

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION  
ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # 63M87

Location 6-D-2

Title New York Mail and Newspaper Transportation Company. Records.

Approximate inclusive dates 1897-1957

Date of receipt Nov., 1963

Received from Mackenzie, Smith, Lewis,  
Michell, and Hughes, Syracuse, N.Y.

Volume on arrival

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 4 boxes. 3 linear ft.

Condition Good.

Restrictions

Description

HISTORY

The New York Mail and Newspaper Transportation Company was the original contractor, in 1898, for mail delivery by pneumatic tubes between Manhattan and Brooklyn. Later on the company became a contractor for tube service between post offices within Manhattan as well. The New York Mail and Newspaper Transportation Company was a subsidiary of the American Pneumatic Service Company and then of that company's successor, the Lamson Corporation of Delaware. A related company, the Tubular Dispatch Company, was the original contractor for pneumatic tube mail service in Manhattan.

Mail delivery by pneumatic tubes began in New York during the 1890s. The service was conceived as a faster method for delivering mail as street transportation slowed with the increasing congestion of city thoroughfares. The service was paid for by Congressional appropriation, and was administered by the Post Office Department. Tube service existed between post offices in

Special Formats  Photographs  Maps  Audio Tapes  Films  Graphics  
 Artifacts  Machine-readable records  
 Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_

Temporary catalog card added entries

See attached.

Accessioned by Julie Miller and John

D. Stinson

Date December 16, 1988

Manhattan south of 125th Street, and between Manhattan and Brooklyn. In 1953 pneumatic tube service ended in New York when the Postmaster General, claiming the service was too costly, cancelled the New York Mail and Newspaper Transportation Company's contract. The contract had been signed in 1951 and had not been due to expire until 1960. The cancellation was backed by Republicans in Congress who criticized Hubert Humphrey who, as a member of the Senate Post Office Committee during the previous, Democratic, administration had sponsored the legislation authorizing renewal of the contract.

DESCRIPTION

Records, 1897-1955, consist of original and copied letters and documents pertaining to the company's delivery of mail in New York City using pneumatic tubes. Documents produced between 1953-1955 concern the cancellation of the contract and the ensuing litigation. Related companies mentioned in the documents include the American Pneumatic Service Company, the Lamson Corporation, and the Tubular Dispatch Company.

Included are: contracts; Post Office Department orders; Post Office Department advertisements inviting proposals for pneumatic tube service; reports; plans; proposals; correspondence between Company and Post Office officials; U.S. Government documents; and clippings. Of note are seventeen photographs showing the pneumatic tube systems at the the General Post Office, New York City, and at the Church Street, Grand Central, Planetarium, and Gracie stations, January, 1954.

Also included are forty-eight United States Government publications, 1898-1955, of hearings, investigations, and reports produced by Congress or the Post Office Department concerning mail delivery by pneumatic tubes in New York City and nationwide.

New York Mail and Newspaper Transportation Company - Container list

Box

I. Records, 1897-1957

- 1 1897-1949 Line drawings
- 2 1950-1957 photographs

II. U.S. Government Documents

- 3 1898-1919 ?
- 4 1923-1955 } published material

PNEUMATIC TUBE HISTORY 1880-1910 in box 3

New York Mail and Newspaper Transportation Company - Added entries

Pneumatic-tube transportation

Pneumatic machinery-Photograph collections

United States. Post Office Dept.

Postal Service-New York (N.Y.)

Humphrey, Hubert H. (Hubert Horatio), 1911-1978

American Pneumatic Service Co.

Lamson Corporation

Tubular Dispatch Co.

NEW YORK MAIL & NEWSPAPER TRANSPORTATION CO.

Articles of Agreement 7/13/1897 between United States Mail Package and General Pneumatic Delivery Company and Tubular Dispatch Company.

Article of Contract 5/31/1898 between United States of America and New York Mail and Newspaper Transportation Company.

Post Office Department Advertisement 7/18/22.

Contract 10/21/22 between U.S.A. New York Pneumatic Service Company and American Pneumatic Service.

I.C.C. Order 6/4/23

Proposal 8/29/22

I.C.C. release No.14969, submitted 10/15/23; decided 12/10/23.

