

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Norton Company
Collection

2000.71

Processed by William F. Carroll, C.A.
October 2000

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Collection Information

Abstract : F. B. Norton & Co., Worcester manufactory of pottery and emery wheels, acquired in 1885 by group of Worcester businessmen who established Norton Emery Wheel Co., later Norton Co., which became world's largest producer of abrasive products and machinery with branches and affiliates in numerous countries.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : In part purchased of Kenneth Schneringer, Woodstock, Ga., June 2000; in part various accession numbers; in part FIA.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcs, aat, tgm, gmgcp)

F. B. Norton & Co. (Worcester, Mass.)
Norton Emery Wheel Co. (Worcester, Mass.)
Norton Company (Worcester, Mass.) – History.
Abrasives.
Grinding wheels.
Abrasives industry – Massachusetts – Worcester.
Grinding machines – Massachusetts – Worcester.
Grinding machinery industry – Massachusetts – Worcester.
Stoneware – Massachusetts – Worcester.
Pottery – 19th century – Massachusetts – Worcester.

Historical/Biographical Notes

Internationally known Norton Co., largest manufacturer of abrasives, was established in Worcester by Franklin B. Norton as a manufacturer of pottery and stoneware in 1858. An early employee, Swen Pulson, experimented with mixing emery and clay to manufacture grinding wheels, and made a successful product in 1873, far superior to other grinding wheels available at the time. The grinding wheel aspect of the business soon provided 80% of the company's business. In 1885 the Franklin B. Norton Co. was sold to a group of seven Worcester men, Milton P. Higgins, John Jeppson, Charles L. Allen, Walter L. Messer, Fred H. Daniels, Horace A. Young, and George Ira Alden, and the company was incorporated as Norton Emery Wheel Co. In 1887 the company moved from its facility on Water Street to a new building in Greendale.

Research and development of synthetic abrasives led the company to change its name in 1906 to Norton Company, dropping the "Emery Wheel". Additional research has expanded company products into such varied areas as slip-proof flooring and rocket heat shields. Other areas of company expansion include cutting tools, drilling and mining machinery, industrial ceramics, and a variety of related products.

Norton Company today (1985) has 19,000 employees in 127 manufacturing plants in 28 countries. Company headquarters is in Worcester, where 3400 people are employed.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of clippings, fliers, typescripts, and bound volumes which provide insight into the company's history (1925-1985); press releases, fliers and brochures, and other public relations/publicity advertising documentation (ca. 1885-ca. 1980). Collection also includes information relating to company stocks, meetings of stockholders, and other corporate information (1960s-1990); catalogs and technical information on company products (1890s-1980s); information for employees (ca. 1920s-1980s); clippings, letters, memoranda relating to labor organization (1946-1947). Miscellaneous items include photographic work of French facility (1974), and photographs taken in England (1930s?) possibly relating to Norton International.

Series Description

Series 1: Company history. (25items)

Series 2: Stocks/Corporate meetings. (3 items)

Series 3: Personnel information. (29 items)

Series 4: Company products, technical information, etc. (22 items)

Series 5: Public relations, publicity, advertising. (47 items)

Series 6: Miscellaneous. (17 items)

Norton Co. Collection
2000.71
Series 1, Histories

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2000.71.1.1-.13	Order forms and receipted statements for items of pottery from F. B. Norton & Co., 1858-1878. Aqp. (13 items)
1	2	2000.71.1.14-.16	Advertisements, publicity, various dates. Aqp. (3 items)
1	3	2000.71.1.17	Publicity relating to Norton Company exhibit at Worcester Historical Museum, March 1985.
1	4	2000.71.1.18	Notes on Norton Co., for the Worcester Historical Museum by Elaine Fortin, April 30, 1980. Typescript, 28 p.
1	5	2000.71.1.19	World's largest maker of abrasive products planning 75 th anniversary / Curtis D. Mac Lauchlan; in, Worcester Sunday Telegram, May 1, 1960. 3 p. Aqp.
1	5	2000.71.1.20	Norton Co. at 100; in Worcester Sunday Telegram, June 16, 1985. 8 p. Aqp.
1	6	2000.71.1.21	History and policies of Foreign Operations / A. Donald Kelso, 1957. Includes company history and history of overseas operations. 24 p. Aqp.
1	7	2000.71.1.22	Two Norton Achievements and their Recognition : published in recognition of the achievements of two Norton associates, Aldus C. Higgins and Charles H. Norton, who for their inventions have been awarded the John Scott Medal. bv.
1	BV	2000.71.1.23	Under our Flag : a tribute to those who served in World War II / Norton Company, Worcester, Mass., 1948. 1 v., ill.

