



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Raymond Baxter and Anne  
Ophelia Todd Dowden papers

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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## Collection Overview

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| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives of American Art  |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Raymond Baxter and Anne Ophelia Todd Dowden papers  |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1937-1996   |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | AAA.dowdraym  |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Dowden, Raymond Baxter, 1905-1982<br>Dowden, Anne Ophelia Todd, 1907-<br>Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 0.8 Linear feet ((microfilmed on 2 partial reels))<br>12 Items (Addition)                                 |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English .   |

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated 1978-1982 by Raymond Baxter Dowden and Anne Ophelia Dowden; and in 1990 and 2004 by Anne Dowden.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels 4884-4885 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

Painters; New York, N.Y. Raymond Dowden taught design at Cooper Union Art School, New York, N.Y., and is known also for his calligraphy work. His wife, Anne Ophelia Todd Dowden, was a botanical artist. Anne Ophelia Todd Dowden died in 2007.

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## Scope and Contents

Correspondence, letter essays, writings, project files, printed material, works of art, and photographs primarily regarding Dowden's positions as head of the Design Department at Cooper Union Art School (CUAS) for 32 years and Director of the Yale summer art school in Norfolk, Connecticut. Also included are papers of Anne Ophelia Todd Dowden.

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## Scope and Contents

REELS 4884-4885: Biographical material consists of memorial tributes and obituaries, 1982. Correspondence, 1952-1980, is with friends and colleagues, primarily concerning the Cooper Union Art School and its publications and projects, calligraphy, and the Yale-Norfolk art school, 1952-1982. Among the correspondents are Rudolf Arnheim, painter Byron Thomas, and Floyd Starr of the Starr Commonwealth for Boys, where Dowden had gone as a boy. Letters, written in essay form, 1955-1978, by Dowden regard Anne Ophelia's botanical drawing publications, his health concerns, travel plans, and general thoughts. Writings, ca. 1960, concern Dowden's philosophy of art in relation to CUAS.

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## Scope and Contents

Also included are files regarding CUAS publications, Green Camp, Dowden's participation as an art juror, the Yale summer art school, and Byron Thomas's death and memorial service, 1978. Printed material, 1940-1976, includes exhibition announcements and catalogs, CUAS publications, newspaper and magazine clippings, and reproductions of Dowden's art work. Original art work by Raymond and Ophelia include ink drawings and pencil sketches. Photographs are of family and friends, works of art and exhibition installations, and friends while Dowden was a resident fellow at the Tiffany Foundation in 1929 and 1932.

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## Scope and Contents

Unmicrofilmed addition: Biographical material, writings, an outline of a book on design, exhibition announcements, printed material, and photographs.

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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:

- Women artists
- Women educators
- Women painters

Names:

- Arnheim, Rudolf
- Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art. Art School -- Faculty
- Starr, Floyd Elliot, 1883-1980
- Thomas, Byron, 1902-1978
- Yale Summer Art School (Norfolk, Conn.) -- Faculty

Occupations:

- Botanical artists
- Educators -- New York (State) -- New York
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York