

WORCESTER HISTORICAL
MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Edmund Kowalczyk
Collection

1996.177

Processed by William F. Carroll, C.A.
June, 1999

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Collection Information

Abstract: The Edmund Kowalczyk Collection illustrates aspects in the life of Mr. Kowalczyk, with emphasis on his life during World War II, and his interest in art and sketching.

Finding Aids: Finding Aid in print form is available in the repository.

Preferred Citation: Archives of the Worcester Historical Museum, 30 Elm Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance: Donated in 1996, donor unknown.

Access: The Finding Aid is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcs, tgm, aat, etc.)

Kowalczyk, Edmund L.
Worcester (Mass.) – Biography
World War, 1939-1945 – Veterans – Massachusetts – Worcester – Biography

Sketches
Pencil works
Snapshots

Biographical Information

Edmund L. Kowalczyk was born in Worcester in 1916, and employed as a librarian during the years prior to World War II. He enlisted in the United States Army, and served as a cook at Fort Lewis in Washington, and in Japan. Following the war he resumed his career in the library field, living in Chicago and other locations in the Midwest.

Kowalczyk also wrote articles on Polish-American culture and history, as is illustrated by clippings and by a manuscript notebook of Polish-American pioneers in the United States, as well as by the numerous letters he received that were written in the Polish language. He also had an interest in sketching and pencil drawing, and collected numerous sketches, primarily of Japanese scenes. A number of his own sketches, made during his years in the military, illustrate his interest in this pastime. Many of the sketches, as well as a number of photographs, depict Japanese historical and cultural sites, suggesting an interest in this area.

Scope and Content

The collection illustrates aspects in the life of Edmund L. Kowalczyk, Worcester resident. Letters and cards from relatives and friends from the 1930s through the 1950s illustrate his life and interests. Military documents highlight his service in the United States Army during World War II. Photographs and snapshots, most taken during the 1940s, also illustrate his military career, as well as providing insight into his artistic interests. Photographs and sketches also illustrate Japan during the World War II years, as well as highlighting aspects of Japanese art, religion, and culture. The collection includes many pencil drawings of Japanese scenes, as well as Kowalczyk's own sketches and pencil drawings of people and scenes.

The bulk of the collection consists of letters and cards, and photographs and sketches. Most of the material in the collection dates from the 1940s, with some letters from the 1930s and 1950s.

Series Description

Series 1: Military Documents. Includes Honorable Discharge from the United States Army and related documents.

Series 2: Letters, greeting cards, postcards. Includes letters written to Edmund Kowalczyk from 1930s through 1950s from family and friends; postcards, and assorted greeting cards.

Series 3: Photographs, Sketches, etc. Includes photographs and snapshots taken during Edmund Kowalczyk's military service in Washington state and Japan; sketches and drawings, some by Edmund Kowalczyk, unused postcards with scenes from Japan, and related material.

Series 4: Scrapbooks, Notebooks. Includes notebook written by Edmund Kowalczyk titled "Polish pioneers of the United States"; and scrapbook with clippings, photographs, postcards, ephemera relating to various topics.

Series 5: Miscellaneous. Includes tickets, informational brochures, and other ephemera.

Edmund Kowalczyk Collection
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Series 1, Military Documents

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1996.177.1.1	Testimonial to Edmund L. Kowalczyk for military service during World War II from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
1	1	1996.177.1.2	Honorable Discharge, to Edmund L. Kowalczyk from the United States Army, April 30, 1946.
1	1	1996.177.1.3	Honorable Discharge, copy.
1	2	1996.177.1.4	Leather folder, black, with imprint "Honorable Discharge".

Edmund Kowalczyk Collection
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Series 2, Letters, etc.

