



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to John M. Bennett Mail Art, circa 1975-2018, in the Archives of American Art

Ryan Evans

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Archives of American Art  
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	John M. Bennett mail art
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.bennjohn
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1975-2018
<b>Creator:</b>	Bennett, John M. Luna Bisonte Prods (Publisher)
<b>Extent:</b>	0.6 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	John M. Bennett mail art measures 0.6 linear feet and dates from circa 1975-2018. This is a very focused collection of Bennett's TLPs, or "Tacky Little Pamphlets," a term devised by mail artist Blaster Al Ackerman and widely among the mail art audience. TLPs feature John M. Bennet's poetry and are largely self-published including on his Columbus, Ohio imprint <i>Luna Bisonte Productions</i> .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

John M. Bennett mail art was donated in 2018 by John M. Bennett.

### Related Materials

John M. Bennett Papers, 1956-2014, with an extent of 177 linear feet, is held at the Washington University Libraries in Saint Louis, Department of Special Collections.

### Processing Information

John M. Bennett mail art was processed by Ryan Evans in 2021.

### Preferred Citation

John M. Bennett Mail Art, circa 1975-2018. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

John M. Bennett (1942-) is a poet, educator, and mail artist in Columbus, Ohio. Bennett studied English and Spanish at Washington University in St. Louis where he completed a master's degree in 1966, followed by a Latin American Literature PhD in 1970 from UCLA. From 1969 to 1976 Bennett worked as Assistant Professor of Spanish at Ohio State University, and since 1998 has served as curator of the Avant Writing Collection, the William Burroughs Collection, and the Cervantes Collection at the Library of Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Bennett served as editor and publisher of *Lost and Found Times* from 1975 to 2005.

John M. Bennett has published over 500 books and chapbooks of poetry and other materials and contributed to numerous other publications. He has also exhibited and performed his works internationally in thousands of venues. In 1993 he began making "Tacky Little Pamphlets" (TLPs), a term devised by mail artist Blaster Al Ackerman and widely among the mail art audience. They are small, cheap publications that are dispersed in random locations and mailed to artists and strangers. Bennett's works, publications, and papers are collected in several major libraries and institutions including Washington University in St. Louis, State University of New York, Buffalo, The Ohio State University, and The Museum of Modern Art Library.

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## Scope and Contents

John M. Bennett mail art measures 0.6 linear feet and dates from circa 1975-2018. This is a very focused collection of Bennett's TLPs, or "Tacky Little Pamphlets," a term devised by mail artist Blaster Al Ackerman and widely among the mail art audience. TLPs feature John M. Bennet's poetry and are largely self-published including on his Columbus, Ohio imprint *Luna Bisonte Productions*.

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## Arrangement

Due to the small size, the collection has been arranged into one series:

- Series 1: John M. Bennett Mail Art, circa 1975-2018 (0.6 Linear Feet: Boxes 1-2)

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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:

Mail art  
Visual poetry

Occupations:

Educators -- Ohio -- Columbus  
Mail artists -- Ohio -- Columbus  
Poets -- Ohio -- Columbus

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: John M. Bennett Mail Art, circa 1975-2018

#### 0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: John M. Bennett Mail Art is a very focused collection of Bennett's TLPs, or "Tacky Little Pamphlets," (a term devised by mail artist Blaster Al Ackerman and widely among the mail art audience), which feature John M. Bennet's poetry and are largely self-published including on his Columbus, Ohio imprint *Luna Bizonte Productions*.

Box 1, Folder 1	Mail Art, circa 1975-1987
Box 1, Folder 2-3	Mail Art, circa 1990s
Box 1, Folder 4-6	Mail Art, circa 2000s
Box 1, Folder 7-9	Mail Art, circa 2010-2013
Box 2, Folder 1-3	Mail Art, circa 2014-2018
Box 2, Folder 4	Mail Art Rubber Stamp Index by Red Fox Press, circa 2018

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