

A3466

MANIFESTS OF ALIEN ARRIVALS AT PRESIDIO, TEXAS,
ca. 1911–1955

Compiled by Claire Prechtel-Klusens

National Archives and Records Administration
Washington, DC
2008

INTRODUCTION

On the 10 rolls of this microfilm publication, A3466, are reproduced over 24,000 manifests of alien arrivals at Presidio, Texas, ca. 1911–1955. Some U.S. citizens are also included. These records are part of 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. The INS was abolished, and its immigration and naturalization recordkeeping functions were transferred to the new Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services within the new Department of Homeland Security, established January 24, 2003, by the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-296, § 471, 116 Stat. 2135, 2205).

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 2007, both Registry/Lawful Entry Files and A-Files remain in the legal custody of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, and researchers interested in examining those records should direct a Freedom of Information Act request to that agency.

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 six 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 six months, who came to stay more than six 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 account¹

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.

- (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
- (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.

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 immigrants 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 include statistical, nonstatistical, permanent, and temporary alien arrivals. Some U.S. citizens are also included. They are arranged in six record series, then alphabetically by surname, then alphabetically by first name. There may be some alphabetical disarrangement due to human error or because similar sounding names were filed together.

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.” “De la O” is filed under “O,” and “Ybarra” is filed under “Ibarra.” 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 Espinosa among Espinoza.

Old INS rolls 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9 begin with “retakes” sections (records refilmed to ensure legibility).

SERIES 1: PERMANENT ADMISSION MANIFESTS, JULY 1, 1924–JULY 27, 1952

This series consists of over 3,000 permanent (statistical) admissions recorded on INS Forms 548, and I-448. It also includes some Records of Registry recorded on Form 657 that provide evidence of arrivals before July 1, 1924, including some as early as 1895.

SERIES 2: U.S. CITIZEN ADMISSION MANIFESTS, ca. 1947–ca. 1955 (AND SOME EXCLUSIONS)

This series includes persons seeking admission to the U.S. who were U.S. citizens. Some were admitted after being held for a board of special inquiry on their citizenship

status. Some persons were excluded from admission. The records are typically made on INS Forms I-94F or I-448.

SERIES 3: NONSTATISTICAL (TEMPORARY) ADMISSIONS, ca. 1911–ca. 1927

This series consists of “nonstatistical” manifests recorded on Form 442. Although the original INS target (information) sheets for this series describe its date span as ca. 1903–June 30, 1924, our review of the records indicated that the span is actually ca. 1911–ca. 1927.

Most of the nonstatistical manifests are likely to be the *only* record of that person’s arrival on the date stated. However, *some* cards in this series point to a related “long form” manifest in Series 5 (described below). For example, *Jose Trujillo*, who last resided in Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico, has two manifests in this series, one for an entry on Aug. 22, 1922, at age 22, and one for an entry on Aug. 2, 1923, at age 23. The card for his Aug. 22, 1922, entry is annotated with “799” in the upper right corner. This number and date of arrival correspond to a manifest for this man in Series 5.

This series also includes a few “statistical” manifests recorded on Form 621 that *may* be repeated in Series 4. For example, there is a statistical Form 621 in this series for *Circila Aguilar*, age 38, female, widow, who entered on Dec. 31, 1914, which is also in Series 4.

There are also a few other records, such as P(A), *Alien’s Application for Border Permit Card*.

SERIES 4: STATISTICAL (PERMANENT) ADMISSIONS, ca. 1914–ca. 1924

This series consists of statistical admissions recorded on INS Forms 621 and Spl. 259. Some individuals in this series also have a card record in Series 3. For example, *Circila Aguilar*, age 38, female, widow, who entered on Dec. 31, 1914, has a Form 621 both in Series 3 and in Series 4, and both reference a manifest number 1854, which has not been located.

Some individuals in this series also have a record in Series 5. For example, *Miguel Barrenete or Barrarete*, age 2, who arrived Feb. 14, 1919, has a manifest in Series 5 (as do his father, Ignacio and mother, Diana), and a card record in Series 4.

