



ArchivesSpace

## Vonnegut, Bernard; Papers

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M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Bernard Vonnegut Papers
<b>ID:</b>	ua902.068
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1828-1997
<b>Physical Description:</b>	39.04 cubic ft.
<b>Physical Location:</b>	The materials are located onsite in the department.
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Bernard Vonnegut Papers document Vonnegut's career as a researcher in the field of atmospheric science with a focus on his time at GE, Arthur Little, and the State University of New York at Albany. The collection includes technical memoranda, research, data, inventions and patent forms, equipment specifications, drawings, figures, handwritten notes, manuscripts, reports, correspondence, publicity materials, course materials, news clippings, photographs, memorabilia, and audio/video materials

### Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Bernard Vonnegut Papers, 1828-1997. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Vonnegut Papers).

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## Biographical Sketch

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Dr. Bernard Vonnegut was born in 1914 in Indianapolis, Indiana to architect Kurt Vonnegut, Sr. (1884-1957) and Edith Sophia Lieber (d. 1944). He had two younger siblings; a sister, Alice (1917-1958), and a brother, Kurt (1922-2007), the 20th Century author famous for his works of satire and science fiction. Bernard Vonnegut attended public elementary schools, Shortridge High School and the Park School which he graduated from in 1932. From there he attended MIT, the Massachusetts Institute

of Technology, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Chemistry in 1936 and a doctorate in Physical Chemistry in 1939.

After receiving his PhD, Vonnegut went to work for the Hartford Empire Company where he conducted research on surface properties and the breaking stress of glass. He worked there for two years before returning to MIT as a research associate. During his time as a research associate, Vonnegut worked in the Chemical Engineering Department as well as the Meteorology Department. His research in the Chemical Engineering Department focused on aerosol generation, filtration, and measurement while in the Meteorological Department he researched icing of aircrafts, the adhesion of ice, and the properties of supercooled clouds.

In 1945, Vonnegut left MIT once again and went to work for GE Research Laboratories. At first he worked in the chemistry group where he focused on the supercooling of liquid tin metals but then was moved to another department. In his new position, Vonnegut worked alongside Nobel laureate Dr. Irving Langmuir, and Vincent J. Schaefer, the original discoverer of cloud seeding via dry ice. With Langmuir and Schaefer, Vonnegut worked on cloud seeding and problems related to cloud physics as well as Project Cirrus, a weather modification program. Research on Project Cirrus was done in conjunction with the United States Signal Corps, Office of Naval Research, and the United States Air Force. General oversight was handled by the Department of Defense. The objective of the project was to find ways to artificially influence precipitation. Work on this project, as well as the science of artificial precipitation, was strongly influenced by Vonnegut's discovery of AgI, Silver Iodide, as a superior nucleation agent. This method became the chief method of "rain making." Along with his discovery of AgI as a nucleation agent, Vonnegut also devised instruments for measuring the true air temperature from an airplane, known as the vortex thermometer, and an automatic condensation nuclei meter for measuring aerosols.

Dr. Vonnegut left GE in 1952 for a position with the management consultant agency Arthur D. Little where he continued research in atmospheric science and aerosols. His atmospheric science research was done in partnership with Charles Moore; their work was focused on atmospheric electricity and cloud physics. While at Arthur D. Little, Dr. Vonnegut also participated in research on the problems associated with the measurement and production of aerosols, the miniaturization of electrical recorders, the hazards of electrostatic in industry, glass fiber formation, and the behavior of evaporating electrified droplets. Much of the research and experiments that Vonnegut conducted at Arthur Little were not done purely for research purposes but done because of contracts the company had with public and private agencies.

After 15 years with Arthur D. Little, Dr. Vonnegut moved on to the newly created Atmospheric Sciences Research Center at the State University of New York at Albany under the direction of Vincent Schaefer. Vonnegut was hired as a senior research scientist and looked at electrification in thunderstorms, the role of electricity in precipitation formation, and kinetic nucleation. Along with his research position, Vonnegut also held an academic appointment in which he taught classes on atmospheric electricity, atmospheric instrumentation, and atmospheric chemistry. During his time at SUNY Albany, Vonnegut received several awards. In 1976, he was awarded the American Meteorological Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Advancement of Applied Meteorology. The following year, he received the Weather Modification Association Vincent J. Schaefer Award. Along with these awards, Vonnegut was named a Distinguished Research Professor in 1984 and, upon his formal retirement in 1985, was named Professor Emeritus.

