

NEW COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE

NEW COLLEGE, SARASOTA, FLORIDA

FURMAN C. ARTHUR — INFORMATION

FOR RELEASE: Sunday, May 9, 1965

CIRCUS AUTHOR GIVES MSS TO NEW COLLEGE

Alden Hatch, co-author with Henry Ringling North of "The Circus Kings," has agreed to give his original notes and manuscript for the book to the New College library.

The gift was announced by Dr. George F. Baughman, president of New College, who added that Hatch would also present to the college autographed copies of most of his 29 books which included biographies of Dwight Eisenhower, Pope Pius XII, and Clare Booth Luce.

"The Circus Kings," published in 1960, has since been in several printings and is now available in paperback editions. It tells the story of the Ringling Circus brothers and the development from their earliest show to the modern giant that is the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Hatch conceived the idea for the book in 1955 and suggested it to the John and Henry Norths. By the time the idea was accepted the circus was ready to begin its difficult conversion from a tent to an amphitheater show and the project was postponed.

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In 1958 Hatch again suggested to Henry North, who had retired from the circus and was living in Rome, that they move ahead. Hatch said that North wired that he would be glad to do the book but that the work must be done in Rome.

"That was okay with me and I wired him back right away," said North's co-author,

In preparation for the book, Hatch did considerable research, coming to Sarasota and talking at length with Mrs. R. L. Wadsworth, sister of the North Brothers. She was then living in the Ringling home on Bird Key.

Hatch estimated that his notes run to about 100,000 words.

Movie rights to the circus book have been sold and Hatch said that if the movie is made, much of the filming will be done locally. He said that he even has permission to use the John Ringling residence for one of the filming locations.

Hatch and his wife, artist Allene Gaty Hatch, have been guests of Col. and Mrs. Ralph Noel Dagg during their stay here. The Hatches have been looking toward buying a house here and giving up their Cedarhurst, N.Y., home.

The author's latest book, about England's Mountbatten family, is due for publication this month by Random House and is an alternate Literary Guild selection and has been contracted to run serially in the London Daily Express.