



## Research Guide

### Thomas Hart Benton Works on Paper – Lithographs and Drawings



*Huckleberry Finn*, 1936



*The Farmer's Daughter*, 1944



*Wreck of the Ol'97*, 1944

#### Resource List | April 2014

As Kansas City celebrates the 125th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Hart Benton (April 15, 1889 – 1975), the Nelson-Atkins explores part of his artistic legacy through a small exhibition drawn from its permanent collection, *Benton in Black and White – Lithographs by Thomas Hart Benton*. Lithographs were an important medium for Benton and one that showcased his bold figural drawing style and compositional aesthetic to its full advantage. In this Research Guide we have selected materials from the library's collections that look at Thomas Hart Benton's life, lithographs including the catalogue raisonné of his nearly 100 prints, his other works on paper as well as a selection of materials from Benton's own library. Benton was an avid reader and advocate for libraries, stating in a 1940 letter to a young acquaintance preparing to travel to New York, "Now for some fatherly advice while you're there make use of the libraires..."

If you have questions, please contact the reference staff at the Spencer Art Reference Library at 816.751.1216. Library hours and services are listed on the Museum's website at [www.nelson-atkins.org](http://www.nelson-atkins.org)

Selected by:

Roberta Wagener | Library Assistant, Public Services

Updated:

Amelia Nelson | Public Services Librarian

#### Thomas Hart Benton-General

Adams, Henry. *Thomas Hart Benton: An American Original*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1989.

Spencer Art Reference Library

Call No: N44 B467 .A644 1989

Burns, Ken; Julie Dunphey, Geoffrey C. Ward, Jason Robards, Florentine Films. *Thomas Hart Benton*. PBS Home Video, 2004.

Spencer Art Reference Library

Call No: Multimedia ND 237 .B47 T46 2004

BENTON

Chiappini, Rudy. *Thomas Hart Benton*.  
Lugano: Museo d'arte moderna;  
Milan: Electa, 1992.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: ND 237 .B47 A4 1992 BENTON

Mazow, Leo G. *Shallow Creek: Thomas Hart Benton and American Waterways*. University Park: Palmer Museum of Art, Pennsylvania State University; distributed by Pennsylvania State University Press, 2007.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N 6537 .B457 A4 2007 BENTON

Mazow, Leo G. *Thomas Hart Benton and the American Sound*. University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2012.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: ND 237 .B47 M39 2012

Wolff, Justin. *Thomas Hart Benton: A Life*.  
New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: ND 237 .B47 W65 2012 BENTON

### **Benton on Benton**

Benton, Thomas Hart. *An American in Art: A Professional and Technical Autobiography*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1969.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: ND 237 .B47 A4 1969 BENTON

Benton, Thomas Hart and Matthew Baigell. *An Artist in America*. 4<sup>th</sup> rev. ed. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1983.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: ND 237 .B47 A3 1983 BENTON

### **Works on Paper – Lithographs and Drawings**

Adams, Henry. *Thomas Hart Benton: Drawing From Life*. Seattle: Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle; New York: Abbeville Press, 1990.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: NC 1075 .B522 A47 1990 BENTON

Benton, Thomas Hart. *Benton Drawings: A Collection of Drawings by Thomas Hart Benton*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1968.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: NC 1075 .B522 A45 1968

Czestochowski, Joseph S. *A Question of Regionalism: Lithographs by Thomas Hart Benton, John Steuart Curry, Grant Wood*. Memphis: Brooks Memorial Art Gallery, 1975.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: NE 2319 .B48 C9

Dreishpoon, Douglas. *Benton's America: Works on Paper and Selected Paintings*. New York: Hirschl & Adler Galleries, 1991.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N44 B467 .H57 1991

Fath, Creekmore. *The Lithographs of Thomas Hart Benton*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1979.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: ND 2312 .B48 A4 1979 BENTON

Louis Newman Galleries. *Thomas Hart Benton (1889–1975): Works on Paper*. Beverly Hills: Louis Newman Galleries, 1991.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: BENTON N6537 .B457 A4 1991

Makin, Jean. *American Life & Lore: Thomas Hart Benton & The Associated American Artists: From the Hugh Taylor Collection*. Tempe: University Art Museum, Arizona State University, 1989.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: NE 104 .A88 A6 1989

