Register for the
STEFAN SOKOŁOWSKI PAPERS

1911-1978
(Span dates 1935-1975)

MSS 176
(M95-51)

PG 356
& Unprocessed Photographs and Slides

Larisa Repin
Project Archival Processor for the Balch Institute
of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania

February 2002

The Balch Institute of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania
1300 Locust Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

This project was made possible with a generous grant from
John C. Haas
STEFCAN SOKOLOWSKI PAPERS
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42 Hollinger boxes of mss.
3 oversize boxes
1 folder oversize materials
1 Hollinger box of unprocessed photographs, slides, and artifacts

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PROVENANCE

The Stefan Sokolowski papers were given to the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies by Holy Family College in 1995. The papers came in as one accession, M95-51 and were processed in February 2002 by Larisa Repin, archival processor for the Balch Institute of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. This project was made possible with a generous grant from John C. Haas.

Materials are in Polish and English, and a few in German.

This collection had previously been assigned PG 356 for photographs, and the bulk of its photos had already been placed in the photo sequence. However, numerous other photographs and some slides emerged as the manuscripts were processed, and those visual materials remained unprocessed as of February 2002. They have been placed in box #43, the last box in the manuscript collection. There is also one oversize photo. It has been placed in oversize (OS) folder 2.

A few artifacts also have been separated from the manuscripts and were also placed with unprocessed materials in the last folder # 11 in box # 43.

For related collections, see MSS 63 Gwiazda and the Polish Star Publishing Company Records and SC 277 Bronislaw Pluta Papers.

A complete list of newspapers that have remained with the manuscript collection (Oversize Boxes 1-3) is given at the end of this funding aid. Other newspapers have been separated to the Library.
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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Stefan Sokolowski was born in Poland on January 13, 1915. His father and
mother were killed in World War I and he was raised in a boarding school for orphans in
Bydgoszcz, Poland. From 1928 to 1934, he attended a local gymnasiuim, and later,
studied at an industrial lyceum. In 1936, he took a university course in Krakow, and in
1937-1939, while working in the tourism business, Sokolowski published his first
sketches in local newspapers, Orlí Lot and Ziemia.

During the World War II Sokolowski participated in the Polish underground
forces of company “L” of 5th infantry as a propagandist and reporter, and, in 1943, was
arrested. Released from a German camp in 1945 by the American army, Sokolowski
stayed in Germany, and published and edited a bulletin called “Wiadomości Codzienne”.
In 1948, as a member of the Association of Authorized Publishers in the U.S. Zone in
Germany, he published newspapers and magazines for the IBO Resettlement Center. He
later became the editor of the newspaper Lech, which published overseas news for
thousands of Poles displaced in Germany.

In August 1949, Sokolowski immigrated to the United States, and shortly
thereafter became a correspondent, and then an editor of Nowi Świat in Philadelphia.
In 1970, after the liquidation of this newspaper, he became a correspondent for New York
City’s Nowy Dziennik. He had also established contact with the publishers of Patriot and
Jedność in Philadelphia, which published his articles and reports, and later edited
Gwiazda (q.v.) for fifteen years.

Sokolowski was an author of a wide range of historical sketches about many
Polish and Polish-American organizations, institutions, and events. He was awarded the
Gold Cross for Merit of Rzeczypospolity of Poland in 1970 for the breadth and depth of
his articles, and in 1974, received the Communications Award from the Polish Heritage
Society.

Stefan Sokolowski and his wife, Janina, had one son, Slawomir. Sokolowski died
on April 17, 1975, in Philadelphia.
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SCOPE AND CONTENT

Textual Records. This collection spans the years 1911-1978, but the majority of the materials is concentrated between 1935-1975. There are personal and professional materials here, but almost no information about his family. The records in the large Series IA reflect Sokolowski’s professional activities and contain correspondence, directories, financial data, and minutes, but the bulk of this series is the biographies and histories Sokolowski collected, evidently, as reference materials. Series IB includes his personal materials, such as an autobiography and other biographical notes, certificates, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and religious materials. In addition there are national cultural and historical materials, including information about Polish traditional costumes, food, holidays and entertainments. There are also obituaries for him and others in this series. Series IC is largely composed of information about candidates of various election campaigns.

