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MANIFESTS OF ALIEN ARRIVALS AT SAN YSIDRO (TIA JUANA),
CALIFORNIA, APRIL 21, 1908–DECEMBER 1952

Introduction

On the 20 rolls of this microfilm publication, M1767, are reproduced over 152,000 manifests and other records of alien arrivals at San Ysidro (Tia Juana), California, April 21, 1908–December 1952. The records are arranged in three separate record series: (1) Statistical and Nonstatistical Manifests Interfiled Alphabetically, April 21, 1908–December 1952; (2) Statistical and Nonstatistical Manifests Interfiled Chronologically, April 21, 1908–June 30, 1924; (3) Nonstatistical Manifests, December 7, 1923–June 30, 1924, of Head Taxes Transferred to Regular Fund, July 1924–February 1925, and Head Taxes Refunded, July 1, 1924–November 29, 1924. 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, the 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 the 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 requisite 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 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;
- (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 another 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

From 1906 to 1932, arriving aliens were 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. From 1933 to at least 1957, aliens arriving to settle in the U.S. were 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

The arrivals included in this microfilm publication include permanent, temporary, statistical, and nonstatistical arrivals. They are arranged by record series. Series 1 is arranged alphabetically by name of

alien; Series 2 and 3 are arranged chronologically. All rolls begin with a short section of "retakes" (documents refilmed to ensure legibility).

Series 1: Statistical and Nonstatistical Manifests Interfiled Alphabetically, April 21, 1908–December 1952, Including Index to Statistical Manifests, April 21, 1908–June 30, 1924

This series primarily consists of card manifests, INS Form 548, 548-B, or I-448, and *Applications for Nonresident Alien's Border Crossing Identification Cards*, INS Form I-190. Some "Nonstatistical" cards, INS Form Spl. 442; "Departure" record cards, INS Form Spl. 222; and INS Form Spl. 259 are also included. All of these cards are described under "Forms Used." One card is used for each alien's arrival. The cards are arranged alphabetically by surname and thereunder alphabetically by first name. The alphabetical arrangement is imperfect; for example, there is overlap between rolls 5 and 6. 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."

Series 2: Statistical and Nonstatistical Manifests Interfiled Chronologically, April 21, 1908–June 30, 1924

This series consists of "long form" manifests, INS Form 548 (described below under "Forms Used"). They are arranged chronologically and thereunder by serial number. Since the original INS target sheets (introductory pages) on this microfilm describes these records as "statistical *and* nonstatistical manifests," and describes the index included in series 1 as an index to "statistical" manifests, it is unclear whether these records are fully or only partially indexed by Series 1 (described above).

Series 3: Nonstatistical Manifests, December 7, 1923–June 30, 1924, of Head Taxes Transferred to Regular Fund, July 1924–February 1925, and Head Taxes Refunded, July 1, 1924–November 29, 1924

This small series consists of "long form" manifests, INS Form 548 (described below under "Forms Used"). It is divided into two subseries: (1) manifests relating to head taxes transferred to the regular fund, followed by (2) manifests relating to head taxes refunded.

The subseries "head taxes transferred to the regular fund" refers to "special" head tax collections later designated as "general" head tax collections. The difference between "general" and "special" is explained as follows in paragraph G of Rule 1, Collection of Head Tax, in U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Immigration, *Immigration Laws and Rules of July 1, 1925* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1925), p. 86:

Subdivision G.—Tax designated general and special— Disposition.

PARAGRAPH 1.—Head tax is hereby designated as "general" and "special." The term "general" tax shall apply to the tax collected on account of every alien entering the United States, either directly or from the Canal Zone or any insular possession, and alien seamen regularly admitted, unless such aliens are by the provisions of the law exempt from the payment of such tax. The moneys so collected shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States in the manner provided by law.

PAR. 2. The term "special" tax shall apply to the tax collected on account of (1) every alien held for special inquiry and (2) on account of every alien making unsatisfactory claim to exemption for any one of the following reasons:

- (a) That he is passing in transit through the United States.
- (b) That he is under 16 years of age and accompanied by either father or mother.
- (c) That he is entering for temporary stay after an uninterrupted residence of at least one year immediately preceding in Canada, Newfoundland, Mexico, or Cuba.
- (d) That he is a resident or citizen of a possession of the United States [i.e., the Philippine Islands, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, or Guam].
- (e) That he is a citizen of the United States.
- (f) That he is a seaman regularly admitted and returning from continuous round-trip voyage.

The "head taxes refunded" subseries refers to head taxes collected of persons held for boards of special inquiry or collected for reasons (a)–(f) above. These persons could apply, within 90 days after entry into the U.S., for a refund and submit proof of entitlement to such refund.

Forms Used

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

Form 548, Form 548-B, or Form I-448, *Manifest*, includes the person's name, age, sex, marital status, place of birth, physical description, occupation, citizenship ("nationality"), race, ability to read and write, place of last permanent residence, port and date of arrival, destination, purpose for entering the U.S., intention of becoming a U.S. citizen, 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. It may also indicate the person's head tax status or action taken by a Board of Special Inquiry. The records in this microfilm publication include both card manifests and "long form" or full-page manifests. The serial number on "long form" manifests is indicated near the upper right-hand corner; the manifest/list (often indicated as "serial") and line numbers are indicated near the upper left-hand corner. Card form manifests may include a photograph of the alien, sometimes with his or her spouse and minor children.

