



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Daniel Varney Thompson

Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service.

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/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
General.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Daniel Varney Thompson
Identifier:	AAA.thomps74
Date:	1974 September 25-1976 November 2
Extent:	46 Pages (Transcript)
Creator:	Thompson, Daniel V. (Daniel Varney), 1902-1980 Brown, Robert F.
Language:	English .

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.

Available Formats

Transcript available online.

Restrictions

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

Biographical / Historical

Daniel V. Thompson (1902-1980) was an art historian, conservator, professor, and chemist engineer. Thompson studied techniques of medieval and Renaissance painting. He was a professor at the Courtauld Institute, London, 1938-1947.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Daniel Varney Thompson conducted 1974 September 25-1976 November 2, by Robert F. Brown, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Thompson speaks of authenticating a painting by Leonardo Da Vinci; teaching at Harvard University with Edward Waldo Forbes; his 1923-1925 expedition to India and China with Langdon Warner and Fogg Art Museum personnel to study cave paintings; setting up the art history department at Yale with Everett Meeks and teaching tempera painting; his studies in Europe and work at the Courtauld Institute in London; and translating manuscripts dealing with medieval painting techniques and media. He recalls Bernard Berenson and William Mills Ivins.

General

Originally recorded on 4 sound tape reels. Reformatted in 2010 as 7 digital wav files. Duration is 6 hr., 55 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art -- History -- Study and teaching
- Cave paintings
- Painting -- Technique
- Painting, Medieval -- Study and teaching
- Painting, Medieval -- Technique

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Berenson, Bernard, 1865-1959
- Courtauld Institute of Art -- Faculty
- Fogg Art Museum
- Forbes, Edward Waldo, 1873-1969
- Harvard University -- Faculty
- Ivins, William Mills, 1881-1961
- Meeks, Everett, 1879-1954
- Warner, Langdon (1881-1955)
- Yale University -- Faculty

Occupations:

- Art historians -- Interviews
- Conservators -- Interviews

Geographic Names:

- China -- Description and Travel
- India -- description and travel