Series II focuses on Sokolowski’s participation in community, fraternal, and religious organizations and events, and the records in Series IIA include, correspondence, by-laws, constitutions, directories, historical and biographical information, programs, reports, minutes, speeches, publications and newspaper clippings related to community and cultural organizations, and almost the same records can be found in Series IIB for fraternal and beneficial organizations. Materials in Series IIC consist of programs concerning the anniversaries, conventions, and meetings of religious organizations, as well as the correspondence, reports, articles, and studies from such organizations.

Unprocessed photographs, one negative, a few slides, and the artifacts are included in Series III.

The textual records, except for directories, financial materials, newspaper clippings, reference and print materials, have been indexed.
Photographs and Slides. A considerable number of photographs, one negative, and a few slides found with the manuscripts had not been processed as of February 2002. They have been placed in box 43 at the end of the manuscript collection. Numerous other photographs for this collection had already been processed, and can be found in PG 356.
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RECORD SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

SERIES I: PROFESSIONAL, PERSONAL & POLITICAL MATERIALS, 1912-1978,
Boxes 1-24, OS (Oversize) Boxes 1-3 & OS (Oversize) Folder

SUBSERIES A: Professional Materials, 1918-1977, Boxes 1-19,
OS (Oversize) Boxes 1-3 & OS (Oversize) Folder

This is the largest section of the collection, and it contains conference materials, correspondence, directories, minutes, and some financial data. However, the series mostly consists of biographies and histories, including articles in newspaper clippings, correspondence, and commemorative materials, collected, perhaps, as reference sources in Sokolowski’s capacity as editor of Nowi Świat and Gwiazda. Biographies are arranged alphabetically for groups of names, and also chronologically for individuals. There is biographical information about such figures as astronomer Nicholas Copernicus, General Thaddeus Kosciuszko, musician and statesman Ignacy Paderewski, John Cardinal Krol, and Marshal Josef Piłsudski. In addition, there are newspaper clippings, orders for greetings and greeting materials, publications and reference materials. Materials are mostly in Polish; some are in English or German. Arrangement is alphabetical.

SUBSERIES B: Personal Papers, 1912-1978, Boxes 19-22
& OS (Oversize) Folder

This small subseries contains Sokolowski’s autobiography and biographical notes, certificates, a few immigration documents, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and religious materials. There is a jubilee album published on the occasion of Sokolowski’s twenty-five years of dedicated service to Philadelphia’s Polonia. Most of the material here reflects Polish national cultural traditions and history, and, not surprisingly, much of this information is in newspaper clippings. In addition, there are obituaries for him and others. The materials are mostly in Polish with some in English. Arrangement is alphabetical.
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SERIES I: PROFESSIONAL, PERSONAL & POLITICAL MATERIALS, 1912-1978,

SUBSERIES C: Political Materials, 1941-1975, Boxes 22-24

This small section of the collection deals with American political events and mostly contains candidate information of election campaigns, including biographies, political profiles, speeches, and correspondence. There are many appreciation letters to Sokolowski from politicians for his support in the newspapers he edited. For instance, there is a such letter from Joseph Zaszczyzy (see MSS 136 Joseph Zaszczyzy Papers) as a democratic candidate for City Council in 1967, and another from Frank Rizzo in 1971. In addition, there are reference and print materials here. All materials are in Polish and English. Arrangement is alphabetical.

