## **Guide to the Abraham Robinson Papers**

MS 826



compiled by Diane E. Kaplan

July 1990

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## **Collection Overview**

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CALL NUMBER:	MS 826
CREATOR:	Robinson, Abraham, 1918-1974
TITLE:	Abraham Robinson papers
DATES:	1918-1988
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:	6.75 linear feet
LANGUAGE:	English
SUMMARY:	The papers consist of correspondence and writings which document Abraham Robinson's professional life and work. Draft and printed copies of Robinson's books and papers comprise the bulk of the papers. Student memorabilia, diaries, and biographical material are also included in the papers.
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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box folder f.

## Administrative Information

## **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Gift of Renee Robinson, 1976-1992; and acquired from the Jewish National and University Library, 1993.

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## **Preferred** Citation

Abraham Robinson Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

## **Biographical / Historical**

Abraham Robinson was born on October 6, 1918, in Waldenburg, Germany. His father Abraham Robinsohn was a writer, philosopher, and ardent Zionist, who died just prior to his son's birth. The family moved to Breslau in 1925, and when Robinson was fourteen, he emigrated with his mother Hedwig Lotte Robinsohn and brother Saul to Palestine. He was a student at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem from 1936-1939, where he studied mathematics with Abraham Fraenkel.

In 1939 Robinson won a scholarship to the Sorbonne to continue his studies, but soon after his arrival in Paris the Nazis invaded France. Robinson escaped to England, where he volunteered for the Free French Air Force. In January, 1942, he joined the British forces and was appointed scientific officer in the Ministry of Aircraft Production. He was assigned to the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough. Robinson's work was in the Structures and Mechanical Engineering Department and later in the Aerodynamics Department. It was during this time that he met his future wife, Renee Kopel. They were married on January 30, 1944.

In 1946 Robinson joined the staff of the newly established College of Aeronautics at Cranfield as a senior lecturer in charge of the teaching of mathematics. His work and publications to this date had qualified him to receive a M.Sc. degree from the Hebrew University. During the immediate post-war years, Robinson was also working on a thesis, "The Metamathematics of Algebraic Systems," under the supervision of P. Dienes of Birkbeck College. Robinson received his Ph.D. from the University of London in 1949. From this time on Robinson's research was directed less towards aeronautics and more towards logic and mathematical foundations.

In 1950 Robinson became the deputy head of the department of aerodynamics at the College of Aeronautics, but he left there in 1951 to become an associate professor in the department of applied mathematics at the University of Toronto. In 1956 he was named professor and chairman of the department. His teaching involved a graduate course on wing theory as well as courses in fluid dynamics and partial differential equations. He also continued writing a book on wing theory with a former student J. A. Laurmann, which was published in 1956. His research in logic led to the publication of *Theorie Metamematique des Ideaux* (1955) and *Complete Theories*(1956). Robinson also produced papers on model theory and its applications to the theory of algebraically closed fields.

From 1957 until 1962, Robinson taught at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, occupying the chair in mathematics of his teacher Professor Fraenkel. In Israel, as he did for most of the rest of his life, Robinson devoted himself almost entirely to pure mathematics. His work from his years in Jerusalem and from 1960-1961, which Robinson spent as a visiting professor at Princeton University, were early explorations in nonstandard analysis, a field in which Robinson did pioneering work, and resulted in the publication (1963) of Introduction to Model Theory and the Metamathematics of Algebra.

From the Hebrew University Robinson went on to teach as a professor of mathematics and philosophy at the University of California, Los Angeles (1962-1967) and then as professor and Sterling Professor of mathematics at Yale University (1967-1974). At UCLA Robinson served on the university's Committe on Education Policy and was its chairman during the academic year 1964-1965. He was also a member of the Academic Council which conferred with the president of the University of California system concerning

issues involving all nine campuses in the system. *Numbers and Ideals* (1965), *Non-Standard Analysis* (1966), and *Contributions to Non-Standard Analysis* (1972) along with numerous articles were published during these years.

From 1968-1970 Robinson served as president of the Association for Symbolic Logic. He was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1972 and received the Brouwer Medal of the Dutch Mathematical Society in 1973. His election to the National Academy of Sciences was awarded posthumously after his untimely death on April 11, 1974.

For a fuller biography of Abraham Robinson and analysis of Robinson's contributions to applied and pure mathematics, the reader is advised to consult the introductory pages in each of the three volumes of *Selected Papers of Abraham Robinson*, edited by H. J. Keisler, S. Körner, W. A. J. Luxemburg, and A. D. Young, (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1979). The volumes are included in box 1 of the Abraham Robinson Papers.

