

**PRELIMINARY INVENTORY**  
**ACCESSION CA6427**  
**SID LARSON PAPERS**

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri, Research Center-Columbia](http://The State Historical Society of Missouri, Research Center-Columbia). If you would like more information, please contact us at [research@shsmo.org](mailto:research@shsmo.org).

**Dates:** 1960s-2004

**Creator:** Larson, Sid, 1923-2009

**Collection Size:** 3.0 cubic feet

### **Introduction**

The papers of an artist, teacher, and curator of the State Historical Society of Missouri's art collection include newspaper clippings, correspondence, and research on Thomas Hart Benton, as well as records of Larson's restoration work on various Missouri murals. Also included are slides from Larson's art and art history lectures as a professor at Columbia College.

### **Donor Information**

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Mary M. Wells on 21 February 2012. An addition was made by Diane Buffon on 21 July 2022.

### **Biographical Sketch**

Sidney Larson was born on June 16, 1923. He was an art professor at Columbia College before retiring in 2001 after 50 years. Larson's work included restoration of his mentor Thomas Hart Benton's murals in the Missouri State Capitol building, and he later became a leading expert on the work of both Thomas Hart Benton and George Caleb Bingham. Larson received numerous awards and honors throughout his career. He died on May 12, 2009.

### **Box List**

#### **Box 1**

Print Collection St. Clair  
State Historical Society of Missouri  
Original letters from Tom and Rita Benton  
T.H. Benton clippings  
T.H.B and Mark Twain  
T.H.B. and Sid Larson correspondence and remarks  
KC River Club Mural  
T.H.B. Joplin, Missouri Exhibit  
T.H.B. in magazines  
Benton  
Sketch of Indian- Preparation for Truman Library Mural  
Benton and his Critics  
Art Restoration Advice  
Value of Fine Arts  
Genius/Artist; Psychopath/Sociopath Notes  
Cataloguing Benton Drawings

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Sid Larson Career/Achievements  
Mid Amer. Arts Alliance, July 1976  
THB clippings  
Misc. Clips  
Benton at Spiva  
Benton clippings (5 folders)  
Benton projects  
Sid Larson Art and Career (2 folders)  
Fakes and Fakers  
Bingham  
Portraits and Prints  
Restoration

**Box 2**

Benton Publications, Catalogs, etc. (4 folders)  
Benton Eulogies and Biographical Info  
Japan, November 1984  
Guitar Building Murals  
Lecture Materials  
Thomas Hart Benton's "Year of Peril"  
Jefferson City Mural Restoration, 1960  
Benton Articles  
Benton's Indiana Murals  
Prints  
Sid Larson Murals  
G.C. Bingham  
Slides

*Gods' Man: A Novel in Woodcuts*

Restorations

Conservation Lecture

George Caleb Bingham Authentication  
Lecture Capitol Decorations  
Capitol—House Chamber Restoration  
State Capitol Restoration (2 folders)  
Benton Murals Rise in Value, 1980s

**Box 3**

Restoration Photos (3 folders)  
Personal and Travel photographs  
Benton clippings  
Thomas Hart Benton (2 folders)  
Sid Larson career (2 folders)  
Colorado- G.C. Bingham Authentication  
Other Art/Artists  
THB Navy Artworks  
Traveling Lectures

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Slides

Misc. History of Art  
Sid Larson Artwork  
Capitol Murals  
Boone County Courthouse Murals, 1993-95  
Dr. Crews Bingham Treatment  
Guitar Mural  
Colorado Springs, 1993  
Benton  
Miscellaneous  
Story Teller Mural: Jefferson City Municipal Building  
Bingham Restorations/Capitol/Benton  
THB Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous

Sketches of Jim Goodrich, Africa, and a self-portrait, 2003-2004