



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Henry Plumer McIlhenny

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Henry Plumer McIlhenny
Identifier:	AAA.mcilhe74
Date:	1974 Oct. 28
Creator:	McIlhenny, Henry P. (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer) United States. Works Progress Administration
Extent:	56 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with Henry Plumer McIlhenny, 1974 Oct. 28, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives' 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

Henry McIlhenny (1910-1986) was an art collector, curator, and arts administrator from Philadelphia, Pa.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Henry Plumer McIlhenny conducted 1974 Oct. 28, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

McIlhenny speaks about his parent's interest in collecting; his own collecting; studying with Paul Sachs at Harvard; his interest in 19th century art, travels to Europe, purchasing works by Seurat, Degas, Ingres, and Chardin; dealers he worked with including Paul Rosenberg and Valentine Dudensing; his tenure as decorative arts curator at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, staff, and exhibitions; the completion of the museum building by the WPA; and commissioning paintings from Franklin Watkins.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hrs., 4 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Collectors and collecting -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia -- Interviews
Art, Modern -- 20th century -- Pennsylvania -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Philadelphia Museum of Art
Rosenberg, Paul, 1881-1959
Sachs, Paul J. (Paul Joseph), 1878-1965
United States. Works Progress Administration
Watkins, Franklin Chenault, 1894-1972