

LETTERING AND PAINTING YOUR SHOW

by Charles Lockier, Superintendent of Construction, 1968

Plate No. One

The outline scroll and the ribbon top effect is the general run of the mill sideshow banner design. The style of lettering and shading on the word Elephant is what was used generally on the old cloth banners. In the center where the show titles appear were the pictorials. The titles are the styles used on old shows. The John Robinson's 10 Big Shows was used in the early 1900's through 1907. Gollmar Brothers Circus was also an early title used about the same period. Russell Bros. Pan Pacific Circus was a little later used when they were on rails

Plate No. Two

The outline of this plate is scroll work that can be used on wagons. The one on the left can be used all around a wagon side using corner designs as shown. The top-right side and bottom are Kelly Miller style scroll used when they had their very flashy show several years ago. The ribbon, window cover with clown, side scrolls and ribbon under window can be used on rear of ticket wagons. The word circus can be used in this style anywhere on a wagon. The bottom design can be used either horizontal or vertical.

Plate No. Three

The border can be used on wagons or railroad cars showing two different corner designs. The 62 and 24 are a couple of ideas for parade wagon numbers also several different scrolls and dingbats used as fillers. There are also a couple of panels. The one at the left can be used on ticket wagon or side show ticket box with prices and so forth inside. The one on the right can be used in a panel on a wagon or coach with either number or monogram in the circle. Clown panel can be used on wagon or car. The panel below speaks for itself, also a different style circus.

Plate No. Four

This plate is nearly all ribbons. (A) Can be used on a skyboard with title of show. Carl Hagenbeck used this style quite extensively. (B) A ribbon like this can be used for a title on a wagon-side for words "3 Ring." (C) This type scroll can be used in many ways by shortening or lengthening the scrolls to fit words you want to use. (D same as C.) (E) This can be used in many ways, as a number plate, animal in circle, circus owner's picture or even a scene. (F) Half of scroll for wagons or car corners connected by a stripe. The other scroll can be used as a filler. (G-H) Can be used on ticket wagons or side show boxes for prices, etc.

Now is as good a time to go into the painting of models as any. A large number of the builders make the mistake of not putting enough paint on their finished products, in other words, they want to see the colors on too quick. As you have noticed circus equipment, especially the older shows were loaded with paint. I always give my wagons three or four coats of white first. I have found that Lucite works very well and dries real fast. Then I put on final colors. For this I use Kern Bulletin Colors sold in Sherwin Williams Paint Stores. These colors are bright and very durable and can be mixed to any shades. They also work very nicely. After all this is done give whole job a coat of varnish and you have a finished product with plenty of body and a beautiful shine as the wagons looked, in the spring ready for the road.

[Update note: Please remember that this information was written in 1968. In this age of computers you can develop and print many of these items right on to decal film. Most graphics programs come with some basic graphics very similar to the ones in this plan. Superintendent of Plans, March 2003]

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Circus Model Builders			
Drawn By Charles Lockier			DRAWING NUMBER #0201



