



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Myron Lecar Papers, 1956-2010

Finding aid prepared by Smithsonian Institution Archives

Smithsonian Institution Archives
Washington, D.C.
Contact us at osiaref@si.edu

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Descriptive Entry.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Myron Lecar Papers
Identifier:	Accession 18-058
Date:	1956-2010
Extent:	6 cu. ft. (6 record storage boxes)
Creator::	Lecar, Myron
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession 18-058, Myron Lecar Papers

Descriptive Entry

Myron "Mike" Lecar was born on April 10, 1930 in Brooklyn, New York. He received an S.B. in industrial engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1951 and an M.S. in industrial engineering from Case Institute of Technology in 1953. From 1954 to 1958, Lecar served as an officer in the U. S. Navy, developing and teaching nuclear weapons technology and working on Project Vanguard.

Later he studied astronomy at Yale University and received his Ph.D. in 1963 carrying out some of the earliest computer modeling of stellar atmospheres. As a graduate student, Lecar was one of the founding members of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies at Columbia University in 1962.

Acting on an invitation of Fred Whipple, Lecar joined the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) in 1965. While at SAO, Lecar's research interests included gravitational dynamics, planet formation, and the dynamics of our solar system. The author or co-author of more than 90 scientific articles, Lecar was also the principle investigator on a grant from the Smithsonian Institution to collaborate with Tel Aviv University in the planning, construction and commissioning of the Wise Observatory in the Negev desert in Israel. Before his retirement as Senior Astrophysicist in 2009, Lecar was a founding member of the Harvard Origins of Life Initiative.

On May 30, 2005, Lecar married Rosemary Johnson in Belmont, Massachusetts after having been a part of each other's lives for some 27 years. At the age of 81, Lecar passed away in 2011.

This accession consists of materials that document the professional and personal life of SAO astrophysicist, Myron Lecar. A significant portion of the records consist of materials related to Lecar's work on the planning and construction of the Florence and George Wise Observatory in Israel. The other significant portion consists of personal journals that Lecar kept that documented his personal life, his thoughts, and his interactions with the people around him. Materials include correspondence, memoranda,

grant proposals, reports, financial records, publicity materials, press releases, journals, brochures, images, curriculum vitae, clippings, and other related records.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Astronomical observatories
- Astrophysicists
- Astrophysics
- Gravitational fields
- Planets -- Origin

Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white photographs
- Brochures
- Clippings
- Color negatives
- Color photographs
- Manuscripts

Names:

- Case Institute of Technology
- Columbia University
- Florence and George Wise Observatory
- Goddard Institute for Space Studies
- Harvard Origins of Life Initiative
- Johnson, Rosemary
- Lecar, Myron
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Project Vanguard
- Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
- United States. Navy
- Universitat Tel-Aviv
- Whipple, Fred L. (Fred Lawrence), 1906-2004
- Yale University

Geographic Names:

- Solar system

Container Listing

Box 1

George and Florence Wise Observatory - Israel

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Box 1 of 6 | Correspondence, 1965 |
| Box 1 of 6 | Correspondence, 1967 |
| Box 1 of 6 | Correspondence, 1969 |
| Box 1 of 6 | Correspondence, 1970 |
| Box 1 of 6 | Correspondence, 1971 |
| Box 1 of 6 | Correspondence - Photometer and Spectrograph, 1971 |
| Box 1 of 6 | Correspondence, 1972 |
| Box 1 of 6 | Correspondence, 1973 |
| Box 1 of 6 | Correspondence - Perkin-Elmer Corporation, 1973 |
| Box 1 of 6 | Correspondence - United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation, 1973-1974 |
| Box 1 of 6 | Correspondence, 1974 |
| Box 1 of 6 | Correspondence, 1975 |
| Box 1 of 6 | Correspondence, 1976 |
| Box 1 of 6 | Correspondence, 1977 |
| Box 1 of 6 | Correspondence, 1978 |
| Box 1 of 6 | Correspondence, 1979 |
| Box 1 of 6 | Correspondence, 1983-1984 |
| Box 1 of 6 | Grant - SFC-8-7006 - A Study of Collective Behavior of Self-Gravitating Systems, 1968-1971 |
| Box 1 of 6 | Grant - SFC-8-7006 - Renewal proposal, 1976 |
| Box 1 of 6 | Grant - SFC-8-7006 - Work Plan, 1977 |
| Box 1 of 6 | Grant - SFC-1362 - Construction of Stellar Models of Evolving Stars, 1971-1972 |