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	3	1996.177.2.1	Greeting card. E.L. Kowalczyk from Lynn Carroll, January 29, 1952. 1aEnvelope.
1	3	1996.177.2.2	Christmas card, 1950.
1	3	1996.177.2.3	Get-well card, from Sister Mary Patricia. N.d.
1	3	1996.177.2.4	Valentine. Edward and Frank Kowalczyk from Christine Carroll, 1953. 4aEnvelope.
1	3	1996.177.2.5	Christmas card, from Victor and Helen W..., 1948.
1	3	1996.177.2.6	Christmas card, from "Mom & Pop". N.d.
1	3	1996.177.2.7	Greeting card, from Sister M. Patricia. N.d.
1	3	1996.177.2.8	Christmas card, from Laurin and Henry A..., 1941.
1	4	1996.177.2.9	Letter (written in Polish). To Teressia, from [illegible], March 2, 1939.
1	4	1996.177.2.10	Letter (written in Polish). Tereso, from [illegible], St. Mary's Rectory, Worcester, Massachusetts. February 17, 1937.
1	4	1996.177.2.11	Letter (written in Polish). Tereso, from [illegible], St. Mary's Rectory, Worcester, Massachusetts. March 25, 1937.
1	4	1996.177.2.12	Letter (written in Polish). Tereso, from [illegible], St. Mary's Rectory, Worcester, Massachusetts. January 15, 1937.
1	4	1996.177.2.13a-e	Letter. Ed, from Christine Carroll. N.d. 5 items.

Series 2, continued

1	4	1996.177.2.14	Letter. Ed from Lynn. "Saturday 24/31"
1	4	1996.177.2.15	Letter. Mr. Kowalczyk, from M. Haiman, Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. December 31, 1942.
1	4	1996.177.2.16	Letter. Miss Kowalczyk from M. Haiman, Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. July 13, 1943.
1	4	1996.177.2.17	Letter. To "Friend", from M. Haiman, Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. July 6, 1946.
1	4	1996.177.2.18	Letter. Eddie, from M. Haiman, Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. January 6, 1944.
1	4	1996.177.2.19	Letter. Nell, from Eddie (Kowalczyk), on Eta Jima, Honshu, Japan. December 19, 1945.
1	4	1996.177.2.20 20a	Letter. Eddie, from Lynn. August 1951. Envelope.
1	4	1996.177.2.21	Letter. Uncle Eddie, from Lynn. N.d.
1	4	1996.177.2.22	Letter. Edmund Kowalczyk, from Joyce Wiscotch, Secretary, Philosophical Library, Publishers. January 16, 1950.
1	4	1996.177.2.23	Letter. Edmund Kowalczyk, from Forbes Library, Northampton, Massachusetts. October 23, 1950.
1	4	1996.177.2.24	Letter. Ed, from Christine. October 21, 1952.
1	4	1996.177.2.25 25a	Letter. Edmund Kowalczyk, from Jennie Chapman, March 17, 1952. Envelope.
1	4	1996.177.2.26	Letter. Ed, from [Henry?] May 8, 1959.
1	4	1996.177.2.27 27a	Letter. Ed, from Christine Carroll. January 29, 1952. Envelope.
			Series 2, continued
1	4	1996.177.2.28	Memorandum. Edmund, from Henry Archacki, 2 p. March 24, 1941.

1	5	1996.177.2.29	Postcard. Catherine Kowalczyk, from Eddie. November 20, 1944.
1	5	1996.177.2.30	Card. Eddie, from M. Haman. August 9, 1944.
1	5	1996.177.2.31	Postcard. Mr. Kowalczyk, from M. Haiman. April 28, 1943.
1	5	1996.177.2.32	Postcard. Mr. Kowalczyk, from M. Haiman. October 11, 1937.
1	5	1996.177.2.33	Card (written in Polish). Kochana Tereso, from Zawsze Zyczliwa. N.d.
1	5	1996.177.2.34	Postcard. Sgt. Edmund Kowalczyk, from M. Haiman. November 27, 1945.
1	5	1996.177.2.35	Postcard (written in Polish). Edward [sic] Kowalczyk, from M. Haiman. April 25, 1947.
1	5	1996.177.2.36	Postcard (written in Polish). Edmund Kowalczyk, from [illegible]. December 30, 1947.
1	5	1996.177.2.37	Postcard. Mrs. K. Kowalczyk, from Teresa. June 26, 1940.
1	5	1996.177.2.38	Postcard. Ed Kowalczyk, from Paul. April 4, 1952.
1	5	1996.177.2.39	Postcard. Frank Kowalczyk, from Nellie and Oke, July 23, 1973.
1	5	1996.177.2.40a-c	Cards. Polish Madonna. 3 items.
1	6	1996.177.2.41a-i	Envelopes, empty. 9 items.
1	6	1996.177.2.42	Note. Memorandum.