Post Office Department Order 8/1/24.

Plan of System 7/1/30.

Report of Committee to Postmaster 4/13/31.

Advertisement 3/8/32 - letter of transmittal 3/11/32.

Post Office Department Order 3/29/32.

Proposal 4/20/32.

Letter 5/2/32 Post Office Dept. to N.Y.Mail.

Post Office Department Order 6/29/32.- letter of transmittal 7/5/32.

Letter 7/23/32 transmitting contract for period 7/1/32 to 6/30/34, from U.S.Post Office, New York, N.Y. to New York Mail.

Letter 8/16/32 transmitting above contract (triplicate) executed by P.O.

(U.S.A., N.Y.Mail and A.P.S.as surety)  
Photo of above contract, dated 8/16/32; attached photo of 8/16/32 letter above, letter of 8/25/32 sending contract to Lamson Company, and photo of New York Mail resolution 8/2/32 authorizing signing.

Post Office Department Order 6/6/34.

Post Office Department Order 4/4/35.

Post Office Department Order 6/25/36.

Post Office Department Order 8/5/36.

Proposal 4/5/37.

Post Office Department Order 4/8/37.

Post Office Department Order 6/7/37.

Post Office Department Advertisement 9/23/37.

Post Office Department Order 11053 dated 11/11/37; letter of transmittal of same date.

Newspaper proposal 11/12/37 (New York Evening Sun)

Proposal New York Mail to Postmaster General 12/22/37.

Post Office Department Order 11201 dated 12/29/37.

Proposal New York Mail to Postmaster General 12/30/37.

Letter 12/30/27 to Solicitor, Post Office Dept. from New York Mail.

Letter 12/31/27 to New York Mail from Acting Postmaster General.

Post Office Department Order 11212 dated 12/31/37.

Photo of contract 12/31/37, between U.S.A., New York Mail, and A.P.S.  
Advertisement 1/22/38.

Proposal New York Mail to Postmaster General 2/17/38.

" " " " 2/22/38.

Post Office Department Order 11374 dated 2/25/38.

Photo of contract 2/25/38, between U.S.A., New York Mail, and A.P.S.

Proposal New York Mail to Post Office Department 3/4/38.

Telegram N.Y.Mail to Purdum, 4th Assistant Postmaster General 3/6/38.

Revised proposal 4/7/38; letter of transmittal.

Contract 2/25/38 between U.S.A., New York Mail, and A.P.S. Letter of transmittal.

Post Office Department Order 6/24/38.

Letter 6/29/38 to New York Mail from Post Office Department advising of signing of order accepting 4/7/38 proposal.

Contract 6/29/38.

Photo " " and of letter transmitting same to N.Y.Mail from Post Office Department.

Photo advertisement 11/28/39 -- newspaper clipping of proposal re same.

Copy of proposal of New York Mail 1/9/40.

Post Office Department Order 2/16/40.

Letter 3/14/40 New York Mail to 4th Ass't Postmaster General withdrawing proposal of 1/9/40 and enclosing new form of proposal.

Letter 5/20/40 New York Mail to 4th Ass't Postmaster General withdrawing proposals 1/9/40 and 3/14/40 and enclosing new form of proposal.

Contract 6/13/40 and letter of transmittal.

Executed contract 6/13/40.

Letter 6/14/40 advising N.Y.Mail of issuance of order accepting proposal 5/31/40 subject to appropriations by Congress.

Post Office Department Order 5/19/41.

Advertisement 4/2/42.

~~Proposal New York Mail 5/26/42.~~

Blueprint contract 6/16/42 between U.S.A., New York Mail, Lamson Corporation of Delaware and Lamson Corporation.

New York Mail & Newspaper Transportation Co.

Page 3.

Letter 6/22/42 advising New York Mail of issuance of order accepting proposal of 5/26/42 subject to appropriations by Congress.

Contract 6/16/42 between U.S.A., New York Mail, Lamson Corporation of Delaware and Lamson Corporation. Letter transmitting same to N.Y.Mail from Post Office Department.

Post Office Department Order 6/10/47.

Post Office Department Order 12/2/47.

Advertisement 3/25/48.

