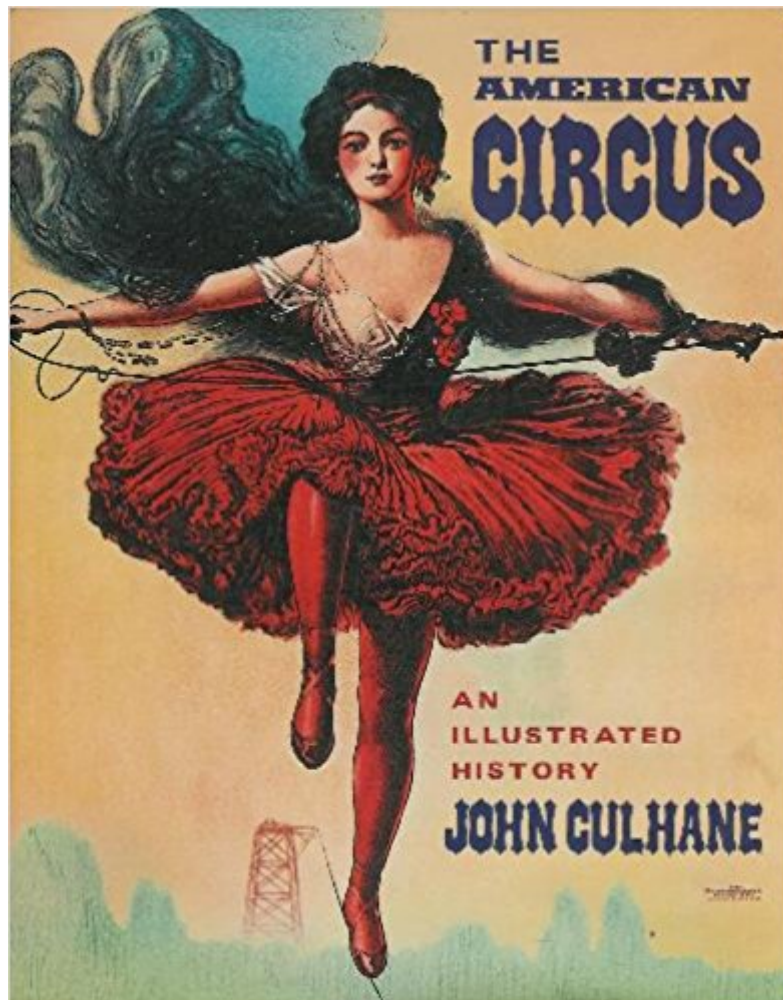




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# American Circus: An Illustrated History



## Synopsis

With 133 illustrations, this is the only complete history of the circus in America now in print. From Thomas Pool's circus in 1785 to The Greatest Show on Earth and The Big Apple Circus, this panoramic journey takes in all the sights, sounds, and colorful personalities of two centuries of circus performers.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 504 pages

Publisher: Henry Holt and Co.; 1st edition (April 15, 1990)

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

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Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > Circus #30357 in Books > History > World #34804

in Books > History > Americas > United States

## Customer Reviews

The author, a graduate of Ringling Bros. Clown College and an obvious aficionado of circuses and circus lore, has written an engaging and well-researched history of the American circus. It is sure to be a valuable reference source as well as entertaining reading. It's all here: the first elephant to be exhibited in the United States, the pursuit by daredevil high flyers of the quadruple somersault, the daring and skill of Gunther Gebel-Williams, and, yes, "The Living Unicorn." This is an unabashed glorification of the circus. For a behind-the-scenes and far less glamorous account of one circus by a participant, see Kristopher Antekeier and Greg Aunapu's *Ringmaster!* ( LJ 10/15/89). Culhane's generously illustrated circus history is an essential purchase for all public libraries whose patrons include lovers of the circus: that is, for all of them.- Anne Twitchell, EPA Headquarters Lib., Washington, D.C. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Not just a history of American circus but a great survey of American history and culture from colonial times to the present. Profusely illustrated and filled with bits of interesting trivia that tie Circus history in to the countries history. John Wilkes Boothe helping to save New York City from the incendiary

plot that was designed as retaliation for Sherman's burning of Atlanta. Grizzly Adams passing his last days with PT Barnum. In one chapter I found out that Barnum's very first circus put on it's very first show in my hometown of West Springfield. This is probably one of the most informative and entertaining books I have read in a long time.

I am a huge circus fan and this was, without a doubt, the best book on the subject I have ever read. While it is certainly a history, it reads like a novel. I seriously couldn't stop reading it.

Good Value

Slightly out of date but still a very comprehensive history of the American Circus and those who contributed to its growth.

Excellent History

All went well.

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