



OBJECT ID	2011.7.113
OBJECT NAME	Photograph
OBJECT COLLECTION	Alex's Candy Shop (is part of)
DATE CREATED	1936
DONOR	Donated by the Rassogianis/Franks Family
EVENT	Staged Photo
MEDIUM	Photo Paper
OBJECT ENTITIES	Rassogianis; Alex, Paulina (is related to)
ACCESS POINTS	Alex's Candy Shop

#### OBJECT DESCRIPTION

Black and white photograph of Alex Rassogianis with his nephew, John (Donor's brother) outside of the Berwyn store in 1936. Image has rough edges and some wrinkles. The sign in the background says "Fruit." Both men are wearing dark colored suits with white shirts. The taller one is also wearing a slim tie and a tophat, while the shorter one is wearing highwater slacks and a more beret-looking hat, and something can be seen in his lapel. There is a light spot on the front of the shorter man's pants.

#### 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, 1936, Alex's Candy Shop, *National Hellenic Museum*, <https://collections.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/Detail/objects/>. Accessed 05/05/24.

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