## Scope and Contents

The Abraham Robinson Papers consist of correspondence, writings, and memorabilia, which document the professional career of Abraham Robinson. The papers also include a smaller quantity of personal and family papers. Manuscripts and printed copies of Robinson's articles and books comprise the bulk of the papers. There is very little correspondence in the papers, most of which dates from the last few years of Robinson's life. Renee Robinson donated her husband's papers to the Yale University Library between 1976 and 1993.

Series I, WRITINGS, begins with the three volume printed copy of *Selected Papers of Abraham Robinson*. The folders following these volumes contain manuscripts, printed copies, and notes for the many books and papers by Robinson. The folders are arranged in order according to the bibliography published in *Selected Papers*, with books coming first, papers next, followed by films, and encyclopaedia articles. Numbers in parentheses following the titles of papers refer to the numbers in the published bibliography. Each numbered paper on the bibliography is represented in Series I.

At the end of the series are folders which contain writings not listed in the bibliography. These include book reviews by Robinson, manuscripts, print or near print items, and notes, as well as course material from the several institutions at which Robinson taught. The book reviews come first, followed by the other unlisted writings. The titles for these writings are derived from notes or labels on the manuscripts. They are arranged in chronological order. Course materials, including lecture notes and examination questions, are arranged at the very end of the series and are identified by institution and course title where possible.

Series II, CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER PAPERS BY AND ABOUT ABRAHAM ROBINSON, includes all papers, other than writings, donated to the Yale University Library. These include materials created by Robinson as well as family records collected by him. In addition there are materials about Robinson collected by Mrs. Robinson to document the life and achievements of her husband and to facilitate the work of those compiling the biographical and analytical sections in *Selected Papers of Abraham Robinson*.

The series begins with Robinson's correspondence, most of which dates from the last decade of Robinson's life. Correspondence is in English, Hebrew, and German. References to Robinson's publications are included in the exchanges with publishers and co-authors. There is also correspondence relating to Robinson's work with professional organizations, notably the Association for Symbolic Logic, letters concerning professional appointments under the names of various institutions, and invitations to deliver papers at other institutions and conferences.

The remainder of the series is arranged alphabetically by record type. Some of this material such as notecards concerning mathematical bibliography, programs and announcements for Robinson's lectures, reviews of Robinson's published work, and honors and award certificates, diplomas and citations, dates from Robinson's lifetime. Of particular interest are diaries Robinson kept. In one from 1933, written in German, Robinson recorded the experience of fleeing Nazi Germany, from Breslau to Berlin, Munich, and then to Italy. In a second diary or reminiscence, written in Hebrew, Robinson recorded his impressions of life in France during the winter of 1940 and then of his escape to England after the Nazi invasion in June. Other papers in Robinson's hand include student notes in German and Hebrew. Several documents including

identity cards and military orders date from Robinson's service with the Free French and British military forces.

Other material in the series dates from after Robinson's death in 1974. This material includes correspondence of Mrs. Robinson, letters of condolence, reminiscences of Abraham Robinson, and programs and remarks from memorial services, dedication ceremonies, and conferences in memory of Abraham Robinson. Published material which refers to Abraham Robinson's life and work, both from his lifetime and after his death, is also collected in this series.

#### Arrangement

Arranged in two series: I. Writings. II. Correspondence and Other Papers.

## Collection Contents Series I: Writings, 1939-1988

#### 5.25′ (13 boxes)

This series is arranged according to the bibliography of Abraham Robinson's writings published in *Selected Papers of Abraham Robinson*. Writings and notes not listed in this bibliography are arranged at the end of the series.

	Books	
b. 1, f. 1	Selected Papers of Abraham Robinson, volume 1	1979
b. 1, f. 2	Selected Papers of Abraham Robinson, volume 2	1979
b. 1, f. 3	Selected Papers of Abraham Robinson, volume 3	1979
b. 2, f. 4-7	On the Metamathematics of Algebraic Systems	1947-1948
b. 2, f. 8	Wing Theory la	1956
b. 2, f. 9	Wing Theory Ib	1956
b. 2, f. 10	Wing Theory IIa	1956
b. 2, f. 11	Wing Theory IIb	1956
b. 2, f. 12	Introduction to Model Theory and the Metamathematics of Algebra	1963
b. 3, f. 13	Introduction to Model Theory and the Metamathematics of Algebra	1963
b. 3, f. 14	Introduction to Model Theory and the Metamathematics of Algebra: preface to the Italian edition	9 1973
b. 3, f. 15	Numbers and Ideas	1965
b. 3, f. 16-17	Non-Standard Analysis of Normed Space	1963
b. 3, f. 18-19	Contributions to Non-Standard Analysis	1972
b. 4, f. 20	Non-Standard Analysis: preface to the second edition	Circa 1974
b. 4, f. 21-23	Nonarchimedean Fields and Asymptotic Expansions	undated
b. 4, f. 24a	Algebra — A Model Theoretic Viewpoint	undated
	Papers	
b. 4, f. 24b	On the Independence of the Axioms of Definiteness (1)	1939
b. 4, f. 25	On Nil Ideas in General Rings (2)	1939
b. 4, f. 26	On a Certain Variation of the Distributive Law for a Commutative Algebraic Field (3)	1941
b. 4, f. 27	Shock Transmission in Beams of Variable Characteristics (4)	1945
b. 4, f. 28	A Minimum Energy Theorem in Aerodynamics (5)	1945

