

## Balio Collection, 1902-1997, bulk dates 1910-1928

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### Overview

Repository	Archives The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art 5401 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota, Florida 34243 archives@ringling.org
Creator	Riedler family, Anton, 1880-1954, and Emma, 1889-1964
Title	Balio Collection
Dates	1902-1997, bulk dates 1910-1928
Physical Description	8 boxes, 219 items 4.5 Linear feet
Language	English, German, French, Spanish
Arrangement	Format, Chronological
Summary	The Balio Collection is comprised of black and white print photographs, performance contracts, card photographs, printed materials, programs, a scrapbook, and a published book. The materials date from 1902 to 1997, the bulk ranging from 1910-1928. A significant portion of card and print photographs capture scenes of the Balio aerial performers, acts, and publicity shots, primarily of Emma and Anton Riedler, stage named Erna and Tony Balio. The scrapbook and printed materials consist of clippings,

ephemera, and advertising of the Baliots as well as personal photographs and travel related printed materials.

### **Administrative Information**

Provenance	Grandchildren of Emma and Anton Riedler, Ivy Joudrey, Mark Soltz, and Bill Soltz donated this collection to The Ringling and all rights. Gift, 2021. Accessioned as A2021-0027.
Information about Access	The Baliot Collection can be accessed on site at The Ringling Archives and online at DigiNole ( <a href="http://www.fsu.digital.flvc.org">The Ringling   fsu.digital.flvc.org</a> ).
Ownership and Copyright	Copyright of this work is held by The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art. It is provided here for scholarship, research, and private study. Further use or copying of the work beyond Fair Use may require permission from The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art ( <a href="http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC/1.0/">http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC/1.0/</a> ).
Cite As	The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Baliot Collection, 1902-1997.
Processing Note	Processed by Brittany Braasch, 2021.

### **Biographical Note**

Anton Riedler (1880-1954) and Emma Tremel (1889-1964) were Vaudeville and circus performers under the stage names Tony, sometimes referred to as Anton, and Erna Baliot. Emma and Anton were originally from Munich, Germany and, in 1904, Anton immigrated to the United States from Bremen, Germany. In 1909, Emma married Anton and officially immigrated to the U.S. in 1912. Emma and Anton often performed with a woman named Christa Engelbart as the Baliot Trio. Anna Ziegelbauer and Frieda Tremel, Emma's sister, performed under the Baliot name as well along with a few other unidentified individuals. They performed in cities across Germany and then brought their act to the United States where they performed at various venues such as the Keith-Orpheum Circuit, the New York Hippodrome, the Palace Theatre, the Orpheum Theatre, as well as alongside the Ringling Bros. They performed for approximately 25 years, from the early 1910's to the 1930's. Emma and Anton settled in East Islip, Long Island, New York sometime around 1920. Shortly after the arrival of their daughter, Emma decided to retire and, subsequently, Anton moved on from his aerialist career to a new act—a comedy and

athletic dog act. Emma remarried in 1949 to Alex Reinert and opened a few small businesses, the Blue Bake Shop and the Seabay Restaurant and Bakery. Ten years after Anton's passing in 1954, Emma suffered from a heart attack and died in 1964 at the age of 76.

### **Scope and Content Note**

This collection contains materials relating to Anton and Emma Riedler's career as equilibrists and gymnasts under the stage names Tony, sometimes referred to as Anton, and Erna Baliot. The Baliot Collection is comprised of black and white print photographs, performance contracts, card photographs, printed materials, programs, a scrapbook, and a published book. The materials date from 1902 to 1997, the bulk ranging from 1910-1928. A significant portion of card and print photographs, ranging in size, capture scenes of the Baliot aerial performers, acts, and publicity shots, most in a studio setting and primarily of Emma and Anton Riedler. The scrapbook and printed materials consist of clippings, ephemera, and advertising of the Baliots as well as personal photographs and travel related printed materials. The collection documents the performance and career of the Baliots. A large portion of the collection, chiefly the print and photographic materials, consist of advertising and publicity materials for the Baliots and the remainder of the collection is largely comprised of contracts.

### **Related Materials**

The Ringling Photography Collection  
The Tibbals Circus Collection of Photography  
The Ringling Collection of Wardrobes

### **Subject Headings**

Acrobats  
Aerialists  
Circus  
Circus History  
Circus Performers  
Circus--United States—History  
Dog trainers  
Gymnasts  
Vaudeville  
Women Circus Performers  
Women gymnasts

