

Guide to the Sparacino Family Papers

CMS.102

Finding aid prepared by Finding aid prepared by Mary Elizabeth Brown

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Migration Studies

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Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents note</u>	4
<u>Arrangement note</u>	4
<u>Administrative Information</u>	5
<u>Related Materials</u>	5
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	6
<u>Other Finding Aids note</u>	6
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	7

Summary Information

Repository Center for Migration Studies

Creator Sparacino, Francis

Creator Sparacino, Philip

Title Sparacino Family Papers

Date [inclusive] 1890-1962

Extent 3.5 Linear feet 7 document boxes.

Language English

Language of Materials note The collection is in English and Italian.

Abstract CMS 102 documents the family life, publishing career and civic activities of Francis Sparacino (1879-1936) and his son Philip (1910-1962) in Brooklyn and on Long Island, New York, from the 1910s to the 1930s, in legal documents, photographs, publications and correspondence.

Preferred Citation note

Center for Migration Studies of New York; Sparacino Family Papers (CMS 102); Box; Folder.

Biographical/Historical note

The founder of the American branch of this family, Francis Sparacino, was born in Montevagno, Agrigento, Sicily in 1879. Francis arrived in Brooklyn in 1897; at some point before 1913 a male relative named Joseph also arrived in the United States. Francis married a woman named Frances, had a son, Philip, in 1905, and embarked on a career in journalism. He faced challenges: from December 20, 1912, to January 20, 1913, he served a jail sentence on charges of having published a piece in his Italian-language journal, *L'Aurora*, that a member of the rival DeBiasi publishing family found defamatory.

The family both assimilated, in the sense of picking up the English language and American ways, and also joined the American upper middle class financially and professionally. By 1929, Sparacino's wife owned property outside the city in Richmond Hill, Long Island; Francis eventually owned property in Freeport. By the time of his death, from acute appendicitis April 13, 1936, he had contracted to purchase the English-language *Nassau News* from Wilhelmina Siefert.

Philip, also a journalist, followed through with his father's purchase of the *Nassau News*, and, in 1938, launched a second paper, the *Nassau Suffolk Labor News*. He married Tina Scotti May 23, 1942. Philip closed the *Nassau News* in 1949 due to increasing costs. He died following heart surgery in September 20, 1962.

Scope and Contents note

CMS 102 documents, in correspondence, personal papers, photographs, and publications the personal life, publishing career and civic activities of Sicilian-born Francis Sparacino (1879-1936) and his Brooklyn-born son Philip (1910-1962), who were active in Long Island journalism between 1910 and 1949.

Arrangement note

CMS 102 is arranged by subject, organized alphabetically, and stored in 53 archival folders housed in 2 archival document boxes. In drafting the labels, efforts were made to group together similar kinds of documents, such as correspondence or periodicals.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Migration Studies July 2005

Revision Description

Edited in compliance with DACS and entered into Archivists' Toolkit by Mary Brown. July 2014

Conditions Governing Access note

Open to researchers by appointment.

Conditions Governing Use note

Copyright is owned by the Center for Migration Studies. Permission to publish materials must be requested before use.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

In 2002, Candie Sparacino, as descendent of Francis and Phillip, donated her family papers to the Center for Migration Studies.

Processing Information note

Mary Elizabeth Brown of the Center for Migration Studies, processed the collection in July 2005. In July 2014, she entered the collection into Archivists' Toolkit in compliance with DACS; Nicole Greenhouse checked the work.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

In December 1912 and January 1913, Francis Sparacino spent a month in jail on charges of having defamed the DeBiasi publishing family. Sparacino documented the event in a journal in Folder 10 of this collection; the DeBiasi Family Papers are also available at the Center for Migration Studies, CMS.011.

Folder 4 of this collection indicates Francis Sparacino had some contact with Long Island military man and politician Alex Pisciotto; CMS has Pisciotto's papers, CMS.038.

Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- Italian American newspapers
 - Italian American |z New York (State) |z Long island x| History
 - Italian Americans |v Newspapers.
-

Other Finding Aids note

Original inventory available in print on request.

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Business cards. Sparacino, Francis Undated	1	1
Census data. Sparacino, Francis. 1920	1	2
Correspondence. Sparacino, Francis. Business related 1928-1937	1	3
Correspondence. Sparacino, Francis. Personal 1928-1929	1	4
Correspondence. Sparacino, Francis. Presidential Undated	1	5
Elks. Sparacino, Francis 1934-1935	1	6
Editorials regarding closing Nassau News and Prohibition Undated	1	7
Essays regarding "Present World Happenings", "Principle of Private Property," "Roman Divorce and Natural Law" and "Roman Law of Marriage" Undated	1	8
Funeral expenses. Sparacino, Francis 1936-1939	1	9
Journal kept during stay in Cell 2, Raymond Street King County Jail 1912 December 20 - 1913 January 20	1	10

