wait for my summer break to really dive in and start creating. In the meantime, I read, look, and cogitate ideas for costumed characters set in an 1895 circus.

This is a beautiful book, full of photos (which is what I was interested in) and some actual legit narrative commentary. This was a gift for my former-Ringling Bros. circus performer mother, and she really enjoyed it even being able to identify people she knew and worked with during her time with the circus. Sidenote, this is a BIG and HEAVY coffee table book, if you were wondering.

This book is many, many things.-Immensely heavy. Don't try to pick up the package with one hand when it arrives at your house. This thing weighs at LEAST 20 lbs.-Very large. it's 15 inches by 10 inches. Very large format.-Full color. Beautiful color photos on nearly every page.-Jam-Packed full of all of the circus lore you can imagine-Written in English and German and French, all at the same time!-A perfect, I mean PERFECT gift for any circus buff you may know. I know this because I bought it for a circus buff and he loves this book!Seriously, a beautifully executed book of circus memories from all over. You won't regret this book. :)

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