



Finding Aid for

JAN KAMIENSKI PAPERS, 1922-1966

Accession 99.218.2

Finding Aid Published: August 2017



Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029
www.thehenryford.org
research.center@thehenryford.org

ACCESSION NUMBER: 99.218.2

CREATOR: Kamienski, Jan, 1922-1976

TITLE: Jan Kamienski Papers

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1922-1966

QUANTITY: 1.25 cubic ft. (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English, Polish, German, French, and Latin.

ABSTRACT: The Jan Kamienski Papers, 1922-1966, contain photographs, identification and ration cards, certificates, and naturalization paperwork related to Kamienski's imprisonment in the Dachau, Mathausen, and Augsburg concentration camps and subsequent immigration to the United States.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: The papers are open for research, with the exception of a social security card and attached pamphlet as indicated in the Container List. Researchers interested in materials marked as Restricted should contact Benson Ford Research Center staff (research.center@thehenryford.org).

COPYRIGHT: Copyright has been transferred to The Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).

ACQUISITION: Original donation to The Henry Ford, 1999. Subsequent donation in 2002.

RELATED MATERIAL: Related material held by The Henry Ford:
- World War II Concentration Camp Uniform, 1940-1945.
Object ID 99.218.1

PREFERRED CITATION: Item, folder, box, accession 99.218.2, Jan Kamienski Papers, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford

PROCESSING INFORMATION: Collection processed by The Henry Ford Staff, circa 2000, and Karen L. Krepps, June 2016.

Incorporates material from 2002 donation, Accession 2002.47.

DESCRIPTION INFORMATION: Finding aid written by Karen L. Krepps, June 2016, and updated by Janice Unger, August 2016. Published in August 2017.

Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Jan Kamienski (1922-1976), a Polish citizen, was arrested by the Germans in April 1940 in Poznan, Poland, and sent to the concentration camps at Dachau, Mauthausen, and Augsburg. He spent around five years in concentration camps, apparently serving as a translator in the camps as he spoke and read German and Polish. He was very ill during his internment, but managed to survive until he was liberated by the Allied Forces. Jan Kamienski immigrated to the United States in 1951, and settled in Detroit, Michigan. He died in Detroit on August 16, 1976.

Note content adapted from the following source:

- World War II Concentration Camp Uniform, 1940-1945. Digital Collections. The Henry Ford website. Accessed on 22 August 2017 at <https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/artifact/296533/>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This archival collection accompanies the concentration camp uniform worn by Jan Kamienski (Object ID 99.218.1). It consists of photographic prints, infirmary records, identity cards, a certificate verifying his imprisonment, ration cards, and paperwork relating to his immigration to the United States and naturalization process. Of note is a photographic print showing Kamienski, wearing the concentration camp uniform, along with two other prisoners and a soldier, taken at Augsburg a few days after the camp's liberation in May 1945.

Items in this collection come from two separate donations, and each item has been assigned an individual Object ID number as noted in the Container List. Items are housed individually and are arranged in chronological order, with undated items at the end of the arrangement. For items not written in English, a brief description in English has been provided.

There is one restricted folder in the collection, which contains a portion of Kamienski's social security card. Researchers interested in materials marked as Restricted should contact Benson Ford Research Center staff (research.center@thehenryford.org).

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Kamienski, Jan, 1922-1976

Dachau (Concentration camp)

Mauthausen (Concentration camp)

Subjects

Concentration camps

Emigration and immigration

Prisoners

Ration books

World War, 1939-1945

Geographic

Mauthausen (Austria)

Augsburg (Germany)

Dachau (Germany)

Poznań (Poland)

Detroit (Mich.)

Genre and Form

Greeting cards

Periodicals

Photographic prints

CONTAINER LIST

Box no.	Description
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Box 1

- Zaświadczenie, 1939 (Object ID 2002.47.25; text in Polish; certificate regarding high school examinations)
- Świadectwo Ukończenia Gimnazjum Ogólnokształcącego, 21 June 1939 (Object ID 2002.47.12; text in Polish; matriculation verification from high school for entry to university)
- Christmas postcard produced by Jan Kamienski's family, circa 1940-1945 (Object ID 99.218.2.5)
- Birthday card, 6 June 1944 (Object ID 99.218.2.6; text in Polish or German)
- Vision test results, 17 November 1944 (Object ID 99.218.2.15; text in German; test given while Kamienski was at Dachau)
- Photographic print, Jan Kamienski, two other prisoners, and a GI at Augsburg, May 1945 (Object ID 99.218.2.3; photograph taken a few days after the liberation of the Augsburg camp)
- Identity card, 20 August 1945 (Object ID 99.218.2.12; card that states Kamienski was a German political prisoner)
- Entlassungsschein der städtischen Krankenanstalten Augsburg, 8 January 1946 (Object ID 2002.47.10; text in German; discharge certificate from the municipal hospital in Augsburg where Kamienski was treated for exhaustion and cardiac problems)
- Certificate from the International Information Office, Dachau, 19 June 1946 (Object ID 99.218.2.7)
- Bestätigung, 30 July 1946 (Object ID 2002.47.23; text in German; confirmation from the headquarters of Polish education in Germany that Kamienski was ready to attend university)
- Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt a.M. Ausweiskarte, 30 September 1946 (Object ID 2002.47.8; text in German; identification card for Goethe University)