One of Dr. Vonnegut's most notable projects during his time at SUNY Albany was his collaboration with NASA on the Night/Day Optical Survey of Lightning (NOSL) experiments. Astronauts, equipped

with specialized recording instruments, took pictures and video of large thunderstorms over the course of three shuttle missions. Dr. Vonnegut, who proposed the project, utilized the photographs and data in his continuing research on thunderstorms and electrification theory.

Throughout his career, Dr. Vonnegut pursued research in many fields of interest; mainly thunderclouds, tornadoes, and lightning. He made regular summer expeditions to New Mexico where he worked with colleagues at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro to study these phenomena, and many of the experiments he undertook pertain to these three topics. Furthermore, Dr. Vonnegut accumulated multiple patents for his inventions and research techniques.

Dr. Vonnegut married Lois Bowler (d. 1972) and had five sons. Interestingly, after becoming a father, he took on a personal campaign to improve the quality of educational science texts and encyclopedias, as well as truth in advertising regarding scientific claims on children's products.

Dr. Vonnegut continued atmospheric research and publishing until his death from cancer at 82 in 1997.

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## Scope and Contents

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Dr. Vonnegut's papers chronicle his professional career as an atmospheric scientist at MIT, the GE Research Laboratories, Arthur D. Little Corporation, and the State University of New York at Albany's Atmospheric Sciences Research Center and Department of Atmospheric Sciences. The collection spans from 1828 his death in 1997. The earliest materials in the collection are reprints of articles that he referenced for his research.

The records in this collection document Dr. Vonnegut's research interests. These interests include icing and atmospheric electricity, cloud physics, thunderstorms, and tornado formation. The collection also contain extensive information about his major scientific discoveries and experiments, such as Project Cirrus, a program that sought ways to artificially influence precipitation, the NASA/NOSL project where he studied weather phenomena from space, and his experiments and research in New Mexico. Additionally, a small amount of personal records are interspersed in the collection.

The collection is arranged into 11 series. The records consist of technical memoranda, research, data, inventions and patent forms, equipment specifications, drawings, figures, handwritten notes, manuscripts, reports, correspondence, publicity materials, course materials, news clippings, photographs, memorabilia, and audio/video materials. The majority of materials date from Dr. Vonnegut's tenure at GE, Arthur D. Little, and State University of New York at Albany.

All series are arranged alphabetically and reflect Dr. Vonnegut's own filing system. Since the original order was maintained, correspondence is kept with other materials, such as reports and technical memorandum, when they were found together. If the correspondence was found in a separate place than the materials it was originally meant to be paired with, there was not an effort to reunite the materials. Copies of reports and memorandum may be found in multiple locations.

For related materials, please see the following collections held by the ME Grenander Department of Special Collection and Archives: Atmospheric Sciences Research Center Records (UA-450), which includes many publications and articles issued by the ASRC, Duncan Blanchard Papers (UA-902.065), Raymond Falconer Papers (UA-902.014) and Vincent J. Schaefer (UA-902.010).

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## Arrangement of the Collection

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The collection is organized into the following series:

All series are arranged alphabetically.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

### Revision Description

Samantha Brown processed Series 8 and 11, interfiled materials throughout the collection, and updated the EAD finding aid. Encoded in EAD by Tiffany Williams 2013 2012

### Processing Information

Processed in 2012 by Tiffany Williams.

### Access

Access to this collection is unrestricted with the exception of select folders that are marked on the inventory. Researchers with inquiries about this material should contact the head of archives.

### Copyright

The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of copyright. Whenever possible, the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives will provide information about copyright owners and other restrictions, but the legal determination ultimately

rests with the researcher. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Head of Special Collections and Archives.

## Acquisition Information

The Bernard Vonnegut papers were donated to M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives by Sally Marsh, Dr. Vonnegut's administrative assistant, in July 2005.

