



BHC-MSS 0008  
Guide to the Papers of James McCaddon  
By Meghan Rinn  
2018

**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** McCaddon, James

**Title:** Papers of James McCaddon

**Dates:** 188-1922 (bulk 1880-1910s)

**Quantity:** 1 manuscript box, 2 oversize boxes

**Abstract:** One of the key managers for the Barnum and Bailey Circus, the papers of James McCaddon feature personal material from McCaddon's life. They primarily include his memoir, and a number of personal scrapbooks that document family trips and the birth of his son, James McCaddon Junior.

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Bridgeport History Center

**Biographical History**

James T. McCaddon was born in Beverly, Ohio on January 31, 1859. Starting as a manager of Adam Forepaugh's circus, McCaddon went on to become the business manager of the Barnum and Bailey Circus. McCaddon was also the brother-in-law of James A. Bailey by way of James' sister, Ruth, and thus deeply connected to the business by family as well as interest.

**Scope and Content Note:**

Contains personal life material of James McCaddon. Of note is his memoir, undated, and a number of scrapbooks that contain photographs of family trips and correspondence.

**Arrangement note:**

Manuscripts were given priority, with the bulk of the collection focusing on the memoir written in McCaddon's hand. Scrapbooks were separated out from other material, and divided between McCaddon's professional life and personal life.

**Administrative information:**

**Provenance:** Purchase

**Related Collections**

McCaddon Collection of the Barnum and Bailey Circus (TC040), Princeton University. Library. Dept. of Rare Books and Special Collections, Manuscript Division.  
<http://arks.princeton.edu/ark:/88435/02870v897>

**Preferred Citation:**

Papers of James McCaddon (BHC-MSS 0008), Bridgeport History Center.

**Names and Subject Tracings***Personal Names*

Barnum, P. T. (Phineas Taylor), 1810-1891.

Bailey, James Anthony, 1847-1906

*Corporate Names*

Barnum & London Circus

Barnum and Bailey

Barnum and Bailey--History.

Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus

*Subject headings*

Circus--United States--History--19th century.

Circus--United States--History--20th century.

Circus owners.

*Genres*

Manuscripts.

Scrapbooks

**Detailed box and folder listing**

## Box 1.

1. Memoir, Index-page 28
2. Memoir, 29-239
3. Memoir, 243-341
4. Memoir, 349-end
5. Letterhead for the Estate of James A. Bailey including McCaddon's name, undated
6. Dispute of Will of James A. Bailey,
7. The Parish News, Philadelphia, May, 1895
8. Program, Liberty Theatre and Gaiety Theatre
9. Four Years in Europe: The Barnum and Bailey Greatest Show on Earth in the Old World, c. 1890s-1900s
10. National Geographic Magazine, October 1931

## Box 2, oversize

1. Scrapbook, Barnum and Bailey, 1890-1931
2. Scrapbook, clippings related to Ruth L. Bailey (1912); Mary McCaddon (1912), Mary McCaddon Larkin (1906)

## Box 3, oversize

1. Scrapbook, the Baby's Biography for James McCaddon Jr., 1895
2. Scrapbook, Old Cairo, c. 1909
3. Scrapbook, McCaddon family, 1888-1922