



# Stakman (E.C.) papers

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 05, 2021.  
English

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue  
Sleepy Hollow 10591

[archive@rockarch.org](mailto:archive@rockarch.org)

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical / Historical .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
File Plan .....	4
Administrative Information .....	5
Controlled Access Headings .....	5
Collection Inventory .....	6

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	Rockefeller Archive Center
<b>Creator - aut:</b>	Stakman, E. C. (Elvin Charles), 1885-1979
<b>Creator:</b>	Rockefeller Foundation
<b>Title:</b>	E.C. Stakman papers
<b>ID:</b>	FA052
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1911-1969
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.95 Cubic Feet 3 letter document cases
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical / Historical

---

Plant pathologist, educator, and humanitarian, Elvin Charles Stakman was one of the most important figures in agricultural science during the first half of the twentieth century. He was born on May 17, 1885, at Algoma, Wisconsin, and received his undergraduate (1906) and Ph.D. degrees (1913) from the University of Minnesota. From 1909 until 1953 he was a member of the faculty of that university, retiring with the rank of Distinguished Professor.

Dr. Stakman's principal scientific fame came from his studies of wheat stem rusts. He discovered that this crop disease was not a single stable entity but a fungus that evolved into new strains which could infect plants resistant to its earlier forms. Among the scientists who collaborated in his efforts to control this blight and develop new rust-resistant strains of wheat were Norman Borlaug, who won a Nobel Prize for his work, and J. George Harrar, later president of The Rockefeller Foundation. Both were graduate students of Dr. Stakman.

Dr. Stakman played a major role in the Rockefeller Foundation's efforts to increase food production in developing countries. This grew out of an assignment in the 1940s on behalf of the Foundation to undertake an examination of agricultural productivity in Mexico. His recommendation that the Foundation initiate a major program to improve crop yields in developing countries led to the Foundation's early involvement in the so-called "Green Revolution."

After his retirement from the University of Minnesota in 1953, Dr. Stakman worked as a consultant for The Rockefeller Foundation, a post he retained until his death. He also accepted a series of visiting professorships at universities in the United States, Mexico, and India during this period.

Dr. Stakman married Louise Jensen, a member of the University of Minnesota faculty, on September 6, 1917. She predeceased him. Dr. Stakman died in St. Paul, Minnesota, on January 22, 1979.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents

---

The E. C. Stakman Papers contain few items of a personal nature. Consisting of clippings, correspondence, program notes listing Dr. Stakman as a speaker, reprints, and speeches (mostly testimonials to Dr. Stakman), the papers reflect only the public side of his career. Over three-quarters of this collection consists of reprints. Most of the correspondence here is incoming rather than from the hand of Dr. Stakman. Only a few items reflect his activities on behalf of The Rockefeller Foundation.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement

---

The E. C. Stakman Papers are arranged alphabetically by document type: clippings, correspondence, program notes and news releases, reprints, and speeches.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## File Plan

---

Former Classification: IV 2A 35

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

[archive@rockarch.org](mailto:archive@rockarch.org)

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

### Conditions Governing Access

Open for research. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC. Researchers interested in accessing digital media (floppy disks, CDs, DVDs, etc.) or audiovisual material (audio cassettes, VHS, etc.) in this collection must use an access surrogate. The original items may not be accessed because of preservation concerns. To request an access surrogate be made, or if you are unsure if there is an access surrogate, please contact an archivist.

### Conditions Governing Use

Reproduction/duplication of archival items is routinely provided in accordance with "fair use." If the RAC does not hold copyright for an archival collection, or items within a collection, it is the user's responsibility to contact the copyright holder, or make a fair effort to do so, prior to publication.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

E. C. Stakman donated his papers to The Rockefeller Foundation between November 1967 and April 1971.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

- Agriculture

## Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Clippings, 1927-1958 and n.d. <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	box 1	folder 1
Correspondence, 1919, 1932-1954	box 1	folder 2
Program Notes and News Releases, 1939-1967	box 1	folder 3
Reprints, 1911-1929	box 1	folder 4
Reprints, 1911-1929	box 1	folder 5
Reprints, 1911-1929	box 1	folder 6
Reprints, 1911-1929	box 1	folder 7
Reprints, 1930-1960	box 2	folder 8
Reprints, 1930-1960	box 2	folder 9
Reprints, 1930-1960	box 2	folder 10
Reprints, 1930-1960	box 2	folder 11
Reprints, 1930-1960	box 2	folder 12
Reprints, 1961-1969	box 3	folder 13
Speeches, 1948-1965	box 3	folder 14