



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

**A Finding Aid to the Millard Meiss
Papers, circa 1918-circa 1977, bulk
1950-1975, in the Archives of American Art**

by Anna Rimel

Funding for the processing of this collection was provided by the
Smithsonian Institution Collections Care and Preservation Fund.

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview.....	1
Administrative Information.....	1
Biographical Note.....	2
Scope and Content Note.....	2
Arrangement.....	3
Names and Subject Terms.....	3
Series Descriptions/Container Listing.....	4
Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1918-circa 1977.....	4
Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1936-circa 1977.....	4
Series 3: Writing Projects and Lectures, circa 1934-circa 1975.....	7
Series 4: Professional Files, circa 1933-circa 1975.....	8

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Creator:	Meiss, Millard, 1904-1975
Title:	Millard Meiss Papers
Dates:	circa 1918-circa 1977, bulk 1950-1975
Quantity:	11.4 linear feet
Abstract:	The papers of art historian, writer, and educator Millard Meiss measure 11.4 linear feet and date from circa 1918 to circa 1977, with the bulk of the material dating from 1950 to 1975. The papers are comprised of biographical material, correspondence, writing projects and lectures, and professional files that document his post World War II work as chairman of the American Committee for the Restoration of Italian Monuments, among other work.
Language:	Collection is in English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Millard Meiss papers were donated to the archives in 1976 and 1986 by Meiss's widow Margaret L. Meiss.

Processing Information

Multiple accessions were merged and archivally processed and a finding aid prepared by Anna Rimel in 2016 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Institution's Collections Care and Preservation Fund. The Archives of American Art has implemented accelerated processing when possible to increase information about and access to more of our collections. For this collection, accelerated processing included arrangement to the series, subseries and folder levels, adhering to the creator's original arrangement as much as possible. Generally, folder contents were simply verified with the original folder titles, but items within folders were not arranged further. All materials were rehoused in archival folders and boxes for long-term stability, but staples and other fasteners have not all been removed.

Preferred Citation

Millard Meiss papers, circa 1918-circa 1977, bulk 1950-1975. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Ownership & Literary Rights

The Millard Meiss papers are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

Biographical Note

Millard Meiss (1904-1975) was an art historian and educator whose expertise was medieval and Renaissance art. He taught at Columbia University and Princeton, and was a curator at the Fogg Museum for four years. Following World War II, Meiss served as chairman of the American Committee for the Restoration of Italian Monuments until 1951.

Millard Meiss received a B. A. from Princeton University in 1926, and a Ph. D. from New York University in 1933. He was a professor of fine arts and archaeology at Columbia University from 1934-1953. In 1954, Meiss accepted the position of professor of fine arts and curator of paintings at the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University. In 1958, he returned to Princeton, New Jersey to become professor of art history at the Institute for Advanced Study, where he remained for the rest of his career.

While at Columbia University, Meiss acted as editor-in-chief of *The Art Bulletin*, and also stayed on the editorial board for the next thirty-three years until his death in 1975. Throughout his career, Meiss edited several leading art journals, and wrote numerous articles and books on medieval and Renaissance painting, including *Painting in Florence and Siena after the Black Death* (1951), and his multi-volume *French Painting in the Time of Jean de Berry* (1967-1974), as well as many others.

In addition to serving as chairman of the American Committee for the Restoration of Italian Monuments after World War II, Meiss organized the Committee to Rescue Italian Art in 1966 after the flood of the Arno River in Italy. He worked to help organize the first meeting in the United States of the International Congress of the History of Art and served as president and vice-president. He was actively involved in the College Art Association of America.

Meiss was a member of many arts and scholarly organizations in Europe and the United States including the Accademia delle Arti del Disegno, Accademia Senese degli Intronati, Accademia Clementina, Accademia Toscana Colombaria, Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, American Philosophical Society, British Academy, and the Société des Antiquaires de France. In addition, he was a Fellow of the Mediaeval Academy of America and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, as well as an honorary trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Meiss was also the recipient of many awards, including the Wanamaker English Prize, 1925; Haskins Medal from the Mediaeval Academy of America, 1953; Lewis Prize from the American Philosophical Society, 1967; Morey Award from the College Art Association of America, 1969, and posthumously in 1976; and the Art Dealers Association of America Award, 1974.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of art historian, writer, and educator Millard Meiss measure 11.4 linear feet and date from circa 1918 to circa 1977, with the bulk of the material dating from 1950 to 1975. The papers are comprised of biographical material, correspondence, writing projects and lectures, and professional files that document his post World War II work as chairman of the American Committee for the Restoration of Italian Monuments, among other work.

