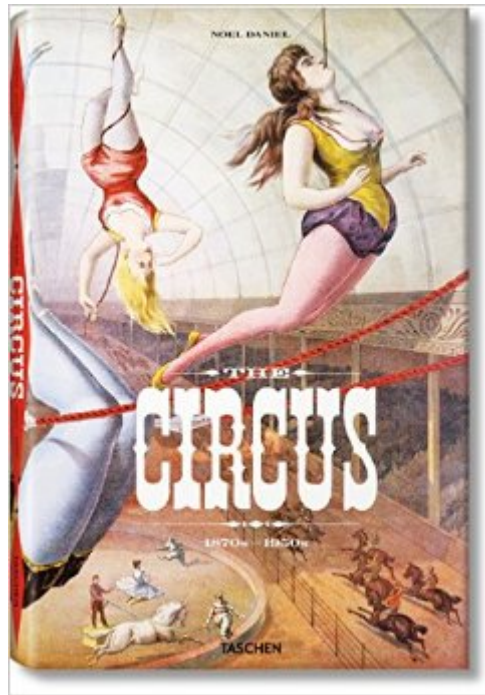


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The Circus Book, 1870s-1950s



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

Hardcover: 544 pages

Publisher: Taschen; Slip Mul edition (November 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 3836520257

ISBN-13: 978-3836520256

Product Dimensions: 10.5 x 2.2 x 15.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (58 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #305,942 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > Circus #645 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Pop Culture > Art

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Customer Reviews

I own many circus books and i was advised about this one is a must.For a \$200 circus book it better be great one and the waters better part.When it arrived I was amazed at the size and the weight of it. Then i open it up and it was like the land of Oz going from black and white to TECHNICOLOR.In

all my life I have never seen a book printed like this with all those beautiful color photos of the circus. Where ever they got those photos they are the best I have even seen in any book. The WOW factor and it is just amazing book. It is a must for the circus collector. I am so glad I got a copy and it is worth every penny of the price. Harry Kingston

Whilst by size this may be considered a novelty item and of particular interest to students of American Circus this has much more value than that. The oversize format and use of fold out pages presents an opportunity to display visual reproductions which otherwise would not be possible on this scale. Of particular interest to me was the presentation of items from very early circus history. This must have been a mammoth publishing enterprise with some commercial risk considering the total scope of the circus book reading customer base but the contributors and publishers must be complemented upon the finished product. Not one to read in bed but a valuable addition to the collections of those interested in circus and visual presentation. AC.

This is a huge book. This coffee table book is too big for the coffee table. Buy two and you have a coffee table. It's a heavy book - you can't read it in bed. You can't read it waiting at the airport, on the train or the bus. They don't build bookcases in this size. It's a freak book. But it's also a beautiful book. Most circus books can be put in one of two categories - books about particular circuses /circus dynasties or books about the life in circus. This book is in a category of its own - it describes the circus as an important factor in the development of the American popular culture. The picture material is beautiful but the text, in three languages, is even better. It's easy to make this oversized publication to a laugh matter. But it's also a really good buy if you are interested in circus and popular culture. You get a lot of book for your money - \$ 6.90/pound or \$ 2.3/square yard. Buy it.

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.

I have to admit I wasn't expecting such a huge book, the book is truly a well documented encyclopedia of the gestation of the circus industry. Since I was hoping to use it as photographic reference material, it was perfect for the task, each page had well captioned images depicting the various influences and changes in circus culture. Moreover it's not heavy reading. A great collection for circus fans.

THE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE WELL WORTH THE PRICE FOR THIS BOOK NO WORDS CAN DESCRIBE THEM....THE ONLY DRAWBACK A GREAT AMOUNT OF THE TEXT IS FRENCH AND GERMAN AND THERE ARE SOME PHOTOS THAT GO BEYOND 1950 WHICH IS GREAT....ANY CIRCUS FAN WOULD ENJOY....A VERY LARGE BOOK BRIEFCASE SIZE AND WEIGHS ABOUT 20 LBS.

All my life I have been fascinated with the circus. I can remember my first trip as a child, where I got my first Betty Boop doll, and my first cotton candy. The whole experience was never to be forgotten. For Christmas this year, my daughter bought me this wonderful book. Although before my time, it brought back to me all the things I so loved about my visits to the circus. What wonderful pictures, poster reproductions, and stories. You don't need to run away to enjoy the circus life, this book covers it all!

For anyone who loves the Circus or dreamed of running off to join it, they will really enjoy this book. It's a terrific collection of photos, posters and story that truly capture the spirit of the circus culture. The book conjures a lost time where opulence, oddities and defiance of death were sought after entertainment in a rigid society. One can join in the fun with your own amazing feat of "HOLD AND ENORMOUS BOOK ON YOUR LAP WITHOUT LOSING THE FEELING IN YOUR LEGS" stunt. So, I recommend it as the perfect coffee table book.

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