

THE EDWARD J. FALKOWSKI COLLECTION

Diaries & Papers 1916-1939
(Predominantly, 1916-1927, 1938-1939)

2½ linear feet

Accession No. 718
L.C. No.

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

Polish ethnic activities
Spanish workers in the coal mines
United Mine Workers of America
Williams, Claude

Contents

Series I, Boxes 1-5

Diaries and writings, 1916-1927, 1938-1939.

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.
 2. "Personal Record and Self Analysis of Edward Fulsky--1916" Falkowski's answers to a series of questions from a book, What Is Your Vocation.

(series I Box 1)

3. Writings, 1916-1917.
4. Diary, August 15-23, 1916.
5. Diary, October 2-November 12, 1916.
6. Diary, December 23, 1916-March 2, 1917.
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.
11. Diary, February 10 - March 13, 1918.
12. Diary, March 16 - April 3, 1918.
13. Diary, April 13 - May 19, 1918.
14. Journal, April 3-12, 1918.
15. Journal, May 19 - June 30, 1918.
16. Journal, July 1 - August 13, 1918.
17. Journal, August 14 - September 28, 1918.
18. Journal, September 29 - November 11, 1918.
19. Journal, November 11 - December 19, 1918.
20. Journal, December 19, 1918 - January 17, 1919.
21. Journal, January 18 - February 27, 1919.

(series I Box 2)

- Box 2
1. Journal, February 28 - March 26, 1919.
 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.
 6. Journal, December 2, 1919 - January 11, 1920.
 7. Journal, January 13 - March 17, 1920.
 8. Diary, March 19 - June 3, 1920.
 9. Diary, June 7 - August 18, 1920.
 10. Diary/Journal, August 21 - October 10, 1920.
 11. Journal, November 14 - December 29, 1920.
 12. Journal, January 9 - February 16, 1921.
 13. Journal, February 17 - March 21, 1921.
 14. Journal, March 25 - April 11, 1921.
 15. Journal, April 13 - May 9, 1921.
 16. Journal, May 10 - June 18, 1921.
 17. Journal, June 20 - July 25, 1921.

(series I Box 3)

- Box 3
1. Journal & Essays, July 27 - August 23, 1921.
 2. Journal & Essays, August 28 - September 8, 1921.
 3. Journalistic Essays, September 15, 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.
 8. Poems, December 4, 1921.
 9. Poems, Thoughts & Opinions, December 11, 1921.
 10. Journal & essays, December 23, 1921 - January 1, 1922.
 11. Repetitions of Things, 1922.
 12. Journal, February 11, 1922.
 13. Journal, April 6 - May 30, 1922.

(series I Box 3)

14. Journal, May 31 - June 20, 1922.
15. Journal, June 23 - August 26, 1922.
16. Journal, August 29 - September 17, 1922.
17. Journal, September 19 - September 27, 1922.
18. Works of Edward J. Fulsky, August - September 1922.
19. Journal & writings, October 2-9, 1922.
20. Journal, October 10-13, 1922.
21. Fantastic Journal, October 15, 1922.
22. Journal, November 11, 1922 - January 11, 1923.
23. Poems, 1922.

- Box 4
1. Journal, January 14 - March 12, 1923.
 2. Journal, March 17 - June 7, 1923.
 3. Poems, 1923.
 4. Essays, May 21, 1923.
 5. Diary, June 12 - August 29, 1923.
 6. Journal, August 29 - October 19, 1923.
 7. Journal, October 22 - December 5, 1923.
 8. Journal, December 5, 1923 - January 29, 1924.
 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.
 14. Journal, October 5 - November 7, 1924.
 15. Printemps, April & May 1925.

- Box 5
1. Diary, May 6 - September 8, 1925.
(see folder 5-8 for July 1-6, 1925)
- Shenandoah
Broodwood
2. Diary, February 24 - March 30, 1926.
 3. Diary, September 16 - November 2, 1926.
 4. Diary, November 20-26, 1926.
 5. Journal, January 15 - March 8, 1927.
 6. Writings & Journal, June 1927.
 7. Miscellaneous, July 1-6, 1925, June 21 - August
16, 1927.
 8. Diary, November 19, 1927. + Journal of Writing,
January 14, (n.d.)
- Commonwealth
9. Undated writings - (probably from 1918 - 1927 period)
 10. Journal, May 5 - July 21, 1938.
 11. Journal, July 26-31, 1938.
 12. Journal, August 1 - September 1, 1938.
 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

(series II Box 5)

- Box 5
16. Commonwealth Campus Notes
 17. Commonwealth - Press releases
 18. Commonwealth College Closing Program-1938.
(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

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Discrimination against slaves	1-12, (22 March)
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(31 January), 4-5, (p. 58)	
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