Biographical material includes various awards and honorary degrees received; a bibliography of published and unpublished books, articles, essays, and editing projects by Meiss; memorial materials and obituaries for Meiss as well as for Dora and Erwin Panofsky (to whom he was close); and resumes and education materials among other files.

Correspondence is predominantly professional in nature and is with colleagues, peers, museums, and institutions. Some correspondents include Ernst Gombrich, Irving Lavin, Carl Nordenfalk, and Erwin Panofsky, among many others.

Writing project and lecture files document Meiss's work on numerous published and unpublished articles and book projects, and lectures. Books include *The Boucicaut Hours*, *De Artibus Opuscula XL: Essays on Erwin Panofsky*, *French Painting in the Time of Jean de Berry*, and *Painting in Florence and Siena*, among many other works. Files contain manuscripts, notes, book proposals, reviews, correspondence, and clippings.

Professional files document the many committees, institutions, and organizations in which Meiss was involved, including the American Committee for the Restoration of Italian Monuments, Committee to Rescue Italian Art, and International Committee of the History of Art. Also included are general files on *The Art Bulletin*, College Art Association, Institute for Advanced Study, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Princeton University, among others.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 4 series:

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1918-circa 1977 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1)

Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1936-circa 1977 (4.3 linear feet; Boxes 1-5)

Series 3: Writings Projects and Lectures, circa 1934-circa 1975 (2.4 linear feet; Boxes 5-8)

Series 4: Professional Files, circa 1933-circa 1975 (4.4 linear feet; Boxes 8-12)

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Archives of American Art under the following terms:

Subjects:

Art historians--New Jersey--Princeton
Painting--France
Painting--Italy

Names:

American Committee for the Restoration of Italian Monuments.
College Art Association. (U.S.)
Committee to Rescue Italian Art.
Gombrich, E. H., (Ernst Hans), 1909-2001
Institute for Advanced Study. (Princeton, N.J.)
Lavin, Irving, 1927-
Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, N.Y.)
Nordenfalk, Carl Adam Johan, 1907-
Panofsky, Dora Mosse
Panofsky, Erwin, 1892-1968
Princeton University.

Occupations:

Authors--New Jersey
Educators--New Jersey

Series Descriptions/Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1918-circa 1977

0.3 linear feet; Box 1

Found here are various awards and honorary degrees; a bibliography of published and unpublished works by Millard Meiss; memorial materials and obituaries; memorial materials on Dora and Erwin Panofsky's death; resumes and school materials; press clippings; and studies in honor of Millard Meiss.

Box	Folder	
1	1-7	Awards and Honors, circa 1929-circa 1975
1	8	Bibliography, circa 1977
1	9	Birthday Celebration, circa 1974
1	10-11	Memorial Materials, Millard Meiss, circa 1975-circa 1976
1	12	Memorial Materials, Dora and Erwin Panofsky, circa 1965-circa 1968
1	13-14	Obituaries, Millard Meiss, circa 1926-circa 1976
1	15	Press Clippings, circa 1950-circa 1976
1	16	Resumes, circa 1945-circa 1976
1	17	School Materials, circa 1918-circa 1925

Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1936-circa 1977

4.3 linear feet; Boxes 1-5

Correspondence is with colleagues, museums, researchers, students, universities, and other professional contacts. Correspondents include Columbia University, Ernst Gombrich, Harvard University, Irving Lavin, Carl Nordenfalk, Erwin Panofsky, and Princeton University, among others. Also found are several files of recommendation letters written by Meiss.

Box	Folder	
1	18	Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, circa 1974
1	19	Accademia Toscana di Scienze e Lettere, circa 1972-circa 1973
1	20	Avril, Francois, circa 1968-circa 1975
1	21-22	Berenson, Barnard, 1949-circa 1977
1	23	Bertolini Campetti, Dottoressa Licia, circa 1973
1	24	Biebel, Franklin, circa 1959-circa 1962
1	25	Blunt, Sir Anthony, circa 1960-circa 1961
1	26	Bony, Jean, circa 1960-circa 1961
1	27	Borsook, Dr. Eve, circa 1960-circa 1966
1	28	Brieger, Peter, circa 1960-circa 1968
1	29	British Academy, 1973
1	30-31	Chastel, André, circa 1960-circa 1972

