



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

Esther Fisher Benson papers

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

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Esther Fisher Benson papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.bensesth
<b>Date:</b>	1958-1965
<b>Extent:</b>	5 Items ((on partial microfilm reel))
<b>Creator:</b>	Benson, Esther Fisher, 1908-
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated 1982-1983 by Esther Fisher Benson.

### Location of Originals

Original papers are in the possession of Esther Fisher Benson in Newport, Rhode Island.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 4909 (fr. 723-753) available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Reproduction Note

Papers are photocopies.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Microfilmed materials must be consulted on microfilm. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Esther Fisher Benson was born in Philadelphia and attended Wellesley College. While summering in Newport, Rhode Island, around 1924, she met John Howard Benson, a graphic designer, stone carver, and teacher. Ten years later they were married in the same city and settled down there. Mr. Benson taught at R.I.S.D. in addition to his studio work with gravestones and medals. After his death in 1956, Mrs. Benson lectured on his career.

## Scope and Contents

Two typed drafts of a lecture given by Esther Fisher Benson at Gallery 303 in New York City, April 8, 1965, on her husband John Howard Benson, a graphic artist, stone carver, and educator of Rhode Island. Also included are an announcement for the lecture and a copy of a clipping about it, March 27, 1965.

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## Scope and Contents

Also included is motion picture film (16mm): Late 1950's excerpt by Don Jones (N.B.C.) and Charles Arnold (R.I.S.D.) of Robert Flaherty's documentary, "Cutting a Quill," about the Stevens Workshop in Newport and John Howard Benson.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Names:

Benson, John Howard, 1901-1956

Occupations:

Art teachers  
Artisans  
Calligraphers  
Educators  
Graphic artists  
Sculptors