Thomas Hart Benton is one of the most well-known American artists of the twentieth century. A native of Missouri, he worked and taught in Kansas City for many years. His art reveals his interest in telling stories about America and American experiences—themes that also played out on the silver screen. Benton’s preparatory process also shared affinities with Hollywood’s preproduction techniques, resulting in finished works that were often cinematic in their composition and content. His style garnered attention from major film studios and movie directors, which gave rise to multiple Hollywood commissions.

This bibliography, created in conjunction with the featured exhibition *American Epics: Thomas Hart Benton and Hollywood*, includes titles about the artist’s work throughout his career and Hollywood in the twentieth century. The section “American Epics” includes titles on major works featured in the exhibition. The following sections include titles on different aspects of Benton’s art, and concludes with a section on Hollywood. Online resources are listed throughout the bibliography. All the resources are in the collection of the Spencer Art Reference Library, unless otherwise noted.

If you have questions, please contact the reference staff at the Spencer Art Reference Library (telephone: 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
American Epics


Works Illustrated by Benton


Call No: N44 B467 .N42 1988

Call No: N44 B467 .A46


Call No: N44 B467 .A55

Call No: Special PS1314 .T82 1944

**Thomas Hart Benton**

Call No: N44 B467 .A644 1989

Call No: ND237 .B47 B32 1975 BENTON

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= _g6i-7Xb8xM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= _g6i-7Xb8xM)

Spencer Art Reference Library Vertical Files

Call No: N6537 .B457 A4 2009 BENTON

Call No: Multimedia ND237 .B47 T46 2004 BENTON

Call No: N44 B467 .B87

Call No: ND237 .B47 A4 1992 BENTON

[http://www.kchistory.org/u?/Biographies,62](http://www.kchistory.org/u?/Biographies,62)

Call No: ND237 .B47 A4 1998 BENTON

Call No: N6537 .B457 A4 2007 BENTON


[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOtmDiwG1EE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOtmDiwG1EE)

http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/benton/


http://search.proquest.com/docview/120515560?accountid=28457


Benton on Benton


Benton Murals
http://www.jstor.org/stable/775406

http://www.jstor.org/stable/27792976

http://countrymusichalloffame.org/ContentPages/thomas-hart-benton1


http://www.trumanlibrary.org/teacher/benton.htm


http://benton.truman.edu/artist.html

Lithographs and Works on Paper


**Hollywood**


Resources for Teachers and Educational Professionals
Available in the museum’s Educator Resource Center (ERC)
http://www.nelson-atkins.org/education/ERC.cfm

Call No: 214B.5 Ben993

Call No: 214B.5 Ben989

Call No: 214B.5 Ben973

Call No: 214V.5 Ben992

Call No: 600B Gre995

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nelson-atkins.org/library

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