



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Eric Lipton World Trade Center research files

1945-2003

MssCol 17759

Compiled by Lea Jordan, 2011

Summary

Creator: Lipton, Eric

Title: Eric Lipton World Trade Center research files

Date: 1945-2003

Size: 11.76 linear feet (28 boxes); 116 audio files

Source: Donated by Eric Lipton, 2007

Abstract: The Eric Lipton World Trade Center research files consist of materials collected and produced by Lipton during the creation of his book *City in the Sky*. Eric Lipton is a noted journalist who created an extensive body of work on the attack on the World Trade Center and its aftermath.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Eric Lipton World Trade Center research files, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Lea Jordan, 2011 Collection foldered and arranged by subject. Duplicate and protected materials removed. Since *City in the Sky* was the result of a close collaboration between James Glanz and Eric Lipton, users are advised to consult both collections when conducting research. Glanz and Lipton conducted their interviews together and separately and shared materials. While this does create some duplication between the collections, there are instances where information is available in only one collection. Users should also note that Glanz and Lipton shared interview tapes, and therefore interviews conducted by Glanz may be present only within the Lipton collection, and vice versa.

Related Materials:

James Glanz World Trade Center research files. Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Creator History

Eric Lipton is a noted journalist who created an extensive body of work on the attack on the World Trade Center and its aftermath. Lipton received degrees in philosophy and history from the University of Vermont. In 1987 he began his daily newspaper career at *The Valley News* in Lebanon, New Hampshire. From 1989 to 1994, he worked at *The Hartford Courant*. While writing for *The Courant*, he won the 1992 Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Journalism alongside another journalist for their story about the flaw in the main mirror of the Hubble Space Telescope.

Lipton then joined the staff of The Washington Post, where he covered the end of Marion Berry's tenure and the arrival of Mayor Anthony Williams. In 1999 he began work as a Metropolitan reporter at *The New York Times*. He was initially based in City Hall and covered Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and city affairs. After the events of September 11th, he began to specialize in coverage of the World Trade Center attacks and its effects on the city. Lipton often collaborated on articles with fellow Times reporter James Glanz, and their stories on the World Trade Center were chosen as finalists for a Pulitzer in Explanatory Journalism in 2002. Stories Lipton and Glanz wrote were also a part of the Nation Challenged package that won a Pulitzer for Public Service in 2002. Their major collaboration was on their book, *City In The Sky* (2003), a history of the rise and fall of the World Trade Center. In 2008, Lipton received an honorary degree from the University of Vermont.

Scope and Content Note

New York Times reporters James Glanz and Eric Lipton's joint project, *City In the Sky* covers the entire life span of New York City's World Trade Center - from the geology of lower Manhattan, the redevelopment plans that displaced scores of businesses on Radio Row to build the towers, the design and construction of the towers, their role in the economy and life of the Financial District to their eventual destruction and demolition. The book combines the expertise of Glanz's science background and Lipton's political and city reporting to create a biography of the towers themselves. Their research looked not only at the physical aspects of the towers' creation and destruction but why certain decisions were made and how those decisions set in motion a chain of events.

The Eric Lipton World Trade Center research files consist of materials collected and produced by Lipton during the creation of his book *City in the Sky*. These research materials include copies of articles, correspondence, notes, and interviews with key players in the conception and construction of the towers, as well as survivor and family accounts and interviews with first responders.

The materials are separated into five chronological categories: Conception (1945-1970), Construction (1966-1973), Life in the Towers (1972-2001), 9/11, and Post 9/11 (2001-2003). The majority of the material is secondary source. These include copies of articles, court cases, expert reports, biographies, and publicly available transcripts of meeting minutes. Topics covered include David Rockefeller, the Lower Manhattan Redevelopment Plan, Minoru Yamasaki, Tenants and Leases, the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, casualty counts, and DNA identification of victims. An individual topical folder may contain partial transcripts of interviews regarding the subject, photocopies of related news articles, excerpts from publications, and handwritten notes.

Glanz and Lipton interviewed dozens of individuals in regards to the creation, construction, and eventual destruction of the World Trade Center. These interviews exist in partial transcript form throughout Lipton's research notes as well as on audio recordings. Individuals include Frank Lombardi, Abe Levine, and Calvin Kurt (regarding the building's design and conception), as well as survivors of both the North and South towers and family members who received phone calls from loved ones trapped in the towers.

Arrangement: Chronological, then alphabetical by subject.