- Box 1 of 6 Proposal - EC 20-11-69 - An Astronomical Observing Program in Israel, 1969 (2 folders)
- Box 1 of 6 Proposal - Smithsonian Research Foundation, Excess Foreign Currency Program - Continuation of the Construction of Stellar Models of Evolving Stars (continuation of grant SFC 1362) - Proposal EC 23-3-70, August 1970
- Box 1 of 6 Grant - SFC-0-3005 - An Astronomical Observing Program in Israel - Progress Report no. 1, November 15, 1969 through November 14, 1970; December 1970
- Box 1 of 6 Grant - SFC-0-3005 - Progress Report no. 1, November 15, 1969 through November 14, 1970 - Appendices, December 1970 (2 folders)
- Box 1 of 6 Grant - SFC-0-3005 - Amendments, 1970-1971
- Box 1 of 6 Grant - SFC-0-3005 - Progress report no. 2 - November 15, 1970 to November 14, 1971; 1971
- Box 1 of 6 Grant - SFC-0-3005 - Television system, 1971-1972
- Box 1 of 6 Grant - SFC-0-3005 - Progress report no. 3 - November 15, 1971 to November 14, 1972; March 1972
- Box 1 of 6 Grant - SFC-0-3005 - Instrumentation - Observing Time, 1972-1973
- Box 2
- Box 2 of 6 Grant - SFC-0-3005 - Progress report no. 4 - November 15, 1972 to December 31, 1973; June 1974
- Box 2 of 6 Grant - SFC-0-3005 - Progress report no. 5 - January-December 1974; February 1975
- Box 2 of 6 Grant - SFC-0-3005 - Progress report no. 6 - January-December 1975; February 1976
- Box 2 of 6 Grant - SFC-0-3005 - Progress report no. 7 - January-December 1976; February 1977
- Box 2 of 6 Grant - SFC-0-3005 - Progress report no. 8 - January-December 1977; February 1978
- Box 2 of 6 Grant - SFC-0-3005 - Progress report no. 9 - January-December 1978; July 1979
- Box 2 of 6 Grant - SFC-0-3005 - Progress report no. 10 - January-December 1979; May 1980
- Box 2 of 6 Grant - SFC-0-3005 - Financial report, 1971

- Box 2 of 6 Grant - SFC-0-3005 - Financial report, 1972
- Box 2 of 6 Grant - SFC-0-3005 - Financial report, 1973
- Box 2 of 6 Grant - SFC-0-3005 - Financial report, 1974
- Box 2 of 6 Grant - SFC-0-3005 - Financial reports - General, 1970-1972
- Box 2 of 6 Grant - SFC-0-3005 - Finances, 1969-1973
- Box 2 of 6 Grant - SFC-0-3005 - Disbursements, 1971-1975
- Box 2 of 6 Grants - SFC-0-3005 and SFC-8-7006 - David O. Le Conte, 1972-1974
- Box 2 of 6 Proposal - 40-inch wide Field Ritchey-Chretien Reflecting Telescope for Mount Wilson/Palomar Observatories - Boller & Chivens Division, Perkin-Elmer Corporation, October 1969
- Box 2 of 6 Drawing - 40-inch telescope - Boller & Chivens Division, Perkin-Elmer Corporation, March 2, 1970
- Box 2 of 6 Discussion of 40-inch and 60-inch telescope, 1973
- Box 2 of 6 60-inch telescope - Science, 1973
- Box 2 of 6 60-inch telescope - Finance, 1973
- Box 2 of 6 Proposal - Submitted to the Smithsonian Research Foundation for the Continuation of an Astronomical Observing Program in Israel (Continuation of grant SFC-9-3005), October 28, 1975
- Box 2 of 6 Proposals - United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation, 1976
- Box 2 of 6 The National Committee for Astronomy of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities - Report on Astronomy Activity in Israel, August 1970 to August 1973
- Box 2 of 6 Scheduling Committee - Meeting minutes, 1974
- Box 2 of 6 Telescope dedication, 1971
- Box 2 of 6 Images - Dedication, 1971
- Box 2 of 6 Images - February 1971
- Box 2 of 6 Wise Observatory - Publicity materials, 1971
- Box 2 of 6 Press releases, 1971
- Box 2 of 6 Scientific Council of the Wise Observatory, 1971

