

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

A3365

LISTS OF ALIENS ARRIVING AT
BROWNSVILLE, DEL RIO, EAGLE PASS, EL PASO, LAREDO,
PRESIDIO, RIO GRANDE CITY, AND ROMA, TEXAS,
MAY 1903-JUNE 1909,
AND AT
AROS RANCH, DOUGLAS, LOCHIEL, NACO, AND NOGALES,
ARIZONA, JULY 1906-DECEMBER 1910

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National Archives and Records Administration
Washington, DC
2000

INTRODUCTION

On the five rolls of this microfilm publication, A3365, are reproduced manifests of alien arrivals in the INS District of El Paso, Texas. Specifically, it includes arrivals at El Paso, Texas, from May 1903 to June 1909; arrivals at Brownsville, Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Laredo, Presidio, Rio Grande City, and Roma, Texas, from July 1906 to June 1909; and arrivals at Aros Ranch, Douglas, Lochiel, Naco, and Nogales, Arizona, July 1906–December 1910. Arrangement is chronological by year, then roughly chronological by quarter year, then by port of arrival. 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.

Keeping statistics on alien arrivals at U.S. land borders was not required by early immigration acts. Thus, statistical treatment of Canadian and Mexican border immigrants at times has differed from that of other immigrants. When records of arrivals began to be kept at the Canadian border in 1895 and at the Mexican border, ca. 1906, immigration authorities found it impractical to collect arrival information on lists as they did for ship passengers. Therefore, separate cards or "card manifests" for each person were used instead. These cards contained the same information as that collected on traditional ship passenger arrival lists, such as full name, age, sex, marital status, occupation, point of arrival in the United States, and final destination.

Immigration Statistics and Definitions

Beginning in 1895, immigrants who arrived at Canadian seaports with the declared intention of proceeding to the United States were recorded and included in the immigration statistics. Other alien arrivals at land borders began to be reported in 1906, and reporting was fully established in 1908 under authority of an act of February 20, 1907 (34 Stat. 898).

Not all aliens entering via the Canadian and Mexican borders were necessarily counted for inclusion in the immigration statistics. Before approximately 1930, no count was made of residents of Canada, Newfoundland, or Mexico who had lived in those countries for a year or more if they planned to enter the United States for less than 6 months. However, from about 1930 to 1945, the following classes of aliens entering via the land borders were included in immigration statistics:

- (1) Those who had not been in the U.S. within 6 months, who came to stay more than 6 months;
- (2) Those for whom straight head tax was a prerequisite to admission, or for whom head tax was specially deposited and subsequently converted to a straight head tax account;¹
- (3) Those required by law or regulation to present an immigration visa or reentry permit, and those who surrendered either, regardless of whether they were required by law or regulation to do so;
- (4) Those announcing an intention to depart from a seaport in the United States for Hawaii or other insular possession of the U.S. or for a foreign country, except arrivals from Canada intending to return there by water; and

¹A head tax was required to be paid by persons entering the U.S. who were not citizens of the U.S., the Dominion of Canada, Newfoundland, the Republic of Cuba, or the Republic of Mexico.

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- (5) Those announcing an intention to depart across the other land boundary.

These classes were revised in 1945 so that the statistics of arriving aliens at land border ports of entry for 1945-52 included arriving aliens who came into the United States for 30 days or more, and returning alien residents who had been out of the country more than 6 months. Arriving aliens who came into the United States for 29 days or less were not counted except for those who were either certified by public health officials, held for a board of special inquiry, excluded and deported, or were individuals in transit who announced an intention to depart across another land boundary or by sea.

From 1953 to at least 1957, all arriving aliens at land border ports of entry were counted for statistical purposes except Canadian citizens and British subjects resident in Canada who were admitted for 6 months or less; Mexican citizens who were admitted for 72 hours or less; and returning U.S. residents who had been out of the country for more than 6 months. Beginning in February 1956, residents returning from stays of less than 6 months in Western Hemisphere countries also were not counted. Because of regulation changes in 1957, returning residents without reentry permits or visas who had been abroad for 1 year or less were not counted.

