



Study of Voluntary Associations of Greek Immigrants Manuscript (S0030)

Collection Number: S0030

Collection Title: Study of Voluntary Associations of Greek Immigrants Manuscript

Dates: 1950

Creator: Yercaris, Constantine A, 1918-2003

Abstract: This collection contains an unpublished thesis titled *A Study of Voluntary Associations of Greek Immigrants of Chicago from 1890 to 1948 with Special Emphasis on World War II and Post War Period* by Constantine A. Yercaris. Yercaris chronicles the history of Greek voluntary associations throughout Chicago from 1890 to 1948.

Collection Size: 1 roll microfilm

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Study of Voluntary Association of Greek Immigrants Manuscript* (S0030); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Spiro Karagiannis on February 5, 1974 (Accession No. SA0369).

Processed by: Processed by Rachael Heriford, March 2023

Historical Note:

Immigrant-based voluntary associations fulfill the social, personal, and psychological voids caused by immigration to the United States. Through voluntary associations within immigrant

communities, immigrants can establish connections with other immigrants while adjusting to industrialized American society. The rise of Greek-based voluntary associations in Chicago occurred during the 1890s. Initial associations until the late 1910s were fraternal and focused on security, status, belongingness, and relationship to the origin country of Greece in hopes of returning to Greece.

The outbreak of World War I throughout Europe saw more Greek immigrants settling down in Chicago and starting families. Voluntary associations changed their goals to help Greek families connect and construct Greek schools throughout Chicago. During this post-World War I period, a decline in the overall number of associations occurred. As a result of the Great Depression throughout the 1930s, voluntary associations turned their attention to addressing the economic needs and insecurities of Greek immigrants. The 1940s saw a vast increase in the number of voluntary associations because of World War II, Greek nationalism, and an increase in Greek immigrants because of the war.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

A Study of Voluntary Associations of Greek Immigrants of Chicago from 1890 to 1948 with Special Emphasis on World War II and Post War Period was written by Constantine A. Yercaris in 1950. Yercaris wrote the dissertation for his Ph.D. candidacy through the Department of Sociology at the University of Chicago. Yercaris discusses the history of Greek voluntary associations from the 1890s to the 1940s. In his analysis, Yercaris examines the larger connections between the goals of voluntary associations and Greek immigrants' social contact patterns in Chicago. The manuscript has been microfilmed onto one roll and maintained in its original order.

Container List:

Roll 1 v.1	<i>A Study of Voluntary Associations of Greek Immigrants of Chicago from 1890 to 1948 with special emphasis on World War II and Post War Period, 1950</i>
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Index:

Index Terms	Medium
Chicago (Ill.)--Social conditions	v. 1
Ethnic groups--Illinois--Chicago	v. 1
Fraternal organizations--Illinois--Chicago	v. 1
Greek Americans--Illinois--Chicago	v. 1
Greek Americans--Illinois--Chicago--20th century	v. 1
Greek Americans--Social life and customs	v. 1
Immigrants--Illinois--Chicago	v. 1