



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

John Russell Bartlett papers

Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	John Russell Bartlett papers
<b>Date:</b>	1850-1853
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.bartjohn
<b>Creator:</b>	Bartlett, John Russell, 1805-1886
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Microfilm reel (207 items on one microfilm reel)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The John Carter Brown Library acquired the John Russell Bartlett papers after his death.

### Location of Originals

Originals in the John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.

### Related Materials

The John Carter Brown Library at Brown University holds the John Russell Bartlett papers (JRB Papers). The Rhode Island Historical Society holds the John Russell Bartlett papers.

### Other Finding Aids

An item inventory prepared by the John Carter Brown Library, Brown University has been microfilmed at the beginning of the collection. Title, medium, size, and other information is given.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm roll 3320 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Citation

John Russell Bartlett papers, 1850-1853. Owned by the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University. Microfilmed by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### 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

John Russell Bartlett (1805-1886) was a historian, linguist, and bibliographer in Providence, Rhode Island. From 1850 to 1853 Bartlett was the United States Boundary Commissioner responsible for surveying the US-Mexico border. During this time he traveled with Henry Cheever Pratt, and used the sketches from his travels to illustrate his *Personal Narrative of Explorations and Incidents in Texas, New Mexico, California, Sonora and Chihuahua*. Bartlett later worked for the John Carter Brown Library.

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## Scope and Contents

The microfilmed John Russell Bartlett papers contain 31 watercolors and drawings by Henry Cheever Pratt; as well as 139 drawings, 2 sketchbooks, and 1 drawing book by John Russell Bartlett, all of which were created between 1850 and 1853 when Bartlett and Pratt were on expedition in Texas, New Mexico, California, Sonora, and Chihuahua. Also included are 8 drawings in pencil and Chinese white drawn from Bartlett sketches by the French artist, Oscar Bessau, who was working in Washington, D.C. in 1853; 13 watercolors drawn from Bartlett sketches by Seth Eastman in 1853 when Eastman was stationed at the Office of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C.; and 6 watercolors by Harrison Eastman, who was working in San Francisco, California during a period when John Russell Bartlett was also in that area. Five watercolors and drawings by unidentified artists; a pen and ink sketch of horses; and a self-portrait by Bartlett are also included.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Types of Materials:

- Drawings
- Sketchbooks

### Names:

- Bessau, Oscar
- Eastman, Harrison, b. ca. 1823
- Eastman, Seth, 1808-1875
- Pratt, Henry Cheever, 1803-1880

### Occupations:

- Bibliographers
- Historians -- Rhode Island -- Providence