Collection of Mellon Family and Yale Center for British Art-related Publications

A010

Cate Peebles

July 1, 2019

Institutional Archives
1080 Chapel Street
P. O. Box 208280
New Haven, CT 06520-8280
ycba.institutionalarchives@yale.edu
https://britishart.yale.edu/about-us/departments/institutional-archives

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Center for British Art, Institutional Archives
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CALL NUMBER: A010

CREATOR: Yale Center for British Art, Institutional Archives

TITLE: Collection of Mellon Family and Yale Center for British Art-related Publications

DATES: 1963–2018

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 7 linear feet (5 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: This collection contains publications related to the Yale Center for British Art and its directors, Paul Mellon, Rachel Lambert Mellon, the Mellon family, and Louis I. Kahn that have been published by entities other than the Yale Center for British Art or the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ycba.ia.A010

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.A010.

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is available without restrictions.

Biographical / Historical

Paul Mellon (1907-1999) was the son of Pittsburgh financier and former Secretary of the Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon. As a young man, Mellon developed a love for British art, literature and sport, interests that permeated his adult life and philanthropic pursuits. Mellon was a graduate of Yale College (’29) and Cambridge University, where he deepened his knowledge of British Literature and interest in equestrian sports. In partnership with his second wife, Rachel Lambert Mellon (1910 – 2013), Paul Mellon amassed a large collection of rare books and art, much of which was originally displayed at their homes in Virginia, Antigua, Washington D.C., and New York. Rachel Mellon, known as “Bunny”, cultivated a life-long passion...
Paul Mellon’s focused collecting of British art began in the late 1950s, and in 1966 he bequeathed his extensive collection of art and rare books to Yale University, along with an endowment that established the Yale Center for British Art, which opened to the public in 1977.

The Yale Center for British Art was designed by the American architect Louis I. Kahn (1901-1974) and completed after his death. The Center was Kahn’s final work and is located across the street from his first commission, the Yale University Art Gallery (opened in 1953). The Center has a sleek, modern aesthetic, and it is the first museum in the United States with incorporated retail space. Notable elements of the design include the juxtaposition of materials similar in color and texture, such as the glass and steel on the façade, the strong geometry of the interior, and the many windows that bathe objects in diffused natural light. In 2005, the Center was awarded the Twenty-Five Year Award by the American Institute of Architects.

The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, founded in 1970, is an educational charity committed to supporting original research into the history of British art and architecture of all periods. The Centre contains an extensive library and manuscript collection, with over 12,000 books about British art. It is the sister institution to the Yale Center for British Art, with which it collaborates closely, and is part of Yale University.

**Scope and Contents**

This collection contains publications related to the Yale Center for British Art and its directors, Paul Mellon, Rachel Lambert Mellon, the Mellon family, and Louis I. Kahn that have been published by entities other than the Yale Center for British Art or the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art.
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
Architecture, Modern -- 20th Century
Art -- History
Art, British
Gardening -- United States
Yale University. Alumni

Names
Kahn, Louis I., 1901-1974
Mellon, Paul

Corporate Bodies
Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art
Yale Center for British Art