



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Laurance P. Roberts

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Laurance P. Roberts
<b>Date:</b>	1985 July 26-29
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.robert85
<b>Creator:</b>	Roberts, Laurance P. (Interviewee) Brown, Robert F. (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	2 Items (sound cassettes (2 hr., 22 min.)) 67 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Laurance P. Roberts, 1985 July 26-29, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Laurance P. Roberts, 1985 July 26-29, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## 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.

### Available Formats

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

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## Biographical / Historical

Laurance P. Roberts (1907-2002) was an art historian and art administrator in New York, Rome, and Philadelphia.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview with Laurance P. Roberts conducted 1985 July 26-29, by Robert F. Brown, for the Archives of American Art.

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## Scope and Contents

Roberts speaks of his education at Princeton University; his first employment as a cataloger working on the John G. Johnson Collection for the Philadelphia Museum of Art; studying in China in the 1930s; working

as Curator of Near and Far Eastern Art at the Brooklyn Museum (1934-1938) and then becoming Director there (1938-1942); his years as Director of the American Academy in Rome (1946-1959); writing a report advocating the establishment of the New York State Council on the Arts and Humanities for Governor Nelson Rockefeller; writing a guide to Japanese art museums and a dictionary of Japanese artists; living in Italy.

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## General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 22 min.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Museum curators -- Interviews
- Museum directors -- Interviews

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- American Academy in Rome
- Brooklyn Museum
- New York State Council on the Arts

### Occupations:

- Art historians -- Interviews

### Functions:

- Art museums -- New York (State) -- Brooklyn