

LANTERNS OF MAGIC – A RARE TRIP BACK IN TIME
AT THE BARNUM MUSEUM IN BRIDGEPORT

July 14, 2017 – There is always something fun, interesting and educational going on at the historical Barnum Museum in Bridgeport. On Sunday, July 23rd at 2:00 PM in the Museum, guests can enjoy Lanterns of Magic! Dick Moore, noted Historian and Collector of Magic Lanterns, will present an exciting, rare and unique show featuring magic lantern images that will showcase vivid and breathtaking views of early circus spectaculars! Magic Lanterns are descended from the ancient camera obscura, and are the equivalent to today's Power Point presentations, but offer a wondrous, magical opportunity to step back in time and experience the thrill of acrobats and performers of bygone entertainment times.

Moore's presentation, "Day at a Circus" will provide a brief glimpse of the working life of the circus as seen through the lens of the masterful photographer Frederick. W. Glasier. Glasier is renowned for his extensive work as a publicist and documentarian of circuses, Wild West shows and fairs from 1890-1925, the heyday of American circus entertainments.

Immediately following "Day at a Circus", there will be the scintillating, stupendous, stimulating, stunning Magic Lantern show, **Cirque d'Magique**. Popular in the 19th century, Magic Lantern shows were a combination of projected images, live narration and live music that preceded film projection movies. By 1895 there were more than 60,000 'lantern showmen' traveling the United States giving tens-of-thousands of performances every year educating, entertaining and mystifying audiences in small communities and large cities. **Cirque d'Magique** is unique to the glorious epoch of the American circus and the lantern projections will feature daring high and low wire acts, trapeze artists, leapers, lions and tigers, clowns, bareback riders, jumping dogs, snake charmers, juggling frogs and of course, no circus should be without them: the Performing Ponderous Pachyderms!

Executive Director Kathy Maher is thrilled that the Barnum Museum will be hosting this fascinating presentation saying; *'the invention of lantern projection is an ancient form of entertainment, and it's fascinating that we are still amazed and dazzled by this 100-year-old technology. The Cirque d'Magique magic lantern show is enchanting! What extraordinary opportunity to see and enjoy a day at the movies would be like from P.T. Barnum's period in history.'*

Dick Moore has also amassed an extensive collection of hundreds of historically significant lantern slides from the US, UK and France dating back to the 1860s. He is a member and past president of the Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada and a member of the Magic Lantern Society in the UK. He is also a member of the Circus Historical Society and Circus Fans of America.

There is no registration required. A \$5.00 donation is suggested. The event is free to members and children under 12.

For more information about this and other events, please contact The Barnum Museum at (203) 331-1104 x100.

ABOUT THE BARNUM MUSEUM:

Bridgeport's Barnum Museum is one of P. T. Barnum's many philanthropic gifts. Completed in 1893, the architecturally significant building boasts a unique combination of styles and terra cotta ornamentation, and is listed on the National Register. Today the museum proudly shares the history and legacy of the world-famous entrepreneur, showman, and museum proprietor, who was also a state legislator, mayor, real estate developer, and philanthropist. The museum is home to thousands of artifacts, many pertaining to Bridgeport native Tom Thumb and his wife, as well as the P. T. Barnum Family. The Museum's special events gallery features furniture, carriages, artwork and other items, along with a mythical centaur and mermaid. The historic building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is currently undergoing restoration. The Museum is open for visitors in the People's United Bank Gallery located behind the historic building, open for viewing and tours from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m on Thursdays and Fridays year-round. And now open Saturdays from 11am-3pm through Labor Day weekend. There is no admission charge but donations are welcome.