



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with William Milliken

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with William Milliken
Date:	1974 Dec. 27-1976 Mar. 13
Identifier:	AAA.millik74
Creator:	Milliken, William Mathewson, 1889-1978 (Interviewee) Barrie, Dennis (Interviewer)
Extent:	106 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with William Milliken, 1974 Dec. 27-1976 Mar. 13, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

These interviews are 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

William Milliken (1889-1978) was a museum director from Cleveland, Ohio. He was the director of the Cleveland Museum of Art, 1930-1958.

Scope and Contents

An interview of William Milliken conducted 1974 Dec. 27-1976 Mar. 13, by Dennis Barrie, for the Archives of American Art. Milliken speaks of his family background and history; his childhood; his education, and studies at Princeton; his first position as Assistant Curator of Decorative Arts at the Metropolitan Museum; his involvement with the Frick and the Cooper Union Museum; his appointment to the Cleveland Museum of Art in 1919, and becoming its director in 1930. He recalls William R. Valentiner, Jacques Seligmann, Isabella Stewart Gardner, J.P. Morgan, Henry Frick and others.

General

Originally recorded on 5 sound tape reels. Reformatted in 2010 as 10 digital wav files. Duration is 5 hrs., 45 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art, American
- Museum curators -- Ohio -- Cleveland -- Interviews
- Museum directors -- Ohio -- Cleveland -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Cleveland Museum of Art
- Frick, Henry Clay, 1849-1919
- Gardner, Isabella Stewart, 1840-1924
- Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, N.Y.)
- Morgan, J. Pierpont, 1837-1913 (John Pierpont)
- Seligmann, Jacques, 1858-1923
- Valentiner, Wilhelm Reinhold, 1880-1958