Guide to the Eugene Parker Papers 1948-2018
## Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Descriptive Summary</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on Use</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biographical Note</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope Note</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related Resources</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject Headings</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INVENTORY</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series I: Personal</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series II: Correspondence</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series III: Writing</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series IV: Teaching</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series V: Professional Associations and Events</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series VI: Writing by Others</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subseries 1: Materials Related to Other Astrophysicists</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subseries 2: Scientific Publications</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series VII: Awards, Honors, and Degrees</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series VIII: Audiovisual</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series IX: Oversize</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series X: Restricted</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Descriptive Summary

Identifier ICU.SPCL.PARKERE
Title Parker, Eugene. Papers
Date 1948-2018
Size 12.5 linear feet (18 boxes)
Repository Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract Eugene Parker was an astrophysicist and University of Chicago professor best known for predicting the existence of solar wind. In addition to heliophysics, Parker also studied cosmic rays and magnetic fields. The collection includes Parker’s email correspondence; scientific and personal photographs; reprints of Parker’s scientific publications from 1952 to 2016; lecture notes and overhead projector slides from Parker’s courses; materials related to astrophysicist Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar; scientific publications written by others; and Parker’s awards and diplomas. Materials date between 1948 and 2018, with the bulk of material dating between 1952 and 2011.

Information on Use

Access
This collection is open for research with the exception of material in Series X. This series contains Parker’s letters of recommendation, which are restricted for 80 years from the date of record creation.

Citation
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Parker, Eugene. Papers, [Box #, Folder #], Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library.

Biographical Note
Eugene Newman Parker was born on June 10, 1927 in Houghton, Michigan. His father, Glenn Parker, worked as an engineer at Chrysler and his mother, Helen Parker (MacNair) worked as a homemaker. Parker earned a B.S. in Physics from Michigan State University in 1948 and a PhD from the California Institute of Technology in 1951.
In 1954, Eugene married Niesje Parker. The couple had one son, Eric Parker, and one daughter, Joyce Marie Parker.

After finishing his PhD, Parker worked at the University of Utah as an instructor and assistant professor. He was hired by the University of Chicago in 1955, where he worked for the rest of his career. In 1958, Parker published his prediction of the existence of solar wind, a continuous outpouring of charged particles flowing from the sun at a million miles per hour. His idea was met with widespread skepticism from fellow physicists, including the reviewers of the paper and the editor of the publication. Parker’s prediction was verified, however, when NASA’s Mariner II spacecraft encountered a flow of solar particles during its flight to Venus in 1962.

In addition to heliophysics, Parker also studied cosmic rays and magnetic fields. His four books include Interplanetary Dynamical Processes (1963), Cosmical Magnetic Fields: Their Origin and Their Activity (1979), Spontaneous Current Sheets in Magnetic Fields, with Applications to Stellar X-rays (1994), and Conversations on Electric and Magnetic Fields in the Cosmos (2007). He retired in 1995 but continued to teach and publish work in the following decades.

Parker won numerous awards throughout his career, including the National Medal of Science, the Kyoto Prize, and the American Physical Society Medal for Exceptional Achievement in Research. He was member of the National Academy of Sciences and served as chair for the Academy’s astronomy section. In 2017, NASA named its solar probe the Parker Solar Probe in his honor, marking the first time NASA named a spacecraft after a living person.

Eugene Parker died in Chicago on March 15, 2022 at the age of 94.

**Scope Note**

The Eugene Parker Papers are organized into ten series: Series I: Personal; Series II: Correspondence; Series III: Writing; Series IV: Teaching; Series V: Professional Associations and Events; Series VI: Writing by Others; Series VII: Awards, Honors, and Degrees; Series VIII: Audiovisual; Series IX: Oversize; and Series X: Restricted. The collection includes Parker’s email correspondence; reprints of Parker’s scientific publications from 1952 to 2016; lecture notes and overhead projector slides from Parker’s courses; materials related to astrophysicist Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar; scientific publications written by others; scientific and personal photographs; and Parker’s awards and diplomas. Materials date between 1948 and 2018, with the bulk of material dating between 1952 and 2011.