1	32	Clark, Sir Kenneth, 1960
1	33-34	Columbia University, circa 1952-circa 1966
1	35	Coolidge, John, circa 1959-circa 1974
1	36	Cott, Perry B., circa 1959-circa 1962
1	37	Council of Encyclopaedia of Art, circa 1956-circa 1957
1	38	Ford Foundation, circa 1958-circa 1959
1	39-41	Frick Library, circa 1953-circa 1973
1	42	Gilmore, Myron, circa 1967-circa 1974
1	43-44	Gnudi, Cesare, circa 1961-circa 1968
1	45	Gombrich, Ernst, circa 1960-circa 1961
1	46	Gomez-Moreno, Carmen, circa 1965-circa 1968
1	47	Hahnloser, Hans R., circa 1958-circa 1961
1	48-51	Harvard University, I Tatti, circa 1963-circa 1975
1	52	Hibbard, Howard, circa 1961-circa 1965
1	53	Hitchcock, Henry Russell, circa 1960-circa 1961
1	54	Kauffmann, Hans, circa 1960-circa 1961
1	55	Kirsch, Edith, circa 1964-circa 1965
1	56	Kubler, George, circa 1960-circa 1961
1	57-58	Lavin, Irving and Marilyn, circa 1964-circa 1973
1	59	Lehoux, Francoise, circa 1964-circa 1967
1	60	Longhi, Roberto, circa 1952-circa 1964
1	61	Mallory, Michael, circa 1964-circa 1968
1	62	Marchini, circa 1969-circa 1973
1	63	Mediaeval Academy of America, circa 1969-circa 1975
1	64	Melnikas, Anthony, circa 1963-circa 1966
1	65	Metropolitan Museum of Art, circa 1969-circa 1974
1	66	Miner, Dorothy, circa 1956-circa 1968
1	67	Morand, Kathleen, circa 1961-circa 1971
1	68-69	Nordenfalk, Carl, circa 1960-circa 1975
1	70	Norton Simon Foundation, circa 1972-circa 1975
1	71	Office of Price Administration, circa 1943

Box	Folder	
2	1-4	Panofsky, Erwin, circa 1936-circa 1967
2	5	Pevsner, Nikolaus, 1967
2	6	Philadelphia Museum of Art, circa 1960-circa 1961
2	7-11	Princeton University Press, circa 1959-circa 1963
2	12	Procacci, Dr. Ugo, circa 1962-circa 1975

2	13	Professional Appointments, circa 1931-circa 1974
2	14-16	Recommendation Letters, circa 1955-circa 1973
2	17	Richardson, Edgar P., circa 1959-circa 1967
2	18	Routhier, Georges, circa 1967-circa 1973
2	19	Salmi, Mario, circa 1959-circa 1961
2	20	Samuel H. Kress Foundation, circa 1969-circa 1975
2	21	Schapiro, Meyer, 1960-1961
2	22	Scher, Stephen K., circa 1961-1968
2	23	Sloane, Joseph, circa 1959-circa 1962
2	24	Smith, Craig, circa 1960-circa 1961
2	25	Smith, Sharon Dunlap, circa 1966-circa 1975
2	26	Steinweg, Dr. Klara, circa 1955-circa 1967
2	27	Tintori, Leonetto, circa 1959-circa 1975
2	28	Urbani, Giovanni, 1969
2	29	Van Gelder, J. G., circa 1959-circa 1974
2	30	Van Regteren Altena, J. Q., circa 1960-circa 1961
2	31	Washington Center, 1967
2	32	Wittkower, Rudolph, circa 1961
2	33	Wixon. William D., circa 1964-circa 1968
2	34	Wrightsman Lectures, circa 1969-circa 1975
		General Correspondence
2	35-38	A, circa 1951-circa 1975
2	39-45	B, circa 1956-circa 1975

Box	Folder	
		General Correspondence
3	1-2	B, circa 1969-circa 1975
3	3-9	C, circa 1949-circa 1975
3	10-13	D, circa 1956-circa 1975
3	14-16	E, circa 1956-circa 1975
3	17-21	F, circa 1955-circa 1975
3	22-26	G, circa 1937-circa 1975
3	27-32	H, circa 1955-circa 1975
3	33-34	I, 1958-circa 1975
3	35-37	J, 1952-circa 1975
3	38	K, 1955-circa 1958

