

# Guide to the John Zeleny Papers

MS 1167



compiled by Nancy L. Fappiano

August 1980

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## 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 |
| Collection Contents .....             | 5 |
| Selected Search Terms .....           | 6 |

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1167

**CREATOR:** Zeleny, John, 1872-1951

**TITLE:** John Zeleny papers

**DATES:** 1897-1951

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Largely reprints of papers by John Zeleny (1897-1945), together with a volume of laboratory notes kept during his attendance at the University of Berlin (1897), biographical information, photographs, and a testimonial book presented to Zeleny upon his retirement in 1940.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1167>

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## 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.1167>.

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

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mrs. John Zeleny in 1980.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

John Zeleny Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

John Zeleny was born on March 26, 1872, in Racine, Wisconsin. He received his B.S. degree from the University of Minnesota in 1892, where he taught physics for five years. In 1897 Zeleny went abroad to study, spending six months at the University of Berlin and two years at Cambridge, where he did research work in the Cavendish Laboratory under Sir J. J. Thomson, the physicist. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1906 and two years later was named head of the physics department.

In 1915 he moved to Yale and served there as chairman of the physics department from 1920-1940. Zeleny retired from Yale in 1940 and died on June 20, 1951.

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## Scope and Contents

Largely reprints of papers by John Zeleny (1897-1945), together with a volume of laboratory notes kept during his attendance at the University of Berlin (1897), biographical information, photographs, and a testimonial book presented to Zeleny upon his retirement in 1940.

## Collection Contents

|             |   |                           |
|-------------|---|---------------------------|
| b. 1, f. 1  | Biographical sketches of John, Anthony, and Charles Zeleny; with family genealogy | undated                   |
| b. 1, f. 2  | Lab notes from Berlin   | 1897                      |
| b. 1, f. 3  | "The Place of Physics in the Modern World" [address]<br>English                   | 1928 November<br>30       |
|             | Reprints  |                           |
| b. 1, f. 4  | 1897-1899   |                           |
| b. 1, f. 5  | 1903-1919   |                           |
| b. 1, f. 6  | 1920-1929   |                           |
| b. 1, f. 7  | 1930-1938   |                           |
| b. 1, f. 8  | 1940-1945   |                           |
| b. 1, f. 9  | Invitations   | undated                   |
| b. 1, f. 10 | Obituary notices and eulogy by Alois F. Kovarik                                   | 1951                      |
| b. 1, f. 11 | Photographs   | 1898-1940                 |
| b. 2        | Oversize photographs  | 1920, 1929                |
| b. 2        | Diplomas  | 1892, 1897, 1906,<br>1915 |
| b. 2        | Testimonial book presented to John Zeleny upon his retirement                     | 1940                      |

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## **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.

### **Subjects**

Educators  
Physics  
Science

### **Occupations**

Physicists

### **Names**

Zeleny, John, 1872-1951

### **Corporate Bodies**

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  
Yale University. Physics Department  
Yale University -- Faculty