Series I, Personal, contains biographical and autobiographical information on Parker and ephemera.
Series II, Correspondence, contains Parker’s letters, handwritten notes, and printed emails, including correspondence related to the Parker Solar Probe.

Series III, Writing, contains Parker’s thesis manuscript, reprinted papers, reports, articles, publications, and pamphlets. Reprinted papers are ordered roughly chronologically. All other writing is organized chronologically following the reprinted papers.

Series IV, Teaching, contains Parker’s lecture notes and overhead projector slides from the 2000s and 2010s. Materials are organized alphabetically according to the lecture title.

Series V, Professional Associations and Events, contains materials related to Parker’s professional life, such as newsletters, bulletins, dinner lists and menus, and symposium programs. Organizations include but are not limited to the Instrument Society of America, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the NATO Advanced Study Institute on Solar and Astrophysical Magnetohydrodynamic Flows. Materials are arranged chronologically.

Series VI, Writing by Others, contains materials concerning other astrophysicists and scientific publications not written by Eugene Parker. Materials are divided into two subseries:

Subseries 1, Materials Related to Other Astrophysicists, contains reprints by and memorials to Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, reprints and correspondence with Joseph Lemaire, and reprints by Sydney Chapman. Materials are arranged alphabetically according to the last name of the astrophysicist.

Subseries 2, Scientific Publications, contains copies of the publication The Planetary Report (1983-1985) and other scientific articles and pamphlets, including materials published by NASA. Materials are arranged roughly chronologically.

Series VII, Awards, Honors, and Degrees, contains awards, medals, and degrees granted to Parker, as well as his university degrees, diplomas, certificates, and acceptance speeches. Material are arranged chronologically according to the award date.

Series VIII, Audiovisual, contains Parker’s scientific and personal photographs from 1965 to 2000 and a DVD recording of a workshop.

Series IX, Oversize, contains oversized materials such as framed awards, diplomas, and honorary degrees. Materials are organized according to size.
Series X, Restricted, contains Parker’s letters of recommendation, which are restricted for 80 years from the date of record creation. Materials are organized chronologically.

**Related Resources**

- Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar Papers
- Peter Meyer Papers
- David N. Schramm Papers
- Lalitha Chandrasekhar Papers
- Edwin B. Frost Papers
- George Ellery Hale Papers
- George van Biesbroeck Papers
- Henry Gordon Gale Papers
- University of Chicago Division of the Physical Sciences Records
- University of Chicago Yerkes Observatory Logbooks and Notebooks

**Subject Headings**

- Parker, E.N. (Eugene Newman), 1927-2022
- Chandrasekhar, S. (Subrahmanyan), 1910-1995
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- University of Chicago. Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics
- American Physical Society
- National Academy of Sciences (U.S.)
- Astrophysics
- Astrophysicists
- Solar wind

**INVENTORY**

**Series I: Personal**

This series contains biographical and autobiographical information on Parker and ephemera.

*Box 1*

*Folder 1*
Biographical Information, CV, and Correspondence, 1997-2013

Box 1
Folder 2
  Solar Eclipse Viewers, 1991

Box 1
Folder 3
  Images from the Chandra X-Ray Observatory Calendar, 2001

Series II: Correspondence

This series contains Parker’s letters, handwritten notes, and printed emails, including correspondence related to the Parker Solar Probe.

Box 1
Folder 4
  Correspondence, 1990-2016

Box 1
Folder 5
  Correspondence Related to Parker Solar Probe, 2009

Series III: Writing

This series contains Parker’s thesis manuscript, reprinted papers, reports, articles, publications, and pamphlets. Reprinted papers are ordered roughly chronologically. All other writing is organized chronologically following the reprinted papers.

