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Collection Overview

Repository: Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title: American Association of Museums Centennial Interviews
Identifier: Record Unit 9620
Date: 2006
Extent: 11 compact discs (reference copies).
Language: Language of Materials: English

Administrative Information

Prefered Citation
Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 9620, American Association of Museums Centennial Interviews

Historical Note

The AAM Centennial Honorees that were interviewed were Nina M. Archabal, Director of the Minnesota Historical Society; Rebecca A. Buck, Chief Registrar, The Newark Museum; Lonnie G. Bunch, Director, National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution; Robert Macdonald, former Director, Museum of the City of New York; Marie C. Malaro, former Smithsonian Institution General Counsel and Director, Museum Studies Department, The George Washington University; Kathy McLean, Principal, Independent Exhibitions; Keith E. Melder, former Curator, National Museum of American History; Harold K. Skramstad, Jr., former Director, Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village; Kathy Dwyer Southern, Director, National Children's Museum; James M. Vaughn, Vice President, Stewardship of Historic Sites, National Trust for Historic Preservation; and W. Richard West, Jr., Director, National Museum of the American Indian. The interviews document their careers and reflections on the museum profession.


Introduction

The Smithsonian Institution Archives (SIA) began its Oral History Program in 1973. The purpose of the program is to supplement the written documentation of the Archives' record and manuscript collections with an Oral History Collection, focusing on the history of the Institution, research by its scholars, and contributions of its staff. Program staff conduct interviews with current and retired Smithsonian staff and others who have made significant contributions to the Institution. There are also reminiscences and
interviews recorded by researchers or students on topics related to the history of the Smithsonian or the holdings of the Smithsonian Institution Archives.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the American Association of Museums (AAM) and the 30th anniversary of the Museum Studies Department, The George Washington University, oral history interviews were videotaped with eleven of the AAM's Centennial Honor Roll honorees as a part of a special Museum Studies graduate seminar taught by Smithsonian Institution Archives historian, Pamela M. Henson. Interviews were recorded in digital video and deposited in the Smithsonian Institution Archives Oral History Collection.

Descriptive Entry

These interviews discuss their careers as outstanding museum professionals.

The AAM Centennial Interviews consist of 13.0 hours of digital video interviews and 379 pages of transcript. The original digital video files are preserved in security storage with Windows Media Video files available for reference.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
- Anniversaries
- Historic preservation
- Interviews
- Museum curators
- Museum directors
- Museum exhibits
- Museum registrars

Types of Materials:
- Compact discs
- Digital images
- Electronic images
- Electronic records
- Interviews
- Oral history
- Sound recordings
- Transcripts

Names:
- American Association of Museums
- Archabal, Nina Marchetti
- Archabal, Nina Marchetti, interviewee
- Blanchard, Melanie, interviewer
- Boegen, Lauren A., interviewer
- Buck, Rebecca A.
Buck, Rebecca A., interviewee
Bunch, Lonnie G.
Bunch, Lonnie G., interviewee
Furrow, Reagan M., interviewer
Guluk, Natascha, interviewer
Hawkins, Heather, interviewer
Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village
Henson, Pamela M., interviewer
Independent Exhibitions
Kim, Arthur B., interviewer
Macdonald, Robert M.
Macdonald, Robert R., interviewee
Malaro, Marie C.
Malaro, Marie C., interviewee
McLean, Kathleen, interviewee
McLean, Kathy
Melder, Keith E.
Melder, Keith E., interviewee
Minnesota Historical Society
Museum Studies Department, The George Washington University
Museum of the City of New York
National Children's Museum
National Museum of African American History and Culture
National Museum of American History (U.S.)
National Museum of History and Technology
National Museum of the American Indian (U.S.)
National Trust for Historic Preservation (U.S.)
Newark Museum, The
Nuckles, Erica, interviewer
Pierson, Elizabeth Annie, interviewer
Robinson, Kimberly, interviewer
Skramstad, Harold K., Jr.
Skramstad, Harold K., interviewee
Smithsonian Institution. Office of the General Counsel
Southern, Kathy Dwyer
Southern, Kathy Dwyer, interviewee
Vaughn, James M.
Vaughn, James M., interviewee
Wallace, Anthony S., interviewer
West, W. Richard
West, W. Richard, interviewee
Container Listing

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Transcripts of Interviews

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Interview 2: 28 April 2006

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Interview 3: 24 April 2006

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Interview 4: 29 April 2006

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Interview 5: 12 May 2006

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Interview 6: 28 April 2006

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Interview 7: 18 April 2006

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Interview 8: 13 April 2006

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Interview 9: 29 April 2006

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Interview 10: 28 April 2006

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Interview 11: 25 April 2006

Box 2

Video Recordings of Interviews

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Interview 1: 28 April 2006

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Interview 2: 28 April 2006

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Interview 3: 24 April 2006

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Interview 4: 29 April 2006

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Interview 5: 12 May 2006

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Interview 8: 13 April 2006

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Interview 9: 29 April 2006