Series 2, continued

1	6	1996.177.2.43	Sketch. "Camp Shelby, Miss. Chamberlain. April 28, 1945.
1	6	1996.177.2.44	Business card. Ignatius K. Werwinski.

1 6

1996.177.2.45

Detachment order. List of promotions. February
12, 1945.

Edmund Kowalczyk Collection
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Series 3, Photographs, sketches, etc.

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	7	1996.177.3.1	Snapshot. Camp Shelby, Mississippi, May 5, 1945. B&W, 3 x 5 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.2	Snapshot. Unidentified group, New York City, November 18, 1944. B&W, 3 x 5 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.3	Snapshot. Unidentified people, June 10, 1942. B&W, 3 x 5 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.4	Snapshot. Unidentified soldier. B&W, 2 x 3 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.5	Snapshot. Unidentified group. B&W, 3 x 5 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.6	Snapshot. Edmund Stefan Urbanski, in Mexico, B&W, 3 x 5 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.7	Snapshot. Unidentified couple. B&W, 3 x 5 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.8	Photograph. Unidentified soldiers. B&W, 4 x 6 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.9	Photograph. Unidentified people, June 10, 1942. B&W, 5 x 7 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.10	Photograph. Unidentified Sergeant. B&W, 5 x 7 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.11a-b	Snapshot. H. O. Rawson. B&W, 2 x 3 in. 2 copies.
1	7	1996.177.3.12a-f	Photograph. Ships carrying returning troops. B&W, 3 x 5 in. 6 items.
1	7	1996.177.3.13	Photograph. Ship, carrying "Welcome Home" banner, Seattle Port of Embarkation. B&W, 5 x 7 in.

Series 3, continued

1	7	1996.177.3.14	Photograph. "View of main Building." (Japan?) B&W, 4 x 6 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.15	Photograph. "Koyo Ferry (Japan)" B&W, 4 x 6 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.16	Photograph. "Headquarters" (probably in Japan) B&W, 4 x 6 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.17	Photograph. "Haruna", near Koyo, Eta Jima, Japan. B&W, 4 x 6 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.18	Snapshot. Military airplane, location unknown. B&W, 3 x 5 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.19	Snapshot. Military airplane, location unknown. B&W, 3 x 5 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.20	Snapshot. Shinto shrine. B&W, 2 3/4 x 4 1/4.
1	7	1996.177.3.21	Snapshot. American cemetery (Japan) B&W, 3 x 5 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.22	Snapshot. War damage, Japan. B&W, 2 1/4 x 3 1/4 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.23	Snapshot. War damage, Japan. B&W, 2 1/4 x 3 1/4 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.24	Snapshot. War damage, Japan. B&W, 3 x 4 1/4 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.25	Photograph. Portrait photograph signer [Val Eislyn?], 1937. B&W, 3 1/2 x 5 1/2.
1	7	1996.177.3.26	Photograph. Identified as Tokyo, Japan. B&W, 5 1/2 x 7 1/2 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.27	Photograph. "Me at German Village, Fort Lewis, Wash., October 1944." B&W, 8 x 10 in.
1	7	1996.177.3.28	Photograph. Unidentified (Japan) B&W, 8 1/2 x 11 1/2 in.
Series 3, continued			
1	8	1996.177.3.29	Halftone print. John Gielgud. B&W, 3 x 5 in.