Journalism covering political parties in Long Beach, New York 1949	1	11
Legal documents. Sparacino, Francis. Copy of citizenship oath 1902 October 31	1	12
Legal documents. Sparacino, Francis. Statement signed by Sparacino and Brooklyn pharmacist A.L. Palma settling an otherwise unrecorded verbal disagreement between them 1910 April 11	1	13
Legal documents. Sparacino, Francis. Contract to purchase land from Giuseppe Russo August-September 1910	1	14
Legal documents. Sparacino, Francis. Mortgage 1911 May 11	1	15
Legal documents. Sparacino, Francis. Contract to purchase land from Nunzio Lucco 1923 September 11	1	16
Legal documents. Sparacino, Francis. Sworn statement regarding sale of property belonging to Francis Sparacino's wife Frances in Richmond Hill, Long Island 1929 October 3	1	17
Legal documents. Sparacino, Francis. Contract to buy Nassau News from Wilhelmina Siefert 1936 July	1	18
Legal documents. Sparacino, Francis. Regarding L'Aurora Undated	1	19
Legal documents. Sparacino, Joseph. Declaration of intent to become a U.S. citizen 1913 March 13	1	20

Legal documents. Sparacino, Philip. Birth certificate 1905 March 6	1	21
Legal documents. Sparacino, Philip. Sworn complaint of late Francis Sparacino regarding failure to pay Martin Kersich for cabinetmaking, painting and carpentry done at property Sparacino owned in Freeport, New York 1936 November 14	1	22
Legal documents. Sparacino, Philip. Indenture to purchase land from G. Joseph Minetti 1939 March 29	1	23
Legal documents. Sparacino, Philip. Photocopy of certificate of marriage to Tina Scotti 1942 May 23	1	24
Legal documents. Sparacino, Philip. Copy of death certificate 1962 September 20	1	25
Masons. Sparacino, Francis. Membership cards, programs and ephemera 1923-1935	1	26
Newspaper clippings. Brooklyn edition of The World 1890 December 16	1	27
Newspaper clippings. Congressional Record 1921 June 18	1	28
Newspaper clippings. Nassau News 1936 April 13	1	29
Newspaper clippings. Long Island Sunday Press on Louis V. Sparacino's collection of tableaux portraying the life of Christ 1938 March 13	1	30

Newspaper clippings. Nassau Suffolk Labor News, Philip Sparacino's first copy off the press 1938 November 11	1	31
Periodicals. Atlantica 1931 February	1	32
Periodicals. Atlantica 1934 September-November	1	33
Periodicals. Atlantica 1935 January, March-April, June, July, September and November	1	34
Periodicals. Atlantica 1936 February	1	35
Periodicals. L'Aurora 1917 October-November	2	36
Periodicals. L'Aurora 1919 October	2	37
Periodicals. L'Aurora 1921 October	2	38
Periodicals. L'Aurora 1923 September, November and December	2	39
Periodicals. L'Aurora 1924 October	2	40
Periodicals. L'Aurora 1924-December and 1924 January, April-May and July-December	2	41
Periodicals. L'Aurora 1927 (no issue identification)	2	42
Periodicals. L'Aurora 1928 November	2	43

Periodicals. Today 1936 August 25, 1936 December 5 and 1936 December 19	2	44
Photographs. Francis Sparacino Undated	2	45
Photographs. Francis Sparacino. Freeport, New York 1930	2	45a
Photographs. Francis and Frances (husband and wife) Sparacino Undated	2	46
Photographs. Postcard of Ku Klux Klan, Washington, D.C. 1925 August 8	2	47
Photographs. Postcard of First Sergeant Pete Pywalda, Maestro McCaffrey and Staff Sergeant Dan Giudice after March of Dimes Dinner, Camp Gruber, Oklahoma; mail sent from Muskogee, Oklahoma, to Philip Sparacino 1943 February 7	2	48
Press releases 1949	2	49
Programs of April 14, 1928, Italian Medical Society of Brooklyn Annual Dinner and Dance; June 9, 1938 testimonial dinner to the Reverend Joseph A. Smith; May 20, 1939, Beaux Arts Ball benefiting the Art League of Nassau County; and August 10, 1939, dinner for Tim Joseph Sullivan, Jr. 1928-1939	2	50
Publications regarding bicentennial of birth of George Washington 1932	2	51
Publications: April 1, 1918 memorial to Antonino Virdone; 1924 Purple and Gold yearbook of Oakwood School, Poughkeepsie, New York; 1930 "Ku Klux Klan Exposed;" April 1932 Modern Thinker; May 1, 1935,	2	52

New Republic; June 1937 Popular Digest; and Edwin W. Wallace, Five Thousand Years of Relief (1939) 1918-1939		Box	
Publications: <i>Long Island Independent</i> 1949			4
Publications: <i>Long Island Independent</i> 1948			5
Publications: <i>Long Island Independent</i> and <i>Nassau Bulletin</i> 1942, 1950			6
Publications: <i>Long Island Independent</i> 1947, 1950			7
Scrapbooks 1930s			3
	Box	Folder	
Sheet music: Florence Woods and Henry I. Marshall, "My Dream House on Air Castle Road" (New York: Donaldson, Douglas and Gumble) Undated			2 53