Box 3 (Oversize)

- "Huete" magazine, 15 February 1947 (Object ID 2002.47.1; text in German; article starting on page 8 regarding the warden of Dachau; inscription on page 8, "For my star-with?, George Andreaz")

Box 1

- Odpis skrócony aktu urodzenia, 16 October 1947 (Object ID 2002.47.26; text in Polish; abridged birth certificate for Jan Kamienski)
- Akt Znania, 22 November 1947 (Object ID 2002.47.14; text in Polish; certificate stating that Kamienski was requesting new copies of his birth and baptismal certificates)
- United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) Clothing Card, 3 June 1948 (Object ID 2002.47.22)
- Ration card D4705, Eucom Exchange System, European Command, 23 June 1948 (Object ID 99.218.2.10)
- Ration card A084227, Eucom Exchange System, European Command, 11 April 1949 (Object ID 2002.47.3)

- Ration card C84282, Eucom Exchange System, European Command, 28 June 1949 (Object ID 99.218.2.8)
- Ration card B13135, Eucom Exchange System, European Command, 1 July 1949 (Object ID 2002.47.4)
- Paszport Rzeczpospolita Polska, circa 1950 (Object ID 2002.47.2; text in Polish; passport for the Republic of Poland)
- U.S. Zone Voluntary Society Transfer Slip, Change in Status, 13 March 1950 (Object ID 2002.47.24; regards Kamienski's work as a Welfare & Child Care Officer, Grade 8)
- Identity card, International Refugee Organization, 31 March 1950 (Object ID 2002.47.7; text in English and French; issued for Kamienski's work with the Polish Red Cross)
- Identity card from the High Commission of the Republic of France, 5 April 1950 (Object ID 99.218.2.11)
- International Certificate of Inoculation and Vaccination, 3 November 1950 (Object ID 2002.47.6; text in English and French; issued by the World Health Organization)
- Lohnsteuerkarte, 1951 (Object ID 2002.47.20; text in German; tax card that assisted in calculating income tax)

Box 3 (Oversize)

- "Nareszche Wolni," from "Dziennik Polski," 8 February 1951 (Object ID 99.218.2.1; text in Polish; "Free at Last," from "The Polish Daily News;" talks about Polish immigrants, including Kamienski, coming to Detroit)

Box 1

- Letter and envelope from Displaced Persons Commission, 10 April 1951 (Object ID 99.218.2.2)
- United States of America Declaration of Intention, 7 August 1951 (Object ID 99.218.2.14; regards Kamienski's intention to become a United States citizen)
- Testimonium Baptismi, 15 November 1955 (Object ID 2002.47.11; text in Latin; Certificate of Baptism verifying Kamienski's original baptism on 11 June 1922)
- Certificate of Naturalization, United States Department of Justice, 24 April 1956 (Object ID 2002.47.13)
- Jacket for Certificate of Naturalization, 24 April 1956 (Object ID 2002.47.18)
- Envelope for Certificate of Naturalization, postmarked 25 April 1956 (Object ID 2002.47.19)
- Photographic print, Jan Kamienski at home, November 1956 (Object ID 99.218.2.4)
- Correspondence from a judge, 18 February 1957 (Object ID 2002.47.21; text in German; refers to a judicial case against a man named Kammerer from Augsburg)
- Odpis skrócony aktu urodzenia, Maria Elżbieta Kamieńska, 21 September 1964 (Object ID 2002.47.15; text in Polish; abridged copy of birth certificate used in an unsuccessful attempt to help a family member emigrate to the United States)
- Odpis skrócony aktu urodzenia, Jacek Tadeusz Kamieński, 22 September 1964 (Object ID 2002.47.16; text in Polish; abridged copy of birth certificate used in an unsuccessful attempt to help a family member emigrate to the United States)
- Odpis skrócony aktu małżeństwa, Zdzisław Mieczysław Kamieński and Kazimiera Słuzar, 22 September 1964 (Object ID 2002.47.17; text in Polish; abridged copy of marriage certificate for Jan Kamienski's brother)

Photographic print, Jan Kamienski at home, January 1966 (Object ID 99.218.2.4)
Infirmary records, undated (Object ID 99.218.2.13; text in German)
Certificate from Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations, undated (Object ID
2002.47.9; certifies Supervisory Development course completion)
Photographic print, Jan and Marie Kamienski's wedding, Hamtramck, Michigan, undated
(Object ID 99.218.2.9)

Box 2

RESTRICTED, Social Security card and "Your Social Security Account Card" pamphlet,
undated (Object ID 2002.47.5)