

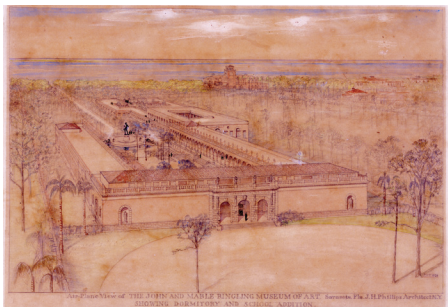
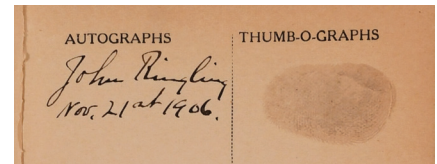
THE RINGLING'S AND THEIR THINGS



JOHN RINGLING

John was a member of many things, including many yacht clubs, country clubs, the Lotos Club, the Loyal Order of the Moose, and the Everglades Cabana Surf Club, but one of his biggest passions was the Arts. He may have had his hands in many industries, whether it be the circus, real estate, railroads, or Madison Square Garden, but his art collection was something that John kept close to him.

John may have been a public figure, but he was a very private man, and we know very little about him personally. One of the main ways to look at John personally is through what he left behind, particularly his homes, collections, and belongings. Looking around the museum, what evidence can you find of John's love of the Arts? What evidence can you find that John had a close connection with his art collection?



THE MUSEUM OF ART

The Museum of Art galleries were designed by architect John H Phillips to suit John's vision. Initially, he wanted it to serve as an art school for people to learn about and study European art throughout the ages, improving their art in turn. Originally, the Searing gallery was even supposed to serve as dormitories, allowing for students to be completely immersed in this collection John built.

Looking at the pieces throughout the original 21 galleries (pay close attention to those marked with "Bequest of John Ringling" on their labels), what themes and motifs was John particular to? What did he like in art, and what can you infer about John based off those like?



In addition to the art, the building itself and the Museum of Art Courtyard give a vision into what John liked since he had a hand in curating the design. What similarities and differences do you see in the designs of the galleries and their architecture, both inside the galleries and from the courtyard? Why do you think John chose these differences? What elements of architecture did John like?



WISCONSIN

The *Wisconsin* served as John's home on the road. When travelling ahead of the circus in order to coordinate routing and transportation, the *Wisconsin* was not only his and Mable's home but where he held business meetings and entertained possible business partners and friends alike while on the road.

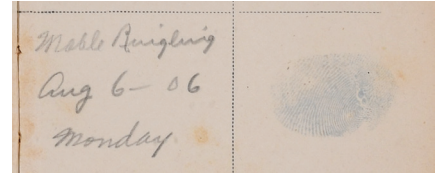
The circus model in the Tibbals Learning center shows many other train cars. How does the *Wisconsin* differ from regular railcars fit for staying in like those in the Tibbals circus model? What do these differences say about John's likes and priorities?

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MABLE RINGLING

Mable was even more private than John, and in turn we know even less about her. In fact, the only records we have of her are her thumbprint and signature from the small number of John's papers that survive.



CA' D'ZAN

While it may mean "House of John" in the Venetian dialect, this house was Mable's through and through. Mable made sure that the designs for Ca' d'Zan made by architect Dwight James Baum were to her liking, whether that be the motifs or simply that it needed to be more authentic to Venetian style architecture.

One of the few things we know Mable enjoyed was plants, particularly roses. What evidence can you find either in Ca' d'Zan or from the exterior of the home that supports Mable's love of plants? Based on other things you find in or around Ca' d'Zan, what else do you think Mable liked?



SECRET GARDEN

Mable used this place as her testing ground before planting certain types of flowers, either bought by her or gifted to her, in her rose garden. While the rose garden was shown off, the secret garden was just for her.

How does the secret garden provide more insight into Mable as a person? Which garden do you think gives us a closer look at Mable Ringling, the secret garden or the rose garden? How?



Secret Garden



Mable Ringling's Rose Garden