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## **Inventory of the Shelton Adjustable Double Deck Car Company Collection, 1916-1928**

Processed by Blaine Lamb; machine-readable finding aid created by Gabriela A. Montoya

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## Inventory of the Shelton Adjustable Double Deck Car Company Collection, 1916-1928

### Collection number: MS 37

California State Railroad Museum Library

Sacramento, California

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Processed by:

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#### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Shelton Adjustable Double Deck Car Company Collection,

**Date (inclusive):** 1916-1928

**Collection number:** MS 37

**Creator:** Shelton Adjustable Double Deck Car Company

**Extent:** 2 cartons

**Repository:** California State Railroad Museum Library

Sacramento, California 95814

**Shelf location:** Big Four Building or off-site storage. Please contact the Library in advance of your visit.

**Language:** English.

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#### Preferred Citation

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#### Historical Background

The Shelton Adjustable Double Deck Car Company was organized in 1916 to manufacture and market a device invented by John B. Shelton for a movable deck to be installed in railroad box, refrigerator and stock cars. The officers of the company included Shelton as president and Guy V. Fleming as secretary. Offices were in San Francisco. A Canadian subsidiary also was established in 1919.

Over the years the company succeeded in installing adjustable car decks for test purposes on a number of railroads, including the Southern Pacific, Nevada-California-Oregon, Northwestern Pacific, Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, and Chicago and Alton. None of the railroads however, ordered the devices.

The company encountered financial difficulties in the 1920s, and in 1924 A. R. T. Lackie replaced Shelton as president. Further attempts were made to interest railroads in the adjustable car decks, but with little success. It appears as though the company ceased operation by the 1930s.

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### Collection Description

The collection consists of the business records of the Shelton Adjustable Double Deck Car Company, and includes the by-laws, minutes of the board of directors for the American and Canadian firms, stock sales books and patents information. There are also miscellaneous letters, stock transfer records and advertising materials. In addition, researchers will find photographs of the device in the Museum's photograph files and drawings in the drawings collection. Wood and brass advertising models of the adjustable car decks are located in the Museum's artifact collections.

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Box 1,	<b>Typewritten by-laws and minutes of the first meeting of the Shelton Adjustable Double Deck Car Company, January 24, 1916</b>
Volume Vol. 1	
Volume Vol. 2	<b>Typewritten minutes of the meetings of the Shelton Adjustable Double Deck Car Company, February 7, 1916-January 25, 1926</b>
Volume Vol. 3	<b>Typewritten minutes of the meetings of the Canadian Adjustable Double Deck Company, Limited, Vancouver, British Columbia, December 1, 1919-January 19, 1920.</b>
Volume Vol. 4-8	<b>Stock issue books containing receipts for stock issued, lists of persons to whom stocks were issued, the number of shares and the dates, 1916-1927.</b>
Box 2,	<b>Miscellaneous correspondence, 1918-1928</b>
Folder Folder 1	
Folder Folder 2	<b>Canadian Adjustable Double Deck Company certificate of incorporation, November 22, 1919</b>
Folder Folder 3	<b>Canadian stock transfer records, 1919</b>
Folder Folder 4	<b>Miscellaneous financial papers and minutes of meetings, 1922-1928</b>
Folder Folder 5	<b>Specification of letters patent, 1916-1917</b>
Folder Folder 6	<b>Assignments and letters of patent, 1916, 1917</b>
Folder Folder 7	<b>Combined adjustable stock and freight car patents along with supporting papers, 1926</b>
Folder Folder 8	<b>Promotional letters, 1923</b>
Folder Folder 9	<b>Advertising cards</b>
Folder Folder 10	<b>Advertising fliers</b>
Folder Folder 11	<b>Photocopies of photographs showing Shelton Adjustable Double Deck Car Company demonstration cars and models (originals located in CSRM photograph files)</b>
Folder Folder 12	<b>Miscellaneous clippings and envelopes</b>