

Pregun, Stephen Papers

Stephen Pregun Papers

1924, 1927-1929

Title Statement

Pregun, Stephen PapersGuide to the Stephen Pregun Papers Mss. Acc. 2009.532

Author: Finding Aid Authors: Ute Schechter.

Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections Research Center

William & Mary Special Collections Research Center

Earl Gregg Swem Library

400 Landrum Dr

Williamsburg, Virginia

Business Number: 757-221-3090

spcoll@wm.edu

URL: <https://libraries.wm.edu/libraries-spaces/special-collections>

2009-11-17

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-05-15 12:25:00 -0400.

Language Usage: The collection description/finding aid is written in English

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Mss. Acc. 2009.532

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/1920

Unit Date

1924, 1927-1929

Language

English

Extent

0.20 Linear Feet

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open to all researchers. Manuscript collections and archival records may contain materials with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations, such as the Virginia Public Records Act (Code of Virginia. § 42.1-76-91); and the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Code of Virginia § 2.2-3705.5). Confidential material may include, but is not limited to, educational, medical, and personnel records. If sensitive material is found in this collection, please contact a staff member immediately. The disclosure of personally identifiable information pertaining to a living individual may have legal consequences for which the College of William and Mary assumes no responsibility.

Conditions Governing Use:

Before reproducing or quoting from any materials, in whole or in part, permission must be obtained from the Special Collections Research Center, and the holder of the copyright, if not Swem Library.

Acquisition Information:

Purchase.

Processing Information:

Accessioned and processed in November 2009 by Ute Schechter, Warren E. Burger Archivist.

Preferred Citation:

Stephen Pregun Papers, Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

Biographical Information:

Lived in Passaic New Jersey. From 1927-1929 he is documented to have worked in the Manhattan Rubber Company. He was also secretary of the American Rusin Falcon Chorus of the New York District, Passaic Branch from 1928-1929.

Further information about this individual or organization may be available in the Special Collections Research Center Wiki:

http://scdbwiki.swem.wm.edu/wiki/index.php/Stephen_Pregun.

Scope and Contents

Papers of Stephen Pregun (1904-1985) of Passaic, New Jersey, including a diary, 1927-1929; a minute book for the American Rusin Falcon Chorus, New York District, Passaic Branch, 1927-1929, for which Stephen Pregun was secretary from 1928-1929; and a notepad, 1924, recording the work of a debt collector. It has not been determined if Stephen Pregun is the creator of the latter item as well.

The diary is very detailed and contains daily entries regarding work, church, family (he lives with his parents and sister) and social activities, as well as personal accounts listing his wages and itemized spending. Names and addresses of friends are listed in the back as is a key to abbreviated names used throughout the diary. He also talks about his courtship and subsequent engagement.

The American Rusin Chorus' Minute Book starts out with a few pages probably written in the language spoken by the ethnic Rusin group that made up the chorus. Rusin (or Ruthenian) is an east-Slavic language that was spoken by ethnic groups from Karpaty Ukraine, Slovakia, Hungary as well as of parts of the former Yugoslavia.

For a more detailed description see folder links below.

Keywords

Diaries

Minute books

New Jersey--Social life and customs

American Rusin Falcon Chorus (New York District)

Choruses--United States--20th century--Minutes

Collecting of accounts--United States--Sources

Courtship--1920-1930

Courtship--United States--History--20th century

Ruthenian Americans--Religion

Ruthenians--United States--History--20th century

Young men--Conduct of life
Young men--Religious life
Young men--United States--Diaries

Description of Subordinate Components

Debt Collector's Notepad

Unit ID id64006

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/168944

Unit Date 1924

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

The following information was provided by the seller: "Also included is a tablet that records the efforts of a bill collector to collect unpaid debts in Passaic and surrounding towns. No name in this pad, but the entries are dated 1924 and the handwriting similar to Stephen Pregun's."

Diary

Unit ID id64022

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/168945

Unit Date 1927-1929

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

The following description and excerpts were provided by the seller: "This daily diary was written by Stephen Pregun, a 23 year old young man who lived in Passaic, New Jersey. The entries begin on January 1st, 1927 and are written daily until May 13, 1929. He also keeps a very detailed record of his earnings and expenditures for 1927 & 1928. On the first page in the journal he writes: " This book is purchased and dedicated for the purpose that a brief record of important events may be kept for future reference. All events of which the data is herein contained is up to the minute, absolutely correct, there is no boasting, but true facts only." Under this he signs his name and writes "Official Seal" over some sort of symbol put on with an ink stamp. "Mr Pregun diligently records his daily activities, buying a car, trips, visits to NYC, Pa, visits to relatives, deaths, funerals, social activities with friends, etc. He provides a flavor of his Passaic neighborhood in the 1920s." "He worked at the Manhattan Rubber Company, and turned his wages over to his family, keeping only a small amount for himself. His family is very strict, and once, when he failed to pick up his sister from the rail station, they did not celebrate his birthday. He also writes about staying home once because of the same old argument about his going out too much. Perhaps his parents had good reason. He seems to spend a lot of time hanging around street corners and going to "John's Place". Part of his entry of Aug 8, 1928 reads: "....eve. went to see Attorney Unger in reference to the call made by Ventura Guardiola yesterday in which he claimed that I was loitering about his place of business last Tuesday evening with the intention of doing bodily harm to him. The advice of Mr Unger being that there was insufficient cause for arrest but to be careful of a repetition of the charge etc." "Mr. Pregun also had a younger brother who was arrested for assault and battery which required several trips to court. However, if the diary is "true facts" as the author states, he attends church regularly and is quite involved in the A. R. Falcon chorus. There is some sort of problem at his church and the chorus, which he writes about in the diary. "Sept 24, 1928....."The evening paper today bore the story that a bomb was discovered in Prof. Saxum's car last night. It being the belief that it had been placed under the hood while he was directing our rehearsal at Magocsy's Hall. (Prof Saxum, who directed the chorus, resigned because of a "nervous breakdown". On another occasion, the pastor assigned guards outside expecting violence). "Mr Pregun writes much about his interaction with young women. He refers to "appointments", and when he talks to women, he occasionally calls it "an interview". Friends and girlfriends are written about using their initials, but he provides a key in back giving their full names. He becomes engaged at the end of 1928, and writes quite a long passage about why he decided to marry.. It reads in part: "Dec 30, 1928....."hereafter she will be referred to in this book as the girlfriend. My rather insistent attitude toward this act was greatly influenced by the fact that I have found her to be a very plain, cheerful and honest young lady. Possessing fine personality and a taste for moderation in attire combined with a very scant use for cosmetics prompted my act. Another outstanding point being that in the time of our acquaintance not a single person spoke an ill word against her character, and I have always found her willing to go anywhere I asked her to go, and not offering any excuse or displaying any disfavor towards my request". "After the engagement,

several weeks pass before Mr Pregun has enough "confidence" in Mary to tell her how much money he has saved. When he writes a summary of the years important events at the end of 1928, his engagement is written about last."

American Rusin Falcon Chorus Minute Book

Unit ID id64030

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/168946

Unit Date 1927-1929

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Minutes of the meetings of the American Rusin Falcon Chorus. Discuss membership issues, fees due, officers elected, performances and practices of the chorus.