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MANIFESTS OF ALIEN ARRIVALS AT COLUMBUS, NEW MEXICO, 1917–1954

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INTRODUCTION

On the seven rolls of this microfilm publication, A3370, are reproduced over 15,000 manifests of alien arrivals at Columbus, New Mexico, 1917–1954. Some U.S. citizens are also included. The records are arranged in ten series: (1) Statistical Manifests, ca. July 1, 1924–ca. Sept. 30, 1952; (2) Statistical Index Cards and Statistical Manifests, ca. 1917–ca. 1944; (3) Nonstatistical Manifests, ca. 1917–1926; (4) Statistical Manifests, Feb. 2–4, 1917; (5) Sheet Manifests, 1919; (6) Sheet Manifests, 1921–1924; (7) Aliens Admitted for Temporary Visits, 1924–1954; (8) Permanent and Temporary Alien Admissions, 1953–1954; (9) U.S. Citizen Admissions, 1924–1954; and (10) Applications for Nonresident Alien's Border Crossing Identification Cards, ca. 1945–ca. 1952. 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, the 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.

An act of March 2, 1929 (45 Stat. 1512), which became effective July 1, 1929, and was amended on August 7, 1939 (53 Stat. 1243), allowed a record of lawful arrival—called a record of registry—to be made for certain aliens who had lawfully entered the United States at an earlier time but for whom the INS **could find no record of arrival**. In particular, if an alien had entered the U.S. before July 1, 1924, resided in the country continuously since that entry, was of good moral character, and was not subject to deportation, he or she could obtain a record of registry by making application to the INS and paying the required fee. The registry program was reauthorized by the Nationality Act of 1940 (54 Stat. 1137) under the name "Lawful Entry." Registry files cover the years 1929 to 1944; Lawful Entry paperwork after April 1, 1944, was placed in an alien's individual "A-File." As of 1996, both Registry/Lawful Entry Files and A-Files remain in the legal custody of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and researchers interested in examining those records should direct a Freedom of Information Act request to that agency citing the Certificate of Registry number and, if available, a Bureau file number.

Immigration Statistics and Definitions

Beginning in 1895, immigrants who arrived at Canadian seaports with the declared intention of proceeding to the United States by land were recorded and included in immigration statistics. (Some aliens may have chosen this route because of possibly lower fares from Europe to Canada.) All other alien arrivals at U.S. northern and southern land borders were reported beginning in 1906; and reporting was fully established in 1908 under authority of an act of February 20, 1907 (34 Stat. 898). "All other aliens" included Canadians, all aliens arriving at the Mexican border, and any alien resident or nonresident of Canada who had not, at a Canadian seaport, previously declared their intent to proceed to the United States.

Not all aliens entering via the Canadian and Mexican borders were necessarily counted for inclusion in the immigration statistics. Before about 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

(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 changed regulations in 1957, returning residents without reentry permits or visas who had been abroad for 1 year or less were not counted.

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[1] A 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.

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** 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 are arranged in ten series described below, and consist of statistical, nonstatistical, permanent, and temporary alien arrivals. Some U.S. citizens are

also included. Series 1–4 and 7–10 are arranged alphabetically; series 5–6 are arranged chronologically.

The arrivals included in this microfilm publication are permanent, temporary, statistical, and nonstatistical arrivals. They are arranged by record series. Series 1–4 and 7–10 are arranged alphabetically by surname, then alphabetically by first name. Double names are filed as if the second part of the double name were not there. For example, "Jimenez De San Miguel, Petra" is found among other persons named "Jimenez, Petra" and Montalvo-Hernandez, Jose" is found among other persons named "Montalvo, Jose." Spanish surnames containing the letter "s" may be filed as if the letter were "z." For example, persons surnamed Dias might be filed among those named Diaz, and those surnamed Espinosa might be filed among those named Espinoza.

Series 5 and 6 are arranged chronologically, then by manifest number, as further described in the Table of Contents.

All rolls—except roll 6—begin with "retakes" sections (records refilmed to ensure legibility).