- Box 2 of 6 Establishment of operational expenses for the Wise Observatory after SFC-0-3005 grant ends - Meeting minutes, January 20, 1972
- Box 2 of 6 Wise Observatory - Summary information, 1973
- Box 2 of 6 Special meeting - Meeting minutes, April 29, 1973
- Box 2 of 6 Instrumentation meeting, May 9, 1973
- Box 2 of 6 Graduate studies in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, Faculty of Science, Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv, Israel, 1973-1974, 1974-1975
- Box 2 of 6 Prospective projects
- Box 2 of 6 Reports
- Box 2 of 6 Notes, 1971-1972
- Box 2 of 6 Publications lists, 1972-1976
- Box 2 of 6 Articles, 1973
- Box 2 of 6 Images, circa 1971-1973 (2 folders)
- Box 2 of 6 Clippings, circa 1971-1973 (2 folders)
- Mount Sinai Observatory
- Box 2 of 6 Proposal, 1979
- Box 2 of 6 Correspondence, 1978-1979
- Box 2 of 6 Correspondence - Perkin-Elmer, 1978
- Box 2 of 6 Report on visit to the Helwan Institute, Cairo, Egypt
- Box 2 of 6 Institute of Politics, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University - Study group - Israel's Options for the Eighties, 1979
- Box 2 of 6 Notes, 1978
- Box 2 of 6 Clippings, 1978-1979
- Box 3
- Work
- Box 3 of 6 Vanguard Earth Satellite Program - Non-technical information, 1956-1957
- Box 3 of 6 Geopotential of the Earth, August 23, 1958

Box 3 of 6 Third Stage Velocity (Increment) Prediction, May 10, 1957 (2 folders)

Box 3 of 6 National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), 1958-1960

Journals

Box 3 of 6 Journal - 1959-1962

Box 3 of 6 Journal - February 1963

Box 3 of 6 Journal - February-November 1965

Box 3 of 6 Journal - July 1965-April 1966

Box 3 of 6 Journal - December 1967

Box 3 of 6 Journal - 1968-1971

Box 3 of 6 Journal - August-October 1968

Box 3 of 6 Journal - October 1968-September 1969

Box 3 of 6 Journal - 1970-1972

Box 3 of 6 Journal - September 1972-August 1973

Box 3 of 6 Journal - September-December 1973

Box 3 of 6 Journal - December 1973-June 1974

Box 3 of 6 Journal - June 1974-February 1975

Box 3 of 6 Journal - February-May 1975

Box 4

Box 4 of 6 Journal - May-September 1975

Box 4 of 6 Journal - September-December 1975

Box 4 of 6 Journal - November 1975-August 1976

Box 4 of 6 Journal - February-December 1977

Box 4 of 6 Journal - January-May 1978

Box 4 of 6 Journal - June-December 1978

Box 4 of 6 Journals - 1979

Box 4 of 6 Journals - 1980 (2 folders)

Box 4 of 6 Yom Kippur review, 1980-1981

Box 4 of 6 Journals - 1981 (2 folders)

