



## [Special Collections \(Archives\) at Paterno Library](#)

Penn State already has one of the major collections of archival and published materials on the history of art education, including the NAEA archives. Making Lowenfeld's papers accessible to more researchers in digital form will further enhance those collections.



**Ann Holt**, doctoral candidate in art education, is a graduate assistant in the Penn State University Libraries; first working in the University Archives Special Collections library dealing with the art education collections and currently in the department of Scholarly Communications concerning data and digital collections. These opportunities combine her knowledge of art education and experience doing archival research with a practical understanding of archival and library theory and practices. This experience has informed her thinking about the needs of future researchers and envision a diversity of access to collections, for promoting archives as relevant to contemporary scholarship and non-traditional uses. Her research interest concerns archival practice and multiple uses of archives by a broad spectrum of users, access to archives, and how the use of archives can impact research and teaching practices and knowledge construction. Her dissertation focuses on ways to access the Penn State Art Education Collections for use in teaching, research and creative practices.

In addition to strong collections of contemporary resources for the study of art education, visual arts and culture, and education, the libraries at Penn State house a variety of specialized resources for those interested in the [history of art education](#). The [Special Collections Library](#), located on the first floor of [Paterno Library](#), consists of three units: Penn State [University Archives](#), Rare Books and Manuscripts, and Historical Collections and Labor Archives. Although its focus is the University and the local area, the University Archives holds many monographs and collections related to art education (with emphasis on the history of art education). The University Archives holds the records of the [National Art Education Association](#) (NAEA), including papers, publications and conference proceedings from the four regional art teachers' associations that joined with the National Education Association's Art Department to form NAEA in 1947. The University Archives also hold the papers of the [Pennsylvania Art Education Association](#) going back to 1925, as well as records from the Pennsylvania Alliance for Arts Education and the Art Education Program at Penn State. Collections of personal papers accessible to researchers include those of Viktor Lowenfeld, with his illustrations for the first edition of *Creative and Mental Growth*; and of Florence L. Goodenough and Dale B. Harris, with extensive examples of children's drawings used in developing the Goodenough-Harris Draw-a-Person Test. A number of twentieth-century art educators have given their papers to the library, notably Alice Schwartz Mattil. Audiovisual materials in the collection include films, and audio and video tapes from early instructional television programs on the arts for children and from national, regional, and state art education conferences.

[Rare Books and Manuscripts](#) holds the Albert Anderson collection of nineteenth-century drawing books and related materials on art education. Gathered by a former faculty member in the Art Education Program, this collection includes examples of early illustrated books, text-book series for art instruction, and more theoretical materials on art teaching and learning. Rare Books also holds numerous publications on art education, as well as a major collection on art and architectural history.

The [Special Collections Library](#) is open Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Because Special Collections materials are often old, fragile, valuable, and irreplaceable, all patrons must comply with a few general rules for consultation and handling, such as registering upon entry and working under supervision. Books and other materials may be used in the room only; photocopy service, however, can be arranged. Since some of the materials in these collections are not listed in The CAT, users should consult the separate catalogs and lists that are available in Special Collections.

## Viktor Lowenfeld

“This man, his speaking was full of enchantment. His lectures were like listening to music. Unless you talk about magnetism, I feel you have not talked about the person.”

-John T. Biggers, Former student of Dr. Lowenfeld

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Viktor Lowenfeld is often considered the father of American art education in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A refugee from Nazi control of his native Austria, Lowenfeld fled to the United States with little more than the drawings by Austria children that constituted data for his research on children’s artistic, emotional, creative, and intellectual development. These drawings are the heart of Penn State’s Lowenfeld Collection, along with later drawings collected during his research with American youngsters, work from his years teaching at Hampton Institute, (now Hampton University) an historically Black college, and his other professional papers.



Photo courtesy of Penn State University Archives

Lowenfeld developed the graduate program in art education at Penn State after he moved here in the late 1940s. Although Teachers College at Columbia University had awarded doctorates in art education earlier, Lowenfeld’s program at Penn State became one of the major post-war centers for preparing faculty in art education who would staff rapidly growing programs in Colleges of Education and in newly established Schools and Colleges of Art across North America. Faculty who studied with Lowenfeld prepared art teachers for new suburban schools serving the children of the post-war baby boom. They helped establish art programs in colleges and universities that served World War II veterans and later the same baby boomers who wanted to continue their art educations.

*Creative and Mental Growth*, Lowenfeld’s major text, went through eight editions, the last five published posthumously under the co-authorship of his former student W. Lambert Brittain. One might compare the wide dissemination of Lowenfeld’s ideas through this book and his guidebook for parents, *Your Child and His Art*, to the influence of Dr. Benjamin Spock on the care of children in these post-war years. While Dr. Spock taught parents how to bring up children in a democratic society facing fears of hot and cold wars, Professor Lowenfeld taught their teachers how to encourage creative and artistic development within the context of mass schooling.

Although research has been published on Lowenfeld and his contributions, and an annual lecture award at the National Art Education Association (NAEA) pays tribute to his strong influence on the field, more remains to be learned about Lowenfeld and his contributions. Making his papers at Penn State accessible to scholars and other through digitization will enable continuing understanding of his contributions as well as analyses, deconstructions and reconstructions of his power within the field.

Mary Ann Stankiewicz, Professor of Art Education, April 28, 2009