

Register for the
POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS

1891-1987

MSS 168
(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

PG 245

203 linear feet

Larisa Repin
Processing Archivist for the Balch Institute

August 2001

The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies
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[now the Historical Society of Pennsylvania
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*This project was made possible with a generous grant from
John C. Haas*

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NORTH AMERICA RECORDS
MSS 168
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180 storage boxes of mss.
86 shoeboxes of 4"x 6" cards
1 oversize box of mss.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>page</u>
Provenance	1
Historical notes	2
Scope and content	3
Record series descriptions	4
Record box list	6
Series I: Death Claims Records	6
Series II: Cash Surrender Materials	13
Series III: Change of Beneficiary Materials	14
Subseries A: Juvenile Change of Beneficiary	16
Series IV: Disability Claims Materials	16
Series V: Endowment Matured Records	17
Series VI: Terminated Records	17
Subseries A: Terminated Records, Alphabetical Order	19

POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS
MSS 168
(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

PROVENANCE

This collection was donated to the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies by the Polish Union of the United States of North America in 1998-1990. The papers came in as five accessions: M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41 and were processed in August 2001 by Larisa Repin, archival assistant for the Balch Institute.

The photographs have been separated from the manuscripts to PG 245.

The following non-manuscript items were removed from the collection and have been transferred to the division or the section indicated:

MUSEUM:

Convention ribbons:

Polish American Council, 1941 - 1 item

Polish American Congress, 1956 – 1 item

Polish Union of the U.S.A., 1941, 1950, 1958 – 3 items

Polish Union key chains – 2 items

LIBRARY:

Printed works:

Polish Union printed materials – 2 Paige boxes

15 rolls of microfilm are in the microfilm drawers.

For related materials, see MSS 156 Polish-American Journal and MSS 54 Henry Dende Papers.

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POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS

MSS 168

(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

HISTORICAL NOTES

The Polish Union of the United States of North America is a national fraternal benefit society founded in 1890 which provides life insurance and offers college scholarship loans to its members. As of 1998 it had approximately 12,000 members and 82 local groups. It is headquartered in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and affiliated with the National Fraternal Congress of America. In the late 1970s and early 1980s Henry Dende, whose collection is also at the Balch (MSS 54), was president of the organization, as well as having been editor of the Polish-American Journal (MSS 156) from 1944-1983. The Journal had become the main voice for the union by the early 1980s, and the Balch Institute has a complete run of this newspaper.

POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS
MSS 168
(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Textual Records: This collection spans the years 1891-1987 and reflects the organization's life insurance mission. The collection consists of death claims records as well as other insurance materials, such as cash surrender, change of beneficiary, and disability claims, endowment matured and terminated materials. There are no other historical or institutional records whatever. Documents are in Polish and a little English.

There is no index and individual names are not recorded.

Photographs: Photographs have been separated to PG 245.

Artifacts: A few artifacts (5 convention ribbons and 2 key chains) have been removed from the records and placed in the Balch Museum.

Library Materials: Printed materials have been transferred to the Balch Library.

POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS
MSS 168
(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

RECORD SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

The material has been organized into six series according to volume of the documents. Terminated records, on 4"x 6" cards, are in Series VI.

SERIES I: DEATH CLAIMS RECORDS, 1891-1987, Boxes 1-117

The largest part of the collection is death claims records and fills 118 storage boxes. The materials are mostly in Polish, with minimal information in English. Arrangement is chronological, but not alphabetical.

SERIES II: CASH SURRENDER MATERIALS, 1939-1985, Boxes 117-143

This series includes cash surrender records (documenting the release of insurance monies for cash to members), placed into 27 storage boxes. Materials are in Polish and some English as well, with chronological arrangement.

SERIES III: CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY MATERIALS, 1928-1981
Boxes 143-164, OS Box

SUBSERIES A: Juvenile Change of Beneficiary Records, 1928-1978
Boxes 162-164, OS Box

Series III consists of documents indicating a change of beneficiary in an insurance policy, which comprise 24 storage boxes and one oversize box. Five of these boxes concern juvenile beneficiary changes. All are in Polish and English.

SERIES IV: DISABILITY CLAIMS MATERIALS, 1904-1963, Boxes 165-176

Twelve storage boxes here contain disability claims materials, organized chronologically. Information on all documents is again mostly in Polish.

POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS
MSS 168
(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

SERIES V: ENDOWMENT MATURED RECORDS, 1968-1986, Boxes 176-180

This smallest series of the collection numbers five storage boxes and contains the endowment matured materials. Again the materials are in Polish and English with chronological arrangement.

SERIES VI: TERMINATED RECORDS, 1931-1981 & n.d., Boxes 181-209

SUBSERIES A: Terminated Records, Alphabetical Order "A-Z", Boxes 210-266

Some of these documents are 4"x 6" cards arranged chronologically in 28 shoeboxes. Further documents on the same size cards and presumably with the same information arranged alphabetically have been separated into Subseries VIA, and are located in 57 shoeboxes. The language here is also mostly Polish.

POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS
MSS 168
(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

BOX LIST

SERIES I: DEATH CLAIMS RECORDS, 1891-1987, Boxes 1-117

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>			
1	1-35	Death claims		1891-1904
2	1-32	“	“	1905-1908
3	1-24	“	“	1908-1910
4	1-25	“	“	1910-1912
5	1-25	“	“	1913-1914
6	1-25	“	“	1914-1915
7	1-22	“	“	1915-1916
8	1-25	“	“	1917-1918
9	1-28	“	“	1918
10	1-25	“	“	1919
11	1-25	“	“	1919-1920
12	1-25	“	“	1920-1921
13	1-25	“	“	1921-1922
14	1-25	“	“	1922-1923
15	1-24	“	“	1923
16	1-25	“	“	1924
17	1-20	“	“	1924-1925

POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS
MSS 168
(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

SERIES I: DEATH CLAIMS RECORDS, 1891-1987

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>			
18	1-20	Death claims		1925-1926
19	1-20	“	“	1926
20	1-24	“	“	1926-1927
21	1-20	“	“	1927
22	1-20	“	“	1928
23	1-20	“	“	1928-1929
24	1-20	“	“	1929
25	1-22	“	“	1929-1930
26	1-23	“	“	1930
27	1-22	“	“	1931
28	1-22	“	“	1931-1932
29	1-22	“	“	1932
30	1-20	“	“	1932-1933
31	1-20	“	“	1933
32	1-20	“	“	1934
33	1-22	“	“	1934-1935
34	1-22	“	“	1935

POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS
MSS 168
(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

SERIES I: DEATH CLAIMS RECORDS, 1891-1987

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>			
35	1-22	Death claims		1936
36	1-22	“	“	1936-1937
37	1-22	“	“	1937-1938
38	1-22	“	“	1938
39	1-22	“	“	1938-1939
40	1-22	“	“	1939-1940
41	1-20	“	“	1940-1941
42	1-22	“	“	1941
43	1-20	“	“	1942
44	1-20	“	“	1942-1943
45	1-22	“	“	1943-1944
46	1-20	“	“	1944
47	1-20	“	“	1944-1945
48	1-20	“	“	1945
49	1-20	“	“	1946
50	1-22	“	“	1946-1947
51	1-22	“	“	1947-1948

POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS
MSS 168
(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

SERIES I: DEATH CLAIMS RECORDS, 1891-1987

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>			
52	1-22	Death claims		1948
53	1-22	“	“	1948-1949
54	1-22	“	“	1949
55	1-22	“	“	1949-1950
56	1-22	“	“	1950
57	1-22	“	“	1950-1951
58	1-20	“	“	1951
59	1-20	“	“	1951-1952
60	1-20	“	“	1952
61	1-20	“	“	1952-1953
62	1-20	“	“	1953
63	1-20	“	“	1953-1954
64	1-20	“	“	1954
65	1-20	“	“	1955
66	1-22	“	“	1955-1956
67	1-20	“	“	1956
68	1-22	“	“	1956-1957

POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS
MSS 168
(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

SERIES I: DEATH CLAIMS RECORDS, 1891-1987

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>			
69	1-22	Death claims		1957
70	1-20	“	“	1957-1958
71	1-20	“	“	1958
72	1-20	“	“	1959
73	1-18	“	“	1959
74	1-20	“	“	1960
75	1-20	“	“	1960
76	1-20	“	“	1960-1961
77	1-20	“	“	1961
78	1-20	“	“	1962
79	1-20	“	“	1962
80	1-20	“	“	1963
81	1-20	“	“	1963-1964
82	1-20	“	“	1964
83	1-20	“	“	1964-1965
84	1-20	“	“	1965
85	1-20	“	“	1965-1966

POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS
MSS 168
(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

SERIES I: DEATH CLAIMS RECORDS, 1891-1987

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>			
86	1-17	Death claims		1966
87	1-20	“	“	1966-1967
88	1-18	“	“	1967-1968
89	1-20	“	“	1968
90	1-20	“	“	1968-1969
91	1-20	“	“	1969
92	1-20	“	“	1969
93	1-20	“	“	1969-1970
94	1-20	“	“	1970
95	1-20	“	“	1970
96	1-20	“	“	1970-1971
97	1-20	“	“	1971
98	1-20	“	“	1971
99	1-20	“	“	1971-1972
100	1-20	“	“	1972
101	1-20	“	“	1972
102	1-20	“	“	1972-1973

POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS
MSS 168
(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

SERIES I: DEATH CLAIMS RECORDS, 1891-1987

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>			
103	1-20	Death claims		1973
104	1-20	“	“	1973-1974
105	1-20	“	“	1974-1975
106	1-22	“	“	1975
107	1-20	“	“	1975-1976
108	1-16	“	“	1976
109	1-18	“	“	1977-1978
110	1-18	“	“	1978-1979
111	1-20	“	“	1979-1980
112	1-22	“	“	1980-1981
113	1-20	“	“	1981-1982
114	1-24	“	“	1982-1983
115	1-18	“	“	1984-1985
116	1-18	“	“	1985-1986
117	1-5	“	“	1986-1987

POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS
MSS 168
(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

SERIES II: CASH SURRENDER MATERIALS, 1939-1985, Boxes 117-143

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>			
117	6-22	Cash surrenders		1939-1947
118	1-20	“	“	1947-1949
119	1-20	“	“	1950-1951
120	1-20	“	“	1951-1952
121	1-20	“	“	1952-1953
122	1-20	“	“	1953
123	1-22	“	“	1953-1954
124	1-20	“	“	1954-1955
125	1-22	“	“	1955-1956
126	1-20	“	“	1956-1957
127	1-20	“	“	1957-1958
128	1-20	“	“	1958-1959
129	1-20	“	“	1960
130	1-20	“	“	1961
131	1-20	“	“	1961-1962
132	1-20	“	“	1962-1963
133	1-20	“	“	1963-1964

POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS
MSS 168
(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

SERIES II: CASH SURRENDER MATERIALS, 1939-1985

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>			
134	1-20	Cash surrenders		1964-1965
135	1-21	“	“	1965-1966
136	1-20	“	“	1967-1968
137	1-18	“	“	1969-1973
138	1-20	“	“	1973-1974
139	1-21	“	“	1975
140	1-20	“	“	1976-1978
141	1-20	“	“	1978-1981
142	1-22	“	“	1981-1984
143	1-11	“	“	1984-1985

SERIES III: CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY MATERIALS, 1928-1981
Boxes 143-164, OS Box

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>			
143	12-44	Change of beneficiary		1929-1938
144	1-22	“	“	“
145	1-48	“	“	“
146	1-44	“	“	“

POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS
MSS 168
(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

SERIES III: CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY MATERIALS, 1928-1981

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>				
147	1-32	Change of beneficiary			1941
148	1-25	“	“	“	1941-1942
149	1-25	“	“	“	1942-1943
150	1-25	“	“	“	1944-1945
151	1-24	“	“	“	1945-1946
152	1-22	“	“	“	1946-1947
153	1-18	“	“	“	1948-1949
154	1-19	“	“	“	1949-1950
155	1-22	“	“	“	1951-1953
156	1-18	“	“	“	1954-1956
157	1-20	“	“	“	1957-1960
158	1-20	“	“	“	1960-1964
159	1-20	“	“	“	1965-1969
160	1-17	“	“	“	1970-1975
161	1-19	“	“	“	1976-1981

POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS
MSS 168
(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

SERIES III: CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY MATERIALS, 1928-1981

SUIBSERIES A: Juvenile Change of Beneficiary Records, 1928-1978
Boxes 162-164, OS Box

