



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Winslow Ames

Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service.

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	1
Scope and Contents	1
Names and Subjects	

Collection Overview

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

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:

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.

Occupations:

Art teachers -- Rhode Island -- Interviews
Art teachers -- Rhode Island -- Interviews

Functions:

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