Finding aid for the Getty Art History Information Program Interviews Regarding the Study of Art History, 1986, 1988, 1990 IA20025

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Description is in English.

Institutional Records and Archives

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Table of Contents

Summary Information

Repository:	Institutional Records and Archives
Creator:	Getty Art History Information Program
Title:	Interviews regarding the study of art history
ID:	IA20025
Dates:	1986, 1988, 1990
Extent:	2.8 Linear Feet (4 boxes)
Request Materials:	To access physical and digital materials at the Getty, go to the library catalog record for this collection and click "Request an Item" or "Connect to digital images." Click here for general library access policy. See the Administrative Information section of this finding aid for access restrictions specific to the records described below. Please note, some of the records may be stored off site; advanced notice is required for access to these materials.
Language:	English .

| **Abstract:** | The records comprise interviews that were conducted by the Getty Art History Information Program (AHIP) and Brown University's Institute for Research in Information and Scholarship (IRIS) in 1986 and 1988. The interviews consist of discussions with experts and researchers in the history of art and architecture. The interviews focus on research concerns and practices in an effort to determine what types of automated tools and networked resources would enhance scholarly work in the field of art history. Materials include sound recordings and transcripts. |

Preferred Citation

[Cite the item and series (as appropriate)], Interviews with Art Historians, 1986, 1988, 1990, Getty Art History Information Program. Getty Research Institute, IA20025.

http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifaia20025

^ Return to Table of Contents

Administrative History

During the 1980s and 1990s the Art History Information Program (AHIP) pioneered research on the informational needs of art historians and was the driving force behind several collaborative projects concerning art-related texts and images that provided unprecedented automation of, digitization of, and access to these types of materials. AHIP was a program developed and overseen by the J. Paul Getty Trust, a cultural and philanthropic organization serving both general audiences and specialized professionals. The Trust is a not-for-profit institution, educational in purpose and character, that focuses on the visual arts in all of their dimensions. As of 2009 the Trust supports and oversees four programs: the J. Paul Getty Museum; the Getty Foundation; the Getty Conservation Institute; and the Getty Research Institute, which, among other things, continues the work begun by AHIP.

AHIP was envisioned as early as 1981 with the following goal: to create "a set of linked data banks, some created by the Getty, the rest of diverse international origin, containing the varied types of information used by art historians –- bibliographical indexes, biographical indexes, catalogues of works, images of works, and a host of other related data and texts to facilitate the scholar's work, all accessible through simple, unified, and inexpensive means by individual scholars around the world working at personal computers without intermediaries" (AHIP memo, February 1986). In 1984 Nancy Englander (then Director of Program Planning and Analysis) presented key elements of the emerging Art History Information Program to the Getty Board of Trustees, including a number of databases. AHIP soon became a program under the J. Paul Getty Trust and a pioneer in databases for the arts and humanities.

Initial projects undertaken by AHIP included:

- The Répertoire international de la littérature de l'art (RILA), a bibliographical system that indexed and abstracted art historical literature that was first based at the Clark Art Institute in Massachusetts and was acquired by the Getty in 1982
- The Avery Index of Architectural Periodicals, a bibliographical system that indexed periodical literature in the history of architecture, was originally based at the Avery Library of Columbia University, and was acquired by AHIP in 1984
- The Museum Prototype, a consortium of eight American museums that began around 1984 and was charged with developing a standard format for cataloging objects (it was abandoned in December, 1986 due to "persistent structural and conceptual problems")
- The Architectural Drawings Advisory Group (ADAG), a consortium of some twelve worldwide repositories of architectural drawings that was based in Washington, D.C. at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Arts and was charged with developing a standard format for cataloging architectural drawings
- The Provenance Index, a database that was designed to trace the custodial history of western European works of art from the late 16th century to the early 20th century by indexing transcriptions of material from auction catalogs and archival inventories (it evolved into the Getty Provenance Index® databases)
- The Witt Library Index, a collaborative venture with the Courtauld Institute (London) that endeavored to electronically link images from the Witt Library with the descriptive information related to each item