SERIES II: COMMUNITY, FRATERNAL & RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS & EVENTS, 1911-1976, Boxes 24-42

SUBSERIES A: Community, Cultural & Other Organizations & Events,
1911-1976, Boxes 24-33

Materials here depict a range of subjects related to Polish-American activities in Philadelphia and the region, including celebration of Polish-American Day, Polish Constitution Day, and the Pulaski Day parade. Sokolowski was invited to many such events and was, for instance, guest of honor for the Pulaski Day banquet in 1973. Other materials in this series are about Polish-American organizations, such as American Relief for Poland; the Associated Polish Home, the Kosciuszko Foundation; the Paderewski Foundation, Inc., and the Paderewski Choral Society; the Polish American Congress, Inc. (where Sokolowski was chairman of the Resolution Committee in 1959), and others. He was invited for the opening of the new Associated Polish Home in 1958, and participated in the 25th anniversary convention of the American Council of Polish Cultural Clubs in 1973. The records here include, anniversaries and histories, conventions and meetings, correspondence, directories, programs, reports, and newspaper clippings. All materials are in Polish and English, with alphabetical arrangement.
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SERIES II: COMMUNITY, FRATERNAL & RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS & EVENTS, 1911-1976

SUBSERIES B: Fraternal & Beneficial Organizations, 1926-1976,
Boxes 34-39

During his long editorial career, Sokolowski was also involved with activities and events of Polish Air Force Veterans and Polish Army Veterans Associations, the Polish Beneficial Association (see MSS 80), the Polish National Alliance (see MSS 150 and many small collections), and, of course, the Union of Polish Women in America, which published Gwiazda. Materials of these and other organizations are represented in correspondence, directories, historical information, programs, resolutions, speeches, reports, official publications, and newspaper clippings. Materials are in Polish and English with alphabetical arrangement.

SUBSERIES C: Religious Organizations & Events, 1925-1975,
Boxes 40-42

This small subseries includes materials of several religious organizations, in particular, the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland, and the National Shrine of our Lady of Czestochowa, with which activities and events Sokolowski was also involved. The bulk of records here is correspondence, programs, articles and studies, and newspaper clippings. Again, materials are in Polish and English. Arrangement is alphabetical.

SERIES III: UNPROCESSED MATERIALS, n.d., Box 43 & OS (Oversize) Folder 1

Unprocessed materials include photographs, slides, one negative and two artifacts, a convention ribbon and a lapel tulip.
**SERIES I: PROFESSIONAL, PERSONAL & POLITICAL MATERIALS, 1912-1978,**
Boxes 1-24, OS (Oversize) Boxes 1-3, OS (Oversize) Folder

**SUBSERIES A: Professional Materials, 1918-1977, Boxes 1-19,**
OS (Oversize) Boxes 1-3 & OS (Oversize) Folder

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SUBSERIES A: Professional Materials, 1918-1977

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SUBSERIES A: Professional Materials, 1918-1977

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<td>Der – Dy</td>
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<td>El – Ej</td>
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| 6   | 1      | Fa – Fr |
| 2   |        | Ga – Gi |
| 4   |        | Gor – Gw |
| 5   |        | Ha – He |
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SUBSERIES A: Professional Materials, 1918-1977

Box  Folder

Publishing materials

Biographies, histories & other materials (individuals arranged alphabetically and chronologically, and groups arranged alphabetically without dates)

6  6  Ho – Jan

7  1  Jaw – Il
    2  Ka – Ki
        Klekotka, Peter J.
    4-5  General materials  1944-74 & n.d.
    6  Newspaper clippings  1960-76 & n.d.
    7  Klep – Klo
    8  Kn – Kor
        Kosciuszko, Thaddeus
    9-11  Correspondence & commemoratives  1967-Jan., 1972
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<td>1962-76 &amp; n.d.</td>
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<td>1961-75 &amp; n.d.</td>
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<td>Kosi – Kra</td>
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<td>10-12</td>
<td>Activities &amp; events</td>
<td>1967-74 &amp; n.d.</td>
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SERIES I: PROFESSIONAL, PERSONAL & POLITICAL MATERIALS, 1912-1978

SUBSERIES A: Professional Materials, 1918-1977

Box Folder

Publishing materials

Biographies, histories & other materials (individuals arranged alphabetically and chronologically, and groups arranged alphabetically without dates)

9 9 La – Lu
10  Ma – Mu

10 1  Naj – Nar
2   Ne – Ni
3   Nos – Now
4   Ol – Os
5   Paderewski, Ignacy 1918, 1950-63 & n.d.
6   Palecki, Francis S. 1960-72 & n.d.
7   Pan – Paw
8   Paw – Paz