Series 1: Statistical Manifests, ca. July 1, 1924–ca. Sept. 30, 1952

This series consists of statistical manifests of aliens who intended to reside or already resided permanently in the United States. Information was recorded on INS Forms 548, 657, I-189, and I-448 (all described below under "Forms Used"). The bulk of the arrivals recorded on Forms 548 and I-448 are for the period 1930–1946, although there are some earlier and later arrivals. Form I-189, *Application for Resident Alien's Border Crossing Identification Card* was primarily issued in 1945–1952, but usually indicated the date of the alien's first permanent arrival in the U.S. as early as the 1910s. Form 657, *Record of Registry*, likewise indicated the date of the alien's first permanent arrival in the U.S. as early as the 1910s. Some "Registry" records were made on Form 548. Although the INS target (informational) sheets at the beginning of this series identifies the series ending date as July 27, 1952, at least one record is dated as late as Sept. 30, 1952 (Rosalia Chaires).

Series 2: Statistical Index Cards and Statistical Manifests, ca. 1917–ca. 1944

This series consists of INS Forms 621 and Spl. 259 (both described below under "Forms Used"). The Spl. 259 "statistical" cards were used to record arrivals ca. 1917–ca. 1923; these cards provide the date of arrival and manifest ("list") and line number necessary to locate the alien's related "sheet manifest" in Series 4, 5, or 6. Form 621 was used to record arrivals ca. 1923–ca. 1944, and all available arrival information appears to be provided by these cards. Although the INS target (informational) sheets at the beginning of this roll identifies the series starting date as "approximately 1903," the earliest records in fact date to 1917.

Series 3: Nonstatistical Manifests, ca. 1917–1926

This series consists of INS Form Spl. 442 (described below under "Forms Used") and these contain all available information about the alien's arrival. Some arrival cards—probably for children—are undated, but indicate the alien was "accompanied by [name]"; that person's card should be checked to determine the date of arrival.

Series 4: Statistical Manifests, Feb. 2–4, 1917

This series primarily consists of Form 548 sheet manifests (described below under "Forms Used") arranged in two subseries: (1) aliens and (2) Americans. Between these subseries are several sheets listing Americans granted entry to the U.S. on Feb. 4, 1917.

Series 5: Sheet Manifests, 1919

This series consists of Form 548 sheet manifests (described below under "Forms Used") of aliens granted admission to the U.S. from Mar. 25, 1919, to Aug. 15, 1919. They are arranged chronologically. A manifest (serial) number is located in the upper right corner; there are gaps in the numbering sequence.

Series 6: Sheet Manifests, 1921–1924

This series consists of Form 548 sheet manifests (described below under "Forms Used") of aliens granted admission to the U.S. from Nov. 17, 1921, to April 22, 1924. They are arranged by year, then by month, then (generally) in reverse chronological order within the month. Spl. 259 cards in Series 2 provide the serial ("list") and line number that are found in the upper left corner of the sheet Form 548 manifests in this series. Some manifests are used to record arrivals of more than one individual. For example, the manifest for Sirilda Pena, Serial 10, Line 13, includes arrival information for three children—Manuel Acosta, Augustin Acosta, and Julia Acosta—on the reverse side, so her sheet is annotated on the front side as Serial 10, Line 13–14–15–16. Each of these children has their own index card in Series 2, described above.

Series 7: Aliens Admitted for Temporary Visits, 1924–1954

This series consists of card Forms 548, 694, I-94, I-94a, and I-448 (all described below under "Forms Used"). They are arranged alphabetically by surname, then by first name. Most indicate the period of time for which the alien was admitted, such as "Business one day," "B[usiness]" & Pl[easure] — daily," "Trans[it] 5 days," "90 days," or similar language.

Series 8: Permanent and Temporary Alien Admissions, 1953–1954

This series consists of Form I-94E (described below under "Forms Used") for nine aliens admitted permanently or temporarily during 1953–1954, and for one admitted in 1955.

Series 9: U.S. Citizen Admissions, 1924–1954

This series primarily consists of Forms 548 and I-448 (both described below under "Forms Used"). They are arranged alphabetically by surname, then by first name. Most of these persons were U.S.-born citizens of Mexican ancestry, and most were under age 30. Many had previously resided in the U.S., but most recently resided in Mexico before readmittance to the U.S.