Box	Folder	
		General Correspondence

4	1-6	K, circa 1963-circa 1975
4	7-11	L, circa 1955-circa 1975
4	12-21	M, 1944-circa 1975
4	22-24	N, circa 1952-circa 1973
4	25-27	O, circa 1954-circa 1975
4	28-32	P, circa 1948-circa 1974
4	33-36	R, circa 1949-circa 1975

Box	Folder	
		General Correspondence
5	1-12	S, circa 1951-circa 1975
5	13-16	T, circa 1956-circa 1975
5	17-18	U, 1957-circa 1968
5	19-22	V, circa 1955-circa 1975
5	23-27	W, circa 1954-circa 1975
5	28-30	Y-Z, 1955-circa 1974

Series 3: Writing Projects and Lectures, circa 1934-circa 1975

2.4 linear feet; Boxes 5-8

Writing projects and lectures include articles and lectures written by Millard Meiss, as well as projects developing published and unpublished books. Materials may include clippings, correspondence, and manuscript drafts, among other items. Books include *The Boucicaut Hours*, *De Artibus Opuscula XL: Essays on Erwin Panofsky*, *French Painting in the Time of Jean de Berry*, and *Painting in Florence and Siena*, among many other works. Also included are files of reviews and feedback on Meiss' articles, books, lectures, and research, and may contain annotations, clippings, correspondence, and drafts.

Box	Folder	
5	31-37	Articles, circa 1934-circa 1970
		Book Projects
5	38-40	<i>Acts of the XXI International Congress of the History of Art, 1961</i> , circa 1960-circa 1967
5	41	<i>Andrea Mantegna as Illuminator, 1957</i>
5	42	<i>Belles Heures, 1974-1975</i>
5	43-44	<i>The Boucicaut Hours</i> , circa 1971-circa 1975

Box	Folder	
		Book Projects
6	1-8	<i>The Boucicaut Hours</i> , circa 1970-circa 1975
6	9-10	<i>Corpus of Flemish Primitive Paintings</i> , circa 1940-circa 1961
6	11-56	<i>De Artibus Opuscula XL: Essays on Erwin Panofsky</i> , 1947-circa 1963
6	57	<i>French Painting in the Time of Jean de Berry</i> , circa 1972-circa 1974

6	58	<i>Friedlander: Two Essays on Italian Art of the XVI</i> , circa 1953-circa 1954
6	59	<i>Giovanni Bellini's St. Francis in the Frisk Collection</i> , circa 1962-circa 1964
6	60	<i>The Great Age of Fresco</i> , circa 1969
6	61-67	<i>Painting in Florence and Siena</i> , circa 1950-circa 1975
6	68	<i>Painting of the Life of St. Francis in Assisi</i> , circa 1961-circa 1962
6	69-73	Phaidon Press, circa 1964-circa 1974

Box Folder

		Book Projects
7	1-3	Phaidon Press, circa 1967-circa 1975
7	4	<i>The Rohan Master</i> , circa 1972-circa 1973
7	5	<i>The "Très Riches Heures" of Jean, Duke of Berry</i> , circa 1968-circa 1974
7	6-14	Unknown Book Project, circa 1965-circa 1975
7	15-35	Lectures, circa 1948-circa 1974
7	36	Notes and Annotations, circa 1930s-circa 1940s
7	37-48	Reviews and Feedback, circa 1958-circa 1975

Box Folder

8	1-4	Reviews and Feedback, circa 1964-circa 1974
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Series 4: Professional Files, circa 1933-circa 1975

Found here are files documenting Meiss' work with the American Committee for the Restoration of Italian Art, the Committee to Rescue Italian Art, and the International Committee for the History of Art. Also found are general professional files, including *The Art Bulletin*, College Art Association, Harvard University Fogg Museum, Institute for Advanced Study, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Princeton University, among others. Materials may include clippings and printed materials, correspondence, lists and notes by Meiss and others, and photographs and slides. Researchers may be interested to note that the CRIA Daily Diary includes itinerary and appointment details for February through March, 1967, and may include some discussion of meeting topics.

This series is arranged as 4 subseries.