- The Census of Antique Art and Architecture Known to the Renaissance, which began in 1946 as a file of text and images in the Warburg Institute of London, was expanded by the Bibliotheca Hertziana (Rome) in 1982, and whose automation was sponsored by the Getty in 1984
- The Art and Architecture Thesaurus® (AAT), a database of standardized vocabulary that was designed in the 1970s to merge redundant and contradictory subject headings from various controlled vocabularies related to objects and monuments and was acquired by the Getty in 1983
- The Scuola Normale / Getty (SN/G), a database of "automated projects in the history of art worldwide" that was a collaboration with the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa, Italy
- The Institute for Research on Information and Scholarship (IRIS), a collaborative project between Brown University and the Getty that investigated the process of art-historical research to determine what aspects of research might be aided by automated tools and resources

In addition to developing electronic resources to serve the scholarly community around the world, AHIP's early work included projects in response to internal needs and requests by the Trust and its programs. Following its inception AHIP began developing a collection management system to meet the needs of the museum registrar and curators. AHIP also began research concerning the configuration of a "scholarly workstation" for researchers at the Getty. The workstation was envisioned as "a single machine that performs many functions -- word processing, publication preparation, database access and manipulation, and image display, all for an affordable price." This project was extremely innovative because some of these functions did not yet exist at the time of the research, and AHIP hoped to make the scholarly workstation a reality by using its various collaborative projects to inform the workstation's development.

Dr. Michael Ester served as the first director of AHIP. Under his direction AHIP contributed significantly to the standardization of information in the arts and humanities through some of the projects outlined above. Under Ester's guidance, the Getty conducted studies on the image quality needs of scholars and the use of electronic images and text in the academic environment. After serving AHIP for nearly a decade, Michael Ester left the Getty in September of 1993.

Under its second director, Eleanor Fink, AHIP became increasingly involved in national debates over technology and the "information superhighway." Fink joined AHIP in 1987, was appointed acting director in 1993, and was named director in 1994. AHIP's name was changed to the Getty Information Institute (GII) in 1996 as part of a new identity program instituted by the Trust just prior to occupancy of the new Getty Center. The GII was dissolved in 1999, and many of its functions were absorbed by the Getty Research Institute (GRI).

Scope and Content of Collection

The records comprise interviews that were conducted by the Getty Art History Information Program (AHIP) and Brown University's Institute for Research in Information and Scholarship (IRIS) in 1986 and 1988. The interviews consist of discussions with experts and researchers in the history of art and

architecture. Materials include bound transcripts of the majority of the interviews as well as some of the original sound recordings.

In 1986 interviews were conducted with art historians as part of a nine-month study that examined research concerns and practices as a basis for discovering what kinds of automated tools and networked resources would enhance their scholarly work. The study resulted in the text *Object, image, inquiry: the art historian at work* by Elizabeth Bakewell, William O. Beeman, and Carol McMichael Reese (Getty Art History Information Program). Bakewell (Social Science Research Analyst in the Office of Program Analysis at IRIS), Beeman (Director of the IRIS Office of Program Analysis), and Marilyn Schmitt (Program Manager in charge of scholarly coordination of art historical projects at AHIP), conducted these interviews.

The 1988 interviews were conducted with architectural historians as a postscript to the earlier interviews. In contrast to the more general investigation that characterized the 1986 interviews, the purpose of this second round of interviews was to examine research practice in a specialized area of art history. The 1988 interviews were conducted by Marilyn Schmitt, Carol McMichael Reese (Research Consultant, AHIP), and Deborah N. Wilde (Research Associate, AHIP).