11 1  Pec – Pez
2   Pia – Pie
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SERIES I. PROFESSIONAL, PERSONAL & POLITICAL MATERIALS, 1912-1978

SUBSERIES A. Professional Materials, 1918-1977

Box   Folder

Publishing materials

Biographies, histories & other materials (individuals arranged alphabetically and chronologically, and groups arranged alphabetically without dates)

11 3 Pilsudski, Josef 1962-74 & n.d.
    4 Pin – Pio
    5-7 Piszek, Edward J. 1965-77 & n.d.
    8 PI – Ps
    9 Re – Sad

12 1 Sak  Si
    2 Sk – So
    3 Sp – Stu
    4 Styka family 1956-74 & n.d.
    5 Sty – Sz
    6 Ta – Tu
    7 Ve – Wa
    8 We – Wn
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SUBSERIES A: Professional Materials, 1918-1977

Box  Folder

Publishing materials

Biographies, histories & other materials (individuals arranged alphabetically and chronologically, and groups arranged alphabetically without dates)

12  9      Wo – Wyc

13  1      Wyd – Wys

2      Ya – Zawi

3      Zawo – Zio

OS Boxes 1-3 Newspapers

Nowi Dziennik  1971-74

Tydzień Polski-weekly addition to the Nowi Dziennik  1964-1972

Nowi Świat  1955-1971

Ogniwo-weekly addition to the Nowi Świat  1961-1971

13  4-7   Newspaper clippings  1960-76 & n.d.

8      Orders for greetings & greeting materials  1966-73 & n.d.
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<th>Folder</th>
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<td>9-13</td>
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SERIES I: PROFESSIONAL, PERSONAL & POLITICAL MATERIALS, 1912-1978

SUBSERIES B: Personal Papers, 1912-1978, Boxes 19-22  
& OS (Oversize) Folder

<table>
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<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>19</td>
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<td>8-10</td>
<td>Correspondence &amp; notes</td>
<td>1925-69</td>
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20  | 1-5 | Correspondence & notes | 1970-74 & n.d. |
| 6   |        | Drawings | n.d. |

National cultural & historical materials

Cultural traditions

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<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
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<td>Costumes</td>
<td>1959</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Food &amp; recipes</td>
<td>1967-75 &amp; n.d.</td>
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<td>9-11</td>
<td>Holidays</td>
<td>1960-74 &amp; n.d.</td>
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<td>12-13</td>
<td>Music, theater &amp; other entertaiments</td>
<td>1912-29, 1942-78</td>
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21  | 1 | Music, theater & other entertainments | n.d. |
| 2   | Poetry                           | 1966, 1969    |
STEVEN SOKOLOWSKI PAPERS
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SERIES I: PROFESSIONAL, PERSONAL & POLITICAL MATERIALS, 1912-1978

SUBSERIES B: Personal Papers, 1912-1978

Box  Folder

Historical materials

21  3  Commemorative materials  1964-72 & n.d.
    OS Folder    Map  1934

21  4  Map description  1934

5-6  Monte Cassino battle  1957-74 & n.d.

7-10  Newspaper clippings & other print materials  1916-76 & n.d.

11-14  Newspaper & magazine clippings  1965-78 & n.d.

22  1  Note books & calendars  1949 & n.d.
    OS Folder  Religious materials  1966-74 & n.d.

22  3  School & other lessons & notes  1952-53 & n.d.

Obituaries

4  Sokolowski, Stefan  1975

5  Zaleski, August  1972

6  Others  1957, 1972
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<td>22</td>
<td>7 Articles, biographies, speeches &amp; other materials</td>
<td>1956-73 &amp; n.d.</td>
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# STEFAN SOKOLOWSKI PAPERS
## MSS 176
### (M95-51)

## SERIES II: COMMUNITY, FRATERNAL, & RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS & EVENTS, 1911-1976, Boxes 24-42

