



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interviews with Valter Poole

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Valter Poole
Date:	1964
Identifier:	AAA.poole64
Creator:	Poole, Valter, 1903-1984 (Interviewee) Ehrlich, Heyward (Interviewer) New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project (Creator)
Extent:	30 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Valter Poole, 1964, Transcript

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Conducted as part of the Archives of American Art's New Deal and the Arts project, which includes over 400 interviews of artists, administrators, historians, and others involved with the federal government's art programs and the activities of the Farm Security Administration in the 1930s and early 1940s.

Acquisition Information

This interview is 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 administrators.

Available Formats

Transcript is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

Processing Information

The original transcript was edited. In 2021 the Archives retranscribed the original audio and attempted to create a verbatim transcript. This interview was audited and edited by Ellen Brooks in 2025.

Restrictions

This interview is open for research. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

The Archives of American Art makes its Oral History Program interviews available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. Quotation, reproduction and publication of the recording is governed by restrictions. If an interview has been transcribed, researchers must quote from the transcript. If an interview has not been transcribed, researchers must quote from the recording. Please refer to the Smithsonian's Terms of Use for additional information.

Biographical / Historical

Valter Poole (1903-1984) was a symphony conductor, violist, and music professor in Detroit, Mich.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Valter Poole conducted in 1964, by Heyward Ehrlich, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Poole speaks of his background and education; his musical training; his years prior to the Federal Music Project; getting the directorship of the Federal Music Project in Detroit, and later becoming orchestra conductor; the activities of the orchestra, including regular concerts in schools and museums; introducing new music and new composers to Detroit; the effect of the Project on the musicians involved; the project's benefits to the community.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 1 digital wav file. Duration is 1 hr., 2 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Conducting
- Conductors (Music) -- Michigan -- Detroit -- Interviews
- Federal aid to the arts
- Music -- Instruction and study -- Michigan -- Detroit

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Federal Music Project (Mich.)
- New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project

Container Listing

AAA.poole64 holdings