

## Finding Aid to the Joseph H. Wyman Papers, 1947-1978

### Summary Information

**Title:** Joseph H. Wyman papers

**Creator:** Joseph H. Wyman (primary)

**ID:** 117.8000

**Date:** 1947-1978 (inclusive); 1960s-1970s (bulk)

**Extent:** 1 linear foot

**Language:** The materials in this collection are in English.

**Abstract:** The Joseph H. Wyman papers are a collection of research notes, presentations, photographs, slides, and audio recordings relating to the history of circuses

**Repository:**

Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong

One Manhattan Square

Rochester, New York 14607

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### Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Use:** This collection is open for research use by staff of The Strong and by users of its library and archives. Though the donor has not transferred intellectual property rights (including, but not limited to any copyright, trademark, and associated rights therein), The Strong has permission to make copies in all media for museum, educational, and research purposes.

**Conditions Governing Access:** At this time, audio recordings are inaccessible to researchers due to a lack of playback equipment.

**Custodial History:** The Joseph H. Wyman papers were donated to The Strong in 1978 as a gift from the estate of Mayor Joseph H. Wyman through Jerry R. Betts. The papers were accessioned by The Strong under Object ID 117.8000 and were received from the estate of Mayor Joseph H. Wyman through Jerry R. Betts along with one book.

**Preferred citation for publication:** Joseph H. Wyman papers, Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong

**Processed by:** Cassidy Smith, July 2019

### Controlled Access Terms

#### Personal Names

- Barnum, P.T. (Phineas Taylor)
- Ringling North, John
- Wyman, Joseph H.

#### Corporate Names

- Barnum and Bailey Circus
- Circus Hall of Fame
- Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus
- Ringling Bros. Circus

- Ringling Museum
- Sells Bros. Circus

**Subjects**

- Calliope
- Circus
- Circus parade
- Circus--Folklore
- Circus--History
- Circus--Research and reference
- Circus--Social aspects
- Circus--United States
- Clowns
- Grandview Heights, Ohio
- Popular culture

**Biographical Note**

Joseph H. ("Joe") Wyman (1900-1978) of Ohio was a longtime circus enthusiast. Throughout his lifetime, Wyman treasured circuses and spent years researching their history. Wyman collected information from newspaper articles, interviews, visiting circuses and related museums. Wyman developed presentations from his research, incorporating visual slides and audio recordings to accompany his public lectures.

Wyman served as Mayor of Grandview Heights, Ohio from 1966-1971. In 1968, the former Grandview Woods park was renamed Wyman Woods in his honor.

**Collection Scope and Content Note**

The Joseph H. Wyman papers are a collection of research notes, presentations, photographs, slides, and audio recordings relating to the history of circuses. Wyman's research notes include essays on topics such as circus companies, animals, performers, and basic circus operations during the 18th through 20th centuries. Slides and pictures include depictions of traditional or old-time circuses, as well as images from the Ringling Museum and the Circus Hall of Fame. Wyman's presentations on circus history included slides, audio recordings, and notes. Reference materials maintained by Wyman are also part of this collection.

The Joseph H. Wyman collection is arranged into three series. The materials are housed in three archival document boxes.

**System of Arrangement**

Series I: Research and presentations, 1947-1978 and n.d.

Series II: Images, 1971-1975 and n.d.

Series III: Audio recordings, 1964 and n.d.

## Contents List

### Series I: Research and presentations, 1947-1978 and n.d.

**Scope and Content Note:** This series contains personal research papers on the history of circus, presentation notes and booklets, and reference articles. These materials were compiled by Joseph H. Wyman. Though many materials are undated, they are likely from the 1960s through the 1970s.

#### Box 1

- Folder 1 “The Circus: Lore and Legends” – research notes, text drafts, and reference; 1947-1978 and n.d. [Part 1 of 2]
- Folder 2 “The Circus: Lore and Legends” – research notes, text drafts, and reference; 1947-1978 and n.d. [Part 2 of 2]
- Folder 3 “Memories of the Circus” – research notes, text drafts, and reference; n.d. [c. 1960s-1970s]
- Folder 4 “Down Memory Lane: The Old Time Circus” – presentation draft text (“short version”), n.d. [c. 1960s-1970s]
- Folder 5 “Down Memory Lane: The Old Time Circus” presentation draft text and notes (“long version”), n.d. [c. 1960s-1970s]
- Folder 6 “Down Memory Lane: The 4th of July Parade, 1964, Milwaukee, Wisconsin” – presentation draft text and notes, n.d. [c. 1964-1970s]
- Folder 7 “Circus Notes” – research notes, presentation draft text, and advertisement about presentation by Wyman; n.d. [c. 1960s-1970s]
- Folder 8 Musical instrument descriptions, copies, and articles [also circus history], 1961 and n.d. [c. 1950s-1970s]

#### Box 2

- Folder 1 Slide descriptions, presentation overviews and notes, n.d. [c. 1960s-1970s]
- Folder 2 Presentation draft and slide numbers, n.d. [c. 1960s-1970s]

### Series II: Images, 1971-1975 and n.d.

**Scope and Content Note:** This series houses photo slides obtained from the Ringling Museum, the Circus Hall of Fame. It also contains photos and postcards of bandwagons, merry-go-rounds, and other circus related material. Though the slides in this series are primarily undated, they are likely from the 1960s through the 1970s.

#### Box 1

- Folder 9 “Old Time Circus” – slides, n.d.
- Folder 10 “Circus Hall of Fame” – slides, n.d.
- Folder 11 “Ringling Museum” – slides, n.d.
- Folder 12 “Circus Wagons” – slides, n.d.
- Folder 13 “Circus Lore and Legends” – slides, n.d.
- Folder 14 Informational postcards, 1971
- Folder 15 Photographs, 1975

**Series III: Audio recordings, 1964 and n.d.**

**Scope and Content Note:** This series holds two ¼” reel audio recordings: one recorded during the Milwaukee, Wisconsin Fourth of July Parade in 1964, and one reel containing music to accompany Wyman’s “Down Memory Lane” presentation about circus history.

**Box 3**

- Object 1 “Down Memory Lane with the Old Time Circus” – audio recording on ¼” reel, n.d. [c. 1960s-1970s]
- Object 2 “Old Circus Wagons and 1964 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 4th of July Parade” – audio recording on ¼” reel, 1964