Long before he became a dedicated collector of decorative arts, furniture, paintings, drawings, prints, and books, Julian was fascinated with art and literature. As a young boy, he once saved his allowance to buy antique Chinese scrolls from a friend. In 1933 while studying architecture at Harvard, he proudly purchased his first painting. Until his death in 1992, Julian and his companions traveled all over the world, collecting art and antiques.

"WHEN I HEARD ABOUT THE ROTHSCHILD SALE [OF ART AND ANTIQUES] AT MENTMORE, I WAS AFRAID THAT WE MIGHT HAVE TO GO OVER AND RESCUE HIM FROM A DEBTOR’S PRISON."

JAMES A. ARNOLD, WRITING ABOUT JULIAN WOOD GLASS JR. IN A LETTER TO ART DEALER CLYDE NEWHOUSE, JUNE 1, 1977

The first painting Julian acquired was Young Saint John the Baptist in the Wilderness. Attributed to Alessandro Allori (1535–1607), this painting is one of the oldest in the collection.

Julian sat for this portrait by John Woodrow Kelley in 1989. Here, the collector sits in his New York apartment surrounded by the objects he lived with and loved.

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Julian Wood Glass Jr. (left) and his partner R. Lee Taylor, while on a group yachting trip around 1955.