



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Cyril Stanley Smith

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Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Cyril Stanley Smith
<b>Date:</b>	1992 March 18-April 1
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.smith92
<b>Creator:</b>	Smith, Cyril Stanley, 1903-1992 (Interviewee) Brown, Robert F. (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	2 Items (sound cassettes (2 hr., 35 min.); analog.) 50 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Cyril Stanley Smith, 1992 March 18-April 1, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Cyril Stanley Smith, 1992 March 18-April 1, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## 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.

### Available Formats

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

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## Biographical / Historical

Cyril Stanley Smith (1903-1992) was a metallurgist from Cambridge, Massachusetts. Smith received a doctorate from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1926 and taught there from 1961 until his retirement in 1969. His title of Institute Professor Emeritus of Metallurgy and the History of Metallurgy, one rarely conferred and only on those whose work goes beyond traditional disciplines, reflects the high esteem in which he was held. Smith has had great influence on contemporary metalsmiths, experts in ceramics, and students of Japanese art, among others.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview with Cyril Stanley Smith conducted 1992 March 18-April 1, by Robert F. Brown, for the Archives of American Art. Smith speaks of his childhood in Birmingham, England; early immersion in analysis of materials; education at Cambridge University; research at Yale University; his work as chief metallurgist on the Manhattan Project, Los Alamos, N.M., where the atomic bomb was developed, his colleagues there,

including Enrico Fermi, Hans Bethe, and J. Robert Oppenheimer; the development of the interdisciplinary research center at the University of Chicago; his position at MIT, where he has been Institute Professor since 1961; and research in the connections between fabrication and aesthetics of art forms and technology.

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## General

Originally recorded 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 35 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:

Decorative arts

### Types of Materials:

Interviews

Sound recordings

### Names:

Bethe, Hans A. (Hans Albrecht), 1906-2005

Fermi, Enrico, 1901-1954

Oppenheimer, J. Robert, 1904-1967

### Occupations:

Metallurgists

Physicists