Box 4 of 6 Journal - January 1982

Box 4 of 6 Journal - February 1982

Box 4 of 6 Journal - March 1982

Box 4 of 6 Journal - April 1982

Box 4 of 6 Journal - May 1982

Box 4 of 6 Journal - June-July 1982

Box 4 of 6 Journal - August 1982

Box 4 of 6 Journal - September 1982

Box 4 of 6 Journal - October 1982

Box 4 of 6 Yom Kippur, 1982

Box 4 of 6 Journal - November 1982

Box 4 of 6 Journal - December 1982

Box 4 of 6 Journals - 1983

Box 4 of 6 Yom Kippur, 1983

Box 5

Box 5 of 6 Journal - January-May 1984

Box 5 of 6 Journal - June-September 1984

Box 5 of 6 Journal - October 1984

Box 5 of 6 Yom Kippur, 1984

Box 5 of 6 Journal - November 1984

Box 5 of 6 Journal - December 1984

Box 5 of 6 Journal - January 1985

Box 5 of 6 Journals - 1986

Box 5 of 6 Journal - January-February 1987

Box 5 of 6	Journal - March-June 1987
Box 5 of 6	Journal - August 1987
Box 5 of 6	Journal - October-December 1987
Box 5 of 6	Journal - January-September 1988
Box 5 of 6	Journal - December 1988
Box 5 of 6	Journal - January-March 1989
Box 5 of 6	Journal - May-June 1989
Box 5 of 6	Journal - July-August 1989
Box 5 of 6	Journal - September-November 1989
Box 5 of 6	Yom Kippur - 1989
Box 5 of 6	Journal - December 1989
Box 5 of 6	Journal - 1990
Box 5 of 6	Journal - January-February 1991
Box 5 of 6	Journal - April-May 1991
Box 5 of 6	Journal - September 1991
Box 5 of 6	Journal - October 1991-February 1992
Box 5 of 6	Journal - March 1992
Box 5 of 6	Journal - April-May 1992
Box 5 of 6	Journal - June 1992
Box 5 of 6	Journal - July 1992
Box 5 of 6	Journal - August 1992
Box 5 of 6	Journal - September-November 1992
Box 5 of 6	Yom Kippur - 1992
Box 5 of 6	Journal - December 1992-March 1993
Box 5 of 6	Journal - April 1993
Box 5 of 6	Journal - May 1993

Box 5 of 6	Journal - June-August 1993
Box 5 of 6	Journal - September-October 1993
Box 5 of 6	Journal - November 1993
Box 5 of 6	Yom Kippur - 1993
Box 5 of 6	Journal - December 1993
Box 5 of 6	Journal - January-February 1994
Box 5 of 6	Journal - March 1994
Box 5 of 6	Journal - April-May 1994
Box 5 of 6	Journal - June 1994
Box 5 of 6	Journal - July 1994
Box 5 of 6	Journal - August 1994
Box 5 of 6	Journal - September-November 1994
Box 5 of 6	Journal - December 1994
Box 5 of 6	Journal - January-February 1995
Box 5 of 6	Journal - March-April 1995
Box 5 of 6	Journal - May-June 1995
Box 5 of 6	Journal - July 1995
Box 5 of 6	Journal - August 1995
Box 5 of 6	Journal - September 1995
Box 5 of 6	Journal - October 1995-February 1996
Box 5 of 6	Journal - March-July 1996
Box 5 of 6	Journal - August 1996
Box 5 of 6	Journal - September 1996
Box 5 of 6	Journal - December 1996
Box 6	
Box 6 of 6	Journal - January-May 1997

Box 6 of 6	Journal - June 1997
Box 6 of 6	Journal - August 1997
Box 6 of 6	Journal - July 2000
Box 6 of 6	Journal - August 2000
Box 6 of 6	Journals - 2002
Box 6 of 6	Journal - October 2004-February 2005
Box 6 of 6	Journal - August 2005
Box 6 of 6	Journal - September-October 2005
Box 6 of 6	Journals - 2006
Box 6 of 6	Journal - May 2009
Box 6 of 6	Journals, undated
	Rosemary Johnson Lecar
Box 6 of 6	Correspondence, 1980-2005
Box 6 of 6	Images, 1984 and undated
Box 6 of 6	Conversion to Judaism
Box 6 of 6	Wedding program, May 30, 2005
Box 6 of 6	Marriage certificate, May 20, 2005
Box 6 of 6	Funeral program, 2005
Box 6 of 6	Obituaries, 2005
Box 6 of 6	Plaque dedication ceremony program, Tufts University, August 29, 2006
Box 6 of 6	Miscellaneous
	General
Box 6 of 6	Correspondence, 1977-2010
Box 6 of 6	Correspondence - Hal Lecar, 2009
Box 6 of 6	Correspondence - Ruth W. Lidz, 1979

Box 6 of 6	Images - Ruth W. Lidz, undated
Box 6 of 6	Correspondence - Esther Strauss, 1984
Box 6 of 6	Images - Esther Strauss, 1976 and undated
Box 6 of 6	Personal history, 1965-1986
Box 6 of 6	Professional history, 1957-1975
Box 6 of 6	Curriculum vitae, circa 1978-2000
Box 6 of 6	Images, 1988 and undated
Box 6 of 6	Postcards
Box 6 of 6	Quitting smoking, 1981
Box 6 of 6	Exercise routine - June 12, 2007
Box 6 of 6	Deed - July 31, 1970
Box 6 of 6	Quitclaim Deed - Shippewisset Place, Falmouth, Massachusetts, January 11, 1983
Box 6 of 6	Will - July 20, 2004
Box 6 of 6	Will - May 6, 2008
Box 6 of 6	Finances, 2006
Box 6 of 6	Retirement materials, circa 1983-2009
Box 6 of 6	Address books and addresses
Box 6 of 6	Notes - Calculations
Box 6 of 6	Notes, circa 1969-1997
Box 6 of 6	Miscellaneous, circa 1986-2006
Box 6 of 6	Clippings, 1990, 1994