Microfilm Publication A3361

REGISTER OF CITIZEN (1943–1947) AND ALIEN (1936–1949) ARRIVALS BY AIRCRAFT AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Description by Claire Prechtel-Kluskens

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INTRODUCTION

On the two rolls of this microfilm publication, A3361, are reproduced over 11,000 index cards of citizen (March 10, 1943–September 5, 1947) and alien (September 29, 1936–April 30, 1949) arrivals at San Francisco, California. In addition, there is one index card for Min Hin Li, a citizen who arrived May 29, 1940. These records are part of the Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Record Group (RG), 85.

Background

Early records relating to immigration originated in regional customhouses. The U.S. Customs Service conducted its business by designating collection districts. Each district had a headquarters port with a customhouse and a collector of customs, the chief officer of the district. An act of March 2, 1819 (3 Stat. 489) required the captain or master of a vessel arriving at a port in the United States or any of its territories from a foreign country to submit a list of passengers to the collector of customs. The act also required that the collector submit a quarterly report or abstract, consisting of copies of these passenger lists, to the Secretary of State, who was required to submit such information at each session of Congress. After 1874, collectors forwarded only statistical reports to the Treasury Department. The lists themselves were retained by the collector of customs. Customs records were maintained primarily for statistical purposes.

On August 3, 1882, Congress passed the first Federal law regulating immigration (22 Stat. 214–215); the Secretary of the Treasury had general supervision over it between 1882 and 1891. The Office of Superintendent of Immigration in the Department of the Treasury was established under an act of March 3, 1891 (26 Stat. 1085), and was later designated a bureau in 1895 with responsibility for administering the alien contract-labor laws. In 1900 administration of the Chinese-exclusion laws was added. Initially the Bureau retained the same administrative structure of ports of entry that the Customs Service had used. By the turn of the century it began to designate its own immigration districts, the numbers and boundaries of which changed over the years. In 1903 the Bureau became part of the Department of Commerce and Labor; its name was changed to the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization when functions relating to naturalization were added in 1906. In 1933 the functions were transferred to the Department of Labor and became the responsibility of the newly formed Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Under President Roosevelt's Reorganization Plan V of 1940, the INS was moved to the Department of Justice.

Records Description

The records are arranged by series, then chronologically by date of arrival. The records consist of a card manifest, **INS Form I-448, Manifest**.

Form I-448 was annotated to include the following information about **citizens**: name; date and place of birth; age; sex; occupation; citizenship ("nationality"); address; date and airport of arrival; and airplane number. A five-digit serial number in the upper right-hand corner usually refers to the airplane arrival number.

Form I-448 was annotated to include some or all of the following information about **aliens**: name, age, sex, marital status, place of birth, physical description, occupation, citizenship ("nationality"), race, ability to read and write and in what language, place of last permanent residence, port and date of arrival, destination, purpose for entering the U.S., intention of becoming a U.S. citizen or of returning to country of previous residence, head tax status, and previous citizenships. It also includes the name and address of the friend or relative whom the alien intended to join, names of persons accompanying the alien, and the name and address of the alien's nearest relative or friend in the country from which he or she came. If the alien had ever been in the U.S. in the past, the dates and places of such residence or visitation are indicated. Additional information may be recorded if the alien appealed a decision deporting or barring him or her from entering the U.S. A five-digit serial number in the upper right-hand corner usually refers to the airplane arrival number.

General Remarks

The records were filmed by the INS in March 1957 and transferred to the National Archives on microfilm. Although some of this film may be difficult to read, it is impossible to correct the situation since the INS destroyed the original records.

ROLL LIST

New Roll No.	Old INS Roll No.	Series	Contents
1	1	Citizens	Retakes
			May 29, 1940 (one person: Li, Min Hin)
			March 10, 1943 – January 15, 1947
2	2		Retakes
			January 15, 1947 – September 5, 1947
	1	Aliens	Retakes
			September 29, 1936 – April 30, 1949