Series 1, continued

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|---|----|-----------------|---|
| 1 | BV | 2000.71.1.24a-b | Norton Hall : established to commemorate the service and the loyalty of the men and women of Norton Company – Worcester / Norton Company, Worcester, Mass., 1927. 1 v., ill. 2 copies |
| 1 | BV | 2000.71.1.25a-b | Commemorative volume of employees with 25 years (or more) of service in Norton Company, with photographs and biographical sketches / Norton Company, Worcester, Mass., 1925. 1 v., ill. 2 copies. [b accessioned as 1978.110.5] |

Norton Co. Collection
2000.71
Series 2, Finances, Stocks, etc.

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	8	2000.71.2.1	Letters and related documents concerning unsolicited offer by BTR plc to purchase all shares of Norton Company stock at \$75.00/share, March-April 1990.
2	9	2000.71.2.2	Letters and related documents concerning offer to purchase Norton Stock by Compagnie de Saint-Gobain, with merger agreement, April-May 1990.
2	10	2000.71.2.3	Miscellaneous shareholder information, ca. 1960 – 1990.

Norton Co. Collection
2000.71
Series 3, Personnel, staff, employees

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	11	2000.71.3.1	“Your job at Norton” : employees manual, 1973. 72 p. with fold-out map.
2	11	2000.71.3.2	List : Norton Worcester employment by race, occupation, and sex,
2	11	2000.71.3.3	New employee evaluation report.
2	11	2000.71.3.4	Annual performance review. 11 p., spiral bound.
2	12	2000.71.3.5-.9	Norton service awards, annual presentations: 1948, 1949, 1953, 1955, 1958. 5 items.
2	13	2000.71.3.10-.13	By-Laws of the Norton Company Mutual Benefit Association: 1909, 1913, 1925, 1944. 4 items.
2	13	2000.71.3.14	By-Laws of the Norton Credit Union, 1951.
2	14	2000.71.3.15	In-plan employee counselor : flier describing employee service, 1974.
2	14	2000.71.3.16	Norton Service : reprints of papers briefly outlining the service, employment, medical, safety ... activities of the Norton Company. n.d.
2	14	2000.71.3.17	Norton Directory : Lists company services to employees, calendar, etc., 1946.
2	14	2000.71.3.18-.19	Managers’ Forum : newsletters, June-July 1987.
2	BV	2000.71.3.20	You and Norton : employees’ manual. Loose-leaf binder, 1973.

Series 3, continued

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| 3 | 15 | 2000.71.3.21 | Fliers, handbills, letters relating to efforts of unions in A.F. of L. and C.I.O., to organize employees at Norton Company in Worcester, 1946-1947, notable the United Steelworkers Union (C.I.O.) and International Chemical Workers Union (A.F. of L.) |
| 3 | 16 | 2000.71.3.22-.25 | Steel Labor (United Steelworkers of America, C.I.O.) : newspaper, November 1947 – March, 1947. 4 items. |
| 3 | 17 | 2000.71.3.26-.29 | Steel Labor (United Steelworkers of America, C.I.O.) : newspaper, May – September 1947. 4 items. |

Norton Co. Collection
2000.71
Series 4, Products, etc.

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
3	18	2000.71.4.1a-f	The F. B. Norton Pottery : stoneware of every description : ill. pamphlet printed for exhibit at Worcester Historical Museum, 1980/1981, [6] l.
3	19	2000.71.4.2-.4	Illustrated catalogue of emery goods and grinding machinery / Norton Emery Wheel Co., 1893, 1896, 1898. (3 items)
3	20	2000.71.4.5	The Walker universal tool and cutter grinder, manufactured by Norton Emery Wheel Company : ill. catalog., 48 p. / ca. 1897.
3	20	2000.71.4.6	Catalogue of Norton machines for cylindrical grinding, manufactured by Norton Grinding Co. : ill. catalog, 55 p. / 1906.
3	20	2000.71.4.7	Norton universal tool and cutter grinders, manufactured by Norton Grinding Co. : ill. catalog, 61 p. / 1908.
3	21	2000.71.4.8	Label from grinding wheel : 6 x 7.4 cm. / Norton Emery Wheel Co., ca. 1890.
3	21	2000.71.4.9	Norton emery and corundum wheels : flier, with grade specifications and other technical information / A. S. Pinney, wholesale and retail hardware, Erie,