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## Related Materials

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### Separated Materials

Archivists transferred the monographs *The Final Report of the Advisory Committee on Weather Control* (Volumes 1 and 2) and *Weather Control and Augmented Potable Water Supply. Joint Hearings Before...(Joint Hearings on Weather Control)* to the book division of Special Collections. The catalog records for these monographs is included in Minerva, the University Library Catalog.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Conservation and the Environment
- Aerosols
- Atmospheric electricity
- Atmospheric physics
- Cloud physics
- Clouds--Dynamics
- Columbia (Spacecraft)
- Consulting contracts
- Electrostatics
- Lightning
- Rain-making
- Silver Iodide
- Thunderstorm electricity
- Tornadoes
- Volcanoes--Iceland
- Weather control

- Albany (N.Y.)
- Cambridge (M.A.)
- Indianapolis (I.L.)
- Washington, Mount (N.H.)
- Mount Washington Observatory
- Mount Withington (N.M.)
- Schenectady (N.Y.)
- Socorro (N.M.)
- Surtsey (island)
- Administrative reports
- Annual reports
- Charts
- Correspondence
- Diagrams
- Manuscripts (document genre)
- Maps
- Memorabilia
- Newsletters
- Newspaper clippings
- Notes
- Papers
- Photographs
- Slides (photographs)
- Sound recordings
- Technical reports
- Transparencies
- Video recordings
- UAlbany Faculty & Alumni Papers
- Blanchard, Duncan C.
- Brook, Marx
- Langmuir, Irving, 1881-1957
- Moore, Charles B., 1920-2010
- Schaefer, Vincent J.
- Vonnegut, Bernard
- Vaughan, Otha H.
- Arthur D. Little, Inc.
- General Electric Company
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
- State University of New York. Atmospheric Sciences Research Center
- United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- U.S. Army Signal Engineering Laboratories



## Collection Inventory

### Project Cirrus, 1891-1985 Undated

Physical Description: 4.25 cubic ft.

#### Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

#### Scope and Contents

This series documents the Project Cirrus program, a weather modification initiative undertaken by GE along with the United States Signal Corps, Office of Naval Research, and the United States Air Force, with general oversight handled by the Department of Defense. As part of the effort, Dr. Vonnegut discovered that AgI, Silver Iodide, was a superior nucleation agent. This discovery significantly influenced the science of artificial precipitation and this method came to be adopted as the chief means of "rain making".

The series contains the research, data, reports, correspondence, publicity, and photographs regarding the project. Please note that the archivist filed all of the loose photographs together. The archivist kept any photograph accompanying research, data, or reports with that respective material.

Title/Description	Instances	
AgI, Silver Iodide Chemical Reviewer Article, 1949	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 1
AgI, Silver Iodide Cloud Seeding, Undated	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 2
AgI, Silver Iodide, Conductive Silver Preparations, Undated	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 3
AgI, Silver Iodide, Correspondence, 1950-1951	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 4
AgI, Silver Iodide Drawings and Photographs, Undated	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 5
AgI, Silver Iodide Seeding Transparencies, Undated	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 6
AgI, Silver Iodide Smoke Generators, 1950	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 7
AgI, Silver Iodide Smokes and Generators, 1948		

	Box 1 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 8
AgI, Silver Iodide, Rough Drafts, 1949-1951	Box 1 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 9
Conferences, Committee on Snow and Ice Tentative Classifications, Undated	Box 1 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 10
Conferences, On Interfacial Phenomena and Nucleation, 1951	Box 1 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 11
Conferences, Regarding Cloud Seeding, 1950	Box 1 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 12
Data, Catalogue of Data for Project Cirrus, 1950	Box 1 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 13
Data, Efficiency of Natural and Artificial Freezing Nucleo Chart, Undated	Box 1 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 14
Data, Fourth Partial Report, Undated	Box 1 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 15
Data, GE Research Notepad July 19, 20 and 22, 1949	Box 1 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 16
Data, GE Research Notepad July 21, 23, 1949	Box 1 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 17
Data, New Mexico Flights, 1950	Box 1 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 18
Data, Notepad - Flight Notes Friday July 15, Undated	Box 1 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 19
Data Project Cirrus Personnel and Expenses, 1949	Box 1 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 20
Data, Puerto Rico Flight Map, 1947	Box 1 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 21
Data, Spiral Notebook, AgI Notes, Undated	Box 1 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 22
Data, Temperature and Air Speed Charts, Undated		

