



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Curatorial Records, 1960-1994

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Descriptive Entry.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Curatorial Records
Identifier:	Accession 95-058
Date:	1960-1994
Extent:	4 cu. ft. (4 record storage boxes)
Creator::	National Portrait Gallery. Department of Painting and Sculpture
Language:	English

Administrative Information

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Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession 95-058, National Portrait Gallery. Department of Painting and Sculpture, Curatorial Records

Descriptive Entry

This accession consists of records that document the career of Robert G. Stewart, Senior Curator in the National Portrait Gallery (NPG), and art historian. After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania in 1954, Stewart worked for the National Park Service as historical architect. From 1961 to 1964 he was Director of Properties for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In November 1964 Stewart became one of the first three staff members of the NPG when he was named Curator in that bureau.

Stewart's work before coming to the Smithsonian is largely undocumented in these records, with the exception of a single article that was probably written in 1960. The bulk of the records describe Stewart's professional work both within and outside of the Smithsonian. Personal correspondence files dating from 1964 through 1994 consist mostly of letters concerning topics of professional interest to Stewart, in which he identifies himself as a curator.

Professional correspondence files dating from 1985 through 1994 consist mainly of public inquiries and Stewart's replies. The records document Stewart's participation in several NPG exhibitions, most notably on the work of Henry Benbridge, which was shown in 1971. Records also contain documentation about Stewart's museum-sponsored travel and his involvement with Smithsonian committees and other bodies.

These records also document Stewart's activities outside the Smithsonian. They contain files on competitions he adjudicated; articles and essays he contributed to various publications; guest lectures, speeches, and other presentations; and outside professional organizations in which he was involved. The records include several files on a course he taught at George Washington University from roughly 1967 to 1972 called "Principles of Museum Work," noted in the files as "ART 146."

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art museum curators
- Museum exhibits
- Museum publications
- Museums -- Educational aspects
- Museums -- Public relations

Types of Materials:

- Brochures
- Clippings
- Manuscripts

Names:

- Benbridge, Henry, 1743-1812
- George Washington University
- Henry Benbridge: American Portrait Painter (Exhibition) (1971: Washington, D.C.)
- Stewart, Robert G.

Container Listing

Box 1

Box 1 of 4	Personal Correspondence, 1964-1966
Box 1 of 4	Personal Correspondence, 1967-1968
Box 1 of 4	Personal Correspondence, 1969-1970
Box 1 of 4	Personal Correspondence, 1971-1972
Box 1 of 4	Personal Correspondence, 1973-1974
Box 1 of 4	Personal Correspondence, 1975-1976
Box 1 of 4	Personal Correspondence, 1977-1978
Box 1 of 4	Personal Correspondence, 1979-1980
Box 1 of 4	Personal Correspondence, 1981-1982
Box 1 of 4	Personal Correspondence, 1983-1984
Box 1 of 4	England (1986-1991)
Box 1 of 4	Personal Correspondence, 1985-1986
Box 1 of 4	Personal Correspondence, 1986-1987
Box 1 of 4	Personal Correspondence, 1987-1988
Box 1 of 4	Personal Correspondence, 1989-1990
Box 1 of 4	Personal Correspondence, 1991
Box 1 of 4	Personal Correspondence, 1992, 1993, 1994
Box 1 of 4	Publications, 1988-1994
Box 1 of 4	Portraiture in America, Main Street Press, 1976

Box 1 of 4 International Art Medals, 1988

Box 1 of 4 HABS Foundation (1983-1993)

Box 2

Box 2 of 4 "George Washington" (article in Antiques), 1988

Box 2 of 4 Address Book

Box 2 of 4 Johnson, Joshua, exhibition (1985-1987)

Box 2 of 4 Pine exhibition, November 6, 1979

Box 2 of 4 Henry Benbridge, 1743-1812: American Portrait Painter (April 2, 1971-May 16, 1971) - Publicity, 1971

Box 2 of 4 Benbridge general, after exhibit (1971-1983)

