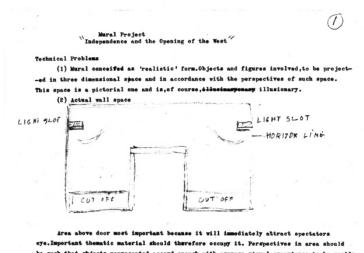
Copy of Thomas Hart Benton papers



Area above door most important because it will immediately attract spectators open. Important thematic material should therefore occupy it. Perspectives in area should be such that shjects represented accord enough with average visual experience to be smally easily grasped. This means that they cannot be shown too much above eye level where acute perspective "foreshortenings" would occur. Horison line must then be set high on wall, much above spectators actual horison line. (No problem for spectator. He adjusts aute—astically). But a compositional difficulty arises here because of the two light slots projecting into the two side wings of the wall space. The mural design must operate under—seath these slots and yet rise so that it fills the primarily important space above the door. Otherwise stated, the horison line must be lev enough to set up significant deems forms below light slots but high enough to aveid too acute foreshortenings above door. After a number of trials it was found that placing herison line at five feet from top of wall space met these conditions. But because of the depth of the vings on each side of door another problem areas. Perspectives at bottom of wall space beautiful to acute. To obviate this difficulty the side vings were cut off about four feet from their bases and separate designs effected in the cut off areas. This device (common enough in old altar paintings) while an eutcome of technical considerations permitted the introduction of meeded thematic material with the mural design.

(3) Almost equal in importance to the area above door are those areas immediately to the sides of door in the right and left vings. The lines of the door, which the eye

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8x10 inches (21x26 cm) Black & White

Keywords Artists Mural painting and decoration

HST Keywords Benton, Thomas Hart - Mural - Ref. to; Document

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Description

Copy of a page from the Thomas Hart Benton papers on the proposed mural for the Harry S. Truman Library.

Date(s)

November 5, 1958

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