

Finding Aid for Frank Akutowicz Collection

Date range: 1940-2004, bulk 1960s-2000s

Finding aid created by: Elizabeth Jones-Minsinger, February 2019

Collection processed by: Elizabeth Jones-Minsinger, Barbara Macklem, Robin MacDonald, Rayna Andrews, Melissa Brennan, Dustin Frohlich, and Katherine Haase

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Extent: 7 linear feet

Abstract: This collection contains materials collected and created by Arden resident Frank Akutowicz, who lived in the village from 1954 until his death in 2004. Many items relate to the Arden Archives, Arden committees and governance, and local environmental and transportation issues.

Accession number: 2019.003

Language: Materials primarily in English, some items in French

Acquisition Information: Gift of Beverly Barnett, April 2005

Access Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

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Cite as: [item], folder, Frank Akutowicz Collection, Arden Craft Shop Museum

Biographical and Historical Note:

Frank Akutowicz was born on March 7, 1924, to Alfons and Eleanor Akutowicz in Windsor, Connecticut. After serving in the military in occupied Japan immediately after World War II, he graduated from Swarthmore College in 1952. Akutowicz worked as an engineer at the American Viscose Company, retiring in 1974 at the age of 50. He held several patents, including designs for a hydraulic damper, vehicle propulsion apparatus, and marine propulsion fin.

Akutowicz moved to Arden, Delaware, in 1954 where he became an active participant in community affairs, serving on the Community Planning Community and passionately advocating for Georgist principles and sustainable living at Arden Town Assembly meetings. He was deeply involved in the peace and environmental movements, and was an early and ardent supporter of recycling. Akutowicz took an active interest in transportation issues at both the local and national level. He was a key figure in the campaign to prevent the Delaware State Highway Department from building an interchange for I-95 on Harvey Road, citing the devastating social and environmental impact this would have on the Ardens. Akutowicz later studied the environmental impacts of increased traffic, construction, and rezoning on the local community.

Akutowicz lived in Arden for 50 years, and died at the age of 80 on June 3, 2004.

Scope and Content:

This collection contains materials collected and created by Arden resident Frank Akutowicz, who lived in the village from 1954 until his death in 2004. Many items relate to the Arden Archives, Arden committees and governance, and local environmental and transportation issues.

This collection consists of seven series:

Series 1: Personal Papers, 1940-1985 and undated

Akutowicz's personal papers consist primarily of school assignments and related materials, including copies of his high school newspaper, *The Loomis Log*. There are also several undated essays by Akutowicz on life in the Ardens.

Series 2: Arden Archives, 1930s-2000s and undated

This series pertains to the Arden Archives, dedicated to preserving the history of the Village of Arden. Akutowicz served on the Arden Archives Committee for several years and collected information on Arden residents, the history of the Gilds, and the Arden Club. This series also documents the operations of the Archives Committee, including the planning of an exhibition in 1991.

Series 3: Arden and Ardentown Village Assemblies, 1964-2004 and undated

The vast majority of material in this series relates to the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden. Between 1964 and 2004, Akutowicz collected a large quantity of printed

materials from Town Assembly meetings, including meeting minutes, budgets, and reports from various committees. He also saved his extensive handwritten notes on Town Assembly proceedings. This series also contains a small amount of material on the Ardentown Assembly from 1976.

Series 4: Arden Committees and Other Town Governance, 1960-2003 and undated

This series highlights Akutowicz's involvement in numerous village committees during his time in Arden. Most of the material pertains to the Community Planning Committee, but there are also documents related to the Audit Committee, the Civic Committee, and the Safety Committee. There is also material in this series pertaining to elections, assessors and land rents, and the Arden Trustees.

Series 5: Arden Events, Gilds, Institutions, and Publications, 1953-2004 and undated

This series contains a small amount of material related to events in the Ardens as well as various gilds and local institutions. There is a larger number of documents pertaining to Arden publications, including the Town Crier, the Arden Page, and the Arden Book.

Series 6: Organizations and Governance Outside the Ardens, 1961-2004 and undated

In addition to village government and committees, Akutowicz participated in a number of organizations outside of Arden. This series suggests that Akutowicz was heavily involved in the Council of Civic Organizations of Brandywine Hundred in the 1960s and 1970s. He also collected literature related to the peace and environmental movements at both the local and national level.