Key Terms

Subjects

Architecture -- 1960-1970

Architecture and building engineering

City planning -- New York (N.Y.) -- History -- 20th century

Skyscrapers

Terrorism -- New York (State) -- New York

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Interviews

Notebooks

Transcripts

Names

Glanz, James

Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

World Trade Center (New York, N.Y.)

World Trade Center Site (New York, N.Y.)

Container List

Conception 1945-1970

- b. 1 f. 1-4 General 1955-1972
- b. 1 f. 5 Aldrich, Winthrop 1968
- b. 2 f. 1-2 Chase Bank History 1952-1955
- b. 2 f. 3 Feasibility Study 1961

Interviews

Brunner, John

Side A

214444_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:16:30))

Side B

214444_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:16:30))

Design

Various members of the design team discuss the evolution of plans for the site.

Tape 1

Side A

214467_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:35))

Side B

214467_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:35))

Tape 2

Side A

214462_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:35))

Side B

214462_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:35))

Tape 3

214470_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:14:30))

Tape 4

Side A

214437_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Side B

214437_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Gruzdins, Gunars

Side A

214449_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:35))

Side B

214449_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:35))

Herman, Jim

Worked on the development of the exterior skin profile of the building.

Side A

214425_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Side B

214425_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Conception (cont.)

Interviews (cont.)

Hildebrand, Grant

Plaza design.

Side A

214476_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:47:05))

Side B

214476_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:47:05))

Models of the Towers

214427_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:24:30))

Employees from Irving R. Boody Company.

Panero, Carl

214432_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:24:20))

Conception in relation to other buildings.

Schreier, Aaron

Discusses design issues related to the height of the building.

Tape 1

Side A

214465_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:47:10))

Side B

214465_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:47:10))

Tape 2

214432_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:24:20))

- b. 2 f. 4 **Models 1960-1968**
- b. 2 f. 5-6 **Opposition 1964**
- b. 3 f. 1-3 **Port Authority 1961-1965**
- b. 3 f. 4 **Proposals 1945-1960**
- b. 3 f. 5 **Redevelopment Plan 1957**
- b. 4 f. 1 **Radio Row 1945-1965**
- b. 4 f. 2-5 **Rockefeller, David 1950-1970**
- b. 5 f. 1 **Rockefeller, David 1950-1970**
- b. 5 f. 2 **Save Our Homes 1964**
- b. 5 f. 3 **Tozzoli, Guy 1962-1970**
- b. 5 f. 4 **Wein, Lawrence 1952**
- b. 5 f. 5 **Wind Research undated**
- b. 6 f. 1-2 **Yamasaki, Minoru 1952-1970**

Construction 1966-1973

- b. 6 f. 3-4 **General 1966-1973**
- b. 7 f. 1 **General 1966-1973**
- b. 7 f. 2 **Interviews undated**

Interviews

Construction

214443_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:19:15))

The process of drilling into bedrock during early construction.

Construction (cont.)

Interviews (cont.)

Construction

Excessive horizontal movement of the building during construction.

Side A

214446_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:35))

Side B

214446_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:35))

Dragonette, John

214440_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:46:30))

Materials

Materials chosen for the buildings finishes during construction.

Side A

214423_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Side B

214423_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Project Management

Project management on site as well as discussion on why double-decker elevators were not chosen for the project.

Side A

214421_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:19:40))

Side B

214421_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:19:40))

Robertson, Les

Tape 1

Side A

214417_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:46:50))

Side B

214417_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:46:50))

Tape 2

214416_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:22:30))

Structural Integrity and Fire Safety

Side A

214415_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:47:00))

Side B

214415_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:47:00))

- b. 7 f. 3 Maps and Blueprints undated
- b. 7 f. 4 Photographs undated
- b. 7 f. 5 Port Authority 1966-1973
- Life in the Towers 1972-2001
 - b. 8 f. 1 Airplane Near Miss 1981
 - b. 8 f. 2 Articles 1971-1980
- b. 11 f. 1-3 Court Cases 1984-1993
 - b. 8 f. 3 Fiduciary Trust 1973-2001
 - b. 8 f. 4-5 Fire and Safety 1973-1988
 - b. 8 f. 6 Goldmark, Peter 1985

Life in the Towers (cont.)

Interviews

Daddi, George

214440_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:46:30))

General life in the towers.

Donnovan and French - Leasing Agents

Finding tenants for the World Trade Center.

Tape 1

Side A

214420_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:22:00))

Side B

214420_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:22:00))

Tape 2

Side A

214463_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:30:35))

Side B

214463_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:30:35))

Fire Safety

Retrofitting the towers for fire code compliance.

Side A

214452_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:35))

Side B

214452_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:35))

Fire Safety/ Early Life in the Towers

Fires in the World Trade Center before 9/11 and an interview with a worker who started work in the building before it was complete.

