



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Benjamin West collection from the Friends  
Historical Library, Swarthmore College

Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Benjamin West collection from the Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College
<b>Date:</b>	1775-1819
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.westbenc
<b>Creator:</b>	West, Benjamin, 1738-1820
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Item (partial microfilm reel)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Microfilmed in 1989 as part of AAA's Philadelphia Arts Documentation Project. The papers are from several collections at Friends Historical Library.

### Location of Originals

Originals in: Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 4233 available at Archives of American Art offices, through interlibrary loan, at the Free Library of Philadelphia, and at the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College.

### Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

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## Biographical / Historical

Painter Born in Pennsylvania, moved to London, where his studio became a center for expatriate Americans.

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## Scope and Contents

Papers and drawings selected from collections at Swarthmore College's Friends Historical Library, mainly regarding West's life and painting activities in England. Included are: 15 letters between West and various individuals referring to his paintings, requesting to see his collection and business matters; hand drawn diagrams for King's Chapel at Windsor Castle designating the placement, subjects and measurements for a cycle of paintings; account lists kept by Mrs. West documenting daily expenditures and various social engagements; and 212 drawings of religious and classical subjects, as well as landscape, figural and animal studies.

## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Expatriate painters -- England

Occupations:

Painters -- United States