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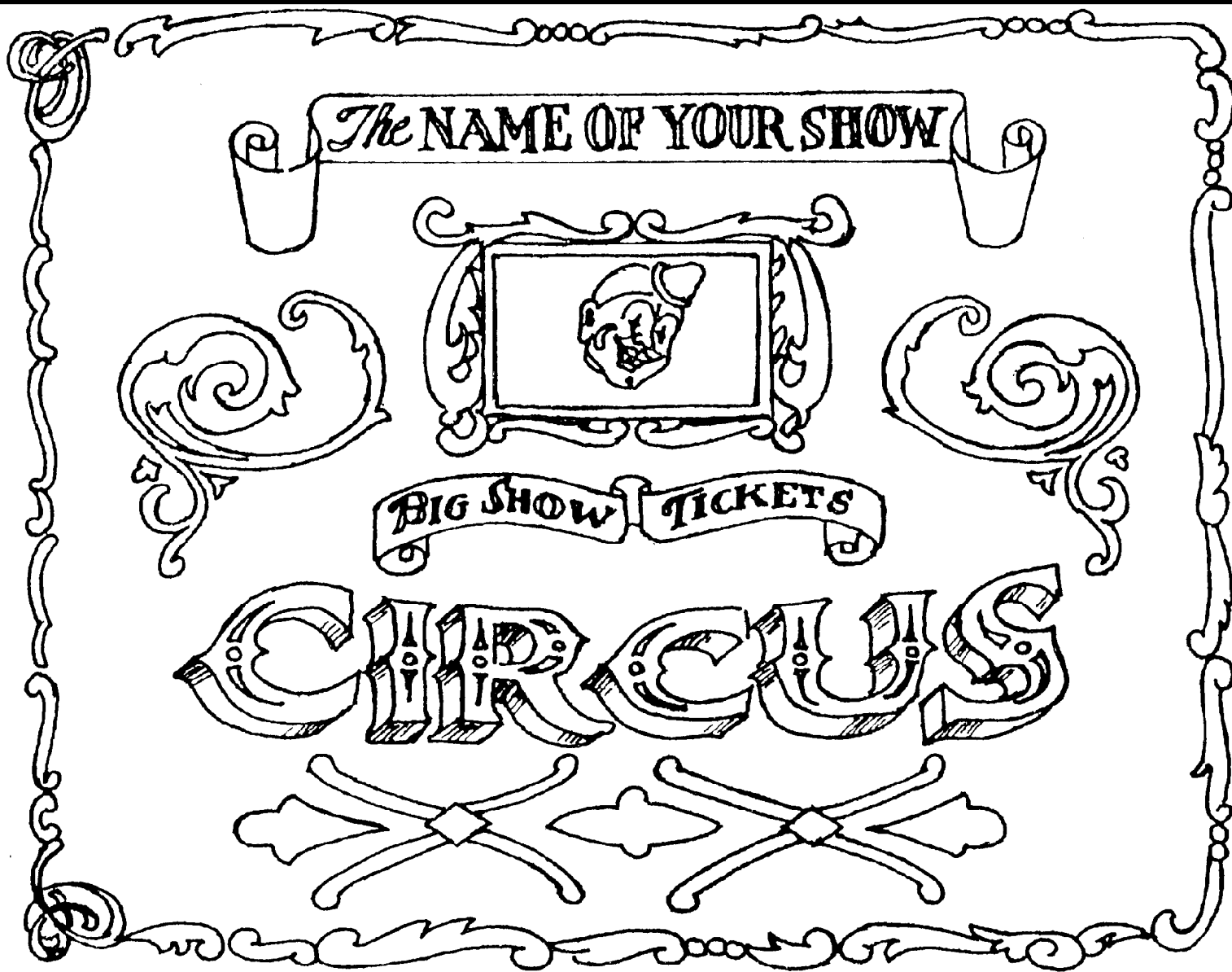


Plate Two

Lettering & Painting Your Show

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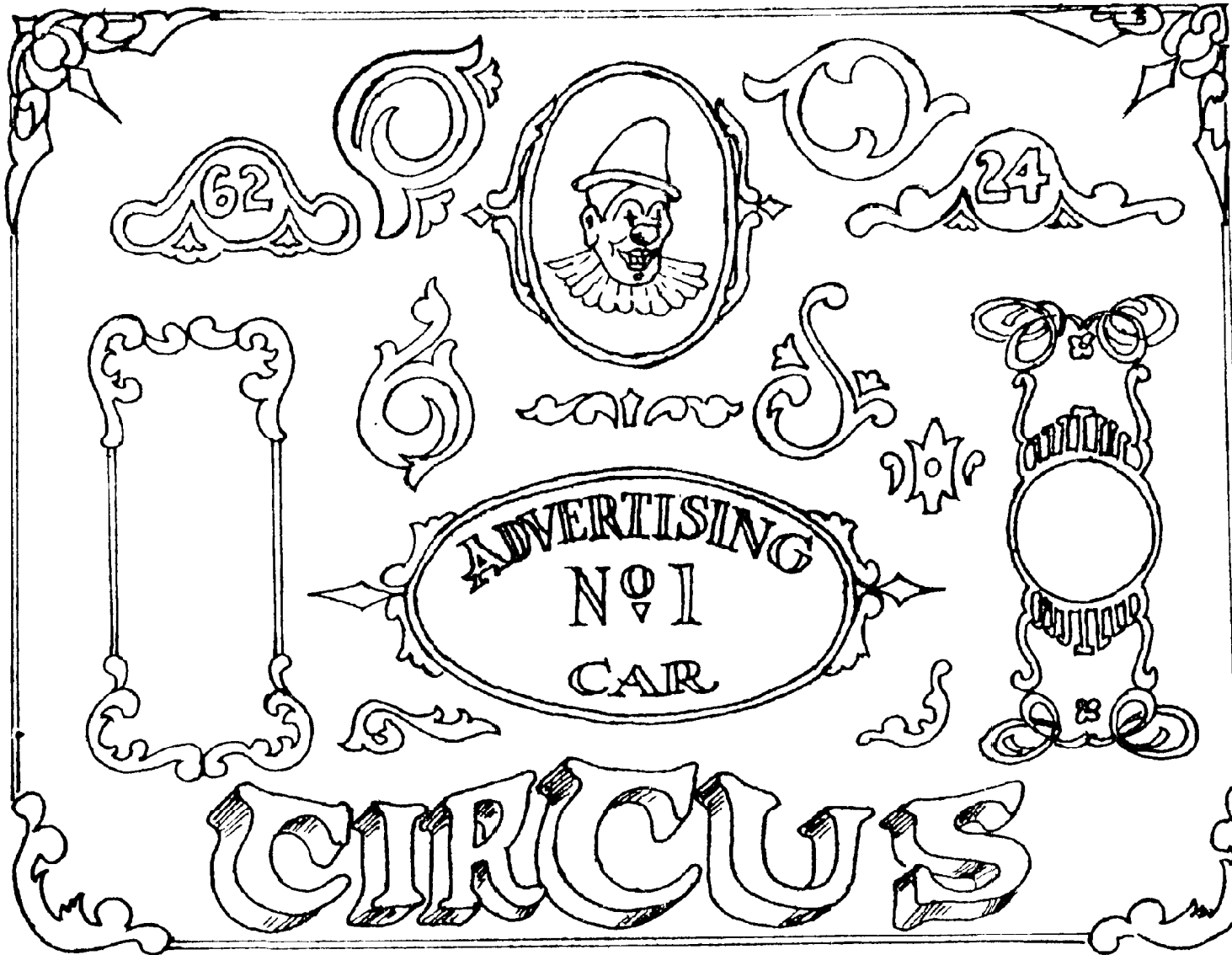