Side A

214441_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:46:10))

Side B

214441_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:46:10))

Huntington, Lawrence

Survivor of the 1993 bombing.

Tape 1

Side A

214438_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:35))

Side B

214438_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:35))

Tape 2

Side A

214434_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Side B

214434_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Lynch, Cornelius

Traveled all over the country to recruit tenants for the building.

Life in the Towers (cont.)

Interviews (cont.)

Lynch, Cornelius (cont.)

Side A

214418_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Side B

214418_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Retrofitting

Retrofitting of the building after the 1993 bombing

Tape 1

214466_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:20:30))

Tape 2

Side A

214473_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:10))

Side B

214473_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:10))

Security

214468_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:50))

The building security and emergency management policies.

Silverstein, Larry

The opening of the World Trade Center and management of the building in the 1980s.

Side A

214422_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:27:00))

Side B

214422_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:27:00))

Tenant Stories

214419_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:14:30))

Day to day building life.

Tenant Stories

214427_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:24:30))

An early tenant describes moving in to the new World Trade Center while the building was still being constructed.

Tenant Stories

Tenants describe moving into the building and fear of the elevator system. Includes stories of being stuck in an elevator.

Side A

214442_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:50))

Side B

214442_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:50))

Tenant Stories

Tenants describe what they were told about elevators and fire procedure and the emergency announcement system in the building.

Side A

214457_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:39:25))

Side B

214457_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:39:25))

Life in the Towers (cont.)

Interviews (cont.)

Tenant Stories (audio file (00:20:45))

Building staff and tenants talking about concerns with movement of the building.

Side A

214426_f01.mp3 (00:20:45)

Side B

214426_f02.mp3 (00:20:45)

Tenant Stories

214470_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:14:30))

Stories about life in the towers, concerns about security, and creaking of the building.

Tourism

214478_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:18:20))

Interviews with band members who played a concert in the plaza at the World Trade Center.

- b. 8 f. 7 **Observation Deck** undated
- b. 8 f. 8 **Port Authority Advertisements** 1966-1988
- b. 9 f. 1 **Privatization** 1998-2001
- b. 9 f. 2 **Stunts** undated
- b. 9 f. 3-5 **Tenants and Leases** 1972-2001
- Terrorism**
- b. 10 f. 1-2 **Bombing** 1993
- b. 10 f. 3-4 **World Trade Center Terrorism Study** 1993
- b. 10 f. 5 **Windows on the World** undated
- 9/11** 2001
- b. 11 f. 4-5 **The Airplanes**
- By Company**
- b. 12 f. 1 **Aon Insurance** 2001
- b. 12 f. 2 **Cantor Fitzgerald** 2001
- b. 12 f. 3 **Euro Brokers and Fuji Bank** 2001
- b. 12 f. 4 **Nearby Businesses** 2001
- b. 12 f. 5 **Windows on the World** 2001
- By Floor**
- b. 12 f. 6 **78th Floor, Tower 2** 2001
- b. 12 f. 7 **93rd Floor, Tower 2** 2001
- b. 12 f. 8 **98th Floor, Tower 2** 2001
- b. 13 f. 1-2 **Casualty Counts**
- Cell Phone Calls**
- b. 13 f. 3-4 **Call Interviews** 2001
- b. 13 f. 5 **102 Minutes** 2001
- b. 14 f. 1 **102 Minutes** 2001
- b. 14 f. 2 **The Collapse**
- b. 14 f. 3 **Eyewitness Accounts**
- b. 14 f. 4-5 **Fire, NYPD and Rescue**

9/11 (cont.)

b. 15 f. 1 Hijackers

b. 15 f. 2 Initial Rescues

Interviews

Abadis, Tim

Eyewitness account from a construction specialist.

Side A

214453_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:55))

Side B

214453_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:55))

Burton, Mike

Had a meeting at City Hall on the day of the attacks, went down to the site to help secure the buildings.

Side A

214433_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Side B

214433_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Cruthers, Frank

FDNY first responder.

Side A

214428_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:50))

Side B

214428_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:50))

First Responder

First responder who came over on the ferry to assist and saw the towers fall from the ferry.

Side A

214436_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:50))

Side B

214436_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:50))

Gray, Robert

A construction worker who was working on a tower crane at 43rd and 8th, witnessed the attacks and went to the site to help.

Side A

214458_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:29:50))

Side B

214458_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:29:50))

Humphries, Irene

Describes life in the towers, her experience during the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, and her survival of the attacks on September 11th.

