

## Special Collections and University Archives

UMass Amherst Libraries 

# Josephine Czaja Collection

1936-1987

1 box (0.25 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 189



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Born in Poland, Josephine Latosinski emigrated with her parents to the United States as an infant in 1905. After study at the Booth and Bayliss Commercial College in Waterbury, Connecticut, she worked briefly as a secretary for a Waterbury firm, however in 1926, she married an electrical engineer, Joseph Czaja, and moved to Springfield, Mass. An active member of the Polish community and a talented musician, Czaja sang in the St. Cecilia Choir of Our Lady of the Rosary Church, was an officer in the church's Ladies Guild, and she became a key member of the local Polish Women's Club.

The collection consists of photocopies of news clippings, probably compiled into scrapbooks by Josephine Czaja, depicting her activities, her family, the Polish community of Springfield more generally, particularly the Polish Women's Club.

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## Background on Josephine Czaja

Born in Niewszawa, Poland in 1904, Josephine Latosinski emigrated to the United States with her parents as an infant, arriving with her mother Stacia in 1905, four years after her father Frank had settled in Waterbury, Connecticut. The eldest of a family of at least seven, Josephine studied at the Booth and Bayliss Commercial College and then began work as a secretary for a Waterbury firm.

In 1926, Josephine married an electrical engineer, Joseph Czaja, the son of Polish immigrants who was born and raised in Connecticut. After moving to Springfield, Massachusetts, Joseph worked for Westinghouse for many years and he and Josephine were deeply involved in the local Polish community. A talented singer and musician, Czaja was an active member of the St. Cecilia Choir and the Ladies Guild of Our Lady of the Rosary Church and she was a stalwart of the Polish Women's Alliance and the Polish American Club. The couple had three children, Ronald, Jean, and Caroline.

Josephine Czaja died in 1993 and is buried with her husband in St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Chicopee.

## Scope of collection

The collection consists of photocopies of news clippings, probably compiled into scrapbooks by Josephine Czaja, depicting her activities, her family, the Polish community of Springfield more generally, particularly the Polish Women's Club.

## Inventory

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Newsclippings

1930s

Folder 1

Newsclippings

1940s

Folder 2

Newsclippings

1950s

Folder 3

Newsclippings, part 1

1960s

Folder 3

Newsclippings, part 2

1960s

Folder 3

Newsclippings

1970s

Folder 3

Newsclippings, part 1

1980s

Folder 3

Newsclippings, part 2

1980s

Folder 3

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## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Gift of Josephine Czaja, Sept. 1987.

### Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, July 2017.

### Languages:

English, Polish

## Copyright and Use (More information )

*Cite as:* Josephine Czaja Collection (MS 189). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

## Search terms

### Subjects

Polish Americans--Massachusetts--Springfield

Polish Women's Club

Springfield (Mass.)--History

### Contributors

Czaja, Josephine [main entry]

### Genres and formats

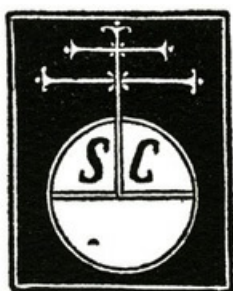
News clippings

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