Printed report of hearing before subcommittee of the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service United States Senate 80th Congress Second Session on S.1426. 3/29/48.

Proposed contract in response to 3/25/48 ad. Letter of transmittal to Post Office Department by N.Y.Mail.

Photo of Report of Mr.Langer (Committee on Post Office and Civil Service) 5/4/48.

Proposed contract and letter of transmittal 6/28/48 to Post Office Department by N.Y.Mail.

Contract 6/29/48 between U.S.A., New York Mail, LCD and LC.

Triplicate original of above. Letter of transmittal to N.Y.Mail from Post Office Department.

Post Office Department Order 8/5/48.

Post Office Department Order 6/22/49.

Letter 6/30/49 New York Mail to Postmaster General disputing right of Government to extend 6/29/48 contract unilaterally.

Letter 8/22/49 to Post Office Department from N.Y.Mail advising of change from DC to AC.

Reply to above 9/29/49.

Letter 10/6/49 to Post Office Department from N.Y.Mail re conversion.

Report letter New York Mail to Assistant Sup't Post Office quarters re need for continuation of tube service, dated 10/14/49.

Advertisement 11/7/49.

Letter 11/30/49 New York Mail to Postoffice Department transmitting proposal.

Letter 12/22/49 Post Office Department to N.Y.Mail advising of acceptance of above proposal, as amended 12/20/49.

Contract 12/22/49 between U.S.A., New York Mail, LCD and LC; transmittal letter, Post Office Department to New York Mail.

Post Office Department Order 1/4/50.

Post Office Department Order 42425 dated 1/25/50.

Letter 2/20/50 to Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. from Assistant Postmaster General re conversion equipment installation.

New York Mail & Newspaper Transportation Co.

Page 4.

Letter 2/23/50 Consolidated Edison to Ass't Postmaster General,  
letter 2/28/50 ditto, letter 2/28/50 Post Office Department to, C.F. Dietz,  
Lamson Corp., re conversion.

Letter 2/28/50 Albert Goldman, N.Y. Postmaster to H.B. Montague, Post Office  
Inspector.

Letter 3/10/50 Mr. Montague to Postmaster General.

Letter 4/11/50 Assistant Postmaster General To Albert Goldman, N.Y. Postmaster.

Letter 4/12/50 " " " to Chief Clerk and Director  
of Personnel.

Letter 4/21/50 " " " to Chief Inspector.

Reprint of article from STAMPS magazine, 4/22/50, "The New York Post  
Office Underground Pneumatic Tube System."

Advertisement 4/24/50. Letter of transmittal Mr. Myers to Mr. Dietz.

Letter 5/5/50 to General Sup't of Mails signed by 5 of Mail personnel,  
Subject:- Proposed elimination of New York Inter-Station Tube Service.

Letter 5/9/50 Postmaster N.Y.C. to Inspector Montague re truck service.

Letter 5/15/50 to Postmaster General signed by 3 of N.Y. Post Office per-  
sonnel.

Letter 5/18/50 to Postmaster General from Acting Ass't Postmaster General  
(Bureau of Facilities).

Letter 5/26/50 to Postmaster General from N.Y. Mail enclosing proposal.

Letter 6/6/50 to Postmaster General signed by 3 of N.Y. Post Office per-  
sonnel with comparison of tube and motor vehicle costs.

Copies Order 42425 1/25/50, letter 3/10/50, 146645 2/28/50, letter 5/15/50,  
letter 5/18/50, Special Notice under Order No. 42946 4/17/50, Circular  
letter E-346 5/2/50; letter 5/9/50; letter 5/5/50; letter 6/6/50; --  
certified 12/28/54 by Abe McGregor Goff, Solicitor.

Letter 6/7/50 Postmaster General from Ass't Postmaster General Myers  
re operation of tubes after 12/31/50.

Photo Report No. 2500 (Calendar No. 2504) Senate, by Humphrey, Committee  
on Post Office and Civil Service 9/1/50.

Letter 8/7/50 to Mr. Dietz from Mr. Myers re removal of equipment from  
Brooklyn post office.

Letter 8/28/50 Acting Ass't Postmaster General to Mr. Dietz enclosing  
proposed bill authorizing Postmaster General to enter into contracts  
for transmission of mail by pneumatic tubes or other mechanical devices.

