

REQUEST FOR RECORDS DISPOSITION AUTHORITY		JOB NUMBER <i>NI-566-04-4</i>	
To NATIONAL ARCHIVES and RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (NIR) WASHINGTON, DC 20408		DATE RECEIVED <i>7/20/2004</i>	
1 FROM (Agency or establishment)  Department of Homeland Security		NOTIFICATION TO AGENCY  In accordance with the provisions of 44 U S C 3303a, the disposition request, including amendments, is approved except for items that may be marked "disposition not approved" or "withdrawn" in column 10	
2 MAJOR SUBDIVISION US Citizenship and Immigration Services (vice Immigration and Naturalization Service)			
3 MINOR SUBDIVISION Office of Records Management			
4 NAME OF PERSON WITH WHOM TO CONFER Marian Smith	5 TELEPHONE (202) 514-2837	DATE <i>9-13-04</i>	ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES <i>John W. Paul</i>
6 AGENCY CERTIFICATION I hereby certify that I am authorized to act for this agency in matters pertaining to the disposition of its records and that the records proposed for disposal on the attached <u>1</u> page(s) are not now needed for the business of this agency or will not be needed after the retention periods specified, and that written concurrence from the General Accounting Office, under the provisions of Title 8 of the GAO manual for Guidance of Federal Agencies,  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is not required; <input type="checkbox"/> is attached, or <input type="checkbox"/> has been requested			
DATE <i>6-15-04</i>	SIGNATURE OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE <i>Wesley House</i>		TITLE Director, Records Policy & Analysis Branch
7 Item No	8 DESCRIPTION OF ITEM AND PROPOSED DISPOSITION	9 GRS OR SUPERSEDED JOB CITATION	10 ACTION TAKEN (NARA USE ONLY)
1	<b>Registry Files, March 2, 1929 - March 31, 1944.</b> <b>Official Immigrant Arrival Records</b>  Registry Files document the creation of official immigrant arrival records under the Registry Act of March 2, 1929 (45 Stat 1512), which applied to persons who entered the United States prior to July 1, 1924, and for whom no arrival record could later be found. The case files include applications with correspondence, affidavits, and other related papers or aliens seeking to establish legality of residence in the United States.  Retain PERMANENTLY Schedule transfer 75 years after closure of Registry Files series (April 1, 2019)	NCI-85-83-02 2/4/1983	

**Additional Information**

Registry Files serve as the official arrival records for immigrants not recorded in, or not adequately identified in, ship passenger lists or other official immigrant arrival records. Registry Files primarily document aliens who arrived in the United States between 1906 and 1924, though some pre-1906 arrivals are represented. These immigrants applied for Registry between 1929 and 1944 because they wanted to legalize their residence/adjust their immigration status.

Some later documentation identifies these files as "Alien Registry Case Files, 1930-44." They were previously scheduled for disposal (see NC1-85-83-2, January 31, 1983). The appraisal report attached to the SF-115 of 1983 suggests the records were "deaccessioned" from NARS to INS legal custody because all parties agreed the files had no further legal or administrative value to the agency. It is difficult to believe that report referred to the same files under discussion here, and recommended that NARA reevaluate the Registry Files for historical and genealogical purposes.

Note that NARA accepted and retains a subset of Registry Files, created for political refugees who qualified under special legislation of 1934, for relief under the 1929 Registry Act. See Political Refugee Registry Files, 1934-ca. 1937; RE-1 to RE-1761 (RG 85, Entry 12, 17W3, 53 boxes).

Registry Files contain original, textual records documenting the creation of immigrant arrival records for persons who entered the United States prior to July 1, 1924, and for whom no arrival record could later be found. Registry Files typically contain an application form describing the immigrant's arrival in the United States before 1924, and detailing residence and employment in the United States prior to that date. Most files also include documents supporting the immigrant's claims regarding arrival and residence (i.e., proofs of residence, receipts, employment records, etc.).

The files are located by an index search on name, date of birth, and place of birth. Note well that in cases where the immigrant naturalized or the immigrant's case reopened after April 1, 1944, the Registry File may have been transferred to/consolidated with an A-File or a C-File.

The Registry File series consists of numbered files with the prefix "R" (R-1 through R-230499). They are stored in the FRC at Suitland, Maryland, under accession number 085-52A0383.

Approximate volume: 1,964 cubic feet.

**Privacy Act Restriction: 552a (b) (3)**