## Contents of the Collection

### Box Listing

Box no. Box Title Folder no. Folder Title Description

#### Box 1 Contracts

Folder 1	Zeugnis, 1902.
Folder 2	The Canadian Circuit, 1911.
Folder 3	Meyerhoff Attractions, 1918.
Folder 4	The "South American Tour," 1919.
Folder 5	The Canadian Circuit, 1919: 2 contracts.
Folder 6	B.F. Keith Vaudeville Exchange, 1920.
Folder 7	Western Vaudeville Managers' Association, 1920.
Folder 8	B.F. Keith Vaudeville Exchange, 1920.
Folder 9	The B.F. Keith Circuit, 1921.
Folder 10	The B.F. Keith Circuit, 1921.
Folder 11	Moore-Wiggins Company, 1921.
Folder 12	The B.F. Keith Circuit, 1921.
Folder 13	Shea's Theatres, 1921: 2 contracts.
Folder 14	Hippodrome Youngstown, Ohio, 1921.
Folder 15	The Canadian Circuit, 1921.
Folder 16	The B.F. Keith Circuit, 1921.
Folder 17	The B.F. Keith Circuit, 1921.
Folder 18	Feiber & Shea's Theatrical Enterprises, 1921.
Folder 19	Davis Theatre, Pennsylvania, 1921.
Folder 20	The B.F. Keith Circuit, 1921.
Folder 21	Wilmer and Vincent Circuit, 1921.
Folder 22	Colonial Theatre, 1921.
Folder 23	Western Vaudeville Managers' Association, 1922.
Folder 24	Western Vaudeville Managers' Association, 1922.
Folder 25	Western Vaudeville Managers' Association, 1922: 4 contracts.
Folder 26	Western Vaudeville Managers' Association, 1922: 2 contracts.
Folder 27	Western Vaudeville Managers' Association, 1922: 2 contracts.
Folder 28	Western Vaudeville Managers' Association, 1922.
Folder 29	Interstate Circuit – Interstate Amusement Company, 1922: 2 contracts.
Folder 30	Interstate Circuit – Interstate Amusement Company, 1922.
Folder 31	Interstate Circuit – Interstate Amusement Co., 1922.
Folder 32	Western Vaudeville Managers' Association, 1922: 4 contracts.
Folder 33	Western Vaudeville Managers' Association, 1922.
Folder 34	Orpheum Circuit, 1922.
Folder 35	Western Vaudeville Managers' Association, 1922.

- Folder 36 Interstate Circuit – Interstate Amusement Company, 1922: 2 contracts.
- Folder 37 Harris Theatre, Pennsylvania, 1925.
- Folder 38 B.F. Keith – Albee Vaudeville Exchange, Inc., 1925: 4 contracts.
- Folder 39 B.F. Keith – Albee Vaudeville Exchange, Inc., 1925: 2 contracts.
- Folder 40 National Vaudeville Artists Benefit Fund, 1926.
- Folder 41 World Amusement Service Association, Inc., 1927.
- Folder 42 B.F. Keith – Albee Vaudeville Exchange, Inc., 1927.
- Folder 43 Carrells’s Theatrical Agency, 1929: 2 contracts.
- Folder 44 Radio – Keith – Orpheum Vaudeville Exchange, Inc., 1931: 3 contracts.
- Folder 45 Radio – Keith – Orpheum Vaudeville Exchange, Inc., 1931.
- Folder 46 Arthur Fisher Select Vaudeville Agency, 1931.
- Folder 47 Radio – Keith – Orpheum Circuit, 1932.
- Folder 48 Boyd & Wirth Attractions Inc., 1933.
- Folder 49 Barnes – Carruthers Fair Booking Ass’n, Inc., 1928.
- Folder 50 Shea-McCallum, 1919.

Box 2 Printed Materials

- Folder 1 Harry Rickards’ Tivoli Theatres, program, 1914.
- Folder 2 Telegrams, 1922.
- Folder 3 List of Passengers – American Steamship “Oribaza,” 1927.
- Folder 4 National Vaudeville Artists, Inc. Receipts, 1920-30.
- Folder 5 First National Bank of East Islip, NY, payment agreement, 1937.
- Folder 6 Advertising, Erna Baliot Trio, no date.
- Folder 7 Advertising, Erna Antoi Trio, no date.
- Folder 8 Advertising, Anton & Erna Baliot Novelty Gymnasts, no date.
- Folder 9 Advertising, The Baliots Equilibrists & Gymnasts Erna & Anton, 1910.
- Folder 10 Advertising, The Baliots, equilibrists and gymnasts, no date.
- Folder 11 Advertising, Barto and Baliot, 1905.
- Folder 12 Baliot Trio: program, missing the jacket and pages, no date
- Folder 13 Official Route Adam Forepaugh and Sells Brothers, 1906: 3 Nevaros act.
- Folder 14 Keith News, Vol. V no.8, Anniversary Number, October 19, 1908.
- Folder 15 Hansa-Theater program, Hamburg, 1911-12.
- Folder 16 Brockton County Fair, program, The Baliots, 1912: missing cover.
- Folder 17 Brockton Fair, program, Erna Baliot Trio, 1914.
- Folder 18 Gran Teatronacional, flyer, Four Baliots, 1927.
- Folder 19 Timonium Fair, herald, The Five Baliots.
- Folder 20 New York Clipper, tear sheet, Baliot Trio, August 25, 1920.
- Folder 21 New York Hippodrome, program c. 1921.
- Folder 22 New York American, clipping, *The Ripley’s Believe It or Not, A. Baliot*, 1937.
- Folder 23 The Fire Islander, tear sheet, August, 24, 1956.
- Folder 24 Islip Bulletin Issue No.15, 1997.

