

# WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts

## ARCHIVES

Norton Company  
Collection

2002.14

Processed by Robyn Christensen  
September 2002

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Series		Page	Box
	Collection Information	3	
	Historical/Biographical Notes	4	
	Scope and Content	5	
	Series Description	5	
1	Oral Interviews	6	1-2
2	Histories	14	3
3	Overseas Companies	15	3-4
4	Indian Hill	18	5
5	Individual Papers	19	5
6	Miscellaneous Business Papers	20	5-7

### 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 – 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## Series Description

Series 1: Oral interviews with employees.

Series 2: Histories.

Series 3: Overseas Companies.

Series 4: Indian Hill

Series 5: Individual Records

Series 6: Miscellaneous Business Papers

Norton Co. Collection  
2002.14  
Series 1, Oral Interviews

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2002.14.1.1	Transcript of oral history interview with John Adams (September 17, 1979).
A		2002.14.1.1a-b	Tape of interview with John Adams (9/17/79 and 10/01/79)
1	2	2002.14.1.2	Transcript of oral history interview with Sig Anderson (November 13, 19179).
A		2002.14.1.2a-b	Tape of interview with Sig Anderson.
1	3	2002.14.1.3	Transcript of oral history interview with Stan Berman (04/17/81) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
A		2002.14.1.3	Tape of interview with Stan Berman.
1	4	2002.14.1.4	Transcript of oral history interview with William Campbell- Pitt (October 7, 1980)
A		2002.14.1.4a-b	Tape of interview with William Campbell-Pitt.
1	5	2002.14.1.5	Transcript of oral history interview with Joe Cannon (June 14, 1979)
A		2002.14.1.5a-b	Tape of interview with Joe Cannon.
1	6	2002.14.1.6	Transcript of oral history interview with Frank Christensen (April 14, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
A		2002.14.1.6	Tape of interview with Frank Christensen.
1	7	2002.14.1.7	Transcript of oral history interview with William Clark (April 10, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
A		2002.14.1.7	Tape of interview with William Clark.

Series 1, continued

1	8	2002.14.1.8	Transcript of oral history interview with Fairman Cowan. (January 15, 1980 and February 4, 1980).
A		2002.14.1.8a-b	Tape of interview with Fairman Cowan.
1	9	2002.14.1.9	Transcript of oral history interview with Robert Cushman (March 23, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
A		2002.14.1.9a-b	Tape of interview with Robert Cushman.
1	10	2002.14.1.10	Transcript of oral history interview with Robert Cushman (March 30, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
A		2002.14.1.10a-c	Tape of interview with Robert Cushman.
1	11	2002.14.1.11	Transcript of oral history interview with Robert Cushman (May 26, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
A		2002.14.1.11a-b	Tape of interview with Robert Cushman.
1	12	2002.14.1.12	Transcript of oral history interview with Win Evans (October 2, 1980).
A		2002.14.1.12	Tape of interview with Win Evans.
1	13	2002.14.1.13	Transcript of oral history interview with Jack Ewer (March 26, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
A		2002.14.1.13	Tape of interview with Jack Ewer.
1	14	2002.14.1.14	Transcript of oral history interview with Bill Fallon (June 20, 1979)
A		2002.14.1.14	Tape of interview with Bill Fallon.
1	15	2002.14.1.15	Transcript of oral history interview with Gordon Findlay (March 17, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
A		2002.14.1.15a-b	Tape of interview with Gordon Findlay.

