



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with William E. Woolfenden and Irving Burton

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.

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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with William E. Woolfenden and Irving Burton
<b>Date:</b>	1992 December 12
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.woolfe92
<b>Creator:</b>	Burton, Irving F. (Irving Frederick), 1918- (Interviewee) McCoy, Garnett (Interviewer) Woolfenden, William E. (William Edward), 1918-1995 (Interviewee)
<b>Extent:</b>	33 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with William E. Woolfenden and Irving Burton, 1992 December 12, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with William E. Woolfenden and Irving Burton, 1992 December 12, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## 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 available on line at <http://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/oralhistories/transcripts/woolfe92.htm>

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

William E. Woolfenden (1918- 1995) was the director of the Archives of American Art from 1963-1983.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of William E. Woolfenden and Irving Burton conducted 1992 December 12, by Garnett McCoy for the Archives of American Art, concerning the development of the Archives of American Art.

## Scope and Contents

Woolfenden speaks about E.P. Richardson and his intent in founding of the Archives of American Art; the earliest development and collecting activities; his role as assistant director and Richardson's role as director; receiving a Ford foundation grant and other early financial support; fundraising events; auctions; trustees; the founding of regional offices; early employees; forming an alliance with the Smithsonian Institution; and the impact of the AAA on American art history. Irving Burton discusses his involvement.

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## General

Originally recorded on 1 sound cassette. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 1 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:

Art, American -- History -- Sources  
Arts -- Management  
Arts administrators -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

### Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

### Names:

Archives of American Art  
Richardson, Edgar Preston, 1902-1985

### Occupations:

Arts administrators -- Michigan -- Detroit -- Interviews