



Stakman (E.C.) papers

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English

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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

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

Preferred Citation

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[^ 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

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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. | 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 |