



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

James S. Ackerman papers

Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Archives of American Art |
| Title: | James S. Ackerman papers |
| Date: | circa 1942-2011 |
| Identifier: | AAA.ackejame |
| Creator: | Ackerman, James S., 1919-2016 |
| Extent: | 0.6 Linear feet |
| Language: | English . |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1990, 1996 and 2011 by James Ackerman.

Related Materials

Papers of James S. Ackerman, 1963-1975, are also located at Harvard University Archives.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

James S. Ackerman (1919- 2016) was an architectural historian in Cambridge, Mass. Ackerman was born in San Francisco and received his undergraduate training at Yale, and his M.A. (1947) and Ph.D. (1952) at NYU's Institute of Fine Arts. His studies were interrupted by his Army service in Italy during WWII, where he volunteered for the Monuments and Fine Arts service recovering the archives of the palace of Milan, which led to his Ph.D. study of Milanese Renaissance architecture. He taught at the University of California, Berkeley, 1952-1960, and at Harvard from 1961.

Scope and Contents

Teaching material, correspondence, writings, and photographs.

Scope and Contents

Teaching material includes lecture notes, lecture outlines, and writings from Ackerman's graduate student years at the New York University Institute of Fine Arts, ca. 1942-1950. Included are notes from courses given by Henry Russell Hitchcock, R. Krautheimer, Erwin Panofsky, Meyer Shapiro, Dimitri Tselos, and Martin

Weinberger, mimeographed lecture outlines of various courses, and a 1 p. Christmas skit by graduates of the Institute.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence is with friends and includes emails. Writings include a notebook of commentary on works of art and architecture kept by Ackerman while he traveled in France and Italy in 1948, other travel notes and excerpts from diaries. Also included is a copy of "Shooting Palladio," Ackerman's account of the filming of "Palladio: the Architect and his Influence in America," based on a diary kept from 1977-1980, and a list created by Ackerman of drawings by Andrew Jackson Davis at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Photographs are of works of art and one photograph is of Ackerman with others.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Architecture -- France
- Architecture -- Italy
- Art -- France
- Art -- Italy

Names:

- New York University. Institute of Fine Arts

Occupations:

- Art historians