

**The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

**Henry K. Norton  
Papers, 1947-1955**

**Compiled by Ellen Belcher  
September 1989  
Revised, M. Yolles and M. Bowling, 1998**

## Summary

<b>Main Entry:</b>	Norton, Henry Kittredge, 1884-
<b>Title:</b>	Papers, 1947-1955
<b>Size:</b>	3 linear ft. (4 boxes, 3 volumes)
<b>Restrictions:</b>	None
<b>Source:</b>	Gift of Margaret Norton, 1989
<b>Biographical Note:</b>	Henry Kittredge Norton (1884-1965) was an American educator, journalist, author, and businessman. He was an advocate of aerial transit as a method of urban mass transportation. His positions included trustee and president of the New York, Susquehanna & Western Railroad, director of Walter Kidde & Co., and member of the New York City Transit Authority.
<b>Description:</b>	Collection consists of correspondence, reports, designs and plans, and scrapbooks of photographs documenting Norton's efforts toward the adoption of monorails for San Francisco and New York City. Papers include correspondence, 1947-1954; published and unpublished reports, 1948-1955, relating mostly to mass transportation in the San Francisco Bay area; and designs, blueprints and drawings of monorails, as well as related patents. Also, photographs in various formats and scrapbooks of photographs of New York, Susquehanna & Western Railroad facilities and operations.
<b>Special formats:</b>	Photographs, maps, blueprint, drawings, plans

## **Biographical Note**

Henry Kittredge Norton, born in Chicago on October 10, 1884 was an educator, journalist, author and businessman. He worked and lived in Asia, Europe, and Cuba, as well as New York City and California. Norton was an advocate of aerial transit as a method of urban mass transportation. His positions included trustee and president of the New York, Susquehanna & Western Railroad, director of Walter Kidde & Co., and member of the New York City Transit Authority. Norton died October 13, 1965.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The papers date from the years 1947-1955 and relate to Henry K. Norton's work while trustee (1943-53) and president (1953-55) of the New York Susquehanna & Western Railroad; director (1943-55) of Walter Kidde & Co; and member (1953-55) of the New York City Transit Authority. The collection documents Norton's efforts for the adoption of monorails for San Francisco and New York City. There is correspondence from the years 1947 to 1954. Published and unpublished reports written by Norton and others span the years 1948 to 1955 and relate mostly to his work on mass transportation for the San Francisco Bay Area. Also included in the papers are designs, blueprints and drawings of monorail cars and brakes, as well as related patents.

The papers contain approximately 175 photographs in various formats, most of which are identified and dated, depicting the various facilities and operations of the New York, Susquehanna & Western Railroad. Scrapbook Volume 1 (Road and Structures) contains photographs of stations and terminals in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York. There are also several views of tracks, bridges and cuttings as well as aerial views of the New Jersey approach to the Lincoln Tunnel and a panoramic view of the piers in Edgewater, New Jersey. Volume 2 (Equipment) contains photographs of the exteriors and interiors of NYS & WRR trains, which are identified and dated. Volume 3 (Untitled) contains additional photographs of tracks, platforms, and cuttings. It also contains photographs of employees, several of whom are identified by name and date, as well as snapshots of company outings. Box 4 of the collection contains unidentified color and black and white snapshots and 8x10 prints of trains and tracks. There are also mounted 11 x 14 prints of streets in New York City and San Francisco with prospective monorails drawn in.

## Container List

**Box    Folder**

**Correspondence**

1	1	1947
	2	1948
	3	1950
	4	1953
	5	1954

**Miscellany**

9	C.V. of Dr. V.J. Sivels, D.E. Charter Amendment for San Francisco Transit, n.d. Board of Transportation Union Contract (NYC?) Jan 1, 1954 Address by W.S. Douglass, May 13, 1954
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10	<b>Reports: Various Authors:</b> <i>-General Description of Suspended Monorail</i> , November 6, 1947 <i>Report to the City Planning Commission on a Transportation Plan for San Francisco</i> , November, 1948 <i>Long Range Rapid Transit Program for San Francisco</i> , November, 1948
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2	<i>Introductory Study of Methods Useful to Reduce Noises caused by Rapid Transit Electric Railways</i> , May 25, 1950 (two copies) <i>Aerial Transit: A New Approach</i> , by Henry K. Norton Draft, June, 1950 Draft, April 6, 1950 Draft, August 3, 1950 <i>Passenger Cars vs. Mass Transportation</i> , 1952 <i>Supplementary Statement to the Bay Area Rapid Transit Commission</i> by Henry K. Norton, July 23, 1952 San Francisco Rapid Transit Commission Preliminary Report, January, 1953 <i>New York City Transit Authority, Budget Data</i> by Henry K. Norton, September 30, 1953 Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Hall and Macdonald progress reports #2-9, January 1954-August, 1954 <i>San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit Commission Statement</i> , August 30, 1954
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### **Illustrations**

San Francisco, n.d.

Unidentified, n.d.

### **3**

#### **Charts, Plans, and Sketches**

- 1 Marin Line, Operations, November 16, 1946
- 2 Plans 1946
- 3 Brake Plans, 1947
- 4 Proposed motor truck disc brake, April 25, 1950
- 5 Budd and Company Plans, 1950
- 6 Plans, 1950
- 7 Charts, 1950
- 8 Plans, 1954
- 9 Chart, review of monorail systems
- 10 Sketches, monorails, n.d.

#### 11 **Patents**

### **4**

#### **Oversized Material**

Photographs, Blueprints, Plans, Maps, Graphics

*Aerial Transit in the New York Metropolitan Area*, October, 1955

(Prepared by HKN)

### **Vol.**

- 1 New York Susquehanna & Western Railroad: "Road and Structures"
- 2 New York Susquehanna & Western Railroad: "Equipment"
- 3 New York Susquehanna & Western Railroad: Untitled