



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Alice Winchester

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Alice Winchester
Date:	1993 September 17-1995 June 29
Identifier:	AAA.winche93
Creator:	Winchester, Alice (Interviewee) Brown, Robert F. (Interviewer)
Extent:	3 Sound cassettes (Sound recording (3 hrs., 46 min.); analog) 72 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Alice Winchester, 1993 September 17-1995 June 29, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Alice Winchester, 1993 September 17-1995 June 29, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

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.

Biographical / Historical

Alice Winchester (1907-1996) was an art editor and author of Danbury, Connecticut. Winchester was editor of the magazine, "Antiques," 1938-1951 and its successor "Antiques," 1951-1972; and curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art, 1972-1974.

Scope and Contents

Interview of Alice Winchester, conducted by Robert F. Brown for the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution at Winchester's home in Danbury, CT, September 17, 1993-June 29, 1995.

Scope and Contents

Winchester speaks of her childhood in the family of a Congregational minister in New England; attending Smith College (BA 1929) as had her mother and sisters; her junior year abroad in France; her clerical employment in New York City; her position as office secretary and then associate editor of "The Magazine Antiques"; working with Homer Eaton Keyes, its founding editor; learning about antiques; meeting many dealers, curators, and collectors (1930-38); her early years as editor of "The Magazine Antiques"; expanding the scope of the magazine, particularly to include articles on folk art and regular features on outstanding public and private collections; her highly specialized, though small, staff, including Helen Comstock; her close associations with important New York dealers, such as Israel Sack and his sons, Harold and Albert, and members of the Ginsburg and Levy firm; her role in establishing the annual Antiques Forum at Colonial Williamsburg; the importance of steady travel to view collections and meet collectors and curators; her several books on antiques; and the wealthy collectors she met, including Electra Havemeyer Webb, of Shelburne, VT. Winchester also recalls Henry Francis Du Pont, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Flynt, Marshall and "Petey" Davidson, and Joseph Downs.

General

Originally recorded on 3 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 5 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hr., 46 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Antiques
- Antiques -- Periodicals
- Art publishing
- Art, American

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Du Pont, Henry Francis, 1880-1969
- Keyes, Homer Eaton, 1875-1938
- Webb, Electra Havemeyer

Occupations:

- Antique dealers
- Editors -- New York (State) -- New York

Preferred Titles:

- Antiques (New York, N.Y. : 1952)*
- Magazine antiques (New York, N.Y. :1928)*