



OBJECT ID	2011.7.258
OBJECT NAME	Menu
OBJECT COLLECTION	Alex's Candy Shop (is part of)
DATE CREATED	1920 – 1940
MATERIAL	Leather; Paper; Plastic
OBJECT ENTITIES	Rassogianis/Franks families, By (owned by) Franks, Rassogianis; (is related to)

#### OBJECT DESCRIPTION

This is a fountain menu from Alex's Candy Shop. The menu is bound in green leather, with "Menu" printed on the front, contained in a decorative border. The corners are reinforced with small metal edges. It is a two-page menu, printed on bright orange paper, under a protective plastic covering. The left page lists prices for menu items under the headings: "Crushed Fruit," "Fruit Nut Sundaes," "Fancy Sundaes," and "Specials." There is a hole burned into the plastic covering right above the "Specials" section. The right page contains the "Frappe," "Beverages," and "Hot Drinks in Season" sections in addition to a handwritten specials section. There are also certain menu items crossed out in pen.

#### 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

Menu, 1920 – 1940, Alex's Candy Shop, *National Hellenic Museum*, <https://hellenic.whirlihost.com/Detail/objects/>. Accessed 05/03/24.