Letter 10/9/50 Lamson Corporation to Mr. Myers re machines in Brooklyn  
Post Office and conferring re continuance of service.

Letter 10/13/50 in response to above.

Typed copy of House Report No. 3144 12/5/50 on Present Law Governing  
Transmission of Mail by Pneumatic Tubes.

Letter 12/5/50 to Chairman on Committee of Post Office and Civil Service,  
House of Representatives, from Postmaster General (copy).



Photo of report from Committee on Post Office and Civil Service 12/5/50, No. 3144.

Letter 12/7/50 New York Mail to Mr. Myers enclosing proposal.

Contract 12/29/50 between U.S.A., New York Mail, LCD and L.C.

Letter 1/10/51 from Mr. Myers transmitting copy of letter 1/8/51 to Consolidated Edison (N.T. Sillman) and copy of letter 12/27/50 to Consolidated Edison (Mr. C.W. Maytrott), to Mr. Dietz.

Post Office Department Order 1/12/51.

Letter 5/15/51 to Mr. Dietz from Mr. Myers transmitting copy of letter from Mr. Myers to National Production Authority re priority.

Reformation of contract 12/29/50, dated 1/29/53.

Extracts from Survey Report 5/28/53 delivered by Government's attorney at pretrial conference 1/21/55.

Extracts from report on shutdown test 12/1-7/53 delivered as above.

Photo letter 12/29/53 Postmaster General to New York Mail voiding 12/29/50 contract.

17 photos of tube installations January 1954.

Letter 1/7/54 New York Mail to Postmaster General with notice re declaration of breach by Government.

Letter 1/23/54 New York Mail to Postmaster General with declaration of breach of 12/29/50 contract.

Letter 2/3/54 New York Mail to Postmaster General re removal of property from leased post office premises with intention to seek full damages for breach.

Printed Congressional Record 2/8/54; covering letter Mr. Dietz to Mr. Broad, 2/17/54.

Letter 2/25/54 New York Mail to Postmaster General giving notice re removal of property.

Letter 3/9/54 from Abe McGregor Goff, Solicitor, in reply to above.

Letter 3/17/54 from New York Mail replying to Mr. Goff's letter above.

Letter 5/25/54 Mr. Goff to New York Mail re repairs to buildings.

Envelope of newspaper clippings.

Envelope containing the following:

Excerpts from A.P.S. annual report 3/31/10, 3/31/11, 3/31/13; report 9 Months Ending 12/31/13; annual report 12/31/14, 12/31/15, 12/31/16, 12/31/17, 12/31/18, 12/31/19, 12/31/20, 12/31/21, 12/31/22, 12/31/23.

Excerpts from the Annual Report of the Postmaster General for the Fiscal Year 1923.

Report of the Joint Commission on Postal Service, 1924.

Excerpts from Hearings before Committee on Appropriations United States Senate 68th Congress First Session on H.R. 6349.

Release for 4/4/30 - Address of Postmaster General Walter F. Brown before the Bronx Board of Trade 4/3/30.

Government Publications.

NEW YORK MAIL & NEWSPAPER TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

Senate Hearing 56th Congress 2d Session, 1898. Part III- Second-Class Mail Matter, Pneumatic-Tube Service, Etc. Doc.No.89, Part 3.

Report of the Postmaster-General Relative to the Investigation of Pneumatic-Tube Systems for the Transmission of Mail. 1901.

House 60th Congress 2d Session, 1908. Investigations as to Pneumatic-Tube Service for the Mails. Document No. 1220.

Pneumatic Tube History from Reports of the Postmaster General 1892-1910. Issued by American Pneumatic Service Co., Boston, U.S.A. Compiled by Geo. J. Murray.

Senate Sixty-Second Congress 2d Session. Hearing before the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, on Underground Pneumatic Tube System. June 7, 1912.

House. Post Office Appropriation Bill, 1913. Hearings before Subcommittee No.1 of the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads. Jan.1912.

Joint Commission of Senate and House, to Investigate the Pneumatic-Tube Postal System 1912-1913. Hearings. Supplement 7/22 & 23, 1913.