b. 4, f. 29	A Note on the Interpretation of V-G Records (6)	1945
b. 4, f. 30	The Aerodynamic Loading of Wings with Endplates (7)	1950
b. 4, f. 31	The Wave Drag of Diamond-Shaped Aerofoils at Zero Incidence (8)	1950
b. 4, f. 32	Acoustic Analysis in Calculating Supersonic Resistance (9)	1947
b. 4, f. 33	Shock Transmission in Beams (10)	1950
b. 4, f. 34	Aerofoil Theory of a Flat Delta Wing at Supersonic Speed (11)	1946
b. 4, f. 35	Flutter Derivatives of a Wing-Tailpipe Combination (12)	1947
b. 4, f. 36	The Characterization of Algebraic Plane Curves (13)	1947
b. 4, f. 37	Note on the Application of the Linearized Theory for Compressible Flow to Transonic Speeds (14)	1951
b. 5, f. 38	The Effect of the Sweepback of Delta Wings on the Performance of an Aircraft at Supersonic Speeds (15)	1951
b. 5, f. 39	Interference on a Wing Due to a Body at Supersonic Speeds (16)	1952
b. 5, f. 40	Rotary Derivatives of a Delta Wing at Supersonic Speeds (17)	1948
b. 5, f. 41	On Some Problems of Unsteady Supersonic Airfoil Theory (18)	1948
b. 5, f. 42	Bound and Trailing Vortices in the Linearized Theory of Supersonic Flow, and the Downwash in the Wake of a Delta Wing (19)	1952
b. 5, f. 43	On Source and Vortex Distributions in the Linearized Theory of Steady Supersonic Flow (20)	1948
b. 5, f. 44	The Aerodynamic Derivatives with Respect to Sideslip for a Delta Wing with Small Dihedral at Supersonic Speeds (21)	1952
b. 5, f. 45	Numerical Solutions of Integral Equations (22)	1949
b. 5, f. 46	On Non-Associative Systems (23)	1949
b. 5, f. 47	On the Integration on Hyperbolic Differential Equations (24)	1950
b. 5, f. 48	On Functional Transformations and Summability (25)	1950
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b. 5, f. 52	On Axiomatic Systems Which Possess Finite Models (29)	1951
b. 5, f. 53	Aerofoil Theory for Swallow Tail Wings of Small Aspect Ratio (30)	1952
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b. 6, f. 65	Further Remarks on Ordered Fields and Definite Functions (42)	1956
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b. 6, f. 89	Elementary Properties of Ordered Abelian Groups (66)	1960
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b. 9, f. 147	Nonstandard Arithmetic and Generic Arithmetic (125)	1971
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b. 10, f. 155	Algorithms in Algebra—A Memorial Tribute to Abraham Robinson (133)	1975
b. 10, f. 156	On Constrained Denotation (134)	1974
b. 10, f. 157-158	<i>Non-standard Analysis</i> : Material concerning a lecture filmed by the Mathematical Association of America 1 Videocassette (VHS)	1970
b. <b>19</b>	Film of lecture [PAL format] 1 Videocassette (VHS) 1 videotape (VHS, PAL)	1970
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	Articles published in encyclopaedias	
b. 10, f. 159	Mathematical Logic and the Foundations of Mathematics	1978
b. 10, f. 160	Dictionary of Scientific Biography	1966-1967
b. 11, f. 161	Thoughts on the [Root?] Article in Mathematics [Encyclopedia Britannica]	1965
	Writings not on the published bibliography	
b. 11, f. 162	Royal Aircraft Establishment, Data for Weight Estimation	1942
b. 11, f. 163	Note on the General Design of T. B. R. Aircraft	1943 July
b. 11, f. 164	Linear Transformations of Infinite Sequences and the Theory of the Core	1946 February- October