	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 23
Data, Temperature and Air Speed Charts, M2 Thermometer Housing, Undated	Oversized 4	Folder 1
History, Annotated Project Cirrus History, Undated	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 24
History, History of Cloud Seeding, 1979	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 25
History, History of Project Cirrus, 1952	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 26
History, Project Cirrus History Correspondence, Drafts and Photos, 1974-1985	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 27
History, Project Cirrus The Story of Cloud Seeding, 1952	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 28
Legislation, Extracts from Hearings on Weather Modification Proceedings, 1951	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 29
Legislation, House Subcommittee on Weather Modification Proceedings, 1951	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 30
Legislation, NYS Weather Modification Legislation, 1950	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 31
Legislation, UN Report - Economic Aspects of Experimental Meteorology, 1949	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 32
Legislation, U.S. Dept. of Commerce Reports, 1948	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 33
Legislation, U.S. Weather Control Memorandum, 1952	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 34
Measurement Apparatus, Air Speed/Temperature, 1936-193719421947-195219541959-1960	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 35
Measurement Apparatus, Air Speed/Temperature, Undated	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 36
Measurement Apparatus, Capillary Collector, 19451948		

	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 37
Measurement Apparatus, Cloud Chamber, Undated	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 38
Measurement Apparatus, Condensation Nuclei Counter, 1949	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 39
Measurement Apparatus, Vortex Thermometer Charts and Graphs, Undated	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 40
Measurement Apparatus, Vortex Thermometer Flight Data, 1956	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 41
Measurement Apparatus, Vortex Thermometer Report, 1949	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 42
New Research Laboratory, Undated	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 43
Patents, 1948-1952	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 44
Patents, 1948-1951	Oversized 3	Folder 1
Photos, Clouds and Tools, 1949-1950Undated	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 45
Photos, Colored Cloud Slides, Undated	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 46
Photos, Flight #57, 1948Undated	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 47
Photos, Flight #105, 1949	Box 1 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 48-50
Photos, Flight #105 Camera Report, 1949	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 1
Photos, GE Personnel and Clouds, 1949-1950	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 2
Photos, Negatives - Assorted, 1950Undated		

	Box 2 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 3
Photos, New Mexico, 1949-1973	Box 2 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 4
Photos, Plane/Flight Crew and Puerto Rico, 1948-1950	Box 2 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 5
Photos, Puerto Rico, 1949	Box 2 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 6
Photos, Reference, 1943-1946-1950-1952-1973	Box 2 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 7
Photos, Seeding Path, 1948	Box 2 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 8
Photos, Silver Iodide, Undated	Box 2 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 9
Photos, Silver Iodide Generators, Undated	Box 2 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 10
Photos, Water Droplets and Smoke Particles, Undated	Box 2 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 11
Project Cirrus History - Final Reports, 1952-1955	Oversized 5	
Project Cirrus Meteorological Research - Occasional Reports, 1947-1953	Oversized 6	
Project Cirrus Scrapbook, 1946-1948-1950-1951-1960-Undated	Oversized 2	
Project Cirrus Scrapbook, Undated	Oversized 3	Folder 2
Publicity, AMS Dispute Letter, 1951	Box 2 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 12
Publicity, Fire for Rain article and correspondence, 1948-1950-1952	Box 2 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 13
Publicity, GE Internal Publications, 1950-1951-1975	Box 2 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 14
Publicity, GE Internal Publications, 1950-1975		

	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 15
Publicity, GE News Bureau Photos and Articles, 1949-1952	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 16
Publicity, Journal of Applied Physics, 1947	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 17
Publicity, News Clippings, 1947-1962	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 18
Publicity, New Mexico Interview, 1952	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 19
Publicity, Reviews and Advertising, 1979-1981-1985	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 20
Publicity, Science Illustrated, 1947	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 21
Publicity <i>Science Service</i> , 1952	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 22
Publicity, Scientific American Article, 1951	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 23
Publicity, Weather Modification, 1947-1952-1962-1966-1973	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 24
Reports, Cloud Seeding in Australia, Undated	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 25
Reports, Cloud Seeding in Mexico, 1958	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 26
Reports, Occasional Report 37 Technical Abstract, 1952	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 26
Reports, Final Report ONR Project, 1953	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 27
Reports, Final Report Project Cirrus, 1948		