Series 1, continued

1	16	2002.14.1.16	Transcript of oral history by Ralph Gow (February through April, 1979).
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A		2002.14.1.16a-f	Tape of oral history by Ralph Gow (Tapes 1 and 7 missing, as of 9/19/02).
1	17	2002.14.1.17	Transcript of oral history interview with Ralph Gow (March 21, 1979) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
A		2002.14.1.17a-b	Tape of interview with Ralph Gow.
1	18	2002.14.1.18	Transcript of oral history interview with Ralph Gow (June 20, 1979).
A		2002.14.1.18a-c	Tape of interview with Ralph Gow.
1	19	2002.14.1.18	Transcript of oral history interview with Ralph Gow (June 17, 1980).
B		2002.14.1.19a-b	Tape of interview with Ralph Gow.
1	20	2002.14.1.20	Transcript of oral history interview with Ralph Gow (July 1, 1980).
B		2002.14.1.20a-b	Tape of interview with Ralph Gow.
1	21	2002.14.1.21	Transcript of oral history interview with Ralph Gow (December 4, 1980).
B		2002.14.1.21a-b	Tape of interview with Ralph Gow.
1	22	2002.14.1.22	Transcript of oral history interview with T. Green (3/30/81) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
B		2002.14.1.22	Tape of interview with T. Green.
1	23	2002.14.1.23	Transcript of oral history interview with Allan Hardy (April 9, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
B		2002.14.1.23a-b	Tape of interview with Allan Hardy.

Series 1, continued

1	24	2002.14.1.24	Transcript of oral history interview with Everett Hicks (September 23, 1980).
B		2002.14.1.24a-b	Tape of interview with Everett Hicks.



1	25	2002.14.1.25	Transcript of oral history interview with Milton P. Higgins (June 12, 1979).
B		2002.14.1.25a-b	Tape of interview with Milton P. Higgins.
2	26	2002.14.1.26	Transcript of oral history interview with Milton P. Higgins (July 16, 1980).
B		2002.14.1.26a-b	Tape of interview with Milton P. Higgins.
2	27	2002.14.1.27	Transcript of oral history interview with Milton P. Higgins (August 7, 1980).
B		2002.14.1.27	Tape of interview with Milton P. Higgins.
2	28	2002.14.1.28	Transcript of oral history interview with Milton P. Higgins (December 2, 1980).
B		2002.14.1.28a-b	Tape of interview with Milton P. Higgins.
2	29	2002.14.1.29	Transcript of oral history interview with Milton P. Higgins (December 10, 1980) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
B		2002.14.1.29	Tape of interview with Milton P. Higgins.
2	30	2002.14.1.30	Transcript of oral history interview with Milton P. Higgins (February 2, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
B		2002.14.1.30a-b	Tape of interview with Milton P. Higgins.
2	31	2002.14.1.31	Transcript of oral history interview with Wallace Howe (June 18, 1979).
B		2002.14.1.31a-b	Tape of interview with Wallace Howe.

Series 1, continued

2	32	2002.14.1.32	Transcript of oral history interview with Wallace Howe (February 6, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
B		2002.14.1.32	Tape of interview with Wallace Howe.
2	33	2002.14.1.33	Transcript of oral history interview with Wallace

			Howe (February 11, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
B		2002.14.1.33	Tape of interview with Wallace Howe.
2	34	2002.14.1.34	Transcript of oral history interview with Earl Hughes (September 23, 1980).
B		2002.14.1.34	Tape of interview with Earl Hughes.
2	35	2002.14.1.35	Transcript of oral history interview with John Jeppson (March 11, 1980).
B		2002.14.1.35a-b	Tape of interview with John Jeppson.
2	36	2002.14.1.36	Transcript of oral history interview with John Jeppson (March 20, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
B		2002.14.1.36a-b	Tape of interview with John Jeppson.
2	37	2002.14.1.37	Transcript of oral history interview with John Jeppson (April 2, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
B		2002.14.1.37	Tape of interview with John Jeppson.
2	38	2002.14.1.38	Transcript of oral history interview with Don Kelso (June 14, 1979).
B		2002.14.1.38a-d	Tape of interview with Don Kelso.
2	39	2002.14.1.39	Transcript of oral history interview with Buzz Knowlton (June 12, 1979).
C		2002.14.1.39a-b	Tape of interview with Buzz Knowlton.

