



# ArchivesSpace

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## **Andrew Alpern collection of drawing instruments6179350**

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on February 05, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Alpern, Andrew
<b>Title:</b>	Andrew Alpern collection of drawing instruments
<b>ID:</b>	6179350
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1700-2004
<b>Physical Description:</b>	177 groups of instruments
<b>Physical Description:</b>	12 groups of miscellaneous items
<b>Physical Description:</b>	119 volumes of printed material
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 folder of archival materials
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Andrew Alpern Collection of Drawing Instruments, circa 1700-2004. Located in Columbia University, Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, Dept. of Drawings & Archives.

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## Biographical / Historical

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The items in this collection were gathered by New York architect, historian, and attorney Andrew Alpern over forty years, primarily by purchase at auction and from private dealers in the United States and Europe.

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## Summary

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This collection primarily contains 177 groups of English, Continental and American drafting sets and individual instruments dating from circa 1700 to 2004. These instruments were used to create technical drawings, typically by architects, draftsmen, engineers, surveyors, and students. Complementing the instruments are a small group of miscellaneous items, including medals, a model, a necktie, and a charm bracelet, and a large group of published materials, including trade catalogs and other technical, biographical, historical, and scholarly writings about drafting and scientific instruments and related subjects.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is divided into thirteen series, according to type, as follows: Series I: English Sets in Pocket Étuis; Series II: English Sets in Magazine Cases; Series III: Continental Sets; Series IV: American Sets; Series V: 20th-century Sets; Series VI: Scales and Rules; Series VII: Protractors; Series VIII: Proportional Dividers; Series IX: Specialized Sets and Individual Instruments; Series X: Slide Rules and Other Computational Devices; Series XI: Triangles and French Curves; Series XII: Miscellaneous Items; Series XIII: Books, Journals and Catalogues.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

### Restrictions on Access

Due to the fragile condition of the instruments, availability to this collection is limited. For further information, please email [avery-drawings@library.columbia.edu](mailto:avery-drawings@library.columbia.edu).

### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Source of acquisition--Gift of Andrew Alpern. Accession number--2006.006.

### **Processing Information**

Collection Processed avr 2007.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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- Architectural drawing -- Equipment and supplies
- Architectural drawing -- Equipment and supplies -- Catalogs
- Architectural drawing -- Equipment and supplies -- Handbooks, manuals, etc
- Drawing
- Surveying -- Instruments
- Mechanical drawing
- Keuffel & Esser Co
- Negretti and Zambra
- Theo. Alteneder & Sons -- : Catalogs

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## **Other Finding Aids**

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Collection inventory is available as [a PDF file](#).

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## General Note

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This collection was processed by Andrew Alpern prior to the collection's arrival at Avery Library. All descriptions, attributions of maker, and dates were provided by Mr. Alpern

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## Collection Inventory

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**Request Collection: Andrew Alpern collection of drawing instruments**

item  
Request  
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