



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Winslow Ames

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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Archives of American Art |
| Title: | Oral history interview with Winslow Ames |
| Identifier: | AAA.ames87 |
| Date: | 1987 April 29-June 2 |
| Extent: | 77 Pages (Transcript) |
| Creator: | Ames, Winslow Brown, Robert F. |
| Language: | English |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

These interviews are part of the Archives of American Art Oral History Program, started in 1958 to document the history of the visual arts in the United States, primarily through interviews with artists, historians, dealers, critics and others.

Biographical / Historical

Winslow Ames (1907-1990) was a museum director, art historian, collector, connoisseur of drawings, and authority on Victorian art.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Winslow Ames conducted 1987 April 29-June 2, by Robert F. Brown, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Ames speaks of his childhood in New York, his family's early New England and New York antecedents, his education at Columbia College, and studying fine arts at Harvard under Paul Sachs and Edward Waldo Forbes. He reminisces about his friendship with Edward M.M. Warburg and Lincoln Kirstein and their involvement in his purchase of Gaston Lachaise's "Standing Woman"; his work as the first director of the Lyman Allyn Museum, New London, Connecticut; service as a conscientious objector with the Civilian Public Service Corps during World War II; and assisting in the resettlement of European refugees with the American Friends Service Committee. He discusses directing a museum in Springfield, Missouri,

researching and writing his, "Prince Albert and Public Taste," and teaching connoisseurship and museum practices at the University of Rhode Island and Brown University.

General

Originally recorded on 3 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 6 digital wav files. Duration is 4 hr., 18 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art teachers -- Rhode Island -- Interviews
- Art teachers -- Rhode Island -- Interviews
- Museum directors -- Connecticut -- Interviews
- Museum directors -- Missouri -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Forbes, Edward Waldo, 1873-1969
- Kirstein, Lincoln, 1907-
- Lyman Allyn Museum
- Sachs, Paul J. (Paul Joseph), 1878-1965
- Warburg, Edward M. M.

Functions:

- Art museums -- Connecticut -- New London
- Art museums -- Missouri -- Springfield