Edward C. Straka Collection

Creator: Edward Straka  
Dates: 1940-1957  
Quantity: 2 document boxes  
Identification: PMML Item# 320785, OCLC# 248044571, Call# PAPERS 00031  
Citation: [Document Title]. The Edward C. Straka Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Pritzker Military Museum & Library, Chicago, IL.  
Language: English  
Finding Aid: Written by Kathryn Hofherr, June 2008; Updated by Andrea Martinez, 2018

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Biographical Note

Edward Charles Straka was born in Illinois on June 14, 1922. The son of a Czechoslovakian immigrant, Straka grew up with four brothers and sisters. At the onset of World War II, he joined the Navy.

Straka served in the Navy throughout the war and continued to serve during the 1950s. During that time, Straka was stationed at numerous locations and documented his travels through postcards. Upon his discharge from the Navy, Straka moved back to Chicago where he taught in the Chicago Public School system. Straka never married, but was a devoted uncle to his three nieces and nephews.


Scope and Content of the Collection

The collection contains a seventy-three page scrapbook consisting mainly of postcards and photographs taken by Straka. Also included in the scrapbook are United States
Navy orders and pamphlets from the ships Straka served aboard; maps of Chicago rail systems; newspaper clippings; and personal correspondence. The remainder of the collection is comprised of newspaper clippings, pamphlets, cards, naval orders and photographs which came loose from the scrapbook. The bulk of the materials relate to Straka’s naval service during the 1950s.

**Arrangement**

The original page order of the scrapbook has been maintained. The collection is contained within 2 archival boxes. Box one holds the scrapbook; box two holds loose items.

**Rights**

All other rights are held by the author or publisher. Users assume responsibility for following copyright laws as established by US Code Title 17.

**Key Subjects**

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Library’s online catalog. Researchers interested in materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these subject headings.

**Names**

Straka, Edward Charles, 1922-2007

**Subjects**

Postcards--1940-1960.
U.S. Naval Intelligence School
U.S. Navy
USO clubs--Chicago (IL).
U.S.S. Columbus (Cruiser)
U.S.S. Sea Robin

**Detailed Description of the Collection**

**Box One**       **Scrapbook**

Page 1       Loose documents removed (4)
Postcard 1- Dominion Square Building, Montreal, Quebec (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- St. James Cathedral, Montreal, Canada (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- St. Catherine Street showing Departmental Stores. Montreal, Canada (unsent), n.d.

Page 2
Postcard 1- McGill University, Montreal, Canada (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Union Terminal, Quebec, Canada (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- La Maison Montcalm, Quebec (unsent), n.d.

Page 3
Postcard 1- Place D'Armes, Quebec (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- City Hall Square, Quebec City (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Interior of the Basilica, Quebec, Canada (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 1- Les rampports, Quebec, Canada—The Ramparts (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Quebec, La Terrasse Dufferin (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Le Port, Quebec, Canada (unsent), n.d.

Page 4
Postcard 1 (top left)- Quebec- Elevateur J. Gosselin (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2 (top right)- Quebec- Le Chateau Domine La Basse (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3 (bottom)- Quebec- Vue Generale De La Ville Sur Le St-Laurent (unsent), n.d.

Page 5
Postcard 1- La Citadelle Quebec (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Air View of the Citadel. Quebec, Canada (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Quebec- Le Parlement (unsent), n.d.

Page 6
Postcard 1- Porte St-Louis (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Quebec- Portes Saint-Jean (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- No caption (unsent), n.d.

Page 7
Postcard 1- Cyclorama- St. Anne de Beaufre (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Basilique, Ste. Anne de Beaufre, P.Q., Canada, the Basilica (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- La IV Station Du Chemin De La Croix (unsent), n.d.

Page 8
Postcard 1- Time Square, New York City (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Time Square at Night, New York City (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Tudor City, Showing Welfare Island and East River, New York City (unsent), n.d.

Page 9
Postcard 1 (top left)- Statue of Liberty (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2 (top right)- Paramount and Times Buildings at Night, New York City (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3 (bottom left)- Radio City Music Hall, New York City (unsent), n.d.
Page 10
Postcard 1- Radio City Music Hall Ballet, New York (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Radio City Music Hall, Rockefeller Center, New York City (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Interior of the Radio City Music Hall, New York City (unsent), n.d.

Page 11
Postcard 1 (top)- Radio City Music Hall, New York (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2 (bottom left)- R.C.A. Building, Rockefeller Center, New York City (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3 (bottom right)- Nine Rockefeller Plaza, New York City (unsent), n.d.

Page 12
Postcard 1- Sunken Gardens and Fountain Front of R.C.A. Building, New York (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2 (bottom left)- Aerial View of Rockefeller Center, New York City (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3 (bottom right)- Empire State Building, New York City (unsent), n.d.

Page 13

Page 14
Loose item removed

Page 15
Postcard 1- Skyline, Minneapolis, Minn. (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Canal Street, New Orleans, La (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Canal Street, Looking West, New Orleans, LA (unsent), n.d.

Page 16
Postcard 1- Jackson Square and Cabildo, New Orleans, LA (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Chartres Street View, Old French Quarters, Showing Napoleon House, New Orleans, La. (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Old Absinth House, 234 Bourbon St., New Orleans, La (unsent), n.d.

Page 17
Postcard 1 (top left)- The Roosevelt, New Orleans, “The Pride of the South” (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2 (top right)- Interior of Church of the Immaculate Conception (Jesuit), Baronne St., New Orleans, La. (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3 (bottom)- New Charity Hospital, New Orleans, La. (unsent), n.d.