- Folder 25      Bob Wolpert letter & newspaper clippings, 1997.
- Box 3 Printed Materials
- Folder 1      Postcards.
- Folder 2      Album Con Vista de Guadalajara.
- Folder 3      The Baliots Viola Marsh.
- Folder 4      Hansa-Theatre, Hamburg, 1912.
- Folder 5      Henry Meyerhoff, Inc., 1913.
- Folder 6      J. Harry Allen's Illustrated Guide of Out-door Attractions, 1913.
- Folder 7      Henry Meyerhoff Inc. Attractions, 1913.
- Folder 8      J. Harry Allen's Illustrated Guide of Out-door Attractions, 1915.
- Folder 9      J. Harry Allen, Inc., 1919.
- Folder 10     Metal Plaque: Orient Express.
- Folder 11     Lenox Hotel Letter, 1932: 2 pages.
- Folder 12     Leaflet Anton Riedler, 1954.
- Folder 13     Leaflet Emma Reinert, 1964.
- Folder 14     Emma Tremel, 1901.
- Folder 15     2 Baliots Olpymische Spiele, 1908: correspondence on back.
- Folder 16     Postcards – Anton and Emma, Retired.
- Folder 17     Postcard Pantages Circuit.
- Folder 18     Postcard – Group.
- Folder 19     Postcards – Anton and dog.
- Folder 20     Postcards – Bicycles.
- Folder 21     Anton Poster Vignette.
- Folder 22     The Whitehouse Cookbook, The Morning Journal, New York: Book cover.
- Box 4 Print Photographs
- Folder 1      3 Nevaros, 1905: Barto, Tony Baliot, and unidentified woman.
- Folder 2      Attraction Group: Tony and Erna, third row from the back, third and forth from the left.
- Folder 3      Baliots Athletic & Comedy Dogs: Tony Baliot dogs and acts.
- Folder 4      Performance Baliot Trio: Iron jaw act.
- Folder 5      Performance The Baliots Assorted: Gymnastic, dog, and circus acts.
- Folder 6      Performance Erna & Anton: At Stadium now Electric Park.
- Folder 7      Publicity Baliot Trio: Erna and Tony Baliot, and Christa Engelbart.
- Folder 8      Publicity Baliot Troupe: At Shrine Circus, Erna and two unidentified women.
- Folder 9      Publicity Baliot Trio & Baliot Five: Erna, Tony, Christa Engelbart, and two unidentified women.
- Folder 10     Publicity Baliot Trio: Erna and Tony in costume.
- Folder 11     Publicity Anton & Erna Baliot: Erna and Tony in costume.
- Folder 12     Publicity Erna Baliot: Erna Baliot in costume.
- Folder 13     Publicity Baliot Trio: Erna and Tony in costume.

- Folder 14 Head & Shoulders: Erna, three quarter profile.  
Folder 15 Head & Shoulders: Erna, profile, vignette.  
Folder 16 Head & Shoulders: Erna, sepia.  
Folder 17 Head & Shoulders Emma Baliot: Erna, colorized.  
Folder 18 Head & Shoulders Duplicates A. Baliot: Erna, profile, vignette, two copies  
varying sizes.  
Folder 19 Head & Shoulders Duplicates: Erna, four copies.  
Folder 20 Head & Shoulders Duplicates: Erna, profile, two copies.  
Folder 21 Head & Shoulders Duplicates: Erna, four copies.  
Folder 22 Head & Shoulders Duplicates: Erna, profile, two copies.  
Folder 23 Personal Assorted.  
Folder 24 Personal.  
Folder 25 Performance Practice Assorted.  
Folder 26 Personal Small Assorted.  
Folder 27 Publicity Baliot Sisters: Individual photograph of unidentified Baliot Sister;  
Erna and two other Baliots at Shrine Circus.  
Folder 28 Performance Baliot Sisters.  
Folder 29 Publicity Four Baliot Sisters & Anton.  
Folder 30 Anton Baliot Athletic & Comedy Dogs.  
Folder 31 Personal: Erna; Anton with four others.  
Folder 32 Other: Addressed to Christa Engelbart.  
Box 5 Scrapbook Tony and Erna Equilibrists and Gymnast.  
Box 6 Card Photographs 12 Card Photographs, 8 Imperial, and 4 Boudoir: Erna Baliot.  
Box 7 Card Photographs 14 Card Photographs, 6 Cabinet, 2 Boudoir, 4 Imperial, 1 Panel, and  
1 Promenade: Erna and Tony Baliot, Tony Baliot and unidentified  
male.  
Box 8 Published Book N.V.A Benefit Fund May 2, 1926: Tenth Anniversary Jubilee.