1	8	1996.177.3.30	Pencil sketch. Unidentified. 3 x 4 ½ in.
1	8	1996.177.3.31	Pencil Sketch. Felix Vallejo, Yaqui Indian, drawn by ELK, March 12, 1943. 4 ½ x 6 in.
1	8	1996.177.3.32	Pencil Sketch. "Our shacks", at Fort Lewis, Washington, December 24, 1944. Inscribed "drawn the night before Christmas." 7 x 11 in.
1	8	1996.177.3.33	Sketch. Kobe commuter, by N.N. Faus. 8 x 10 in.
1	8	1996.177.3.34	Sketch. The Heian shrine, Kyoto, by Vrooman. 8 x 10 in.
1	8	1996.177.3.35	Sketch. Scene in Kiyomizu-Dera, Kyoto, by Vrooman. 8 x 10 in.
1	8	1996.177.3.36	Sketch. Kiyomizu-Dera, Kyoto, Shoko bell tower, by Vrooman. 8 x 10 in.
1	8	1996.177.3.37	Sketch. Golden pavilion, by Vrooman. 8 x 10 in.
1	8	1996.177.3.38	Sketch. Street scene, Kyoto, by Vrooman. 8 x 10 in.
1	8	1996.177.3.39	Sketch. Sammon of the Nanzen-Ji, by Vrooman. 8 x 10 in.
1	8	1996.177.3.40	Sketch. At Golden Pavilion, Kinkaku-Ji, Kyoto, by R. Vrooman. 8 x 10 in.
1	8	1996.177.3.41	Sketch. Bridge in Jingo-ji temple grounds, by Vrooman. 8 x 10 in.
1	8	1996.177.3.42	Sketch. Nanko temple, by Robert Brooks, Kobe. 8 x 10 in.
1	8	1996.177.3.43	Sketch. International settlement, by Robert Brooks, Kobe. 8 x 10 in.
Series 3, continued			
1	8	1996.177.3.44	International settlement, by Robert Brooks, Kobe. 8 x 10 in.

1	8	1996.177.3.45	Sketch. Vignettes, by Robert Brooks, Kobe. 8 x 10 in.
1	8	1996.177.3.46	Sketch. Stonecutter's shop, by Robert Brooks, Kobe. 8 x 10 in.
1	9	1996.177.3.47a-b	Greeting card. Imprinted Fort Lewis, Washington. Color halftone prints 4 ½ x 6 in. a. Rosario Beach on Puget Sound. b. Mt. Rainier.
1	9	1996.177.3.48a-e	Postcards. Unused Japanese postcards, B&W halftone prints: a. Tamanoiwa Senkojiyama. b. unidentified c. Saiko Kuji Temple. d. Senkoji Park. e. Kwannon temple of Jodoji.
1	9	1996.177.3.49	Postcard. Color painting of unidentified Japanese rural scene.
1	9	1996.177.3.50	Postcard. Color halftone print, Shinto shrine, unidentified Japanese location.
1	9	1996.177.3.51	Postcard. B&W halftone print "Leaving Fort Lewis, Washington, by Main Gate."
1	9	1996.177.3.52	Postcard. B&W photograph. Signed [... Siegal?]
1	9	1996.177.3.53	Note paper, imprinted in Japanese.
1	9	1996.177.3.54a-b	Photograph holders. 2 items.

Edmund Kowalczyk Collection
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Series 4, Scrapbooks, etc.

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	10	1996.177.4.1	Notebook. Biographical notes (pencil manuscript) on Polish pioneers of the United States, by Edmund L. Kowalczyk, June 22, 1942. Spiral bound, 5 x 8 in.
1	11	1996.177.4.2	Scrapbook. Clippings, prints, and other materials relating to Polish-Americans, with additional miscellany. 24 cm.

Edmund Kowalczyk Collection
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Series 5, Miscellaneous

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	12	1996.177.5.1	Ticket. Admission to United States Senate Chamber, 1937, signed by Sen. Royal S. Copeland.
1	12	1996.177.5.2	Pamphlet. Subject Nationalities of the German Alliance, 1917. 4 p., map.
1	12	1996.177.5.3	Flier. The Industrial Museum, by John W. Higgins, President, Worcester Pressed Steel Co., Worcester, Mass., re Higgins Armory.
1	12	1996.177.5.4	Pamphlet. Pageant of steel, by David S. Oakes, 1942, re Higgins Armory. 15 p.