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PAMPHLET DESCRIBING M360

**Index to
Passenger Lists of Vessels
Arriving at Philadelphia
1800-1906**



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Records of the Bureau of Customs
Record Group 36

NOTE: Originally printed in 1964; revised 1974.

INDEX TO PASSENGER LISTS OF VESSELS ARRIVING AT PHILADELPHIA, 1800-1906

The records of the Bureau of Customs (Record Group 36), Treasury Department, contain materials concerning passengers entering the port of Philadelphia, 1800-1906. There are three main series of such materials: the original lists of passengers arriving on each vessel, statistical abstracts based on the lists, and index cards prepared at a much later date. The 151 rolls of this microfilm publication contain reproductions of the index cards; the abstracts and the passenger lists themselves are to be filmed separately by the National Archives.

The index, on 3" x 5" cards arranged alphabetically by surname of passenger, contains more than half a million entries. Not all the lists for the period 1883-1906 were indexed. The compilation, a National Youth Administration project under the sponsorship of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, was begun in 1936. In 1947 the index was transferred, together with the records, to the National Archives.

Each index card shows the name, age, and nationality of the passenger; the name of the vessel and the date of its arrival; the foreign port at which the passenger embarked; and, if of working age, his occupation. In cases where large families traveled together, the given names of all members are included under the names of the heads of the families, occasionally on the backs of the cards. There is much duplication in the more common combinations of surnames and given names. Many of the cards are not complete in all details--some do not even include the family names. Such cards, bearing only the passengers' given names, are arranged by name of vessel and are reproduced on Roll 151 of this microcopy, after the letter "Z," as "Miscellaneous Index Cards."

An index of earlier arrivals at Philadelphia (to 1803), compiled by Ralph B. Strassburger, together with the passenger lists themselves, is printed in Pennsylvania German Pioneers, vol. 3 (Pennsylvania German Society, Norristown, Pa., 1934). These lists were submitted by shipmasters in accordance with an act of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, April 8, 1785, requiring that all German passengers be registered. Because of the wording of the act it is doubtful if other than German immigrants were registered until registration began under the Federal law. The original lists are in the archives of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

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