Series 1, continued

2	40	2002.14.1.40	Transcript of oral history interview with Bob Lawson (July 21, 1980).
C		2002.14.1.40a-b	Tape of interview with Bob Lawson.
2	41	2002.14.1.41	Transcript of oral history interview with Randy Manchester (October 2, 1980).

C		2002.14.1.41a-b	Tape of interview with Randy Manchester.
2	42	2002.14.1.42	Transcript of oral history interview with Camarra Manning (April 24, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
C		2002.14.1.42	Tape of interview with Camarra Manning.
2	43	2002.14.1.43	Transcript of oral history interview with Dr. Melville (April 17, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
C		2002.14.1.43	Tape of interview with Dr. Melville.
2	44	2002.14.1.44	Transcript of oral history interview with Henry Merrill (October 3, 1980).
C		2002.14.1.44	Tape of interview with Henry Merrill.
2	45	2002.14.1.45	Transcript of oral history interview with Ted Meyer (March 25, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
C		2002.14.1.45a-b	Tape of interview with Ted Meyer.
2	46	2002.14.1.46	Transcript of oral history interview with Dirck Olton (October 1, 1980).
C		2002.14.1.46	Tape of interview with Dirck Olton.
2	47	2002.14.1.47	Transcript of oral history interview with George Park (October 5, 1979).
C		2002.14.1.47a-b	Tape of interview with George Park.

Series 1, continued

2	48	2002.14.1.48	Transcript of oral history interview with Roger Perry (June 18, 1979).
C		2002.14.1.48a-b	Tape of interview with Roger Perry.
2	49	2002.14.1.49	Transcript of oral history interview with M. Petrie (March 22, 1979) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
C		2002.14.1.49	Tape of interview with M. Petrie.

2	50	2002.14.1.50	Transcript of oral history interview with Jack Phipps, Ralph Gruss and Walt Perkins (April 13, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
C		2002.14.1.50a-b	Tape of interview with Jack Phipps, Ralph Gruss and Walt Perkins.
2	51	2002.14.1.51	Transcript of oral history interview with Alfredo Povedano (September 25, 1979).
C		2002.14.1.51	Tape of interview with Alfredo Povedano.
2	52	2002.14.1.52	Transcript of oral history interview with Dave Reid (June 13, 1979).
C		2002.14.1.52a-b	Tape of interview with Dave Reid.
2	53	2002.14.1.53	Transcript of oral history interview with B. Sanford (February 25, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
C		2002.14.1.53a-b	Tape of interview with B. Sanford.
2	54	2002.14.1.54	Transcript of oral history interview with Elmer Schacht (August 15, 1980).
C		2002.14.1.54a-c	Tape of interview with Elmer Schacht.
2	55	2002.14.1.55	Transcript of oral history interview with Elmer Schacht (11/11/80).
C		2002.14.1.55	Tape of interview with Elmer Schacht. Series 1, continued
2	56	2002.14.1.56	Transcript of oral history interview with Dr. Newman Thibault (March 31, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
C		2002.14.1.56a-b	Tape of interview with Dr. Newman Thibault.
2	57	2002.14.1.57	Transcript of oral history interview with Lene Uhler (May 28, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
C		2002.14.1.57a-b	Tape of interview with Lene Uhler.
2	58	2002.14.1.58	Transcript of oral history interview with Ed Van der

			Pyl (June 13, 1979).
C		2002.14.1.58	Tape of interview with Ed Van der Pyl.
2	59	2002.14.1.59	Transcript of oral history interview with Rennie Washburn (April 7, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
C		2002.14.1.59a-b	Tape of interview with Rennie Washburn.
2	60	2002.14.1.60	Transcript of oral history interview with Max Wheilden (May 20, 1981) <b>Transcript missing.</b>
C		2002.14.1.60	Tape of interview with Max Wheilden.

