

Thomas N. Armstrong III secretary records

Collection ID# RG.01.04.08

Finding Aid prepared by Hoang Tran



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY
OF THE FINE ARTS

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Summary Information

Repository	The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives
Creator	Thomas N. Armstrong III (1932–2011)
Title	Thomas N. Armstrong III secretary records
Date [bulk]	
Date [inclusive]	1971-1973
Extent	4 document boxes
Location note	
Language	English
Language of Materials note	English
Abstract	Collection of office files generated by Thomas N. Armstrong during his time as director of PAFA. Files relate to exhibitions, administrative duties, finances, and events. Armstrong was pivotal in the renovation of the Historic Landmark Building which was completed in 1976. Box 1 in collection includes records from Henry Hotz Jr. who served as Acting Director from January to October 1971.

Preferred Citation note

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

Historical note

Thomas Newton Armstrong III was born on July 30, 1932, in Portsmouth, Va., and grew up in Summit, N.J. He painted in high school. He graduated from Cornell University with a bachelor's degree in art history in 1954, where he became a member of the Quill and Dagger society.

After serving in the Army, he worked for Stone & Webster, an engineering and securities firm, in Manhattan. But determined to make a career in the arts, he began studying museum administration at the New York University Institute of Fine Arts in 1967. A study project at the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Collection in Williamsburg, Va., led to his appointment as a curator at the collection.

In 1971 he was named director of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, where he put into motion the renovation of the main building, a project completed in 1976.

Armstrong moved on to succeed John I. H. Baur as the director of the Whitney in 1974 where he is best known for more than quadrupling the size of the Whitney Museum's art holdings.

Armstrong had a lifelong interest in gardening and joined the board of the Garden Conservancy in 1991, becoming Chairman in 1997. He also served on the advisory committees of Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens and Winterthur Museum & Country Estate, and was an Honorary Trustee of the National Building Museum and a Trustee of the New York School of Interior Design.

Scope and Contents note

Collection of office files generated by Thomas N. Armstrong during his time as director of PAFA. Files relate to exhibitions, administrative duties, finances, and events. Armstrong was pivotal in the renovation of the Historic Landmark Building which was completed in 1976. Box 1 in collection includes records from Henry Hotz Jr. who served as Acting Director from Jan.-Oct. 1971.

Arrangement note

Collection arranged chronologically. Files arranged alphabetically.

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

Processing Information note

Processed by Cheryl Leibold.

Controlled Access Headings

Person(s)

Corporate Name(s)

Genre(s)

Geographic Name(s)

Subject(s)

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

Collection Inventory

Date	Folder Title	Box #	Folder #
1971	Accreditation application to AAM	1	1
1971	Artwork offered and rejected	1	2
1971	NEA Study on conservation	1	3
1971	Correspondence: A-C	1	4
1971	Correspondence: D-H	1	5
1971	Correspondence: J-O	1	6

Thomas N. Armstrong III secretary records (RG.01.04.08)

1971	Correspondence: P-Z	1	7
1971	Deaccessioning	1	8
1971	Development	1	9
1971	Thomas Anshutz Exhibition proposal	1	10
1971	Japanese Flower Arranging Exhibition (cancelled)	1	11
1971	John Koch Exhibition proposal	1	12
1971	Marine Painting Exhibition proposal	1	13
1971	Painting and Printing in Philadelphia to 1776 Exhibition	1	14
1971	Two Artists from the Common Ground Exhibition	1	15
1971	Memoranda	1	16
1971	Mission Statement	1	17
1971	Report to Board on Current Challenges	1	18
1971	Staff Lists	1	19
1971	Winterthur Conference: Museum Operation	1	20
1972	Artwork offered and rejected	2	1
1972	Building-Louis I. Kahn remarks	2	2
1972	Building-Restoration planning	2	3
1972	Building-Letters of support for Bicentennial grant	2	4
1972	Building-Proposal for Bicentennial historic restoration grant	2	5
1972	Building-Wood and Tower planning study	2	6
1972	Building-Wood and Tower utilization study	2	7
1972	Christmas party	2	8
1972	Concert Series	2	9
1972	Conservation	2	10
1972	Consultants' visit and evaluation-agenda and planning	2	11
1972	Consultants' visit and evaluation-summaries	2	12
1972	Consultants' visit and evaluation-correspondence	2	13
1972	Consultants' visit and evaluation-transcript of meeting	2	14
1972	Consultants' visit and evaluation-financial summary	2	15
1972	Contributions	3	1
1972	Cornerstone Patrons fund drive	3	2
1972	Correspondence: A-K	3	3
1972	Correspondence: L-Z	3	4
1972	Development	3	5
1972	Proposal to revive Annual Exhibitions	3	6
1972	Audiotape guides	3	7
1972	Albert Bierstadt Exhibition	3	8
1972	Cosmopolitan Club Exhibition	3	9
1972	Arthur N. Carles Exhibition (Peale Club)	3	10
1972	Eakins photo reproductions tour to New Zealand	3	11
1972	Unrealized exhibition proposals	3	12
1972	Frank Furness Chairs	3	13

Thomas N. Armstrong III secretary records (RG.01.04.08)

1972	Memoranda	3	14
1972	Hobson Pittman Estate	3	15
1972	Report of the Director on Board Unity	3	16
1972	Staff Lists	3	17
1972	Attempts to buy John Sloan works	3	18
1972	Summary of current status for stockholders	3	19
1972	Franklin Watkins Memorial Fund	3	20
1972	Women's Committee	3	21
1973	Correspondence: Accreditation with AAM	4	1
1973	Correspondence: Bicentennial historic restoration grant	4	2
1973	Wood and Tower interim report	4	3
1973	Correspondence: A-K	4	4
1973	Correspondence: L-Z	4	5
1973	Development	4	6
1973	Endowment Consolidation report	4	7
1973	Financial summary and projection of needs	4	8
1973	Memoranda	4	9
1973	Peale Club	4	10
1973	Soviet Museologists Visit	4	11
1973	Women's Committee	4	12