

**Tom Lovell collection**  
**RC.2009.11**

**Finding aid prepared by Venus Van Ness**



---

Norman Rockwell Museum Archives - Reference Center Collection

## Table of Contents

---

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <u>Summary Information</u> .....        | 3 |
| <u>Biographical note</u> .....          | 4 |
| <u>Scope and Contents</u> .....         | 6 |
| <u>Arrangement</u> .....                | 6 |
| <u>Administrative Information</u> ..... | 6 |
| <u>Controlled Access Headings</u> ..... | 7 |
| <u>Sources</u> .....                    | 8 |

## Summary Information

---

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Repository</b> | Norman Rockwell Museum Archives - Reference Center Collection  |
| <b>Creator</b>    | Lovell, Tom, 1909-1997   |
| <b>Title</b>      | Tom Lovell collection  |
| <b>Date</b>       | 1970-1997/unknown  |
| <b>Extent</b>     | 8.0 Linear feet  |
| <b>Contact</b>    | Norman Rockwell Museum Archival Collections, The Norman Rockwell Museum, 9 Glendale Road, Route 183 Stockbridge, MA 01262, 413-931-2251 Venus@nrm.org  |
| <b>Language</b>   | English  |
| <b>Abstract</b>   | In addition to personal papers, correspondence and news clippings, the Tom Lovell Collection contains many personal photos and color slides. The collection also contains several scrapbooks containing tearsheets of Lovell's work along with that of other illustrators. |

### Preferred Citation

Tom Lovell Collection, Norman Rockwell Archives, Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

## Biographical note

---

Tom Lovell was born in New York City in 1909. As valedictorian of his high school class, he spoke on the "Ill Treatment of the American Indian by the U.S. Government," a harbinger of his depictions of the West. In 1931, he received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Syracuse University in New York. While there, he studied under Hibbard Kline.

Lovell began his illustrating career during his junior year at Syracuse when he managed to land paying work from some smaller New York publishers of 'pulp magazines' doing dry brush illustrations. After graduation he continued to freelance for pulp magazines for six years and became associated with "Dime Mystery." After 1936 he began illustrating for many well known magazines including Colliers, McCalls, and National Geographic.

In 1944 Lovell joined the Marine Corps Reserve hoping to be assigned as a combat artist. Instead, he was sent as a Staff Sergeant to Washington D.C., along with his friend, artist John Clymer, to illustrate the Marine Corps magazine, Leatherneck. During his two years in that position, Lovell produced several historical paintings including the "Marines' fight for Belleau Wood during World War I," "Admiral Robert E. Peary," "Guadacanal!," and the "Battle of Tenaru River." Lovell's painting, "Tarawa Landing," is on display at the Marine Corps Historical Center in Washington, D.C.

After the war, Lovell returned to illustrating for major magazines, during which time he was commissioned to do a series on the Vikings for the National Geographic Society, followed by a series on the Civil War for Life magazine, and a study of the early history of the Mormon Church for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

In 1969, after nearly 40 years, Lovell left the world of illustration and turned his attention to western art when the Abell-Hanger Foundation commissioned him to do a series of paintings depicting the southwest and early oil industry in the Permian Basin of West Texas. After that time, almost all of his work was based on Western history, with many of his paintings focusing on subjects such as relations between white men and Indians and early expeditions.

Throughout his career, Lovell received many honors. He was inducted into the Society of Illustrators Hall of Fame in 1974. He won two gold medals from that group as well as two more gold medals from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. His paintings hang in the United States Capitol, the U.S. Maritime Academy, the New Britain Museum, the U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters, the National Geographic Society, the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, the Abell-Hanger Foundation, galleries of corporate offices, and private collections. He was one of the founding members of the National Academy of Western Art, the forerunner of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame's Prix de West Invitational Exhibition. In 1992, the National Cowboy Hall of Fame honored him with its prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. That same year Lovell was awarded the Robert Lougheed Memorial Award for Traditional Painter of Western History.