Arrangement

These materials are intellectually arranged in two categories: art historians and architectural historians. Within those categories the materials are arranged alphabetically by the historians' surnames. The audiocassettes are housed separately for preservation purposes. Digitzed copies of the transcripts are available online.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

With the exception of materials that have been marked restricted or confidential, the records described in accession 1986.IA.43 are available for use by qualified researchers. The original audiocassettes are restricted. Transcripts are digitized and accessible online. Where transcripts are not available, the production of use copies is required before access can be granted. This may add a delay to research requests.

The transcripts described in accession 1991.IA.01 have been digitized and are available online for use by qualified researchers.

The following types of records are permanently closed: records containing personal information, records that compromise security or operations, legal communications, legal work product, and records related to donors. The J. Paul Getty Trust reserves the right to restrict access to any records held by the Institutional Archives.

Restrictions on Use

Contact Rights and Reproductions at the Getty Research Institute for copyright information and permission to publish.

Acquisition Information

The records described in this finding aid originated in accession numbers 1986.IA.43 and 1991.IA.01, transferred by the Getty Art History Information Program.

Processing History

A preliminary inventory of the records was made by Institutional Archives part-time staff prior to 2005. The finding aid was begun by Sue Luftschein in 2006 and completed by Cyndi Shein in 2009. Transcripts were digitized in 2015 and are available online. Finding aid updated by Helen Kim in 2015.

^ Return to Table of Contents

Related Materials

Related Materials Note

The following materials are offered as possible sources of further information on the people, programs, and subjects covered by the records. The listing is not exhaustive.

Publications

Bakewell, Elizabeth, William O. Beeman, Carol McMichael Reese. *Object, image, inquiry: the art historian at work.* Santa Monica, California: Getty Art History Information Program, 1988.

^ Return to Table of Contents

Controlled Access Headings

Contributor(s)

- Bakewell, Elizabeth
- Beeman, William O.
- Bergdoll, Barry
- Brown University. Institute for Research in Information and Scholarship
- Castelnuovo, Enrico, 1929-2014
- Clark, T. J. (Timothy J.)
- Connors, Joseph
- Cousins, Judith
- Fletcher, Jennifer
- Forster, Kurt Walter
- Gaehtgens, Thomas W., 1940-
- Gombrich, E. H. (Ernst Hans), 1909-2001
- Holt, Rick K.
- Jouffre, Valérie Noëlle
- Klotz, Heinrich
- Koreny, Fritz
- Krauss, Rosalind E.
- Krautheimer, Richard, 1897-1994
- Murray, Stephen, 1945-
- Perrot, Françoise
- Preziosi, Donald, 1941-
- Reese, Carol McMichael
- Rubin, William Stanley
- Schmitt, Marilyn
- Schulz, Juergen, 1927-2014
- Schwartz, Gary, 1940-
- Stieber, Nancy
- Toker, Franklin
- Troy, Nancy J.
- Walsh, John, 1937-
- Wilde, Deborah N.
- Wit, Wim de

Subjects - Topics

- Art -- Computer network resources
- Art -- Historiography
- Art historians -- Interviews
- Arts -- Information technology
- Arts -- Study and teaching

Genres and Forms of Materials

- Transcripts

Collection Inventory

Interviews regarding the study of art history

Interviews regarding the study of art history

Interviews with art historians:

Interviews with art historians:: 1991

Title/Description	Containers
Castelnuovo, Enrico (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa), May 28-29, 1986	
Original sound recording (5 audiocassettes)	Box 1986.IA.43-02
Transcript	Box 1991.IA.01-01
Clark, T. J. (Harvard University): May 19-20, 1986 (4 audiocassettes)	Box 1986.IA.43-02
Original sound recording,	Box 1986.IA.43-02
Transcript and mp4 on DVD	Box 1991.IA.01-01
Cousins, Judith (Museum of Modern Art): Transcript, November 14, 1986	Box 1991.IA.01-01
Fletcher, Jennifer (Courtauld Institute, London), June 6, 1986	
Original sound recording (4 audiocassettes)	Box 1986.IA.43-01
Transcript	Box 1991.IA.01-01
Forster, Kurt W. (Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities), April 23, 1986	
Original sound recording (1 audiocassette)	Box 1986.IA.43-01
Transcript	Box 1991.IA.01-01
Gaehtgens, Thomas (Free University of Berlin), April 17-18, 1986	
Original sound recording (5 audiocassettes)	