	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 28
Reports, Final Report Project Cirrus Part 1, Field, and Flight Experiments, 1953	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 29-30
Reports, Final Report Project Cirrus, 1951-1953	Oversized 1	
Reports, GE Meteorological Studies, 1943-1945-1947-1948	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 31
Reports, GE Meteorological Studies, 1949-1951	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 32
Reports, GE Meteorological Studies, 1952-1953-1959-1963-1966	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 33
Reports, GE Meteorological Studies, Undated	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 34
Reports, Occasional Report 37 Technical Abstract, 1952	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 35
Reports, Project Cirrus Associated Reports, 1950	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 36
Reports, Project Cirrus Occasional Report 1-6, 1948	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 37
Reports, Project Cirrus Occasional Report 7-12, 1948-1949	Box 2 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 38
Reports, Project Cirrus Occasional Report 13-17, 1949	Box 3 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 1
Reports, Project Cirrus Occasional Report 18-21, 1949-1950	Box 3 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 2
Reports, Project Cirrus Occasional Report 22-25, 1950	Box 3 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 3
Reports, Project Cirrus Occasional Report 26-29, 1951	Box 3 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 4
Reports, Project Cirrus Occasional Report 30-34, 1951-1952		

	Box 3 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 5
Reports, Project Cirrus Occasional Report 35-40, 1952-1953	Box 3 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 6
Reports, Project Cirrus Operations Group report, 1950	Box 3 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 7
Reports, Project Cirrus Quarterly Report 1-5, 1947-1948	Box 3 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 8
Reports, Project Cirrus Quarterly Report Eight Quarter/ Number 13, 1950	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 1
Reports, Vonnegut - Importance of Determining Various Variables Involved in Seeding Operations of Weather Control Experiments, Undated	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 2
Reprints, Artificial Stimulation of Rain at Kongwa, 1951	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 3
Reprints, Atmospheric Conditions Necessary for Artificial Precipitation, 1949	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 4
Reprints, Cloud Physics Letter and Abstract, 1950	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 5
Reprints, Cloud Seeding Trails at Delhi During Monsoon Months July to September (1957-1959), 1961	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 6
Reprints, The Control of Hurricanes, 1955	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 7
Reprints, Dessens and Maurin Mailed Articles, 1949	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 8
Reprints, D.W. Pashley, Oriented Growth of Silver in Silver Halide Crystals, 1949	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 9
Experiments with Silver Iodide Smokes in the Natural Atmosphere, 1950	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 10
Reprints, Findelsen - Colloidal Meteorological Processes, 1938		



	Box 4 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 11
Reprints, Gathmann's US Patent for "A Method of Producing Rain-Fall", 1891	Box 4 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 12
Reprints, H.K. Weickmann - A Theory of the Formation of Ice Crystals, 1951	Box 4 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 13
Reprints, JAG Journal, 1949	Box 4 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 14
Reprints, Japanese Geophysical Science Articles and Correspondence, 1948	Box 4 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 15
Reprints, Journal of Applied Mathematics and Physics: Experimental Meteorology, 1950	Box 4 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 16
Reprints, J.Th.G. Overbeck Article, 1951	Box 4 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 17
Reprints, Kampe and Weickmann - AgI as a Freezing Nucleus, 1950	Box 4 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 18
Reprints, M. Tsuji - On the Rate of Evaporation and Condensation of Falling Drops, 1950	Box 4 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 19
Reprints, Motoi Kumai - Electron-Microscope Study of Snow-Crystal Nuclei, 1951	Box 4 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 20
Reprints, Physical Studies that would Improve our Knowledge of Meteorology, 1958	Box 4 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 21
Reprints, Recueil des Travaux Chimiques des Pays-Bas, 1951	Box 4 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 22
Reprints, Royal Meteorological Society, 1949-1950	Box 4 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 23
Reprints, Science - The Production of in a Cloud of Supercooled Water Droplets, 1946	Box 4 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 24
Reprints, Smoke Particles and Supercooled Clouds, Langmuir, 1948	Box 4 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 25
Reprints, Strock and Rauh - German Articles, 1935-1941		

