

# Guide to the Robert E. Apfel Papers

MS 1870



compiled by William Landis

February 2010

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
mssa.assist@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Inventory, 1973-2000 .....	5
Selected Search Terms .....	6

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
mssa.assist@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1870

**CREATOR:** Apfel, Robert E.

**TITLE:** Robert E. Apfel papers

**DATES:** 1973-2000

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.25 linear feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection comprises teaching and administrative materials documenting the career of Yale mechanical engineering professor Robert E. Apfel. Teaching materials include lecture notes, examinations, and exercises for courses in acoustics, dynamics, mechanical design, and practical applications of engineering research. Administrative files document the proposed restructuring of Yale's engineering programs in the late 1980s to the early 1990s.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1870>

---

## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1870>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Nancy Apfel, 2006.

---

## Conditions Governing Access

While the collection as a whole is open for research, box 2 is restricted until January 1, 2033 as established by [Yale Corporation regulations](#).

---

## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright is retained by Nancy Apfel for materials in this collection authored or otherwise produced by Robert E. Apfel. After her lifetime, copyright passes to Yale University. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

---

## Preferred Citation

Robert E. Apfel Papers (MS 1870). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Robert E. Apfel was born on March 16, 1943, in New York City. He graduated magna cum laude from Tufts University in 1964 and received his PhD in Applied Physics, specializing in acoustics, from Harvard in 1970. He was a member of the Yale faculty for over three decades, serving as chair of the Council of Engineering during a critical time in the shaping of engineering education and research there. He was respected at Yale as a teacher and mentor of graduate students, receiving the Yale Graduate Mentor Award in 2002. He was an active member and served as president (1995-1996) of the Acoustical Society of America, receiving its Gold Medal Award in 2002. He published over 120 articles in thirty-six journals during his career. Apfel died in New Haven on August 1, 2002.

---

## Scope and Contents

The collection comprises teaching and administrative materials documenting the career of Yale mechanical engineering professor Robert E. Apfel. Teaching materials include lecture notes, examinations, and exercises for courses in acoustics, dynamics, mechanical design, and practical applications of engineering research. Administrative files document the proposed restructuring of Yale's engineering programs in the late 1980s to the early 1990s.

---

## Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

---

## Collection Contents

### Inventory, 1973-2000

#### Administrative files

b. 1, f. 1	Community outreach	1988-1989
b. 2, f. 1-3	Proposed restructuring of Engineering programs Material in box 2 is restricted until January 1, 2033 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations</a> .	1983-1993
b. 2, f. 4	Reports relating to Yale Faculty of Arts and Sciences and Engineering programs Material in box 2 is restricted until January 1, 2033 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations</a> .	1984-1997
b. 2, f. 5	Yale College foreign language requirement Material in box 2 is restricted until January 1, 2033 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations</a> .	1981-1990

#### Course materials

b. 1, f. 2	Acoustics	1984
b. 1, f. 3-6	Dynamics	1973-1997
b. 1, f. 7-10	Mechanical Design Studio	1982-1999
b. 1, f. 11-12	SynThesis	1998-2000

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Names**

Apfel, Robert E.

### **Corporate Body**

Yale University -- Faculty