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>		
162 OS Box	1-27	Juvenile change of beneficiary	1946-1958
163	1-23	“ “ “ “	1959-1970
164	1-10	“ “ “ “	1971-1978
164	11-20	Other juvenile records: death claims, cash surrender & endowment matured documents	1928-1934
165	1-14	“ “ “	1934-1969

SERIES IV: DISABILITY CLAIMS MATERIALS, 1904-1963, Boxes 165-176

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>		
165	15-22	Disability claims	1904-1921
166	1-17	“ “ “	1922-1926
167	1-17	“ “ “	1927-1929
168	1-20	“ “ “	1930-1932
169	1-17	“ “ “	1932-1933
170	1-18	“ “ “	1934-1936
171	1-20	“ “ “	1936-1938

POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS
MSS 168
(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

SERIES IV: DISABILITY CLAIMS MATERIALS, 1904-1963

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>				
172	1-18	Disability claims			1938-1940
173	1-20	“	“	“	1940-1943
174	1-17	“	“	“	1943-1948
175	1-17	“	“	“	1949-1953
176	1-3	“	“	“	1954-1963

SERIES V: ENDOWMENT MATURED RECORDS, 1968-1986, Boxes 176-180

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>					
176	4-21	Endowment matured records				1968-1974
177	1-20	“	“	“	“	1974-1977
178	1-18	“	“	“	“	1977-1981
179	1-19	“	“	“	“	1982-1985
180	1-7	“	“	“	“	1986

SERIES VI: TERMINATED RECORDS, 1931-1981 & n.d., Boxes 181-209

<u>Box</u>			
181	Catalogue cards		1931-1932
182	“	“	1932

POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS
MSS 168
(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

SERIES VI: TERMINATED RECORDS, 1931-1981 & n.d.

Box

183	Catalogue cards	1932-1933
184	“ “	1933-1934
185	“ “	1934
186	“ “	1934-1935
187	“ “	1935-1936
188	“ “	1936-1937
189	“ “	1937
190	“ “	1938
191	“ “	1939
192	“ “	1939-1940
193	“ “	1940
194	“ “	1941-1942
195	“ “	1942-1944
196	“ “	1944-1946
197	“ “	1946-1947
198	“ “	1947-1948
199	“ “	1948-1949

POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS
MSS 168
(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

SERIES VI: TERMINATED RECORDS, 1931-1981 & n.d.

Box

200	Catalogue cards	1950-1951
201	“ “	1951-1953
202	“ “	1953-1955
203	“ “	1955-1958
204	“ “	1958-1961
205	“ “	1963-1965
206	“ “	1966-1969
207	“ “	1970-1973
208	“ “	1974-1976
209	“ “	1978-1981 & n.d.

SUBSERIES A: Terminated Records, Alphabetical Order “A-Z”, Boxes 210-267

Box

210	Catalogue cards	A-B
211	“ “	B
212	“ “	B
213	“ “	B
214	“ “	B

POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS
MSS 168
(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

SERIES VI: TERMINATED RECORDS, 1931-1981 & n.d.

SUBSERIES A: Terminated Records, Alphabetical Order "A-Z"

Box

215	Catalogue cards	B-C
216	“ “ “	C
217	“ “ “	C-D
218	“ “ “	D
219	“ “ “	D-E
220	“ “ “	F
221-223	“ “	G
224	“ “ “	H
225-226	“ “	J
227-233	“ “	K
234	“ “	K-L
235-236	“ “	L
237	“ “	L-M
238-241	“ “	M
242	“ “	N
243	“ “	N-O

POLISH UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
NORTH AMERICA RECORDS
MSS 168
(M88-29, M88-30, M89-36, M90-34, M90-41)

SERIES VI: TERMINATED RECORDS, 1931-1981 & n.d.

SUBSERIES A: Terminated Records, Alphabetical Order "A-Z"

Box

244-245	Catalogue cards	O
246	“ “ “	O-P
247-249	“ “ “	P
250	“ “ “	Q-R
251	“ “ “	R
252	“ “ “	R-S
253-258	“ “ “	S
259	“ “ “	T
260	“ “ “	T-V-W
261-264	“ “ “	W
265	“ “ “	Y-Z
266-267	“ “ “	Z