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## Jakob Plata Memoir "Pamiętnik emigranta w Stanach Zjednoczonych"

1936Aug. 3

1 vol. (0.1 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 184 bd



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A Polish immigrant who arrived in the United States in 1912, Jacob Plata worked in factories in Chicago until the mid-1920s when he relocated to Massachusetts. Plata and his wife Mary operated a dry goods store on Main Street in Indian Orchard until his death in 1947, after which Mary continued in business until her death in 1963.

Jakob Plata's autobiographical account, *Pamiętnik emigranta w Stanach Zjednoczonych* (Memoirs of an emigrant to the United States), includes a literate and interesting account his emigration from Poland and transition into American life. This photocopy

(114p.) was retained by the Plata family from a manuscript originally written for the Institute for Social Management in Warsaw in 1936.

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## Background on Jakob Plata

Leaving his home in Cwikow, Poland, at the age of 21, Jakob Plata boarded the Kron Prinz Wilhelm in Bremen and landed in New York at the end of February 1912, headed for a new life in Chicago.

Born on July 25, 1885, Plata had worked as a mason in Poland, but settled into American life by working in factories as a metal polisher. After a return visit to his family in Poland and agreeing to bring a sister back with him to the United States, Plata applied for U.S. citizenship in 1923. Soon thereafter, he relocated to Massachusetts. Plata married a fellow Galician immigrant Marya Bochniak (Mary Bednarz), and by 1926, the couple began operating a dry goods store at 530 Main Street in Indian Orchard, raising a daughter Helen (b. 1928) and son Edward (1930-2013). After Jakob's death in 1947, Mary continued the store on her own for several years. She died in 1963.

## Scope of collection

Jakob Plata's autobiographical account, *Pamiętnik emigranta w Stanach Zjednoczonych* (Memoirs of an emigrant to the United States), includes a literate and interesting account his emigration from Poland and transition into American life. This photocopy (114p.) was retained by the Plata family from a manuscript originally written for the Institute for Social Management in Warsaw in 1936.

## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Gift of Helen Plata Grabowski.

### Location of Originals

The manuscript was originally written for the Instytutu Gospodarstwa Społecznego (Institute of Social Economy) in Warsaw.

### Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, July 2017.

### Language:

Polish

### Copyright and Use (More information )

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## Search terms

### Subjects

Indian Orchard (Mass.)--History

Polish Americans--Illinois--Chicago

Polish Americans--Massachusetts

### Genres and formats

Memoirs

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