Summary: Statistical arrivals were immigrants or nonimmigrants who were subject to the head tax and generally not from the Western Hemisphere. By contrast, nonstatistical arrivals were immigrant or nonimmigrants who usually were natives of the Western Hemisphere and not subject to the head tax. Although arrival of the latter was not included in immigration statistics, a record of that arrival may still have been made. **It cannot be said with certainty that the definitions of statistical and nonstatistical arrivals were applied uniformly at any particular port on the Canadian or Mexican borders during the period covered by this microfilm publication.**

Definitions of Immigrants and Nonimmigrants

Since 1906, arriving aliens have been divided into two classes: (1) immigrants, or those who intended to settle in the U.S.; and (2) nonimmigrants, who were admitted aliens who declared an intention *not* to settle in the U.S., and all aliens returning to resume domiciles formerly acquired in the U.S. Since 1924, aliens arriving to settle in the U.S. have been further classified as quota or nonquota immigrants. **Quota immigrants** were those admitted under quotas established for countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Pacific Basin and the colonies, dependencies, and protectorates belonging to those nations. **Nonquota immigrants** were spouses and unmarried children of U.S. citizens; natives from the independent countries of the Western Hemisphere, their spouses, and unmarried children under 18 years of age; and members of the clergy who entered with their families to carry on their profession. From 1933 to 1952, professors and their spouses and children were also classified as nonquota immigrants. **Nonimmigrants**

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were alien residents of the U.S. returning from a temporary visit abroad, or nonresident aliens admitted to the U.S. for a temporary period, such as tourists, students, foreign government officials, those engaged in business, people representing international organizations, the spouses and unmarried children of all these individuals, and agricultural laborers from the West Indies.

For more information about the keeping of immigration statistics and definitions used therein, see *The Statistical History of the United States from Colonial Times to the Present* (Stamford, CT: Fairfield Publishers, Inc., ca. 1965), pp. 48-52. For further information about immigration and naturalization laws prior to 1953, see *Laws Applicable to Immigration and Nationality*, Edwina A. Avery and Catherine R. Gibson, eds., U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1953).

Records Description

These records consist of manifests of alien arrivals in the INS District of El Paso, Texas. Specifically, it includes:

Texas Ports

Brownsville	July 1906-June 1909
Del Rio	July-Sept. 1906, July 1907-June 1909
Eagle Pass	July 1906-June 1909
El Paso	May 1903-June 1909
Laredo	July 1906-June 1909
Presidio	Mar.-Sept. 1908, Jan.-Apr. 1909
Rio Grande City	Nov. 1908, June 1909

Arizona Ports

Aros Ranch	Feb.-Sept. 1908, Jan.-Mar. 1909
Douglas	July 1906-Dec. 1910
Lochiel	July-Dec. 1908
Naco	July 1906-June 1909
Nogales	Sept. 1906-June 1909

The ports of arrival are generally—but not consistently—arranged in this order: (1) larger Texas ports (El Paso, Brownsville, Laredo, Eagle Pass); then (2) smaller Texas ports; then (3) Arizona ports. The arrivals were primarily recorded on INS Form 500-B, although the 1906-08 arrivals at El Paso on roll 5 were recorded on Form 2200.

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Forms Used

INS Form 500-B, *List or Manifest of Alien Passengers for the U.S. Immigration Officer at Port of Arrival*, are large "sheet manifests" traditionally used by vessel masters to record information about ship passengers in advance of arrival at U.S. ports. The INS discontinued using them at land border ports due to the fact that lack of opportunity for advance completion made the forms impractical. Form 500-B includes the date of arrival, full name, age, sex, marital status, occupation, ability to read and write, citizenship ("nationality"), "race or people," town and country of last permanent residence, birthplace, final destination, and whether the individual possesses a ticket to final destination. It also includes the name and address of the friend or relative the alien intends to join. If the alien had ever been in the U.S. in the past, the dates and places of such residence or visitation are indicated. It also includes the alien's height and color of complexion, eyes, and hair. Not all of the above information may be recorded for every alien.

