Michael Z. Kislo Notebooks
1954-1974

3 boxes (1.25 linear ft.)
Call no.: MS 246

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.

Contents 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.

Collection inventory

Note

Volume numbers taken from cover.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polish and English; much art; remarks on writing</th>
<th>1954-1955, 1962</th>
<th>Vol. 5</th>
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Administrative information

Provenance


Processing Information

Processed by Linda Seidman.

Acknowledgments

Encoding funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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Search terms

Subjects

- Art, Polish--Massachusetts--20th century.
- Florence (Mass.)--Biography.
- Immigrants--Massachusetts--Florence--Diaries.
- Poles--Massachusetts--Florence.
- Polish American artists--Massachusetts--Florence--Diaries.

Names

- Kislo, Michael Z., 1896-1978--Notebooks, sktechbooks, etc.

Genre terms

- Notebooks.