Side A

214475_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Side B

214475_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

9/11 (cont.)

Interviews (cont.)

Norman, John

Battalion Chief and 9/11 first responder.

Side A

214472_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:45))

Side B

214472_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:45))

Tomasetti, Richard

A visit to the site on the day of the attacks.

Side A

214431_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:50))

Side B

214431_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:50))

- b. 15 f. 3-5 The Missing
- b. 15 f. 6 Police Reports
- Transcripts
- b. 16 f. 1 FDNY 2001
- b. 16 f. 2 New York City Emergency Medical Services
- b. 16 f. 3 New York City Police Department
- b. 16 f. 4-5 Newark Airport
- b. 17 f. 1-2 Port Authority Police
- b. 17 f. 3-4 State Police Emergency Network
- b. 17 f. 5 World Trade Center Security and Operations
- b. 18 f. 1-3 Why It Fell
- Post 9/11 2001-2003
- b. 18 f. 4 Building Codes
- b. 19 f. 1-2 Contractors
- b. 19 f. 3 Correspondence
- b. 19 f. 4-5 Court Cases
- b. 20 f. 1-2 DNA Identification
- b. 20 f. 3 Drafts
- b. 20 f. 4 Financial Impact of 9/11
- b. 21 f. 1-3 Fire Codes and Fire Safety
- b. 21 f. 4-5 FDNY Incident Action Plans
- b. 22 f. 1-4 FDNY Incident Action Plans
- b. 23 f. 1 FDNY Incident Action Plans
- b. 23 f. 2 Fires
- b. 23 f. 3 Ground Water Control
- b. 23 f. 4 Health and Environmental Impacts
- Interviews
- Body Recovery and Identification
- 214460_f01.mp3

Post 9/11 (cont.)

Interviews (cont.)

Body Recovery and Identification (cont.)

Tape 1

214460_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:19:30))

Tape 2

214459_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Side A

214459_f01.mp3 (00:31:40)

Side B

214459_f02.mp3 (00:31:40)

Tape 3

214430_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:23:35))

Tape 4

214439_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:24:35))

Blaich, Charles

214450_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:12:40))

Fireman who helped extinguish the fire in the days after the attacks.

Civil Engineering and Site Demolition

Side A

214429_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:55))

Side B

214429_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:55))

Civil Engineering and Site Demolition

Side A

214471_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:45))

Side B

214471_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:45))

Civil Engineering and Site Demolition

Side A

214474_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Side B

214474_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Demolition

Willy A., who helped construct the World Trade Center and assisted with demolition work after the collapse.

Side A

214456_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Side B

214456_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Griffin, Dave and Donna

Drove from North Carolina to help with demolition.

Tape 1

Side A

214477_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Side B

214477_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Tape 2

Post 9/11 (cont.)

Interviews (cont.)

Griffin, Dave and Donna (cont.)

Tape 2 (cont.)

Side A

214447_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Side B

214447_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

High, Charles

Medical examiner on post-mortem examinations.

Side A

214424_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:29:09))

Side B

214424_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:29:09))

King, Ed

Demolition at the site.

Side A

214454_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Side B

214454_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Panariello, Gary

Tape 1

Side A

214448_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:45))

Side B

214448_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:45))

Tape 2

214464_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:18:30))

Post 9/11 Building Safety

Side A

214469_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:34:35))

Side B

214469_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:34:35))

Richardson, Tom

Site work after November 1st, 2001.

Side A

214445_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:50))

Side B

214445_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:50))

Scrongello, Tom

214478_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:18:20))

Debris removal.

Stuart, Bob

Ironworker involved in site cleanup.

Side A

214455_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Side B

214455_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:40))

Post 9/11 (cont.)

Interviews (cont.)

Tamaro, George

Building stability immediately after 9/11.

Side A

214451_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:45))

Side B

214451_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:45))

Vichers, Charlie

Organization of cleanup and demolition.

Side A

214479_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:35:40))

Side B

214479_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:35:40))

Memorial

- b. 23 f. 5 Designs
- b. 24 f. 1-4 Designs
- b. 25 f. 1-2 Objects
- b. 25 f. 3 North Bridge and WTC 6
- b. 25 f. 4 Photographs
- b. 25 f. 5 Reconstruction
- b. 26 f. 1-5 Recovery and Cleanup
- b. 27 f. 1-4 Recovery and Cleanup
- b. 27 f. 5 Site Hazards
- b. 28 f. 1-3 Skyscrapers
- b. 28 f. 4 Slurry Wall and Bathtub
- b. 28 f. 5 Special Awards Ceremony