Box 1
Folder 6
  Reprinted Papers 1-44, 1952-1961

Box 1
Folder 7
  Reprinted Papers 45-75, 1960-1964

Box 1
Folder 8
  Reprinted Papers 76-97, 1963-1966

Box 2
Folder 1

Box 2
Folder 2
  Reprinted Papers 125-142, 1968-1970

Box 2
Folder 3
  Reprinted Papers 143-184, 1969-1975

Box 2
Folder 4
  Reprinted Papers 185-201, 1974-1977

Box 3
Folder 1
  Reprinted Papers 202-228, 1978-1982
Box 3
Folder 2
Box 3
Folder 3
Box 3
Folder 4
Box 3
Folder 5
  Reprinted Papers 292-301, 1989-1990
Box 4
Folder 1
  Reprinted Papers 302-319, 1990-1993
Box 4
Folder 2
Box 4
Folder 3
  Reprinted Papers 337-340, 1996
Box 4
Folder 4
  Reprinted Papers 341-349, 1994-1996
Box 4
Folder 5
Box 4
Folder 6
Box 4
Folder 7
  Reprinted Papers 361-376, 1997-2000
Box 5
Folder 1
Box 5
Folder 2
  Reprinted Papers 390-392, 2001-2004
Box 5
Folder 3
  Reprinted Papers 391-396, 2002-2006
Box 5
Folder 4
Reprinted Papers 394-408, 2006-2012

Box 5
Folder 5
  Reprinted Papers 410, 2013

Box 5
Folder 6
  Reprinted Papers 411-412, 2016

Box 6
Folder 1
  Thesis Manuscript — Interstellar Dust and Gas Clouds, 1951

Box 6
Folder 2
  Research on Global Warming, circa 1990s [1/2]

Box 6
Folder 3
  Research on Global Warming, circa 1990s [2/2]

Box 6
Folder 4
  Assessing the Changing Moods of the Sun and the Climate of Earth, 1999

Box 6
Folder 5
  A History of the Solar Wind Concept, 2001

Box 6
Folder 6
  Parker Wind, 2008

Box 6
Folder 7
  Hydrodynamics and the Kinetic Treatment of a Collisionless Atmosphere, 2008

Box 6
Folder 8
  Solar Activity: From Galileo’s Sunspots to the Heliosphere, 2009

Box 6
Folder 9
  The Legacy of Jack Eddy, 2010

Box 6
Folder 10
  Wherefore Physics? 2011

Box 6
Folder 11
  Physics and the World, circa 2011

Box 6
Folder 12
  Diverse Scientific Contributions, undated

Box 6
Folder 13
  Citations and Notes, undated
Series IV: Teaching

This series contains Parker’s lecture notes and overhead projector slides from the 2000s and 2010s. Materials are organized alphabetically according to the lecture title.

Box 7
Folder 1
The Applicability of Hydrodynamics — Lecture Notes and Overhead Projector Slides, circa 2000s

Box 7
Folder 2
A Brief History of the Dynamo Concept — Lecture Notes and Overhead Projector Slides, circa 2000s

Box 7
Folder 3
Cosmic Rays and Space Travelers — Lecture Notes and Overhead Projector, circa 2006

Box 7
Folder 4
Discovery and Investigation of Solar Magnetism — Lecture Notes and Overhead Projector Slides, circa 2000s

Box 7
Folder 5
Electromagnetic Preliminaries and Ongoing Developments in Plasma Physics — Lecture Notes and Overhead Projector Slides, circa 2010s

Box 7
Folder 6
Fifty Years of Galactic Magnetic Field — Lecture Notes and Overhead Projector Slides, circa 2000s

Box 7
Folder 7
Galileo and the Physics of the Heliosphere — Lecture Notes and Overhead Projector Slides, circa 2000s

Box 7
Folder 8
History of the Solar Wind — Lecture Notes and Overhead Projector Slides, circa 2000s

Box 7
Folder 9
The Legacy of Jack Eddy — Lecture Notes and Overhead Projector Slides, circa 2000s

Box 7
Folder 10
The Microworld of the Solar Corona — Lecture Notes and Overhead Projector Slides, circa 2000s

Box 7
Folder 11
Pathological Science in Physics Today — Article and Lecture Notes, circa 2000s

Box 7
Folder 12
Poynting Theorem and Introduction to Plasma Physics and Sociology — Lecture Notes and Overhead Projector Slides, circa 2000s

