



George N. Jeppson Papers

George N. Jeppson Papers

MS 74_00

Records

ABSTRACT:

Most of the papers in this collection are records of Norton Company. Mr. Jeppson was General Manager of Norton for many years, then treasurer, president, and chairman of the board.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

George Nathaniel Jeppson was born April 14, 1873 in Worcester. His father, John Jeppson, was one of the founders of Norton Emery Wheel Company in 1885.

George Jeppson began working for Norton in 1892. He was a student at WPI with the Class of 1897, but did not complete the WPI course, instead continuing with a training course at Norton until 1897, then studying at the Royal School of Mines in Stockholm, Sweden for a year. He became Assistant Superintendent at Norton in 1898, and in 1919 became Secretary and Works Manager, then in 1932 Treasurer and Vice President, and in 1941 President, retiring from that position in 1946 and becoming Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Mildred Tymeson, in her history of Norton Company titled *The Norton Story*, notes that George Jeppson ran a research laboratory, called the Department of Tests, beginning in 1898. It was Mr. Jeppson, Tymeson notes, who "analyzed the first sample of artificial corundum from which developed such drastic changes for the Company." In 1899, P. Joel Styffe joined Mr. Jeppson in the department and a chemical laboratory was started (see pp. 95 & 96).

Mr. Jeppson received an honorary degree from WPI in 1945, and in 1954 was the fifth recipient of Worcester's Isaiah Thomas Award "for distinguished community service." He was knighted three times by kings of Sweden.

Mr. Jeppson married Selma Swanstrom in 1911, and they had three children. His son, John Jeppson II worked for Norton Company for many years, and became its president in 1967, retiring in 1971.

Mr. Jeppson's house at 41 Burncoat Street in Worcester was built in 1911. The family later moved to 1 Drury Lane, and in 1941 presented the house at 1 Drury Lane to WPI as a gift. That house became the WPI President's house. In 1941 the Jeppsons moved to Oakholm Farm.

George N. Jeppson died December 16, 1962 in Worcester.

Sources: *The Norton Story* by Mildred Tymeson; *WPI Journal*, Vol. 66 No. 4, March-April 1963, p. 22; Class of 1893 alumni file of George Jeppson.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

Most of the materials in this collection relate to Norton Company. There are some more personal papers in Series III.

The collection is organized in series: Series I is records of Norton Company, including brochures, notebooks and reports. There are lectures and a paper by Mr. Jeppson. Series II contains reports, papers, and patents by non-Norton people. Series III is comprised of personal papers, including a diary of a trip to Europe, England and Sweden; and a typewritten account of another trip to England and Europe. These were business-related trips, but have personal accounts of travel. Series IV has instruction books in metal mining, physics and chemistry, as well as correspondence and papers related to the sale of intoxicating liquors in Sweden and Germany. Two record boxes house journals in Swedish from the late 1800s and early 1900s. Series V has Norton diagrams, charts, drawings, and trial reports on blueprint paper. Series VI includes a box of samples of ground material of differing coarseness and mesh samples.

NOTE:
 In 2012, the Frieden family, owners of the house at 41 Burncoat Street, gave the contents of a trunk from the 3rd floor of the house (the chauffer's room) to WPI. The materials that were in that trunk make up this collection. There was some insect damage (parts of pages probably eaten) and a lot of gritty material. The papers were surface cleaned using a small brush.