Series 7: Transportation, Zoning, and Environmental Activism, 1955-2003 and undated

The largest series in this collection relates to Akutowicz's interest in local transportation and zoning issues, especially how they impacted the environment and community life in the Ardens. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Akutowicz was a key member of the Grubb-Harvey Interchange Committee, which sought to prevent the Delaware State Highway Department from constructing an interchange to I-95 at the edge of the villages. He later monitored the environmental and social impacts of traffic on Harvey Road and became part of the Harvey Road Traffic Calming Committee in the 1990s. Akutowicz also advocated for the protection of local waterways, including Naaman's Creek and Perkins Run. Much of his environmental advocacy focused on sustainable living and "greener" solutions to problems caused by traffic, construction, and other elements of urban life.

Subjects:

Akutowicz, Frank (1924-2004)
Arden (Del.)
Ardentown (Del.)
Arden Club
Cities and towns--Government
Environmental policy
Environmentalism
Single tax
Transportation--Environmental aspects--United States

Container List:**Box 1****Series 1: Personal Papers, 1940-1985 and undated**

-High School Newspapers--Loomis Log, 1940-1941
-High School Math Papers
-High School English Papers
-High School French Papers
-Le Petit Journal (French Language Newspaper), 1940
-Miscellaneous School Papers
-Akutowicz Chair Designs, ca. 1960s
-Arden History and Writings on Ardens, 1979-1985 and undated
-Akutowicz Planning Schedules and Notes, 1968-1973
-Akutowicz Arden Page Delivery Route, undated
-Miscellaneous Personal Papers, 1966

Series 2: Arden Archives, 1930s-2000s and undated

-Arden Historic Marker, 1993-1994
-Arden Archives--Residents, 1940s-1990s
-Arden Archives--Gilds, ca. 1970s-2000s
-Arden Archives--Arden Theatre Media, undated
-Arden Archives--Arden Club Research- Notes from Arden Club Archive, 1938-1972
-Arden Archives--Archival Materials and Equipment, 1990s
-Arden Archives--Loans, Donations, and Other Paperwork, ca. 1991-2000
-Arden Archives--Notes and Institutional History, ca. 1990s
-Arden Archives--Original and Photocopy of 1910 Blueprint - to be used for any further copying
-Arden Archives--Exhibition 1991

- Arden Archives--Index of Don Holcomb Prints, undated
- Arden Archives--Arden Inquiries, ca. 1992-1994
- Arden Archives--Move Out of Red House, ca. 1992

Series 3: Arden and Ardentown Village Assemblies, 1964-2004 and undated

- Ardentown Assembly, 1976
- Town Assembly of the Village of Arden (TAVA), 1964-1969
- Town Assembly of the Village of Arden (TAVA), 1970-1972
- Town Assembly of the Village of Arden (TAVA), 1973-1974
- Town Assembly of the Village of Arden (TAVA), 1975-1976
- Town Assembly of the Village of Arden (TAVA), 1977-1979
- Town Assembly of the Village of Arden (TAVA), 1980-1982

Box 2

Series 3: Arden and Ardentown Village Assemblies, 1964-2004 and undated (continued)

- Town Assembly of the Village of Arden (TAVA), 1983-1984
- Town Assembly of the Village of Arden (TAVA), 1985
- Town Assembly of the Village of Arden (TAVA), 1986
- Town Assembly of the Village of Arden (TAVA), 1987
- Town Assembly of the Village of Arden (TAVA), 1988-1989
- Town Assembly of the Village of Arden (TAVA), 1990-1991
- Town Assembly of the Village of Arden (TAVA), 1992-1994
- Town Assembly of the Village of Arden (TAVA), 1995-1999
- Town Assembly of the Village of Arden (TAVA), 2001-2004
- Town Assembly of the Village of Arden (TAVA), undated

Series 4: Arden Committees and Other Town Governance, 1960-2003 and undated

- Arden Committee Descriptions, 1993, 1997
- Audit Committee, 1971-1975
- Buzz Ware Village Center Committee, 1985-1990 and undated
- Civic Committee, 1969-2003 and undated
- Community Planning Committee, 1960-1969
- Community Planning Committee, 1970-1972
- Community Planning Committee, 1973-1979
- Community Planning Committee, 1980-1989
- Community Planning Committee, 1990-2003
- Community Planning Committee, undated
- Oral History Committee, undated
- Safety Committee, 1968-1976
- Other Committees, 1973-1980 and undated
- Arden Elections, 1968-1990