	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 26
Reprints, Sublimation of Outdoor Air and Seeded Sublimation, Undated	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 27
Reprints, SUNY Weatherwise - Simple Experiments in Atmospheric Physics, 1955	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 28
Reprints, Surface Tension of Small Droplets of Water from Volmer and Flood's Nucleation Data, 1949	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 29
Reprints, Symposium on Artificial Rain, 1951	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 30
Reprints, The Crystalline Structure of Ice, Undated	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 31
Reprints, The Preparation of Colloidal AgI Water-Suspension for Nucleation of Supercooled Clouds, 1949	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 32
Reprints, The Problem of Artificial Rain on the Globe, 1948	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 33
Reprints, Trilliat Articles, 1948-1949	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 34
Reprints, Untitled French Report, 1949	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 35
Reprints, Weather, 1949	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 36
Reprints, Weatherwise, 1949	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 37
Research, Aerosol Detection Methods, 1950	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 38
Research, Air Plane Icing, 1946	Box 4 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 39
Research, Atmosphere (General), 19451947-19481952	Box 5 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 1
Research, Atmospheric Electrification, 19541956		

	Box 5 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 2
Research, Atmospheric Particle Research, 1952	Box 5 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 3
Research, Electrical Atomization, 1951	Box 5 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 4
Research, Heated Filament Aerosol Report, Undated	Box 5 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 5
Research, Hot Wire Report and Data, Undated	Box 5 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 6
Research, Nucleation Data Folder/Report, 1947	Box 5 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 7
Seeding Flights, Cloud Seeding Technique Correspondence, 1949-1951	Box 5 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 8
Seeding Flights, Air Speed/ Temperature/Nuclei Counter Research, 1949-1950	Box 6 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 1
Seeding Flights, Faust, 1949	Box 6 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 2
Seeding Flights, Flight #105 Photo Report, 1949	Box 6 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 3
Seeding Flights, Flight #57 Paper, Undated	Box 6 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 4
Seeding Flights, Flight #57 Report, 1948	Box 6 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 5
Technical Diagrams, 1948	Flat-File 1	
Technical Diagrams, 1948Undated	Box 6 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 6
Untitled, Filament, Undated	Box 6 (1-Project Cirrus)	Folder 7
Untitled, Transparencies, Undated		

	Box 6 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 8
Voltmeter Instruction Manual, Undated	Box 6 (1- Project Cirrus)	Folder 9

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## NASA Experiments, 1976-1991 Undated

Physical Description: 1.68 cubic ft.

### Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

### Scope and Contents

Series 2 documents the NOSL (Nighttime/Daylight Optical Survey of Thunderstorm Lightning) experiment, a large-scale project undertaken by NASA during the early 1980s, in which astronauts recorded and documented thunderstorm and lightning activity from the Earth's orbit. Dr. Vonnegut, who proposed the project, utilized the photographs and data in his continuing research on thunderstorms and electrification theory.

The series contains data, reports, correspondence, press releases, photographs, and NASA technical memoranda and shuttle specifications regarding the NOSL project. Crew activity plans and specifications are filed by flight number. Associated documents were kept with their respective flight number as much as possible. Additionally, memorabilia from one shuttle flight is incorporated, including a signed photograph from the astronauts who took part in the experiment.

Title/Description	Instances	
Curtner, M.L. (Doc), 1978	Box 1 (2- NASA Experiments)	Folder 1
Equipment Information, 1977-1978	Box 1 (2- NASA Experiments)	Folder 2
Equipment Information, 1977-1978	Oversized 4	Folder 2
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## Arthur D. Little, 1931-1971Undated

Physical Description: 5.8 cubic ft.

### Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

### Scope and Contents

While employed at Arthur D. Little, Dr. Vonnegut built upon his research in atmospheric science. The majority of his work focused on electrification of clouds, thunderstorms, and the behavior of lightning, he also looked at behaviors of gases but on a much smaller scale. Besides pursuing his own research, Dr. Vonnegut worked on a number of advisory projects for the United States government. These projects focused on the relationship between aircrafts and lightning. The main focus was on how aircrafts detect and avoid lightning when flying in a storm.

The series contains data, reports, correspondence, press releases, photographs, newspaper clippings, drawings, figures, and handwritten notes. The arrangement reflects Dr. Vonnegut's original filing system. Materials are first filed by item type and then by subject. In cases where different types of materials were filed together, Dr. Vonnegut's arrangement was maintained to reflect how he used and viewed the materials. This is most prevalent in correspondence files. Correspondence is sometimes paired with clippings or reports. If the correspondence was separated from the items it was originally paired with, the archivist maintained this arrangement.

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## New Mexico, 1953-1996Undated

Physical Description: 1.14 cubic ft.

### Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

### Scope and Contents

Series 4 documents Dr. Vonnegut's work with the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMIMT) in Socorro, New Mexico. While both were employed at Arthur D. Little, he and fellow scientist Charles Moore were invited to conduct thunderstorm research at Mt. Withington, eventually becoming part of the Langmuir Laboratory for Atmospheric Research in Socorro. Moore stayed at NMIMT, and Dr. Vonnegut moved on to the State University of New York at Albany; though their collaborative research continued for the entirety of each other's career.

The series includes a large amount of correspondence with Charles Moore, as well as with other prominent figures related to NMIMT; Marx Brook, Stirling Colgate, and William Winn. This series also consists of data, research, and articles regarding experiments in New Mexico.

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## **Tornado Research, 1837-1991Undated**

Physical Description: 1.2 cubic ft.

## Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

## Scope and Contents

This series consists primarily of tornado observations and eyewitness accounts solicited from the general public via newspaper advertisements in areas where tornadoes and severe storms frequently occur. They are filed using the original labeling system employed by Dr. Vonnegut, where the date and place of the observation as well as a brief statement on the phenomena is used to identify the observation. Accounts of severe storms found in multiple publications, biblical references, and other historical observations are also present.

Please note that the archivist filed all of the loose photographs together. The archivist kept any photograph accompanying observation, research, or data with that respective material.

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Arranged alphabetically.

### Scope and Contents

Series 8 documents the work that Dr. Vonnegut did while employed at SUNY Albany. During his time at SUNY Albany, Dr. Vonnegut taught classes, served on committees, attended conferences, and continued his research concerning weather, lightning, and clouds. Much of the research that Dr. Vonnegut did while at SUNY Albany was done as part of government research projects. Most notable was his work on Project Themis which was conducted by the United States Air Force. The project's main focus was on the modification and structure of clouds and fog but also investigated other areas of research such as raindrop dynamics and atmospheric electrical phenomena

Included in this series are flyers, pamphlets, photographs, reports, project proposals, correspondence, travel arrangements, purchasing requests, conference programs, meeting agendas, press releases, newspaper and magazine clippings, handwritten notes, drawings, figures, and materials related to classes Dr. Vonnegut taught. Class materials include lists of students as well as tests and grades students received. Materials with personal information about students are restricted.

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## Meetings and Conferences, 1949-1996Undated

Physical Description: 3.6 cubic ft.

### Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

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This series contains records for professional conferences and meetings arranged and/or attended by Dr. Vonnegut as well as project proposals, reports, correspondence, travel arrangements, conference programs, meeting agendas, registrations and other conference-related items, press release, and records on the classes he taught. Additionally, this series includes papers written by others that Dr. Vonnegut found interesting or pertinent to his research.

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**Scope and Contents**

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Physical Description: 2.8 cubic ft.

### Arrangement

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Dr. Vonnegut's audio/visual series consists of materials related to his research and presentations as well as the work done by some of his colleagues, especially Duncan Blanchard and Vincent Schaefer. The formats included in this series are VHS, cassette, reel to reel, ½" open reel, 8 mm film, super 8 film, and 16 mm film. Visual materials come in both color and black and white formats. Items have been titled based on Dr. Vonnegut's own identification system. Any audio or video which Dr. Vonnegut did not name are listed as Untitled.

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