SERIES 5: “LONG FORM” MANIFESTS OF STATISTICAL AND NONSTATISTICAL ADMISSIONS, ca. July 1911–October 1924.

This series consists of over 1,300 alphabetically arranged “long form” INS Form 548 manifests. Although the original INS target (information) sheets for this series describe its date span as July 1, 1911–Oct. 1924, our review of the records indicates the span is actually ca. 1919–ca. 1925.

The records originally had been filed chronologically by date, then by manifest number, but some time prior to microfilming they were rearranged in alphabetical

order, perhaps to make it easier for INS staff to search the records for particular individuals.

Most persons in this series likely have a related card record in either Series 3 or 4.

SERIES 6: TEMPORARY ADMISSION MANIFESTS, 1924–1954

This series consists of over 12,000 temporary admission manifests recorded on INS Forms 548 and I-448. Most of the arrivals are from the 1930s and 1940s.

FORMS USED

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

Form 548 or Form I-448, *Manifest or Report of Inspection*, is the most common form, and generally includes the person's name, age, gender, 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, gender, 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 I-94F, *Examination Record*, includes the person's name, date and place of birth, gender, marital status, occupation, citizenship ("nationality"), physical description, names of accompanying alien children under age 14, name and address of nearest relative at home, name and address of person to whom destined, purpose and intended length of U.S. visit, port and date of arrival. The purpose of the U.S. visit may be described in English (such as "pleasure 1 month") or as the section of U.S. immigration law (such as "B-2 72 hours" or "P1/3/2/3/8 days").

Form P(A), *Application for Border Permit Card*, includes the date and port of issuance of the card, card number, and the alien's name, citizenship, birthplace, permanent residence, business address, age, marital status, occupation, sex, height, weight, eye color, hair color, physical marks, ability to read, signature, and photograph.

Form Spl. 259, "*statistical*," is an index card that contains each person's name, age, gender, 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). Sometimes, this information was simply typewritten onto a blank card.

Form Spl. 442, *Nonstatistical*, includes the person's name, age, gender, 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 he or she was carrying. This index card apparently contains all available entry information.

GENERAL REMARKS

The records were filmed by the INS in 1956 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.	CONTENTS
1	1	SERIES 1: PERMANENT ADMISSION MANIFESTS, JULY 1, 1924–JULY 27, 1952 Abisoab, Elias – Quistiano, Irene
2	2	Raak, Helen – Zuniga, Romulo
	11	SERIES 6 (PART): TEMPORARY ADMISSION MANIFESTS, 1924–1954 Zubiate, Angel – Zuniga, Salome
		SERIES 2: U.S. CITIZEN ADMISSION MANIFESTS, ca. 1947–ca. 1955 (AND SOME EXCLUSIONS) Acosta, Eliazar – Villanueva, Sulema
3	3	SERIES 3: NONSTATISTICAL (TEMPORARY) ADMISSIONS, ca. 1911–ca. 1927 Abarca, Juan – Subia, Vicente
4	4	Tabares, Andrea – Zuniga, Salome
		SERIES 4: STATISTICAL (PERMANENT) ADMISSIONS, ca. 1914–ca. 1924 Acosta, Amalia – Zuniga, Juana
5	5	SERIES 5: “LONG FORM” MANIFESTS OF STATISTICAL AND NONSTATISTICAL ADMISSIONS, JULY 1911–OCTOBER 1924 Acevis, Leandro – Zuniga, Juana
6	6	SERIES 6: TEMPORARY ADMISSION MANIFESTS, 1924–1954 Abarca, Carmen – Contreras, Tomasa
7	7	Cordero, Adelia – Herranz, Pedro
8	8	Retakes: Navarette, Leonarda – Navoa, Herlinda Main section: Herrera, Anastacio–Navarette, Juana
9	9	Nevarez, Josefa – Royval, Rolando
10	10	Ruvalcaba, Adela–Zertuche, Lilia