Container List

Container	Folder	Date	Title
None			

George N. Jeppson Papers

MS 74_01

Records

Series I: Norton Company Records

Container List

Container	Folder	Date	Title	
Box 01	Folder 01	1900, n.d.	Norton Company brochures, catalogs	
Box 01	Folder 02	1898-1904	Notebook of George N. Jeppson: Experiments and Orders	
Box 01	Folder 03	1899-1905, n.d.	Notes re. customers and orders	
Box 01	Folder 04	c. 1898-1901	Small notebook: orders and notes	
Box 01	Folder 05	1899, 1905, n.d.	Norton Price Lists	
Box 01	Folder 06	n.d.	Small notebook: Formulas	
Box 01	Folder 07	1899	George N. Jeppson notebook: Shrinkage	
Box 01	Folder08	1902, n.d.	Norton Company tests, analyses, reports	
Box 01	Folder 10	October 1900	Reports on Test of Niagara Alundum	<i>one page</i>
Box 01	Folder 10	1909	Report: "Coefficient of Expansion Tests on Alundum, conducted at Norton Company laboratory"	
Box 01	Folder 11	1911	Reports on Crystolon Wheels	
Box 01	Folder 12	1909, 1912	Trial Reports	
Box 01	Folder 13	1909-1911	Trial Wheel Reports	
Box 01	Folder 14	February 24, 1910	Letter/report: Norton grinding speed of internal fixtures	<i>letter by OJL [Otto J. Lof...]</i>
Box 01	Folder 15	n.d.	Pages of different number Emerys and Grades	<i>From Grant Corundum Wheel Mfg. Co. Envelope says Silicate Wheel.</i>
Box 01	Folder 16	1907	Framed table of Amount of Water Used in Different Combinations in Mixing Depts.	<i>per order Geo. N. Jeppson</i>
Box 02	Folder 01	n.d.	Descriptions of Furnaces in which carbides have been made	<i>Typed paper, plus hand-writtennotes on Norton work</i>
Box 02	Folder 02	n.d., 1902-1905	Norton company notes	<i>Many on small pieces of paper. Also chemists' notes on samples</i>
Box 02	Folder 03	n.d.	Norton Company drawings, sketches	
Box 02	Folder 04	c. 1900	Alphabetically indexed notebook	<i>with entries in English and Swedish</i>
Box 02	Folder 05	1901, n.d.	Norton Company expenses	
Box 02	Folder 06	n.d.	Norton Company blank order form	
Box 02	Folder 07	February 21, 1901	Letter to C. L. Allen from John and George Jeppson	<i>re. suggestions from workmen</i>
Box 02	Folder 08	n.d.	Illustrated Lecture: Grinding Wheels -- Grinding Machinery -- Grinding, by Norton Company	<i>with handwritten notes</i>
Box 02	Folder 09	February 11 & 12,	Norton Conference	<i>Saturday afternoon and Sunday.</i>

		probably 1905		
Box 02	Folder 10	May 7-9, 1906	Notes from lectures by Mr. Geo. N. Jeppson, Mr. Dodge, and Chas H. Norton	<i>[incomplete -- only page 1]</i>
Box 02	Folder 11	February 1908	Paper by George N. Jeppson: "A Combination Gas and Steam Power Plant"	<i>reprinted from Vol. X, Transactions of the American Ceramic Society, describing plant at Norton Company</i>

George N. Jeppson Papers

MS 74_02

Records

Series II: Reports, Papers, Patents, Catalogs not by Norton Company

Container List

Container	Folder	Date	Title	
Box 02	Folder 12	1899, 1907	2 papers re. electric furnaces	<i>one is in French, 1899</i>
Box 02	Folder 13	1904, 1902, 1905	Published papers/reports	<i>"High-Temperature Measurements," by Chatelier and Boudouard; "Modern Machine Methods," by H. F. L. Orcutt; "Influence of Carbon in the Burning of Clay Wares," by Committee on Technical Investigation</i>
Box 02	Folder 14	Fall Term 1905-1906	Ceramic Lecture, by A. T. Malm	<i>pages 1-193</i>
Box 02	Folder 15	June 18, 1906	Paper on materials, grinding and related subjects, by Walter S. Lang, Pawtucket, RI	
Box 02	Folder 16	n.d.	Paper: "Standard Pyrometric Cones," from laboratory of Prof. Edward Orton, Jr.	
Box 02	Folder 17	n.d.	Report/paper: Superficial Coloration	<i>2 copies, pp. 1-42</i>
Box 02	Folder 18	n.d.	"Determination of Corundum in an Ore"	<i>1 page, damaged. Could be Norton or not.</i>
Box 02	Folder 19	February 4-8, 1907	Report on American Ceramic Society Convention, by C. H. Griffin	
Box 02	Folder 20	c. 1859-1900	Patents, not by Norton, related to stone grinders/wheels	
Box 03	Folder 01	1903, n.d.	Catalogs and related materials for products	<i>re. calorimeters; pyrometers; chemicals; chemical apparatus; pottery, porcelain and tile machinery; kilns</i>
Box 03	Folder 02	1899, 1903	Rules and Regulations for 2 Universal Espositions	<i>Paris 1902 and St. Louis 1904, plus general plan [map] for Paris Exposition</i>

George N. Jeppson Papers

MS 74_03

Personal Papers

Series III: Personal papers

Container List

Container	Folder	Date	Title	
Box 03	Folder 03	n.d.	Typed account of trip from New York to England, Scotland and Germany	<i>In London guests of Iron & Steel Institute. 13 pages.</i>
Box 03	Folder 04	February-August 1900	Diary with expenses and travel notes: New York to England, France, Germany, Sweden	
Box 03	Folder 05	Dec. 28, 1910	Drawings for Burncoat Street property and house	
Box 03	Folder 06	1911	Agreement between Geo. Jeppson, 41 Burncoat St., and Worcester Electric Light Company	
Box 03	Folder 07	February 21, 1911, n.d.	Letters to George N. Jeppson from U.S. Senate	<i>[one from Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge, other torn]</i>