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 fingerprint of right index finger. The number, date of issuance, and place of issuance of the person's passport may also be noted.

Form Spl. 222, *Departure*, includes the following information about each person: name, age, sex, marital status, race, occupation, ability to read and write, citizenship ("nationality"), country of future permanent residence, country of birth, country where the person lived before coming to the U.S., date and port of last arrival in U.S., town and state of last residence in U.S., and date and port of departure. If the person was a native-born U.S. citizen, the person's birthplace was to be noted. If the person was a naturalized U.S. citizen, the date and place of naturalization was to be noted.

Form Spl. 259 includes each person's name, age, sex, nationality (citizenship), race, last place of

residence, destination, and port and date of admission. It also indicates a manifest (list), line, and serial number that corresponds to a "long form" Form 548 (described above). The serial number is usually the number to the right of the person's sex. For example, on the index card for "Arellano, Antonio, age 24, sex M-161," 161 is the serial number. If the person's entry to the U.S. was subject to a Board of Special Inquiry, a B.S.I. number ("Special Inquiry") is indicated. Records of Boards of Special Inquiry, if such records still exist, remain (as of 1997) in the legal custody of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and researchers should direct a Freedom of Information Act request to that agency.

Form Spl. 442, *Nonstatistical*, includes each person's name, age, sex, marital status, race, occupation, amount of money in possession, ability to read and write, last residence, destination, date and port of arrival, and names of person(s) accompanying him or her.

General Remarks

The records were filmed by the INS in 1956 and later 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.

CONTENTS

<u>Roll No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Statistical and Nonstatistical Manifests Interfiled Alphabetically, April 21, 1908–December 1952, Including Index to Statistical Manifests, April 21, 1908–June 30, 1924
	Retakes
	Abakumoff, Catarina – Arriaga, Rosendo (Old INS Roll 1)
2	Arriaga, Serafina – Brau, Aristeo (Old INS Roll 2)
3	Brau, Dolores – Castro, Juan (Old INS Roll 3)
4	Castro, Juan – Curiel, Jose (Old INS Roll 4)
5	Curiel, Jose – Fletes, Benito (Old INS Roll 5)
6	Fletes, Candida – Godinez, Maria (Old INS Roll 6)
7	Godinez, Maria – Guzman, Miguel (Old INS Roll 7)
8	Hernandez, Baltazar – Laborin, Rufino (Old INS Roll 8)
	Laborin, Victoria – Leon, Maria (Old INS Roll 9)
9	Leon, Maria – Manqueros, Maria (Old INS Roll 10)
10	Manriquez, Agustin – Mestre, Humberto (Old INS Roll 11)
11	Metebekamp, Joan – Navarro, Miguel (Old INS Roll 12)
12	Navarro, Narciso – Partida, Jose (Old INS Roll 13)
13	Partida, Jose – Ramirez, Ezequiel (Old INS Roll 14)
14	Ramirez, Faustina – Rodriguez, Sotera (Old INS Roll 15)
15	Rodriguez, Sotera – Sanchez, Ruperto (Old INS Roll 16)
16	Sanchez, Salvador – Tavarez, Vincente (Old INS Roll 17)
17	Taves, Daisy – Vasquez, Jovita (Old INS Roll 18)
18	Vasquez, Juan – Zysset, Marcell (Old INS Roll 19)
19	Statistical and Nonstatistical Manifests Interfiled Chronologically, April 21, 1908–June 30, 1924 (Old INS Roll 20. Target on film incorrectly calls this "Roll 1.")

Date Span; Serial (Manifest) No.

Retakes

- Apr. 21, 1908–July 21, 1909; No numbers
- July 22, 1909–Dec. 24, 1909; 6–19 (with gaps)
- Feb. 11, 1910–June 18, 1910; 21–26
- July 7, 1910–July 31, 1910; 1–13
- Apr. 21, 1908–July 21, 1909; No numbers
- July 22, 1909–Dec. 24, 1909; 6–19
- Feb. 11, 1910–June 18, 1910; 21–26
- July 7, 1910–June 25, 1911; 1–234
- Aug. 12, 1911–June 29, 1912; 1–363
- July 1, 1912–May 13, 1918; 1–1270
- July 1, 1918–Oct. 26, 1918; 1–207
- Apr. 1, 1919–June 24, 1919; 157–229
- May 28, 1919–May 24, 1920; 1–377
- July 1, 1920–Aug. 13, 1920; 1–80
- 20 July–Aug., 1920; 81–96 (Old INS Roll 21)
- Oct. 13–20, 1920; 206, 205, 204
- July 1–Oct. 20, 1920; 153–206
- Sept. 1, 1920–Mar. 30, 1921; 97–419
- Mar. 26, 1918; one person – no serial no.
- Mar. 1–June 27, 1921; 420–573
- June 27, 1921–June 27, 1922; 1–268
- July 1, 1922–Dec. 29, 1922; 1–463
- July 1, 1923–June 30, 1924; 1–793
- 22 Nonstatistical Manifests, December 7, 1923–June 30, 1924, of Head Taxes Transferred to Regular Fund, July 1924–February 1925, and Head Taxes Refunded, July 1, 1924–November 29, 1924