



BHC-MSS 0023

## Guide to the Microfilmed Circus Route Books Collection, 1872-1902

By Meg Rinn

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### **Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Barnum and Bailey Circuses, Adam Forepaugh's Shows

**Title:** Microfilmed Circus Route Books Collection

**Dates:** 1872-1902

**Quantity:** 2 manuscript boxes

**Abstract:** As a major repository for P.T. Barnum related material, the Bridgeport History Center has amassed a large collection of circus material. This has included amassing circus route books, which list the performance locations and show details for each show in a given year. These early route books provide useful information to early circus ventures in America, starting in the 1870s and going into the 1890s.

**Language:** English, German

**Repository:** Bridgeport History Center

### **Administrative History**

As a major repository for P.T. Barnum related material; the Bridgeport History Center has amassed a large collection of circus material. This has included amassing circus route books, which list the performance locations and show details for each show in a given year. These early route books provide useful information to early circus ventures in America, starting in the 1870s and going into the 1890s. These materials have been consulted frequently, and sustained damage as a result. In 2007, the Bridgeport History Center undertook a microfilming project, and was able send several books for conservation as well.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The scope focuses on American circuses starting in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and tracks their movements into the 20<sup>th</sup>. For more late 19<sup>th</sup> century route books, please refer to the Bridgeport History Center's microfilmed route book collection, BHC-MSS 0024.

### **Arrangement note:**

Arrangement has been dictated by enclosure. For many of the route books, they have been given individual enclosures. Others have been stored in folders. Material in individual enclosures has been arranged alphabetically by circus's main name (such as Adam Forepaugh or Barnum and Bailey), then chronologically. Material in folders has been arranged in chronological order only.

### **Administrative information:**

**Provenance:** Unknown, this material has been acquired over the years.

**Restrictions:** Material may only be accessed by microfilm surrogates located in the Bridgeport History Center.

**Preferred Citation:**

Microfilmed Circus Route Books Collection (BHC-MSS 0023), Bridgeport History Center.

**Names and Subject Tracings***Corporate Names*

Adam Forepaugh

Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus

*Subject tracings*

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

Circus performers--United States.

**Detailed box and folder listing**

## Box 1

1. Adam Forepaugh Shows, 1890
2. Adam Forepaugh Shows , 1893
3. Adam Forepaugh Shows , 1894
4. Route Book of P.T. Barnum's Greatest Show on Earth and the Great London Circus since the consolidation, 1881-1885
5. The Barnum Budget of Tent Topics, 1886
6. The Barnum and Bailey Show route book, 1888
7. The Barnum and Bailey Show route book, 1889
8. The Barnum and Bailey Greatest Show on Earth route book, 1890
9. The Official Barnum and Bailey Route Book, 1893
10. The Official Barnum and Bailey Route Book, 1894 (brown cover)
11. The Official Barnum and Bailey Route Book, 1894 (white cover)
12. The Official Barnum and Bailey Route Book, 1895 (red cover)

## Box 2

1. The Official Barnum and Bailey Route Book, 1896
2. Barnum and Bailey in the World, 1897-1901
3. Spezial Route of the Barnum and Bailey Greatest Show on Earth touring the Continent, France and Switzerland, 1902
4. NEDCC documentation, 2007
5. Before slides, 2007
6. After slides, 2007

## Box 3

1. P.T. Barnum's Great Traveling Exposition and World's Fair route book, 1872
2. P.T. Barnum's Great Traveling Exposition and World's Fair route book, 1873
3. Great Roman Hippodrome route book, 1875

4. P.T. Barnum's New and Greatest Show on Earth, 1877
5. P.T. Barnum's New and Greatest Show on Earth, 1878
6. P.T. Barnum's New and Greatest Show on Earth, 1879
7. Cooper and Bailey's Great London Circus and Allied Shows, 1880
8. P.T. Barnum's Greatest Show on Earth, 1880
9. Wood's route book of P.T. Barnum's Greatest Show on Earth, 1881
10. P.T. Barnum's Greatest Show on Earth and Great London Circus, 1884
11. Das Buch der Wunder Barnum and Bailey Greatest Show on Earth [German], 1990