



Belmont, August, 1853-1924. Correspondence, 1902-1909.

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0.2 cubic ft.

Born in New York City, August Belmont (1853-1924) was the son of wealthy banker and diplomat, August Belmont, Sr. He graduated from Harvard and later, upon the death of his father in 1890, became head of the Belmont banking house. In 1902, he founded the Interborough Rapid Transit Company (which later merged with the Metropolitan Street Railway Company and became known as the Interborough-Metropolitan Company), operator of the first underground subway line in New York City. He may have been best-known, however, as the sportsman who stood for the breeding and racing of thoroughbreds in the face of anti-betting laws that threatened to end it. Belmont Park still stands as a witness to his success in that battle.

The collection, which spans the years 1902-1909, is comprised of thirty-one pieces of correspondence, most of which were business letters sent to Belmont while he was president of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, or its successor, the Interborough-Metropolitan Company. Topics discussed in these letters include the construction of the East River tunnel, conductors missing and stealing fares, and the case of *Burrows v. Interborough-Metropolitan Company*.

The collection also contains a few items of personal correspondence. Noteworthy among them is a note from American publisher Joseph Pulitzer (of Pulitzer Prize fame) thanking Belmont for taking him on a trip through the subway in his private subway car, *Mineola*, which is believed to have been the only private subway car ever made.

SUBJECTS

Names:

Belmont, August, 1853-1924.
Interborough-Metropolitan Company.
Interborough Rapid Transit Company.

Subjects:

Subways--New York (State)--New York--Design and construction--History.

Places:

New York (City).

Form and Genre Terms:

Correspondence.

August Belmont Correspondence, 1902-1909.

Box and Folder Listing

<u>Box / Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Inclusive dates</u>
1-1	Correspondence	1902-1903
1-2	Correspondence	1904-1906
1-3	Correspondence	1907-1909