The papers of Edward J. Falkowski were placed in the Archives of Labor & Urban Affairs by Mr. Falkowski in 1975 and were opened for research in May 1980.

Edward J. Falkowski (Fulsky) has been a labor activist in a variety of jobs including mineworker, newspaperman, and college instructor. He was born in 1901 in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania, where he grew up and started work in the anthracite mines at age fifteen. After brief forays to Ohio and New York City where he did a variety of odd jobs, he returned to Shenandoah and worked in the mines until he was accepted at Brookwood Labor College in 1926. He attended there from 1926 to 1928 and left for Europe and Russia where he remained until 1938. During this period, he worked in German mines, spent some time in Poland, and worked as a miner in the Donbas coal mines in Russia and as a reporter and city editor of the Moscow News. Upon his return to the U.S. in 1938, he taught at Commonwealth Labor College in Mena, Arkansas, then went to Toledo where his family was then living and did a series of odd jobs and freelance writing until he was drafted into the army. After World War II, Falkowski returned to industrial work where he was a shop steward for a time, and later an assistant foreman in a plastic molding department. He went on to several other jobs including one as a social researcher for the University of Chicago. Recent, he has been a student at Fordham University.

Throughout most of his varied career Edward Falkowski not only wrote down his observations in diaries but also had articles published in a variety of journals which included local newspapers, New Masses, Federated Press, New Republic, Freeman, Bookman, and Christian Science Monitor.

This collection contains diaries covering his work in the Pennsylvania mines from 1916 through his experience at Brookwood and Commonwealth Labor Colleges. The second series contains material from his teaching stint at Commonwealth and includes plays, songs, newspapers & other information relating to activities at Commonwealth Labor College.

Important subjects & people covered in the collection are: (index to these on the last page)

- Anthracite mining conditions
- Brookwood Labor College
- Child labor
- Commonwealth Labor College
- Discrimination Against Slaves
- Industrial Workers of the World
- Irish workers in the coal mines
Contents

Series I, Boxes 1-5

The early diaries give a vivid picture of the life of a Polish mining family. Described in detail are the various jobs Falkowski held and those held by his father, grandfather, uncle, and brother, including their exact wages. Most of the jobs were at the anthracite mines but at times his father worked for a refrigeration company and Edward worked briefly in the newspaper office and a shoe store. In September 1920, Falkowski went to Kent, Ohio to become a tree surgeon. He quickly abandoned that and worked at a series of odd jobs until he returned to Shenandoah, Pennsylvania. He also briefly worked in New York City where he frequently attended lectures at the Labor Temple. In the autumn of 1926, he went to Brookwood Labor College.

His diaries of 1938 and 1939 were written while he was teaching at Commonwealth Labor College in Mena, Arkansas.

Series II, Box 5
Commonwealth Labor College, 1921-1939.

Brochures, labor plays, labor songs, and publications from Commonwealth Labor College, Mena Arkansas. Falkowski was there in 1938 and 1939 but some of the publications date from the 1920's.

Non-manuscript material
Several family pictures have been placed in the Archives Audio-Visual collection. Xeroxes of some of them can be found in Series I, Box 1.

Series I
Diaries & writings, 1916-1926, 1938-1939
Boxes 1-5

The early diaries have clippings, an Armistice Day flag, posters, etc. in them. The terms diary and journal are used interchangeably by Falkowski. The folder headings reflect the term he used.

Box 1
1. Falkowski family pictures. Xeroxes of materials held in the Archives' Audio-Visual Collection.

(series I Box 1)

5. Diary, October 2-November 12, 1916.
7. Diary, and writings, April 2-20, 1917.
8. Diary, April 25 - July 8, 1917.
9. Diary, October 5-11, 1917.
10. Diary, January 22 - February 10, 1918.
12. Diary, March 16 - April 3, 1918.
13. Diary, April 13 - May 19, 1918.
14. Journal, April 3-12, 1918.
17. Journal, August 14 - September 28, 1918.

(series I Box 2)

Box 2

2. Diary, June 7 - July 17, 1919.
3. Diary, July 20 - August 31, 1919.
4. Diary, September 4 - October 19, 1919.
5. Diary, October 21 - November 28, 1919.
15. Journal, April 13 - May 9, 1921.