4.1: American Committee for the Restoration of Italian Monuments, circa 1940s-circa 1958

4.2: Committee to Rescue Italian Art, circa 1959-circa 1973

4.3: International Committee of the History of Art, circa 1933-circa 1975

4.4: General Professional Files, circa 1940-circa 1975

4.1: American Committee for the Restoration of Italian Art (ACRIA), circa 1940s-circa 1958

Box Folder

8	5	Clippings, circa 1946-circa 1948
8	6-9	General, circa 1946-circa 1958
8	10-11	Photographs, circa 1940s

4.2: Committee to Rescue Italian Art (CRIA), circa 1959-circa 1973

Box	Folder	
8	12	Advisory Council, circa 1966
8	13-17	Allocations, circa 1967-circa 1971
8	18-36	Correspondence, circa 1966-circa 1973
8	37	Daily Diary, 1967 Daily itinerary for February through May, 1967. Includes appointments and general movements, as well as some debriefing of meeting discussions.
8	38-39	Damaged Panels and Canvases, Lists, circa 1971
8	40	Fellowship Applications, circa 1971-circa 1972
8	41-43	Financial Material, circa 1969-circa 1975
8	44-46	Florence Restoration, circa 1966-circa 1969

Box	Folder	
9	1-2	Florence Restoration, circa 1970-circa 1973
9	3-4	Ford Foundation, circa 1968-circa 1972
9	5	Frescoes and Panels, circa 1966-circa 1972
9	6	Italian Art and Archives Fund, circa 1967
9	7	Libraries and Archives, circa 1966-circa 1969
9	8	National Committee, circa 1966-circa 1967
9	9-28	Photographs, circa 1964-circa 1971
9	29	Positions, 1969
9	30-32	Progress Reports, circa 1966-circa 1969
9	33	Projects, circa 1967-circa 1969
9	34-37	Publicity, circa 1959-circa 1970
9	38	Reports of Damage, circa 1966

Box	Folder	
10	1	Report, "Visit of Assistance to Florence, Italy," circa 1967
10	2	Representatives, circa 1968-circa 1973
10	3	UNESCO, circa 1967-circa 1970
10	4-7	Venice and San Donato, circa 1967-circa 1973

4.3: International Committee of the History of Art (CIHA), circa 1933-circa 1975

Box	Folder	
10	8-9	Bibliographie d'Histoire de l'Art, circa 1969-circa 1974
10	10	Bulletins, circa 1967-circa 1970

10	11-13	College Art Association, National Committee for the History of Art, circa 1951-circa 1975
10	14	International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (CIPSH), circa 1961-circa 1964
10	15-17	Colloques, circa 1957-circa 1970
10	18-34	Congress of 1961, New York, XX, circa 1959-circa 1962
10	35	Congress of 1964, Bonn, circa 1964

Box	Folder	
11	1-3	Congress of 1964, Bonn, circa 1962-circa 1966
11	4-6	Congress Programs, circa 1933-circa 1964
11	7	Congresses, circa 1958
11	8	Corpus Vitrearum, circa 1962-circa 1963
11	9-18	Correspondence, circa 1960-circa 1975
11	19-20	General Materials, circa 1953-circa 1972
11	21	International Congress, Lists and Programs, circa 1960-circa 1969
11	22	Meeting, Budapest, circa 1969
11	23-24	Meeting, Granada, circa 1972-circa 1973
11	25	Meeting, Lisbon, 1972
11	26	Meeting, Paris, circa 1962
11	27-28	Membership Lists, circa 1955-circa 1964
11	29	Répertoire d'Art et d'Archéologie, circa 1961-circa 1972

4.4: General Professional Files, circa 1940-circa 1975

Box	Folder	
11	30	American Council of Learned Societies, circa 1958-circa 1973
11	31	American Institute of Venetian Studies Planning Group, circa 1973-circa 1974
11	32	American Philosophical Society, circa 1963-circa 1973
11	33-41	<i>The Art Bulletin</i> , circa 1940-circa 1967
11	42-43	College Art Association, circa 1942-circa 1975
11	44	Editorial Boards, circa 1967-circa 1975
11	45-46	Harvard University, Fogg Museum, circa 1958

Box	Folder	
12	1-5	Institute for Advanced Study, circa 1944-circa 1973
12	6-9	Metropolitan Museum of Art, circa 1944-circa 1974
12	10	Musicological Congress, circa 1960-circa 1961
12	11-13	New York University, circa 1952-circa 1973
12	14-15	Princeton University, circa 1961-circa 1973
12	16	Renaissance Society of America, circa 1958-circa 1971