# MATISKO FAMILY FONDS

## X20-14

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MATISKO FAMILY FONDS

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1933-1996. – 8.5 cm. (7 cm. of textual records and 1.5 cm. of publications). – 8 photographs.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Matisko was born in 1902 in Slovakia. According to a letter written by one of his former students, he was a teacher in Prešov, a city in eastern Slovakia. He and his wife Martha had a son named Barney. According to his correspondence, he may have arrived in the United States in 1949 and settled in New Kensington, Pennsylvania. He passed away in 1974.

CUSTODIAL HISTORY

In May 2002, Barney Matisko approached Paul M. Payerchim Jr., the secretary-treasurer of the National Slovak Society, regarding a possible donation of his father’s post World War II correspondence and other family memorabilia. Mr. Payerchim referred Barney Matisko to Professor Mark Stolárik at the University of Ottawa, who accepted the donation and transferred the records to the Archives and Special Collections of the University of Ottawa Library.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This fonds is part of the Slovak Archives at the Archives and Special Collections of the University of Ottawa library. It contains records mainly collected by John and Barney Matisko. The majority of the documents reflects everyday situation in Poland, the Prešov region in Slovakia (formerly Czechoslovakia) and Serbia (formely Yugoslavia) with some describing the cultural activities and churches pertaining to American and Canadian Slovaks.

The fonds consists of textual records such as correspondence, a newspaper clipping, several pamphlets, 2 publications and 8 photographs relating to post World War II Slovakia, Poland, Serbia as well as Slovaks in Canada and the United States.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series I : Correspondence. – 1949-1973. – 6 cm of textual records (Box 1473)
This series consists of incoming correspondence from John Matisko’s family and friends. It contains 126 letters written by, among others, John Matisko’s sister Helena, Jozefov Franciszek, Ján Celhar and Pavel Zolnán. The correspondence was sent from the Prešov region (Slovakia), Okmiany (Poland), Seleña (Serbia), St. Petersburg (Florida)
and Ohio (United States). The correspondents describe everyday life in post-World War II Eastern Europe. The correspondence is organized in chronological order.

**Series 2 : Memorabilia.** 1933, 1970-1990. – 1.5 cm of published material, 1 clipping. This series contains pamphlets, 1 press clipping and 2 booklets. The booklets describe, among others, the lives of other Slovaks living in the United States. The pamphlets and press clipping, on the other hand, serve as advertisement for several religious and social activities and historical events pertaining to Slovak Americans and Canadians. This series is arranged in chronological order.

**Series 3 : Photographs.** – 1959, 1970, 1995. – 8 photographs (with Graphic material). The photographs were taken from one series : Correspondence. They depict various acquaintances and events of the Slovak community in Prešov as well as in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The photographs are stored separately for conservation purposes. Archival photocopies of the photographs have been placed in the file of origin.

**NOTE ON LANGUAGE**

An important portion of the correspondence is in Slovak. The rest of records are in English.

**NOTE ON ACCESS**

All records are opened for consultation.

**NOTE ON REPRODUCTION**

We have, for conservation purposes, made a photocopy on the newspaper clipping and retained only the photocopy made on archival paper.

Reproduction of documents is permitted, according to the Canadian copyright laws and general practices in archives.
# MATISKO FAMILY FONDS

## X20-14

### Series 1: Correspondence

**BOX 1473**

| 1473.1 | Business and personal correspondence to John and Martha Matisko, 1949 –1955 |
| 1473.2 | Personal correspondence to, among others, John and Martha Matisko, 1955 – 1959 |
| 1473.3 | Personal correspondence to John and Martha Matisko, 1960 –1961 |
| 1473.4 | Personal correspondence to John and Martha Matisko, 1961–1969 |
| 1473.5 | Personal correspondence to John and Martha Matisko, 1970 |
| 1473.6 | Personal correspondence to, among others, John and Martha Matisko, 1971 |
| 1473.7 | Personal correspondence to John and Martha Matisko, 1972 –1973 |

### Series 2: Memorabilia

| 1473.8 | Booklets, 1933, 1984, 1 cm.  
| 1473.9 | Pamphlets and press clipping, [199-?]  
Includes: pamphlets on the Pittsburg Agreement, the Greek-Catholic Cathedral of the Transformation in Unionville, Ontario, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the Czech Village, affiliated to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library and tours in the Czech and Slovak republics, and a *Globe and Mail* press clipping “Byzantine cathedral unfinished” dated January 8th 1991. |
The photographs were taken from one series: Correspondence. They depict various acquaintances and events of the Slovak community in Prešov as well as in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The photographs are stored separately for conservation purposes. Archival photocopies of the photographs have been placed in the file of origin. For additional information, please see Matisko Family Fonds (X20-14) – Descriptive inventory, textual records.
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P-X20-14-1
Portrait of Helena Vargošková, a former student of John Matisko, Prešov (Slovakia) / - 1955. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 14 x 9 cm. – Accompanying letter dated 4 March 1955 from Helena Vargošková, Prešov, Slovakia to John Matisko, New Kensington, Pennsylvania. – Title based on photograph and letter. – Originally in folder 1473.1.

1. Vargosková, Helena 2. Prešov (Slovakia)

P-X20-14-2

1. Sedlakova (Family) 2. Prešov (Slovakia)

P-X20-14-3

1. Štefanova (Family) 2. Prešov (Slovakia)

P-X20-14-4

1. Yosčakova (Family)

P-X20-14-5
Belakova family in [Prešov (Slovakia)] / - [1970?]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 9 x 7 cm. – Handwritten notes in blue ink on back of photograph reads: “Belakova familija : dva ceri

1. Beláková (Family) 2. Prešov (Slovakia)

**P-X20-14-6**

Mirko and Yosčani in [Prešov (Slovakia)] /. – [1970?]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 9 x 7 cm. – Handwritten notes in blue ink on back of photograph reads: “Mirko z tatkom Yosčani 13 vokimal” and “Came 9/5/1970”. – Accompanying letter dated 27 August 1970 from Maria Šebešova, Sedlice (Prešov), Slovakia to John Matisko, New Kensington, Slovakia. – Title based on photograph and letter. – Originally in folder 1473.5.

1. Mirko 2. Yosčani 3. Prešov (Slovakia)

**P-X20-14-7**

Antón and Martha Suškove’s wedding ceremony, in a church in [Prešov (Slovakia)] /. – [1970?]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 13 x 19 cm. – Handwritten notes in blue ink on back of photograph reads: “to naj staroj cevi mojej Mariji Štefanovej cera zmanzelom to teras usje Marta Mackaova jemu meno Antón to koscele jak ih křes na soba suba malí minulivok októbra” and “Came Sept. 5 1970”. – Accompanying letter dated 27 August 1970 from Maria Šebešova, Sedlice (Prešov), Slovakia to John Matisko, New Kensington, Pennsylvania. – Title based on photograph and letter. – Originally in folder 1473.5.

1. Suškove, Antón 2. Suškove, Martha 3. Prešov (Slovakia)

**PC-X20-14-8**


1. National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library 2. Cedar Rapids, Iowa (US
Matisko Family Fonds (X20-14) Nominal Index

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