Eduard Skendzel, a celebrated historian, linguist, teacher, writer, and leader in the Polish community of Grand Rapids, Michigan, authored numerous publications, including *The Sacred Heart Story*, *The St. Josephat Story*, and *The St. Isidore Story*. Fluent in nine languages, he was a teacher at Edsel Ford High School and Henry Ford College, both in Dearborn, Michigan. He also served as an interpreter for groups of Grand Rapids physicians who toured Russia to demonstrate medical practices.

As a historian, Ed emphasized ethnic history, particularly that of Polonians as they assimilated into American culture. (The term “Polonian” refers to a person whose ethnic roots are in Poland but who resides in another country. It is believed that Eduard Skendzel coined this term, which is used extensively in his writings.) He wanted future generations to know about their roots and what their ancestors accomplished. Composed of books and archival materials dealing with Poles in the Midwest, specifically with Polonian church history in Michigan, the Skendzel Collection is a significant resource for researchers at Notre Dame.

Additionally, there is an endowment component that provides research support for users of the Skendzel Collection and a component to provide for the provision of access and continuing development of the collection, guaranteeing that this resource will be available for generations to come.