	Box 1986.IA.43-02
Transcript	Box 1991.IA.01-01

Gombrich, Ernst H. (Warburg Institute, University of London), June 3, 1986

Original sound recording (2 audiocassettes)	Box 1986.IA.43-02
Transcript	Box 1991.IA.01-01

Koreny, Fritz (Graphische Sammlung Albertina), June 5-6, 1986

Original sound recording (4 audiocassettes)	Box 1986.IA.43-02
Transcript	Box 1991.IA.01-01

Krauss, Rosalind (Hunter College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York): Original sound recording, May 30, 1986 (3 audiocassettes)	Box 1986.IA.43-01
Marrow, James (University of California, Berkeley): Original sound recording, April 28, 1986 (4 audiocassettes)	Box 1986.IA.43-02

Access Restrictions:
RESTRICTED. The James Marrow interview is closed due to the absence of a signed agreement from the interviewee.

Murray, Stephen (Columbia University), February 12, 1986

Original sound recording (3 audiocassettes)	Box 1986.IA.43-02
Transcript	Box 1991.IA.01-01

Perrot, Françoise (C.N.R.S., Paris, and Center for Study of Stained Glass, Chartres), May 28-29, 1986

Original sound recording (5 audiocassettes)	Box 1986.IA.43-01
Transcript	Box 1991.IA.01-02

Preziosi, Donald (State Universtiry of New York, Binghamton), February 15-16, 1986

Original sound recording (5 audiocassettes)	Box 1986.IA.43-01
Transcript	Box 1991.IA.01-02

Rubin, William (Museum of Modern Art, New York), April 2, 1986

Original sound recording (2 audiocassettes)

	Box 1986.IA.43-02
Transcript	Box 1991.IA.01-02
Schulz, Juergen (Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island), July 2-3, 1986	
Original sound recording (4 audiocassettes)	Box 1986.IA.43-02
Transcript	Box 1991.IA.01-02
Schwartz, Gary (London), June 4-5, 1986	
Original sound recording (5 audiocassettes)	Box 1986.IA.43-02
Transcript	Box 1991.IA.01-02
Troy, Nancy (Northwestern University), July 2-3, 1986	
Original sound recording (4 audiocassettes)	Box 1986.IA.43-01
Transcript	Box 1991.IA.01-02
Walsh, John (J. Paul Getty Museum), April 21-22, 1986	
Original sound recording (4 audiocassettes)	Box 1986.IA.43-01
Transcript	Box 1991.IA.01-02

Interviews with architectural historians:

Interviews with architectural historians:: 1991

Title/Description	Containers
Holt, Rick K. (Online Computer Systems, Inc.): Transcript, 1988	Box 1991.IA.01-01
Jouffre, Valérie Noëlle: Transcript, April 12-13, 1988	Box 1991.IA.01-01
Krautheimer, Richard (Bibliotheca Hertziana, Rome, Italy): Transcript, April 8, 1988	Box 1991.IA.01-01
Klotz, Heinrich (Deutsches Architekturmuseum): Transcript, April 11-12, 1988	Box 1991.IA.01-01
Group interview conducted at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians (Chicago, Illinois): Transcript, April 15, 1988	Box 1991.IA.01-02
General note:	

Participants: Barry Bergdoll, Columbia University; Joseph Connors, Columbia University; Nancy Stieber, University of Massachusetts; Franklin Toker, University of Pittsburgh; Wim de Wit, Chicago Historical Society.