



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

American Philosophical Society selected records

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	American Philosophical Society selected records
<b>Date:</b>	1784-1954
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.amerphil
<b>Creator:</b>	American Philosophical Society
<b>Extent:</b>	3 Microfilm reels (3 partial microfilm reels)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Microfilmed for the Archives of American Art, 1955. The letters are mainly American Philosophical Society records, but many were pulled from ASP's Misc. Mss. and various other collections, and microfilmed in no apparent order. Descriptive cards microfilmed with each letter indicate location of originals.

### Location of Originals

Originals in: American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pa.

### Related Materials

The American Philosophical Society holds the American Philosophical Society archives, 1743-1984.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels P34 (fr. 199-213); P35 (fr. 164-259; 262-489); P36 (fr. 1-10; 372-401); P37 (fr. 588-870) available for use at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

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## Biographical / Historical

The American Philosophical Society (founded 1743) is a scholarly organization in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Founded by Benjamin Franklin, the American Philosophical Society "promotes useful knowledge" through research, professional meetings, publications, library resources, and community outreach.

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## Scope and Contents

The microfilmed American Philosophical Society selected records contain art related letters; committee reports; registrar's and curators' records; pamphlets; and exhibition catalogs from the archives of the American Philosophical Society. Many of the letters are to the Society's secretary and librarian John Vaughan; a few are to the Society's presidents Thomas Jefferson and Peter S. Du Ponceau, and officials John K. Kane and J. Peter Lesley. Among the correspondents are Benjamin Franklin, Benjamin West, Charles Willson Peale, Jacob Perkins, Philip Tidyman, Charles B. Lawrence, John Trumbull, Thomas Sully, Joseph Delaplaine, Robert Patterson, John Quincy Adams, Titian Ramsay Peale, Rembrandt Peale, Joel Roberts Poinsett, Victor G. Audubon, and Robert Fulton.

Also included are copies of the registrar's cards for portraits and busts owned by the Society, arranged alphabetically by sitter; "Preliminary Notes, Biographical Sketches, and Memoranda chronologically arranged, for insertion in the *Curator's Catalog of Portraits, Busts, and Bas-Reliefs in the Collection of the American Philosophical Society*. Illustrated by photographs taken from the originals by Mrs. Julius A. Sachese, member APS"; circa 25 exhibition catalogs and pamphlets (1811-1840) for exhibitions of the Society of Artists of the United States, Columbian Society of Artists, Artists' Fund Society, Artists' and Amateurs' Association, and for works by Thomas Sully, Gilbert Stuart, Benjamin Robert Haydon, Joseph Delaplaine, and others; and newspaper clippings (1917) about the controversy surrounding portraits by Albert Rosenthal hung in Independence Hall (reel P36, frames 372-401).

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

Art, American  
Portraits -- Private collections -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia

### Names:

Adams, John Quincy, 1767-1848  
Artists' Fund Society  
Artists' and Amateurs' Association (Philadelphia, Pa.)  
Audubon, Victor Gifford, 1809-1860  
Columbian Society of Artists  
Delaplaine, Joseph, 1777-1824  
Du Ponceau, Peter Stephen, 1760-1844  
Franklin, Benjamin, 1706-1790  
Fulton, Robert, 1765-1815  
Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826  
Kane, John K. (John Kintzing), 1795-1858  
Lesley, J. P. (J. Peter), 1819-1903  
Ord, George, 1781-1866  
Patterson, Robert M. (Robert Maskell), 1787-1854  
Peale, Charles Willson, 1741-1827  
Peale, Franklin, 1795-1870  
Peale, Rembrandt, 1778-1860  
Peale, Titian Ramsay, 1799-1885  
Poinsett, Joel Roberts, 1779-1851  
Rosenthal, Albert, 1863-1939  
Society of Artists of the United States

Sully, Thomas, 1783-1872  
Vaughan, John, 1756-1841  
West, Benjamin, 1738-1820

Functions:

Arts organizations -- Pennsylvania  
Learned institutions and societies