### SUBSERIES A: Community, Cultural & Other Organizations & Events, 1911-1976, Boxes 24-33

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**MSS 176**
**(M95-51)**

**SERIES II: COMMUNITY, FRATERNAL & RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS & EVENTS, 1911-1976**

**SUBSERIES A: Community, Cultural & Other Organizations & Events, 1911-1976**

**Box** Folder  
Organizations  

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**Pilsudski Institute of America**

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SERIES II. COMMUNITY, FRATERNAL & RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS & EVENTS, 1911-1976

SUBSERIES A: Community, Cultural & Other Organizations & Events, 1911-1976

Box  Folder

Organizations

Polish American Citizens' League of Pennsylvania

29  12   Albums  1912, 1950

13   Banquets & dinners  1925, 1952-1973

14   Constitution  1911(?)

15-17 Correspondence  1965-73 & n.d.

18   Minutes  1969-73 & n.d.

19   Resolutions  1967-74

Polish American Congress, Inc.

30  1    By-laws  n.d.

2-5 Correspondence  1954-74 & n.d.

6    Directories & other organizational information  1944, 1967-73 & n.d.

7    Historical information  1970-72

8-13 Minutes, agendas & reports  1945-74 & n.d.
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### SERIES II: COMMUNITY, FRATERNAL & RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS & EVENTS, 1911-1976

**SUBSERIES A:** Community, Cultural & Other Organizations & Events, 1911-1976

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Polish Intercollegiate Club
**STEFAN SOKOLOWSKI PAPERS**  
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**SERIES II: COMMUNITY, FRATERNAL & RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS & EVENTS, 1911-1976**

**SUBSERIES A: Community, Cultural & Other Organizations & Events, 1911-1976**

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| 32  | 1      | Polish Singers Alliance of America: Correspondence & other materials 1958-72 & n.d. |
| 2-3 |        | Polish sport clubs: Correspondence & other materials 1957-74 & n.d. |
| 4   |        | Polonia Federal Savings and Loan Association & related organizations: Correspondence & other materials 1966-74 |

**Other organizations**

| 5-8 |        | Albums, programs & other materials 1925-69 |
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SERIES II: COMMUNITY, FRATERNAL & RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS & EVENTS, 1911-1976

SUBSERIES A: Community, Cultural & Other Organizations & Events, 1911-1976

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SUBSERIES B: Fraternal & Beneficial Organizations, 1926-1976, Boxes 34-39

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### STEFAN SOKOLOWSKI PAPERS
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### SERIES II: COMMUNITY, FRATERNAL & RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS & EVENTS, 1911-1976

#### SUBSERIES B: Fraternal & Beneficial Organizations, 1926-1976,

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## STEFAN SOKOLOWSKI PAPERS
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## SERIES II: COMMUNITY, FRATERNAL & RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS & EVENTS, 1911-1976

### SUB SERIES C: Religious Organizations & Events, 1925-1975, Boxes 40-42

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### SERIES II: COMMUNITY, FRATERNAL, & RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS & EVENTS, 1911-1976

**SUBSERIES C: Religious Organizations & Events, 1925-1975,**

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### SERIES III: UNPROCESSED MATERIALS, n.d., Box 43 & OS (Oversize) Folder

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Photo Group 356

Photographs, photomechanical prints, b&w and color negatives. 1136 items. Philadelphia, PA; Doylestown, PA; Washington, DC; Poland; Italy.

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The photo group consists of images collected by Sokolowski in his capacity as editor of Gwiazda (ref. PG 206) and correspondent for other newspapers in American Polonia, particularly New York City's Nowy Dziennik. The photographs depict a range of subjects related to Polish-American activities in the greater Philadelphia region. Subjects include Pulaski Day celebrations and parades, the dedication of the Copernicus monument near Logan Square, festivals, banquets, religious ceremonies, and demonstrations. Also represented in the collection are group portraits of members of various organizations including the Polish Army Veterans Association, the Polish Heritage Society, and the Union of Polish Women in America. Individuals depicted include John Cardinal Krol, Stefan Sokolowski, officers of Polish-American organizations, politicians, government figures, clergy, and local Polish-Americans. Interior and exterior views of several Polish churches in the greater Philadelphia region are also included.

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