



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Research material on William and Thomas Birch

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

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

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Research material on William and Thomas Birch
Date:	circa 1799-1990 (bulk 1940-1970)
Identifier:	AAA.bircwill2
Creator:	Birch family
Extent:	1.4 Linear feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated in 2008 by Cindy Keene, daughter of David Walter Harry.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

Enamel painters, miniaturists, engravers, etchers, publishers; Philadelphia, Pa. William Russell Birch (1755-1834) is best known for his miniature and enamel portraits and this series of Views of Philadelphia which he worked on with his son Thomas Birch (1779-1851) and published in 1799-1800.

Scope and Contents

Biographical material, writings, scrapbooks, correspondence, photographs, artwork, printed material and miscellany relating to William and Thomas Birch.

Scope and Contents

Biographical material includes research material on the Birch coat of arms; notes, including two scrapbooks, concerning the Birch family genealogy compiled by David Walter Harry and Thaddeus Harry, ancestors of William and Thomas Birch. Writings include thesis notes by Doris Jean Creer on William and Thomas Birch. Photographs are of Birch family members and works of art by William and Thomas Birch.

Scope and Contents

Artwork includes lithographs of oil paintings by William and Thomas Birch, including Girard's Bank (1800), Second Street (1799), and If that Fellow Wants to Fight, We Won't Disappoint Him (1812); one black and white engraving and one aquatint of Bethlehem, Pa (circa 1820) by artist William Strickland based on an oil painting by Thomas Birch, and two black and white engravings and one aquatint of View of the Water Gap and Columbia Glass Works, River Delaware (circa 1820) by William Strickland based on an oil painting by Thomas Birch.

Scope and Contents

Printed material include exhibition catalogs and books, newspaper clippings and magazine articles. Also included is documentation of a donation of William Birch's paint box to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Scrapbooks

Names:

Birch, Thomas, 1779-1851
Birch, William Russell, 1755-1834
Creer, Doris Jean
Strickland, William, 1787-1854

Occupations:

Engravers -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
Miniature painters -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
Painters -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia