



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Thomas Hart Benton papers

Archives of American Art  
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Victor Building, Suite 2200  
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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>	Thomas Hart Benton papers
<b>Date:</b>	1906-1975
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.bentthom
<b>Creator:</b>	Benton, Thomas Hart, 1889-1975
<b>Extent:</b>	4 Reels (ca. 600 items (on 4 microfilm reels))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Lent 1980 by Benton Testamentary Trusts, Lyman Field, trustee.

### Location of Originals

Originals in possession of Thomas Hart Benton and Rita P. Benton testamentary trusts.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels 2325-2328 available for use at Archives of American Art offices only.

### Restrictions

ACCESS RESTRICTED; written permission required.

### 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

Thomas Hart Benton (1889-1975) was an American Regionalist painter in Kansas City, Mo.

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## Scope and Contents

Biographical material; an interview with Benton concerning his Truman Library mural; correspondence, including many illustrated letters to his parents written while he was in school, studying in Paris, and in the Navy in Virginia; a letter from Thomas Craven and one from Stanton Macdonald-Wright; manuscripts, including "An American in Art," "An Artist in America," "Death of Grant Wood," "American Regionalism," "Life in Paris," "The Intimate Story," "Politics," and notes on Jackson Pollock; notes and notebooks containing writings; a handwritten manuscript of his speech at the dedication of his Truman Library mural; a few sketches and plates of his illustration for TOM SAWYER; a catalog, printed articles by Benton, and clippings; research material; and a photograph of Benton.

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

Art, American -- Middle West  
Art, Regional -- Middle West  
Mural painting and decoration -- Middle West  
Regionalism

### Names:

Craven, Thomas, b. 1889  
Macdonald-Wright, Stanton, 1890-1973  
Pollock, Jackson, 1912-1956  
Wood, Grant, 1891-1942

### Occupations:

Painters -- Middle West

### Places:

Middle west in art