

Circus Historical Society



Waultraud Frielani, Ringling Barnum Circus. (Illinois State University's Special Collections, Milner Library)

*Dedicated to preserving
the rich history of circus.*

circushistory.org



Kingling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus (Illinois State University's Special Collections, Milner Library)

About Us

The Circus Historical Society

(CHS) is an educational organization dedicated to

preserving the rich history of circus. Our membership includes

active and retired circus professionals, researchers, educators, students, archivists, librarians, historians, enthusiasts, and others united to share circus history and information.

CHS began in 1939 when ten charter members set a goal to create greater awareness of circus history. *SPEC*, its first publication, was issued in 1940 and the name changed to *Bandwagon* two years later. The first convention was held in 1946.

Today, CHS members engage with the society's offerings and programs, and work to preserve and celebrate the circus.

CHS welcomes anyone with an interest in circus history.



Felix Adler (Circus World Museum)

Bandwagon: The Journal of the Circus Historical Society

Bandwagon publishes in-depth articles relating to circus history. Articles include such topics as the logistics of circuses, specific acts, the careers of performers and circus people, photo essays, interviews, and more. The journal, with a history spanning over 75 years, also contains illustrations and photos from collectors and major repositories. *Bandwagon* is recognized worldwide for its research and significant contributions to circus scholarship.

Submissions are welcomed on a rolling basis. The journal is archived digitally and distributed quarterly to members and subscribers.



Member Benefits

CHS membership benefits include:

- 4 issues of *Bandwagon* including access to online copies back to Volume 1
- Entry to the Back Yard, the members-only section of the CHS website, where you can participate in discussions on the forums, find others with similar interests, and update your profile
- Access to the CHS members-only online Bookstore
- Opportunities to meet collectors and sellers of circus artifacts and ephemera
- Participation in the annual Convention

Become a member today at circushistory.org



Lillian Leitzel (Ringling Museum)

Events, Research, and more

CHS provides opportunities for members and non-members to come together in person and online to discuss circus history, memorabilia, and research.

Annual Convention

An annual convention that includes presentations from circus historians and authors, a banquet, tours of circus locations and museums, an auction, live shows, and more.

Virtual Talk Series

Circus History Live! is a monthly virtual series for members and others interested in circus history, featuring authors, historians, and experts.

Website

The website provides news, research, sources, event info, and articles with content vetted by circus historians.

Newsletter

Distributed to members via email, the *Advance Car* contains research, circus history, event information, and more.

Research

CHS offers guides to research, comprehensive databases, an archived website with history and discussions, details on accessing national archives, publications, and collections, and more.

Facebook

Connect with over 10,000 circus enthusiasts in the CHS Facebook Group, including current and retired performers, researchers, educators, and collectors.





Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey poster (Chris Berry Collection)



Columbia bandwagon (Circus World Museum)

circushistory.org



CircusHistoricalSociety

The Circus Historical Society is a tax exempt not for profit educational organization dedicated to preserving the rich history of circus.