

# Rembrandt Peale books

MS.062

Finding Aid prepared by Hoang Tran

---



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY  
OF THE FINE ARTS

The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts  
118-128 North Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

[archives@pafa.org](mailto:archives@pafa.org)

215-972-2066

Updated by Hoang Tran, May 2016

## Summary Information

<b>Repository</b>	The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, The Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Rembrandt Peale (1778-1860)
<b>Title</b>	Rembrandt Peale books
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1831; 1838-1839
<b>Extent</b>	3 books
<b>Location note</b>	
<b>Language</b>	
<b>Language of Materials note</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	This collection consists of three publications by Rembrandt Peale: <i>Notes On Italy, Written During a Tour in the Years 1829 and 1830</i> (Philadelphia, 1831). <i>Peale's Graphics, A Manual of Drawing and Writing for the use of Schools and Families, Second Edition – Improved</i> (Philadelphia 1838). <i>Portfolio of an Artist</i> (Philadelphia, 1839).

### **Preferred Citation note**

[identification of item], Title of Collection, Collection ID#, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Archives, Philadelphia, PA.

## **Historical note**

Rembrandt Peale, the second son of Academy founder Charles Willson Peale, began his art study under his father, and at the age of twenty-four commenced a year of study under Benjamin West at the Royal Academy in London. He returned to America in 1803 and settled in Philadelphia where he painted portraits of distinguished citizens for his father's museum and as independent commissions.

In 1805 he was one of three artists among the seventy-one founders of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. He continued to be involved in the affairs of the institution until his death. From 1808 to 1810 he was in Paris, studying French painting styles and executing portraits of statesman and famous artists, including Jacques Louis David and Jean Antoine Houdon. After his exposure to the grand manner of French art, he returned to America hoping to achieve fame and expand his repertoire by painting large historical compositions. From 1823 until his death Peale painted no fewer than seventy-nine idealized depictions of George Washington.

After his last trip to Europe, he settled in Philadelphia, and spent his time producing copies of his most famous Washington image and lecturing. He also published several books on art or art practice, and taught drawing at Central High School for a few years. The Academy collection contains nineteen portraits by Rembrandt Peale.

## **Scope and Contents note**

This collection consists of three publications by Rembrandt Peale:

- *Notes On Italy, Written During a Tour in the Years 1829 and 1830* (Philadelphia, 1831).
- *Peale's Graphics, A Manual of Drawing and Writing for the use of Schools and Families, Second Edition – Improved* (Philadelphia 1838).
- *Portfolio of an Artist* (Philadelphia, 1839).

## **Arrangement note**

### **Administrative Information**

#### **Conditions Governing Access note**

Collection is open for research.

The archives reserves the right to restrict access to materials of sensitive nature. Please contact the department for further information.

**Conditions Governing Use note**

The collection is the physical property of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Archives. The Museum holds literary rights only for material created by Museum personnel or given to the Museum with such rights specifically assigned. For all other material, literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. Researchers are responsible for obtaining permission from rights holders for publication and for other purposes where stated.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

**Provenance note**

All three volumes were in the Academy library when, in the 1960s, many older volumes were put into storage. The exact provenance of each item is not known, but inscriptions indicate that the volumes may have been discarded from other libraries at some point, and acquired by the Academy.

**Processing Information note**

**Controlled Access Headings**

Person(s)

Corporate Name(s)

Genre(s)

Geographic Name(s)

Subject(s)

**Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note**

**Collection Inventory**

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
<i>Notes On Italy</i>	1831		
<i>Peale's Graphics</i>	1838		
<i>Portfolio of an Artist</i>	1839		