Box 7
Folder 13
The Secret Life of Magnetic Fields — Lecture Notes and Overhead Projector Slides, circa 2000s

Box 7
Folder 14
Solar Magnetism — Book Outline, Lecture Notes, and Overhead Projector Slides, 2008

Box 7
Folder 15
Solar Magnetism — Book Outline, Lecture Notes, and Overhead Projector Slides, 2008

Box 7
Folder 16
Solar Wind — Lecture Notes and Overhead Projector Slides, circa 2008

Box 7
Folder 17
Space Exploration and Cosmic Rays — Lecture Notes and Overhead Projector Slides, circa 2000s

Box 7
Folder 18
Sun, Earth, and Magnetic Fields — Lecture Notes and Overhead Projector Slides, circa 2000s

Box 8
Folder 1
Untitled — Lecture Notes and Overhead Projector Slides on Solar Wind, circa 2000s

Box 8
Folder 2
What are Stellar and Galactic Dynamos to do Without Turbulent Diffusion of Magnetic Fields? — Lecture Notes and Overhead Projector Slides, circa 2005

Series V: Professional Associations and Events

This series contains materials related to professional association and events, such as newsletters, bulletins, dinner lists and menus, and symposium programs. Organizations include but are not limited to the Instrument Society of America, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the NATO Advanced Study Institute on Solar and Astrophysical Magnetohydrodynamic Flows. Materials are arranged chronologically.

Box 8
Folder 3
The Instrument Society of America Events Newsletter, 1963

Box 8
Folder 4
Ryerson Astronomical Society Club Dinner Lists, 1979

Box 8
Folder 5
The American Academy of Arts and Sciences Bulletin, 1989

Box 8
Folder 6
University of Oslo Annual Report and Annual Party Materials, 1990

Box 8
Folder 7
NATO Advanced Study Institute on Solar and Astrophysical Magnetohydrodynamic Flows Dinner Menu, 1995

Box 8
Folder 8
Nobel Laureates from the Chicago Physics Department and the Research Institutes Booklet, 1995

Box 8
Folder 9
Challenging the Paradigm: The Legacy of Galileo Symposium Program, 2009

Series VI: Writing by Others

This series contains materials concerning other astrophysicists and scientific publications not written by Eugene Parker. The first subseries contains reprints by and memorials to Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, reprints and correspondence with Joseph Lemaire, and reprints by Sydney Chapman. Materials are arranged alphabetically according to the last name of the astrophysicist. The second subseries contains copies of the publication The Planetary Report (1983-1985) and other scientific articles and pamphlets, including materials published by NASA. Materials are arranged roughly chronologically.

Subseries 1: Materials Related to Other Astrophysicists

Box 8
Folder 10
Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar Reprints and Memorials, 1975-2010 [1/6]

Box 8
Folder 11
Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar Reprints and Memorials, 1975-2010 [2/6]

Box 8
Folder 12
Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar Reprints and Memorials, 1975-2010 [3/6]

Box 8
Folder 13
Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar Reprints and Memorials, 1975-2010 [4/6]

Box 8
Folder 14
Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar Reprints and Memorials, 1975-2010 [5/6]

Box 8
Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar Reprints and Memorials, 1975-2010 [6/6]

Box 9
Folder 1
Sydney Chapman Reprints, 1971

Box 9
Folder 2
Joseph Lemaire Reprints and Correspondence, 1973-2008

Subseries 2: Scientific Publications

Box 9
Folder 3
Scientific Reprints and Articles, 1952-2009 [1/2]

Box 9
Folder 4
Scientific Reprints and Articles, 1952-2009 [2/2]

Box 9
Folder 5

Box 9
Folder 6
Science and Creationism: A View from the National Academy of Sciences, 1984

Box 9
Folder 7

Box 9
Folder 8
Physics World with Survey Thank You Note sent to Eugene Parker, 1999

Box 9
Folder 9
Ian Lerche — Cosmic Connections: A Scientific Autobiography, 2005

Box 9
Folder 10
NASA Publications, 1979-2018

Series VII: Awards, Honors, and Degrees

This series contains awards, medals, and degrees granted to Parker, as well as his university degrees, diplomas, certificates, and acceptance speeches. Material are arranged chronologically according to the award date.

