



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Theodore Bolton papers

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-7950  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

## Table of Contents

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

---

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Theodore Bolton papers
<b>Date:</b>	1917-1958
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.bolttheo
<b>Creator:</b>	Bolton, Theodore, b. 1889
<b>Extent:</b>	5.1 Linear feet ((partially microfilmed on 5 reels))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

From 1956-1959, Bolton donated 3 feet of material to the Archives and 2 feet to the Library of the National Museum of American Art, which subsequently transferred it to the Archives, 1981. There is some duplication within the two groups of material.

### Location of Originals

Reel N140 (revised typescript): Originals returned to Bolton after microfilming.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels D9, D10, N140, 439-440 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### 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.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Art historian, scholar and librarian of the Century Association; New York, N.Y. Died 1973. He specialized in book illustration and portrait miniatures.

---

## Scope and Contents

Correspondence, typescripts of books, publications and clippings relating to Bolton's published and unpublished works on American art.

---

## Scope and Contents

UNMICROFILMED: Included are drafts for AMERICAN BOOK ILLUSTRATORS (N.Y., 1938), EARLY AMERICAN PORTRAIT PAINTERS IN OILS, DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN ARTISTS, A WORKING BIBLIOGRAPHY...RELATING TO ART IN PENNSYLVANIA...NOTES FOR A REVISION (Philadelphia, 1948), a portion of Sinclair Hamilton's EARLY AMERICAN BOOK ILLUSTRATORS, 1670-1870 (Princeton, 1958), "A Brief History of the French Impressionists," "Annotated Bibliography of Early American Painters, Sculptors and Engravers to 1860," A Brief History of Colonial American Painting" (1942); 75 typewritten pages of a working bibliography of books, magazine articles and catalogs relating to art in Pennsylvania by Harold E. Dickson and Bolton, 1948; catalogs of works of several artists; notes on artists, Greek vases and architecture, the Dutch masters, the Museum of San Marco, painting technique, the French Impressionists, Early American Painting, and English historical painting. Also included are checklists of books illustrated by Howard Pyle, Katharine Pyle and Joseph Pennell; articles by R. P. Tolman and related correspondence; sketches and drawings by Bolton; and clippings and book reviews relating to Bolton.

---

## Scope and Contents

REEL N140: A revised typescript, 1958, of AMERICAN BOOK ILLUSTRATORS.

---

## Scope and Contents

REELS D9 & D10: A letter from book designer Bruce Rogers, annotated by Bolton, February 14, 1945 regarding Rogers' design of THE FEDERALIST PAPERS; 2 letters from Ruel Pardee Tolman, June 12, 1949 and May 19, 1953, regarding his own painting and miniatures and other paintings he is buying and studying; and 5 letters from illustrator Thornton Oakley, undated and March 10-April 19, 1946.

---

## Scope and Contents

REELS 439-440: Copy of a photograph - probably from a book, of Winslow Homer (reel 439); and a photograph, ca. 1850, of (L to R.): Henry Kirke Brown, Henry Peters Gray and Asher Brown Durand and Emanuel Leutze, photographer unknown. [A similar photo filmed on reel NY59-19, fr. 1-2, Mary Bartlett Cowdrey artists' files pictures William Kemble (non-artist) on Brown's right.]

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Pennsylvania  
Illustration of books  
Portrait painting -- United States

Names:

Brown, Henry Kirke, 1814-1886  
Durand, Asher Brown, 1796-1886

Gray, Henry Peters, 1819-1877  
Oakley, Thornton, 1881-1953  
Rogers, Bruce, 1870-1957  
Tolman, Ruel P. (Ruel Pardee), 1878-1954

Occupations:

Art historians -- New York (State) -- New York  
Book illustrators  
Portrait painters