(series I Box 3)

Box 3

2. Journal & Essays, August 28 - September 8, 1921.
4. Journal & writings, September 27, 1921.
5. A Sheaf of Thoughts... October 3-5, 1921.
6. Thoughts & Whirligigs October 19, 1921.
7. Thoughts & Fancies November 6, 1921.
(series I Box 3)

17. Journal, September 19 - September 27, 1922.
19. Journal & writings, October 2-9, 1922.
23. Poems, 1922.

Box 4
7. Journal, October 22 - December 5, 1923.
9. Diary, February 1 - April 6, 1924.
10. Journalia, April 7, 1924.
11. Diary & Writings, April 15 - June 29, 1924.
12. Writings, July - October 5, 1924.
13. Memorabilia, August 5-20, 1924, November 17, 1924 - February 6, 1925.
15. Printemps, April & May 1925.

Box 5
1. Diary, May 6 - September 8, 1925.
   (see folder 5-8 for July 1-6, 1925)
2. Diary, February 24 - March 30, 1926.
3. Diary, September 16 - November 2, 1926.
4. Diary, November 20-26, 1926.
7. Miscellaneous, July 1-6, 1925, June 21 - August 16, 1927.
9. Undated writings - (probably from 1918 - 1927 period)
13. Diary, April 16-20, 1939.

Series II
Commonwealth Labor College, 1921-1939
Box 5

Brochures, labor plays, labor songs, & publications from Commonwealth, Labor College, Mena, Arkansas. Falkowski journals written while he was at Commonwealth are contained in Series I.

Box 5
14. acknowledgment of Commonwealth job
15. Falkowski writings
Box 5

16. Commonwealth Campus Notes
17. Commonwealth - Press releases
   (faculty & student list)
19. Commonwealth Labor Plays
20. Commonwealth Labor Songs
21. Commonwealth Newspaper
22. Commonwealth Courses, fieldwork
23. Commonwealth - Miscellaneous
24. Conferences
25. Clippings
26. Pamphlets
27. Free Society, February 1921.
Index of subjects people of interest

(Some of the diaries have numbered pages & others do not. In the case of former, pages are given, in the case of the later the date of the entry is given parentheses after the box & folder number. If no location is given, it means the references are too numerous to list.)

**Anthracite Mining Conditions**

- **Brookwood Labor College** 5-3, (p. 40 +)
- **Broun, Haywood** 3-13, (p. 31)

- **Check off (UMWA)** 4-5, (p. 9)
- **Child Labor** 1-11, 1-15, (p. 55)
- **Children's Crusade** 3-13, (p. 41)
- **Commonwealth Labor College** (series 2)

- **Discrimination against slaves** 1-12, (22 March)
- **Durant, Will** 3-13, (13 April), 3-13, (p. 52)

**Ethnic activities: events & organizations:**

- **Lithuanian** 1-10, 3-22, (26 November), (31 January), 4-5, (p. 58)
- **Polish National Army** 1-10
- **Polish Women's Red Cross**
  - Knitting Corps. 1-11
- **Polish Aid Society** 1-11
- **Polish National Alliance** 1-11
- **Polish boycott of Jewish Trade** 2-2, (p. 26)
- **Polish theatrical group** 2-7, (p. 37 +)

- **Farmers Labor Party** 5-5, (pp. 24-25)
- **Flynn, Elizabeth Gurley** 3-13, (p. 41)
- **Finger, Charles J.** 3-15, (p. 71), 3-17, (p. 38)

- **Gitlow, Ben** 3-13, (p. 41)

- **Industrial Workers of the World** 1-14, 1-15, (p. 7), 2-11 (December 13), 2-13, (p. 12-13), 2-16, (p. 22), 2-17, (p. 4), 3-13, (p. 1), 3-13, (p. 41)

- **Irish Workers in the mines** 1-12, (22 March)

- **Labor Education** 5-5, (p. 77)
- **Labor Temple, New York City** 3-13, (p. 17)
- **Lithuanian ethnic activities** see ethnic activities

- **Margolis, M.** 2-11 (December 13)

- **Negro Workers in WW II** 5-26

- **O'Hare, Kate Richards** 3-13, (p. 41)

- **Polish**

- **Russelites** 3-1, (p. 47)
(Continuation of Index of subjects people of interest)

Sheridan, Clare 3-13, (p. 41)
Sinclair, Upton 3-14, (p. 19)
Spanish labor at the mines 2-11, (p. 45)
Southern Rural Labor 5-26
Southern labor in 5-26

United Mine Workers of America

Vorse, Mary Healon 3-13, (p. 41)

Williams, Claude Series II
Wood, Clement 3-13, (p. 45, 50)
Wolfson, Theresa 5-5, (p. 71)