Report of the Pneumatic-Tube Postal Commission (Joint) 10/24/14. Document 615.

Hearings before the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds (House of Representatives) on H.R. 8008. No.7. 1/28/14.

Pneumatic-Tube Mail Service Report of the Committee of the Post Office Department 1916.

Senate 64th Congress 1st Session on H.R. 10484. Pneumatic-Tube Service. Hearing before the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads. 1916.

House. Pneumatic Tube Service. Hearings before the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads. December 11, 12, 13, and 14, 1916.

Pneumatic-Tube Service- Hearing before the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads. Senate. January 1917.

House. Majority and Minority Reports Committee on Post Office and Post Roads. January 1917.

Annual Report of the Postmaster General for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 1917.

Senate Committee Print. 65th Congress 2d Session Briefs 1917.

Development of the Pneumatic-Tube and Automobile Mail Service. Senate Committee Print 65th Congress 1st Session. Excerpts from Reports. 1917.

Summary of the Pneumatic-Tube Mail Service Situation 2/21/18.

Senate 65th Congress 2d Session. Pneumatic Tube Mail Service. Report of the Joint Commission Appointed to Investigate the Value of Pneumatic Tube Mail Service, created by the Act of Congress approved March 3, 1917, together with the Views of a Minority Thereon. Document No. 121.

Act making appropriations P.O.Dept. ending 6/30/18.Public--No.380-64th Congress (H.R. 19410)

New York Mail & Newspaper Transportation Company  
Page 2.

Brief for New York Pneumatic Service Company 10/1/23 before the  
I.C.C. Docket No. 14969. Transmission of Mail by Pneumatic Tubes  
in the City of New York.

ICC. Report of the Commission 10/15/23. No. 14969.

Annual Report of the Postmaster General for the fiscal year ended 6/30/23.  
Reports to the Joint Commission on Postal Service by the Committee of  
Postal Service Officials and the Efficiency Engineers. Part 2, Vols. 1 & 2.  
Part 3, Vols. 1 & 2.

Annual Report of the Postmaster General for Fiscal Year ended 6/30/24.  
Senate 68th Congress 1st Session on H.R. 6349 Treasury and Post Office  
Departments Appropriation Bill, 1925. Hearings before a Subcommittee  
of the Committee on Appropriations.

Annual Report of the Postmaster General Fiscal Year ended 6/30/30.

Annual Report of the Postmaster General Fiscal Year ended 6/30/31.

House 71st Congress 3rd Session. Post Office Appropriation Bill, 1932.  
Hearings before Subcommittee of House Committee on Appropriations.

Annual Report of the Postmaster General Fiscal Year ended 6/30/33.

House 72nd Congress 1st Session. Post Office Appropriation Bill 1933.  
Hearings before Subcommittee of House Committee on Appropriations.

Pneumatic Mail Tube Systems. Hearings before a Subcommittee of the  
Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads. House of Representatives.  
H.R. 6, H.R. 4450, H.R. 7400. 6/13/35.

House 74th Congress 1st Session. Post Office Appropriation Bill, 1936.  
Hearing before the Subcommittee of House Committee on Appropriations.

Annual Report of the Postmaster General Fiscal Year ended 6/30/35.

Annual Report of the Postmaster General Fiscal Year ended 6/30/36.

House 74th Congress 2nd Session. Post Office Appropriation Bill, 1937.  
Hearing before the Subcommittee of House Committee on Appropriations.

House 75th Congress 1st Session. Same as above, 1938.

House 75th Congress 3rd Session. Second Deficiency Appropriation Bill,  
Fiscal Year 1938. Report No. 2614.

House 75th Congress 3rd Session. Second Deficiency Appropriation Bill  
for 1938. Hearings before the Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropria-  
tions.

House 75th Congress 3rd Session. Post Office Department Appropriation  
Bill for 1939. Hearings before the Subcommittee of the Committee on  
Appropriations.

House 76th Congress 1st Session. Same as above, 1940.

House 76th Congress 2nd Session. Same as above, 1941.

Postal Laws and Regulations 1943.

House 83d Congress 2nd Session. Treasury-Post Office Departments Appropria-  
tions for 1955. Hearings.

Same for Senate. H.R. 7893.