Special comments about annotations on Forms 500-B in this microfilm publication. Form 500-B consisted of a single sheet of paper with 22 numbered columns, ca. 1903-ca. 1906; ca. 1906 and later, it consisted of two sheets of paper with 29 numbered columns. The references to column numbers in this paragraph refer to the 22-column version. In the earliest lists, ca. 1903-ca. 1906, the alien's exact date of arrival is sometimes recorded in column 1 (ordinarily, "No. [Number] on list") at the far left-hand side of the manifest; if not, the month and year is recorded at the top. Manifests used to record arrivals at "Miscellaneous" or "Mexican Border District" ports usually have the "station" (port of arrival) annotated in column 11 (ordinarily, "name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country from whence alien came"). For some El Paso lists, column 22 (ordinarily, "deformed or crippled . . .") was annotated to note the mode of arrival, such as Mexican Central Railway (M. C. Ry.) or El Paso Electric Railway (E. P. E. Ry.). For larger ports, separate lists were sometimes made of "Mexicans," "Aliens other than Mexicans," and, less frequently, "Japanese."

Form 2200, *Record of Aliens Arriving*, is a two-page form that includes the alien's name, age, occupation, physical description (height, complexion, hair color, eye color), birthplace, place of last residence, place of intended U.S. residence, date of arrival, and remarks (scars or other distinguishing characteristics). It also notes the "name of vessel from which landed" which is annotated in these records as Mexican Central Railway (M. C. Ry.) or El Paso Electric Railway (E. P. E. Ry.).

General Comments

The records were filmed by the INS in March-April 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.

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2	2	Jan. 1907 – Mar. 1908: Brownsville, TX: Apr. 1907–Mar. 1908 Del Rio, TX: July 1907–Mar. 1908 Douglas, AZ: Apr. 1907–Mar. 1908 Eagle Pass, TX: May 1907–Mar. 1908 El Paso, TX: Apr. 1907–Mar. 1908 Laredo, TX: Apr. 1907–Feb. 1908 ³ Naco, AZ: Feb.–Dec. 1907 Nogales, AZ: Jan.–Dec. 1907 Roma, TX: Nov. 1907, Feb. 1908
3	3	Nov. 1907 – Dec. 1908 ⁴ Aros Ranch, AZ: Feb.–Sept. 1908 Brownsville, TX: Dec. 1907, Apr.–Dec. 1908 Del Rio, TX: Apr.–Dec. 1908 Douglas, AZ: Nov. 1907, Apr.–Sept. 1908 Eagle Pass, TX: Dec. 1907–Dec. 1908 El Paso, TX: Nov. 1907, Jan.–Dec. 1908 ⁵ Laredo, TX: Dec. 1907–Dec. 1908 Lochiel, AZ: July–Sept. 1908 Naco, AZ: Jan.–Sept. 1908 Nogales, AZ: Nov. 1907–Sept. 1908

²Ports are listed here alphabetically for convenience; see “Records Description” for arrangement.

³ On the July–Sept. 1907 Naco manifests, the “Naco” destination is unclear due to camera operator error (“Naco” cut off).

⁴ Arrivals at Aros Ranch, AZ, and Presidio, TX, Mar.–June 1908, are on a sheet of arrivals at “Miscellaneous” ports. Arrivals at Aros Ranch, AZ; Lochiel, AZ, and Presidio, TX, July–Sept. 1908, are on a sheet of arrivals at “Miscellaneous” ports.

⁵ One El Paso list near the beginning of roll 3, labeled arrivals during “December 1908,” may actually be arrivals during December 1907; it may have been mislabeled.

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5	5	Apr. 1909 – June 1909 Douglas, AZ: Apr.–June 1909 Naco, AZ: Apr.–June 1909 Nogales, AZ: Apr.–June 1909 Presidio, TX: Apr. 1909
	1	Aug. 4, 1906 – Oct. 8, 1906 El Paso, TX
	1	Jan. 2, 1907 – Dec. 31, 1910 Douglas, AZ

⁶ Arrivals at Aros Ranch, AZ, and Presidio, TX, Mar.–June 1908, are on a sheet of arrivals at “Miscellaneous” ports. Arrivals at Aros Ranch, AZ; Lochiel, AZ; and Presidio, TX, July–Sept. 1908, are on a sheet of arrivals at “Miscellaneous” ports.

⁷ Arrivals at Lochiel, AZ, Oct.–Dec. 1908, are on a sheet of arrivals marked “Mexican Border District” ports. Arrivals at Aros Ranch, AZ, and Presidio, TX, Jan.–Mar. 1909, are on a sheet of arrivals marked “Miscellaneous” ports.