

# **Finding aid for the Frank and Robert Cebelak collection Collection 022**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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November 1986  
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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Title</b>	Frank and Robert Cebelak collection
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1929-1942
<b>Extent</b>	0.1 Linear feet One folder
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This is a small collection including time books and notebooks from Frank Duval Cebelak and Robert J. Cebelak. The records in this collection are valuable in tracing wages, expenses and item prices of goods from various companies of Grand Rapids, Michigan from the late 1920s to the early 1940s. The notebooks are by Frank Cebelak and the time books by Robert Cebelak.</p>

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## Biographical/Historical note

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Frank Duval Cebelak (1903-1979) lived at 927 Michigan Street, Grand Rapids, circa 1929-1930, per his name and address written in his notebook #1 in this collection. He is said to be the son of Joseph Cebelak, however, this is not confirmed by other evidence. Frank D. Cebelak, born 1903 and documented in the census as the son of Andrew & Mary and brother of Robert J. Cebelak, appears to be more likely as the author of the notebooks here. Frank's notebook #2 gives a couple of addresses for a Private Robert J. Cebelak, inside the front cover. A Frank J. Cebelak (1905-1990), not the Frank D. Cebelak who gave these expense books, appears to be the son of Joseph. Military records for Frank D. Cebelak, 1938-1946, list his civil occupation as a gas and oil man, with an enlistment day of Oct. 14, 1942; he was single.

Presuming that the Robert J. Cebelak is that same Robert who authored the time books in this collection, this is probably Robert Joseph Cebelak (1919-1996), son of Andrew & Mary Cebelak, per the 1930 census. The 1930 census lists both Frank and Robert for the first time, since Frank was several years older than Robert. Military records for Robert J. Cebelak, 1938-1946, list his civil occupation as an automobile serviceman, with an enlistment date of Feb. 6, 1942; he was single.

Joseph Cebelak was a member of the Moose lodge, No. 50, and the Polish National Alliance, group No. 744 in Grand Rapids. Joseph died in April of 1948. Census records list a Joseph Cebelak, read as Abelak, for the 1910 census, born in Russia (later listed as Poland) about 1871, immigrating to the United States in 1882.

Andrew, as well as Joseph, are listed as having been born in Russia (later listed as Poland), although Andrew was considerably younger than Joseph. No relationship between Andrew and Joseph has yet been established, although Joseph was several years older than Andrew.

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## Scope and Contents note

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Contains financial records pertaining to Frank and Robert Cebelak, i.e. one folder of time books and notebooks tracing wages, expenses, and item prices of goods from various companies.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department November 1986

**Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Ellen Anderson, accession number 1986.002

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**Controlled Access Headings**

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**Geographic Name(s)**

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

**Personal Name(s)**

- Cebelak, Frank Duval, 1903-1979
- Cebelak, Robert J.

## Series I. Expense Notebooks

## Collection Inventory

### Series I. Expense Notebooks

#### Scope and Contents note

Frank Cebelak's two expense notebooks contain a heading for the place of purchase or sale, and the date and amount of the transaction, in the major portion of both notebooks.

Notebook [#1] lists companies with address usually in other U.S. States, not Michigan, toward the back of the notebook. Near the front is a list of expenses and also deposits, with dates for 1929 and 1930 given.

Notebook [#2] lists primarily the names of individuals, often without the address. Since the word "paid" is used in the notebook with individual names, it appears that these are records of Frank's purchases. Only in one case has a year date been found in this notebook, under the "Clide M. Sexton" heading, for Dec. 17, 1938. Two military addresses for Private Robert J. Cebelak are found inside the front cover of this notebook.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
[#1], 1929-1930	1	1
[#2], ca. 1937?	1	1

### Series II. Time Books 1937-1942

#### Scope and Contents note

There are four booklets in the Timebook series provided by Robert Cebelak. Overall the time books cover the years 1937 to 1941 (previously 1942)

**Series III. Biographical information**

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	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
[#1], Dec. 1937-Sept. 1940	1	2
[#2], Jan. 1939-Dec. 1941	1	2
[#3], Sept./Oct. 1940-Dec. 1941	1	2
[#4], Jan.-Sept. 1942	1	2

**Series III. Biographical information****Scope and Contents note**

Included here is reference information used to create the biography section of this finding aid. Other information on the donors or family may be added in the future.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Biographical prints from Ancestry, including U.S. Census and U.S. Military records.	1	3