Lovell died in 1997, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Timeline

- 1909, Feb 5 - Born in New York City to Henry S Lovell, Jr. and Edith Scott (Russell) Lovell
- 1926, Feb - Job - US Shipping Board - Seaman on SS Leviathan
- 1927 - Began attending Art classes at Syracuse University College of Fine Arts
- 1930 - Began doing dry-brush drawings for Hersey Publications (Gangster Magazine, etc)
- 1931 - Graduate from Syracuse University College of Fine Arts with a BFA; continued working for Pulp Magazines (Shadow, Wild West Weekly, published by Street & Smith, and others)
- 1934 - Married Gloyd "Pink" Simmons 1937 - Bid for "Slick" magazines and began working for American, Cosmopolitan, Women's Home Companion, Good Housekeeping, Ladies Home Journal, McCall's, Collier's, etc.
- 1940 - Moved to Westport, Connecticut 1944 - Enlisted in the Marine Corps w/John Clymer
- 1949 - Birth of Daughter, Deborah
- 1960's - Commissioned to do historical paintings for the Mormon Church
- 1961 - Commissioned by Life Magazine to do The Fleet Passing Vicksburg, VMI Cadets at New Market, and Battle of the Crater
- 1969 - Last illustrations done
- 1969 - Commissioned by the Abell-Hanger Foundation of Midland, Texas, to do 14 historical paintings of the Permian Basin area, relating to the oil industry
- 1973 - Organized the National Academy of Western Art (NAWA) show
- 1974 - Given the Franklin Mint Gold Medal Award, Distinguished Western Art: Tumbleweed Serenade
- 1974 - Prix de West Winner: The Wolf Men
- 1974 - June - Inducted into the Society of Illustrators Hall of Fame
- 1975 - Cowboy Artists of America Award: The Thaw
- 1975 - Invited to join Cowboy Artists of America
- 1976 - Gold Medal Oil Award: Time of the Cold Maker
- 1976 - Cowboy Artists of America Award: The Deceivers 1977 - Built house in Santa Fe, NM
- 1977 - Cowboy Artists of America, Silver Medal: Bad Face Strategy
- 1978 - Cowboy Artists of America, Silver Medal Oil Award: Invitation to Trade
- 1983 - Cowboy Artists of America, Gold Medal Oil Award: Captain Murie's Pawnees
- 1984 - Cowboy Artists of America, Silver Medal Drawing Award: The Image Maker 1986 - Wife, Gloyd "Pink" Lovell died
- 1986 - Prix de West Winner: Target Practice

1986 - Cowboy Artists of America, Silver Medal Drawing Award: Corn on the Cartridge Belt 1988 - Cowboy Artists of America, Gold Medal Drawing Award: Four Times to the Sun

1989 - Cowboy Artists of America, Silver Medal Oil Award: Dry Goods and Molasses 1991 - Cowboy Artists of America, Gold Medal Drawing Award: Trade Goods - Ft Union

1992 - Mar 21-June 7 - Tom Lovell Retrospective at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame

1992 - Robert Lougheed Memorial Award for Traditional Painter of Western History

1997 - June 29 - Died in Automobile Accident, Santa Fe, New Mexico

---

## Scope and Contents

---

The scope of the collection ranges in date from 1970 to his death in 1997. The collection contains personal papers; cards and letters received from friends and publishers; newsclippings, and tearsheets. There are also photographic images in the form of black and white, and color photos and slides, many of which show Lovell's completed works. Additionally, there are several oversized scrapbooks which contain tearsheets of Lovell paintings and illustrations, as well as the illustrations of other artists.

---

## Arrangement

---

The collection has been maintained in the same order as when it was donated. Certain items are segregated into folders, but overall, there is no specific arrangement.

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Information

Norman Rockwell Museum Archives - Reference Center Collection

### Access

The collection is open to researchers by appointment.

## Copyright

Norman Rockwell Museum abides by US copyright law. Even though Norman Rockwell personally contributed his paintings and archival materials to the Museum, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3), publicity/personality rights to his name and likeness belong to the Rockwell family, managed by the Norman Rockwell Licensing Company. Some materials in both collections created prior to 1923 are considered to be in the public domain.

The collections are in the legal care and custody of the Museum and its staff, and are governed by an independent Board of Trustees. There is no legal affiliation between the Museum and various intellectual property rights holders of materials kept by the Museum or with Rockwell's family.

Regarding copies or other reproductions, NRM reserves the right to refuse a copying request if in its judgment fulfilling that request will violate copyright law (Title 17, United States Code). It is the legal responsibility of the researcher to secure permission to publish from the institution with custody of the material as well as the owner of copyright.

## Provenance

Materials donated by Robert Horvath

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

### Genre(s)

- Art

### Personal Name(s)

- Horvath, Robert
- Levine, David, 1926-2009
- Lovell, Tom, 1909-1997

### Subject(s)

- Illustrators--United States.
- Society of Illustrators

## Sources

---

Walt Reed, *Illustrator in America*

Peggy and Harold Samuels, *Encyclopedia of Artists of the American West*

Peter Haining, *American Pulp Magazines*

Mantle Fielding's *Dictionary of American Painters, Sculptors and Engravers, 1986-87*

Jones, Byron B., "Stories of Survival: Tom Lovell" *Southwest Art*. May 1983, pp. 66-83