



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

Henry Botkin papers

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<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>	Henry Botkin papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.botkhenr
<b>Date:</b>	1917-1979
<b>Extent:</b>	3.5 Linear feet ((on 10 microfilm reels)) 4 Sound tapes (7 & 5 in.)
<b>Creator:</b>	Botkin, Henry, 1896-1983
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated 1969-1982 by Henry Botkin and by his son Glenn and his assistant Rene Barilleaux. Many items were returned to Botkin after microfilming.

### Location of Originals

Portions returned to Botkin after microfilming.

### Related Materials

Henry Botkin papers also at Syracuse University.

### Other Finding Aids

Microfilm inventory available in all Archives of American Art offices.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels D388, N69-67 - N69-68, N69-91, N70-25, N70-48, 2895-2897, and 4314 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Reproduction Note

Some photocopies.

### Restrictions

Patrons must use microfilm copy. Use of untranscribed tapes requires an appointment at the Washington, D.C. office.

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## Biographical / Historical

Painter; New York, N.Y. and Provincetown, Mass. Born in Boston and attended art schools there from 1913-1917. From 1917-1920, he attended the Art Students League and was employed as an illustrator for prominent magazines until 1929. Traveling abroad between 1926 and 1933, he attained his first one-man show in 1927 at the Billiet Galleries in Paris. Through his cousin, composer George Gershwin, Botkin became acquainted with people active in the performing arts, such as Harold Arlen, Fanny Brice, Harry Kurnitz, and Bert Lahr. Botkin was also involved in the American Abstract Artists, Artists Equity Association, Federation of Modern Painters and Sculptors, and Gallery 256 in Provincetown, Massachusetts.

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## Scope and Contents

Biographical material (1945-1965), letters (1917-1979), notes (1950-1970), writings (1944-1970), business records (1927-1977), art works (1932-1964), subject files (1952-1955), scrapbook (1927-1939), printed material (1923-1977), and photographs (1922-1968) documenting Botkin's career and his friendship with George and Ira Gershwin and other entertainment and artistic figures.

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## Scope and Contents

Among the correspondents and subjects of photographs or letters are: George and Ira Gershwin, their sister Frances Godowsky, Botkin's brother Benjamin, Botkin's daughter Toinette Botkin Laurent, and grandson Alexander Laurent, composer Harold Arlen, Fanny Brice and her son William Brice, artists Chaim Gross, Saburo Hasegawa, Hans Hofmann, Karl Knaths, Paul Manship, Paul Mocsanyi, Robert Motherwell, Louise Nevelson, Barnett Newman, Pablo Picasso, Wallace Putnam, Abraham Rattner, Hugo Robus, Arnold Schoenberg, Jack Shadbolt, John Von Wicht, and Abraham Walkowitz. Also included are photographs of Botkin's studio, night picnic in Provincetown attended by many artists; and material relating to American Abstract Artists, New School Art Center, Provincetown Art Association, and the Federation of Modern Painters and Sculptors. [See Finding Aid for information on location of items on the microfilm].

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## Scope and Contents

UNMICROFILMED: 3 untranscribed interviews of Botkin, 1 done for the "Today" show, NBC, June 4, 1965; 1 for Colette Roberts "Meet the Artist" Program, undated, and 1 by an unidentified interviewer. Also included is an untranscribed monologue, Oct. 11, 1970.

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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:

Art, Abstract

Artists' studios -- New York (State) -- New York -- Photographs

Types of Materials:

Drawings  
Scrapbooks

Names:

American Abstract Artists  
Arlen, Harold, 1905-1986  
Artists Equity Association  
Botkin, Benjamin Albert, 1901-1975  
Brice, Fanny  
Brice, William, 1921-2008  
Federation of Modern Painters and Sculptors  
Gallery 256 (Provincetown, Mass.)  
Gershwin, George, 1898-1937  
Gershwin, Ira, 1896-  
Godowsky, Frances  
Gross, Chaim, 1904-1991  
Hasegawa, Saburō, 1906-1957  
Hofmann, Hans, 1880-1966  
Knaths, Karl, 1891-1971  
Laurent, Toinette Botkin  
Mocsanyi, Paul  
Motherwell, Robert  
Nevelson, Louise, 1899-1988  
Newman, Barnett, 1905-1970  
Picasso, Pablo, 1881-1973  
Putnam, Wallace, 1899-1989  
Rattner, Abraham  
Robus, Hugo, 1885-1964  
Schoenberg, Arnold, 1874-1951  
Shadbolt, Jack, 1909-  
Siqueiros, David Alfaro  
Von Wicht, John, 1888-1970

Occupations:

Composers  
Painters -- Massachusetts -- Provincetown  
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York