- Assessors and Land Rents, 1967-2003
- Arden Trustees, 1926-1997 and undated
- Don Stephens Article on Arden Governance from the Town Crier, undated

Box 3

Series 5: Arden Events, Gilds, Institutions, and Publications, 1953-2004 and undated

- Village of Arden Handbook (binder), 1996
- Arden Events, 1953, 1980, and undated
- Arden Newspaper Clippings, 1970-1978 and undated
- ACRA, ca. 1960s-2000
- Arden Club, 1962-1979 and undated
- Arden Club Calendar, 1971-1987
- Arden Dreamers and Correspondence with Cy Liberman, 2003-2004
- Ardensingers, 1997
- Arden School, 1967-1972
- Buzz Ware Village Center, 1968-2003 and undated
- Henry George School, undated
- Robert Wynn Masters Thesis on Arden Tax Rate, 1965
- Newsletters--Town Crier, 1975, and Arden Page, 1975-1977
- Newsletters--Arden Page, 1980-1990
- Arden Page, 1992-1997
- Arden Page, 1998-2000
- The Arden Book, 1972-1984 and undated
- Miscellaneous Arden Publications, 1910-1992 and undated

Series 6: Organizations and Governance Outside the Ardens, 1961-2004 and undated

- Council of Civic Organizations of Brandywine Hundred (CCOBH), 1968-1973
- Council of Civic Organizations of Brandywine Hundred (CCOBH), 1974-1978 and undated
- Council of Civic Organizations of Brandywine Hundred (CCOBH)--Associated Literature, 1961-1972
- CCDC (Citizens Council of Delaware County), 1961-1962, 1967
- New Castle County Governance, 1974-2004 and undated
- Thornbury Township, Pennsylvania, 1985, 1989, undated
- Activist Newsletters, 1990-2002 and undated
- Horticulture Newsletters, 1990-1992

Box 4

Series 7: Transportation, Zoning, and Environmental Activism, 1955-2003 and undated

- Letter to NY Times Regarding Port Authority, 1960
- Delaware County, PA Airport, 1960-1961 and undated
- Kirkwood Shuttle-Cab Service, 1963-1964
- Blue Route, 1962-1964
- Grubb-Harvey Interchange Committee, 1964-1967 and undated
- Grubb-Harvey Interchange Committee--Background Research, ca. 1964-1966
- Grubb-Harvey Interchange Committee--Evidence for Complaint Against Delaware State Highway Department, 1966-1967
- Grubb-Harvey Interchange Committee--Summaries, Notes, and Complaint Drafts, 1965-1967
- Grubb-Harvey Interchange Committee--Committee Operations, 1966 November - 1967 May
- Grubb-Harvey Interchange Committee--Frank Akutowicz Correspondence with Helen Leavitt, 1968-1969
- Grubb-Harvey Interchange Committee--A.Q. Mobray Lecture, 1969
- Grubb-Harvey Interchange Committee--Possible Consultants, 1966-1967
- Grubb-Harvey Interchange Committee--Delaware State Highway Department Reports, 1963-1967
- Grubb-Harvey Interchange Committee--Newspaper Clippings, 1965-1969 and undated
- Harvey Road Study Committee, 1972
- Highway Concerns Related to Marsh and Naamans Road, 1969-1973 and undated
- Delmarva Power and Light Darley Road Sub-Station, 1970-1971
- Highway and Transit Issues--Notes, Drafts, and Correspondence, 1962-1968 and undated
- Highway and Transit Issues--Newspaper Clippings, 1960-1967, 1973 and undated
- Highway and Transit Issues--Printed Materials, 1966-1968 and undated
- Highway Action Plan (Feb-Mar 1973, envelope)
- Delaware Highway Action Plan--Dr. Christian Davis, 1973
- WILMAPCO Interim 1995 Transportation Plan, 1975
- Ardens Paving and Drainage, 1977 August-November
- Harvey Road Improvements and Repairs, 1985-1987
- Baldini/YMCA Rezoning, 1985
- Baldini/YMCA Rezoning and Wilmington Montessori Association Land Purchase, 1986-1987
- Kamin Assisted Living (Ardentown), 1997
- Naaman's Road Widening, 1989
- Naaman's/Richardson Rezone, 1989
- Naaman's Creek Watershed Association, 1997-1998

