



OBJECT ID	2011.7.109
OBJECT NAME	Photograph
OBJECT COLLECTION	Alex's Candy Shop (is part of)
DATE CREATED	1920 – 1940
DONOR	Donated by the Rassogianis/Franks Family
EVENT	Staged Photo
MEDIUM	Photo Paper
OBJECT ENTITIES	Franks, Rassogianis; (is related to)
ACCESS POINTS	Alex's Candy Shop

#### OBJECT DESCRIPTION

A small black and white snapshot of the interior of Alex's Candy Shop during the Easter Holiday Season. Lots and lots of Easter-themed candy. The front depicts the counter of the candy shop, with a sign that states "We make out own candies." On top of the glass counter, there are many different kinds of boxes with ribbons. Below the counter is still more boxes, some open to display the candy inside. In the bottom left picture, one can see the plastic wrappings of other candy. There are candy bars stacked to the right of the counter, and black wire bins with candy displayed in paper. This image has no cardstock backing but does have a comment written on the back (presumably in Greek) and pencil scribbles.

#### ORIGIN

Paulina Franks' grandfather, John Rassogianis, came to Chicago in the 1890s. He began his life in the new city by peddling fruits and later, with the help of his sons Alex and George, would open a candy store. In the 1920s Paulina Franks' father Constantine became a part of the family business and the store



was able to prosper. When the second business closed Paulina Rassogianis chose to hold as many of the candy store's items as possible and, later, donate them to the National Hellenic Museum.

The Rassogianis family began their candy business in Chicago proper, working out of their own shop named "St. Louis Ice Cream Parlor." Eventually, the shop was closed and the Rassogianis' chose to continue their candy store venture in Berwyn, Illinois. The new shop they chose to open was named Alex's Sweet Shop.

Paulina Franks' father was a key contributor to the success of the Rassogianis candy stores. While Constantine Rassogianis was a noteworthy entrepreneur, he also had many other accomplishments. Among these was his four years of involvement in the Greek national military during World War I wherein he obtained the rank of sergeant. Also, he was a published author and poet, an experienced mandolin player, a church officer and had extensive knowledge of psalti.

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#### **CITATION**

Photograph, 1920 – 1940, Alex's Candy Shop, *National Hellenic Museum*, <https://collections.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/Detail/objects/>. Accessed 05/05/26.

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