Page 18
Postcard 1- The McAllister (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Formal Gardens and Museum Vizcaya, Dade County Art Museum, Miami, Fla. (to Straka from Ann), 1954
Page 19
Postcard 1- Vizcaya (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Vizcaya (unsent), n.d.

Page 20
Postcard 1- Vizcaya (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- “Pickin’ Chicken,” (to Straka from Ara Belle), 1951

Page 21
Postcard 1- The Bahama Islands (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Nassau Shoreline, Bahamas (to P.O. Carroll from Straka), 1953
Postcard 3- Post Office at Rawson Square (to Mrs. H Straka from “Eddy”), 1953

Page 22
Postcard 1- Bay Street, Nassau, Bahamas (to “Eddy” from unknown sender), 1953
Postcard 2- Paradise Beach (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Western Beach (to P.O Carroll from unknown sender), n.d.

Page 23
Photograph 1- No caption, 1957
Photograph 2- No caption, 1957
Photograph 3- No caption, 1957
Photograph 4- No caption, 1957
Photograph 5- No caption, 1957
Photograph 6- No caption, 1957

Page 24
Photograph 1- No caption, 1957
Photograph 2- No caption, 1957
Postcard 1- Entrance, Turkey Run State Park, Marshall, Indiana (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Suspension Bridge over Sugar Creek—Trail 1 (unsent), n.d.

Page 25
Postcard 1- Ladder Rock on Sugar Creek—Trail 3 (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Chief Illini Motel (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Illini Union Bridge, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Ill. (to Straka frm Jim Hahn, S.A.), 1953

Page 26
Postcard 1- Armory, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Ill. (unsent), n.d.
Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.

Page 27
Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.

Page 28
Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.

Page 29
Intermittent Travel Orders Involving Temporary Additional Duty, 1957

Page 30
Postcard 1- St. Mary’s College, Winona, Minn. (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Sterling Motel of Winona, Minnesota (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Beautiful Hiawatha Valley (unsent), n.d.

Page 31
Postcard 1- The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Winona, Minn. (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Hot Fish Shop (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- State Capital—Madison, Wisconsin (unsent), n.d.

Page 32
Postcard 1- City Hall, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Milwaukee, Wisconsin (unsent), n.d.

Page 33
Postcard 1- Greetings from Schwaben Hof, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Milwaukee Arena- Auditorium (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Schlitz Brewing Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin (unsent), n.d.

Page 34
Postcard 1 (top left)- Wisconsin Ave., Looking West (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2 (top right)- Mader’s German Restaurant (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3 (bottom left)- Mader’s German Restaurant (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 4 (bottom right)- Mader’s German Restaurant (unsent), n.d.

Page 35
Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.

Page 36
Map- Homecoming Visitors Route, n.d.

Page 37
Map of North Shore Train Line, n.d.
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Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.

Page 54
Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.

Page 55
Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.

Page 56
Postcard 1- Old St. Patrick’s Church (unsent), n.d.
Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.

Page 57
Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.

Page 58
Loose Items Removed (4)
Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Newspaper Clipping- “Week’s Score is 5,” n.d.

Page 59
Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.

Page 60
Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.

Page 61
Loose item removed (1)
Postcard- Chicago, Illinois (unsent), n.d.

Page 62
Loose item removed (1)
Postcard 1- Greetings from Washington (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Union Station and Columbus Memorial Fountain, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- The National Capitol from the Air with the Congressional Library in the Background, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.

Page 63
Postcard 1- Pennsylvania Avenue from Treasury Building, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- White House, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.

Page 64
Postcard 1- Department of State Building, Washington, D.C. (to Straka from Marcia, Dorothy and Julie), 1940
Postcard 2- National Archives Building, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States (unsent), n.d.

Page 65
Postcard 1 (top)- National Gallery of Art (to Straka from unknown sender), 1944
Postcard 2 (bottom left)- National Gallery of Art (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3 (bottom right)- National Gallery of Art (unsent), n.d.

Page 66
Postcard 1- National Gallery of Art- Washington Family (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.

Page 67
Postcard 1 (top left)- Beautiful Mall from Lincoln Memorial (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.

Page 68
Postcard 1 (top left)- Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2 (top right)- The Lincoln Memorial Statue (unsent), n.d.
Page 69
Postcard 2- Custis Lee Mansion, Arlington, Va (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Arlington Memorial Amphitheatre, Arlington, Va (unsent), n.d.

Page 70
Postcard 1- Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- American Red Cross Headquarters, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Thomas Circle, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.

Page 71

Page 72
Loose items removed (8)

Box 2
Loose scrapbook items

Folder One
Pre-Processing Scrapbook Images
Photographs taken of each page of the scrapbook, 2008

Folder Two
Loose Pages Removed From Scrapbook
Page 15
Page 16
Page 19
Page 20
Page 27
Page 28
Page 61
Page 62

Folder 3
Loose Scrapbook Photographs
[Page 73] Photograph- No caption, n.d.
[Page 73] Photograph- No caption, n.d.
[Page 73] Photograph- No caption, n.d.
Folder 4

Loose Scrapbook Documents

[Page 47] Bridal Book Open House Insert, 1957
[Page 73] U.S. Naval Intelligence School, Authorization to Travel, 1957
[Page 59] Newspaper Clippings, 1957
[Page 59] Rules for Schooling, 1957
[Page 73] Letter to Straka from Tommy (nephew), 1957
[Page 73] Request for Absence Approval, 1957

Folder 5

Loose Scrapbook Documents

[Page 47] Thank you card from Marilyn, n.d.
[Page 73] Letter to Straka from Martin (nephew), n.d.