Series 10: Applications for Nonresident Alien's Border Crossing Identification Cards, ca. 1945–ca. 1952

This series consists of Form I-190, *Applications for Nonresident Alien's Border Crossing Identification Cards* (described below under "Forms Used"). They are arranged alphabetically by surname and then by first name.

Forms Used

The manifests consist of several types of Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) forms. Both the front and reverse sides of each card- or sheet-size form were used. The most common forms are described below.

Form 548 or Form I-448, ***Manifest*** **or** ***Report of Inspection***, generally includes the person's 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, 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. Form 548 or I-448 is generally a card manifest. However, during some periods at some ports, the INS used an entire sheet of paper for the Form 548 manifest. Both sizes of manifests generally included the same information. The reverse side of the card manifest Form 548, if filmed, sometimes includes the person's photograph.

Form 621, *Statistical,* includes the following information about each alien: name, age, sex, marital status, race, occupation, ability to read and write, last place of residence, future place of residence, name of person he or she plans to join, date and place of admission, physical description, place of birth, citizenship ("nationality"), and names of persons accompanying him or her.

Form 657, *Record of Registry,* includes the following information about the alien *as of the alien's date of arrival*: name; age; occupation; race or people; place of last residence before entry; and date, port, place, and means (ship, railway, etc.) of arrival in the U.S. This form also includes the following information about the alien *as of the alien's date of registry*: name, age, occupation, physical description, place of residence, and place of birth. It also includes the alien's photograph, date of approval of registry, certificate of registry number, district file number, and bureau file number.

Form 694, *Record of Alien Admitted as Visitor,* includes the person's name, home address, date and place of birth, sex, marital status, occupation, citizenship ("nationality"), race, color of hair and eyes, height, names and ages of accompanying children under age 16, home address and nearest relative there, destination, length of time admitted, signature, and date and place of admission to the U.S. The reverse side indicates the date and port of departure.

Form I-94, I-94a, I-94E (etc.), *Record of Alien Admitted for Temporary Stay,* includes the person's name, home address, date and place of birth, sex, marital status, occupation, nationality (citizenship), race, visible distinctive marks, color of hair and eyes, height, name and address of nearest relative at home, date and place of admission to the U.S., date of previous entry into the U.S., name and address of the friend or relative whom the alien intended to join, purpose and length of intended stay in the U.S., identification of the alien's travel documents, and whether the alien was accompanied by an alien child under age 14. The "manifest number" is handwritten or mechanically stamped in the upper right corner; it is not the "T" number in the upper right corner.

Form I-189, *Application for Resident Alien's Border Crossing Identification Card*, includes the alien's name, date and place of birth, sex, marital status, occupation, ability to read and write, place of residence, citizenship ("nationality"), physical description, and the date, place, and means of lawful entry into the U.S. for permanent residence. It also includes the alien's signature and photograph ***or*** fingerprint of right index finger. The border crossing identification card number and its date and place of issuance are also included.

Form I-190, *Application for Nonresident Alien's Border Crossing Identification Card*, includes the alien's name, date and place of birth, sex, marital status, occupation, ability to read and write, place of residence, citizenship ("nationality"), physical description, purpose of U.S. visit, and photograph ***or*** fingerprint of right index finger. The number, date of issuance, and place of issuance of the person's

passport may also be noted. The border crossing identification card number and its date and place of issuance are also included.

Form Spl. 259, ***"statistical,"*** is an index card that contains each person's name, age, sex, citizenship ("nationality"), race, last place of residence, destination, and port and date of admission. It also indicates a manifest ("list") and line number that corresponds to a "long form" Form 548 (described above).

Form Spl. 442, ***Nonstatistical***, includes the person's name, age, sex, marital status, race, occupation, ability to read and write, place of last permanent residence, destination, and port and date of admission. It also indicates the names of persons and amount of money accompanying him or her. This index card apparently contains all available entry information.

General Remarks

The records were filmed by the INS in 1956–1957 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.

Rolls 1–2 and 4–7 are 16mm microfilm; roll 3 is 35mm microfilm.

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