			Pa., ca. 1900.
3	21	2000.71.4.10	Postcard response to Washburn Shops from Norton Emery Wheel Co., August 2, 1890, relating to receipt of order.
3	21	2000.71.4.11	Revised price list fir India oil stones : pamphlet, 12 p. / Norton Emery Wheel Co., 1899.
3	21	2000.71.4.12	India oil stones, price list, testimonials, etc. : pamphlet, [8] p. / Norton Emery Wheel Co., 1898.
			Series 4, continued
3	21	2000.71.4.13	Illustrated price list of dry rubbing and sharpening stones : [4] l. / Norton Emery Wheel Co., ca. 1900.
3	21	2000.71.4.14	“Here’s what Norton makes” : ill. flier / Norton Company, ca. 1952.
3	21	2000.71.4.15	“Alundum” (artificial corundum) : ill. pamphlet, 21 p. / Norton Company, ca. 1930s.
3	21	2000.71.4.16	Norton products : ill. flier / Norton Company, ca. 1930s. [Accessioned as 1995.12.4]
3	21	2000.71.4.17	Machinery catalogue : ill. catalog, 32 p. / Norton Emery Wheel Co., 1897.
3	21	2000.71.4.18	Norton floors : flier / Norton Company, ca. 1930s.
3	22	2000.71.4.19	American Standard Safety Code for the use, care, and protection of abrasive wheels : ill., 65 p. / Grinding Wheel manufacturers Association ... et al., 1947.
3	22	2000.71.4.20	Charles Hotchkiss Norton and the first production grinder; in, Tools & Technology, Winter 1996. 6 p.
3	23	2000.71.4.21	Norton grinding wheels made of Alundum grinding machinery : BV catalog, ill., 146 p. / Norton Company, 1907. [Accessioned as 1995.59.10]
3	BV	2000.71.4.22	Norton machines : ill. pamphlets of Norton grinding machinery, with specifications / ca. 1930s. 26 pamphlets in binder.

Norton Co. Collection
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 Series 5, Publicity, etc.

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
4	24	2000.71.5.1	Advertising card, Norton Emery Wheel Co., 39 Water St., Worcester, Mass., ca. 1886.
4	24	2000.71.5.2	Advertisement for F. B. Norton, emery & corundum wheels, ca. 1880s.
4	24	2000.71.5.3	Label "Norton 1885-1985", 11.4 x 19 cm.
4	24	2000.71.5.4a-b	Calculator for grinding and polishing wheel speeds, with ruler. 2 items.
4	24	2000.71.5.5a-b	Tickets, American Freedom Train, Norton Company at Stores Street, May 3, 1975. 2 items.
4	24	2000.71.5.6	Business card : David B. Tyler, Public Relations, Norton Company.
4	24	2000.71.5.7	Reply card for 1948 Awards Dinner; inserts, tickets to various company programs, 1940s-1950s.
4	25	2000.71.5.8	"Yes, Norton has Changed": pamphlet, 23 p., for annual shareholder meeting, 1974.
4	25	2000.71.5.9	Norton Directory – products, markets, locations : pamphlet, 72 p. / ca. 1970.
4	25	2000.71.5.10	"How to find Norton Company in Worcester, Mass." : flier, directions to Norton Co. from Logan airport, Boston. n.d.
4	25	2000.71.5.11	"Family firm to modern multinational" : flier, promoting new publication / 1985.
4	26	2000.71.5.12	The Norton Spirit : company magazine / June 1981.
4	26	2000.71.5.13	The Norton Spirit : company newsletter / special 75 th anniversary copy, 1960.

Series 5, continued

4	26	2000.71.5.14	The Norton Spirit : company newsletter, May 1953.
4	26	2000.71.5.15	A company with a conscience : article relating to Norton Company in Business Worcester, July 1982.
4	27	2000.71.5.16	Norton Company Social Investments Report, 1980 : ill. pamphlet, 8 p.
4	27	2000.71.5.17-.20	A profile of Norton Company : pamphlet / 1973, 1975, 1976, 1978.
4	28	2000.71.5.21	Notice of 100 th anniversary celebration of Norton Company, June 8, 1985 : flier.
4	28	2000.71.5.22	Centennial day Celebration, Family day activities, June 8, 1985 : flier, with map of Norton Co.
4	28	2000.71.5.23	“A tale of one city and its two pillars, Norton and Wyman-Gordon / by David P. Kowal; in, Business Digest, January 1990. 6 p.
4	28	2000.71.5.24	“We have made a difference” : list of Norton Company employees, Feb. 1990.
4	29	2000.71.5.25-.46	Press releases, 1973, various topics. 22 items.
4	30	2000.71.5.47	“Norton folks” : company activities during World War II, “E” Awards, etc., ill. 1 v.

Norton Co. Collection
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Series 6, Miscellaneous

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
4	31	2000.71.6.1	Public attitude assessment and the decision making process – Norton Co. and South Africa / Deborah A. Kaufman, Industrial Sociology paper, Clark University, May 1978.
4	32	2000.71.6.2	Envelope addressed to Norton Co., from Cave and Company Ltd., Vancouver, B.C. 1938.
4	32	2000.71.6.3	Song book, Foremans Banquet, Norton Co., April 4, 1908. Part in Swedish.
4	33	2000.71.6.4-.16	Views of Welwyn Garden City, England : photographic postcard / n.d. (May have a connection with Norton International) 13 items.
	BV	2000.71.6.17	Euroceral (industrial facility), industrial zone of Vendargues, District of Montpellier, France. Photographs of plant construction, text in French, 1979.