Box 03	Folder 08	1904	New Year's wish from Pastor j. Addison Seibert, Adams Square Congregation Church, Worcester	
Box 03	Folder 09	n.d.	List of personal expenses	
Box 03	Folder 11	April 7, 1897	Letter from Ferdinand Flodin, in Swedish	<i>was in envelope addressed to Axel Ekelundt</i>
Box 03	Folder 10	n.d.	Drawings for a sailboat	<i>Eighteen foot racing cat</i>
Box 03	Folder 12	1866, 1871, 1904	Publications for children	<i>Student and Schoolmate, 1866; Schoolmate, 1871; Youth's Companion, 1904</i>

George N. Jeppson Papers

MS 74_04

Records

Series IV: Regulations, Instruction booklets, Journals

Container List

Container	Folder	Date	Title	
Box 03	Folder 13	1900, 1906, 1908	Papers relating to sale of intoxicating liquors in Sweden and Germany	<i>Including regulations in Sweden and correspndence with German government</i>
Box 03	Folder 14	1898-1900, n.d.	Instruction and Question papers of International Correspondence Schools	<i>On Metal Mining, Physics, and Theoretical Chemistry; plus Vertical Writing practice book</i>
Box 03	Folder 15	January 1912	Journal on China Social and Economic Conditions	<i>Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science</i>
Box 04 - Record Box		1883-88, 1890-95, 1898-1901	Jern-Kontorets Annaler	<i>Monthly journal in Swedish. May not be all issues for all years.</i>
Box 04 - Record Box		1900, 1901	Journal - Bihang til Jernkontorets Annealer	<i>May not be all issues</i>
Box 05		1879	Jernmalmers Rostning	<i>1 issue</i>
Box 05 - Record Box		1882, 1889, 1896, 1897, 1900	Jern-Kontorets Annaler	<i>May not be all issues for all years.</i>
Box 05 - Record Box		1900	Bihang till Jernkontorets Annaler	<i>May not be all issues.</i>

George N. Jeppson Papers

MS 74_05

Records

Series V: Diagrams, Charts, Drawings, Trial Reports on Blueprint Paper

Container List

Container	Folder	Date	Title	
Box 06 - 16"X20" drop-front box	Folder 01	n.d.	Diagram, charts, lists	<i>Diagram of Norton Grinding Wheels made of Alundum, 2 charts of Emery Wheel Firmness, lists of diameters and numbers of rivets for Mixing Rings, Plaster Bats, Bats; 2 charts - type "S" motors - constant speed</i>
Box 06 - 16"X20" drop-front box	Folder 02	1899-1907	Drawings for dressers, wheel	<i>Roll Bearing Emery-Wheel Dresser, 1899; 3" Roll Bearing Dresser, 1899; Roll Bearing Emery Wheel Dresser, 1899; Large Roller Bearing Dresser, 1901; Ball Bearing Dresser, 1902; Roller Bearing Dresser, 1903; 30 degree Dresser, 1901; 2 of 4"X3/4" Special Wheel Heald Machine, 1907; 1 of 3 1/2"X3/4" Special Wheel Heald Machine, 1907</i>
Box 06 - 16"X20" drop-front box	Folder 03	n.d.; 1912	Trial Reports	<i>Brass with Crystolon; Internal Griding with alundum; Alundum</i>

Box 06 - 16"X20"
drop-front box

Folder 04

1900, 1907, n.d.

Blueprints for Kilns

& Crystolon, June & July 1912

Floor Plan of setting of kiln G for Cone 10 Burn 1 and Elevation Showing position of wheels in Kiln G, July 5, 1907; Fire Bricks for Kilns, June 21, 1900; Design for Updraught Muffle Kiln for Ceramic Testing, n.d.

George N. Jeppson Papers

MS 74_06

Tools & Equipment

Series VI: Tools

Container List

Container	Folder	Date	Title	
Box 07 - 6"X12"X5" box		n.d.	Box with small vials of samples of ground material	<i>23 small glass bottles with cork stoppers. Most are numbered, with coarse to fine samples. These are in a box 4 1/2"X7 1/2"X1 1/4" with cushioned space for each. Title on brown box is "Wellington Mills, London WELLINGTON MILLS EMERY."</i>
Box 07 - 6"X12"X5" box		n.d.	Small samples of screen-like material	<i>some with labels 40 mesh, 50 mesh. These are in a Norton envelope.</i>
Box 07 - 6"X12"X5" box		n.d.	1 piece of metal screen-like material	<i>approximately 3 1/2"X5" with 1/4" spaces between wire pieces</i>
Box 07 - 6"X12"X5" box		n.d.	round clear glass piece	<i>6 3/4" long, about 1/4" diameter</i>
Box 07 - 6"X12"X5" box		n.d.	piece of compass	<i>2 1/4" long</i>