



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Morris W. Primoff Papers Relating to Thomas Hart Benton, 1950-1978, in the Archives of American Art

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Morris W. Primoff papers relating to Thomas Hart Benton
Date:	1950-1978
Identifier:	AAA.primmorr
Creator:	Primoff, Morris W.
Extent:	0.01 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	<p>The Morris W. Primoff papers relating to Thomas Hart Benton measures 0.01 linear feet and date from 1950 to 1978. The papers primarily consist of correspondence between attorney Morris W. Primoff (1899-1986) and New York-based painter and muralist Thomas Hart Benton (1889-1975). Correspondence includes letters, 1950-1965, between Benton and Morris W. Primoff of Primoff & Primoff, Counselors at Law. Letters concern the "Lewis family" gift of Benton's painting "Island Farm" to Morris W. Primoff; a Benton exhibition at the Gerst Gallery in New York; tax laws concerning unsold works of art in artists' estates; a proposed book on Benton by Crown Publishers, Inc.; and Benton's expedition up the Missouri River following the trail of Lewis and Clark. Also included are a letter from Benton's wife Rita to Polly and Murray (Morris) Primoff thanking them for attending Benton's exhibition opening in New Britain, 1954; and a letter from Polly Burroughs concerning a book on Benton, 1978. Printed material includes the catalog "Thomas Hart Benton: A Giant in American Art"(1962) and newspaper clippings.</p>

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Morris W. Primoff papers relating to Thomas Hart Benton were donated to the Archives of American Art in 2006 by Barbara and L. Robert Primoff, daughter-in-law and son of Morris W. Primoff.

Available Formats

Primoff's outgoing letters are photocopies.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Rihoko Ueno in 2023.

Preferred Citation

Morris W. Primoff papers relating to Thomas Hart Benton, 1950-1978. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

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.

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Biographical / Historical

Morris W. Primoff (1899-1986) was a New York attorney. Thomas H. Benton (1889-1975) was a painter, mural painter based in New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

The Morris W. Primoff papers relating to Thomas Hart Benton measures 0.01 linear feet and date from 1950 to 1978. The papers primarily consist of correspondence between attorney Morris W. Primoff (1899-1986) and New York-based painter and muralist Thomas Hart Benton (1889-1975). Correspondence includes letters, 1950-1965, between Benton and Morris W. Primoff of Primoff & Primoff, Counselors at Law. Letters concern the "Lewis family" gift of Benton's painting "Island Farm" to Morris W. Primoff; a Benton exhibition at the Gerst Gallery in New York; tax laws concerning unsold works of art in artists' estates; a proposed book on Benton by Crown Publishers, Inc.; and Benton's expedition up the Missouri River following the trail of Lewis and Clark. Also included are a letter from Benton's wife Rita to Polly and Murray (Morris) Primoff thanking them for attending Benton's exhibition opening in New Britain, 1954; and a letter from Polly Burroughs concerning a book on Benton, 1978. Printed material includes the catalog "Thomas Hart Benton: A Giant in American Art"(1962) and newspaper clippings.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

- Series 1: Morris W. Primoff papers relating to Thomas Hart Benton, 1950-1978 (Folder 1; 20 items)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Collectors and collecting -- New York (State) -- New York

Names:

Benton, Rita P.
Benton, Thomas Hart, 1889-1975

Occupations:

Lawyers -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Morris W. Primoff papers relating to Thomas Hart Benton, 1950-1978

20 Items (Folder 1)

Scope and Contents: The papers primarily consist of correspondence between attorney Morris W. Primoff (1899-1986) and New York-based painter and muralist Thomas Hart Benton (1889-1975). Correspondence includes letters, 1950-1965, between Benton and Morris W. Primoff of Primoff & Primoff, Counselors at Law. Letters concern the "Lewis family" gift of Benton's painting "Island Farm" to Morris W. Primoff; a Benton exhibition at the Gerst Gallery in New York; tax laws concerning unsold works of art in artists' estates; a proposed book on Benton by Crown Publishers, Inc.; and Benton's expedition up the Missouri River following the trail of Lewis and Clark. Also included are a letter from Benton's wife Rita to Polly and Murray (Morris) Primoff thanking them for attending Benton's exhibition opening in New Britain, 1954; and a letter from Polly Burroughs concerning a book on Benton, 1978. Printed material includes the catalog "Thomas Hart Benton: A Giant in American Art"(1962) and newspaper clippings.

Folder 1

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