

Michael Z. Kislo Notebooks

1954-1974

3 boxes (1.25 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS 246



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Polish immigrant who worked in a basket shop and as a machinist while residing in Florence, Massachusetts. Includes nine volumes of Kislo's writing (mostly in Polish and thematically religious, patriotic, personal, and autobiographical) and artwork (drawings and paintings with religious allusions, Polish costumes, weapons, imaginary animals and fanciful landscapes).

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Background on Michael Z. Kislo

Michael Z. Kislo (1896-1978) of Dzieciekowo, Poland, immigrated to the United States and married Mary A. Skowronek (1907-65)

of Holyoke, Massachusetts. He began work in a basket shop in Northampton and eventually became a machinist at International Silver Company. The Kislos lived in Florence, Massachusetts.

Scope of collection

The collection comprises 9 volumes (1954-74) of Michael Kislo's writing and artwork. The writing, mostly in Polish, handwritten and typewritten, is frequently religious, but also patriotic, personal, and autobiographical. It is usually in the form of "songs," as Kislo calls them. Allusions to the F.B.I., especially in 1962, are of interest.

The drawings and paintings are Chagall-like at times-a floating world of religious allusions. At other times, Polish costumes make appearances, as do weapons, imaginary animals, and fanciful landscapes. It is unclear whether the images are traditional, re-interpretations of traditional ones, or unique to Kislo's imagination.

The notebooks make accessible the thoughts and feelings of a Polish immigrant in a uniquely intense way, when ordinarily the inner life of this generation is lost to the future.

Inventory

Note

Volume numbers taken from cover.

Polish and English; much art; remarks on writing

1954-1955, 1962

Vol. 5

1955-1956, 1962-1963

Vol. 6

1956-1958, 1962-1963

Vol. 7

No artwork; nearly all Polish

1958-1960

Vol. 8

"John told the truth" around page ends

1960-1963

Vol. 9

March-June, 1971

Vol. un-numbered

Many drawings

November 1971-September 1972

Vol. un-numbered

No artwork

1974

Vol. un-numbered

No artwork

n.d.

Vol. un-numbered

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Acquired from: Susan Kislo via Stanley Radosh, 1989.

Processing Information

Processed by Linda Seidman.

Languages:

English, Polish

Acknowledgments

Encoding funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Copyright and Use (More information)

Cite as: Michael Z. Kislo Notebooks (MS 246). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

Art, Polish--Massachusetts--20th century.
Florence (Mass.)--Biography.
Immigrants--Massachusetts--Florence--Diaries.
Kislo, Michael Z., 1896-1978--Notebooks, sketchbooks, etc.
Kislo, Michael Z., 1896-1978--Views on United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation.
Poles--Massachusetts--Florence.
Polish American artists--Massachusetts--Florence--Diaries.
United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Contributors

Kislo, Michael Z., 1896-1978 [main entry]

Genres and formats

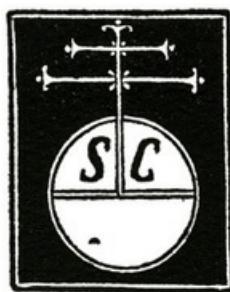
Notebooks.

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