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Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Yale Center for British Art, Institutional Archives
Institutional Archives
1080 Chapel Street
P. O. Box 208280
New Haven, CT 06520-8280
ycba.institutionalarchives@yale.edu

**CALL NUMBER:** S006

**CREATOR:** Taylor, Basil

**TITLE:** Basil Taylor correspondence with Paul Mellon

**DATES:** 1959–1975

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3 linear feet (3 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** This collection consists of correspondence between Basil Taylor, Paul Mellon, and his advisors, including curator John Baskett, regarding the development of Mellon's British art collection. The correspondence provides insight into Mellon's collecting habits, and it documents the friendship and working relationship between Taylor and Mellon.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ycba.ia.S006

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ycba.ia.S006.

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is unprocessed and may not be available for immediate access.

Biographical / Historical

Basil Taylor (1922-1975) was an art historian who significantly influenced Paul Mellon’s interest in British artwork.

Taylor was educated at Tonbridge School, at Wadham College, Oxford, and at the Slade School of Art. Early in his career he worked with the British Broadcasting Company, serving in an editorial capacity from 1945-1951. He also served as Organizing Secretary of the National Art Collections Fund from 1949-1950. After this, he taught the History of Art and Architecture at the Royal College of Art, becoming Librarian in 1953 and Reader in General Studies in 1958. From 1962-1969, he was Director of the Paul Mellon Foundation
for British Art. He was active in the formation of Mellon’s collection, and he also prepared two exhibition catalogs.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of correspondence between Basil Taylor, Paul Mellon, and his advisors, including curator John Baskett, regarding the development of Mellon’s British art collection. The correspondence provides insight into Mellon’s collecting habits, and it documents the friendship and working relationship between Taylor and Mellon.
Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library’s online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

**Subjects**
Art -- Collectors and collecting
Art, British

**Names**
Mellon, Paul