

CONNECTING TO THE RINGLING LEGACY

1. Visit ringling.org

2. Select **Explore**, then **Art**, and finally **Collections Online**.

3. Select “**View All Works**” at the top of the page.

4. Select “**John Ringling Bequest**” from the Collections filter in the left column.

These are all items left to the museum and in turn the state of Florida by John Ringling in his will following his death in 1936.

- Select the “**On View**” box in filters to find something you saw while on your visit to the museum.
- Deselect “**On View**” to find something you did not see or was not on view while at the museum.

5. Use the search the collection bar and Search “**Tie**”

- Look through John Ringling’s ties. Which is your favorite? How does each of the ties John owns change how he would be perceived? What does his tie collection imply about John?

6. Search “**souvenir spoons**”

Note: Souvenir spoons are spoons created for a commemorative purpose and date back to as far back as the mid 1800s. They were created by cities as a souvenir to commemorate a place someone visited, depicting city landmarks or merely the place’s name. Others commemorated an event, such as the George Washington spoon for the made for the 100th anniversary of his presidency or the Salem Witch Spoon. Collecting these spoons became popular in the 1890s but had lost their prominence by World War 1.

- Which one(s) of these spoons are your favorite?
- What does this collection say about John and Mable?
- Why do you think John and Mable would want to buy these images, places, or people as a souvenir spoon?

7. Search “**John Ringling’s Books**”

- What does John like to read about?
- What interests do you think he had based on his library?

8. Search “**Texas Longhorns on Presentation Plate**” and select the item.

Note: This was a gift to John from his friend, the Texas newspaper publisher Amon G. Carter. It is on display in Ca’ d’Zan’s tap room front and center above the bar of this hidden room for drinking despite the rampant prohibition.

- What do you think where John put these longhorns says about his and Amon’s relationship? How did John feel about this gift based on where he displayed it in his home?

9. **But wait there is more!** If you go back to where you found the Collections page, you can also interact with our **Archives**, where you can find collections of photographs, posters, and more connected to the Ringling circus and the collections of Howard Tibbals! **Education**, where you can find out more about our family, school, and adult programs, as well as look at teacher resources about the museum! Finally, our **Art Library**, where you can explore the catalogs and digital collections of books, member magazines and journals our library has to offer. The Ringling has so much to see on campus and even more from the comfort of your home! What will you find next?

