

# BY ROYAL COMMAND; BARNUM IN EUROPE

by  
Dr Steve Ward

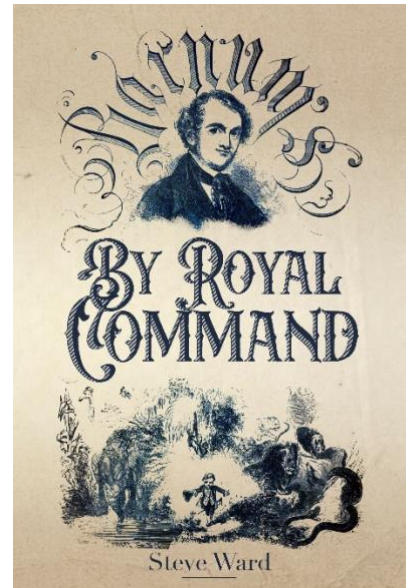
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*A readable and enlightening insight to the Prince of Humbugs, the man who knew that 'the noblest art is that of making others happy' (Chris Barltrop)*

On a cold February day in 1844, a small group of travellers disembarked their ship at the port of Liverpool in England. There was no welcoming party; no bands and banners and the visitors slipped silently away to their hotel. Amongst them was the American showman P. T. Barnum and his dwarf child protégé Charles S. Stratton, known as General Tom Thumb. Both were little known in England at that time. But this would mark the beginning of a three-year long tour of the United Kingdom and continental Europe. Fêted by crowned heads, Queen Victoria included, the tour would bring both Barnum and Stratton international fame and fortune.

*By Royal Command* charts the progress of this tour, with all its highs and lows, triumphs and disasters. Not just another book about Barnum, it celebrates this pivotal time in his life, and draws upon primary sources and contemporary news reports to give a forensic examination of the impact that he and Tom Thumb had on social attitudes towards the 'exotic'.



## About the author

Steve Ward is researcher, public speaker, and author of several circus history books. He has a PhD from the University of Hull for his research and writing about the cultural and social history of the circus.

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