Box 9
Folder 11
B.S. — Michigan State University, 1948

Box 9
Folder 12
Election to National Academy of Sciences Documents, 1967
Box 9
Folder 13
American Geophysical Union John Adam Fleming Award Programs, 1968

Box 9
Folder 14
NASA Apollo Achievement Award, 1969

Box 9
Folder 15
Michigan State University Commencement Documents, 1975

Box 9
Folder 16
Chapman Medal Presidential Address Transcript, 1979

Box 10
Folder 1
California Institute of Technology Alumni Award, 1980

Box 10
Folder 2
National Medal of Science Election Documents, 1989

Box 10
Folder 3
Bowie Medal Photograph and Announcement, 1989-1990 [1/2]

Box 10
Folder 4
Bowie Medal Photograph and Announcement, 1989-1990 [2/2]

Box 10
Folder 5
American Geographical Union Parker Lecture Certificate, 1991

Box 10
Folder 6
MIT Hannes Alfvén Lecturer Award, 1992

Box 10
Folder 7
Kyoto Prize Materials, 2003 [1/3]

Box 10
Folder 8
Kyoto Prize Materials, 2003 [2/3]

Box 10
Folder 9
Kyoto Prize Materials, 2003 [3/3]

Box 10
Folder 10
American Physical Society Exceptional Achievement Ceremony and Reception Program, 2018

Box 10
Folder 11
National Research Council Space Studies Board Certificate of Appreciation, undated
Box 11
Michigan State University Jonathan L. Snyder Society Award, 2003

Series VIII: Audiovisual
This series contains Parker’s scientific and personal photographs from 1965 to 2000 and a DVD recording of a workshop.

Box 12
Folder 1
Personal and Scientific Photographs, 1965-2000
Box 12
Folder 2
DVD — Parker Workshop on Magnetic Reconnection — São Paulo, Brazil, 2014

Series IX: Oversize
This series contains oversized materials such as framed awards, diplomas, and honorary degrees. Materials are organized according to size.

Box 13
Folder 1
American Geophysical Union Recognition of Eminence, 1962
Box 13
Folder 2
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Space Science Award, 1964
Box 13
Folder 3
National Academy of Sciences Diploma, 1967
Box 13
Folder 4
American Geophysical Union John Adam Fleming Award, 1968
Box 13
Folder 5
Utrecht University Honorary Doctorate and Ceremony Photographs, 1986
Box 13
Folder 6
National Medal of Science Diploma, 1989
Box 13
Folder 7
Oslo University Honorary Doctorate, 1991
Box 13
Folder 8
Framed NASA Public Service Award, 2017
Box 14
Folder 1
Det Norske Videnskaps-Akademi Member Diploma, 1988
Box 14
Folder 2
American Physical Society Exceptional Achievement in Research Prize, 2018

**Box 14**
Framed Village of Flossmoor Commendation, 2017

**Box 15**
American Physical Society James Clerk Maxwell Award, 2003

**Box 15**
European Physical Society Hannes Alfvén Award, 2012

**Box 15**
National Observatory of Athens Moon Chart, 2013

**Box 16**
Kyoto Prize, 2003

**Box 16**
Kyoto Prize Album of Memories

**Box 17**
Seven Wise Men of the World in Cosmology Greek Award, Case, and Medal 2008

### Series X: Restricted

This series contains Parker’s letters of recommendation which are restricted for 80 years from the date of record creation. Materials are organized chronologically.

**Box 18**

**Folder 1**
Letters of Recommendation, 2002-2006

**Box 18**

**Folder 2**
Letters of Recommendation, 2007-2009

**Box 18**

**Folder 3**
Letters of Recommendation, 2010-2012

**Box 18**

**Folder 4**

**Box 18**

**Folder 5**
Letters of Recommendation, 2016-2017

**Box 18**

**Folder 6**
Letters of Recommendation, circa 2010s