

# Archives and Special Collections

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## Richard G. Foltz Architectural Rare Books Collection 1851 DADA 054

**Title:** Richard G. Foltz Architectural Rare Books Collection

**Creator:** The École Nationale des Beaux-Arts, A. Guérinet, J. Vacquier, Georges Seure, Giovanni Battista Piranesi, Georges Gromort, Sir Banister Fletcher

**Inclusive Dates:** 1851

**Extent:** 1.6 cu. ft.

**Containers:** 3 OVA boxes

**Language of Materials:** Materials entirely in French.

### **Preferred Citation:**

Richard G. Foltz Architectural Rare Books Collection, Drawings and Documents Archive, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries.

### **Biographical Note:**

The École Nationale des Beaux-Arts was the home of one of the most significant and prestigious schools of architecture in the Western hemisphere. Tracing its origins back to the Academie Royale d'Architecture, which started in 1671 under Louix IVX, the École began officially in 1863 when Emperor Napoleon III made the school independent of the government and rechristened it with the name it carries today. The École taught several influential architects, and its classically-inspired style, known as Beaux-Arts, found a warm welcome in the United States, where many significant public buildings and private residences were built with the marks of Roman and Greek inspiration. After student strikes in 1968, however, the architecture department of the École separated from the rest of the university, and the École has not taught architecture since.

Student life at the École was rigorous but intensely rewarding. Architects taught by the École were trained to create architectural renderings and submitted their work in a variety of serious design competitions. The most important of these competitions was the famous Prix de Rome, which allowed for a student to study classicism abroad in Rome. Connections like these served to solidify Beaux-Arts' appreciation of classical aesthetic and explains the strong Roman presence

in the rare books in this collection.

**Sources:**

Fricker, Jonathan and Donna Fricker. "The Beaux-Art Style." *Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation*, 2010, [https://www.crt.state.la.us/Assets/OCD/hp/nationalregister/historic\\_contexts/beauxartsREVISED.pdf](https://www.crt.state.la.us/Assets/OCD/hp/nationalregister/historic_contexts/beauxartsREVISED.pdf). Accessed 9 July 2019.

Tikkanen, Amy. "L'École des Beaux-Arts." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Ecole-des-Beaux-Arts>. Accessed 9 July 2019.

**Scope and Contents:**

This online collection consists of several books detailing architectural contests conducted and architectural medals won at the École Nationale des Beaux-Arts in Paris from 1901 to 1924. Not every year between 1901 and 1924 is accounted for. Some books detail projects of the French Academy in Rome and have direct connections to the École Nationale des Beaux-Arts, while others are rare books about the history of architecture.

**Conditions Governing Access:**

This collection is open for research

**Copyright Notice:**

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**Custodial History:**

The Richard G. Foltz Architectural Rare Books Collection was received by Drawings and Documents Archive as a donation from Richard Foltz on 2015/10/06.

**Accruals:**

No additions are expected.

**Processing Information:**

Collection processing completed  
EAD finding aid completed 2019/07/09 by Leah Heim and revised 2019/07/19 by Rebecca Torsell.

**Arrangement:**

The Richard G. Foltz Architectural Rare Books Collection is arranged by volume.

**Controlled Access Headings:**

Rare books  
Architecture--Pictorial Works