Box 2 of 4 Benbridge - Associative Objects

Box 2 of 4 Biographies of Benbridge Sitters, done by Education Department

Box 2 of 4 Benbridge - Press Release

Box 2 of 4 Benbridge General - Norfolk Museum

Box 2 of 4 Benbridge General - Gibbes Art Gallery

Box 2 of 4 Benbridge - Exhibition Hall

Box 2 of 4 Benbridge Script

Box 2 of 4 Benbridge General - Miscellaneous

Box 2 of 4 Henry Benbridge

Box 2 of 4 Application for Research Grant - James Earl

Box 2 of 4 James Earl, January 15, 1970 - April 17, 1970

Box 2 of 4 Abroad in America - Miscellaneous (1976)

- Box 2 of 4 American Portrait Drawings - May 1, 1980
- Box 2 of 4 Performance Appraisal - Robert Stewart I (appraisals removed - file contains position descriptions and performance plans) (2 folders)
- Box 2 of 4 Conservation - R. S. Wiles (1965-1966)
- Box 2 of 4 ART 146: "Principles of Museum Work," course taught at George Washington University, 1967-1972 - Outline
- Box 2 of 4 ART 146 - Lecture Notes
- Box 2 of 4 ART 146, 1967-1968
- Box 2 of 4 ART 146, Fall 1968
- Box 2 of 4 ART 146, 1968 (2 folders)
- Box 2 of 4 ART 146, Spring 1969
- Box 2 of 4 ART 146, Fall 1969
- Box 3
- Box 3 of 4 ART 146, 1969
- Box 3 of 4 ART 146 - Notes, 1969-1970
- Box 3 of 4 ART 146, Spring 1970
- Box 3 of 4 ART 146 Interns - Comprehensive Exam, December 15-16, 1970
- Box 3 of 4 ART 146, 1967-1972
- Box 3 of 4 Robert G. Stewart, Speeches (1967-1968)
- Box 3 of 4 Robert G. Stewart, Articles (1960-1980)
- Box 3 of 4 Public Library, Martin Luther King (1983, 1985)
- Box 3 of 4 Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (1970-1977)
- Box 3 of 4 Civil Service Commission (1965-1971)

Box 3 of 4 Gilman School (1985)

Box 3 of 4 Robert G. Stewart Travel - London, July 1973

Box 3 of 4 Painting in the South, February 1979

Box 3 of 4 Robert G. Stewart - Lauren Rogers Museum, April 10, 1987, Symposium and Lecture, Manuscript for Southern Quarterly - Benbridge and Earl

Box 3 of 4 Jamaica National Fine Arts Commission, July 24-August 2, 1971

Box 3 of 4 Encyclopedia of the American Revolution - Blanco, State University of New York (1988-1993)

Box 3 of 4 Lecture, St. John Museum, Wilmington, North Carolina (1988-1990)

Box 3 of 4 Krimmel Book Review by RGS, Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography (1988)

Box 3 of 4 Peale Conference, April 13, 1991

Box 3 of 4 Trip to England, November 1987

Box 3 of 4 Dictionary of Art (1986, 1988)

Box 3 of 4 Bicentennial of the American Revolution, 1969-1975

Box 3 of 4 Inquiries, 1986-1987

Box 3 of 4 Log of Visitors, September 1986-December 1986

Box 3 of 4 General Correspondence, 1986

Box 3 of 4 Correspondence, 1987

Box 3 of 4 Inquiries - Responses, 1987-1988

Box 3 of 4 Inquiries, 1987

Box 3 of 4 Correspondence, 1988

Box 3 of 4 Correspondence, 1989

Box 4

Box 4 of 4	Inquiries - Responses, 1989-1990
Box 4 of 4	General Correspondence, 1990
Box 4 of 4	Inquiries - Responses, 1988-1989
Box 4 of 4	Inquiries, January-June 1990
Box 4 of 4	Inquiries, June-December, 1990
Box 4 of 4	Correspondence, 1991
Box 4 of 4	Inquiries, 1991
Box 4 of 4	Inquiries, 1992
Box 4 of 4	Correspondence, 1993
Box 4 of 4	Correspondence, 1994
Box 4 of 4	Maryland - National Capital Park and Planning's "Eye to Eye: The Painted Portrait" Competition, 1994