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b. 11, f. 165	Logical Field Theory	1947
b. 11, f. 166	Linear Geometry in Rings with Zero Divisors	Circa 1950
b. <b>11</b> , f. <b>167</b>	On the Foundations of Dimensional Analysis	1951
b. <b>11</b> , f. <b>168</b>	On Rational Tests in Algebra	1951-1957
b. 11, f. 169	Colloquium on the Foundations of Mathematics	1954
b. 11, f. 170	Book reviews	Circa 1956-1969
b. 11, f. 171	On the Transformation of Convex Point Sets	1957-1962
b. 11, f. 172	On the Independence of the Axioms of Definiteness	1957-1962
b. 11, f. 173	Lectures on Differential Algebra	1959
b. 11, f. 174	Mathematical Logic and Mechanical Mathematics I	1965-1966
b. <b>11</b> , f. <b>175</b>	Mathematical Logic and Mechanical Mathematics II	1965-1966
b. 11, f. 176	Forcing by finitely generated structures	Circa 1969-1970
b. 11, f. 177a	Non-standard analysis — transparencies for a presentation	Circa 1971
b. <b>11</b> , f. <b>177b</b>	Abraham Robinson's Notes on a Relatively Effective Procedure Getting all Quasi-integer Solutions of Diophantine Equations with Positive Genus	1988
b. <b>12</b> , f. <b>178</b>	Topicos da Teoria Dos Modelos	1972
b. 12, f. 179	Mathematical Thought	undated
b. 12, f. 180	"Mathematical Method: A Lecture on the Solution of Mathematical Problems in General" English	undated
b. 12, f. 181	Logic as the Science of Mathematical Reasoning	undated
b. 12, f. 182	Metamathematical Logic - Lattice Theory	undated
b. <b>12</b> , f. <b>183</b>	"Open Sets and Closed Curves" for Open Set Scientific Society English	undated
b. 12, f. 184	Beweis des Grossen Fermatschen Satzes für Alle Potewzen 4 in (u gauazalig)	undated
b. 12, f. 185	Extension Theory of Commutative Fields	undated
b. 12, f. 186	Model theory - transparency	undated
b. 12, f. 187	On Hilbert's Irreducibility Theorem	undated
b. 12, f. 188	On Integral Relations for Lané functions	undated
b. 12, f. 189	Solution of Ritt's Decomposition Problem	undated
b. 12, f. 190	Vollständigkeits in der Metamathematick der Algebra	undated
b. 12, f. 191	Fragments	undated

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b. 12, f. 193	University of Toronto: lecture notes on wave propagation	1955-1956
b. 12, f. 194	University of Toronto: annual examinations	1951-1957
b. 12, f. 195	College of Aeronautics: lecture notes on stochastic processes	Circa 1950
b. 13, f. 196	University of California, Los Angeles	1961, 1963
b. 13, f. 197	Yale University: lecture notes on set theory	1968-1973
b. 13, f. 198	Yale University	1969-1970, 1973
b. <b>13</b> , f. <b>199</b>	Yale University: notes on logic [model theory], Math 160a and 160b; student notes on course by Gregory Charlin	1967-1968
b. 13, f. 200	Yale University: lecture notes on model theory	1969-1970
b. 13, f. 201	Lecture notes on mathematical logic	1970

# Series II: Correspondence and Other Papers by and about Abraham Robinson, 1918-1985

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The series is arranged in alphabetical order by record type.

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	American Mathematical Monthly See: <u>box 15, folder 232</u>	
	Anderson, Alan Ross See: <u>box 14, folders 203-204</u>	
b. 14, f. 203-204	Association for Symbolic Logic	1967-1974
b. 14, f. 205	В	
	Benacerraf, Paul See: <u>box 14, folders 203-204</u>	
b. 14, f. 206	Bucknell University	1973-1974
b. 14, f. 207	С	
b. 14, f. 208	Cambridge University Press	1960-1971
	Church, Alonzo See: <u>box 14, folders 203-204</u>	
	Craig, William See: <u>box 14, folders 203-204</u>	
b. 14, f. 209	Curry, Haskell B.	1952-1970
b. 14, f. 210	D	
b. 14, f. 211	Dictionary of Scientific Biography	1966-1975
	Dreben, B. S. See: <u>box 14, folders 203-204</u>	
b. 14, f. 212	E	
b. 14, f. 213	F	
	Fenstad, Jens E. See: <u>box 14, folders 203-204</u>	
b. 14, f. 214	G	
b. 14, f. 215	Gauthier-Villars, Éditeur	1966-1973, undated

#### Correspondence of Abraham Robinson (continued)

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#### b. 18, f. 275 Yale University Conference on Model Theory

1984

### 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

Aerodynamics Logic, Symbolic and mathematical Mathematics -- Study and teaching Model theory Nonstandard mathematical analysis

#### **Genres / Formats**

Diaries

#### Occupations

Mathematicians

#### Names

Robinson, Abraham, 1918-1974

#### **Corporate Bodies**

Association for Symbolic Logic College of Aeronautics (Cranfield, Bedfordshire) Universițah ha-'Ivrit bi-Yerushalayim University of California, Los Angeles -- Faculty University of Toronto -- Faculty Yale University. Dept. of Mathematics Yale University -- Faculty