



OBJECT ID	2011.7.135
OBJECT NAME	Holder, Thread
OBJECT COLLECTION	Alex's Candy Shop (is part of)
DATE CREATED	1920 – 1940
MEASUREMENTS	25.24252 cm. H x 15.5575 cm. W x 22.7025200000 cm. L, Item (Overall)
MATERIAL	Metal; Wood
OBJECT ENTITIES	Chicago Printed String, (created by) Rassogianis/Franks families, By (owned by) Franks, Rassogianis; (is related to)

OBJECT DESCRIPTION

This item is a string dispenser used for when wrapping chocolate boxes or any packages at the shop. It has a green base from which rises three arms. The first two of these come to an equal height and hold between them a spool of string. The last arm rises up higher and has a notch to slip string into. At the bottom of this notch is a razor to cut the string. There are two holes on the bottom to attach to a countertop. In between the holes, there are instructions "For Best Service." The front is labelled with "Chicago Printed String Co." on a red plaque. There is a spool on the spool holder, also labelled with "Chicago Printed String Co." The inside of the spool is made of cardboard, while the rims are metal.

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.

CITATION

Holder, Thread, 1920 – 1940, Alex's Candy Shop, *National Hellenic Museum*, <https://collections.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/Detail/objects/>. Accessed 04/23/24.
