



The New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Anderson Map Company records

1954-2008

MssCol 25823

Processed by Emily P. Dunne in 2022.

Summary

Creator: Anderson Map Company

Title: Anderson Map Company records

Date: 1954-2008

Size: 1.58 linear feet (6 boxes)

Source: Purchased by the New York Public Library from The Old Map Gallery in 2019.

Abstract: The Anderson Map Company created isometric maps, drawn by cartographer and urban planner Constantin Anderson. The company's most significant project was a map of Midtown Manhattan, periodically updated to reflect the city's rapidly evolving architecture from 1961 until 1980. The collection contains the company's papers and examples of all aspects of production materials, including Anderson's original pencil sketches, blueprints, and transparencies.

Preferred citation: Anderson Map Company records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Emily P. Dunne in 2022.

Creator History

The Anderson Map Company was a map design company that specialized in creating highly detailed, isometric, or axonometric maps. The illustrations were hand-drawn by the urban planner and cartographer Constantin Anderson. Each building is rendered in extreme detail with a fixed perspective, giving the viewer a dynamic feel for the size of the city, its parks, the height of the buildings, overall creating an incredibly detailed architectural environment.

The most significant project for the Anderson Map Company was a map of Midtown Manhattan in New York City. Anderson aimed to make an accurate and aesthetically pleasing map that could serve as souvenirs for tourists as well as a working map for New Yorkers. The original map of Manhattan was published in 1961 and periodically updated through 1980. The different iterations of this map are

especially significant, as this period encompassed one of the densest building booms in the history of New York City.

In addition to their map of Manhattan, the Anderson Map Company reprinted a 1736 map of Paris; a map of the fairgrounds of the 1964 Worlds Fair in Flushing, Queens; and a map of sections of Astoria, Queens commissioned for an exhibition.

Constantin Anderson was born in 1918 in Russia but moved to study municipal development at the University of Paris. While completing his degree, he met and married Stella Duckett. During his studies, Constantin helped prepare the official map of Marseilles and other map-making projects. Before moving to New York City in 1959, Constantin worked as an industrial designer with E. Burton Benjamin Associates in Chicago.

Anderson passed away in Manhattan in February of 1983 and was survived by his wife, Stella Anderson. Stella was designated as the sole executor of Anderson's estate, including the copyrights of the Anderson Map Company. While operating the estate as an individual, Stella would maintain the rights and reproduction fees but encountered several publishers printing Anderson's map of Midtown without permission or credit to Constantin Anderson or the company.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains the papers and products of the Anderson Map Company (also known as the Manhattan Map Company), and the illustrator Constantin Anderson. Their maps served as stand-alone cartographic objects and advertisements for real estate developers and businesses. This archive includes invoices, transparencies, correspondence, original map sketches, printed maps, posters, and flyers.

The items in this collection are related to the physical process of creating and printing maps, particularly the company's primary product, a map of Midtown Manhattan. The first edition was published in 1961, with several updated iterations published through 1980. The documentation covers the map's creation from conception, drafting, production and printing. Much of the company's correspondence is related to rights, reproduction, and competing map companies.

In addition to maps of Manhattan, Anderson created two maps of Queens and republished a 1736 map of Paris.

The collection reflects the styles and history of cartography and architecture in the middle to late half of the 20th century, especially as New York City saw a boom of construction from the 1960s through the 1980s. As the company periodically updated the map of Midtown, this collection provides a context of the rapidly evolving skyline.

Many of the papers in this collection after Anderson's death in 1983 are related to Stella Duckett Anderson's role as the executor of her husband's estate and copyright holder of the creations of the Anderson Map Company. Much of the correspondence from this period documents Stella's legal and financial matters.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Architectural drawings
Business correspondence

Occupations

Cartographers.

Subjects

Cartography -- 20th century
Isometric projection
Manhattan (New York, N.Y.) -- Maps
Midtown Manhattan (New York, N.Y.) -- Aerial views

Names

Anderson, Constantine
Anderson Map Company

Container List

Company Files 1954-2008

- b. 1 f. 1 Legal 1960-1978
- b. 1 f. 2 Financial 1962-1977
- b. 1 f. 3 Shareholders and Directors 1960-1985
- b. 1 f. 4 Meeting Minutes 1960-1961
- b. 1 f. 5 Special Report 1960-1961
- b. 1 f. 6 Rights and Reproduction 1962-2005
- b. 1 f. 7 Contact Information -- Hotels, Airlines, and Libraries 1960s
- b. 1 f. 8 Stationary 1960s
 - b. 2 Rubber Stamp 1960s
- b. 1 f. 9 Press 1964-1977
- b. 1 f. 10 Constantin Anderson Estate 1954-2008
- b. 1 f. 11 Stella Anderson Legal 1960-1994
- b. 1 f. 12 Personal 1960-1980s

Map Illustrations 1960-1980s

Midtown Manhattan 1960s-1980s

- b. 1 f. 13 Pencil Sketches 1960s-1980s
 - b. 4 f. 1
- b. 3 f. 1-2 Inked Drawings 1960s-1980s
 - b. 4 f. 2-3
 - b. 6 f. 1
 - b. 4 f. 4 Vellum Street Grid Layouts 1960s
 - b. 4 f. 5-6 Blueprints 1960s-1980s
 - b. 6 f. 2 Includes completed, full blueprint for the original map from June 1960.
 - b. 3 f. 3 Transparencies 1960s-1980s
 - b. 5 f. 1
 - b. 6 f. 3
 - b. 5 f. 2 Printed from Transparencies 1960s-1980s
 - b. 6 f. 4
 - b. 5 f. 3 List of Map Sections 1960s
- b. 1 f. 14 Study of Madison, Park, and Lexington Avenues 1960s
 - 37th street through 97th street.
 - b. 5 f. 4 Study of Central Park 1960s
- b. 1 f. 15 Printed Materials 1960s-1980s
 - b. 3 f. 4 Items include maps, pamphlets, and posters featuring the original isometric map of Manhattan as well as material with selections of particular blocks for individual purposes.
 - b. 5 f. 5
- b. 1 f. 16 Paris, France 1963
 - A map of Paris in 1736, republished by the Anderson Map Company in 1964.
 - Some of this material is in French.
 - b. 3 f. 5 World's Fair 1963-1964
 - Map of the parkgrounds of Flushing, Queens for the 1964 Worlds Fair.
- b. 1 f. 17 Astoria Project 1979
 - b. 3 f. 6