Norton Co. Collection  
2002.14  
Series 2, Histories

3	61	2002.14.2.1	1899 Census of Norton Company Employees.
3	62	2002.14.2.2	Speech by G.N. Jeppson @ 50 year dinner.
3	63	2002.14.2.3	Papers: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Swedes &amp; Yankees in Worcester Politics</li> <li>2. Swedish Immigration to Worcester</li> <li>3. Evaluation of Worcester's Industrial Development</li> <li>4. Swedish Working-Class Church</li> <li>5. Early Swedish Workmen at Norton Plant</li> </ol>

3	64	2002.14.2.4	Norton Company Timetables
3	65	2002.14.2.4	Descriptions of Grinding Wheels
3	66	2002.14.2.6	Histories of Company
3	67	2002.14.2.7	Biographical Information 1. E.R. Hyde 2. Henry Richardson 3. Milton P. Higgins 4. Donald Kelso
3	68	2002.14.2.8	Biographical Information 1. Edward Van Der Pyl 2. Sven Pulson
3	69	2002.14.2.9	History of Development of Alumina Zeconia

Norton Co. Collection  
2002.14  
Series 3, Overseas Companies

3	70	2002.14.3.1	Summary of Overseas Operations, 1919-1980 Typed ms. of overseas companies
3	71	2002.14.3.2	Behr-Manning, Division of Norton Co., Troy, NY. Personnel sheets; sales sheets; patent agreements, 1930,1932
3	72	2002.14.3.3	Behr-Manning, history of sandpaper business,1944 History of Behr-Manning in the coated abrasives industry
3	73	2002.14.3.4	Behr-Manning Overseas, Inc. “History and policies of foreign operations” By A. Donald Kelso

- |   |    |             |   |
|---|----|-------------|---|
| 3 | 74 | 2002.14.3.5 | Behr-Manning Overseas, Australia.<br>Correspondence, 1951-1959<br>Typed ms: Australian Abrasives Pty, Ltd.<br>Typed ms: Behr-Manning (Australia) Pty Ltd. |
| 3 | 75 | 2002.14.3.6 | Bra 2.1<br>Typed ms: Abrasives Norton Meyer, S.A.<br>Typed ms: Compania Argentina de Lijas y Esmeriles  |
| 3 | 76 | 2002.14.3.7 | Canada<br>Typed ms: Norton Co. of Canada Ltd.-2 Chapters<br>Typed ms: Behr-Manning (Canada) Ltd.<br>Norton Canada: Twenty-five years                      |
| 4 | 77 | 2002.14.3.8 | England<br>Typed ms: "The Best Record for Timing" (Norton Grinding Wheel Co., Ltd.)<br>Typed ms: "A steady lot" (Norton Grinding Wheel Co., Ltd.)         |

Series 3, Continued

- |   |    |              |  |
|---|----|--------------|--|
| 4 | 78 | 2002.14.3.9  | Finland<br>Pamphlet: Forty Years of Service to Industry in Finland<br>Machinery oy Vuosikertomus 1980 annual report letter May 4 <sup>th</sup> from Don Kelso (photocopy)  |
| 4 | 79 | 2002.14.3.10 | France<br>Typed ms: "History of Compagnie des Meules Norton"<br>Typed ms: "Two Years in the making" Two Copies<br>Typed ms: "It's own Salvation" Two Copies<br>Typed ms: "The Common Good" Two Copies<br>Typed ms: "Not a Gradual Thing" Two Copies<br>Sales Reports 1946-1951 |

Brief History 1920

- |   |    |              |   |
|---|----|--------------|---|
| 4 | 80 | 2002.14.3.11 | France-Compagnie des Meules Norton<br>Misc. Correspondence 1940-1945 To H.A. Stanton<br>Typed ms: "Four Years of Occupation..."<br>Two Copies   |
| 4 | 81 | 2002.14.3.12 | Germany-Deutsche Norton Gesellschaft-History<br>Typed ms: "Made in Germany" Two Copies<br>Typed ms: "Surviving the Test" " " "<br>Typed ms: "Potential Promise" " " "<br>Letter: April 21 <sup>st</sup> , 1924<br>Administrative chart 1914 |
| 4 | 82 | 2002.14.3.13 | Germany<br>"Business as usual: Case study of an American business in Nazi Germany and occupied France"<br>"Bilder von Schutte-werk"- history of company in Germany<br>Resume of Otto Schutte  |

