



OBJECT ID	2011.7.189
OBJECT NAME	Photograph
OBJECT COLLECTION	Alex's Candy Shop (is part of)
DATE CREATED	1920 – 1940
DONOR	Donated by the Rassogianis/Franks Family
OBJECT ENTITIES	Rassogianis, (is related to) Franks, Pauline (is related to)
ACCESS POINTS	Alex's Candy Shop photograph St. Louis Ice Cream Parlor

### OBJECT DESCRIPTION

This is a photograph of the interior of Alex's Candy Shop. The picture is black and white. The picture has Alex sitting at table in the center of the room with George on his left and Constantine on his right. There is also a customer sitting behind them at the counter. There is merchandise on the left side of the store and seating for customers along the windows on the right. There is a counter in the back.

### ORIGIN

Pauline 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.

#### CITATION

Photograph, 1920 – 1940, Alex's Candy Shop, *National Hellenic Museum*, <https://collections.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/Detail/objects/>. Accessed 05/03/24.

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