Plate Three

Lettering & Painting Your Show

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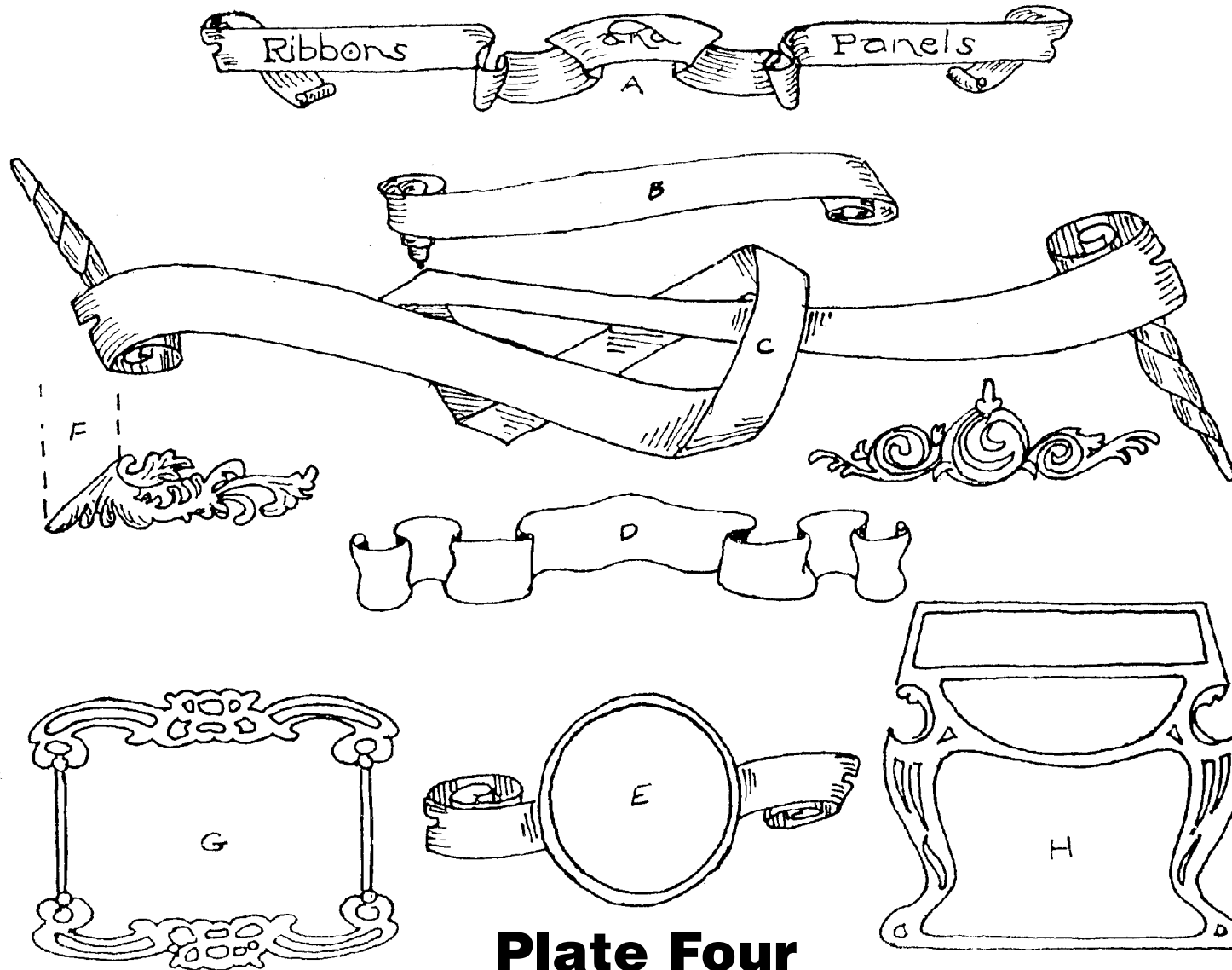


Plate Four

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