Marling, Karal Ann. *Tom Benton and His Drawings: A Biographical Essay and a Collection of His Sketches, Studies and Mural Cartoons*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1985.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N44 B467 NC.M3

Miller Gallery. *Thomas Hart Benton: Lithographs, March 6–April 3, 1982*. Cincinnati: Miller Gallery, 1982.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N44 B467 NE.M55 1982

Worthen, Amy Namowitz. *Benton–Curry–Wood: Selected Lithographs*. Des Moines: Iowa Art Council, 1978.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: NE 2312 .B48 A4 1978 BENTON

## Online Resources

Adams, Henry. "Auctioning a Beloved Thomas Hart Benton Collection." *smithsonianmag.com*, November 7, 2011. Accessed April 1, 2014. <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/auctioning-a-beloved-thomas-hart-benton-collection-2-128520175/?no-ist>

Adams, Henry. "The Drawings of Thomas Hart Benton." *American Artist: Drawing* 2, no. 3 (Winter 2005): 40-55. *Art Source*, EBSCOhost (accessed December 6, 2013). <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=asu&AN=36069560&site=ehost-live>

Mazow, Leo. "Thomas Hart Benton and the American Sound." YouTube video, 50:23, streamed live from a lecture at the Smithsonian American Art Museum on September 26, 2013, posted by Smithsonian American Art Museum. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOtmDiwG1EE>

Missouri State Parks. "Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio State Historic Site." Accessed October 23, 2013. <http://www.mostateparks.com/park/thomas-hart-benton-home-and-studio-state-historic-site>

PBS. "Ken Burns: American Stories: Thomas Hart Benton." Accessed October 23, 2013. <http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/benton/>

Starr, Robin. "Expressionism in Regionalist Prints." *Journal Of The Print World* 35, no. 3 (July 2012): 11-26. *Art Source*, EBSCOhost (accessed December 6, 2013). <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=asu&AN=77419003&site=ehost-live>

"Thomas Hart Benton Dies; Painter of American Scene." *New York Times (1923–Current File)*, Jan 20, 1975. Accessed October 29, 2013. <http://search.proquest.com/docview/120515560?accountid=28457>.

## Selections from Benton's Personal Library

On display at the Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio State Historic Site or browsable at your public library.

Aiken, Henry D. and William Barrett, eds. *Philosophy in the Twentieth Century, volumes 1-4*. New York: Random House, 1962.

Fuller, B.A.G. *A History of Philosophy*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1938.

Michener, James A. *Hawaii*. New York: Random House, 1959.

Pelligrini, Angelo. *Immigrant's Return*. New York: MacMillan Co., 1951.

Rodman, Selden, ed. *A New Anthology of Modern Poetry*. New York: Random House, 1938.

Symonds, John A. *Renaissance in Italy, vol. 1*. New York: Modern Library, 1935.

## Art Sales

To find information on where an artist's work has sold at auction, and for how much, you can search in the following databases for the artist. These are subscription databases that can be accessed from inside the library.

- Artprice: <http://www.artprice.com>
- Artnet: <http://www.artnet.com>
- Askart <http://www.askart.com>
- Invaluable <http://www.invaluable.com>

## Image Credits

***Huckleberry Finn***, 1936, 61-79/1

Thomas Hart Benton, American, 1889-1975

Lithograph

Overall: 16 1/4 x 21 5/8 in. (41.275 x 54.9275 cm)

Gift of Mrs. Peter T. Bohan

Art © Thomas Hart Benton and Rita P. Benton Testamentary Trusts/UMB Bank Trustee/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY

***The Farmer's Daughter***, 1944, F97-2/10

Thomas Hart Benton, American, 1889-1975

Lithograph on paper

Overall: 9 7/8 x 13 1/8 in. (25.0825 x 33.3375 cm)

Gift of Robert M. White II in honor of his father, L. Mitchell White

Art © Thomas Hart Benton and Rita P. Benton Testamentary  
Trusts/UMB Bank Trustee/Licensed by VAGA, New York,  
NY

***Wreck of the Ol' 97***, 1944, 44-51/3

Thomas Hart Benton, American , 1889-1975

Lithograph

Overall: 10 5/16 x 14 15/16 in. (26.1874 x 37.9222 cm)

Donated by the artist for the 6th War Bond Auction;  
purchased and given by the Kansas City Power and Light  
Company

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Trusts/UMB Bank Trustee/Licensed by VAGA, New York,  
NY