Box 5:**Series 7: Transportation, Zoning, and Environmental Activism, 1955-2003 and undated (continued)**

- Blue Line/Streams/Perkins Run, 1996-1998
- Harvey Road Traffic Calming Committee, 1995-1998
- Harvey Road Traffic Calming Committee, 1999-2003 and undated
- Harvey Road Traffic Calming Committee--Delaware Code, 1997
- Harvey Road Traffic Calming Committee--Contract with LDR International, 1997-1998
- Harvey Road Traffic Calming Committee--LDR Contract--Reid Ewing, 1998
- Harvey Road Traffic Calming Committee--DELDOT Case Report, 1998
- Harvey Road Traffic Calming Committee--Harvey/Veale Intersection, 1999
- Harvey Road Traffic Calming Committee--Arden Bus Shelter, 1999
- Harvey Road Traffic Calming Committee--Consensus Plan, 1999 May-June
- Harvey Road Traffic Calming Committee--Enforcement, 1997-1998
- Harvey Road Traffic Calming Committee--Funding, 1997-1999
- Harvey Road Traffic Calming and I-95 Interchange Closure Petition, 2000
- Harvey Road Traffic Calming Committee Transparencies, ca. 1997-2003
- Harvey Road Traffic Calming Committee Materials from Beverly Barnett, 1996-2003
- Akutowicz and Barnett Essays on I-95 Interchange, ca. 1999
- Harvey Road Traffic Calming Committee Minutes June-Dec 99 (binder)
- Harvey Road Photos by McClintock and Akutowicz, 1997
- Avery Property, 1976-2002
- Brandywine Zoning Map, 1958
- Brandywine Zoning Map, 1964
- Brandywine Planimetry and Hydrograph--Vernon Graphics, 1964 (5 copies)
- Delaware State Highway Map, 1964
- Brandywine Zoning Map, 1968
- Mann-Talley Naamans Creek Storm Drainage Study, ca. 1972
- I-95 and I-495 Proposed Routes Map, undated
- Aerial photograph, ca. 1965

Box 6**Series 7: Transportation, Zoning, and Environmental Activism, 1955-2003 and undated (continued)**

- Highway Research Board Bulletins and Reports, 1955-1959
- Highway Research Board Bulletins and Reports, 1961-1962
- Highway Research Board Bulletins and Reports, 1963
- Highway Research Board Bulletins and Reports, 1964 (1 of 2)
- Highway Research Board Bulletins and Reports, 1964 (2 of 2)

- Highway Research Board Annual Meeting Papers, 1964
- Highway Research Board Annual Meeting Papers, 1965
- Highway Research Board Annual Meeting Papers, 1966 (1 of 5)
- Highway Research Board Annual Meeting Papers, 1966 (2 of 5)
- Highway Research Board Annual Meeting Papers, 1966 (3 of 5)
- Highway Research Board Annual Meeting Papers, 1966 (4 of 5)
- Highway Research Board Annual Meeting Papers, 1966 (5 of 5)
- Highway-Transportation Related Studies- Various Universities, 1963-1971
- Highway-Transportation Related Studies- Various Universities, 1973
- Highway-Transportation Related Studies- Various Universities, undated
- Transportation Studies- published by Traffic Quarterly, 1958-1960-1963
- Transportation Studies- published by Brookings Institutions, 1961-1963
- Miscellaneous Non-Governmental Traffic and Highway Reports, 1956-1965

Box 7

Series 7: Transportation, Zoning, and Environmental Activism, 1955-2003 and undated (continued)

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development- Directory Transportation Projects, 1964
- U.S. Department of Commerce- Transportation Related Studies, 1960-1963/64
- U.S. Department of Transportation- Transportation Related Studies, 1962-1968
- U.S. Department of Transportation- Transportation Related Studies, 1970
- Delaware State Highway Department Report, 1957
- Delaware State Highway Report, 1964
- Delaware State Highway Report, 1968
- Delaware State Highway Reports, 1969-1970
- New Castle County Transportation Reports, 1966
- New Castle County Transportation Reports, 1967-1968
- Delaware County Planning Commission Report, 1960 October
- PenJerDel, 1958, 1963
- PenJerDel, 1964 (1 of 3)
- PenJerDel, 1964 (2 of 3)
- PenJerDel, 1964 (3 of 3)
- Delaware-Raritan Committee on I-95 Report, ca. 1965-1966