Series 3, Continued

- |   |    |              |   |
|---|----|--------------|---|
| 4 | 83 | 2002.14.3.14 | Germany<br>Summary of D.N.G. 1939-1946, with index<br>Misc. correspondence with Otto Schutte<br>Sales Reports, 1940-1945              |
| 4 | 84 | 2002.14.3.15 | Germany<br>Misc. correspondence concerning Otto Schutte as director of company in France, 1945 and 1946.                              |
| 4 | 85 | 2002.14.3.16 | India-Grindwell   |
| 4 | 86 | 2002.14.3.17 | Ireland<br>Typed ms: Behr-Manning Ltd. (Ireland)  |
| 4 | 87 | 2002.14.3.18 | Italy<br>Typed ms: "Pottery maker becomes a wheel maker"<br>Sales charts 1940-1945<br>1935-1960 - 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Report |



1935-1970 - 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Report

4	88	2002.14.3.19	Japan Typed ms: "The Japanese Plant" Misc. Papers
4	89	2002.14.3.20	New Zealand Behr-Manning Pty. Ltd. (Australia)
4	90	2002.14.3.21	South Africa Typed ms: "Norton Abrasives, S.A." Bio. of William Louis Campbell-Pitt, Managing Director

Norton Co. Collections  
2002.14  
Series 4, Indian Hill

5	91	2002.14.4.1	Indian Hill Area
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Norton Co. Collection  
2002.14  
Series 5, Individual Papers

5	92	2002.14.5.1	Henry B. Duane Papers
5	93	2002.14.5.2	Bob Cushman Papers
5	94	2002.14.5.3	Papers of Robert Cushman, 1967-1979 Texts of Talks
5	95	2002.14.5.4	Charles Norton receiving John Scott Meda

Norton Co. Collection  
2002.14  
Series 6, Miscellaneous Business Papers

5	96	2002.14.6.1	Proposed Consolidation of National Research Corp. into Norton Co., 1963
5	97	2002.14.6.2	Christensen, Inc. Diamond Products Sales Records, 1971-1976 Misc. issues of "Gems" Misc. Publications
5	98	2002.14.6.3	Misc. labor/employment papers Swedes in Worcester (student paper, 1978) Germans in plant
5	99	2002.14.6.4	Court case summaries, 1947, 1948, 1950
5	100	2002.14.6.5	Stock information, 1962, 1963, 1965
6	101	2002.14.6.6	Information on social responsibility/charities
6	102	2002.14.6.7	Report on 1946 Audit of Processes, with index and related letters
6	103	2002.14.6.8	"Norton Nuggets" company newsletters, U.S. Stoneware reports, John Jeppson address at 1970 lab dedication

6	104	2002.14.6.9	Case studies on strategic planning, prepared for use at Harvard Business School, 1969, 1970, 1976
6	105	2002.14.6.10	Strategic planning papers, many prepared by President Robert Cushman
6	106	2002.14.6.11	Diamond wheel tests and papers, 1934-1979
6	107	2002.14.6.12	Company sales data, 1906-1966
6	108	2002.14.6.13	Various chart data
7	109	2002.14.6.14	Research papers and reports
Series 6, continued			
7	110	2002.14.6.15	Brief to Commissioner of Internal Revenue, re: Claims for Depreciation of Patents and Contracts for the Calendar Year 1917, dated June 16, 1928
7	111	2002.14.6.16	Misc. correspondence, speeches, business papers, 1882-1929, 1978 flexi record of "The Norton Spirit"
7	112	2002.14.6.17	Misc. articles, speeches, etc, 1935-